

Bare spy pix of arms flow

By BARBARA REHM

Washington (News Bureau)—In a dramatically darkened briefing room, the Reagan administration yesterday showed eerie films taken by American spy planes high over the coast of El Salvador to document clandestine military support by Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviet bloc to guerrillas battling to overthrow the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador.

It was the first major intelligence briefing on El Salvador since the administration released a detailed—and highly controversial white paper—in 1981.

The evidence yesterday, which included captured guerrilla maps, documents and reconnaissance photographs, marked the latest attempt by the administration to wrest more military aid for Salvador from Congress.

The administration has requested \$117 million in addition to \$124 million already approved for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30. The Senate is expected to approve the request this week but the House has refused to go along.

WITH THE emergency aid, Gen. Paul Gorman, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, predicted the Salvadoran military can confine the guerrillas to about 10% of the nation within two years.

The U.S. ambassador to Salvador, Thomas Pickering, and Gorman used colored maps, captured weapons, rebel logs and spy-plane films to support the administration case. They detailed weapons flows by sea across the Salvadoran beaches of Espino, Cuco and Icacal up the Lempa River and Juquilisco Bay and by mule trains and 18-wheel trucks across the mountain roads from Honduras.

BUT AFTER an extensive list of dates and hazy photos, Pickering admitted "there is no smoking gun." "We have yet to intercept one of those crates," said Gorman. "They (the Salvadorans) have yet to get their hands on it; we have to get our hands on it."

Gorman said pilots with night visor goggles, flying 6,000 to 12,000 feet above the coast, used low-light television and infrared sensors to document a series of arms shipments to the southeastern coast of El Salvador from Nicaragua.

On June 24, he said, the pilots saw 25 "hot spots," mules and men, on the beach and three 60 and 70 foot trawlers a half-mile off shore. Two shrimp boats apparently picked up crates from the boats, dropped them on the beaches where they were carried north through the jungles.

One of the major criticisms of the Salvadoran forces has been their inability to use sophisticated U.S. intelligence information in their war against the guerrillas.