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# Duarte Conquers Congress on Aid to El Salvador

## House Approval Expected

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President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador swept through Congress like a conquering hero yesterday, winning broad assurance that Senate-passed emergency military aid for El Salvador will now win swift House approval.

But the delivery date remains uncertain because of a provision in the same bill for \$21 million in aid to rebels against the leftist government of Nicaragua. Key House leaders remained firm yesterday in their determination to shut that program down, discussing compromise only in terms of possible phase-out money.

That means that in spite of the favorable impression Duarte made on members of Congress the proposed \$61.75 million in aid for his embattled country and another \$1.1 billion in appropriations for food aid to Africa, women's and children's nutrition, summer youth employment and other programs in the same bill cannot pass until the House and Senate agree on what to do about the rebels in Nicaragua, called "contras."

During Duarte's triumphant tour of Capitol Hill he told at least two House groups privately

that he plans to remove from office a top security officer, Treasury Police Chief Nicolas Carranza, who has been charged with links to right-wing death squads and the CIA, according to members who were present.

The controversial Carranza has been moved from job to job in El Salvador because of these charges, but he has strong ties to rightist military officers and civilians opposed to Duarte and has never been formally reprimanded.

By midday, House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.) acknowledged that Duarte had swayed House sentiment on aid to his country.

"I think he has sold enough people in the House," O'Neill said. "The votes are there overwhelmingly, despite my opposition."

But the aid is still plagued by the contra issue. The House Select Committee on Intelligence, which is expected to take the lead on the contras in House debate, met yesterday to decide its strategy on the question but postponed a decision until today.

"The question we're dealing with is whether to cut off all the money [for the contras] or to permit some money for winding down, but still to insist that the operation be concluded," said Rep. Lee H. Hamilton (D-Ind.), who is expected to become chairman of the intelligence committee in the next session of Congress. "That hasn't been decided yet."

Other sources said there is strong sentiment within the committee favoring a total cutoff of the three-year-old program as a way to pressure the Republican-controlled Senate into being the first to make a formal phase-out proposal.

"That would seal the coffin," said one Democratic member. But the Reagan administration has adamantly refused that option so far, indicating to several members that it would rather get no funding now in hopes of reversing it later.

At each of his eight Capitol Hill meetings yesterday, Duarte was repeatedly asked his views on the contra program, which the Reagan administration says is hindering Nicaragua from aiding leftist guerrillas in El Salvador. Duarte has previously endorsed the contras, but this time he tried to talk mostly about El Salvador.

"He chose not to comment, saying it was a decision for the United States," reported Rep. Matthew F. McHugh (D-N.Y.) after Duarte met with the House Democratic Study Group.

Rep. Michael D. Barnes (D-Md.), chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and a longstanding critic of U.S. policy in Central America, said Duarte "is not pushing actively for covert aid" to the contras. But he said Duarte's visit made Congress "a lot more receptive" to providing aid to El Salvador.

"What we heard today is exactly what many of us have been saying for years is needed" in terms of promises for human rights reforms, curbs on the Salvadoran armed forces and the growth of democracy, Barnes said. "Duarte's election has changed the atmosphere of Congress . . . His case is a strong one and he makes it well."

Duarte reiterated his warning, first made in a speech Monday, that any strings attached to the aid would compromise Salvadoran national sovereignty. "I would say it would mean they don't give me the trust I need," he said after a meeting with House Republicans. "Then I won't be president really."

He added, however, that he had already promised Salvadoran voters to make reforms tougher than any Congress had proposed.

Several House members are still uneasy about providing aid to El Salvador without making it conditional upon human rights advances and progress toward land reform and democratization.

"He needs the money to show that he is respected in the United States," said Rep. Clarence D. Long (D-Md.), who chairs the Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations. "Basically we're being asked to take his promises on faith . . . If we give it now, the military might just take it for granted."

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