

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL  
10 April 1985

GRINNELL, IOWA

A CIA recruiter was welcomed to tiny Grinnell College Wednesday by about 40 students who staged a sit-in to protest CIA intervention in Central America.

A few demonstrators entered the career services building and occupied the library while John Hopkins, chief of the CIA's career training program, talked with students about employment opportunities at the intelligence agency.

"I asked them to leave because they were disrupting other functions of the office," Linda Johnsrud, career services director, said of the protesters. "They went back out and sat on the lawn."

Members of the Iowa City chapter of the Progressive Student Network announced they would hold a similar protest at the University of Iowa campus Thursday.

"We are going to warn them and their employer that the next time they return to campus -- if the atrocities in Nicaragua and Central America have not been halted -- we are going to attempt a citizen's arrest," said PSN spokesman Joe Iosbaker.

He said a citizen's arrest is justified on grounds the CIA is to be held responsible for its actions in Central America.

"We going to deliver a sort of warning, telling them that if they keep driving 30 miles per hour over the speed limit, they're going to get a ticket," Iosbaker said.

The actions at Grinnell and the University of Iowa are related to protests at the University of Colorado, where 174 demonstrators were arrested Tuesday.

One organizer at the Colorado school cited the CIA's "open and blatant violation of the law" in Central America. The 300 protesters were gathered to warn the American public that "we've got to take action to stop them before they put U.S. troops in (Central America)."

The protesters were arrested by campus security officers after they attempted to execute a citizen's arrest on the CIA recruiters.

Hopkins, who was in Grinnell between stops at Drake University in Des Moines and Central College in Pella, said he doesn't mind demonstrations as long as

they are peaceful.

'This is a democracy,' he said. He offered to meet with the Grinnell protesters to discuss their views.

Hopkin's stop at Grinnell was the first visit by a CIA recruiter to the small, liberal arts college, and marked a divergence from prior recruiting philosophy.

'Because it's such a large country, we have tended to go to larger schools,' Hopkins said, but added, 'I have a pet theory that if the NFL can find some top-notch athletes in small schools then we should be able to find outstanding individuals too.'

Hopkins said all types of people, not just college students, are attracted to the agency.

'We have professional people come in -- doctors, engineers, and lawyers with well-established practices,' he said.

He said people who apply because of a romantic fantasy about James Bond-type adventures are quickly set straight in the interview.

'We are looking for people who have a strong interest in foreign policy and in helping to shape it,' Hopkins said. 'We are interested in students with a good academic record, a strong interest in international affairs, good interpersonal skills and an interest in learning a foreign language.'

He also cited good writing skills and possible overseas experience -- such as travel or study -- as desired qualities in candidates.