

ANASTASIO SOMOZA Nicaraguan strongman SFChronicle NOV 2 9 1973 He Calls

Watergate Laughable

"Watergates happen in Latin America every day," Nicaraguan strongman Anastasio Somoza said yesterday, "and we laugh at them."

A Commonwealth Club audience at the Sheraton - Palace Hotel here laughed at the remark, made during the question-and-answer session following the general's speech to the club.

"I speak as a good friend of America," the 1946 West Point graduate said, "and as a friend and admirer of President Nixon." He praised the American president's accomplishments in foreign policy, and urged continued support for Mr. Nixon despite the Watergate scandals.

Somoza still rules Nicaragua even though he is no longer president.