By Seth Gordon

The war in Nicaragua is an "ambiguous" one, according to Pulitzer Prize-winner Randolph Ryan, a Brookline-born journalist and commentator. He accused the American media of underplaying the role of the US government in the conflict.

Ryan, speaking Monday night at MIT, also accused the Reagan Administration of trying to destroy the Arias Central American peace plan, which Ryan thought could "stop the war overnight."

The contras, or anti-Sandinista guan army and the US-backed contra rebels is "created by US strategists and US taxpayers and US congressmen," he said. The US government has used the news media to bolster its strategy in the region, Ryan said. Reporters have been given access to the insurgents to "establish that the contras are a more serious force than in the past," Ryan wrote in an editorial last Saturday.

As a condition of this access, the government press agents "demand active role," including its service as the "哨兵" press agency to keep a record, Ryan charged.

"The strategic situation, the military attacks by one adversary against another, aid to armed revolution, international intrigue and the use of one adversary's lend as a base for its own military purposes." It also orders each country to maintain "the status quo" in Central America, Ryan wrote.

"The peace plan is named after Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez. Arias acted as mediator between the other signatories—El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua—in drafting the plan, and was awarded the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for his work."

Ryan warned that this week's action is "critical" to the Arias plan. He feared that if the plan did fail, "only one of the strange treaties to be a tragedy for Central America, but the US press would be partly responsible, because it has not accurately described the forces working against the plan."

The press has by and large ignored that the Reagan Administration is not cooperating with the plan, according to Ryan. The media has also joined the administration in belittling the Arias plan, he charged.

MIT to Eliminate Course XX over next 18 months

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Redirecting the human and other resources of the department seemed like a better fit, Brown said. The topics of biotechnology remain very much in the biology and chemical engineering disciplines, he said. He noted that molecular biology expertise for genetic engineering "exists in spades in the biology department."

When asked how the decision would affect research in applied biology at the Institute, Brown said he thought it would "actually support our efforts."

Surprise to faculty members

The decision to disband the department came with almost no prior consultation of faculty members, several of whom expressed complete surprise at the news. Even Wogan, who had been department chairman, had not been

MIT should move very cautiously in dealing with one of its success stories, he said. The department members "were shocked," he added.

The department members seem to be taking a wait-and-see approach to the recent developments, primarily because they have been told so little about what is happening, Professor Robert S. Langer, ScD '74, expressed faith in the judgment of the administration, but wanted to know precisely what would happen.

The faculty size will be re-evaluated according to Brown. In part this is attributable to the fact that many faculty members will leave for other positions, and that vacancies—including a current total of four—would be filled.

Why the faculty was left out of such a major decision regarding their department is not entirely clear. Wogan declined to answer any questions about the matter since he had not been part of the process.

The department faculty were not consulted because "people in the department have a personal interest," Langer suggested. They may not be able to respond in an objective way if asked about an action that could potentially endanger their jobs.

The two men directly responsible for the decision are not members of the applied biology department. Brown is a biologist and Deutch is a professor in the department of chemistry.

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