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Violence to go on?

By Hugh Westrup
Predictions of further armed struggles between government and guerrilla forces in Nicaragua were made last week in the Bethune club room by celebrated poet and priest, Ernesto Cardenal.

Father Cardenal, who fled his homeland following the recent civil war spoke in Spanish before a capacity crowd and described the conflict between the Nicaraguan people and their ruler, which appears to be accelerating toward a violent climax.

The September war, during which thousands of civilians were killed by the military, was an uprising of citizens against the 42 year old Somoza family dictatorship. At the forefront of the rebellion was the Sandinista Front, a guerrilla group trained in the dense jungle areas.

The Sandinistas seized control of major centres in Nicaragua but were eventually driven back by the superior military power of the National Guard which defends Somoza.

Father Cardenal said that despite the defeat, people are increasingly rebellious. "Somoza is more hated than ever," he added.

Father Cardenal repeated the goal of the Sandinista Front several times:

"The Sandinista's aim is to throw out the dictatorship by use of arms and establish a democratic government with free elections."

He described the Sandinista Front as "a collective, not a personality cult. Its leaders are not being promoted as political leaders."

Cardenal said the front is composed of Marxists and Christians alike, and described himself as a proponent of both ideologies.

When questioned about a conflict between his support of violent insurrection and Christian teachings, he replied: "The message of the gospel is not one of peace. Christ was a revolutionary who said he was bringing war."



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The Sandinista movement takes its name from Augusto Cesar Sandino, the only Nicaraguan general to oppose American military involvement in the earlier part of this century.

Sandino was eventually killed by the National Guard which was established by the US military before their departure in 1932. The first leader of the National Guard was Anastasio Somoza Garcia, father of the present dictator.

Since coming to power in 1936, the Somoza family has amassed a fortune of \$500 million and owns over 65 per cent of Nicaragua's arable land. Somoza controlled industry accounts for 40% of the country's Gross National Product.

Until recently, the corrupt, oppressive Somoza dynasty has been supported by the United States in the form of \$300 million in economic and military assistance. Nicaragua, in return, supported the American overthrow of the Guatemalan government in 1954 and provided the launching area for the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

Military aid to Nicaragua was sharply reduced, however, when President Carter began enforcing his human rights policy. Israel is now the major supplier of arms to Nicaragua.

In his speech Father Cardenal expressed suspicions of Carter's sincerity saying that Israel is possibly being used as a front through which the Americans can provide assistance.

Carter's policy is believed to have caused some loosening up of restrictions. Journalistic freedom was given to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, whose newspaper, *La Prensa*, routinely criticized the Somoza regime from September of last year until January when Chamorro was murdered on the way to work.

Chamorro's death released a resentment that had been smouldering for years and sparked strikes and weeks of protesting.

Repeated calls for Somoza's resignation have come from the Roman Catholic Church, trade unions and opposition politicians.



your student
council

C.Y.S.F. Classic Movie Series continues this Thursday with *Midnight Cowboy*, starring John Voight and Dustin Hoffman. The show begins at 8 o'clock in Curtis Lecture Hall "L". The cost \$1.75. Get there early, so that you can ensure yourself a good seat for the show.

C.Y.S.F. is providing buses to go down to Queen's Park for the student picket line. If you wish to join us in the province wide protest, please meet in front of the Ross building ramp, at 11:45 a.m. Buses will leave for Queen's Park at 12 noon. Buses will return to York at 2:30 p.m. C.Y.S.F. members will be able to ride free. Non - C.Y.S.F. members will be asked to pay 75c for the bus ride to and from Queen's Park.

Vice President of Finance, Gary Empey would like to thank all the council members for their participation in the formulation of this year's C.Y.S.F. budget. Complete details of the C.Y.S.F. budget will be printed in the upcoming issue of *Excalbur*.

C.Y.S.F. Fall Fine Arts Festival is wrapping up tomorrow night with a Disco in Vanier's Junior-Common Room. If you have a Fine Arts Fall Festival button available for 50c at the C.Y.S.F.

office) the cost of entering the disco is 50c. If you do not have a button the cost is \$1.50.

The Festival continues today and Friday with displays in the Scott Library, student films in the Curtis Lecture Halls and the Party/Disco in Vanier's J.C.R. For more details contact C.Y.S.F. 667-2515 or drop in and see us at 105 Central Square.

Applications are still available for the Council of the York Student Federation Inc. Bursary Awards. The awards are \$250.00 each and are based on the following items: financial need, academic standard (a minimum of a "B" average required) extra-curricular involvement on the York main campus, and a membership of the C.Y.S.F. For more information contact Student Awards, 006 Steacie Science Building and speak to Joanne Albright.

Estonian Association: Weekly meetings are being held Tuesdays at 1:00 pm in the Grad Lounge (7th floor Scott) and Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the Open End Pub, Vanier College. They usually last a few hours. Phone 630-2296 for more information.

submitted on behalf of the Council
by
David W. Chodikoff, President

Council of the York Student
Federation.

COMMENT: Board Of Governors and Student Elections:

I attended the Monday night Board of Governors meeting. Many different items were discussed. Some of these issues included the Tenure and Promotions system, the M.B.A./B.B.A. enrolments and programs, as well as the recent financial implications of the four settlements with the different campus unions.

I would like to point out that the following individuals, who are running for the Student Board of Governor positions, were not there: Abie Weisfeld, Peter Brickwood, Shawn Brayman, James Carlisle, Herman Schindler, Leon Reagan and Victor Roskey.

The significant point is that the meeting was held on the main campus on the 9th floor, Senate Chambers in the Ross Building. The question is: Are these above individuals really concerned with serving the students interests on B.of G. or just their own? Think about it.

D.W. Chodikoff.



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