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# CIA seeks more covert aid; House weighs cut-off

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WASHINGTON — The Reagan Administration is seeking to increase covert CIA aid to rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist government, even as the House debates a bill intended to cut off all funding for that purpose, congressional sources said Wednesday.

The sources said President Reagan will soon submit a report to the Senate Intelligence Committee seeking to justify the expansion of U.S. help for the anti-Sandinista rebels.

The same sources said CIA director William Casey told the Senate Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee in a classified briefing Wednesday that the CIA will need more money — \$30 million in fiscal 1984 compared to this year's \$19.5 million — to finance the larger program.

The House failed to reach a vote Wednesday after 5½ hours of debate on amendments to a Democratic-sponsored bill that would end covert aid to the Nicaraguan rebels and authorize \$80 million in above-board funds to help friendly Central American governments halt arms smuggling to leftist insurgents.

Voting was scheduled today on rival

amendments to weaken or preserve the bill, as well as on the main legislation known as the Boland-Zablocki bill.

"This CIA-sponsored not-so-secret war against the government of Nicaragua is bad United States policy, it is illegal and it doesn't work and is counter-productive to United States interests," charged Rep. Edward Boland (D., Mass.), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and co-author of the legislation with Rep. Clement Zablocki (D., Wis.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Boland is also the author of the Boland Amendment, passed by the full House 411-0 last December, which prohibits the use of federal funds to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Under the original guidelines governing the Nicaragua covert operation, the CIA was authorized to finance the anti-Sandinista guerrillas simply to intercept arms shipments from Nicaragua to the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

Rep. C.W. (Bill) Young (R., Fla.), another member of the intelligence panel, offered an amendment that would allow the covert aid to continue until the United States and its allies in Central America obtain agreement from the Nicaraguan gov-

ernment that it will stop aiding the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

"This covert operation is working," said Young. "Because of it, the Sandinistas now appear more willing to negotiate with the United States, and the leftist insurgency in El Salvador seems to be winding down considerably.

Rep. Michael Barnes (D., Md.) chairman of the House Western Hemisphere Affairs Subcommittee and a leading critic of Reagan's policies in Central America, offered a substitute amendment under which the end of aid would not be conditioned by any agreement with Nicaragua.