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REAGAN SAYS CRISIS IN REGION COMPELS AID FOR SALVADOR

HE DENOUNCES NICARAGUA

Cites Situation 'at Doorstep' in Upholding Decision to Send Emergency Arms

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 14 — President Reagan said today that he had ordered \$32 million in emergency arms shipments for El Salvador on Friday night because "we cannot turn our backs on this crisis at our doorstep."

He ordered the aid after Congress adjourned for a 10-day Easter recess without voting on whether to approve the money.

In his first public comments since the furor in Congress in recent days over the Administration's policies toward El Salvador and Nicaragua, Mr. Reagan also leveled some of his sharpest criticism to date at Nicaragua for conducting what he called "covert aggression" against El Salvador and its other neighbors.

Nicaraguan Harbors Mined

Mr. Reagan, in his weekly, paid radio broadcast, did not refer directly to the American covert campaign against Nicaragua, which reportedly included the mining of Nicaraguan harbors by Nicaraguan rebels and Latin American agents under direction of the Central Intelligence Agency.

But he indirectly upheld it by saying that given the Sandinista Government's "record of repression, we should not wonder that the opposition, denied other means of expression, had taken up arms" against the Nicaraguan leaders.

The Senate and the House both passed nonbinding resolutions in recent days calling for an end to such mining. Senior Administration officials asserted on Friday that not only had the mining ended but there were no plans to resume it, in view of the attitude of Congress and many friendly foreign nations.

Hope Voiced for Cooperation

Senior Administration officials said today that they hoped that the end to the mining, and the declared willingness of the Administration to cooperate with Congress, would lead to a calmer mood after the Easter recess, and to an agreement by the House to vote for the measures related to Central America that are viewed as critical by the Administration and have already been approved by the Senate.

"We just had too many Chicken Littles in Congress in the last week, who seemed to become hysterical over covert aid," one official said. "The Congress keeps saying it wants to be involved and have more of a say, but what can you do when they react like that. They have to accept that covert aid is part of the real world."

The Republican-dominated Senate last week approved \$21 million in new funds to support the covert program in Nicaragua, and \$62 million in emergency military and medical equipment for El Salvador.

The Democratic-dominated House, which was much more antagonistic toward the Administration's Central American policies, did not take up either measure before the Easter recess began on Friday. But House Democratic leaders did offer to allow the Administration to reprogram \$32 million in aid funds already approved for other countries for use in El Salvador.

This compromise, drafted by Representative Clarence D. Long, Democrat of Maryland, chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, was initially accepted by the Administration. But it was rejected by Senate Republicans who said the Administration should invoke emergency provisions of the Arms Export Control Act, which allow the President to send a country military supplies that do not have to be paid for for 120 days.

Pentagon Could Absorb Cost

The Senate leaders also advised using the entire \$62 million already approved by the Senate in the emergency package. Under Section 21d of the law, if Congress does not provide funds for the arms during the 120 days, the cost is absorbed by the Defense Department budget.

Given the different views of the Senate and the House, the Administration, on the advice of Secretary of State George P. Shultz, devised its own compromise, officials said today. As a result, the President invoked the emergency provisions of the Arms Export

Control Act, but decided to keep the level of emergency arms and medical supplies for El Salvador to the \$32 million offered by the House, rather than the \$62 million approved by the Senate.

This was done, a senior State Department official said, to demonstrate that the Administration was not trying to flout the intention of Congress, but was trying to be conciliatory toward the House, hoping for a more cooperative relationship after the recess.

Appreciation Voiced by Long

Mr. Long on Friday afternoon, when he thought the Administration would use all of the \$62 million approved by the House, condemned the rejection of the reprogramming proposal. But he said today that he appreciated Mr. Shultz's setting the level at \$32 million, and that this "should mollify the House somewhat."

There is still a potential for a confrontation, however, because the Administration is still hoping for early action by the House after the recess on the pending \$62 million request for El Salvador. Mr. Long said he did not think the House would want to take up the matter again until after a new Salvadoran President is sworn in on June 15.

Mr. Long said that the \$32 million, which includes \$20 million in ammunition and other military supplies, and \$12 million for helicopters and other equipment for medical evacuation,

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