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SUBJECT Policies Toward Latin America

DAVID HARTMAN: Gerry Studds is a Democrat, a member of the House of Representatives from Massachusetts. He is one of the congressmen who has voted against President Reagan's policies toward Latin America. And he's with Steve Bell in Washington.

We just heard Tom Enders from the State Department say that our policies are not illegal toward Central America, particularly Nicaragua, that we're not doing anything wrong down there, that we're trying to get people to the peace table and get all of the arms and the advisers out of there. What's wrong with that?

REP. GERRY STUDDS: Well, it's almost academic to have him discuss back and forth the fine points as to whether or not they're currently violating the so-called Boland Amendment. What they are violating and what, in my judgment, makes this activity just unarguably illegal is the Organization of American States charter. That is a treaty commitment of the United States. Under our Constitution, treaties which have been ratified by the Senate are the supreme law of the land. And there is a sentence in that treaty that says no state has the right, for any reason whatever, to intervene in any way, directly or indirectly, in the internal or external affairs of any other state.

That is the law of the United States. The President is sworn to see that that law, and the others, be faithfully executed. And he is, in my judgment and in the judgment of many of the members of Congress, violating that law, without question. And I submit that's a very serious matter.

HARTMAN: What do you say, then, about the Cubans, the -- as Mr. Enders said, the Palestinians, the East Germans who are