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President Reagan warned Wednesday that 100 million people face communist enslavement, "chaos and anarchy" if Congress fails to vote enough money to protect the vulnerable democracies of Central America.

The threat to the United States "is at our doorstep," he declared, and he cautioned against listening to "the new isolationists" who espouse "a policy of wishful thinking" reminiscent of the appeasement of Adolf Hitler before World War II.

"We can and must help Central America," Reagan declared in a nationally broadcast address from the Oval Office. "It's in our national interest to do so and morally it's the only right thing to do. But helping means doing enough."

However, Congressional Democrats sharply criticized Reagan's speech, with House Speaker Thomas O'Neill saying it was a "call to arms in Central America. What we wanted was a call to peace."

O'Neill added that Reagan dashed hopes "for an end to the mining, an end to the covert war against Nicaragua."

Several lawmakers said Reagan had done little to help his call for more aid to Central America in Congress.

Rep. Robert Matsui, D-Calif., said, "His speech was warlike, irresponsible and will not move the Congress to support his aggressive policy in the area."

A spokesman said the White House switchboard received 915 telephone calls in the 30 minutes following the speech: 764 favorable to the president and 151 critical of him.

In restating his arguments for additional military aid to El Salvador and to CIA-backed Nicaraguan rebels, Reagan said that if Congress fails to come through with the money, all of Central America could fall to Soviet- and Cuban-backed subversion.

"What we see in El Salvador," he warned, "is an attempt to destabilize the entire region and eventually move chaos and anarchy toward the American border."

"This communist subversion poses the threat that 100 million people, from Panama to the open border on our south, could come under the control of pro-Soviet regimes," the president said.

"Concerns about the prospect of hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing communist oppression to seek entry into our country are well-founded," he said.

Pressing his case for an \$8 billion package of long-term economic and security aid for the region, including urgent military assistance for El Salvador, Reagan said the United States has evidence of a planned fall offensive by Cuban-backed Salvadoran guerrillas, designed to bring down the newly elected government.

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