

WUSC Cornucopia

For many of us the recent news of the Reagan administration's renewal of military aid to the government of El Salvador appeared as an isolated event, a response to the possible presence of communist guerillas intent on overthrowing the present rule. Military cooperation between the U.S. and Latin American governments has a long history however and Reagan's foreign policy is a continuation of that implemented by many previous presidents.

It was back in 1947 that the Inter-American treaty of Reciprocal Assistance was signed at Rio de Janeiro with an intent to combat the Axis powers and it was under this treaty that the U.S. Defense Department set up its Military Assistance Program (MAP) in 1951 to arm and train Latin America's armies.

Although MAP was conceived as a defense against eternal military threat it became a mechanism to promote U.S. military strategy and to prevent the possibility of a communist revolution such as took place in Cuba in 1959.

In the words of the then Defense Secretary Robert MacNamara, appearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Foreign Operations Appropriations for 1963;

"Probably the greatest return on our military assistance investment comes from the training of selected officers and key specialists at our military schools and training centers in the United States and overseas...they are the coming leaders, the men who will have the know-how and impart it to their forces. I need not dwell upon the value of having in positions of leadership men who will have first hand knowledge of how Americans do things and how they think."

The assumption that the military would play a predominant role in the national development of Latin American countries was held by the U.S. Department of Defense as well as by the military schools, where courses offered to officers included industrial and financial management, transportation, trade, agriculture and communications.

Few stopped to question whether this might be a bad thing, according to Senator William Fulbright. U.S. support of military governments in Latin America can be explained only by the "anti-communist crusade that for years impregnated U.S. foreign policy. The attraction of right-wing dictators has consisted in their decided anti-communism and this appears to have been enough to compensate for their despotism and corruption."

Most military courses, whether in ballistics or communications, were laden with pro-U.S., anti-communist philosophy that encouraged Latin Americans to abhor as subversive anything that seemed to run counter to U.S. interests and would mean a change of the status quo, whether it be agrarian reform or a return to democratic government. At the U.S. Army School of the Americas in the Panama Canal Zone which trained more than 64,000 Latin American soldiers between 1950 and 1973, courses on urban counter insurgency operations, for instance, taught officers methods to detect the presence of communist guerillas.

Subversion was indicated by the "refusal of peasants to pay rents, taxes, or agricultural loans or any difficulty in collecting these will indicate the

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UNB engineering student wins national competition

For the fourth time in the past nine years, a UNB engineering student took first prize in a national competition open to students of Canada's approximately two dozen engineering schools.

Michael Reinhardt of Fredericton is the latest UNB winner in the Canadian Construction Association paper competition, winning the \$500 Robert Legget Award for his senior report on "Slip Form Construction of a Grain Terminal."

Reinhardt's supervising professor was Earl Grant, who also supervised the student who won the Legget Award in 1979.

The competition is open to students enrolled in civil, electrical or mechanical engineering or architecture at any university or college in Canada. Each institution is limited to three submissions which must be directly related to construction and preferably based on the authors' on-site experience.

The Robert Legget Award is named to honor a retired engineer who served as the first director of the National Resource Council's division of building research. Mr. Legget has addressed audiences at UNB several

times, most recently during the 125th anniversary celebrations at the faculty of engineering.

In addition to the Legget Awards, UNB students have won second prizes valued at \$250 each and won the third

prize valued at \$125 once since 1972.

Reinhardt, who received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1980, was employed by a Fredericton area construction firm after graduation.

PSSA looking good

After several years of dormancy, the UNB Political Science Students' Association made great strides in 1980-81.

The organizational meeting in September gave optimistic evidence of good things to come. Wilfred Langmaid was elected president, while Kim Alletson was chosen as vice-president and Dale Briggs was elected as treasurer.

During the year, the association had panel discussions on the repatriation of the constitution, western opposition to the constitution's repatriation, and the world-wide refugee problem.

Guest lecturers included Richard Hatfield on the constitution and Prof. Robert Garland of UNB (SJ) on the United States election.

Social activities included a brewery tour at

Schooner Labatts in Saint John, and a faculty/student get-together at the Faculty Club.

As well, the association sponsored the very successful Political Science Pirates hockey team.

In the year's last regular meeting, Alletson was elected as the 1981-82 president and Mary Abraham was chosen as vice-president. Langmaid has agreed to remain on the executive besides his *ex-officio* role of immediate past president; he will be the treasurer in 1981-82.

It is hoped that the PSSA will grow even more in the upcoming year. If you are taking any political science course at UNB next year, you are welcome and encouraged to contribute to that growth.

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Good Luck and have a GOOD summer!