

THE TAR HEEL

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Evolution of an American war

Like a recurring nightmare, the Reagan administration's controversial foreign policy in Central America continues. But why should we, as college students, worry about the tropical banana republics anyway? The foreign policy pursued in our backyard won't effect us, right? Guess again.

If Reagan decides to carry on with his hard-line policies in El Salvador, then this civil war could turn into an American war instead. And the possibility that you or someone you know might be sent to El Salvador for actual combat becomes very real. For this compelling reason alone, a crash course in Latin American politics might not be a bad idea.

A complex issue

Unfortunately, what is going on in El Salvador and all of Central America is a great deal more complex than the administration acknowledges. This real-life crisis is not a simple game of toy soldiers where the good guys always defeat the bad ones, although perhaps Reagan sees it as such. That is why Reagan believes the United States must train Salvadoran troops at warfare, support the counter-insurgent movement of the Somocistas fighting to topple the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, and pour massive amounts of military aid into Guatemala, a country known for its repressive dictatorial regime.

The real danger we face is that Reagan's domino theory will become a self-fulfilling prophecy. His Central American foreign policy encourages military combat instead of negotiation. But negotiation is the only alternative before the United States becomes a laughing stock in the eyes of its democratic allies.

The support for the Reagan administration's actions is waning as is clearly evidenced by debate in Congress and public protests nationwide. Reagan's precarious foreign policy might easily result in a very unpopular war.

A confused president

The president's inability to satisfy public inquiry and adequately field questions from the press about Central America indicates his confusion and lack of knowledge.

Guns don't make wars, people do. Becoming aware of the pros and cons of U.S. involvement in Central America is essential. The death squad guns continue to fire, but they must be silenced.

Reflecting on Reagan's stance toward Central America over the past 2½ years, it seems unlikely that the crisis will be resolved during Reagan's current term. There looms the spectre that Reagan will convince himself that only U.S. troops can solve the chaos in Central America. Such a decision would have disastrous effects for Central Americans and U.S. citizens.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Thatcher's political savvy

By GINIE LYNCH

Obviously, what is good for the goose (Margaret Thatcher) is not good for our American gander. President Reagan's attempt to wage a "a little war" in El Salvador and Nicaragua has not boosted his popularity ratings as it did for Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the Falklands war. Before the war, opinion polls reflected that Thatcher was the most unpopular British Prime Minister in 40 years. But last week she became the first Prime Minister in this century to serve for four years and then be re-elected with a large enough majority to assure a five-year second term.

Disunity among the opposition parties was largely to blame for the election results. Statistics show that a substantial number of Britons voted against the conservatives, but internal quibbling and dissent among the opposition allowed Thatcher to sail in successfully. The conservatives received 61 seats, the Labor party 32 seats and the Alliance of Liberals 3.5 seats.

PLO guerilla tactics

Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yassir Arafat announced Monday a PLO alliance with leftist Lebanese forces to carry out attacks against Israeli units in Lebanon. Consequently, the Mideast bloodbath will likely increase in intensity.

It is uncertain whether the guerillas had already participated in attacks or were only preparing to begin them. Arafat aids said the raids are designed to rally the followers in Lebanon and clue in Syria that there is a price to be paid for promoting internal PLO dissent.

Star Trekking

Pioneer 10, a spacecraft launched 11 years ago, left behind the last of our solar system's known planets Monday to go where no man has gone before. As Earth's first mechanical ambassador to the stars, this spacecraft in leaving the solar system constitutes a historical precedent as much as man's first voyage in orbit and the trip to the moon.

Although Pioneer's radioisotope power supply is expected to last only another decade or so, it will continue its journey for billions of years. "It will last longer than the life of the universe," said Herbert Lassen of TRW Inc.

the builders of Pioneer for NASA. Who said nothing lasts forever?

A tangled web

Lt. Gov. James C. Green was accused yesterday of accepting a \$2,000 bribe and conspiring to receive bribes of \$10,000 a month by a Wake County grand jury. Wake District Attorney C. Colon Willoughby said the grand jury asked him to investigate written accusations against Green and Howard K. Watts, Green's longtime associate and convicted Colcor defendant. Willoughby said there was substantial evidence to bring charges against both men.

Last year, Green told reporters that FBI agents, in the undercover Colcor investigation into corruption in southeastern North Carolina, had tried to ensnare him with a \$2,000 "campaign contribution" which he said he later returned. Green claimed he met an FBI agent posing as an undercover underworld figure with Watts. Green responded angrily to the grand jury's investigation. Referring to the incident, Green said, "The public has a right to know—I have a right to know—why government agents tried so hard, with no success whatsoever, to entrap me into breaking the law."

Green's "Its time to clear the air" declaration is his most accurate statement yet, since the outcome of this latest North Carolina political scandal is reminiscent Nixon administration's nebulous response to Watergate.

When it rains, it pours

The Chapel Hill Town Council plans to do something to stop the raw sewage from overflowing into greenways in the areas of Bolin and Booker Creek.

The council voted unanimously Monday to urge the Orange County Water and Sewer Authority to give priority to rehabilitate and reconstruct sewer interceptor lines along the creek to keep it from overflowing during wet weather.

Area residents have taken the problem to heart. They are worried that the proposed Winding Ridge development would increase the amount of overflow and that the sewage leaking onto the greenway would create a health hazard in an area heavily patrolled by children. A very messy subject indeed.

Ginie Lynch, a senior Latin American Studies major from Richmond, Va., is associate editor of The Tar Heel.



TERMINAL TUESDAY

\$1.00

for all who enter before 10:00
2 drafts for .25 and more but illegal to advertise

ROCKING WEDNESDAY

2 DRAFTS FOR .25

.75 cans
.50 for members
1.50 for guests before 10:30

and other specials we cannot advertise rock'n roll all night long

Purdy's

on Franklin

BOTTOMLESS CUPS

THURSDAY'S Greatest Special Till 12:00 MORE, MORE, MORE!!!

HAPPY HOUR FRIDAY'S BEST

2 DRAFTS for .25 (That's a pitcher for .75) 1.00 members/2.00 guests 4:00-9:00 Come to HAPPY HOUR and GET IN FREE FRIDAY NIGHT