

World and Nation

Former Ohio legislator arrested by Nicaraguans for espionage

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — A U.S. congressman was arrested in Nicaragua and told authorities he worked for a group specializing in military espionage, Nicaragua's government said Sunday.

The leftist Sandinista government identified the man as Sam Nesley and said his case would be treated like that of U.S. mercenary Eugene Hasenfus.

Officials said that when Hall was arrested, at 10 a.m. Friday at Punta Prieta air force base, about 13 miles northeast of Managua, he was carrying maps and sketches of military targets stuffed in his shoes.

Reports in the United States said all, 49, is the brother of Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, and is himself a former Ohio state legislator and a one-

time Olympic diving medalist.

Government officials said Hall's presence could be seen as a preparation for a U.S. attack on Nicaragua.

Angela Saballos, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry, said, "He (Sam Hall) said he was working for an organization that . . . was specialized in intelligence and espionage on military objectives . . . and that he was working for the U.S. government interests."

State Department spokesman Bruce Ammerman said in Washington he had no confirmation of Hall's arrest.

"We hope that the government of Nicaragua will allow us access to the person arrested," he said.

Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Managua could not be reached immediately for comment.

In a statement released in Washington, Rep. Hall said, "I am surprised and concerned over press reports about my brother, Sam. I have received no confirmation from the State Department."

"I do not share the same views on U.S. policy in Central America as my brother does, but I love him and pray for his safety."

Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said Sam Hall would be investigated in the same manner as Hasenfus, who was sentenced to 30 years in prison last month.

Hasenfus, of Marinette, Wis., was on a weapons supply flight for U.S.-backed Contra rebels which was shot down.

Saballos said Hall's case was being investigated by the Interior Ministry's state security office, the same

agency that investigated Hasenfus. She said Hall probably would be brought before journalists this week.

D'Escoto told the official *Barri-cada* newspaper Hall came to Managua on a commercial flight from Honduras Wednesday and went by taxi to Punta Prieta.

The base, on a peninsula jutting into Lake Managua, accommodates "all types of military aircraft," the Defense Ministry said.

Reagan administration officials have said the base was built for Soviet-made MiG jet fighter planes.

D'Escoto said, after his arrest, Hall first identified himself as a writer, but then said he was an adviser to Miskito Indians fighting to oust the Sandinista government.

Draft damaged during takeoff for 10-day flight

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — The aircraft Voyager took off Sunday in the first attempt to fly around the world nonstop without refueling, but dragged and damaged the flexible wing on the runway.

Despite the damage, mission controllers told co-pilots Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager to continue, and they flew the ungainly airplane over the Pacific Ocean to begin what is expected to be a 10-day flight.

Voyager took off a few minutes after 8 a.m., using 14,000 feet of 15,000-foot dry lakebed paved runway before it lumbered into the air at 106 mph, its first takeoff with a full, 9,750-pound load of fuel and supplies.

"In good spirits," Yeager reported from the bathtub-sized cockpit after Voyager got off the ground. "If it were easy, it would have been done before."

The spindly twin-winged plane was loaded with 1,090 gallons of fuel for the 27,000-mile trip. It was that huge load in the plane's wing tanks that apparently caused both tips of the main wing to scrape the runway during taxiing.

The attempt to fly around the world nonstop, without refueling, is a feat regarded as one of the great goals in aviation.

"We've been waiting about six years for it," Rutan said Saturday. "This is the last first in aviation — atmospheric flight."

Dole urges Reagan to use new adviser for Iran affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole urged President Reagan on Sunday to let someone other than Chief of Staff Donald Regan advise him on the Iran-Contra affair, and a Democratic congressman accused the president of "stonewalling" the congressional investigation.

The pressure on Reagan to act more decisively in the crisis came amid reports that fired White House aide Lt. Col. Oliver North helped a conservative group's advertising campaign to gain support for Reagan's Nicaragua policy and target members of Congress on the Contra aid issue.

While others on Capital Hill have called for Regan's ouster, Dole recommended that former Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee or another respected lawyer be appointed as White House chief of staff on the Iran-Contra issue.

"What the president needs is someone to keep him advised," he

said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Dole said he had talked with Regan again Saturday and quoted the chief of staff as saying, "I'll tell you one thing — I'm not leaving the White House."

White House spokesman Peter Rousel said there had been no decision on whether to appoint a White House counselor to address the crisis.

Rousel said there had been no request for Regan to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee or other congressional committees.

White House communications director Patrick Buchanan, appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," defended Regan's description of North as a "national hero," saying, "I think the motivation of North in diverting those funds to Central America . . . certainly is superior to the motivation of some of the people who want to use this episode to cripple this president."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., Senate Intelligence Committee vice chairman, told reporters after appearing on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley," he was not surprised to hear of another American being detained in Nicaragua.

"We've been conducting the Central American policy with a wink and a shrug from our government, sending money down to the soldiers of fortune," he said.

Sen. David Durenberger, R-Minn., chairman of the intelligence panel, said he has more information about the Iran arms sales and payments to Contras than Reagan has.

Poindexter's predecessor, Robert McFarlane, said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the United States "got taken a little bit" in the Iranian arms deal because he found after personally delivering arms to Iran that the "moderate element" he was to negotiate with was "not yet strong enough to be able to act, to change policies, to really deliver."

Democrats push strong defense platform

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic elected officials who banded together after the party's disastrous defeat in the 1984 presidential election are trying to turn national defense into the issue that wins the White House for them in 1988.

The Democratic Leadership Council, created by moderate Southern and Western Democrats, is pushing a platform of strong defense and arms control as the solution to what they see as the party's image of weakness on defense.

Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said, "Clearly, a party that is perceived to be weak on defense is not going to elect a president."

Aspin's comment came last week in Williamsburg, Va., at a seminar on defense policy that was part of three days of council meetings aimed at forging a new message for the party as it heads toward 1988.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., said, "We've got to figure out a way to get more effective defense . . . out of less

money and that is not going to be easy."

The council outlined its new ideas in a report written by Nunn, Aspin and Sen. Al Gore, D-Tenn.

The report called for development of a new military strategy that would play to Western strengths and exploit Soviet weaknesses, require increased defense spending by American allies, and apply American technological prowess to conventional as well as strategic arms.

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