

Nicaragua faced with crisis · Consul-General

The Gateway was informed last week that the Consul General of Nicaragua, Mr. Pastor Valle-Garay, would be visiting Edmonton as part of a tour organized by the National Farmers' Union. The Gateway thought that it would be very useful to conduct an interview with Mr. Valle-Garay since an official representative of the Nicaraguan government rarely visits this province. Mr. Valle-Garay was interviewed by Oscar Amar, a former Gateway staff member who worked in Nicaragua at the Ministry of Interior.

What is the purpose of your current visit to Western Canada?

The essential reason for my visit is to attend the premiere of a film by the National Film Board on the Alberta farmers who went to Nicaragua to teach our people about farm equipment. They (farmers) did an outstanding job with the help of others from Saskatchewan and Manitoba. They managed to obtain \$200,000 of support with aid from the provincial government, CIDA, and the federal government. Their trip has left an impact and we are very grateful. The farmers are now raising funds for an upcoming trip.

Is the government of Nicaragua involved in the farmers' project?

No, it is not. This is simply a humane program - the main beneficiaries are the Nicaraguan farmers. Canadian farmers are pleased to see the aid going to other farmers who lack modern equipment and know-

ledge to work the land.

I know you have made significant gains in education. What are they? Immediately after the triumph of the Revolution, we embarked on a literacy campaign that was so successful that we were awarded the prize for education by the United Nations. We reduced the illiteracy rate in Nicaragua from 84% in the rural areas and 54% in urban areas to less than 12%. With this we created a tremendous desire for more learning and now our government is trying to respond to this in the best possible way that it can.

Has the government of Canada done anything either constructively or destructively to affect the peace process?

We are tremendously pleased with the support given to Contadora by Prime Minister Mulroney and External Affairs Minister Joe Clark. They have offered the services of high government officials as consultants to Contadora.

Am I understand from what you have said that Canada is not being influenced or manipulated by Washington?

I think that the people of Nicaragua are enormously satisfied in that Canada has acted, as traditionally done, as a peaceful mediator between nations in conflict.

Do you seek the Church in Nicaragua experiencing a sort of evolution with the rise of liberation theology?

The Church in Nicaragua is experiencing precisely that - a religious evolution. It is not political problem with us but within the Church itself. It is not a struggle between the Church

hierarchy who is trying to maintain the traditional status quo and a large number of Nicaraguan Catholics of local churches who, for one reason or another, believe in the more humane, more Christian theology of liberation. The conflict is between these two trains of thought. May I add that the liberation theologians enjoy more support than the hierarchy itself. One reason for this is that the hierarchy, represented by Cardinal Obandoy Bravo, refuses to discuss in any way or form, the atrocities committed by the criminal contras based in Honduras.

For the immediate interest to students at this university, can you describe the hardship that students in your country might experience in view of the fact that Nicaragua is fighting an undeclared war?

There are many pressures, of course, that students have to cope with but they are also more politically conscious than students in Canada or the United States. This is due to the situation they are living.

President Ortega also spoke of ultra-right and left-wing counter-revolutionary activities. Can you tell us about the extreme left?

Let me say that the Nicaraguan government will not tolerate any movements that try to manipulate the Nicaraguan political system either to the extreme right or left. The groups on the extreme left are numerous but their influence is insignificant.

In recent months various religious groups in the U.S. have come to the

forefront with the intention of providing aid to the contras. What is your reaction to this?

There is no serious group in the U.S. contributing to the contra aid. They are pseudo-religious groups such as the group led by Rev. Moon who has in fact received donations from people like Jeanne Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. - she donated \$17,000. This aid has specific military purpose. But, I maintain that such groups have absolutely nothing to do with Christians in the U.S. True Christians have supported us and do visit our country frequently. In fact, some keep permanent delegations in Nicaragua.

We've heard very little about the Contadora group and its efforts. Can you bring us up to date on that process?

The Nicaraguan government believes that the Contadora group is the best equipped element to bring about peace in Central America. Contadora (which is made up of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama) enjoys the support of the Andean nations and Argentina. We have always been prepared to sign the Contadora pact, however, the U.S. has sabotaged our efforts by urging Honduras and Costa Rica not to sign any peace treaty. In fact, the Sub-Secretary of State for Latin America, Elliott Abrahams said four

weeks ago that the U.S. would not be unhappy if Contadora were to collapse. The U.S. seeks to sabotage any political solution to the Central American conflict. We, on the other hand, need and want a non-military solution. We have done everything within our reach to achieve a political solution. The response of the U.S., unfortunately, has been to mine our ports, finance the mercenaries and sabotage any possible agreement that we might reach with any other Central American nation.

Finally, I would like to ask you what the prospects for the future are in light of the belligerent behaviour of the U.S.?

The ideal situation would be if the U.S. would leave us alone so that we may return to the process of rebuilding Nicaragua. The other situation I see is a continued policy of aggression by the U.S. Nevertheless, I think that I share with all Nicaraguan people and others in the world, a tremendous feeling of optimism for a much brighter future in Nicaragua. Our support is growing. Our trade has been diversified as a result of the economic embargo imposed by the U.S. in May of this year. Our relations with Western Europe are growing. As time goes by the situation of the Nicaraguans people will improve with growing world popularity.

Starvin' student

by Graeme Whamond

I don't know why I'm writing this article because I've been eating quite well lately — in fact — I'm bulging out of my size 6X T-Shirts. But before I give you a great curry chicken recipe (stolen right from mum's recipe box) it has been brought to my attention that some people, like R.T., don't eat any meat. Is Vegetarianism the trend? Well, for the next while I'm going to push vegetarian meals. Also, there won't be an article next week — you're not the only one with midterms!

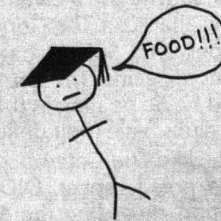
Curried Chicken

TIME: 25-30 minutes
COST: \$1.50 - \$2.00
DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Moderate
SERVES: 1 hungry person
Chicken (what you can eat)
½T ginger
1T flour
½T margarine
Sauce:
1 small onion (finely chopped)
2t flour
2t curry
1T brown sugar
2 glugs ketchup
½T lemon juice
½ Can consomme
½ apple (finely chopped)

- 1) Put frozen chicken portion in plastic bag — thaw in hot water (5 mins)
- 2) Meanwhile, raise oven rack, turn on broiler. Melt margarine in casserole dish.
- 3) In a plastic bag, shake chicken in ginger and flour.
- 4) Put chicken in oven. Meanwhile prepare sauce ingredients. Mix them in saucepan over low heat.
- 5) When sauce is ready — pour over chicken, continue broiling till chicken is done.
- 6) Serve with minute rice and green vegetables (i.e. steamed brocolli/peas)

Fast Scalloped Potatoes

TIME: 40 minutes
COST: Peanuts
DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Easy
SERVES: 1 Potato lover
4 medium potatoes
2T margarine
1T flour
¾C milk



pinch salt
pinch mustard powder
Optional: sauteed chopped onions, mushrooms.

- 1) Scrub and steam the potatoes for about 10 minutes (don't peel them yet).
- 2) Simmer milk, add salt, mustard. Turn on broiler
- 3) When potatoes are sort of soft, peel them (if you want to - but they're good with the peel, too!) Slice them. Line bottom of small dish with potatoes, sprinkle lightly with some of the flour, dot with little blobs of margarine, continue layering. Optional — Sprinkle sauteed onions + mushrooms between layers.
- 4) Pour milk evenly over potatoes. Broil. Every 5 or 10 minutes, gently mix layers (Prevents burning on top)

OPTIONS: Use can of cream of mushroom or cream of celery soups instead of milk.

LAST WORD

As I mentioned before, I'm going to put more vegetarian recipes in for a while but keep in mind that I'm NOT a Nutrition-Student. Vegetarianism is a very delicate category to supply recipes for because it's easy to become deficient in proteins and other neat stuff. So watch out! Proteins are found readily in nuts, seeds, SOYA beans and other beans. In fact, Soya is probably one of your better protein sources for vegetarians. If you're a vegetarian, I hope you know a lot more about the subject than I do. As always, I'm open to suggestions! P.S. — A special thanks to Barb Ruchelt of Home Ec. (IV) for correcting a statement I made earlier. Proteins are not the major source of daily energy though they are very important for body repair. It is the carbohydrates supplemented with the fats that keep you going all day.

STUDENT
LOANS

If You Do Not Reinstate Your Student Loan(s) The Interest-Free Status Will Expire

You are responsible for maintaining your loan(s) in good standing. The credit institution (Bank) has no obligation to remind you of your responsibility.

If you have a Guaranteed Provincial Loan or Canada Student Loan and are continuing full-time studies you must reinstate the loan(s) PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE SIX MONTH EXEMPTION PERIOD. You do this by:

- (A) obtaining the necessary Reinstatement Forms from your bank, or
- (B) negotiating a new Certificate of Eligibility within the six month exemption period.

You could check your most recent copy of the Certificate of Eligibility or Reinstatement Form for the latest academic year-end date. Your exemption period expires six months from that date.

Even though you may have applied for further financial assistance and/or other types of awards, this does not automatically reinstate your loan(s). **NEGOTIATING A CANADA STUDENT LOAN DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY REINSTATE YOUR GUARANTEED PROVINCIAL LOAN, OR VICE VERSA.**

Students who change from full-time studies to part-time studies (less than 60 percent of full course load) will be considered as withdrawn.

MEDICAL RESIDENT STUDENT (POST-GRAD MEDICAL)

You cannot be reinstated to interest-free full-time status. Although you may be assessed tuition fees which may be paid by the sponsoring hospital, you are in receipt of a salary and therefore considered to be gainfully employed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ADVICE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR BANK OR THE STUDENTS FINANCE BOARD, GUARANTEED LOANS SECTION, EDMONTON.

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