

Forum speakers: U.S. should cut Nicaraguan ties

By CAM JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A former State Department employee told a UNC audience Monday the United States should withdraw its support from the present Nicaraguan regime, which he charged with flagrant human rights violations.

"I think our policy toward Nicaragua has been somewhat less than humanitarian and not respectful of human rights," said Thomas Walker, an Ohio University political science professor who spent last summer lecturing about Nicaragua for the State Department.

Walker, along with three Catholic missionaries recently returned from Nicaragua, comprised a forum on conditions in Nicaragua, which last month experienced an armed anti-government revolt. The Nicaraguan Red Cross has estimated 5,000 were killed in the September uprising against the regime of Anastasio Somoza.

"We should express our shock and dismay at the slaughter of Nicaraguan civilians by American arms," Walker said. "We've claimed we are neutral, but that in itself is a terribly phony position. We created the Somoza dynasty and maintained the national guard that supports it in power."

In the 1930s, the United States established the national guard in Nicaragua, with A. Somoza Garcia, father of the country's present leader, as its head. Since that time, the United States has given Nicaragua military and humanitarian aid.

Walker and the other forum speakers said 80 to 90 percent of Nicaragua's population supports the FSLN (Sandinista Liberation Front), the political coalition which started the September revolt. The opposition to the government stems from corruption in the 7,500-member national guard and unfair government preference for businesses affiliated with Somoza and his supporters, Walker said. "What the Somozas have done is to allow the guard to engage in all sorts of corrupt activities, such as smuggling and prostitution. The people of Nicaragua feel the guard is their enemy."

The Rev. Bernard Survil, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church near Managua, said many business leaders oppose Somoza because government policy favors businesses that he



Thomas Walker

DTH/Ann McLaughlin

and his supporters own. "The day-in and day-out favoritism for Somoza businesses has driven the chamber of commerce against Somoza," he said. "The businessmen feel the country is getting economic hardening of the arteries." Survil left Nicaragua in May for a visit to the United States and was denied re-entry for "national security" reasons.

Forum members agreed a socialist state may result from the popular uprising in Nicaragua. Walker said two of the three groups forming the FSLN are Marxist. He said the U.S. government has an unreasonable fear that another socialist state like Cuba will be established in the Americas.

Walker compared the situation in Nicaragua with that of Cuba. "If you examine Cuba closely, under the Cuban revolution greater social improvement and justice has taken place than under many capitalist countries."

Israeli cabinet fails to OK pact; Sadat invites pope to visit Sinai

The Associated Press

The Israeli Cabinet adjourned after a seven-hour session Tuesday without making a decision on the draft of a peace treaty with Egypt. President Carter has urged the Israelis to accept the document but some ministers expressed reservations.

Immediately after the meeting, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, Israel's chief negotiators at the talks, briefed Parliament's most powerful body, the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

"Everybody is analyzing," said Deputy Prime Minister Yigael Yadin. "I hope there will be a conclusion tomorrow." Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich told Israeli radio after the meeting that he hopes the draft will be ratified Wednesday. But the radio quoted Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai as saying the draft raises doubts whether this means real peace or just a tactical step.

Official sources confirmed press reports that Carter cabled Prime Minister Menachem Begin to urge Israel to accept the draft, saying the negotiators had produced a good agreement.

But after 11 hours of discussion Monday and Tuesday, the Cabinet had neither accepted the draft or issued new instructions to its negotiators.

Official statements in Cairo and press reports in Jerusalem indicate both countries will ask for changes in the 10-page text and annexes which emerged last weekend after Carter intervened to get past obstacles.

Meanwhile, President Anwar Sadat invited Pope John Paul II to visit Egypt and pray on Mount Sinai after the signing of an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, and

the pope has expressed interest. Egypt's ambassador to the Vatican said Tuesday. The ambassador, Shafiq Abdel Hamid, declined to give any further details.

In the Cairo newspaper *Al-Ahram*, Egyptian Deputy Premier Fikry Makram Ebeid was quoted as saying the pope has accepted the invitation. But a Vatican official said the press office had no information about the report.

In Cairo, Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil said Sadat had some technical remarks about the treaty text's mention of linkage between the treaty and progress on the separate Palestinian problem.

The Israeli Cabinet's deliberations were secret. While some newspapers reported that Begin was satisfied with a bare mention of linkage in the text's preamble, the newspaper *Haaretz*, in an uncorroborated report, said Begin had reservations about the military arrangement for Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula.

Haaretz also said Begin was unhappy with political formulas under which Israel and Egypt are able to normalize relations and eventually exchange ambassadors.

Meanwhile, the official Middle East News Agency said Sadat's special assistant, Sayed Marei, had returned from a secret mission to Saudi Arabia and held a long meeting with the president. The purpose of the meeting and details of Marei's report to Sadat were not revealed.

The Israeli negotiating team is expected to return to the United States later this week. If the talks yield an agreement, Dayan and Weizman could initial it, and then both Cabinet and



Anwar Sadat

Parliament would have to ratify it.

The difficulty of making progress on the Palestinian question was demonstrated by the visit of Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Harold Saunders, who left for Washington on Monday after a number of apparently fruitless contacts with Palestinian Arabs living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip.

According to the Camp David framework, the local Palestinians are to participate in negotiations with Israel, Egypt and Jordan to set up an autonomous authority in the two areas. But local Palestinian leaders so far have refused to participate, saying the Palestine Liberation Organization is their representative.

Ingram, Helms trade hits

The Associated Press

Republican Sen. Jesse Helms and Democratic challenger John Ingram both campaigned in Western North Carolina Tuesday, with Helms criticizing Congress for causing inflation and Ingram blasting Helms' voting record on bills for farmers and small businesses.

Ingram, in a prepared statement, accused Helms of trying to buy the election and listed four bills in which he said Helms voted against North Carolina interests.

Helms, addressing the Asheville Civitan Club, cited the labor reform bill, which Congress rejected, and the Panama Canal treaties, which the Senate ratified over Helms objections, as examples of differences between Ingram and himself.

"He says it has good and bad points," Helms said of Ingram and the labor bill. "Well, I don't know of any good points in it."

Ingram, referring to Helms's campaign

contributions of \$6.2 million, said Helms received contributions from political action committees of Standard Oil of Indiana, Ashland Oil, Getty Oil, Union Oil of California, Shell Oil and the National LP-Gas Association.

Ingram said he accepted no out-of-state political action committee contributions.

"Our Republican opponent votes 'no' to the small business people and votes 'yes' to the big oil barons," Ingram said.

Ingram said N.C. farmers applied for loans totaling more than \$48 million in 1977 and 1978. "If the \$6 million man had prevailed in his vote, they would not have received the loans," he said, referring to Ingram.

Helms said Congress was responsible for inflation by failing to balance the budget and adding red tape with excessive government regulations. He said federal regulations add \$666 to the cost of a new car and \$2,000 to the cost of a new home.

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