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NICARAGUA/  
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BROKAW: Rebels trying to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua openly acknowledge that they are receiving covert aid from the CIA. And while President Reagan wouldn't go quite that far at his news conference last night, he did say that covert actions are part of government's responsibilities. Well, today the House of Representatives disagreed, voting to cut off covert aid. Lisa Myers now in Washington.

MYERS: Nicaraguan rebel leaders lobbied Congress all week, hoping to persuade the House to reverse its previous decision to cut off covert aid. But both sides said that effort was more than offset by scenes like this. The destruction of Nicaragua's main oil storage facilities by U.S.-backed guerrillas and by reports that this guerrilla commander, code-named "Suicide," executed 40 Sandinista government soldiers after they surrendered. Such episodes fueled congressional concern over deepening CIA support of the rebels, who are becoming increasingly violent. REP. BILL ALEXANDER (D-ARK.): What we have in Nicaragua today is a war. We are at war with Nicaragua. REP. EDWARD BOLAND (D-MASS.): No member of this House should vote to continue a war that contradicts basic American principles and, certainly, not for a war that is counterproductive to U.S. interests.

MYERS: But Republicans echoed Reagan administration claims that an aid cut-off would destroy prospects for peace in Central America and eventually could jeopardize the security of the United States. REP. HENRY BYDE (R-ILL.): Cuba's a source of cancer, Nicaragua's a source of cancer, let's apply a little chemotherapy.

MYERS: The Senate is expected to refuse to go along with the aid cut-off, making the House action largely a symbolic protest. But it does reflect concern over what even some Republicans privately are calling the administration's undeclared war in Nicaragua. Lisa Myers, NBC News, at the U.S. Capitol.