

World and Nation

Nicaraguan judge says 'no pardon' for Hasenfus

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Justice Minister Rodrigo Reyes rejected on Sunday the possibility of pardoning American Eugene Hasenfus, who drew 30 years in prison for his part in a weapons delivery flight to U.S.-backed Contra rebels.

"There is no reason to pardon him," Reyes told The Associated Press by telephone one day after a political court handed down the verdict and the sentence. "The Nicaraguan penitentiary system will guarantee that he fulfills his sentence."

Earlier remarks by President Daniel Ortega had fed speculation that Hasenfus, 45, of Marinette, Wis., might eventually be pardoned.

Ortega has not commented on the case since the American mercenary was convicted and his stand on a possible pardon is not known.

Reyes, chief prosecutor, said, "If a pardon is applicable, I am sure there will be a rejection by the population

and the authorities would have to explain that step very well."

Pro-government newspapers on Sunday billed the verdict against Hasenfus as a conviction of the United States as well.

"The 30 years for Hasenfus are a penalty for Yankee interventionism," *El Nuevo Diario* said.

It quoted unidentified Nicaraguan legal authorities as saying "this sentence should hit the eardrums of President Reagan (who should) observe that his obstinate intention of destroying the revolution will have severe responses."

The sentence handed down Sunday by the three-member People's Tribunal includes the maximum 30 years in prison for violating the maintenance of order and public security and the maximum three years for criminal association, with the sentences to be served concurrently.

Hasenfus was the lone survivor

when Sandinista forces in southern Nicaragua on Oct. 2 shot down a C-123 plane that he said was carrying small arms to U.S.-backed rebels.

Hasenfus on Saturday told the court he wanted to appeal the sentence. His Nicaraguan attorney, Enrique Sotelo Borgen, said that he did not know if he would appeal.

Presidential spokesman Manuel Espinoza said Sunday that for the time being, Hasenfus will not be allowed to give interviews.

In Washington, a White House spokesman, Donald Mathes, said Saturday, "The outcome was decided before the trial even started. It served no purpose other than to make propaganda."

State Department spokesman Pete Martinez said, "The Nicaraguan government's treatment of Mr. Hasenfus violated many of his basic due process rights under both international and Nicaraguan law."

U.S. allies may get less aid after cuts in military budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — A number of close U.S. allies face sharp cuts in military aid because of congressional budget reductions that Reagan administration officials say could seriously damage American security interests.

Officials are now making final decisions on which countries will bear the brunt of the cutbacks, which left

the administration \$1.6 billion under its \$6.5 billion request for fiscal 1987. Countries where the United States has military base agreements may be hit hardest.

Congress required that Egypt and Israel receive \$3.1 billion of the \$4.9 billion total aid program, with another \$345 million earmarked for Pakistan, a key ally because of its

proximity to Soviet-occupied Afghanistan.

"How do you distribute the pain?" asked one official, summing up the administration's dilemma in deciding which countries' programs should be trimmed.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said on Friday that congressional insistence on giving some countries an irreducible amount "exacerbates the effect" of the overall cuts on other recipient countries.

"Obviously, we are not satisfied with the outcome . . . and we'll explore alternative ways of dealing with the situation," he said.

Announcement of the administration's decisions is expected on Monday, which is 30 days after the budget resolution approved by Congress became law.

Secretary of State George Shultz has expressed concern about the budget cuts, contending that the administration's foreign policy cannot function properly unless there are substantial resources to back it up.

A U.S. official, who asked not to be identified, said he believes that some of the countries with which the United States has base agreements will undergo the largest aid reductions.

Specifically, the official mentioned Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the Philippines. He added, however, that aid to virtually all of the 70 countries which take part in the military grant program or the foreign military credit sales program will be cut back.

Under base agreements signed with each country, the Reagan administration has pledged its best efforts to win from Congress \$910 million in military aid and so-called economic support funds for Turkey, \$412 million for Spain, \$205 million for Portugal and \$180 million for the Philippines.

In effect, the aid program is the "rent" the U.S. pays for the right to maintain forces at military bases in these countries.

Filipino labor leader: Guns may be required to guard democracy

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Thousands of demonstrators marched through downtown Manila on Sunday denouncing Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, and a labor official told them guns may be needed to protect democracy.

Nick Elman, an official of the leftist May 1st Movement labor union, said the 500,000-member union would strike nationwide Thursday to coincide with the funeral of its slain leader, Rolando Olalia, a supporter of President Corazon Aquino.

The union, the Philippines' largest, has also called for a general strike on Monday in Manila. "But it is not the workers alone but the whole population that must move, if necessary with guns, to defend democracy," Elman, a union secretary, told about 3,500 demonstrators.

The demonstrators chanted slogans accusing Enrile in last week's killing of Olalia. They shouted, "Welga, welga!" meaning "Strike, strike!" in Tagalog.

At a rally by about 15,000 people in downtown Manila on Sun-

day, Aquino said: "I want to be known as a leader of peace, but if there is no other choice, I am ready to lead a war."

Before his death, Olalia warned that his union would launch a general strike if the military attempted a coup. Rumors have been widespread that officers linked to Enrile planned to overthrow Aquino's government because of her peace overtures to communist rebels.

Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, the armed forces chief of staff, said on Sunday that Olalia's killing should not be "aggravated by hate and reddened with further bloodshed."

Presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno announced Sunday what he said were important leads in the killing. Olalia's body was found last Thursday off a highway in northeastern Manila.

Benigno said police have pieced together a composite picture of one of five men seen near Olalia's home before his disappearance Wednesday. Three vehicles used by the five have also been identified.

Discoveries offer promise of help for victims of Alzheimer's disease

BOSTON (AP) — Scientists are peeling away the mystery from Alzheimer's disease, with discoveries reported in recent days pointing toward the cause and perhaps the cure of the leading cause of senility among elderly Americans.

"We are at an exciting time in this research," said Dr. Andrew Monjan, acting chief of the neuroscience of aging branch of the National Institute on Aging. Potential causes and cures are getting closer, he said.

Three new pieces of work coming out last week were exciting, agreed Dr. Katherine Bick, deputy director of the National Institute for Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke.

"The data show that we haven't been barking up the wrong trees in a number of the areas that are being dealt with," she said. "But I don't think this is the last word on any of these things. We've just moved a step forward and now are going to be able to ask a few more sophisticated questions."

Alzheimer's disease destroys elderly people's memory, their speech, their mobility and even their ability to feed themselves. An estimated 2.5 million Americans have it, and 100,000 die from it each year.

Despite its prevalence, however, Alzheimer's disease is tough to recognize. Until now, there has been no clear hallmark of the disease. Diag-

nosing it amounts to ruling out illnesses with similar symptoms.

At a scientific meeting last week in Washington, Dr. Peter Davies of Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York told of tracking down a protein called A-68.

"The earlier we can intervene . . . the greater the likelihood that we can make an impact."

— Dr. Andrew Monjan, of the National Institute on Aging.

If this work holds up to further scrutiny, it could be the basis of the first test for Alzheimer's.

It appears as though large amounts of this protein occur in the brains of Alzheimer's victims but not in those of healthy people. This means it may be possible to diagnose the disease in its early stages with a spinal tap. Such early diagnosis will probably be essential if medicine is to be successful in stopping the disease before it destroys the brain.

Finding such a test has been a top goal of government-sponsored research, Monjan said.

"If we are able to come up with a treatment," he said in an interview,

"the earlier we can intervene in the development of the disease, the greater the likelihood that we can make an impact on the outcome of the disease."

No such cure exists for Alzheimer's disease, and none is imminent. But a new study suggests a possible way to at least relieve some of the worst symptoms. Dr. William K. Summers of the University of California, Los Angeles, last week published his experiments with a long-forgotten drug that seems to sharpen victims' memories.

While taking this drug, patients were able to help care for themselves, recognize relatives, and in less severe cases, even play golf or work part-time.

Summers is the only researcher to achieve success so far with this experimental drug, called tetrahydroaminoacrine, or THA. Monjan said the medicine will have to be subjected to more studies before experts can be certain it is truly effective.

Another thread of evidence revealed last week was the isolation of the gene responsible for a protein that may play a key role in Alzheimer's. This gene, found by Dr. Dmitry V. Goldhaber and colleagues from the National Institutes of Health, makes a protein that clogs the brains of people with the disease.

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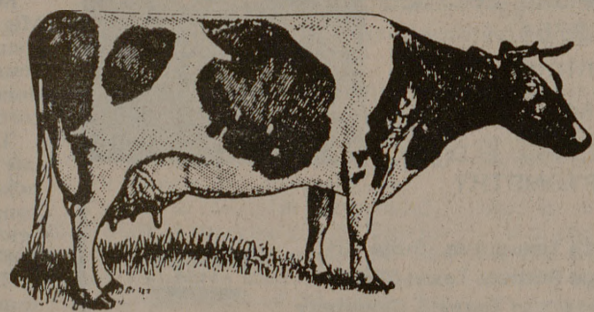
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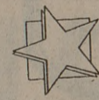


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