Rally protesting Contra aid slated for SU steps tomorrow

By ED REYNOLDS
Collegian Correspondent

University of Massachusetts students and members of the five college community will rally against Contra aid tomorrow on the Student Union steps.

The rally, scheduled for noon, is being held in anticipation of the upcoming vote in the US House of Representatives on $27 million in 'humanitarian aid' to the Nicaraguan Contras. The outcome of the vote will have an effect on prospects for peace in Central America as well as upcoming elections.

Steven Duplisea, chairman of the Organization for Marxist Studies, said, "The spirit of the rally is money for tuition, not for ammunition." He referred to Contra Aid as a "failed policy for six years" responsible for 'murdering women, children and non-combatants'.

W. Greg Rothman, spokesman for the Republican Club, had no plans for a counter-rally but said he did have some "tough questions for the people holding the rally" and hinted at a "silent demonstration for the people of Nicaragua." He said he doesn't want to see a 'Soviet beachhead' and '. . . puppet deferment in Nicaragua.'

Duplisea, who taught in Nicaragua, said Nicaragua is "no threat to Texas," and the US government is using the same logic as they did in Vietnam.

Planned speakers at the rally include members of the student body, faculty, staff and members of the five college community, some of whom have recently returned from Nicaragua. There will be music, poetry, street theatre and effigies of personalities involved in the Iran-Contra scandal.