

CONGRESS/  
SALVADORAN AID

JENNINGS: The State Department today released material which department officials say proves the case that Salvadoran guerrillas have been getting outside help for their battle with the Salvadoran government. ABC's Barrie Dunsmore, who's at the State Department, has the details.

DUNSMORE: In making the case for more military assistance for El Salvador, the administration declassified 95 percent of the briefing it's been giving to Congress. This briefing sets out to prove that the Salvadoran guerrillas are heavily dependent on the Communist bloc for most of their arms and logistical support.

THOMAS PICKERING (U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador): It is the accumulation of things not just a piece of it alone that provides the basis for conclusions.

DUNSMORE: The administration pulled out all the stops. Gen. Paul Gorman conducted an elaborate flip-card, videotape and weapons show and tell, backed up by captured maps and documents of recent vintage. GEN. PAUL GORMAN (commander in chief, U.S. southern command): The guerrilla front is ludicrous in insisting it gets no assistance from abroad.

DUNSMORE: In one instance, the videotapes, shot at night by an American AC-130 using infrared cameras, is said to show a shrimp boat, apparently from Nicaragua, loading cargo onto smaller boats speeding away from Salvador's coast. Among the captured weaponry, a sight from a Vietnamese mortar, Bulgarian ammunition and a Chinese grenade launcher. The administration's bottom line, Congress must approve the requested aid package. GORMAN: The democratic government of President Duarte, inaugurated in June of this year cannot long endure without U.S. assistance. A guerrilla offensive is imminent.

DUNSMORE: Though it is impressive, the administration's case may not satisfy all the doubters and it remains to be seen if the Congress will be sufficiently impressed. Barrie Dunsmore, ABC News, the State Department.