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 How we .fi
 Sir,-In the wake of Alma
 Guillermoprieto's r e p o r t
 (Guardian, Januar 28) of
 the massacre of several
 hundred men, women and
 children by troops of the El
 Salvador junta and the paral-
 lel announcement ,by the Rea-
 gan Administration
 American aid to the junta is
 to be doubled, one vital piece
 of information .is missing:
 are the British people aware
 that, alone among America's
 major allies, Britain has been
 committed by its Government
 to support the Haig/Reagan
 applied monomania in Cert-
 tral America - and espec1-
 ally in El Salvador where
 more than 20,000 civilians
 have been murdered in the
 past two years by junta
 forces and their related
 " death- squads " ?
 Of course, official state-
 ments of support have not
 boomed from Downing Street
 or Parliament; rather these
 have been conhnedh well
 away from public scrutiny, to
 correspondence between .the
 Foreign Office and Tory MP5
 making inquiries on behalf
 of concerned constituents.
 For examole, last May,
 Nicholas .Ri-dley, then minis-
 ter of state at the Foreign
 Office, wrote to , Peter
 Thomas, MP, setting out Bri-
 tish policy on El Salyador
 with these words: ttIt lS un-
 that.
 ' NW
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 derstandable that the US
 government. feels the need to
 resume military assistance to
 the government of El Salva-
 dor. Their interest in; coun-
 tering , Soviet _ and Cuban
 subverstp in
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 ditigi - . aw i;
 Department eWmte P
 on which rested almost the
 entire'Haig/Reagan case of
 Soviet and Cuban involve-
 ment in El Salvador. In June
 year the Washington
 Post and the Wall_ Street
 Journal acquired the ucap-
 tured documents ti comprising
 the "White Paper: and
 found them to be of such re-
 markable fraudulencet and
 mendacity that only one in-
 stance of outright Soviet aid

to the El Salvador guerrillas could be substantiated: an airline ticket from Moscow to ' Hanoi for one guerrilla. Letters of apology for the "tragic events in El Salvador" and support for US policies continued to flow from the Foreign Office after the last US ambassador to El Salvador, Robert White, went before a congressional hearing and said :. " The chief killers of El Salvadoreans are the government security forces. They are the ones responsible for the deaths of Central. American thousands upon thousands of young people, who have been executed y merely on. the suspicion that they are leftists." For telling' this. truth. White paid with his career. He was replaced by a Reagan man, Deane: www.wm W tinguishej ' ?hgw " when??- wasvmt , oh; t a glass of whiskft-ht'altEu pean reporter A and uthteamg (jokey) to turn him into the junta it as a suspected Communist."

And are the British people aware that not only does this Government fully support American policy in El Salvador, but that it is helping to pay for it ? The Inter American ,Development Bank, based tin Washington and with Eritain as one of its biggest donors, last year gave the El Salvador regime a \$45 million loan out of a "special operations fund" in Which the Americans hold 62 per cent of the capital. The West Germans. Danes, and Canadians strongly objected to the loan on the grounds that it violated the bank's charter, because it could not be implemented properly. The loan is destined for El Salvador's "land reform programme" which used to be run by Jose Viera, the president of the Land Reform Institute --

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that is, until he accused the junta oi; undermining the programme 2; by" eteaiing foreign funds from it; and for thiswhe was murdered with bullets around the

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,ri entztwhiehismurders its own
people, the Foreign thce
minister. Richard Luce. has a
silly habit of saying the Bri-
tish representative abstained;
This is not true; the' Euro-
peans as a group could not
agree and abstained: inside
the group Britain voted "yes."
'In recent times this' British
Government, in the name of
the British peonle, hast i'ven
its subpott to Pol. Pot i . the
United Nations and to a host
of brutal regimes around the
world. Of course. the anoio-
gists, from the Prime Minis-
ter down to Whitehall
i minions, are never eon-
fronted by the human conse-
quences of craven policies to
which, at great distance, thev
pive their tifull support."
NM for them the specter'es
of headless bodies on rubbish
tips or of malnourished
ehiidren fleeing American-
insnired " free-tire zones." ,
Pity.
John Filmer.
London SW 4.
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