

SUPERIOR TELEGRAM (WI)
30 November 1984

Former CIA agent says agency promoting war

By RON BROCHU
Telegram Staff Writer

John Stockwell, a 13-year CIA operative who turned against the agency and went public with his knowledge, told a crowd at UWS Thursday night that intelligence agents are needlessly killing thousands of innocent civilians worldwide.

The highest ranking CIA case worker ever to go public, Stockwell said America is "almost certainly heading into a war in Central America" before 1988.

"It will be very bloody. If we go into Cuba, as some (U.S. government officials) say we will, two million people could be killed before we enter the 1988 elections," Stockwell predicted. He said more than 20,000 American soldiers would die in combat.

He blames the possibility of war in this hemisphere on the CIA's effort to destabilize Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

"Thoroughly dissatisfied after I left the CIA, I went to Cuba to see if they really ate babies for breakfast," he said. Instead, Stockwell said, he found the poorest one-third of Cuba's population is better off than the poorest one-third of the population in most Central American dictatorships.

Stockwell said the U.S. war in Central America has already begun, citing the deaths of 52,000 persons in El Salvador for evidence.

"They were killed by forces formed or paid by the U.S. government," he said. Part of the U.S. destabilization effort includes sending agents to Nicaragua to rape native women, Stockwell alleged.

"More than 8,000 Nicaraguan citizens have been killed — mostly women and children," he said. "Men and children are pulled out of their houses and exploded in front of their families with hand grenades," he added.

Stockwell said the U.S. is backing a mercenary air force in Nicaragua that has already dropped bombs on the country's capital, Managua. The only reason the U.S. backed off its effort to mine Nicaraguan harbors was the fear of killing sailors from allied countries, he claimed.

"When we mine Nicaraguan roads, the brown man gets blown up. Mining the harbors, the white man is blown up and he's insured by Lloyd's of London," Stockwell said.

"President Reagan teaches us that some people should be killed. Many of those people are not KGB. Those killed are people of the third world — those unable to defend themselves."

According to Stockwell, CIA and KGB agents associate freely with each other, drinking and playing chess together as if in a fraternity.

"Reagan could just as well like the Sandinistas. They are a lot nicer people than many governments the U.S. does business with around the world. There are more Catholics than Sandinistas being killed in Nicaragua," Stockwell said.

Spying at home

The CIA is using its might to disrupt opposition student and labor organizations in the U.S., according to Stockwell. He said the agency, to test a form of chemical warfare, once launched an epidemic of whooping cough on a New Jersey community.

"They wanted to see how the community would react if all its children had whooping cough at once," he said.

"More than 200 U.S. journalists — some of them with big names — are paid by the CIA to spread agency propaganda," he continued.

Stockwell said many laws are now being pushed to Congress that would suppress freedom of speech, censor books and take passports away from American journalists abroad.

"In the next war, a Cy Hersch investigating a Mai Lai-type incident could have his passport withdrawn and end up on

the next plane home," he said.

"The CIA is now penetrating (anti-war) organizations. During the Vietnam war, they put agents in organizations who urged them to break the law by bombing so that arrests could be made," Stockwell added.

The Reagan administration is preparing room to detain 400,000 protesters during the next war, he alleged.

"Reagan has a defective mind. This man simply does not have the mental equipment to cope with bombs, war and things," Stockwell said. "He has the thought that he will go in Armageddon and we'll all go with him," he added.

The KGB is no better than the CIA, Stockwell stressed.

"It has purged 40 million of its own people in its own home," he said. "The Soviet Union's largest problem internationally is its KGB image," Stockwell added.

To stop the CIA from being a threat to democracy, he said, U.S. citizens must speak out against its policies of destabilization and fight to keep existing constitutionally guaranteed freedoms.