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HOUSE UNIT MEETS REAGAN HALFWAY ON SALVADOR AID

Panel Appropriates \$30 Million
in Extra Military Funds —
4 Conditions Attached

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WASHINGTON, April 26 — A House Appropriations subcommittee today approved \$30 million in additional military aid for El Salvador, half the amount asked by President Reagan.

"If we gave the \$60 million, we would have lost all our leverage," Representative Clarence D. Long, chairman of the panel, the Foreign Operations subcommittee, said after the 7-to-5 vote. "There will be no more dollars until we see measurable progress."

In the compromise, proposed by Mr. Long, the committee attached four conditions to the appropriation:

¶ Appointment by the President of a special envoy with ambassadorial rank to help the Salvadorans hold free, fair and safe elections.

¶ Review by the Administration of all evidence pertaining to the murder of four American churchwomen.

¶ The opening of prisons and detention centers to "unannounced and unrestricted" inspection by the Red Cross.

¶ Release of political prisoners and early enactment of an amnesty law.

Administration officials said Mr. Reagan had asked former Senator Richard B. Stone of Florida to become the special envoy. [Page A13.]

Immediately after the vote, Mr. Long distributed copies of a letter from Secretary of State George P. Shultz that acknowledged the Administration's intent to comply with the committee's conditions. Mr. Long, a Maryland Democrat, visited El Salvador last weekend and said he had found "a real willingness on

the part of the leadership of El Salvador to come to grips with their problems, especially on human rights."

In his letter, Mr. Shultz sought to answer Congressional criticisms of the Salvadoran Government's treatment of political prisoners. He also said he had ordered an independent, high-level inquiry into the slaying of the churchwomen in 1981. More broadly, he said the Administration was promoting a process of judicial changes in El Salvador.

His letter concluded by saying that the Administration would resubmit its request for reprogramming the \$30 million in military aid voted down by the subcommittee today.

Representative David R. Obey, Democrat of Wisconsin, who opposed any additional funding and supported a 90-day delay, expressed reservations about the committee's attaching conditions to the funds. "I don't think you can run foreign policy from a subcommittee," he said.

The committee earlier rejected, 7-5, a Republican move to provide the full \$60 million requested by the President, and then voted 6-6 against a Democratic move to delay action for 90 days. The swing vote on the compromise proposal was cast by Representative Matthew F. McHugh, Democrat of New York, sponsor of the unsuccessful proposal to delay action, who explained that rejection of Mr. Long's proposal would enable the Administration to spend the full \$60 million.

The committee action capped a day of intensive congressional activity concerning Central America. The Senate held a closed, 90-minute session in which members of the intelligence committee were questioned concerning Administration activities in the region.

"This was a fact and information sharing session," said Senator Christopher J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, a critic of the Administration's policies in Central America, who requested the session. "Members of the Senate have a responsibility to be informed as to what the facts are in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The intelligence committee is our agent, in effect."

Mr. Reagan meanwhile met with members of the House intelligence committee, including several who spent recent days in Central America, to lobby against a Democratic proposal that would cut off covert military aid to Nicaraguan rebels and instead provide overt aid to friendly nations to help stop weapons flowing to guerrillas in El Sal-

vador. The committee is scheduled to meet Thursday on this proposal.

Representative Edward P. Boland, Democrat of Massachusetts, was asked afterward whether he still believed that the Administration had violated a prohibition — of which he was the author — against providing covert aid for the purpose of overthrowing the Nicaraguan Government. "I think we're beyond that question now," he said.

The real question, he said, was "whether the activities there are really in the interests of the United States." Pressed on whether he thought the law had been violated, Mr. Boland responded, "My own judgment is that we have a problem with it."

Representative Norman Y. Mineta, Democrat of California, who was among those who made the Central America trip and said Monday in Honduras that he had not made up his mind whether the Administration was violating the Boland amendment, said today, "Unfortunately I saw little to relieve my doubts about the Administration's current approach to that important area of the world."