



Compromise fails; Ortega sues for peace

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's top foreign policy advisers gathered at the White House Sunday to map strategy on Nicaragua, as efforts to reach a congressional compromise on aid for anti-Sandinista rebels appeared to collapse.

Meanwhile, Sens. John Kerry, D-Mass., and Thomas Harkin, D-Iowa, announced that Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega had told them his country would agree to an immediate cease-fire if the United States ended all support for anti-Sandinista rebels.

Both the House and the Senate are scheduled to vote Tuesday on Reagan's request for \$14 million in aid for the Contras.

The president earlier had agreed to a compromise in which the money, requested for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, would be used for food, medicine

and logistical support instead of arms.

But congressional sources, speaking on condition that they not be identified, said efforts to win support for the compromise in the Republican-controlled Senate had collapsed. As a result, the Senate will vote on Reagan's original plan to provide direct military assistance.

Senate Democrats, who met Sunday with Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., are expected to develop their own plan similar to a plan devised by House Democrats and some Republican moderates, the sources said.

The House plan would provide \$10 million for "humanitarian" aid to Nicaraguan refugees. Another \$4 million would go to the Contadora nations — Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia — to carry out the terms of their proposed peace plan for Central America.

In his radio address from Camp David, Md. Saturday, the president said the Democratic alternative would be a "shameful surrender" that would provide aid to the guerrillas "only... if they abandon their struggle to liberate Nicaragua."

Reagan returned to the White House by helicopter Sunday from his weekend retreat, where his top advisers met to discuss Central America. But a meeting that had been scheduled with Republican and Democratic senators to discuss the Nicaragua legislation was postponed.

"The timing did not work out and the meeting will be held as soon as we can get it together," said Bob Sims, deputy White House press secretary for foreign affairs.

But congressional sources said the meeting was postponed by the White

House because the Democratic delegation would have included liberal opponents of any aid to the Contras. These sources said Reagan had planned to use the meeting to persuade some moderate Democrats to support the compromise.

Secretary of State George Shultz, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, CIA Director William Casey and Reagan's national security advisor Robert McFarlane met Sunday afternoon to discuss Central America.

In his Saturday radio address, Reagan said his administration had been "told that in a cynical attempt to manipulate public opinion and our Congress the communists may put forth an 11th-hour so-called peace proposal, a proposal aimed at blocking aid to the democratic resistance and giving the communists a free hand to tighten their grip on the Nicaraguan people."



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Brazilian leader dies of fibrosis

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — President-elect Tancredo Neves, thwarted by illness from becoming Brazil's first civilian leader in 21 years, died Sunday after undergoing seven operations since March 14. He was 75.

The announcement of his death Sunday evening came shortly after he was reported in "irreversible condition" with severe heart and lung complications.

Neves, a centrist politician whose career spanned a half-century, was chosen by the Electoral College in January 1985 to be the first civilian president of Brazil since 1964.

Neves' condition had deteriorated Thursday because of infections that followed seven operations in four weeks, six for abdominal problems plus a tracheotomy to insert a breathing tube in his throat.

Dr. Warren Myron Zapol, a physician from Boston specializing in lung illnesses and intensive care therapy, examined Neves on Saturday and said he was suffering from fibrosis, or a hardening of the air sacs in his lungs.

Neves, a moderate politician, first underwent emergency intestinal surgery hours before he was to be sworn in March 15 as Brazil's first civilian leader in 21 years.

Complications led to further surgery and affected his lungs, kidneys and circulation.

Vice President Jose Sarney, who has been serving as acting president, has been governing the country since Neves became ill.

Hundreds of people had kept a round-the-clock vigil outside Sao Paulo's Clinical Hospital where Neves was being treated.

Festivities celebrating the 25th anniversary of Brasilia, the modern inland capital city, were canceled because of Neves' condition.

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