Globe columnist praises Arias plan

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friends of mine . . . who I really respect . . . seems to me to be part of the failure. All I can say is that I'm bothered. I don't have the answers."

"The US government," Ryan charged, "is making an immense effort now to defeat the Arias plan: to torpedo it, to violate it, to minimize it, to trivialize it, and above all to redefine it, to change the meaning of the plan."

Nicaragua complying with the plan.

Ryan believed that the press is falsely blaming the failure of the Arias plan on the Nicaraguan government, "when in fact the Nicaraguan government, above all, has been complying perfectly with the plan."

It is in Nicaragua's interest to comply with the plan, Ryan said, because under its provisions the government would receive no more US aid.

After the Arias treaty was signed, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Sew or Cuba. According to Ryan, Cuban leader Fidel Castro afterwards agreed to withdraw some Cuban advisers from Nicaragua. The opposition newspaper La Frena was allowed to re-open and a Reconciliation Commission for the political process was appointed, with Archbishop Obando y Bravo, a strong critic of the government, as chairman.

The Reagan Administration has repeatedly accused Nicaragua of aiding rebels in El Salvador - which would violate the treaty - but Ryan did not believe they had been doing that since 1981.

By comparison, Ryan commented, Honduras initially refused to set up a Reconciliation Commission, since the Honduran constitution had given its army amnesty months before the treaty was signed.

The Reagan administration is asking Congress for $270 million in contra aid this year. This would clearly impede the Arias plan, Ryan said.

The contra, Ryan charged, have made requests "far beyond their military clout and far beyond their right" under the Arias plan: negotiations with the government without laying down arms, and elections before the dates scheduled by the Nicaraguan constitution.