

Community of Central American Writers and Artists

CEAC, the Community of Central American Writers and Artists, was born last September in Honduras, the country that hosts both U.S. troops and the Nicaraguan contra, a situation that threatens to erupt into an all-out regional war. The Community was set up with the double purpose of contributing toward the peaceful solution of the regional crisis while at the same time helping to gather the roots of regional cultural identity.

Central American writers assembled during the Second Meeting of Honduran Writers held in Tegucigalpa with the presence of guests from all of Central America, Mexico and Colombia. They decided to come together around their own field of work and around the need to make an effective contribution to the process of securing and expanding Central American cultural unity. Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, provided an inspiring backdrop for the event with its

contrast between the modern and the provincial, its hilly surroundings and brand-new skyscrapers, while the tremendous poverty of most Hondurans shows through it all.

The five-day event included round-table discussions, lectures and readings on poetry and contemporary literature, and there was an exhibit of contemporary Central American painting. The National Union of Honduran Writers was also set up during the meeting.

CEAC set out to achieve three specific goals: a) organizing its first Congress next year in Guatemala City; b) setting up a research center on Central American society and culture; and c) editing a regional literary magazine. Significantly, CEAC is sponsored by the National Autonomous University of Honduras, the Ministry of Culture of

Nicaragua, the University of El Salvador and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, FLACSO.

The Community's Coordinating Committee was set up as follows: José Roberto Cea and Manlio Argueta for El Salvador; Arturo Arias and Mario Roberto Morales for Guatemala; Galel Cárdenas and Dino Fanconi for Honduras; Rogelio Sinán and Moravia Ochoa for Panama; Julio Valle Castillo and Daisy Zamora for Nicaragua, and Osvaldo Sauma and Rodolfo Dada for Costa Rica.

Thus, CEAC comes to provide an organizational space for the region's writers and artists at a time when unified efforts are required if we are to keep the land of Rubén Darío, Miguel Angel Asturias and Roque Dalton from becoming a terrible battlefield.

Haroldo Shetemul



Photo by INBA/SEP

Frida Kahlo, *Mi nana y yo* (*My Nanny and I*), oil on tin, 1937.