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JENNINGS: Good evening. The government of Nicaragua has taken its case against the United States to the World Court in the Hague. Nicaragua has a long list of charges, one of which is U.S. responsibility for mining Nicaraguan ports. Outside the court today, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Holland explained his country's position. CARLOS ARGUELLO GOMEZ (Nicaraguan Ambassador to the Netherlands): ...because Nicaragua feels that it is a legal case, that international law is being violated, that the killing of people, the aiding to the contras to kill people in Nicaragua, to mine our ports, to destroy hospitals, to destroy industries in Nicaragua is a violation of international law.

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JENNINGS: The U.S.-supported campaign against Nicaragua is not new. Only last week, the Senate voted in favor of another \$21 million to support the antigovernment rebels. Many members of Congress have opposed the mining of Nicaragua's harbors, and what has upset them today is the administration's decision to ignore the World Court. Charles Gibson is on Capitol Hill.

GIBSON: The twin revelations, first, that the CIA had supervised the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, and second, that the U.S. would ignore World Court actions, touched off a congressional firestorm today. REP. MICHAEL BARNES (D-Md.): I'm shocked, frankly, that the president of the United States would show so little respect for international law. REP. BERKLEY BEDELL (D-Iowa): These elements of President Reagan's Central American policy border on sheer lunacy. The mining of harbors is an act of war. Does the president realize or accept responsibility for such actions? REP. PETER KOSTMAYER (D-Penn.): The president formulates, but the Congress appropriates. Cut him off now.

GIBSON: The congressional anger comes at a bad time for the administration. It comes just as House-Senate conferees are due to take up \$21 million in aid requested by the administration for the anticommunist Nicaraguan rebels and \$61 million in military aid for the government of El Salvador. These revelations could kill those funds. The speaker was asked if the House will ever pass any more money for the rebels in Nicaragua. REP. THOMAS O'NEILL (Speaker of the House): I doubt it. I doubt that the House will ever pass it.

GIBSON: The Senate had voted just last week to fund the anticommunist rebels in Nicaragua. Today, some senators, even influential Republicans, were saying the

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administration never told them last week about mining the harbor. SEN. CHARLES PERCY (R-Ill.): I was just as surprised and shocked when I read this report as all of us were. I was unaware of that particular activity, uh, and apparently, the intelligence committees have not been kept up to date on it.

GIBSON: But other senators said they knew exactly what they were voting on. SEN. PATRICK LEAHY (D-Vt.): All of the senators who voted on this last week really knew what they were voting on, no matter what they say this week. And a majority of them did vote to pass the money.

GIBSON: CIA Director William Casey will be here tomorrow to try to repair the damage and calm the anger, but the anger is obviously there. Already this evening, Sen. Edward Kennedy has on the floor of the Senate a resolution that says the U.S. should not ignore the World Court and should not fund the mining of harbors. And there is anger from other members of Congress who say the CIA is now involved in other activities in Nicaragua, activities that trouble them, they say, just as much as the mining of harbors. Charles Gibson, ABC News, Capitol Hill.

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