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U.S. documents Nicaragua arms

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WASHINGTON—Two high U.S. intelligence officials made public Tuesday reconnaissance photographs in support of Reagan Administration allegations that Nicaragua has engaged in a major military build-up that threatens its Central American neighbors.

John Hughes, deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said the Nicaraguan build-up, which has been assisted by the Soviet Union and Cuba, far exceeds anything Nicaragua needs for its defense.

"We believe this has already upset the military balance in Central America," Hughes said.

But the administration left for later in the week the long-awaited release of evidence it says will document accusations that the insurgency in El Salvador is being directed and controlled from Nicaragua and Cuba.

ADM. BOBBY INMAN, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told reporters a Nicaraguan government official had lied in declaring in New York last week that the Nicaraguan army is no larger than it was two years ago under the ousted government of Anastasio Somoza.

"He lied directly, and no one seemed to challenge that process," Inman said during a briefing at the State Department.

Inman also said "I'm angry" because many people, including government officials, have been skeptical about information presented.

There was nothing essentially new in the information presented by Inman and Hughes, who Inman said was the "premier" interpreter of aerial reconnaissance photographs gathered by the U.S. intelligence community.

MEANWHILE, THE Salvadoran army pounded the rugged, guerrilla-infested hills of Morazan province with artillery, planes and 2,000 troops on the third day of an operation aimed at cleaning out leftist hideouts.

An army spokesman said 30 of 35 bodies found in the country had been identified as guerrillas. The others were not identified.

Judicial authorities reported finding nine bodies near the eastern city of San Miguel, six in San Vicente also to the east, 12 in the capital and eight near Santa Ana to the west. All had been shot to death, they said.

In other related developments:

- The State Department said Tuesday that an Amnesty International report criticizing El Salvador's human rights performance has limited value because it covers events 8 to 14 months old. The report issued Monday by the organization said Salvadoran security forces have been "carrying out a systematic and widespread program of torture, 'disappearances' and individual and mass killings of men, women and children."

- Sen. Mark Hatfield (R., Ore.) announced Tuesday he will ask the Senate to stop all military aid to El Salvador unless its U.S.-backed junta seeks "good faith" negotiations with the leftist guerrillas.

- Undersecretary of State Thomas Enders said Tuesday in Buenos Aires the Organization of American States might eventually create an inter-American peacekeeping force for El Salvador, but such an option was not being advocated by the United States or Argentina. Enders mentioned the possibility of invoking the Treaty of Rio de Janeiro—the basis for the 11,000-man inter-American force that intervened in the Dominican Republic in 1965.