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Haig blames outsiders for war in El Salvador

By George Gedda
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WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. said yesterday that the military operations of the Salvadoran guerrilla movement were being directed from outside the country by non-Salvadoran forces he refused to identify.

Haig told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that he could not provide more details because this could jeopardize U.S. intelligence sources.

Haig's statement emphasized the Reagan administration's contention that the turmoil in El Salvador does not result exclusively from local discontent. Some critics of administration policy have challenged that contention.

"The operations of the guerrilla forces inside El Salvador are controlled from external command and control," Haig said in response to a question from Rep. Lee Hamilton (D., Ind.). He added that congressional intelligence committees recently had been briefed privately on the subject.

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said that on Feb. 25, CIA Director William Casey and others had given the panel a briefing that "left no doubt that there is active involvement by Sandinista [Nicaraguan] government officials in support of the Salvadoran guerrilla movement."

"This support includes arrangements for the use of Nicaraguan territory for the movement of arms and munitions to guerrillas in El Salva-

dor, the continuing passage of guerrillas in and out of Nicaragua for advanced training in sabotage and other terrorist tactics, and the presence of high-level guerrilla headquarters elements in Nicaragua," Goldwater said.

Casey was quoted in this week's issue of U.S. News & World Report as saying that the insurgency in El Salvador was being directed from Nicaragua with the help of Cuba, Vietnam, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Soviet Union.

Guillermo Ungo, a leader of the Salvadoran leftist groups seeking to overthrow the ruling junta, has denied that the civil war is being directed from outside El Salvador by non-Salvadorans. "The people who are directing the war are in El Salvador," Ungo, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Front, said in an interview Monday with the Associated Press.

In his testimony yesterday, Haig again warned that it was a "terrible distortion" to draw parallels between El Salvador and the Vietnam War. He said the Caribbean Basin is far more critical to American security interests because a sizable portion of U.S. oil and trade passes through that region.

The area "is plagued by extremely urgent dangers" resulting from a combination of economic problems and the "willingness of the Soviet Union and Cuba to manipulate tragedies in the hopes of spreading Marxism-Leninism," he said.

Rep. Stephen Solarz (D., N.Y.), a critic of administration policies in El Salvador, suggested that it would be logical to assume the United States eventually would send combat troops to El Salvador to ensure the maintenance of a friendly government.

Haig replied, "I don't know of any official in the executive branch who is considering that option." At another point, he said the administration's policy would be guided by "what is most prudent and what is most likely to succeed."

Haig was testifying on the administration's request for \$8.67 billion in foreign military and security-related aid.

On another issue, Haig sought to dodge questions about whether the administration plans to sell mobile Hawk anti-aircraft missiles and advanced jet fighters to Jordan. Although the idea has triggered fierce opposition from Israel, Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger recently discussed the possibility with Jordan's King Hussein, and the king said in a television interview Sunday that he intended to ask the United States to sell him the equipment.

Haig, avoiding a confrontation with Israel's congressional supporters, replied with the administration's stock answer that no request had been received from Jordan and thus no decisions have been made. He added: "It is not prudent to get out front with definitive statements that are neither timely nor called for."

He urged Israel to exercise "restraint and moderation" in assessing how to respond to signs that the PLO was increasing its military preparedness in Lebanon. He said the PLO has been acquiring arms, rockets and tanks but suggested that Israel has been increasing its own military readiness as well.

Although the PLO buildup is an "unsettling thing" to Israel, Haig said, he hoped that the cease-fire reached in July along the Lebanese border would be observed by both sides.