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Panel Votes Down Funds Request for Nicaragua Rebels

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The Senate Appropriations Committee, led by its Republican chairman, yesterday refused to grant President Reagan's emergency request for an additional \$21 million in covert U.S. military aid to rebel forces in Nicaragua, insisting that the administration go through normal Senate channels to get its money. The vote was 15 to 14.

At the suggestion of Chairman Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.), the committee also put off until next week the administration's emergency request for an additional \$93 million in military aid to El Salvador in its battle against leftist guerrillas.

Acknowledging the failure of what several Republicans called a disastrous effort to bypass congressional authorizing committees, Secretary of State George P. Shultz apologized to members of the Senate Intelligence Committee during a closed session and acknowledged that the move had been "self-defeating," Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), the committee's vice chairman, said later.

Saving he was also speaking for committee Chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), Moynihan added that committee members did not blame

Shultz, who appeared before the panel with CIA Director William J. Casey. "We made clear to him that we were perfectly aware it was a decision made in the White House," Moynihan said. "But there is no question that they will now proceed as they should have in the first place."

The committee provided \$24 million for covert aid to the Nicaraguan rebels last year, explicitly telling the administration it would have to make a formal request for more money.

In a related development in the House, most Democratic members of the Foreign Affairs Committee reached tentative agreement on the terms under which they would agree to provide additional military aid to El Salvador in 1985. If they approve the proposal in a party caucus next week, the full committee will consider it.

Administration officials said they had not intended to offend anyone but had belatedly realized that no regular funding measures were scheduled to be considered in Congress until May or June, by which time both the Salvadoran army and the rebels in Nicaragua would allegedly be short of funds and equipment.

Repeatedly warned by members of Congress not to try to get the money by reprogramming it from other projects or using legislative loopholes, administration strategists decided this week to try to attach their emergency aid requests as amendments to two emergency measures certain to pass Congress quickly—one would provide \$150 million in food aid to 18 drought-stricken nations in Africa and the other would send the states \$200 million to help with low-income citizens' winter energy bills.

"We want the matter considered by Congress promptly," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said before the Senate panel's vote yesterday. "We attach national importance to the situation in El Salvador."

A White House statement later said the \$21 million for the Nicaraguan rebels was "necessary to continue certain activities of the Central Intelligence Agency which the president has determined are important to the national security of the United States."

The president asked Majority Whip Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Sen. Robert W. Kasten Jr. (R-Wis.) to submit the amendments.

The idea backfired.

"If the entire administration policy for Central America is handled as poorly as this was handled, it is doomed," said Budget Committee Chairman Pete V. Domenici (R-N.M.), also a member of the Appropriations Committee. He said he was "embarrassed" to learn that Hatfield had not been told of the plan until Wednesday afternoon and that the Intelligence panel, which normally reviews all covert-aid financing, had not been consulted. The administration "should have been much more forthright," he said.

Sen. Warren B. Rudman (R-N.H.), who provided the key Republican vote dooming the admin-

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