

Texas A&M The Battalion

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National security adviser resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan's national security adviser resigned Tuesday, and a key operative who handled secret arms sales to Iran was fired as the administration disclosed that up to \$30 million of the money the Iranians paid for U.S. arms was diverted to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

Reagan, nonetheless, continued to defend his Iranian policy while admitting that one element of its implementation was seriously flawed and that he was not kept fully informed of his own aides' activities.

Congressional sources reported Tuesday that Sen. Phil Gramm was urging the administration to appoint

former Sen. John Tower of Texas to succeed Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter as national security adviser.

Tower said he had not been contacted by the administration and refused to say whether he would be open to taking the job as national security adviser.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that the first U.S.-sanctioned arms shipment to Iran took place in 1985 without Reagan's knowledge and was approved by the president only after the fact. Administration sources, speaking on condition they not be identified, said that Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, who was fired in the shakeup, gave

Israeli officials the go-ahead for that shipment on his own authority.

Reagan said he would name a commission to examine the role of his National Security Council staff, which directed the operation and has come under direct fire from the State Department for its operations, and the Justice Department will launch a full-scale probe of how the money was handled to determine whether federal crimes were committed in funneling money to the Contras at a time when Congress had banned direct U.S. military aid to them.

Reagan appeared in the White House briefing room on short notice

to announce he was permitting his chief national security adviser, Poindexter, to resign to return to the Navy, and that North, one of Poindexter's deputies, had been relieved of his duties on the National Security Council staff.

A knowledgeable source who declined to be identified by name said that North was questioned personally by Meese on Sunday in the attorney general's office.

The day before, sources said, North was questioned by a group of Justice Department lawyers for about 12 hours at his office in the Old Executive Office Building

across the street from the White House.

A White House aide close to North described the NSC officer as being in good spirits despite his dismissal.

"He's going to take his hits and support the president," said the aide, who insisted on anonymity.

Meese, following Reagan to the lectern, told reporters that, with North's knowledge, \$10 million to \$30 million collected from the Iranians for U.S.-shipped weapons was siphoned by Israeli middlemen and transferred to bank accounts set up by Contra rebels fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

House Majority Leader Jim Wright, D-Texas, said Meese told congressional leaders at a private White House briefing that negotiations were carried out by Israel and the Iranians to reach a price, which was greater than the cost to the U.S. government, Wright said Meese described at least one of the transactions this way: arms were sold to the Iranians for \$19 million, after which the CIA reimbursed the Pentagon \$3 million, covering its costs.

Of the \$16-million "residue," Wright said, some \$12 million was deposited in a numbered Swiss bank

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Aggies gear up for Longhorns with muddy, short-lived bonfire

Centerpole falls after 45 minutes

By Rodney Rather
Staff Writer

"When the bonfire burns, the bond lasts forever."

These words spoken by Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill may be true, but, as thousands of Aggies can testify, bonfire does not last forever. The 1986 bonfire blazed for less than an hour before the centerpole snapped and brought the whole structure to the ground in a shroud of sparks.

If the centerpole falls before midnight, A&M tradition proclaims, the Aggie football team also will fall to the University of Texas Longhorns. But the Twelfth Man spirit of the student body — not to mention the more alcoholic spirits present in many A&M student bodies — may generate enough heat to overcome this bad omen.

During those few moments while the bonfire stood upright, burning furiously, Sherrill confirmed what all true, maroon-blooded Aggies think.

"There's no question that what's happening today makes lots of people throughout the world very envious," he said.

Sherrill also explained how he saw the Aggie light when he first came to A&M in 1982.

"I had an opportunity to spend some time on the bonfire, and after that night, I learned a whole lot about the meaning here at A&M," he said.

In response to pre-game rhetoric from a few UT players who have bad-mouthed A&M in the media, receiver Shea Walker had a short reply.

"We don't do a lot of talking," Walker said. "We're going to do our part on the field."



The 1986 bonfire blazes Tuesday night. The bonfire fell after 45 minutes.

Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Israel says it transported arms to Iran

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel said today it shipped arms to Iran for the United States and that the Iranians paid for the weapons with money deposited directly into a Swiss bank account.

A statement read by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman said Israel did not handle any of the money.

The statement was issued after Shamir ended three hours of consultations late Tuesday night with his foreign and defense ministers, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin. It was the first acknowledgment of Israeli involvement in delivering weapons from the United States to Iran.

"Israel helped in transferring defensive weapons and spare parts to Iran according to a request by the United States," said the statement read by spokesman Avi Pazner.

"The payment was transferred by an Iranian representative directly to a Swiss bank, according to American instructions, without passing through Israel," the statement said.

It said Israel was surprised when U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III declared Tuesday that Israel relayed some of the money paid for the weapons to Nicaraguan rebels.

"Israel had no knowledge of this," read the statement. "It is clear that Israel was not and will not be prepared to serve as a channel for this."

President Reagan told journalists

Tuesday in Washington that he was not told all the details of the Iranian arms deal. Meese followed Reagan to the lectern in the White House briefing room and said that, with Lt. Col. Oliver North's knowledge, \$10 million to \$30 million collected from Iran was siphoned by Israeli middlemen and transferred to bank accounts set up by rebels fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

After the revelations in Washington, Shamir said on Israeli television that the United States should not blame Israel in the arms sale.

"I don't think there's anything to blame Israel for," he said. "It is not our policy to export arms to Iran, but sometimes there can be exceptions."

Israeli television said some U.S. officials appeared bent on creating the impression that Israel carried out the weapons deals behind Reagan's back.

Ze'ev Schiff, a respected military analyst for the newspaper Haaretz who returned from Washington this week, said: "We hear more and more voices in Congress and elsewhere saying 'You entangled us in an adventure.'"

Israeli sources in Jerusalem told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that Israeli officials suggested to the United States that they could act as a conduit for shipping U.S. weapons to Iran.

Pentagon wasn't advised on effects of arms proposals

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top military officer told Congress Tuesday the Pentagon wasn't consulted on the military effects of a major nuclear arms control proposal before President Reagan offered the plan to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Iceland summit.

The U.S. offer to eliminate all atomic-tipped nuclear missiles within a decade caused concern among U.S. military leaders, said Adm. William L. Crowe Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The proposal was discussed by Reagan and Gorbachev at their summit meeting in Reykjavik last month and is still under consideration at

ongoing nuclear arms reduction talks in Geneva, Crowe said.

During the 10 days before the meeting was announced, there were general discussions about various combinations of nuclear arms reductions, Crowe told the House Armed Services Committee.

"The general feeling was there would be some addressing of arms control issues at Reykjavik, but not much progress," he said.

But when Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., the panel's chairman, asked if the five-member Joint Chiefs, the nation's top military body, had studied the military impact of eliminating all nuclear missiles, Crowe said it hadn't.

"We didn't think the proposals at Reykjavik would go that far, that fast," Crowe said.

He said later: "If I knew then what I know now, I would advise the president differently."

The Pentagon is rushing to complete a study about the military effect of eliminating all nuclear weapons and expects to have it finished by mid-January, Crowe said.

Had the Pentagon known that the United States planned to propose eliminating all nuclear missiles within a decade, Crowe said, it would have put more effort into a detailed analysis of the effects.

Crowe said the Pentagon is not studying an even more sweeping proposal, reportedly considered in Iceland, involving the elimination by both superpowers of all nuclear weapons. That would also include bombers and atomic-tipped cruise missiles.

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2 students charged with theft of phone service

By Mona Palmer
Assistant City Editor
and
Ken Sury
Sports Editor

Texas A&M University Police charged two A&M students Tuesday with misdemeanor theft of service.

Rudy Velasquez, 22, and Robert Bostic, 21, both turned themselves in to the University Police. Velasquez was booked at 1 p.m. and Bostic was booked around 3:30 p.m. Both students allegedly charged \$20 to \$200 in long-distance service.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and University

Police, said MCI Telecommunications Corp. filed the complaints last week. He added that the police have three additional warrants to serve.

Charges are also pending against five members of the A&M football team, Wiatt said. He said Star Tel filed the complaints with the University Police Monday.

"A lot of people think 'Oh gee, you're not picking the athletes until Monday,'" Wiatt said. "But there are other factors. The kids picked up today and tomorrow had complaints filed against them last Thursday or Friday."

"On the athletes, these complaints were received yesterday (Monday) afternoon," he said. "They have to be processed, and with the holi-

days I do not look until Monday or Tuesday before those warrants will be issued and served."

In a statement Tuesday, University President Frank E. Vandiver wrote, "We certainly do not condone action such as that alleged against a few of our students, but we regard it as an individual problem rather than one that directly involves the institution. . . . We think it unfortunate — perhaps could even say unfair — that this particular company's officials have apparently decided it is to their advantage to make examples of athletes."

A&M head coach and athletic director Jackie Sherrill said Tuesday that he stood by Vandiver's statement and wouldn't comment further.

Holiday food poisoning can be avoided

By Mark Beal
Reporter

It's almost Thanksgiving, time to head home, watch football and stuff yourself silly. But public health officials warn that it's also time to watch out for food poisoning.

Dr. Leon H. Russell Jr., professor of veterinary medicine and veterinary public health at Texas A&M, says Thanksgiving's festive environment often creates the perfect atmosphere for harmful bacteria that breed in food.

"Holiday meals are the cause of a lot of food poisoning," Russell says. "People cook a bunch of food, maybe carry it a long distance, let it sit at room temperature, and then

put it in the refrigerator in big containers."

Such practices can allow the food to reach temperatures close to normal body temperature, which is also the ideal temperature for bacteria to multiply.

The result, he says, is that a lot of people end up being "sick as the devil" during the holidays.

No accurate figures are available because food poisoning is rarely reported unless there is a major outbreak, Russell says. But he estimates that instances of food poisoning probably double around holidays.

Russell says most cases of food poisoning in the United States are the result of one of three types of bacteria: clostridium perfringens,

salmonella and staphylococcus aureus.

The bacteria attack the body in two different ways.

Clostridium perfringens and salmonella cause an infection by reproducing inside the body.

Staphylococcus aureus (along with the less common but far more serious clostridium botulinum, which causes botulism) creates a toxin in the food that then poisons its host. In this case, it is the toxin — not the food itself — that causes the illness.

Russell says that after the onset of food poisoning, there isn't much that can be done except to "tough it out."

"Other than botulism . . . food poisoning is not that severe unless

the victims are at extreme ages . . . or have some other debilitating disease," he says.

He says food poisoning should run its course within 24 to 48 hours.

However, he does suggest that people who have been infected with salmonella take antibiotics since they can become a carrier and spread the bacteria to others for one or two weeks after they recover.

Russell says one guiding principle exists for the prevention of food poisoning: "Keep the food either hot or cold; the longer you leave it in between, the more danger there is of getting sick."

Russell says a turkey should never be left standing at room tempera-

ture or taken out of the refrigerator to thaw.

After it's cooked, it should be cut up rather than placed in the refrigerator as a whole; this allows it to cool quickly and gives the bacteria less time to multiply.

Other potential causes of food poisoning include inadequate cooking and poor personal hygiene.

He says the botulism toxin can easily be destroyed by heat, but that the staphylococcus toxin can't, so the organism must be killed before it