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CONGRESS/
SALVADORAN AID

RATHER: President Reagan's request for more U.S. military aid to El Salvador survive two key votes in the Senate today by wide margins. The Republican-controlled Senate rejected amendments that would have cut all or most of the \$117 million Mr. Reagan wants for the Salvadoran military in the next seven weeks. And there was a flicker of victory for the president when a House subcommittee voted to approve most of his military aid request for El Salvador. Still, as Bill McLaughlin reports, the administration was not letting down its guard on this issue.

MCLAUGHLIN: The Reagan administration today, in an effort to nearly double military aid to El Salvador, released weapons, documents and photos that had been top secret until last night. U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Thomas Pickering, said the administration hoped the weight of this evidence would convince Congress that the guerrilla war in El Salvador could not continue without outside communist help. Although he said the evidence was the result of careful intelligence gathering, he admitted there was nothing dramatic about it. THOMAS PICKERING (U.S. ambassador to El Salvador): It is the accumulation of evidence, not a single piece of it alone, which provides the basis for conclusions. No single piece of evidence to be presented here could in any sense be called a smoking gun.

MCLAUGHLIN: Pickering was backed up by Gen. Paul Gorman, commander of the Southern Command, who warned that the Soviet-backed rebels were on the brink of a major offensive and the Duarte government would not survive if Congress refused additional military aid.

GEN. PAUL GORMAN (U.S. Southern Commander): The insurgence are determined to damage Durate's prospects by any means at their disposal. And they possess the means for much bloodshed and destruction.

MCLAUGHLIN: Gen. Gorman and his team showed an clandestine film shot at night from a U.S. C-130 aircraft that was said to trace Nicaraguan boats supplying arms to Salvadoran rebels. UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE (footage from above-mentioned film): It is likely that the shrimper had competed a transfer of material to the two 18-foot boats.

MCLAUGHLIN: There were also still photos of Salvadoran guerrillas with Soviet-made weapons and some Soviet-made weapons on hand, all supposedly to prove that the Salvadoran rebels got most of their weapons from the

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Communist bloc and its ally, Nicaragua. Sources say the State Department has been trying for months to get today's information declassified but had been blocked by the Pentagon and the CIA. And despite today's victories on Capitol Hill, President Reagan may still not get all the money he wants this year for El Salvador. Bill McLaughlin, CBS News, the State Department.