

Davies ventures to Portugal, Brazil

University revolution expert experiences uprisings firsthand

By CHRIS NORMAN
Of the Emerald

Jim Davies peered into the supermarket, checking the food prices posted on the window. While taking mental notes, he noticed someone following him.

"He was there when I'd walk a half a block, about 50 yards behind me," Davies explains. "Then 25 yards behind me when I'd stop again. He was keeping his distance....and he was watching me. I think he finally gave up because he thought I was innocent."

No, Davies, a University political science professor, wasn't collecting data for the CIA. He studies political revolutions. The "tailing" incident was just one episode in an overall project to confirm his suspicions that Portugal was ripe for a revolution in 1962.

As a political revolution specialist, Davies has traveled to such countries as Portugal, Brazil and East Germany, observing, listening and questioning the people to absorb the different political flavors.

Although Davies "prediction for a Portuguese revolution was off by 12 years, his research into the political affairs of other countries has gotten him into some tense moments.

During the peak of the Brazil's

power transfer in April, 1964, one Belgian sociologist already had been kicked out of Brazil because the local authorities were antsy about his research, Davies says.

"I was awfully careful because I had a highly sensitive questionnaire," he says, regarding his stay in Brazil. "I was asking them about their loyalty to the regime. I never left my room without locking it and I never left anything sitting around the room. I'm quite sure that if I had been careless, I would have been in trouble."

"But I was really scared in Portugal," he continues. "I didn't write anything down. I was very careful not to have any research notes on me that could be incriminating."

But the notes went into my head, then in my letters home."

In Lisbon, Davies even used himself as bait as part of his research — and enjoyed it.

"I decided to test the limits of the police system by writing letters that were frank and open about dissent within the country," he says. "If they had been working efficiently, they would have opened the letters immediately and brought me in for questioning."

Davies went so far as to put his return address on the letters, but the local police never caught on. Because he hadn't maintained a regular living pattern in Lisbon, he suspects the police never noticed

him.

Davies also believes he was probably the first American to talk to Brazil's ousted Pres. Joao Goulart — whose regime had been criticized as leftist — in Montevideo during 1964.

A military coup had just swept Goulart from office and the Johnson administration immediately recognized the new government — while Goulart was still in the country, Davies says.

Within a week, he had established enough trust with one of the Goulart's aides that he was granted an interview with the disposed president.

"I asked (Goulart) about how he thought he had failed and I told

him why I thought he had failed," Davies says. "He was trying to do for his country what Franklin Roosevelt did for the United States, but he was ahead of his time."

Goulart just chuckled, "Maybe so."

Davies also believes that just by talking to people, he can get a grip on the nature of a nation's political atmosphere.

During 1972 while in Dresden, East Germany, Davies walked into a watchshop to further his watch collection.

"We (the jeweler and Davies) were talking about trading and this would have involved hanky-panky with some American Express Traveler's checks," he explains.

"We were negotiating over a price on the black market, when a policeman came in. Suddenly like that," Davies exclaims slapping his hand on his desk, "the atmosphere changed."

The jeweler didn't freeze up, but he immediately changed his tact from friendly, warm, open negotiations to cool, casual talking-to-any-kind-of-customer."

"It was so instantaneous, so prompt, that I could see how strong a hold the police had on these people. I've never had a feeling anywhere of such tight government control."

Prof says aggression not innate

Aggression is not an "innate aspect of human behavior," James Davies, University political science professor, said at the EMU's lunch-time lecture Thursday.

Aggression, which Davies defined as "a purposeful goal of destructing people or property by mental or physical acts," is instead a product of environmental influence.

People are not born aggressive, according to Davies. "Aggression," he said, "is a result of frustration." He explained when people are kept from fulfilling their basic desires by social and environmental barriers, frustration results.

To support his argument, Davies used the population problem as an example. He proposed that if people were innately aggressive, their "death in-

stinct," or reaction to frustration by killing, would outweigh their "love instinct," or desire to reproduce.

The basic needs Davies mentioned include not only physical requirements of food and shelter and the social need for love and affection, but also the need for self-esteem and "self-actualization."

Davies said chemical imbalances can also be a cause of human aggression. But if human beings are fulfilling their physical and emotional needs, and if their chemical composition is the same, two people will basically tend to interact in a way counterbalancing aggression.

"Behavior is a function of the interaction between the organism and the environment," Davies concluded.

'Good teaching' award opens up

Nominations are now open for the Ersted Award, which is given annually to one or two faculty members who are particularly distinguished teachers.

This year two persons will receive the award, which includes a gift of \$1,000 for each. The money is intended to encourage and reward good teaching. A.J. Ersted, the donor, stipulated that the honor should be given to relatively young faculty members who have shown exceptional ability to induce students to reason rather than memorize.

Students, faculty and alumni may suggest

nominees. The selection committee asks that nominations be in writing and include the reasons why the person deserves the award.

Nomination forms are available at the Office of Student Services, the EMU Main Desk and the University Library.

Last year's Ersted winners were James Boren and Francoise Calin. Presentation of the 1978 awards will be made at the June Commencement. Nominations are due before April 14 and should be sent to Vice-Provost Marshall Wattles, Room 103, Johnson Hall.

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