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"It seems to me that this assault on the university is an assault on an institution that performs vital functions in society," he added.

The university had a measure of "autonomy," he explained, "before a takeover, Diskin explained. It served as an autonomous sanctuary from the public arena, much like universities in the United States, he continued.

El Salvador's president and other high-ranking officials told FACHES/CA delegates they would reopen the university only after changes had been made to 11 teachers to prove every six months its professionalism to Congress. Congress authorized $26 million in aid to El Salvador last year. President Ronald W. Reagan added an additional $55 million to compensate for air support equipment destroyed by a guerrilla attack.

Congress requires El Salvador to prove every six months its progress in recognizing human rights, expansion of free elections, implementation of the reforms made by the original junta, and advancement in solving the murders of Americans in the country.

The El Salvadoran government had no control or monitor Diskin's activities because President Reagan was scheduled to conduct his semiannual certification of the government during the latter part of January, Diskin said.

Diskin said he saw the "destruction of human beings" by security forces in the prisons. The prisoners related stories of torture and beatings to Diskin and his colleagues. Every prisoner he met had been tortured, Diskin recalled.

The El Salvadoran government, he said, regards the prisoners as an improvement over the random killings of "perceived enemies," he remarked. FACHES/CA members visited security forces headquarters after seeing the prisoners and had "sharp exchanges of charges" with members of the security forces. Diskin said, "We were feeling rather upset," he added.

Labor disputes between the elite Salvadoran ruling class — called the "Salvadoran Families" — and workers in the country's coffee-growing region led to a violent dispute in 1932 in which 30,000 Salvadorans were killed.

A group of reformist junta officers overthrew the old ruling class in a successful military coup and established a military junta Dec. 15, 1979. The junta attempted to install a reformist regime and stop civilian oppression, Diskin described, but its members were replaced through voluntary resignations or dismissed by members of right-wing factions. Opponents of the new junta formed a broad coalition called the Frente Democracia Revolucionario Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FDRMLN), a political and diplomatic group (FDR) and a guerrilla force (FMLN).

Nutrition and Food Science Open House

For prospective undergraduate majors in applied biology — Course 7B

Metabolism and Human Nutrition
Biochemical Engineering
Food Science
Toxicology
Neural and Endocrine Regulation

Wednesday, March 9
16-310
3:30-5:30 pm

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