

# World and Nation

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate investigators quizzed the CIA's No. 2 man for four hours and subpoenaed documents around the country Thursday in an expanding probe into the secret sale of arms to Iran and transfer of profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

With extraordinary security provisions in effect, the panel heard first from unnamed U.S. officials involved in covert operations, then questioned CIA Deputy Director Robert Gates.

Sen. David Durenberger, R-Minn., chairman of the committee, said the witnesses were providing a very candid response to the questions and a lot of helpful information.

"The information, he said, is opening more doors that we have to send a subpoena through in order to compile accurate information." "We have people flying around the country this morning serving subpoenas for documents," he said. "So the document search has become also a very, very important part of this."

Durenberger did not say what documents the committee was seeking. But in Moultrie, Ga., Maule Aircraft Corp. said it had received subpoenas for records on four aircraft from the U.S. attorney's office in Macon as well from the Senate committee.

Billy Fallin, an attorney for the

### Israel shipped arms to Iran to free captives, officials say

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel 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 government 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 the American hostages. But Israel's government has said the

hostage issue was decisive when it agreed to send the weapons to Iran.

The officials told the AP that Israel also hoped to receive information on the fate of three soldiers who have been missing since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Fourteen members of Lebanon's small Jewish community have been kidnapped, and at least three have been found killed. A group calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth has claimed responsibility for the killings and says it holds some of the others still missing.

firm, said the subpoenaed payment instructions and records of telephone calls between Maule and the buyers have been turned over to authorities as requested. "I'm not concerned about any wrongdoing on our part," he added.

Within the Reagan administration, a long-distance disagreement surfaced over the roots of the presi-

dent's controversial Iranian arms policy. White House spokesman Larry Speakes said "we don't agree with" Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's contention that Reagan acted on bad advice when he decided there were responsible officials to deal with in Iran other than the "lunatics" who run the country.

Reagan, embroiled in the most se-

rious crisis of his presidency, has defended 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 government.

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 Nicaragua.

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 investigation.

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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