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Congressmen Say the Rebels In Nicaragua Share U.S. Goal

Special to The New York Times

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, April 25 — Members of the House intelligence committee said here today that the desires of Nicaraguan insurgents and of the Reagan Administration to have Nicaragua pay more attention to domestic matters could be compatible.

Representative Norman Y. Mineta, Democrat of California, said at a news conference at the American Ambassador's residence here that the goals of American policy were to make the Sandinist leaders concern themselves with their "domestic commitments" instead of being "preoccupied with events outside Nicaragua." The United States has been trying to keep Nicaragua from helping insurgents in El Salvador.

Although Nicaraguan rebels have in the past said they wanted to overthrow the Government, a colleague of Mr. Mineta, Representative G. William Whitehurst, said that an insurgent representative told him they wanted the Sandinists "to comply with their original domestic commitments" to democratic elections.

Representatives Mineta and Whitehurst, a Virginia-Republican, came to Honduras on Sunday with three other members of the House Select Committee on Intelligence. They are Dave McCurdy, Democrat of Oklahoma, C. W. Bill Young, Republican of Florida, and Bob Stump, Republican of Arizona.

Purpose of the Trip

After the news conference, the Congressmen flew to Managua, Nicaragua. After a visit to El Salvador, they will return to Washington on Tuesday. President Reagan will address a joint session of Congress on Central America on Wednesday night.

Representative McCurdy said the purpose of the trip was to "get a cross section of views in the three countries."

Although it was rumored that the legislators would visit part of the Central Intelligence Agency's operations near the Honduran border with Nicaragua, the Congressmen remained in Tagucigalpa on Sunday. In addition to speaking to the United States Ambassador, John D. Negroponte, the delegation talked with President Roberto Suazo Cordova, Gen. Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, chief of the Honduran armed forces, and an official of the main Nicaraguan insurgent group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force. The Congressmen would not identify the official.

Representative Mineta, who said he was the most skeptical member of the delegation about the Administration's policy on Nicaragua, said he had not decided whether President Reagan was compliying with a Congressional measure enacted last year that prohibits the use of money to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government or to provoke a war between Nicaragua and Honduras.

Arrival in Nicaragua

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MANAGUA, Nicaragua, April 25—Five members of the House Select Committee on Intelligence met for two hours today with Sergio Ramírer Mercado, a member of the governing Junta, Interior Minister Tomás Borge and Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman. They also met with the United States Ambassador, Anthony C. Quainton, before leaving for El Salvador.