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SALVADORAN AID

BROKAW: In this country, the White House now has started a summer offensive, a big push for military aid for El Salvador. The immediate issue is more than $100 million in emergency assistance. Today the Senate defeated attempts for the Democrats to cut that. At the same time, the administration was making its arguments with pictures. Bernard Kalb was at the State Department tonight.

KALB: The briefing was seen as a calculated effort by the administration to put pressure on Congress to approve the controversial military aid packages for El Salvador. The U.S. ambassador to that country, Thomas Pickering, said secret intelligence was declassified only last night, and the top U.S. military man for Central America, General Paul Gorman, said again that Soviet-blocked countries, plus Nicaragua, Cuba, and Vietnam, were behind the flow of arms to the guerrillas. This videotape was shown. It was said to have been shot recently by a U.S. plane. Its objective: to prove military hardware was sent to the rebels. VOICE\OF\U.S.\GOVERNMENT\NARRATOR: When the boats landed on the beach, they were met by personnel noted on the screen as hot spots. Of particular note, a crate was apparently off-loaded from one of the boats onto the shore.

KALB: Gorman then had this warning about El Salvador. GORMAN (Southern Command): The Democratic government of President Duarte inaugurated in June of this year cannot long endure without U.S. assistance. A guerrilla offensive is imminent.

KALB: If Congress did not come through with the money, would Congress be blamed for any El Salvador collapse? GORMAN: The proposals that we presently have before Congress, in my view, would permit the government of El Salvador, within two years, to obtain effective control over 80-90 percent of its territory and people.

KALB: Gorman said the guerrillas have indicated that their offensive could come this month, and he emphasized that emergency aid should be sent to El Salvador before the summer is out. Bernard Kalb, NBC News, the State Department.