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EX-CIA ANALYST BLASTS U.S. CENTRAL AMERICA POLICY  
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American foreign policy in Central America is being directed by right-wingers with a 1950s mentality, says a former Central Intelligence Agency analyst.

David MacMichael, who served as a CIA Western Hemisphere specialist from 1981 to 1983, told University of Utah students Wednesday the Reagan administration policy in Nicaragua is heightening the risk of direct military intervention in the area.

"By any definition this is a war marked by terrorism and these terroristic acts are paid for by U.S. tax dollars and directed by the U.S. government," he said.

The former CIA analyst said he has visited Nicaragua several times in recent years and it is a far cry from the country portrayed by U.S. government officials.

"We're told that Nicaragua is an enslaved land with atheistic Communists burning churches and torturing priests, and the only thing preventing a successful revolution by the freedom fighters is \$100 million (in aid to the Contras)," he said.

But MacMichael said that perception is false propaganda and he claims the Sandinista government has the potential for bringing democracy and justice to its citizens if it were left alone by the United States.

"I can assure you expectations of Contra money will not improve the chances of overthrowing the Nicaraguan government," MacMichael said.

He said it would take at least three years to retrain and rearm the Contras into a "credible" fighting force.

But he said Reagan is likely to get at least part of the proposed Contra aid contained in a bill now before Congress.

"The far right wing has set our agenda for foreign policy," he said, adding that financial support of the rebels will increase chances of U.S. military troops being sent to Nicaragua.

MacMichael claimed President Reagan is obsessed with ousting the current government in Nicaragua, adding that U.S. foreign policy in Latin America and the Caribbean has traditionally attempted to dominate those governments.

And, referring to 1984 elections which kept the Sandinistas in power, MacMichael said, "The Latin American Study Association reported the election was fair, honest, open and fully representative of the Nicaraguan peoples' welfare.

"The only disruption was that caused by the U.S. embassy," he said.