

# World and Nation

## Khomeini declares Iran will continue war with Iraq until victory

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini declared Tuesday that Iran's long conflict with Iraq is a holy crusade and his fundamentalist regime will make "war until victory."

The 86-year-old Shiite Moslem patriarch delivered his first public speech in nearly three months on the eve of the eighth anniversary of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's fall from power.

There have been rumors that Khomeini is in poor health, but his voice was strong and steady during the 17-minute address broadcast by Tehran radio.

Khomeini said Iran was battling for a "divine cause" in the war, which began in September 1980 with an invasion by Iraq.

Iraq and Iran have pounded each other's cities with air raids, artillery and missiles recently. Thousands of civilians have been reported killed or wounded.

Mass rallies are planned for today to mark the anniversary of

the dissolution of Parliament on Feb. 11, 1979, less than two weeks after Khomeini's triumphal return from a month-long exile.

Tuesday's speech was the first public address by Khomeini since Nov. 20, when he condemned Iranian officials who wanted contact with the United States, a reference to the Iran-Contra arms deal.

Before Khomeini spoke on Tuesday, President Ali Khamenei said Iran does not want to widen the war and seeks to expand "brotherly relations with its neighbors."

"Iran is interested in assuring the security of the region in cooperation with all Persian Gulf countries," the official news agency quoted him as saying at an anniversary ceremony in Tehran.

He also issued this warning to countries that provide arms or other aid to Iraq: "We identify our enemies and our friends, especially in these fateful days."

## Reagan refuses to order former aides to testify before investigation board

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan has refused to order former aides John M. Poindexter and Oliver North to appear before the board Reagan named to review the Iran-Contra affair, the White House said Tuesday night.

Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said presidential counsel Peter Wallison told former Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, that commanding appearances by Poindexter and North before the panel would compel the pair "to testify against themselves."

Tower had written Reagan on Feb. 4, asking the president to use his authority as commander-in-chief to order Poindexter, a vice admiral, and North, a Marine lieutenant colonel, to testify to the three-member panel. Both Poindexter and North have returned to active military duty.

Fitzwater disclosed the refusal not long after the White House made available to members of the Tower commission a series of typewritten transcripts of notes that Reagan kept on meetings involving the secret sales of U.S. arms to Iran.

In his letter to Tower, dated Feb. 6, Wallison said that Fitzwater said in a statement that both North and Poindexter "have a constitutional protection against self-incrimination under Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

Poindexter resigned and North was fired last Nov. 25 — the same day that Attorney General Edwin Meese III revealed on national television that millions of dollars in profits from the sales of U.S. weapons to Iran had been diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras.

Subsequently, both North and Poindexter returned to active duty roles in the military, and both refused to testify before congressional committees, invoking their Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination.

Fitzwater said that in rejecting Tower's request to produce Poindexter and North, "the White House counsel relied upon a written opinion from the general counsel of the Department of Defense, who con-

firmed earlier oral advice on this matter when similar issues were raised in December."

In his reply to Tower, Wallison noted that Reagan recently had "made clear his desire that both Poindexter and North cooperate fully with all ongoing inquiries, consistent with their rights."

The presidential counsel also reminded Tower that Reagan had proposed last month that the Senate Intelligence Committee grant limited use immunity to Poindexter and North "so the facts would be known without precluding prosecution based on other evidence."

Meanwhile, Reagan met with Wallison and with David Abshire, his special counsel on the Iran-Contra matter, in preparation for a question-and-answer session the president is scheduled to have today with members of the panel.

In describing the arrangement through which the White House made Reagan notes available to the commission members Tuesday, Fitzwater said the board "gave the dates that they were interested in, meet-

ings and so forth." He said the president "provided the excerpts which were typed up and presented to the (board's) staff."

Reagan "made the initial selection" of what notes to provide to the panel, Fitzwater said, adding that the president did not decline to provide anything that was requested.

The White House said late Tuesday that Reagan's staff and the Tower panel had reached "a negotiated agreement" in which the notes would be delivered to the board and then returned.

That scenario was played out Tuesday, the White House said. It also said in a statement that "the notes will undoubtedly be discussed in the Tower board report, but they will not be published."

In another development Fitzwater said McFarlane, after leaving the White House in December 1985, continued to have use of a computer terminal in his home linked to the White House. His home also was equipped with a White House telephone and a safe for storing the keyboard and any printed material run off from the computer, the spokesman said.

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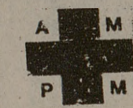
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