

Three-fifths of U.S. against proposal

Reagan pushes Contra aid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan conceded Tuesday the American people have serious doubts about giving \$100 million to Nicaraguan guerrillas, but said he would reject any effort to water down the aid proposal by "temporizing and quibbles."

"To delay or reduce the aid we have requested for the freedom fighters could be to send too little too late," Reagan told reporters in a question-and-answer session at the White House. "Those who would compromise must not compromise

the freedom fighters' lives nor their immediate defensive needs.

"They must not compromise Latin America's democracies or our own southern borders. They must not compromise freedom."

Asked whether the American public had fallen in line behind his program, Reagan said, "No, they haven't, and our own polls indicate there is a great feeling of people saying, 'What are we doing in that little country?'"

An ABC News poll released last Friday showed three-fifths of Americans believe Congress should reject Reagan's request.

This is one of the reasons, the president said, why he plans to make a nationally broadcast speech on the issue Sunday night, three days before a vote by the House of Representatives is tentatively scheduled.

The president was asked specifically about a compromise plan, suggested by Sen. James Sasser, D-Tenn., calling for Congress to approve the aid but withhold any of it for six months as an inducement to Nicaragua's Marxist-led government to negotiate for peace.

"I will listen to any proposal that anyone wants to make that is tied to the idea of letting us come to the aid

of these Contras," he said, "but the only proposal of that kind that I have heard was one that involved a long period of time and then was not a sure thing, but they would then vote again to see whether we could have the money and use it. I don't think that would be a compromise that I could listen to at all."

The Sasser proposal calls for the president to report to Congress if he considers the negotiations efforts unsuccessful. Congress would have to take a vote agreeing to his statement before the funds could be spent.

U.S. will investigate TI's claim of patent infringement

WASHINGTON — A year-long investigation has begun at the U.S. International Trade Commission to determine whether companies in Japan and South Korea have infringed on electronic chips patents belonging to Texas Instruments, Inc.

Paula Stern, who heads the commission, issued a statement pointing

out that the body can ban imports, not only of the computer chips which are the subject of the complaint by Texas Instruments, but also the computers, telecommunications equipment and high-resolution television sets that use the chips.

But this step would be taken only

if the commission concludes the patents have been infringed.

The commission is a bipartisan body appointed by the U.S. president. It voted 6-0 Monday to launch the investigation.

"The complaint indicates that this investigation could possibly involve more trade by value than any pre-

vious (unfair import practices) investigation," Stern said. But she did not estimate the value of the trade.

According to the complaint, Texas Instruments lost \$118.7 million last year, due largely to low sales and sharp declines in the prices of chips. During the year, nearly 8,700 employees were laid off.

Kremlin protests U.S. order to reduce Soviet staff at U.N.

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Kremlin countered a U.S. order to cut Soviet staff at the United Nations with an official protest Tuesday warning Washington that its "illegitimate demand" could jeopardize U.S.-Soviet relations and the next summit.

The official news agency Tass distributed a text of Moscow's protest to the United States. Parts of it were read on Radio Moscow.

The protest accuses the United

States of violating international agreements on the United Nations, headquartered in New York, and denies U.S. accusations that spies are among the Soviets' 275 U.N. employees.

Foreign Ministry officials called the U.S. Embassy Tuesday morning and asked for a meeting, where the oral protest was delivered to Charge d'Affaires Richard Combs, according to embassy spokesman Mark Smith.

Combs is the top-ranking U.S. diplomat in Moscow while Ambassador Arthur Hartman is on vacation.

The U.S. government on Friday ordered the Soviet Union to cut its U.N. staff to 170 over the next two years, a 38 percent reduction. The order termed the number of Soviet staff unreasonably high and said it poses a threat to U.S. national security.

The Soviet protest statement appeared to warn America such behav-

ior threatens the next superpower summit meeting.

Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and President Reagan met in Geneva last November and agreed to a second summit this year.

"The U.S. administration must be aware that such actions increase distrust of its policy and by no means create a favorable background for a summit meeting," the embassy was told.

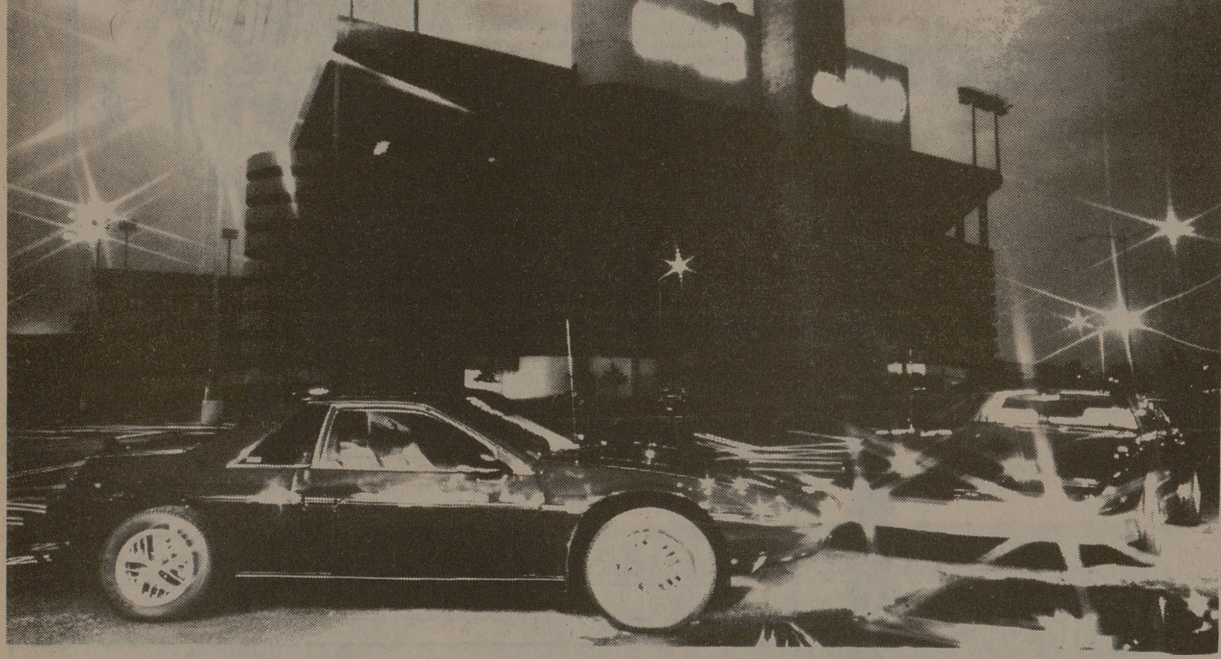
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By Jim Earle



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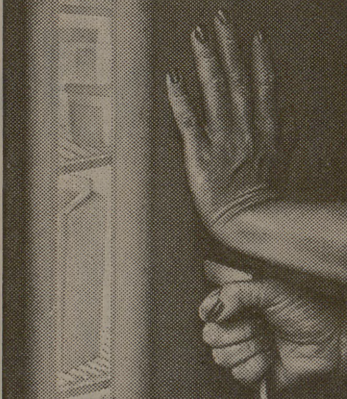


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