

World and Nation

Commission on arms sales gets extension of deadline for report

WASHINGTON (AP) — A commission investigating U.S. arms sales to Iran and National Security Council operations on Wednesday nailed down an appointment with President Reagan and won three more weeks to finish its work.

While the panel headed by former Sen. John Tower interviewed former President Jimmy Carter in Plains, Ga., White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan will meet with the commission next Monday.

Speakes said Reagan is expected to review White House files with counsel Peter J. Wallison before the session with Tower and two other panel members, former Secretary of State Edmund S. Muskie and former national security adviser Brent Scowcroft.

Reagan is expected to answer questions about his recollections of how the program of clandestine arms sales transpired, Speakes said.

The three-member board was named by Reagan on Dec. 1 — less than a week after Attorney General Edwin Meese III revealed that some proceeds from the arms sales had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels. It was directed to report by Jan. 29 on the role of the National Security Council staff in carrying out sensitive diplomatic and intelligence missions such as the secret arms deals.

Speakes said the deadline was extended to Feb. 19 at the board's request "due to the large amount of ...

documents that the White House and others have provided them" and the need to interview more witnesses.

Spokesman Herbert E. Hetu said the panel plans meetings later this week with former presidents Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford.

Reagan held his second meeting Wednesday with David Abshire, the retiring U.S. ambassador to NATO, whom he called home to serve as his special counselor on the arms sales issue. Abshire was scheduled later Wednesday to meet privately with Sens. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, and Warren Rudman, R-N.H., the chairman and vice-chairman of the Senate select committee probing the Iran-Contra affair.

In response to questions, Speakes said White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan did not attend Reagan's separate meetings with Wallison and Abshire.

Some members of Congress have

questioned whether Regan played a role in the behind-the-scenes Iran arms operation, and there have been some calls for his resignation. But the chief of staff has remained on the job with the backing of Reagan.

Speakes said no decision had been made on whether the president would have a lawyer or other aides with him in the meeting. He said it would be up to the board whether to include a transcript of the meeting in its report. Hetu said the board does not plan to include transcripts of its interviews.

Reagan maintains that the arms shipments to Iran, despite an embargo on arms shipments to that country during the Iran-Iraq war, were an effort to encourage good relations with Iranian moderates who were also being encouraged to work for the release of American hostages held in Lebanon.

Lawsuit called gander slander by attorney

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A woman is suing Burt Reynolds for \$52,000 after an encounter with a goose at the actor's petting zoo that she says left her with a fractured vertebra.

Selma Binderman, 67, accuses Reynolds of negligence in a civil suit, which went to trial Tuesday in Palm Beach.

Binderman was hospitalized for five days in December 1984 after she tried to escape the attacking goose at the zoo in Jupiter, about 15 miles north of West Palm Beach, the lawsuit said.

"The goose kept coming, and she kept backing up," her lawyer, George Vogelsang said.

But Alan Espy, attorney for Reynolds, calls that gander slander.

"The evidence will show that the goose was the attackee, not the attacker," Espy said.

"By her (Binderman's) own admission, she is not very fond of animals," Espy told jurors.

Reynolds, who is not expected to attend the trial, offered to settle out of court for \$36,500.

Zulu group blamed for 12 killings

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Assaults burst into a home in a black township near Durban on Wednesday and opened fire with automatic weapons, killing 12 people. Seven of the victims were children.

Officials of the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid coalition accused the Zulu movement Inkatha of attacking the home of Willie Ntuli, father of a prominent UDF member, in revenge for recent killings of Inkatha followers.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of Inkatha and chief minister of the KwaZulu homeland, said in a statement the deaths were probably a continuation of the violent feuding between rival black groups in the Natal province. Much of that fighting has been between Inkatha and the UDF.

Durban police spokesman Charl du Toit said Ntuli, 50, was among

the victims and five of the children killed by the unidentified gunmen were aged 7 or younger.

Maj. du Toit said two people were wounded by the spray of fire from AK-47 assault rifles.

A 10-year-old boy escaped injury by hiding in a closet, but four of his brothers and sisters were killed, du Toit said.

He said police were using tracker dogs to hunt the killers in the Kwa-Makhuta black township near Amanzimtoti, 15 miles south of Durban.

It was one of the worst reported instances of violence in months.

More than 2,200 people have been killed in political and racial unrest since September 1984.

The government declared a state of emergency last June and imposed restrictions on journalists.

Limits later were broadened to ban or restrict reporting about unrest, security force actions, treatment of detainees, most forms of peaceful protest and statements that the government considers subversive.

Joseph Gumbi, an official of the anti-apartheid coalition in Durban, said Ntuli's son Vincent is a leading member of the Kwa-Makhuta Youth League, which is affiliated with the United Democratic Front.

He said Vincent probably was the main target, but he went into hiding last week and was not in the house.

Vincent Ntuli returned to his father's house Wednesday afternoon after learning of the killings. Journalists at the scene reported he was taken away by security police.

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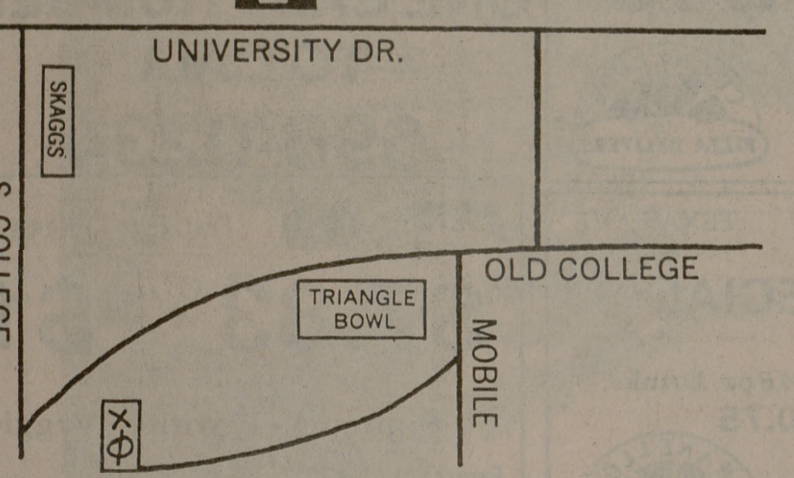
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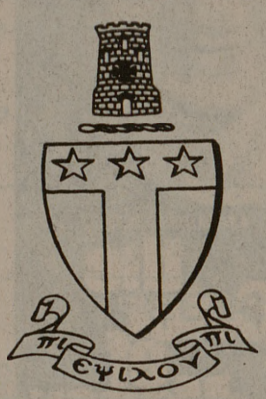
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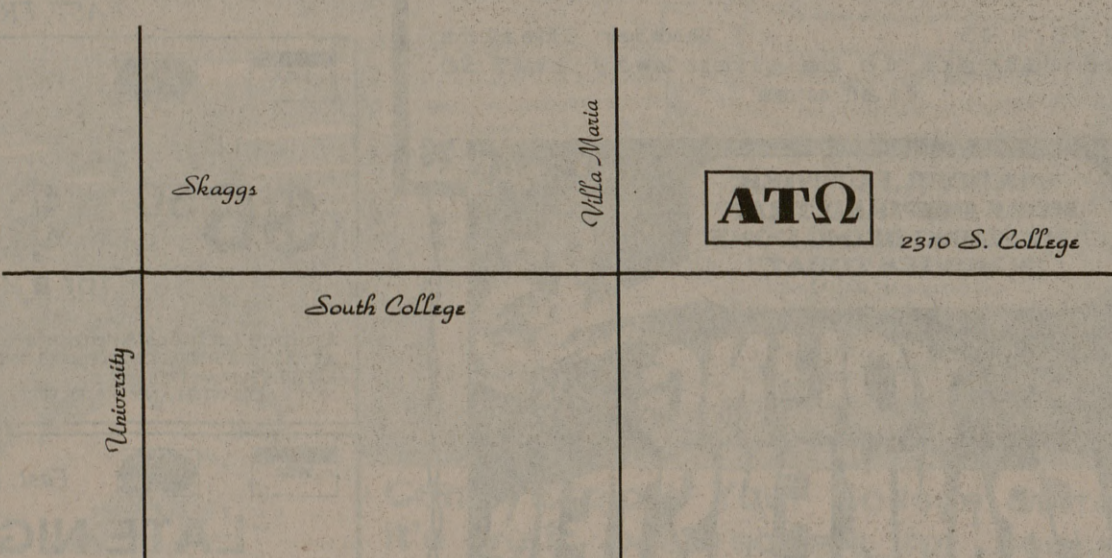
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