

# World and Nation

## 'GAO trying to discredit policy'

### Schultz suggests political motives lie behind aid probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Schultz said Thursday a congressional report alleging widespread misuse of U.S. aid to Nicaraguan rebels was a politically-motivated effort to discredit the administration's Central America policy.

"I think the track record on the funds we have had available is basically excellent," Schultz said, responding to a General Accounting Office report that millions of dollars in aid earmarked for the rebels has been diverted for other purposes.

The GAO, Congress' investigative

arm, said in the report released Wednesday that much of the money was diverted to offshore bank accounts, the Honduran military and individuals in the United States.

Schultz said the report was "developed and sprung" by administration adversaries on Capitol Hill for the purpose of rallying opposition to the insurgents in advance of an expected House vote on additional aid later this month.

He said the report did not reflect a careful investigation because the State Department was refused an opportunity to see the report in adv-

ance or to make a contribution to the inquiry.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Rep. Michael Barnes, D-Md., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, directed the GAO not to share its information with the administration.

Schultz said, "If somebody were really interested in digging into this thing and having our views, they wouldn't try to spring it as a kind of political surprise. Their methods, I think, disclose the nature of what's going on."

He spoke to reporters after meeting at the State Department with the top leaders of the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO), Adolfo Calero, Arturo Cruz and Alfonso Robelo.

Cruz said the rebels welcome congressional efforts to determine whether there was any misallocation of the \$27 million in non-lethal assistance.

Officials of the GAO testified Wednesday that its review of subpoenaed bank records showed only a small fraction of the money going to suppliers who sold food, medicine and clothing to the Contra rebels.

## Reagan speaks to pro-lifers

DENVER (AP) — With President Reagan pledging to help stop abortion here and abroad, the National Right to Life Committee opened its 14th annual convention Thursday, a few blocks from where the National Organization for Women will begin its own meeting a day later.

"This is the ultimate human rights issue," Reagan said in a videotaped message to the nearly 2,000 delegates at the start of a three-day meeting.

The mood at the anti-abortion convention was upbeat, despite two Supreme Court decisions this week that affirmed a woman's right to an abortion and parents' rights to decide the level of care for severely handicapped children.

Nor did the nearby presence of NOW, a bitter political foe of the NRLC, disrupt the pro-life convention, although abortion activist Dr. Bill Baird demonstrated briefly outside the NRLC meeting.

Reagan topped a slate of GOP speakers that is to include Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

In his taped message, Reagan called for congressional adoption of the Kemp Amendment, which would forbid use of U.S. funds for birth-control efforts that include abortions forced on unwilling women.

While Reagan did not mention China by name, Doug Johnson, NRLC legislative director, said, "There is no other nation against whom this allegation has been made."

## AIDS virus may offer clue to vaccine development

WASHINGTON (AP) — Infection with one strain of the AIDS virus appears to keep other variants from infecting the same person, indicating some unknown protective mechanism that might be useful in developing protective vaccines, researchers say.

New research on the action within the body of the virus which causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome indicates that the viral variants seen in single patients are closely related mutations of the same strain that originally infected the person, they say.

Even infected, promiscuous, homosexual men — who may have had hundreds of exposures to versions of the AIDS virus from infected sex partners — appear to carry one strain of the virus or several highly related variants of that strain, scientists say.

"The finding may imply that once infected with one AIDS virus, indi-

viduals are protected from infection by other AIDS viruses," says a report to be published Friday in the journal Science.

Beatrice H. Hahn, George M. Shaw and Maria E. Taylor of the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham, working with researchers from three other institutions, said it is unlikely that this possible protection results from classical viral immunity mechanisms. Traditionally, a cell infected with one virus loses its receptor, or gateway, for that or related viruses to enter.

However, many people chronically infected with the AIDS virus, known as HTLV-3 or LAV, still have normal numbers of the uninfected white blood cells that the virus targets. These seemingly would be candidates for invasion by another strain of the virus.

"We really can't explain why a per-

son seems to be infected by only one genotype of the virus," Shaw said in a telephone interview. "It may be some kind of immune response that occurs after the initial infection, or perhaps even a nonimmunologic factor."

"In any case, if we could find out what it is, activating such a factor before any infection could be a way of preventing AIDS," he continued.

Shaw said there may be a relationship between this preventive factor and a variant of the AIDS virus recently discovered in people in West Africa. Dr. Myron Essex and others at the Harvard School of Public Health announced in March that they discovered a form of the virus, which they dubbed HTLV-4, that does not produce disease.

"There has been some speculation, and that's all it is at this point, that perhaps HTLV-4 protects against infections by the disease virus," Shaw said.

## Weed-killer is bleaching plants

CHICAGO (AP) — A new herbicide used to kill weeds in soybean fields is turning neighboring lawns and gardens white in seven Midwest states, but the manufacturer said Wednesday the bleaching is temporary and not toxic.

The herbicide, Command, is manufactured by Chicago-based FMC Corp. and kills weeds by inhibiting production of the chlorophyll that nourishes them.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved its use in February and began getting reports of problems about a week ago, said agency spokesman Al Heier in Washington, D.C.

"We have plants turning white,"

Heier said. "We don't know for sure if they'll return to normal. We have no indication it's going to be toxic to humans."

There are no plans to take Command off the market, said FMC spokesman Jeff Jacoby.

There have been reports from seven soybean-producing states — Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Indiana — that trees, lawns and gardens next to Command-treated fields are turning yellow or white, Jacoby said.

Some problems also have been reported in Oregon, Heier said.

Most untargeted plants that have changed color likely got low doses of the herbicide and will not die, Jacoby

said, and color should return in 10 days to three weeks.

He said there is no reason to believe it is unsafe to eat fruits or vegetables from plants that have been exposed to Command residue.

But the company recommends against eating such produce if the plant foliage is discolored, Jacoby said.

"It impacts plants temporarily, but there is no permanent effect," he said.

Chlorophyll, the green pigment found in plant cells, is used in photosynthesis — plants' production of nutrients through light.

Heier said the EPA will continue to study the situation.

## Baby Jesse's transplant is successful

LOMA LINDA, Calif. (AP) — The transplanted heart that gave Baby Jesse a second chance to live was beating normally at 100 to 120 times a minute Thursday, and doctors said his recovery was progressing as expected.

No significant complications had developed more than 36 hours after Jesse underwent transplant surgery, said Gus Cheatham, spokesman for Loma Linda University Medical Center.

"He is in a phase of recovery from an operation of considerable magnitude, but has had no significant complications," Cheatham said.

Two other infants who had earlier received heart transplants at Loma Linda were back in the hospital because their bodies were trying to reject their implanted hearts, Cheatham said while announcing Jesse's condition.

A girl known only as Baby Rachel was in satisfactory condition, said Cheatham. She and the infant known as Baby James were being given immuno-suppressive drugs, he said.

Jesse Dean Sepulveda, whose case set off a furious debate over medical ethics, was born with a fatally defective heart and received the heart of a brain-dead Michigan child Tuesday in a four-hour operation at the hospital, about 65 miles east of Los Angeles.

Chest X-rays taken Wednesday showed that fluid was clearing from Jesse's lungs — a good sign, according to Dr. Bruce Branson, chairman of Loma Linda's surgery department.

The 26-year old father, Jesse Sepulveda, said the baby looked far better than he expected.

Sepulveda said he visited the baby Tuesday night after surgery and

again briefly Wednesday morning.

"I was telling him how much I loved him when he opened his eyes," he said. "It was a real touching moment."

The baby's mother, Deana Binkley, 17, was absent Wednesday, but her stepfather, Steven McCarthy, made a brief statement for her, explaining "she is just exhausted." He expressed her gratitude to the hospital and media.

Also pleased with the results of the operation was Deborah Walters, 33, of Wyoming, Mich., the mother of the donor baby, Frank Edward Clemenshaw IV.

"Now he's alive and Jesse's alive," Walters said. "In my heart, I've got them both."

Jesse is the fifth infant to receive a baby-to-baby heart transplant at

Loma Linda since last November, but even the oldest survivor is little more than 6 months old and his doctors said they don't have enough experience with such transplants to know what to expect.

Although Jesse should be able to live a nearly normal life, he will always have to take drugs to suppress his own immune system from attacking the donor heart.

Initially, Loma Linda had rejected Jesse for a possible transplant on grounds that his young, unwed parents might not be able to provide adequate post-surgical care. The decision drew stinging criticism from a clergyman and a right-to-life activist, who said the decision should be based only on the baby's need, and Loma Linda changed its stand a few days later after the boy's paternal grandparents assumed guardianship.



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