

Women call for scaling down of U.S. military intervention

By Gene Gentrup

Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

U.S. military intervention in Central America is drawing greater opposition among American women, according to a poll taken by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Results of the poll were presented at a press conference Thursday by Melinda Plastas, director of the women's league. Plastas' presentation was part of a Women's Speaking Tour, which focuses on the existence of a "gender gap" on Central America.

Joining Plastas at the press conference were Yolanda Campbell, a representative of the Association of Nicaraguan Women, and Sheila Collins, coordinator of the Rainbow Coalition.

Plastas said a national random sample of 17,000 women polled by the league revealed that 65 percent said the United States should decrease its military involvement in Central America. Only 4 percent of the women supported

the Reagan Administration's policy of enlarging U.S. military presence in that region.

Plastas said it is important for women to be more active in government affairs and she said recent reports indicate that women are doing just that.

"Women are starting to find their voices and finding they can have an impact in the United States," Plastas said.

She said that last year women came closer to equaling men in voting than ever before.

Since 1979, when the Anastassi Somoza dictatorship was defeated, AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan Women's Association, has organized the efforts of Nicaraguan women to rebuild that country's society. AMNLAE has devised a program to enforce fathers' support of abandoned families; a day care program; and cooperatives where women can learn a productive trade. Prostitution, legal under Somoza, has been outlawed, and a program to rehabilitate prosti-

tutes has been established. AMNLAE also opened the first women's legal office in Managua.

Campbell said she joined the women's tour to inform Americans of what actually is happening in Nicaragua.

"I am here to combat the level of misinformation Americans are receiving on Nicaraguan activity," she said.

Campbell said innocent people are being killed each day, but that recent reports of two American missionaries being killed are untrue.

"These American missionaries were not missionaries. They were shot down in a CIA helicopter and the previous week they were seen searching an area that had been off-limits to civilians," she said.

Campbell said other problems such as shortage of food and medicine supplies are hampering efforts to rebuild. But despite the adversities, the women are making progress, she said.

Wire Report

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

Gromyko blasts Reagan, confers with Mondale

NEW YORK — Democratic presidential contender Walter Mondale Thursday conferred at length with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and afterward said he expected progress on arms control at Friday's meeting between the Soviet official and President Reagan.

"I do believe that there is an opportunity tomorrow to make significant progress," Mondale told reporters after his 90-minute meeting with Gromyko at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. Mondale said the meeting was "serious and businesslike and gave me a chance to spell out my views on the importance of making progress in tomorrow's meeting with the president."

Gromyko is scheduled to meet with Reagan for several hours Friday in the White House. In a speech Thursday before the U.N. General Assembly, the Soviet Foreign Minister launched a sharp attack on Reagan's policies, saying U.S.-Soviet relations had been upset in recent years.

Mondale said he stressed to Gromyko that he was not in the position to negotiate. "I made a strong point that Ronald Reagan is our president. He should not misunderstand, or misconstrue the fact that the vigorous campaign we have going should not in any way detract from the sheer hope of all Americans that progress will be made tomorrow at the meeting," he said.

The unusual meeting between a senior Soviet official and an opposition candidate for president in the midst of a U.S. election campaign grew out of an invitation from the Soviets to Mondale.

Mondale declined, for the most part, to describe Gromyko's comments except to say that they paralleled the Soviet leader's speech Thursday which was critical of Washington. He said the meeting centered mostly on arms control.

South African violence re-erupts

JOHANNESBURG — Angry blacks rampaged in townships across South Africa Thursday in growing protest against the state's racial policies. In Port Elizabeth on the south coast riot police repeatedly fired tear gas to disperse black youths. In Soweto, near Johannesburg, about 200 youths stoned and looted a delivery vehicle, and police said they fired two rubber bullets as the protesters were dispersed.

Roaming crowds of black youths in townships east and south of Johannesburg hurled stones and damaged buses, torched a government vehicle and looted a bread van. Police said at least 14 people had been arrested. The company which runs segregated buses for blacks, Putco, said it had withdrawn its service from Tembisa, northeast of Johannesburg, and a spokesman said, "The situation there is very bad." In Grahamstown, in the eastern Cape Province, a man was injured and three cars damaged by stone-throwing youths. In Natal Province, three gasoline bombs were hurled into private homes. Thousands of black pupils boycotted schools Thursday as the unrest continued, and residents of Soweto, the country's largest black township, said many schools there were deserted.

A group of lawyers, doctors and political activists opposed to the government said at a news conference in Johannesburg the official death toll of about 40 in riots over the past few weeks was a gross underestimate.

U.S. farmers protest low prices

CHICAGO — About 200 farmers protesting low crop prices descended on the world's busiest commodity futures market Thursday demanding changes in the way business is conducted.

"Low prices are the farmers' problem, and those prices are set right here," said Wayne Cryts as he and other farmers in blue jeans and caps waved placards at well-dressed bankers and businessmen outside the Chicago Board of Trade. Cryts became a farmers' folk hero of sorts three years ago when he raided a bankrupt grain elevator to take back his own soybean crop. He was later acquitted of charges stemming from the incident.

Police were on hand Thursday but there were no clashes as the protesters asked commodities exchange officials to support a plan for regulatory relief by changing the rules governing the way their crops are traded. Members of the American Agriculture Movement, the National Farmers Organization and the National Farmers Union attended the rally.

Cryts and other farm leaders are backing a plan that would either ban or limit speculative short sales of commodity futures. A short sale is a paper trade in which a futures contract is sold in the expectation that its price will fall. The protesters said speculation in such contracts drives prices down.

Responding to the protest, Board of Trade chairman Thomas Cunningham said in a statement: "Producers often complain when commodity prices are too low, but consumers complain when prices are too high." The function of the commodities exchange "is only to discover what the actual price of commodities is at any given time," he said.

Soviet diplomats get reminder

WASHINGTON — House and Senate conferees have agreed to rename the address of the Soviet Embassy in Washington after Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov. The new address of the embassy, at 1125 16th St., will be "One Sakharov Plaza." Congress must formally approve the compromise but no problems are expected.



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