

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL  
1 May 1984

CARTER CRITICIZES REAGAN POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA  
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Former President Jimmy Carter called the CIA's involvement in the mining of Nicaraguan harbors an "embarrassment" Tuesday and said President Reagan was wrong to ignore World Court action in the matter.

Carter said the Reagan administration was wrong to serve notice on April 6 that it was suspending its acceptance of the International Court of Justice's jurisdiction in matters concerning Central America for two years.

State Department officials said their action was motivated by Nicaragua's plans to misuse the court, but Carter said the Reagan administration took that course because "it knows we were wrong."

"It's an embarrassment to our country," he said. "It's an absolute violation of international law."

Carter noted that the mining had harmed ships friendly to the United States. He said the United States might not abide by the World Court's rulings if they are detrimental to the nation, but it should not ignore the court.

"We can't put ourselves completely at the beck and call of the United Nations or the World Court, but I think (the Reagan decision) was a serious mistake," he said.

"When we had our problems with Iran, we turned to the World Court. I think our nation ought to be subject to its scrutiny," Carter said. "I think we ought to do what we can to enhance international courts of justice."

The former president made his remarks in a speech and news conference which were part of the National Law Day observance by Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. He spoke to nearly 2,000 people in a town meeting format.

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