

Vermonters at Washington March

By YVONNE DALEY

About 150 Vermonters, including Burlington Mayor Bernard Sanders, arrived home from Washington, D.C., Sunday exhausted, still cold, but feeling "empowered" about their participation in Saturday's protest of American intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

More than 50,000 people attended Saturday's rally in freezing temperatures. "It was really cold and very windy. Almost everybody left before the rally. There were a lot of people marching," Jo Ann Golden of Westminster, who attended the march, said Sunday.

Golden said the march was "empowering" because it gave people something to do with their feelings of anger and frustration over America's intervention in other nation's struggles.

More than 150 people from Vermont went to Washington in car pools from Montpelier, Norwich and Bennington, and in two full chartered buses.

A Burlington bus was sponsored by the Burlington Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, a nationwide organization with 350,000 members.

The Brattleboro Committee on Central America organized the Brattleboro bus.

The demonstration was sponsored by more than 200 nationwide organizations, including religious groups, Golden said.

Sanders said Sunday he was there because "I regard the invasion of sovereign countries as an immoral and illegal act whether by this nation or any other nation.

"As a mayor who has to deal everyday with the financial problems of a city and the terrible poverty we see, I feel it is an absurd depravity that millions of dollars are being spent on intervention when there is no money for housing, health care or increased social security benefits (in our own country)."

The march received little nationwide publicity and organization was somewhat rushed. Plans began before the invasion of Grenada, during a July 2 march to protest United States' intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

But the recent activity in Grenada intensified the importance of the march, Golden said. "It was a good crowd considering how bad the weather was," she said.

Speaking for Vermonters attending the demonstration, Golden, a Westminster resident said, "We believe the conflicts in this region are due to a long history of very unjust social structures in the countries involved —

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

"Our government is lying to the American people in order to carry out an immoral war.

"This regional war we're promoting threatens our economy and our security. And it does not create more just and humane societies in Central America.

"The advertised reason for the march was that we did want a Vietnam-style war in Central America. First, because it would be horrible for the people in the region and for the people in the United States, and, secondly, because a conventional war in Central America and the Caribbean has the potential to escalate into a nuclear war."

The group had three demands: to end all U.S. military and CIA operations in Central America and the Caribbean; to promote respect for the national sovereignty and peaceful cooperation between the U.S. and countries in that region; and to redirect the resources that are being used in destruction in this area into human, social needs programs in the United States.

Golden described the march as "very peaceful." She said there was a counter demonstration near the White House sponsored by members of the Unification Church who at one point laid down in the street and blocked the march.

U.S. Presidential Candidate Jesse Jackson spoke in support of the march and against U.S. intervention in the area.

Most Vermonters left at 11 p.m. Friday night for the march. Church groups offered meals for demonstrators before their long trek back to Vermont.

Retirement Ends 30 Years' Of Service

MIDDLEBURY — Bethia N. Munger, 60, Addison County home economist for the UVM Extension Ser-

county.

Until her retirement on Oct. 31, Munger had a weekly news column in the

Addison Independent.

She is married to Donald Munger and has five children.