

Reports of drug link worry U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz said Thursday he was concerned about reports linking Panama's military leader to drug trafficking, passing of secrets to Cuba, gun-running and money laundering.

And his spokesman, Bernard Kalb, said "an examination of these allegations would appear to be a matter for consideration by the government of Panama."

The *New York Times* and NBC, quoting U.S. sources, reported that Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of Panama's armed forces, was linked to illegal activities, including the murder of a critic of the Central American nation's military.

In response to reporters' questions in the State Department lobby, Shultz said, "Activities of that kind are obviously of importance and concern to us."

Noriega was in Washington on Wednesday to bestow a Panamanian medal on Lt. Gen. John M. Schweitzer, outgoing chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board, but "no State Department official met with General Noriega during his visit or had any discussion with him concerning these stories," the department said in a statement.

Noriega is widely viewed as his country's strongman, controlling the civilian leadership. As the site of the Panama Canal and vital installations, Panama holds a key strategic position in U.S. security arrangements in the Western hemisphere.

Mom does detective work for her slain son's case

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — An outraged mother who says her son's shooting death was "handled like a traffic case" used her own sleuthing to persuade a judge to throw out the defendant's plea bargain and order him to stand trial for murder.

In an unusual ruling Wednesday, Pierce County Superior Court Judge W.L. Brown set aside the plea bargain in the killing of Mike Chadwick, saying the prosecutor misled the court when he said two key witnesses could not be found.

Brown's ruling vacated the second-degree manslaughter conviction of Warren "Shorty" Schaupp and reinstated the original charge of second-degree murder.

If convicted, Schaupp could be sentenced to 10 to 15 years in prison,

instead of the 15 to 22 months he faced on the manslaughter conviction of last November.

Chadwick, 20, was killed by a shot in the back of the head from a .45-caliber revolver on July 19, 1985. Schaupp said the shooting was an accident.

However, a key witness, Lyla McMahon, said in a written statement that Schaupp began acting strangely and refused to return the revolver after Chadwick showed it to him.

She said she ran for help but found Chadwick shot when she returned.

Chadwick's foster mother, Bettie Richardson of Brinnon, said after the ruling that "this was handled like a traffic case."

Richardson, whose lawyer describes her as "just a mom" with no particular investigative expertise,

found the witnesses by calling telephone numbers she found in Chadwick's house.

She also used the Yellow Pages to find Seattle lawyer Jim Lobsenz to present her case under the 1981 Victims Rights Act and the 1984 Sentencing Reform Act, halting Schaupp's sentencing and challenging the plea bargain.

Lobsenz said McMahon and witness David Harstaad were reluctant to provide their whereabouts because they were afraid of Schaupp. Brown said their testimony at a hearing last month showed they were available to testify.

The judge said a prosecutor must "put all his cards on the table" and not mislead the court, and that Judge Thomas Sauriol would not have accepted Schaupp's plea if he had

ABC agrees to share Liberty coverage

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Television's battle for Liberty was resolved Thursday when ABC agreed that its rival networks could share all news portions of the Liberty Weekend opening ceremonies.

The primary issue was coverage of President Reagan and other officials participating in the July 3 kickoff to the four-day extravaganza celebrating the restoration of the Statue of Liberty on its 100th birthday.

Tom Goodman, a spokesman for ABC, said the network will provide pool coverage of approximately 16 minutes of the 2½-hour opening ceremonies.

"We have agreed that these additional portions should be considered news and we will make them available," Goodman said.

Those include the introductory remarks of Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel and Lee Iacocca, chairman of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, before Reagan unveils the restored statue, and, later in the evening, the remarks by Secretary of the Navy John Lehman as he introduces Reagan to light the torch.

ABC also agreed to pool coverage in the event of a news emergency during the ceremonies, Goodman said.

ABC is not sharing coverage of the Medal of Honor ceremony, in which 12 naturalized citizens, including Bob Hope and Henry Kissinger, will be given medals created by David Wolper, the television producer who is executive producer of Liberty Weekend.

Tax

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bill is a tough crackdown on tax shelters, which are used by professionals and other wealthy investors to generate losses that shield their fees and wages from taxes. The provision

would affect many industries, falling hardest on real estate.

Oil-state members of the Finance Committee insisted that some oil and gas investments be exempted because of the industry's problems caused by

low petroleum prices. The exemption would apply only to "working interests," in which the investor's risks are unlimited.

The oil industry has been at the center of the tax debate over the years because of the insistence of

many liberals that the industry enjoys undue advantages in the tax law.

One obstacle to quick passage of the tax bill was removed Thursday when two conservatives, after meeting with President Reagan, agreed to withdraw an amendment that would

strip tax exemptions from hospitals and other non-profit organizations that perform or finance abortions.

Sens. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., and Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said they would offer the amendment on a different bill later.

AIDS

(Continued from page 1)

spread of the ailment by the year 2000.

But computer projections prepared by the Centers for Disease

Control indicate the problem is going to get much worse before it gets better:

• More than 270,000 people will be diagnosed with AIDS by the end of

1991, of whom 179,000 will have died.

• About 74,000 people will be diagnosed during that year. And of the 145,000 people expected to be treated for AIDS in 1991, about 75 per-

cent would be among the estimated 1 million to 1.5 million who carry the virus now but probably do not know it.

• More than 70 percent of AIDS cases in 1991 will be diagnosed

among homosexual or bisexual men, the highest risk group. About 25 percent of the cases will be among drug addicts who use infected needles. Those two figures overlap, the agency noted.

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