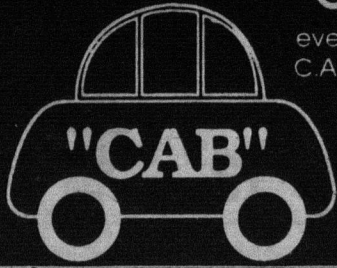


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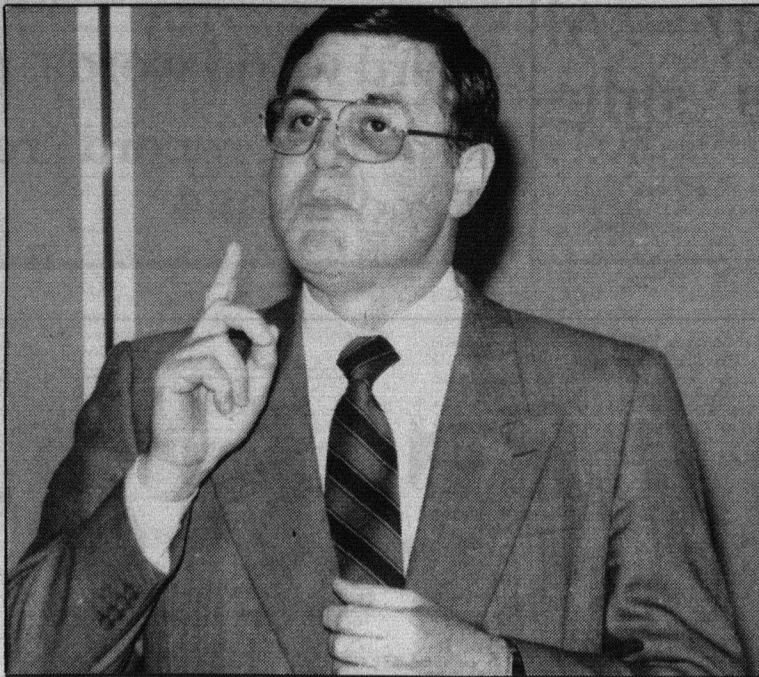


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Nicaraguan ambassador Lacayo discussed many facets of his country's development.

Ron Sears

## Prospects for peace

continued from p 1

Central America from the United States." Since its signing, according to Ambassador Lacayo, Nicaragua has pardoned 1,000 prisoners, repealed all press censorship, initiated a national reconciliation forum, and entered into direct negotiations with the Contras. It has also provided Central America with the realization that conflicts can be negotiated without the interference of U.S. hegemony.

However, Ambassador Lacayo lamented the lack of support the U.S. administration has provided the "historic agreement". Nor was he overly optimistic Nicaragua would receive any war reparations from the Americans, even though the U.S. had been ordered to do so by the World Court in the Hague in 1987 for contravening international law in its 'covert' war.

As Ambassador Lacayo tersely noted, after 71,000 killed, wounded or orphaned Nicaraguans (out of a population of 3,000,000), and \$15 billion in damage to his country, the 8-year Nicaraguan war was anything but 'covert'.

When queried about East-bloc support for Nicaragua, Ambassador Lacayo replied that 95 percent of Nicaragua's economic trade was with Western market countries. Furthermore, he said there still remained several American multinational companies operating in Nicaragua, including such stalwarts as McDonald's, I.B.M. and Chevron.

According to Ambassador Lacayo, President Daniel Ortega is eager to start direct talks with the new Bush administration.

President Ortega has also presented a plan to Honduras (where most of the Contras are based) to repatriate them under a general amnesty over a four month span.

Canada is to play an important role in Nicaragua's return to peace by participating in a verification program amongst the five signing Central American countries of the Arias Peace Plan. Being a close neighbour and a huge trading partner with the U.S. has left Canada with a delicate foreign policy position, conceded Ambassador Lacayo, but Canadian government and non-government support for development projects in Nicaragua remains strong.

Canada does not have an embassy in Nicaragua.

Ambassador Lacayo urged change in the mindset of the American administration. Rather than violently questioning the legitimacy of the Sandinista government, which was elected by a majority of the population in a general election in 1984 the United States should take note of, and support the broad based development work the Sandinistas have accomplished.

Considering only 50% of registered Americans even bother to vote in presidential elections, Ambassador Lacayo found it ironic that U.S. Congressmen have insisted on electoral reform in Nicaragua as a pre-condition for ending Contra funding.

The Edmonton Learner Centre and the U of A Students' Union present



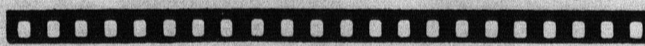
# Third World Film Festival

## March 3, 4, and 5

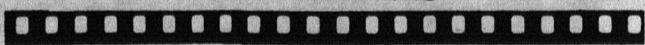
Tory Lecture Theatre University of Alberta

### Alberta Premieres

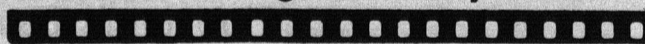
- "Environment Under Fire: Ecology and Politics in C.A."
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