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# CIA chided on covert aid Nicaragua funds may be in jeopardy

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**WASHINGTON**—The Senate Intelligence Committee on Monday criticized the CIA's management and supervision of its covert war against the Nicaraguan government and said the actions of the spy agency contributed to Congress' decision to cut off funds for U.S.-backed rebels fighting the Sandinistas.

In a 61-page report that summarized the committee's actions for the year, the panel also predicted that the Central Intelligence Agency's role in the mining of harbors in Nicaragua and the production of a guerrilla warfare manual that advocated assassination of Sandinista government officials would make it difficult for President Reagan to get more money for the rebels from the new Congress.

"The program in Nicaragua gave rise to serious and difficult issues for the committee," the report said, adding:

"The mining of Nicaragua's harbors in 1984 and the failure of [CIA Director William Casey] to adequately notify the committee of it in advance precipitated a crisis in the committee's relationship with the intelligence community. Inadequate supervision and management of this program in 1983 and 1984 certainly contributed to" the congressional cutoff of funds for the rebels last October.

**THE REPORT** by the Republican-controlled Senate committee echoed the criticisms leveled at the CIA by the Democratic-controlled House Intelligence Committee, whose new chairman, Rep. Lee Hamilton (D., Ind.), last week said he would conduct a review of all CIA covert actions, at least partly because of the CIA's handling of the Nicaraguan situation.

The United States has provided funds to the rebels, also known as contras, ever since Reagan authorized the program in December, 1981. The administration justified providing funds by saying that the aid was used to interdict arms flowing from the Sandinistas in Nicaragua to leftist guerrillas trying to overthrow the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador.

In the last year, however, Congress learned that the CIA had a hand in actions that clearly went beyond the interdiction of arms. The agency played a role in the mining of

Nicaraguan harbors. In addition, it helped produce a guerrilla-warfare manual that advocated "the selective use of violence" to "neutralize" Nicaraguan officials and topple the Sandinista government, which, according to several members of the House Intelligence Committee, constituted a clear violation of U.S. law.

**SO, LATE IN** the year, Congress voted to cut off aid to the contras until Feb. 28, 1985. At that time, it will consider voting to release \$14 million in aid to the rebels if the President submits a report stating that Nicaragua is supporting other leftist guerrillas in Central America.

The administration already is preparing a lobbying effort to convince Congress that it should provide funds for Reagan's program. The report by the Senate committee, which has generally been sympathetic to the CIA over the last few years, won't help the administration's case.

Although it provides no new information, the Senate report puts into the public record a detailed history of the effort and the troubles it has had in Congress.

The report said the aid to the contras itself was not the problem.

**"HOWEVER,** without notifying the Congress," the committee report said, "major changes were made in the conduct of this program, including the mining of the harbors. The committee was not informed of these actions until after they were substantially accomplished."

After Congress adjourned, the Associated Press reported that the CIA had helped produce "Psychological Operations in Guerrilla War," a manual that advised the contras on techniques for battling the Sandinista government and advocated the use of violence to "neutralize" specific targets.

The CIA denied the common interpretation that "neutralize" amounted to the advocacy of assassination, an action barred by a 1981 executive order.

Six midlevel CIA employees were subjected to mild disciplinary action for their role in producing the manual, and the CIA contract employee who drafted it was dismissed. Casey also pledged that he would set up new rules to prevent a similar situation in the future.