

Speaker decries contra policy

By MITRA LOTFI
Staff Writer

The mistakes the U.S. government is making in Nicaragua are nearly identical to those made in Cuba and Vietnam by past administrations, Dr. Wayne S. Smith told about 85 people Monday night in Howell Hall.

Smith, adjunct professor of Latin American Studies at the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, spoke about "U.S. Policy in Cuba and Nicaragua: Errors of the Past and Present." The lecture was sponsored by the Institute of Latin American Studies.

"We seem strangely unable to deal with revolutionary situations in Third World emerging nations," said Smith, who served as director of Cuban affairs in the State Department and worked in U.S. embassies in the Soviet Union and Cuba. He left foreign service in 1982 because of disagreements with the Reagan

administration over its policies in Cuba and Central America.

One of the biggest mistakes made by the United States has been hesitation in disassociating itself from a government once it has lost the popular support of its people, he said.

"When the time came for us to tell (Anastasio) Somoza (former president of Nicaragua before the Sandinista revolution in 1979) he no longer had our support, we didn't," he said. "Somoza took this as a signal that the pressures were off."

Smith said it was "utterly absurd" for the Kennedy administration to imagine U.S. military forces could help instigate a popular uprising to overthrow Fidel Castro in Cuba in the late 1950s.

This is the same mistake being made in Nicaragua, he said.

"We have again turned to this surrogate exile force organized by the CIA," Smith said. "It hasn't a

shred of a chance of receiving popular support in Nicaragua."

This force, the contras, will "fail and fail miserably," he said.

The contras allow the administration to deceive themselves into thinking that it can get rid of the Sandinista government without involving the United States directly, he said.

"We can deal with them (the Sandinistas)," Smith said. "They are willing to sign an agreement that addresses our security concerns."

Such a compromise should not be based on trust but on verifiable agreements that both sides agree on, he said.

Before intervening in another country, the administration must give more thought to the risks involved in relation to the magnitude of the problem, he said.

"We are no longer living in a world where we can alter governments simply by landing the marine attachment off the USS Marblehead,"



Wayne Smith

Smith said.

Smith said many people thought that once Vietnam fell, communism would then spread throughout southeastern Asia and to India. The domino theory did not hold there and will not hold in South America, he said.

Moslem kidnappers offer to trade hostage for prisoners

From Associated Press reports

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Moslem kidnappers said Monday that an American hostage is so ill he may die soon and offered to trade him for 100 Arab prisoners held in Israel.

A handwritten statement in Arabic delivered to the Beirut newspaper An-Nahar said that Alann Steen, 47, of Boston "may die within 10 days" and demanded that the United States persuade Israel to make the exchange.

Explosion at British base

RHEINDAHLEM, West Germany — A car bomb exploded late Monday at the British army and air force headquarters in West Germany, and an undetermined number of people were injured, West German police said.

The bomb exploded in a car parked outside an officers' mess at the British Army of the Rhine and Royal Air Force headquarters in Rheindahlem, a police spokesman in the neighboring city of Moenchengladbach said.

Haig considers entering race

NEW YORK — Alexander M. Haig Jr., who once declared "I

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am in control here in the White House," is attempting to validate that claim with a bid for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination.

Like other Republican hopefuls, Haig has campaigned in Iowa and New Hampshire, the states that traditionally lead off the primary and caucus season.

His entry into the race would make Haig the second declared candidate for the GOP nomination. Former Gov. Peter du Pont of Delaware entered the race last September.

Bakker discusses resignation

FORT MILL, S.C. — Resigning from the PTL cable television ministry was the only way to thwart a "diabolical plot" to overthrow it, evangelist Jim Bakker said Monday as he and his wife, Tammy Faye, appeared on television for the first time since they stepped down.

Bakker revealed Thursday that he had been blackmailed over a sexual encounter seven years ago.

Legislature proposes funding for victims

By LAURIE DUNCAN
Staff Writer

For four years North Carolina's victims compensation program has gone unfunded. Victims of violent crimes have not received money for personal injuries or property losses because the state has not had available funds.

But last week, legislators introduced a way by which convicted criminals on probation or parole supervision would pay the state an annual sum of \$1.3 million, more than enough to fund the compensation program's proposed annual budget of \$1 million.

The idea, introduced by Rep. Bob Hunter, D-McDowell, would raise the monthly probation/parole-supervision fee, which convicted criminals must pay, from \$10 to \$15. The extra money would go into the state's general revenue fund, and victims rights activists hope to tie it to their program, said Rep. Anne Barnes, D-Orange.

A similar proposal was passed three years ago, which raised the cost of marriage licenses and earmarked the revenues to fund educational programs in child abuse prevention, she said.

A committee was formed last

Thursday to examine two bills that update the 1983 Victims Compensation Act, said Alan Briggs, spokesman for the state attorney general's office.

He said there was a broad consensus among legislators to fund the program before the session is over.

"There has been a growing feeling that the criminal justice system, both on the state and national levels, doesn't pay enough attention to the interests and concerns of the victims," Briggs said. "Victims feel like they're victimized by the crime, then by the courts."

Victims of violent crimes who go to court have to take time off from work, often get "torn apart" by the defense attorneys and get no compensation for personal injury or property loss, said Jim Hugerich of the Chapel Hill Police Social Work Unit.

He said the system was particularly unfair to victims with personal injuries who cooperate with the police, but have to pay \$200 to \$300 in hospital bills.

Barnes said that she and Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, would support Hunter's bills.

The bills include changes in the 1983 act, such as a federal fund to

subsidize the program if it runs out of money, Briggs said.

The committee will decide if compensation for property losses should be included. Such claims could quickly deplete the program's

fund, but Briggs said some legislators supported a limit of \$1,000 to \$2,000, while others opposed any compensation for property losses.

A limit of \$20,000 for individual victims is included in the proposal.

UNC volunteer program to aid expectant mothers

By LEE ANN NECESSARY
Staff Writer

Expectant mothers in Chatham and Lee counties may face a smaller risk of delivering infants with low birthweights with help from a UNC volunteer program which will supply them with extra social support.

The UNC Department of Maternal and Child Health, sponsor of the Helping Mothers program, conducted the first of seven training sessions for volunteers in these counties this past weekend.

"In our training sessions we have been looking at social support as an intervention of lower birthweight and at how these volunteers can aid these pregnant mothers in providing the extra social support they may be lacking," said Ethel Jackson, health educator with the School of Public Health in the Department of Maternal and Child Health and co-

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coordinator of the program.

The program, funded by the Kate B. Reynolds charitable trust fund at the Health Promotion Disease Prevention Center, is based on the theory that counseling and friendship may lessen the stress on pregnant women, reducing the risk of low birthweights among infants.

In the past the extended family provided this additional support, but changing family structures have isolated people, Jackson said.

"Our goal is to put back that feeling of importance and feeling of caring," Jackson said.

The counties' health departments, health clinics, churches and support groups for young mothers recommended the volunteers, Jackson and Dr. Jean Chapman, of the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Center and co-coordinator for the program, made the final choice.

The expectant mothers participating will range in race, marital status, and income, with no mother being turned down, Jackson said.

After the training sessions, Chapman and Jackson will match the volunteers and other hired coordinators with the expectant mothers.

Jackson said when the babies are born their birthweights will be compared with babies born in the area two years ago and with babies born in similar communities.

Questionnaires and reporting done in the homes of participants will be used in evaluating the program's effectiveness, she said.

The effects of social support on birthweights have been studied in the past. Nutrition, smoking, drinking and pre-natal care have also been part of the studies, Jackson said.

In 1985 Chatham County had a 7.3 percent rate of low birthweight, and in Lee County the rate stood at 8.1 percent, Jackson said. Both are high percentages in North Carolina, she said.

Jackson said North Carolina is one of the nine southern states that ranks high in low infant birthweight rates.

Ford to speak in Carmichael

Former President Gerald Ford will speak at 8 p.m. today in Carmichael Auditorium. The topic has not been announced but it will be business-related. The lecture will be followed by a 20-minute question and answer period.

The speech is sponsored by the Carolina Union Forum Committee, the Archie K. Davis Lecture in Management and the Institute for Private Enterprise. It is free and open to the public.

Ford, who became the 38th president in August 1974, is the only United States chief executive not elected to either the vice presidency or the presidency.

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audience applauded.

The United States is allowing its fear of communism to distort its foreign policy, Robinson said. "George McGovern once told me that if the Soviet Union was against cancer, we would support it (cancer)," he said.

"The world knows us better than we know ourselves. Because we are so poorly informed (about other

nations in the world), we don't make our policies what they ought to be."

Whenever black Americans raise an issue it is immediately characterized as a civil rights issue, Robinson said. "But apartheid is not a civil rights issue," he said. "It is a foreign policy issue."

Because the United States is 15 percent black and more than half female, with large numbers of Hispanics and millions of poor, Robinson said he found it disturbing that the nation's foreign policy is created by a Senate composed

mostly of white males over 50 years old.

"The policy that we put out always reflects the views of those who make the policy," he said. "Because we remain a country still bothered by racism, our policy has elements of racism about it."

It is sad and shocking that Africa, the poorest continent on earth, a continent scarcely out of the colonial era, was the only continent to be cut from U.S. foreign aid by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill, Robinson said.



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