World and Nation

Senate begins probe of arms sales o Iran with deputy director for CIA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate vestigators quizzed the CIA's No. 2 n for four hours and subpoenaed uments around the country ursday in an expanding probe the secret sale of arms to Iran transfer of profits to Nicara-

With extraordinary security proions in effect, the panel heard st from unnamed U.S. officials inved in covert operations, then stioned CIA Deputy Director

Sen. David Durenberger, Rnn., chairman of the committee, d the witnesses were providing a ry candid response to the quess and a lot of helpful informa-

The information, he said, is ening more doors that we have to da subpoena through in order to pile) accurate information.

We have people flying around country this morning serving becomes for documents," he said. the document search has bee also a very, very important

Durenberger did not say what ments the committee was seek-But in Moultrie, Ga., Maule Airoft Corp. said it had received subnas for records on four aircraft m the U.S. attorney's office in con as well from the Senate com-

Billy Fallin, an attorney for the

Israel shipped arms to Iran to free captives, officials say

shipped U.S. weapons to Iran on the understanding that two kidnapped Lebanese Jews would be freed as part of an arms-for-hostages package, government officials said Thursday.

The Jewish captives were to be freed following the release of U.S. hostages held by pro-Iranian Lebanese militias, the govern-ment officials told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The United States has confirmed it secretly shipped arms to Iran but has denied that the main purpose was to win freedom for American hostages. But Israel's government has said the

tion, a long-distance disagreement

surfaced over the roots of the presi-

firm, said the subpoenaed payment dent's controversial Iranian arms policy. White House spokesman Larry Speakes said "we don't agree with" Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's contention that Rea-gan acted on bad advice when he de-ided there were represented of fi instructions and records of tele-phone calls between Maule and the buyers have been turned over to authorities as requested. "I'm not concerned about any wrongdoing on cided there were responsible offi-Within the Reagan administracials to deal with in Iran other than

the others still missing.

the "lunatics" who run the country. Reagan, embroiled in the most se-

hostage issue was decisive when it

agreed to send the weapons to

The officials told the AP that

Israel also hoped to receive infor-

mation on the fate of three sol-

diers who have been missing since

the 1982 Israeli invasion of Leb-

Fourteen members of Leb-anon's small Jewish community

have been kidnapped, and at least

three have been found killed. A group calling itself the Organiza-tion of the Oppressed on Earth

has claimed responsibility for the

killings and says it holds some of

fended his decision to sell arms to Iran as part of a secret diplomatic initiative to re-establish ties with the strategically-placed Persian Gulf nation. But he says he was unaware that money in connection with the sales was being funneled through a Swiss bank account to Contra rebels battling the Nicaraguan govern-

The money was made available at a time when direct and indirect government military assistance to the Contras was prohibited by law, and there was evidence that the Justice Department was looking into the operations of a privately financed support program for Contra rebels in

The president announced Tuesday that his administration would seek appointment of an independent council to probe the issue.

In Congress, House Democratic Leader Jim Wright of Texas and GOP Leader Bob Michel of Illinois announced they would oversee creation of a special, 15-member "blue ribbon panel" to coordinate the in-

Senate leaders agreed on a committee of their own to include 13 members, although a spokesman for GOP Leader Bob Dole said his boss and Democratic Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia had not yet concluded arrangements.





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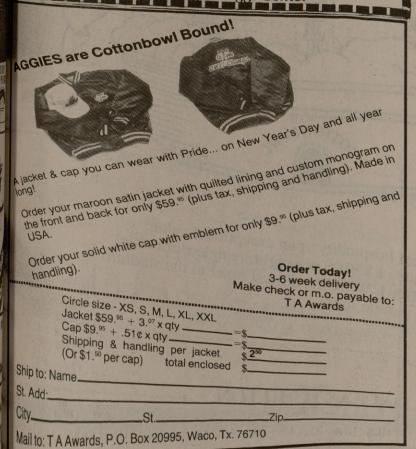
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