

Texas A&M
The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 57 USPS 045360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, November 18, 1986

U.S. has 'no plans' for more sales to Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Monday he has "absolutely no plans" to send more arms to Iran, although his spokesman said the president's authorization for the weapons shipments technically remains in effect.

As he posed for pictures at the start of a meeting with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Reagan was asked if there would be more U.S. arms shipments to Iran like those he confirmed last week after numerous published reports of secret U.S.-Iranian dealings.

"We have absolutely no plans to do any such thing," Reagan told re-

porters. Nor, he said, would he be firing Secretary of State George Shultz or any other top foreign policy advisers as a result of public controversy over the covert operation.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes, meanwhile, said Reagan had told him there would be no further arms shipments but that the "intelligence finding," a Jan. 17 document authorizing the weapons and spare parts sales, is technically "still in effect" because it carried no time limit and has not been rescinded.

The spokesman also said the Iranians paid cash for the military supplies they received under Reagan's

order, although neither the amount nor the precise weaponry supplied has been disclosed.

The Iranians long have been seeking a variety of weapons and spare parts for their U.S.-made planes and equipment ordered and paid for during the reign of the Shah of Iran, but whose delivery was blocked when the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was seized and Americans were taken hostage.

Speakes said that despite the halt in further arms shipments, which Reagan has said were intended to establish credibility with Iranians the United States was trying to court,

oral efforts to improve relations with moderate Iranian leaders may continue.

"Certainly we would like to continue our original goal, and that was to develop contacts with Iran so that we could deal with that country in the future," Speakes said. "We would be hopeful that we could, on some basis, continue our contacts in order to develop that and to work for a peaceful resolution to the Iran-Iraq war."

Asked about a suggestion by Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Said Rajaie Khorassani, that the United States must supply weap-

ons to Iran if it wants Iran to help win the release of Americans still held hostage in Lebanon, Speakes said: "We will not trade arms for hostages."

Khorassani, in an interview with IRNA, the official Iranian news agency, said Reagan had negotiated with Iran for release of hostages because of Tehran's "power and influence" over kidnap groups.

"The justification was that if the matter was to be solved through an influential mediator, Iran was the right choice, and, therefore, some of their demands, including the supply

of defensive arms to Iran, must be met," Irna quoted him as saying.

Reagan has insisted that although the United States sought Iranians' help in freeing the hostages as a measure of their willingness to deal with the United States, there was never a ransom paid for the three hostages who were released during the period the secret diplomacy and arms shipments were taking place.

On Sunday, Shultz said he would oppose sending more arms to Iran but that he spoke only for himself and not for the Reagan administration in that regard.



Photo by John Makely

Absolutely Floored

Rudy Vavra, an instructor at Texas A&M's College of Architecture, displays his floor collage, which is open for viewing

in Rudder Exhibit Hall until Nov. 26. It took Vavra 16 hours to create the collage, his fourth at A&M.

Council reviews public response to MSC program

By Olivier Uytendaele
Staff Writer

The MSC Council debated Monday whether it should respond to public and media criticism of a recent Political Forum program.

The day before the Nov. 4 election, Vice President George Bush, Gov.-elect Bill Clements, Sen. Phil Gramm and U.S. Rep. Joe Barton appeared at Rudder Auditorium for what has been criticized as a partisan political event titled "A Panorama of Republican Perspectives on Issues Facing the State of Texas."

"One of the confusions is that people think we programmed it to be a political rally when we didn't," said Allison Kruest, vice-president of the MSC Cultural Program Committee.

"I think we need to make it clear to people that we didn't," she said, "and if that takes some kind of response, it needs to be done."

Much of the discussion centered on how the MSC Council should respond, if at all, to critical newspaper editorials and a proposed Faculty Senate inquiry concerning the pre-election program.

MSC faculty adviser Sylvia Grider quoted an editorial in the Nov. 12 is-

sue of the Bryan-College Station Eagle.

In part, the editorial said, "For the students ramrodded into participating in this sham, the whole experience should prove to be a practical lesson in real-world cynicism."

She asked how the committee should respond to this and similar remarks in the press.

MSC faculty adviser Jim Edwards said it's the council's standard practice not to respond to criticism.

"From an administrative standpoint, I think you never really win by getting involved in debates in the newspaper," Edwards said.

"I personally would be inclined to respond to those kinds of things," he said. "I hate to see those kinds of things said about students."

Perry Eichor, executive vice president for administration, said he doesn't think the council is answerable to the Faculty Senate and it would be better to let the controversy pass without any response from the council.

"My concern with responding to the Faculty Senate or anybody like that is... we're going to reach a point where we feel like we have to start answering everybody who has a question about any kind of programming we do," Eichor said.

Churches pledge to continue quest to free hostages

LONDON (AP) — Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, flanked by three American former hostages, said Monday that news of secret U.S. arms supplies to Iran and arguments over it complicated his efforts to free other captives in Lebanon.

Waite addressed a crowded news conference after a meeting with the ex-hostages and with five American representatives from the Episcopal, Presbyterian and Baptist churches.

He denied he has been a tool of the U.S. administration and said he had been shuttling to and from the Middle East on hostage-release missions unaware of the arms supplies.

"We in the churches stand clearly together to continue our work no matter what comes our way," Waite said.

"But the revelation of that fact (arms supplies to Iran)... has at this point made the job of a mediator such as myself complicated," he said.

Waite acted in hostage negotiations as personal envoy of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie. Runcie accompanied him at the news conference.

The three ex-hostages, the Rev. Benjamin Weir, the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco and David Jacobsen, former head of the American University Hospital in Beirut, paid tribute to Waite and prayed for the release of remaining captives.

The meeting appeared mainly an attempt to refocus attention on humanitarian release efforts, which have been overshadowed by President Reagan's acknowledgment last week, after days of speculation, that he sent arms supplies to Iran.

Reagan denied the arms were a trade for hostages.

Waite said "the speculations of the past week" surrounding Reagan's disclosure mean that "from this point onward the task has been made immeasurably more difficult."

He said many of his contacts in

Lebanon "have now gone to ground and they may not surface again."

Asked if new initiatives emerged from Monday's meeting, Waite said there was nothing specific, but the churchmen and ex-hostages had a "great deal to talk about."

Waite and Runcie sought to distance church efforts from the maneuverings of politicians.

"At the international level governments always have, and no doubt will continue, to strike bargains both in secret and in public," Waite said.

"As a representative of the church, I would have nothing to do with any deal which seemed to me to breach the code to which I subscribe," he said.

Weir, 61, the first of the three American hostages freed by Islamic Jihad in Lebanon, was let go Sept.

See Hostage, page 8

Houston AIDS treatment center to lure patients from both coasts

AUSTIN (AP) — Because it has the only AIDS treatment and research institution between both coasts, Texas is fated to lure patients with the deadly acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a doctor says.

"Texas will become a focus for people with this disease because they have nowhere else to go," said Dr. Peter Mansell, medical director of the Institute for Immunological Disorders in Houston.

Mansell, who has spent almost five years researching AIDS and treating people who have the disease, said the only evaluation centers for the disease in the United States are on the East and West coasts and at the Houston facility.

Mansell was a featured speaker last week at a Texas Department of Health conference on AIDS.

Experts at the conference said the 27,500 AIDS cases reported nation-

wide — 1,704 in Texas — are expected to grow as high as 275,000 by 1991.

Few AIDS patients survive longer than 22 months after diagnosis of the disease, the experts said.

AIDS is transmitted sexually and

covery of a second strain of the deadly virus, said science may never find a cure for the disease.

"It isn't appropriate to frighten people about AIDS, but it is appropriate to be frightened," he said.

"Texas will become a focus for people with this disease because they have nowhere else to go."

— Dr. Peter Mansell, medical director of the Institute for Immunological Disorders in Houston

through contaminated blood, but not by casual contact, they said.

Most of the 15,000 people who have died have been homosexual males, but "it is evident that AIDS is leaking into the heterosexual population," Mansell said.

Mansell, who noted the recent dis-

"I think AIDS is something that is with us for the rest of time," he said.

Mansell said he was "constitutionally a pessimist," and his fear of there being no cure was disputed by Ann Rose, a science adviser at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rose said she believes that while no one drug might ever be able to cure AIDS, it eventually would be cured by several drugs in combination.

"At least that's what the current theories are," she said.

They also differed over the efficacy of AZT, or azidothymidine, an anti-viral drug recently shown to have cut the death rates in some patients.

"It is not a cure, but it prolongs the life of AIDS patients," she said.

While acknowledging that some patients at his Houston hospital are "already on AZT and many more want it" Mansell said the drug's success had been overblown and complications from it, such as severe anemia, underplayed.

"I don't mean to say that it's no good, but I don't think we know enough about it," he said.

News agency reports North Korean leader alive

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean President Kim Il Sung, said in some reports to have been slain in a shootout, greeted a Mongolian delegation at Pyongyang's airport, the official Chinese news agency Xinhua reported Tuesday.

If true, the Xinhua report from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, would dispel rumors about the fate of the 74-year-old leader.

The report was monitored in Tokyo. Japan's Kyodo News Service also reported at 7:31 p.m. CST Monday that Kim had "welcomed a Mongolian party delegation today on its arrival at Pyongyang Airport." Kyodo did not attribute its report.

South Korea's Defense Ministry reported Sunday in Seoul that broadcasts from North Korean loudspeakers along the demilitarized zone said Kim, leader of his country since it was created in 1948, had been killed in a shooting incident.

The arrival of the Mongolian delegation, led by Zhambyn Batmunkh, chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers, had been expected to provide some indication of Kim's status.

The news appears to lay to rest rumors not only of Kim's death but of a power struggle in the country of 19 million that shares the Korean peninsula with its arch-enemy South Korea.

On Monday, South Korean Defense Minister Lee Ki-Baek had told the National Assembly that "judging from all such circumstances, it is believed that Kim has died or (that) a serious internal power struggle is going on there."

According to reports in Seoul, Kim had set into motion plans to relinquish power to his 44-year-old son, Kim Jong Il, creating the first Communist dynasty.

The reports said senior military command-

ers in the north opposed the succession.

The elder Kim came to power in 1948 with the backing of the Soviet Union after the peninsula was divided at the end of World War II.

The 1950-53 Korean War deepened the acrimony between the two Koreas, and 40,000 American soldiers are based in South Korea to prevent a resumption of fighting.

Kim, known as "The Great Father Leader," created a personality cult unrivaled in the Communist world since the death of Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung in 1976.

Portraits of Kim hang in nearly every household and public building and a pilgrimage to his birthplace, Mangyongdae, has become an almost required ritual in North Korea.

Kim created one of the world's most closed societies.

No Western reporters are known to be based in Pyongyang.

An Austrian trade representative in Pyongyang, reached by telephone Monday from Peking, said "so far there has been no indication whatsoever" Kim was dead.

"There is no movement on the streets," Wolfgang Entmayer said. "I went through Pyongyang twice today, there was no sign of any military movements. . . . There was really nothing unusual. . . ."

Seoul also appeared normal, although national police were on special alert, and the South Korean military was on its usual high state of alert.

Reports that Kim was shot dead were denied by North Korean embassy officials in several places, including Peking and New Delhi, India.

"We know that President Kim Il Sung is working and healthy in North Korea," said Kang So Yong, the first secretary at the embassy in Peking. "That story is completely made up by somebody. It is not true."