

The Gateway

Revolution update

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occurred during the previous four years combined.

A break in trade relations with the U.S., economic sabotage on the part of the contras, as well as internal problems in supplying basic commodities were cited as reasons for this situation. As well, about 46 per cent of the national budget in 1986 was devoted to defence efforts.

Despite these economic problems, Judson feels there is a deepening support for the Sandinistas among the populace.

"The war has become more mature politically," he said, noting the efforts the Sandinistas have made to consolidate support in the rural areas by instituting land reform.

Abroad, the U.S. has been un-

successful in its campaign to isolate Nicaragua diplomatically. Nicaragua is represented on numerous. world bodies and continues to receive support from most of the world community.

Judson did not speculate as to what effect the recent political reforms would have on popular support of the Sandinistas, but remained optimistic that such support would continue to be strong.

Questions after the talk varied from topics specific to Nicaragua to the Central American peace initiative now taking place. Judson took all the questions in stride, saying, "Each person has the right to their own opinion and (to) challenge or support mine."

The talk was one in a series presented by the International Relations Strategic Studies Society.

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Gateway September 29 1987

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