
ABSTRACTS

DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT: CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION

The profound crisis from which El Salvador is suffering; the civil war which no one can see an end to in the foreseeable future; thousands of people dead and lame, orphans, people uprooted, refugees and scared Salvadorans; the increasing deterioration of living conditions of the population's largest majorities; the slums in marginal urban areas; rising unemployment; the upward trend of all the indicators of poverty and deprivation. All of these factors fuel the demands of the various social pressure groups for a solution to the conflict, to join forces in order to foster a climate of rationality, and to find solution to the fundamental problems of Salvadoran society.

Salvadoran society is living under the weight of a crisis which goes back to before the civil war, unleashed at the beginning of the present decade, and which was, in fact,

the origin and driving force behind that war. Social indicators reveal the depth of the crisis and the injustices before the war, which violated the most basic rights of the large majorities: «structures of death, of exclusion, and of marginalization» (Montes et al, 1988). Thus, in order to resolve the crisis, a search for the solution and the transformation of the «structures of death» into the «structures of life» must be made, creating a fair and equitable economic development for society as a whole, and in particular the large majorities, as well as establishing real democracy. These are both essential conditions for a genuine and lasting peace. Without peace development is unimaginable and democracy is not real; without fair and equitable development, and democracy, peace is also unimaginable.

DEMOCRATISATION AND FOREIGN POLICY: THE APPROACHMENT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRASIL

On the one hand, the processes of democratisation which Argentina and Brasil are simultaneously going through and, on the other, the signing of the most important integration agreements ever arrived at by

either country, poses the question of the existing relationship between the political regime and, more specifically, the change of regime, foreign policy and stances adopted with respect to regional integration.

What influence do these democratising processes have on the intended new impulse on subregional integration between the more important South American countries? Which integration models are being given an impulse in the area of Cuenca del Plata? What is the relationship between these models and those which were foreseen during previous periods in Latin

America? Is it possible to imagine the new treaties being maintained if there is a change of regime in any of the countries involved? Are there close ties between the political situation which each country lives with and the ongoing processes of integration? Is democracy a requirement for integration? Is subregional or regional integration necessary to further democracy?

PERESTROIKA AND MILITARY POLITICS IN THE USSR: BEYOND PARADOXICAL MILITARISM

Since 1986, the Soviet Union in general and M. Gorbachev in particular appear to have acquired a clear diplomatic ascendancy over western countries and leaders. The USSR is the driving force behind the process of disarmament embarked upon. For the first time since 1945, we are witnessing treaties which hold in store disarmament instead of the arms race, and which are genuine in spite of their limitations.

One interpretation of the change of attitude on the part of the Soviets consists in seeing a U-turn in the field of diplomacy, the price of which would be concessions in the arms

field. Another would be the importance of the new economic and social pressures faced by the new team in Moscow; disarmament would then be seen as the price to pay for an economic reconstruction of the country.

We may also consider these changes as purely for appearance's sake, with the sole aim of obscuring a reinforcement of the Soviet Union's military potential. Finally, some may be tempted to take the «New Thought» literally and see a radical change in doctrine.