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# U.S. citizens also aid Marxist Sandinistas

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Thousands of Americans may be in Nicaragua supporting the Marxist Sandinista government.

Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, the majority leader in the Senate, says the capture in Nicaragua of Eugene Hasenfus, an American aboard a privately owned Lockheed C-123 cargo plane downed Oct. 5, has overshadowed the much larger private American participation in the Nica-

raguan civil war.

Scant attention is being paid to American leftist sympathizers in Central America, Mr. Dole told the Senate on Friday.

"There seems to be so much hue and cry about Mr. Hasenfus — people raising the Neutrality Act and who knows what else — that maybe it's time that we focused some attention on the broader question of private Americans involved down there on both side of that conflict," Mr. Dole said.

Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, agrees. He said he believes "Americans for both sides are down in Nicaragua," according to a Lugar aide.

Both Mr. Dole and Mr. Lugar said the passage of the \$500 billion government spending bill, which contains provisions for \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, would help end private support for the resistance.

An aide to Mr. Dole said the senator was told by State Department and CIA officials thousands of Americans are supporting Marxist guerrillas in El Salvador and the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

"There are literally thousands of Americans working in the Sandinista government, some as advisers," said the aide, who declined to be named. "Most are probably legitimate, but if any of them are breaking the law, they should be prosecuted."

The Sandinista government ordered foreign supporters to leave combat zones in Nicaragua in September following the death of three

Western Europeans killed in a shootout with rebel forces July 28.

Nicaraguan rebel leaders later disclosed documents captured from the three men — Swiss, West German and French nationals — revealing they had been permitted by the Sandinistas to carry automatic weapons.

Mr. Lugar's comments were made following a briefing on the capture of Mr. Hasenfus, who was taken by Sandinista forces when a camouflaged C-123 plane on which he was a passenger went down in southern Nicaragua. The plane was reportedly laden with arms for the Nicaraguan rebels.

Sandinista officials said Mr. Hasenfus, who spoke briefly for a U.S. Embassy official for the first time over the weekend, will be tried for his role in assisting the Nicaraguan rebels.

Mr. Lugar said he had no reason to doubt U.S. officials who repeated earlier denials of official U.S. connection to the plane.

In contrast to remarks by the Republican leaders, Sen. Patrick Leahy yesterday charged the Reagan administration may have illegally aided the Nicaraguan rebels. He said Congress has not been fully briefed by the administration on official backing of private groups aiding the rebels.

Mr. Leahy, Vermont Democrat and vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told reporters in a telephone interview from Vermont: "I don't think we've had adequate answers [about] whether the administration was involved with more than verbal encouragement of these people."

"The question that hasn't been answered fully to all the congressional inquiries is whether they stepped over the line from political encouragement to illegal cooperation."

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams on Saturday defended American supporters of the Nicaraguan resistance and contrasted their efforts with private Americans supporting Nicaragua's Sandinistas and the communist-backed guerrillas in El Salvador.

"We do not follow and find out the identities of the thousands of Americans who help the [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrillas in El Salvador, the com-

munist, or the communist regime in Nicaragua because they have a right to do so as Americans," Mr. Abrams said on Cable News Network.

"And we don't follow the people who are trying to help U.S. policy and restore freedom to Nicaragua," he said.

Meanwhile, Vice President George Bush on Saturday denied reports he was linked to a former CIA operative Mr. Hasenfus has tied to the mystery aircraft.

Mr. Hasenfus told reporters in Nicaragua Thursday he was working for the CIA in supplying rebels with weapons. He said he had received orders from two Cuban-Americans working for the CIA, including a man named Max Gomez.

Mr. Bush described Mr. Gomez, now working as a military adviser to El Salvador's Air Force, as a "patriot".