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New York Area's Senators Are Divided on Latin Policy

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WASHINGTON, April 29 — Five United States Senators from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, speaking in the wake of President Reagan's appeal for bipartisan support of his military and economic aid proposal for Central America, gave varying assessments of what United States policy should be in the region.

Their views ranged from that of Christopher J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, who has long taken exception to the Administration's approach, to that of Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato, Republican of New York, who said he agreed with the President's premises.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat of New York and vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the Administration had to "muster hemispheric diplomacy because, absent that, nothing else will work."

The two New Jersey Senators, Bill Bradley and Frank R. Lautenberg, both Democrats, said they wanted to learn more about the policy options in Central America.

Mr. Reagan appealed to Congress Wednesday night to approve his request for \$600 million in economic and military aid for Central America in the 1984 fiscal year.

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., Republican of Connecticut, was "too busy" the day after Mr. Reagan's speech to discuss Central America, according to his press secretary, Brendan Fitzsimmons. Mr. Weicker was traveling in his state on Friday and was unavailable, Mr. Fitzsimmons said today.

Here are the major points made by the Senators in interviews here:

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Mr. Moynihan said his chief concern was that "the Administration has not been able to mobilize the Latin Americans who are even more concerned with this than we are."

He said he rejected the notion that "if we could just train the Salvadorans, why all would be well," adding, "We've been training the Salvadorans for a quarter of a century."

The Senator said he did not have "any troubles" with the President's aid package. "They're not large sums," he said. "I've voted for it so far."

He said the statement by the United States Ambassador to El Salvador, Deane R. Hinton, that the United States could be involved there for 10 years was the sentiment of a "very discouraged man."

"In a democracy you don't sustain foreign policies for that long," Mr. Moynihan said.

The Senator said he was disturbed by the nature of the support for Administration policy, comparing the situation to the one at the United Nations when he was the chief United States delegate.

"There is a pattern right now of what I saw at the United Nations," he said. "People would vote against you and come up and say they didn't mean to do it, that they were really for you."

Now, he said, the Administration is accepting private assurances that "we are with you" when in fact these assurances are not firm.

Alfonse M. D'Amato

Mr. D'Amato, who has supported the Administration's requests for military and economic aid, said he believed President Reagan's stated 70-30 balance of economic to military aid to the region was correct. Economic aid is paramount, he said.

"People aren't foolish," Mr. D'Amato said. "If an effort is made to improve their economic needs, they will rally against those forces blowing up bridges."

He said he did not believe that covert support by the United States of anti-Sandinist guerrillas flouted the law.

"It has been used to deter aggression rather than create an overthrow," he said. "I believe the President. It is not our intent to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government but rather to interdict the flow of weapons."

The Salvadoran Government has to be sent a clear message, Mr. D'Amato said, that they "are not going to take our money and then thumb their noses at us."

"We've got to let them know that we're not going to support them unless they go along with economic and human rights reforms," he said.

He said he believed that the Administration needed to seek the support of Latin American countries to stabilize the area.

Christopher J. Dodd

Mr. Dodd, who responded Wednesday night on behalf of Congressional Democrats to President Reagan's speech, said the Administration labored under the fundamental misconception that "if it were not for Russian agents there would not be revolution" in Central America.

The Senator, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said the Administration had to realize that Central America lacked a history of homogeneity.

"It is not natural that they all be sit-

ting down and be talking about a common market," he said. "Regional discussions ought to be pursued, but that's not going to solve the internal problems."

In El Salvador, he said, as long as the "option exists for dialogue between the insurgents and the Government it ought to be pursued."

"I think we have the leverage to effectuate that," he said. "Also a cease-fire."

Mr. Dodd, who has visited the region three times in the last two and a half years, added that he believed it would be "a mistake" for the United States to pursue "alone" a leadership role in such talks.

In Nicaragua, Mr. Dodd said, the United States has to take the Government up on its stated "willingness to sit down to talks."

Frank R. Lautenberg

The freshman Senator said that although he would not vote to cut United States military aid to the region he wanted to "hear some more" before he voted for increased expenditures.

He prefaced his comments by saying he had been "doing some reading," but he did not pretend to have expertise on American foreign policy options in Central America.

"I see a substantial threat of Marxism moving into the area, and I don't take the Cuban and Russian influences lightly," Mr. Lautenberg said. "I think we have to be vigilant."

What concerns him most, he said, is the specter of the United States "putting larger chips on the shoulder, and the fighting getting bigger."

"The more military aid that goes in, the more defiant they become," he said of the guerrillas in El Salvador.

"I am not willing to cut the strings," Mr. Lautenberg continued. "We have to continue the pressure for negotiations and show we want an honest end."

Bill Bradley

Mr. Bradley was the most cautious of the Senators, saying he was in the midst of a "very thorough analysis" of what "our long and short term interests in the region are."

"Our policy should be to promote the center," Mr. Bradley said. "We have a violent left and violent right. How you go about promoting the center is the \$64 million question."