

NEWS RELEASE
March 19, 1982

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd
Sen. Paul E. Tsongas

WASHINGTON--Sens. Christopher J. Dodd, D-CT, and Paul E. Tsongas, D-Mass., are circulating among their colleagues draft legislation which would require Congressional approval of all U.S. military assistance to Central America.

"This proposal is purposefully designed to address the Administration's apparent militaristic approach to Central America, its seemingly open-ended military commitment to El Salvador and its determination, if press reports are accurate, to undermine or destabilize the Government of Nicaragua," they said in a letter to their colleagues.

"This proposal, in our view, is a counter-weight to the Administration's vow to rule out nothing in its dealing with Central America and its intense preoccupation with Soviet-Cuban involvement in the region. The Congress must play a more active role in redirecting a policy that has become as confused as it is dangerous," they said.

Sens. Dodd and Tsongas have indicated they may offer this proposal as an amendment to the Administration's Caribbean Basin Initiative.

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(NOTE: A COPY OF THE "DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER AND THE BILL ARE ATTACHED.)

For information: Marla Romash
Sen. Dodd
224-0345
543-1509 (H)

Mary Helen Thompson
Sen. Tsongas
224-8507