

CIA trial opens final day testimony

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NORTHAMPTON — Today, on the final day of defense testimony in the trial of 15 anti-CIA protestors, defendant Amy Carter is expected to take the stand.

Also expected to testify for the defense are John Stockwell, former CIA agent and station chief; Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General under Lyndon Johnson; Reed Brody, former Assistant Attorney General of New York, an expert on contra atrocities; and Canadian defendant Bill Clay who faces deportation charges.

Friday morning there was a line of people outside the courthouse an hour before the trial was scheduled to begin. Many prospective spectators couldn't get into the courtroom during either the morning or afternoon session. The courtroom was so packed that several members of the press were forced to sit on the floor to cover the trial.

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Former contra leader Edgar Chamorro testified that the CIA created, financed and instructed the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the main part of the contra forces. "[The CIA] approached me to be part of the new government, to speak for the CIA. They wanted me to be one of the leaders," Chamorro said.

Chamorro told the court that it was the contra's standard practice to kill all prisoners, doctors, teachers, and construction workers in an attempt to immobilize health care, schools and building efforts.

The former contra leader said he was asked by the CIA to distribute the agency's well publicized *Psychological Operations in Guerrilla Warfare or Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters Manual* "I was shocked when I finished reading it. There were so many horrible passages," Chamorro said of the document which called for the assassination of government officials.

The manual told the contras to "neutralize" people. "That meant assassination of judges and civil servants selectively chosen," Chamorro said. The manual also instructed the contras to look for people who were well liked in the community and kill them in a such a way as to make them martyrs to the contra cause.

Chamorro detailed his efforts as a "propagandist" for the CIA. He explained how he was instructed to lie to congress and the media about contra victories that were completely fabricated by the CIA.

Professor Howard Zinn, an expert on American social movements from Boston University, testified that "this protest is bound to have some impact on foreign policy."

Prosecutor Diane Fernald asked Zinn if "the only way to have an impact on foreign policy is for a bunch of students to take over a small administrative building?"

Zinn: "No way is the only way."

Daniel Ellsberg told the court "a number of former and current CIA agents were hired to neutralize me. That means to discredit me, to blackmail me and on one occasion in 1972 to try and kill me."

Others who testified on Friday were Paul Epstein and Kristy Clark who told of contra attacks on doctors and civilians. Defendant Nick Komar detailed students attempts to stop the CIA from recruiting on campus and the motivations for the protest.