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Reagan and Stone confer on U.S. role in Central America

By ALFONSO CHARDY Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Reagan conferred Monday with special envoy Richard Stone on the future of U.S. policies in violence-lashed Central America, administration spokesmen said.

Neither Reagan nor Stone made any comments after their 45-minute conversation at the White House. Administration spokesmen said they reviewed Stone's recent visit to the region and future steps that the United States may undertake in Central America.

Hours later, in Jackson, Miss., Reagan warned that "the Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan axis" could "take over Central America" if Congress refuses more military assistance for Central American nations friendly to the United States.

"We must not listen to those who would disarm our friends and allow Central America to be turned into a string of anti-American Marxist dictatorships," the President said at a Republican fund-raiser.

Meanwhile, Stone also went to Capitol Hill to brief congressional leaders on his 12-day, 10-nation trip and his meeting with Reagan.

A spokesman for Rep. Clarence Long (D., Md.), chairman of the subcommittee that supervises U.S. military aid to El Salvador, said Stone telephoned after meeting with Reagan and said he "still had nothing new to report."

White House officials said Stone would confer privately with mem-

bers of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee about Central America, especially El Salvador.

At a White House briefing before Stone met with Reagan, Speakes said the President had not decided whether his special envoy should meet with Salvadoran guerrilla representatives.

"We are discussing now the next steps in Central America," Speakes said, stressing that any meeting between Stone and rebel envoys would be limited to conditions for leftist participation in El Salvador's presidential elections, scheduled for December.

State Department spokesman Alan Romberg, asked if Stone would meet later this week with a rebel representative, said: "I'm not going to address the question of what might or might not be done."

Congressional sources involved in the Salvadoran issue have said Stone might meet this week with Ruben Zamora, a rebel spokesman who has been in Washington since last week.

Zamora has asked for a meeting with Stone, but he ruled out guerrilla participation in the elections, saying there would be no guarantees for the lives of leftist candidates or their campaign workers.

In another development, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived in Washington Monday, apparently ready to call on Reagan to endorse the Contadora Group's initiative, which is aimed at negotiat-

ing a peaceful end to the violence in Central America. The Contadora Group is composed of Colombia, Venezuela, Panama and Mexico.

Gonzalez told reporters in Madrid last week that a regional war in Central America could have "unforeseeable consequences" and called on the Reagan Administration "to avoid at all costs triggering a general conflict."

Gonzalez, a Socialist who recently visited Central America, is scheduled to meet with Reagan today and later address the Organization of American States.

Spanish embassy officials said Monday that Gonzalez may try to persuade Reagan to converse with Nicaragua, Cuba and the Salvadoran rebels as a way to reduce tension.

Nicaragua has demanded negotiations with the United States to resolve its grievances, such as CIA support for anti-Sandinista rebels. Cuba has offered to wield its influence on the region's leftist movements in a search for negotiated peace.

This report was supplemented by Herald wire services.