

World and Nation

Memo says U.S. sought arms deal with radicals

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Israeli official told Vice President George Bush last July that deals for the sale of U.S. arms were being sought with Iranian radicals, a secret memo says, contradicting claims by President Reagan that the administration dealt only with so-called moderates.

"We are dealing with the most radical elements..." the Israeli told Bush according to the memorandum, first reported in Sunday's editions of the *Washington Post*. "They can deliver... that's for sure... We've learned they can deliver and the moderates can't."

The memo, written by a Bush aide, said Israeli contacts with Iran were aimed in part at freeing Americans held in Lebanon. And it shows a more active Israeli role than Jerusalem has acknowledged in the U.S.-Iran arms dealings.

Stephen Hart, a spokesman for Bush, would not comment on the memo beyond saying it is authentic.

In other news related to the sale of U.S. arms to Israel and the diversion of the proceeds to the Nicaragua

Contra rebels:
 • William Casey, the former director of the CIA, was closely involved with Lt. Col. Oliver North, the fired National Security Council adviser, in efforts to supply military help to the Contras while such assistance was banned by Congress, according to a report in Sunday's *Miami Herald*.
 • North met several times with a wealthy Connecticut woman who bankrolled at least part of a pro-Contra lobbying drive, the woman, Barbara Newington of Greenwich, Conn., said. The meetings suggest a close link between North and the efforts of Newington's friend, Carl "Spitz" Channell, to put together a costly public relations blitz.

Channell, through a network of conservative groups he controls, financed speaking trips by Nicaraguan rebels and a television ad campaign of at least \$1 million that targeted congressional opponents of President Reagan's plan to give \$100 million in military and other aid to the Contras. The source of the funding has come into question, with con-

gressional and federal investigators examining a report in the *Lowell (Mass.) Sun* that North provided profits from Iranian arms sales for the campaign.

The secret memorandum provides details of a July 29 meeting between Bush and Amiram Nir, terrorism adviser to Shimon Peres, then the Israeli prime minister, held at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

Marlin Fitzwater, Bush's spokesman at the time of the vice president's meeting with Nir and currently Reagan's spokesman, declined to comment on the memo.

Reagan has repeatedly insisted that dealings with Iran were aimed at establishing contacts with so-called moderates in Tehran. In his State of the Union address Jan. 27, the president for the first time acknowledged a link between the contacts with Iran and the American hostages, saying, "Certainly it was not wrong to try to secure freedom for our citizens held in barbaric captivity."


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60-day truce terminated in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A 60-day truce with Communist rebels formally expired Sunday without hope of extension, and the government said it would step up military patrols while pursuing peace talks on a regional level.

A rebel umbrella group urged its members to "wage militant and unremitting struggles on all fronts." Some groups have said they opposed regional talks.

The head of the committee that monitored compliance with the cease-fire urged President Corason Aquino to intervene to prevent a civil war.

The truce had paved the way for peace talks in January, but the negotiations were suspended indefinitely on Jan. 30 after the rebels accused the government of acting in bad faith.

The government responded by saying it would not agree to an extension of the cease-fire unless the rebels agreed to resume "substantial negotiations" to end the 18-year insurrection.

The rebels said new talks would be fruitless because the new constitution, approved last week, imposed too many limitations on what is negotiable.

In announcing the end of the truce, chief government negotiator Teofista Guingona blamed "a hardline posture of a few Communist leaders."

Weinberger presses phased deployment for 'Star Wars' project

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz said Sunday a decision on early deployment of "Star Wars" would not come soon, although his remarks were made as Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger continued to press for phased deployment of the antimissile shield as quickly as possible.

Shultz, speaking on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley," said the sophisticated defense system should not be started "until you are clear and confident about what you — where you're going."

"So that's where we stand," Shultz said. "And so there isn't any early deployment decision in the offing."

Shultz said President Reagan's position on early deployment was that "it's not possible to make any such decision this year or next year." Shultz said he was echoing remarks made by Weinberger in a taped interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

However, Weinberger's comments in the BBC interview appeared to refer to the actual phased deployment of Star Wars, not the specific decision on early deployment.

"We don't really know," the defense secretary said, when asked about a timetable. "We know we can't do it now. We know we can't do it next year. But we also know that it takes a fair amount of time to plan

anything as important and far-reaching as that."

Weinberger also repeated his position that "I want to deploy it. I believe the president wants to deploy, just as soon as we can."

Shultz defended a broad interpretation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the Soviet Union as necessary for further Star Wars testing, which is needed for deployment.

However, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., reiterated his warning that a unilateral reinterpretation of the treaty by the Reagan administration would jeopardize congressional funding of the missile shield.

Weinberger, in the BBC interview, said the United States is not yet ready to make a final decision. During congressional hearings last week, he said the Pentagon was "close to being able to recommend deployment decisions" to President Reagan.

He told the BBC that, following the presidential decision, the first phase of Star Wars, formally known as the Strategic Defense Initiative, could be deployed "somewhere in the 1993-1994 range."

Star Wars is an effort to develop lasers and other types of exotic weapons that could be deployed in space or on the ground to shoot down nuclear missiles fired at the United States or its allies.

Proposed cuts in education blamed on college dropouts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Education Secretary William Bennett, defending plans to make major budget cuts in higher education, claims that colleges are unproductive because half of all college students drop out.

But educators call his criticisms misleading and inappropriate, and there appear to be no statistics that entirely support Bennett's claim.

"We are concerned about productivity," Bennett told a House Appropriations subcommittee last Wednesday.

"Almost half the students who enter four-year programs... do not complete those four-year programs," he said. "We think that's a problem."

A day earlier, after making the same point to the House Budget Committee, he asked, "What kind of movie is it we're running that people want to leave halfway through?"

An incomplete analysis by the de-

partment's Office of Educational Research and Improvement indicates that 50 percent to 60 percent of students who started four-year programs in 1980 graduated at the end of four years, with others presumably finishing their degrees later.

A consultant hired to analyze the same data found that 42 percent of students who started two- and four-year programs in 1980 finished them in four years — compared with 51 percent in 1976.

And 26 percent had dropped out in 1984, compared with 19 percent in 1976.

Jay Noel, a program analyst in the department's planning and evaluation service, said those numbers show a "deterioration of college attendance, graduation and completion" that concern Bennett.

However, Noel did not have numbers just for the four-year programs Bennett mentioned to Congress.

Noel also said Bennett may have been thinking of another educational research office study — this one showing that there were 1.9 million first-time college enrollees in 1980 and about half that many bachelor's degrees awarded four years later.

The ratio backs up Bennett's completion rate, but not his growing concern — because it has been virtually the same for 30 years.

"I'm astonished," Noel said when told this.

Educators like to cite another educational research office study, this one of 1972 high school graduates who entered college immediately and finished.

The November 1986 study found that 49 percent finished in four years and another 27 percent in five.

The rest took six to 11.5 years to earn their degrees.

U.S. 'careless' in keeping secrets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite a flurry of serious spy cases in recent years, the U.S. intelligence apparatus is almost lackadaisical about guarding the nation's most sensitive secrets, according to a new congressional assessment.

The House Intelligence Committee, in terms far more harsh than those used by its Senate counterpart in a similar report last year, found "a litany of disaster" and called for major overhauls reaching deep into the counterspy bureaucracy.

"Our hope is that the criticisms will be taken as drawing attention to something that needs to be im-

proved," said Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, the new chairman of the committee. "We hope the executive branch will clean up its act."


Among the panel's findings were:
 • Carelessness in hiring for sensitive intelligence posts. For example, the CIA hired Edward Howard despite "an extensive history of using hard drugs." Howard seriously damaged the agency's operations in Moscow by giving secrets to the Soviets.
 • Failure to take seriously the implications of the arrests of 27 U.S. citizens for spying from 1984 to 1986.

• A relaxation of strictures that should govern the most highly classified information. "There seems to be a widespread attitude within some U.S. intelligence agencies that once an employee has been granted a Top Secret clearance... strict adherence to the 'need-to-know' principle is not required," the panel said.
 • Relatively indiscriminate issuance of security clearances. Of 200,000 applications for Top Secret status in 1984, only 1 percent were denied. Currently more than 5 million Americans hold some level of security clearance. "The chances of a few spies having received clearances among so many are high," the report states.

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