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NEW YORK TIMES  
7 MAY 1983

# SENATE PANEL ASKS FOR GREATER VOICE IN COVERT ACTIONS

## Intelligence Unit Votes 13 to 2 to Give Congress a Say in the C.I.A.'s Latin Plans

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 6— The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence approved a measure today that would enable Congress to cut off future financing for covert operations in Central America.

The cutoff would take effect if the President failed to submit a plan for the region that met with the approval of the Congressional intelligence committees. But the committee, in a bipartisan vote of 13 to 2, approved the continuation of covert activities in Central America through this fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30.

The action marked the first time that one of the Congressional intelligence committees had formally asserted what it considered its right to approve specific covert activities, according to a member of the committee.

### 'Part of the Process'

"We are no longer simply to be informed," Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat of New York, said. "We want to be part of the process."

According to a compromise plan the committee adopted after three hours of briefings and deliberations in a secret session, \$19 million for covert activities in Central America next year would be contingent on approval of President Reagan's assessments and goals for the region by the House and Senate intelligence committees.

"We want a redefined program on Central America," said Senator Barry Goldwater, the chairman of the committee and the author of the compromise measure. "I want him to tell us in plain language just what it is he wants to do relative to Nicaragua and other countries."

### At Odds With House Plan

Under current law, the President is required to inform the intelligence committees of covert actions, but the committees have no right to disapprove them. The committee's action was based on its power to authorize funds for the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Senate committee deliberately chose not to embrace this week's plan by the House Select Committee on Intelligence to cut off funds for covert aid by the C.I.A. to anti-Sandinist rebels. The House committee, voting along party lines Tuesday, authorized \$30 million for the remainder of this fiscal year and \$50 million for the next fiscal year for overt operations intended to help friendly Central American nations stop the flow of weapons to El Salvador.

The House and Senate proposals must now work their way through their respective chambers and, if approved, be reconciled in a House-Senate conference committee.

The Reagan Administration has repeatedly argued that the purpose of covert operations in Central America is to stop the flow of weapons from Cuba and the Soviet Union through Nicaragua to rebels in El Salvador. Critics of the President's plan contend that the purpose is to destabilize the Sandinist Government of Nicaragua.

President Reagan, speaking in Phoenix, warned today that Congressional committees were "indifferent to another Communist takeover on our doorstep," and added: "Running away from this clear-cut responsibility would reward aggression and bring dishonor to

the good name of the United States. It would swell the tide of political and economic instability, creating a new army of refugees and bring danger closer and closer to home."

Mr. Reagan said that "thugs who trample the common man in their quest for total power" were threatening El Salvador. "Guerrillas with contempt for democracy and armed to the teeth by Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviets are determined to shoot their way into power," he said.

Meanwhile, Powell Moore, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, reaffirmed that the number of American military training officers in El Salvador had not exceeded 55 since the spring of 1981. He said, however, the Reagan Administration hoped Congress would not seek to restrict the training programs.

"To the extent that available funds permit, we would be prepared to provide additional training at facilities outside of El Salvador," he wrote in a letter to Senator Charles H. Percy, the Illinois Republican who heads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "At the same time, we would strongly oppose any rigid legislative constraint that would preclude reasonable modifications to the structure of our training program that might be advisable."

Mr. Moore said the Administration would "reprogram" \$30 million in foreign military sales guarantees to El Salvador, the amount approved by the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on foreign operations and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The White House had requested \$60 million.

He said, however, that the Administration intended to proceed with allocating \$140 million in economic support for the Government of El Salvador, \$25 million more than the Senate Foreign Relations Committee advised.