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## House approves aid bill for El Salvador

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic-controlled House gave Pres. Ronald Reagan a significant victory on military aid to El Salvador Thursday, voting to grant the assistance under conditions attacked as too lenient by some but which supporters defended as realistic.

Voting 212-208, the House adopted a Republican foreign aid amendment authorizing \$120 million in emergency security assistance for El Salvador and other Central American countries and impose relatively easy conditions on further Salvadoran aid.

Adoption of the GOP proposal will provide guidelines for a House-Senate conference committee meeting next week to consider a \$61.7 million emergency appropriation for the Salvadoran military approved last month by the Republican-controlled Senate.

The measure also authorizes enough military aid for Central America in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 to meet the administration's request for \$132.5 million for El Salvador. The first half would be available if the president told Congress that the Salvadorans were making progress in human rights and other reforms. The rest would require a second presidential report and be subject to congressional disapproval within 30 days.

Most of the Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs committee backed a proposal that would block two-thirds of the funds unless Congress found the Salvadorans had curbed death squads and begun negotiations with left-wing guerrillas to end the country's civil war.

Speaking against the Republican amendment, Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., told the House, "Leaving the determination up to the president alone virtually guarantees that the cer-

tification will be made regardless of the realities in El Salvador."

Responding to Reagan's televised warning Wednesday night that the aid is needed to stave off an expected Cuban-backed offensive against the Salvadoran regime, Solarz said, "The American people do not want any more Cubas in Central America, but neither do they want any more Vietnams."

Taking note of Solarz' remarks, Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., said comparisons with Vietnam were "a mistaken way of looking at this very, very different situation; El Salvador is in our front yard."

House Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-Ill., supported the Republican proposal, saying, "These conditions are realistic. They can be met. El Salvador is the sick man of Central America. If we impose stringent conditions, we may bring about a crisis rather than a recovery."

As the House began debate on the Central American provisions of a \$10.5-billion global foreign aid measure, House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, D-Mass., said only 185 of the chamber's 268 Democrats were standing fast against the Republican move.

O'Neill said Pres. Reagan was "very effective" in his televised plea for his Central American policy but that the tide was already running against the restrictions proposed by the Democrats, which would demand reforms by the Salvadoran government.

In his speech Wednesday night, Reagan complained that during the past four years, Congress has only provided half of the military aid requested for El Salvador. He argued that without his aid package, the country would be powerless against a Cuban-backed guerrilla offensive he said is expected in the fall.

## Hart stops downtown at 11 a.m. Saturday

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado will speak at the fountain on the Eugene mall at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Hart's short stop in Eugene is part of his four-day visit to Oregon that also includes stops in Portland and Salem.

Hart is the only major Democratic presidential candidate scheduled to come to the state.

After his recent primary victories in Ohio and Indiana, Hart will again face former Vice Pres. Walter Mondale and the Rev. Jesse Jackson in the contest for Oregon's 50 delegates.

The Oregon and Nebraska primaries are both scheduled for Tuesday.



Sen. Gary Hart



Photo by Michael Clapp

Salvadoran citizens Marta Benavides and Secondino Ramirez claim that the recent presidential elections in El Salvador are nothing more than a showpiece designed for the U.S. Congress and public.

## Salvadorans say problems not simple to solve, explain

By Brooks Dareff  
Of the Emerald

A student in Room 104 Condon asks the young Salvadoran if Jose Napoleon Duarte, the newly elected president of El Salvador, will bring reforms to his country. Duarte, a Christian Democrat, speaks of talking to the opposition, while Roberto d'Aubisson, his opponent, would simply crush it.

It is an easy question to answer, but not to explain.

"Elections is not the issue," says Secondino Ramirez, a U.S. representative for the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador. "Elections for us means death — we don't even pay attention to it."

Turning to the rest of the class, Ramirez dismisses Sunday's presidential run-off election as a showpiece, designed more for the consumption of the U.S. Congress and public than for the emancipation — even limited emancipation — of the Salvadoran people.

"Duarte," he says, anticipating Pres. Ronald Reagan's speech Wednesday night on Central America, "has a better image to sell to the U.S. people to get more aid."

To an audience accustomed to the relative civility and sanctity of U.S. elections, Ramirez'

words — which go on to recount how the military has fixed several elections and massacred scores of indignant voters — must seem as foreign as the Spanish the Salvadorans speak.

And so, Ramirez says, he understands if Americans are incredulous about Salvadorans' skepticism about their elections — it is what the Reagan administration is counting on and what he, Ramirez, is working against.

"For you it is hard to understand what repression means, what oppression means," he says.

Ramirez and Marta Benavides, a Salvadoran Baptist minister who was also on campus Tuesday, say they try to educate — and enrage — U.S. audiences. They say reaching the American public about the human rights violations in their country — over 50,000 civilian non-combatants killed since 1979 — is their hope of bringing pressure to bear on the U.S. government. Without U.S. support, they say, the death squads would not exist.

"The best of our people are being killed," says Benavides, former assistant to Oscar Romero, the outspoken archbishop slain in 1980 while giving mass. "These are people that

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