



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
OMELETTES



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House halves El Salvador aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Ronald Reagan's request for \$60 million in military aid to El Salvador was cut in half by a House panel on Tuesday as he readied a special plea to Congress and the nation to rally behind his Central America policy.

The 7-5 decision by the Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations to slash the Salvador aid to \$30 million followed a tie vote, 6-6, that would have barred any decision at all for 90 days. The compromise was engineered by Chairman Clarence Long, D-Md., who just returned from El Salvador.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee already had settled on an identical cut.

Meanwhile Tuesday, the full Senate talked behind closed doors about whether the administration is waging a covert campaign against Nicaragua. And Reagan promised to name a special envoy for Central

America, whose duties will include assisting "the Salvadorans in their efforts to find a basis for dialogue with their opponents."

Speculation centered on former Democratic Sen. Richard Stone of Florida as the choice for that post.

Long said he supported the scaled-down aid package after assurances that the new ambassador "will be charged with advancing the peace process" in El Salvador.

The Maryland Democrat also said he was satisfied with promised steps toward opening of Salvadoran prisons to inspection by the International Red Cross, freeing political prisoners and undertaking a review of evidence in the 1980 killings of four U.S. churchwomen in El Salvador.

Long acknowledged that "this is not a perfect solution," but he said the assurances represented substantial progress "in view

of the tortured history of El Salvador."

After the vote approving the \$30 million, the subcommittee released a letter to Long from Secretary of State George Shultz, in which Shultz said "we favor a negotiating process which would lead the way to a political solution through free and fair elections."

"To advance this objective, the president will soon be designating a senior U.S. official of ambassadorial rank to act as a special envoy to Central American governments," the secretary wrote.

Commission says U.S. education needs new basics

WASHINGTON (AP) — America has squandered a post-Sputnik surge in the race for knowledge and committed "an act of unthinking, unilateral educational disarmament" that threatens its very future, a national commission charged on Tuesday.

The scathing report card on U.S. schools, from first grade through college, called for tougher standards, longer school days and higher pay for teachers to combat a "rising tide of mediocrity."

The National Commission on Excellence in Education called upon all high schools to emphasize five "new basics": four years of English, three years each of math, science and social studies, a half-year of computer science and, for the college-bound, two years of foreign language.

Pres. Ronald Reagan summoned education and civic leaders to the White House later Tuesday for a briefing on the report, titled "A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform."

"Our nation is at risk" the diverse, 18-member commission declared in its unanimous report. "If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war."

"As it stands, we have allowed this to happen to ourselves. We have even squandered the gains in student achievement made in the wake of the Sputnik challenge," the Soviet Union's shocking, opening shot in 1957 of the space race.

"We have, in effect, been committing an act of unthinking, unilateral educational disarmament."

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