



## o it' plea before ust at embassy

former Guatemalan vice-president and a former foreign minister, visiting the embassy. Apparently the only person who escaped alive was the ambassador Mr. Cajal Lopez.

Eyewitnesses said they heard the hostages telling security forces not to storm the building, saying the peasants had agreed to leave with some hostages as a guarantee of their safety.

In a radio interview, Mr. Lopez said he was in his office with some of the militants, discussing their grievances, when the security forces stormed in.

"When the saw the police break into my office, they took fright and threw a molotov bomb, then shooting began," he

said. "When the fire had already begun I managed to get out of a door and escape."

Spain said afterwards that its foreign minister urged Guatemala not to use force after the Ambassador said the occupation could be solved peacefully, and Mr. Lopez himself personally asked the security forces commander not to intervene.

The peasants involved were believed to be mainly from Quiche province, North-West of Guatemala City, where the army has been conducting an anti-guerilla campaign.

Peasants, accusing the army of brutality and oppression, have recently occupied schools and radio stations in protest. — **Reuter.**

## ection call

back the steelworkers to the hilt. "Not only is their fight for a decent wage a just fight, but miners should also remember that the steelworkers are backing us in our struggles to stop imports of foreign coking coal. If these imports are not stopped, it could lead to the closure of over 30 pits in Britain.

"And none of us should forget the financial and physical support which the steelworkers gave us during our struggles in 1972 and 1974.

"The fact of the matter is that the steelworkers — like the miners in the '70s — cannot

afford to lose. Their backs are up against the wall and there is nowhere else for them to go.

"But then, on reflection, all of us have our backs to the wall as far as this government is concerned," he continued.

"Can anyone be left in the slightest doubt that this government is made up of hardfaced characters dominated by their totally irrational hatred of the workers of this land?"

"Let all sections of the labour movement unite in an irresistible tide to sweep them from office and put a genuinely Socialist administration in their place.

"We have precious little time to lose. It is no exaggeration to say that the very future of our nation is at stake."

## Give me back my family

**BIRMINGHAM-born Ms. Anwar Ditta** picketed the Home Office yesterday over a decision to separate her from her children by refusing them leave to enter Britain.

Ms. Ditta, brought up in Rochdale, has three children, Karen (9), Imran (7) and Saima (6), born in Pakistan where she lived for several years.

She and her husband left the children with their grandparents when the two returned to Britain to look for jobs, and now immigration officials have banned them from bringing the children over to join them.

According to the Home Office "the couple has not established they were the parents of the three children."

But Ms. Ditta has birth certificates, and medical records, to show conclusively they are hers.

She and her supporters will picket Manchester town hall, which will be visited by immigration minister Timothy Raison, today.

Nasira Begum, the Manchester woman threatened with deportation because her husband left has now been commanded to leave Britain.

She has been on tenterhooks for three years while the Home Office considered her case, but now faces arrest and imprisonment if she stays.

Ms. Begum's British husband deserted her soon after they were married, and now the Home Office says the marriage is invalid. She could not appeal against the decision because her application to stay was three days late.

## ver-rule Denning