Kirkpatrick, Bergen speak on foreign affairs, defense

By Diana Berry-Aaron

"We do not desire hegemony over the countries of Central America on the Caribbean," said Jeane Kirkpatrick, US Ambassador to the United Nations, and at a briefing last week for college newspaper editors.

"We're not that kind of superpower," Kirkpatrick added.

"We don't have 10,000 troops in any Central American country. But there are today, and we anticipate this, some 10,000 Cubans in Nicaragua," she said.

Kirkpatrick described Central America as a "unique challenge... for this administration... because of the irreducible, existential, fact of the location of Central America in Caribbean and our borders."

"I will like to emphasize that in that in this administration there is not the slightest desire to underestimate the importance of indigenous factors in the conflict in Central America," Kirkpatrick said.

"Our administration has committed itself to maximum support for peaceful nations short of war," Kirkpatrick said. She emphasized the importance of self-government for countries in Central America. "The whole essence of our policy is to... help them protect their own independence and do so by means which are moral and legal," she explained.

"We will continue in support of democracy in Central America in ways that will not risk US involvement and commitment, but will promise the future to Central America that they have longed for for a very long time," she reiterated.

Bergen fears nuclear proliferation, testing

The United States has rejected a moratorium on nuclear testing because "there is concern that the Soviets will use some of their tests to back out of treaties, John D. Bergen, President Reagan's director of speechwriting, said at the briefing. Bergen holds a joint appointment at the Department of Defense.

"Also, we want to be able to move from experiments to production very fast," he added.

"We've got an advantage [in our precautions to nuclear weapons] over the other areas of our society, because we've been handling nuclear weapons for a longer period of time," Bergen said. "Nuclear proliferation throughout the world, particularly to countries with no experience with nuclear weapons, is a constant worry, he added.

"If we're working very, very hard in this administration, and with our other allies... to hold down the levels of nuclear weapons in our arsenals, and in the arsenals of the two superpowers, and [especially from access] is one of the great reasons we want to do it."

One of the United States' goals is "a leakproof defense," Bergen continued. "Even if we had a defense that allows, say, 90% of Soviet ballistic missiles to enter, we believe that that will make the uncertainty of their success of an attack that great that they will not hazard an attack," he explained.

Even a defense that "deters," Bergen observed, "is still effective to strength and deterrence because the Soviets will not be able to calculate which missiles will get through, which targets won't get hit and therefore which missiles at large we can still retaliate with."

A large part of defense is "flexes readiness," Bergen noted. "We emphasize people and keep discipline up. The youth of the United States is coming to the military," he said. Over 70 percent of enlisted men are high school graduates, up from a low of 75 percent, he said.

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