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# U.S. seeks to deter Latin terror plans

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Intelligence reports show leftist guerrillas in Central American countries are training strike forces to emulate terrorists in El Salvador. Administration officials told a congressional panel yesterday.

Michael H. Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs, told Congress the administration wants \$54 million to train military and civilian police in El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica to counter terrorism.

He said the program is needed because "of a rising terrorist threat in Central America" that has included the murder of four U.S. Marines, two U.S. citizens and seven other people in San Salvador last June when a bomb exploded outside a San Salvador restaurant.

The administration wants to tack the bill onto the continuing resolution, a stopgap funding bill that must be passed before Congress adjourns. Moving through Congress, and all but approved, is a \$5

million appropriation for counter-terrorism training in the Foreign Aid Appropriations bill. That money is mostly for seminars in the United States.

The plan for the \$54 million program came under heavy fire from members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday who say training police in Central American countries has backfired in the past.

Rep. Michael Barnes, Maryland Democrat, said Congress eliminated police training programs in pro-Western Latin American countries a decade ago because such programs left the United States open to political attacks whenever an incident of police brutality occurred, and stigmatized other U.S. aid.

"It's a risky program to get into to ... let's be very careful," he told the administration officials.

Rep. Gerry Studds, Massachusetts Democrat, said such programs should be undertaken with "extraordinary caution" and contended that

a drug enforcement team trained by the U.S. government tried to overthrow the government of Bolivia.

Terrorists in El Salvador have kidnapped 23 mayors and other officials including President Jose Napoleon Duarte's daughter who was released

unharmed yesterday after being held captive for just over six weeks, Mr. Armacost said.

Guerrillas were resorting to terrorist tactics partly because Salvadoran military organizations have been successfully battling them in the countryside, he said.

Other guerrillas are likely to ape those attacks, he said, noting the attacks could have "an echo cham-

ber effect." They think, "What works in one place will work in another," Mr. Armacost said.

The plan would authorize \$27 million for a specialized military counterterrorism assistance program, and \$26 million for an assistance program to police. Another \$1 million would be allocated to help protect individuals who cooperate with the United States in anti-terrorism projects.