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# Reagan May Offer To Delay U.S. Aid To Contra Forces

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WASHINGTON—The Reagan administration may offer to delay new military aid to anti-government Nicaraguan insurgents for 60 or 90 days as part of a bid to win the votes it needs to avoid defeat in the House tomorrow.

The delay would be implemented as part of an executive order to be signed by the president. The apparent thrust of the strategy is to allow time for diplomatic initiatives sought by a key bloc of moderate Democrats and Republicans. The administration evidently hopes that by agreeing to the delay it can avoid outright rejection of the aid package by Congress.

Senior State Department, White House, and National Security Council aides participated in the discussions in Congress yesterday and last night about the possible compromise. But the lateness of the effort may limit their chances of success, particularly among Democrats.

Many lawmakers still resent the administration's aggressive tactics. Moderates want a chance to bring up their own compromise solution, and House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D., Mass.), moving to counter defections in his own ranks, privately pledged that he won't block that at some later date.

An executive order to delay military aid could be more appealing to Republicans. If Mr. Reagan can solidify his GOP base in the House, he stands a chance of winning a narrow victory to renew military aid to the insurgents for the first time in two years.

Congress seems certain to approve some military aid ultimately, but the administration appears anxious to avoid a defeat this week after investing so much political capital in the issue.

The compromise under discussion essentially asks Congress to approve the $100 million aid package submitted by the administration, but promises in the executive order to meet some of the conditions previously unaddressed by the White House.

Most of the $70 million in military aid would be delayed for two to three months, though some portion would be allowed immediately for "defensive" purposes. All of the $30 million for non-lethal, medical and logistical assistance would be available as currently proposed.

And while final decisions haven't been made, the administration has indicated a willingness to establish a bipartisan commission to monitor diplomatic negotiations.

Separately, senior administration officials denied that American surface-to-air missiles are expected to be part of any arms shipments to the guerrillas. And intelligence sources confirm that documents submitted to Congress list only the Soviet-made SA-7 missile and the British-made Blowpipe missile, which the rebels prefer.

Meanwhile, the House Intelligence Committee voted 10-6 to approve legislation requiring that any U.S. military support to Angolan insurgents "be openly acknowledged and publicly debated."

As proposed by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D., Ind.), committee chairman, the bill is calculated to force the U.S. covert role in the Angola war more into the open. Republicans, voting as a bloc against the measure, see it as an effort to undercut the administration's policy.

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