

2-3-1988

## Real Costs Of Contra Aid Bill Much Higher

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

---

### Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Real Costs Of Contra Aid Bill Much Higher." (1988). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/1286>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## Real Costs Of Contra Aid Bill Much Higher

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, February 3, 1988

A close examination of the contra aid bill submitted by President Reagan for voting by Congress on Feb. 3-4 that it would provide much more money to the contras than \$36.25 million for a four-month period. The bill would actually provide at least \$43 million, and perhaps as much as \$63 million over the period. The package includes authorization to spend money for "passive air defense equipment" to support supply flights to contra forces inside Nicaragua. Those costs have recently been estimated by the administration to be \$1.75 million per month. For the four months, that would add \$7 million to the package. The bill also calls for setting aside \$20 million more to insure the aircraft used to ferry the supplies. Assuming the insurance is used, the total aid bill comes to \$63 million, or more than \$15 million per month. [Note: The \$15 million per month sum is equivalent to the monthly amount contained in the Reagan administration's contemplated \$270 million request for an 18-month period.] The so-called "non-lethal" aid portion of the bill, or roughly \$32.6 million, includes such militarily useful items as helicopters and jeeps. According to Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT), the administration has attempted to "make the request sound like a pittance...Actually it's a good deal more with all these hidden costs. On an annual basis, it's more than the contras have ever gotten before." (Basic data from Nicaragua Network, 01/28/88; New York Times, 02/01/88)

-- End --