

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS (TX)  
16 February 1982

## Friends could aid U.S. in El Salvador

President Reagan reportedly has approved a CIA plan to use covert action by friendly nations against the Cuba-Nicaragua-El Salvador link.

According to the Washington Post, the plan would seek to disrupt the flow of Cuban supplies to Nicaragua and then to El Salvador. It also would seek to cause trouble for the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

The friendly nations were not identified, but Argentina is believed to be one of them.

If the reports are accurate, the Reagan administration is taking steps to get other nations involved in a hemispheric problem. An unstable Central America could pose a threat to Mexico and to South America.

If other nations are convinced that Nicaragua is stoking the leftist fires in El Salvador and Guatemala, then they should be willing to help put out the fires.

Reagan has increased aid to El Salvador's government. He also has limited the role of American advisers there. One U.S. officer was brought home and five other advisers were reprimanded for carrying automatic weapons.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig has said the United States will do "whatever is necessary" to block a leftist victory in El Salvador. Help from other nations could limit America's role.