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Moderate Senators Dubious About Administration's Latin Request

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A key Senate Democrat called yesterday for a total aid cutoff to El Salvador unless there is a halt to death-squad killings and rampant corruption there, and a key Republican senator said she would oppose proposed aid increases to that country without assurances the funds would be spent properly.

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), a senior member of the Intelligence and Appropriations committees, and Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-Kan.) were among several foreign-policy moderates issuing storm warnings to the White House on the eve of Congress' first votes on the massive package of economic and military aid the administration is seeking for Central America.

These moderates warned the administration against any effort to provide further military help to El Salvador without going through the congressional appropriations process.

The Reagan administration is asking for another \$178 million in mil-

itary aid to El Salvador this year as part of an \$8.9 billion five-year package of economic and military assistance to the region. The White House is also moving toward a decision to provide part of the aid to El Salvador in advance of congressional action in order to keep the Salvadoran armed forces from running short of supplies in their war against leftist guerrillas.

In a toughly worded speech to the Senate, Inouye said administration policies in Central America "have served to encourage those who would seek to quell by force the urges of freedom and dignity" and have heightened tensions in the region.

"I fear that America is stumbling blindly toward the abyss," he said. He criticized the Salvadoran government for doing little to stop the death squads, despite U.S. warnings, and urged Congress to provide aid in six-month increments, releasing it only if it can vote that El Salvador is observing "minimum standards of respect for human rights."

In an interview, Inouye said that his remarks "are in the minds of many senators" who are "representative of the whole spectrum of Congress." He said he was drafting amendments to the administration aid request that would enact his pro-

posals. "Somewhere we have to pass the message to El Salvador and other countries that we mean business when we say cut out that nonsense about killing people," he said.

Kassebaum, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in an interview that she "will not be supportive of those [administration] figures until I have some answers" to concerns that previous aid to the region has not been used effectively.

She cited reports of diversion and fraud in the use of U.S. aid and of the sale to guerrilla forces of U.S.-supplied military equipment by corrupt members of the Salvadoran armed forces.

"If the [Salvadoran] army were doing a good job, I think there'd be support for it, but it's clearly so ineffective I'm not sure the new money would help," Kassebaum said.

On the House side, Rep. Lee H. Hamilton Jr. (D-Ind.), who is considered a moderating influence on the Foreign Affairs Committee, echoed Kassebaum's sentiment.

"I have serious doubts that we should provide such large amounts of aid in areas of great military insecurity," he said. "I'm concerned it will be used to continue the deplorable government system that now exists there."

He said the administration argument that immediate aid is needed in El Salvador to prevent supplies running short "simply doesn't wash."

Kassebaum said that providing aid without congressional action "won't help them down the road in getting the further aid." And Inouye said that Congress "won't react in a positive manner. If the administration plans to do something like that, I would most certainly advise them that they should not."

The House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere is scheduled to begin work today on the aid package and is considered likely to pass amendments to eliminate additional aid to El Salvador this year and hinge further aid on stiff conditions.

A State Department official expressed confidence those actions would not survive the full House, adding that concerns about immediate aid to El Salvador will be addressed.