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From Associated Press Reports

'Will we stop communism?'

WASHINGTON — Pres. Ronald Reagan, arguing the United States is fighting a "communist reign of terror" in Central America, declared Wednesday night that Salvadoran guerrillas with Cuban support are poised to topple the shaky El Salvador government unless the United States provides more military aid.

"The simple questions are: Will we support freedom in this hemisphere or not?...Will we stop the spread of communism in this hemisphere or not? Will we act while there is still time?" Reagan asked in remarks prepared for a nationally broadcast address to the nation from the Oval Office.

In a speech devoted to convincing Americans he is pursuing the right course in Central America and to pressuring Congress into supplying more military aid to that region of turmoil, the president decried the "new isolationists" who prefer a policy of "wishful thinking" to action.

"As I talk to you tonight, there are young Salvadoran soldiers in the field facing the terrorists and guerrillas in El Salvador with the clips in their rifles the only ammunition they have," Reagan said.

Though Reagan described the situation as dire, he reiterated his previous pledge to keep American troops out of a Central American war. While the issues involve promoting democracy and economic wellbeing in the face of Cuban and Nicaraguan aggression, Reagan said, "It is definitely not about plans to send American troops into combat in Central America."

The president contended that without his aid package, El Salvador could be powerless to resist a Cuban-backed offensive.

Wilderness bill cleared

WASHINGTON — An agreement by Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore., and Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., has cleared the way toward passage of an 860,000-acre Oregon wilderness bill.

"We have an Oregon wilderness bill," Weaver said by telephone from Washington, D.C. "Senator Hatfield and I shook hands and said we have a bill."

Tom Imeson, wilderness legislative aide to Hatfield, said two modifications on final boundaries made to Hatfield's bill that won approval from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last week, allowing the measure to go before the full Senate next week

The measure will then go to the floor of the House without further conferences, Imeson said. He predicted that both houses of Congress will pass the bill into law before the end of May.

Imeson said Hatfield agreed to add another 10,000 acres to the proposed 7,700-acre Grassy Knob Wilderness on the Southern Oregon Coast to include the Dry Creek drainage of the Sixes River.

Also, Hatfield replaced an 18,300-acre Glacier Mountain Wilderness proposal with nearby Monument Rock Wilderness, an area of approximately the same size, in Eastern Oregon. Both were contained in Hatfield's initial draft of a wilderness bill as the "Glacier-Monument Wilderness" but only Glacier Mountain remained in the draft submitted to the Senate committee last week. Imeson said Monument Rock was restored to the bill with deletion of some mining claims in one corner of the wilderness, and Glacier Mountain was eliminated from the measure.

Two wounded in shooting

QUEBEC — A shotgunwielding man suspected of wounding two passers-by held off police at his home Wednesday, one day after another gunman went on a deadly shooting spree nearby in the Quebec legislature.

A relative said Wednesday's gunman, identified as Jean-Claude Nadeau, 39, had been unable to sleep overnight because he was troubled by Tuesday's rampage, in which three people were killed and 13 others wounded by a man firing a submachine gun inside Quebec province's National Assembly, police reported.

No other connection could immediately be established between the two incidents, however.

The man held in Tuesday's killings, identified as a Canadian soldier, Cpl. Denis Lortie, 22, was scheduled for arraignment later Wednesday on three counts of first-degree murder.

Wednesday's incident began when a male pedestrian in Quebec City's Saint-Roch district was shot and wounded in the arm, leg and hip, and a woman motorist was wounded in the throat when gunfire shattered a window of her automobile, police said.Both were treated at a hospital and released.

The suspected gunman was tracked down to his family's house. Police said the gunman had ejected his mother and two brothers from the house, and they notified police. His 77-year-old father later also left the building, after police encircled it with sandbag barricades.

Police Det. Brian Bickford said the gunman carried a "20-gauge gun, and from what we know he might have four or five other guns."

Bulgaria to boycott L.A.

Bulgaria on Wednesday became the first Eastern bloc country to follow the Soviet Union's example in pulling out of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, as Americans used shuttle diplomacy in a worldwide game of wits to keep other nations in the Games.

A statement by the official Bulgarian news agency BTA said the national Olympic Committee voted "unanimously against the participation of Bulgaria in the Games because of the existence of an abnormal situation in this American city." Bulgaria is the closest Soviet ally in the Eastern bloc.

A delegation selected by the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee was in East Germany trying to convince officials that their athletes would be secure in Los Angeles.

Other Olympic officials were meeting in California with representatives of "three or four" countries friendly to the Soviets, the president of the organizing committee said Wednesday.

But most Eastern bloc countries and Cuba were silent on whether they planned to join the Soviet Union, which announced Tuesday it was withdrawing from the Games because of "anti-Soviet hysteria" and concerns for the safety of athletes.

Pres. Ronald Reagan said in Washington Wednesday he was greatly disappointed by the Soviet decision and called it "unfair to the young people that have been waiting for so long to participate in those games."



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