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# U.S. to show evidence on Latin rebels

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WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration, in a policy shift, is planning to release what it says is evidence to support its charges that Nicaragua has been providing aid to leftist rebels in El Salvador, U.S. officials said yesterday.

The officials, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said the documentation would be in a special report that they hoped to release within two weeks.

Administration charges of widespread Nicaraguan involvement on behalf of the Salvadoran insurgents have been met with considerable skepticism because the United States has not made public any evidence.

U.S. intelligence agencies have opposed releasing the evidence, saying that to do so would expose their sources of information. Privately, however, officials have said that much of the administration's information was based on interceptions of radio communications between Nicaraguan authorities and the Salvadoran rebels.

The U.S. monitoring operation is said to have intercepted several thousand messages since the Nicaraguans installed the system in the spring of 1981.

## *Want no mistakes*

Release of the special report has been delayed because the administration wants no mistakes, the officials said. They noted that in 1981, the impact of an administration white paper aimed at demonstrating Soviet bloc involvement in the Salvadoran insurgency was diluted when press reports cast doubt on the accuracy of some of the conclusions.

After the 1981 paper was attacked, James Cheek, then-deputy assistant secretary of state for Latin America, said, "It's been impossible to authen-

ticate the documents" on which the report was based, although he stood by the conclusions.

While the CIA is balking at making public its information about Nicaraguan aid to Salvadoran insurgents, the project has the support of National Security Adviser Robert C. McFarlane. Officials said that McFarlane was confident he could win CIA consent for the release of at least part of the evidence.

"If he can't, it's going to be a pretty drab report," one official said. He added that the State Department had been encouraging maximum possible disclosure.

The assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, Langhorne A. Motley, told a State Department gathering Tuesday that Nicaragua also had set up command and control operations for the Salvadoran rebels in Nicaragua.

## *'Downtown Managua'*

He said he had raised that issue, among others, with Nicaraguan authorities, adding, "If they don't know where it is, we'll give them the street address. It's in downtown Managua."

Nicaragua has denied the administration allegations about its support for the Salvadoran insurgency. In his nationally televised address Wednesday night, President Reagan repeated the accusation, asserting that Nicaragua was playing the same role for the Soviet Union that Cuba long had performed.

The Sandinistas, he said, have become "Cuba's Cubans."

"Weapons, supplies and funds are being shipped from the Soviet bloc to Cuba, from Cuba to Nicaragua, from Nicaragua to the Salvadoran guerrillas," he said.

An integral part of Nicaragua's support is said to consist of an installation where vehicles are modified to permit the transport of hidden equipment. The equipment is often reportedly trucked to Honduras and then transferred to vans and other smaller vehicles, which then complete the journey to El Salvador.

The officials said the administration also might publish a second report outlining Soviet bloc involvement throughout Central America. No final decision has been made on whether to go ahead with the project, the officials said.