

## World and Nation

# Computer system's sale to Iran OK'd by council

### NSC overrules objections from Weinberger

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan's National Security Council has approved the sale of a \$900,000 computer system to Iran, industry and administration officials said Tuesday.

The approval represents the first major U.S. transaction involving Iran since disclosures in late 1986 that the administration had been secretly selling arms to Iran.

Analysts suggested the move underscored a growing sensitivity on the part of the Reagan administration to problems faced by U.S. manufacturers of high-technology goods as they seek to compete in overseas markets.

The NSC had been asked to referee a high-level dispute within the administration over the sale.

Administration officials said the council ruled late last week in favor of Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige and Secretary of State George Shultz — and against De-

fense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Approval of the sale of the computers, described as relatively unsophisticated devices to be used in an electric power grid, had been opposed by Weinberger on grounds the United States should not be providing any aid to the Iranian regime. Spokesman Robert Sims said Weinberger feels "it is not in our interest to sell Iran any equipment except for humanitarian grounds."

Baldrige and Shultz contended the computer involved — the PDP-11 manufactured by Digital Equipment Corp. of Maynard, Mass. — had no military application.

A spokesman for Digital, Jeffrey Gibson, said the company was notified last Friday of the NSC action.

He said a second proposed sale involved in the dispute, a \$30,000 computer add-on memory system intended for the Iranian news agency, apparently still is awaiting NSC action.

It was requested by an affiliate Swiss company, Brown, Boveri & Co., which has incorporated the digital units in a system it plans to sell Iran for monitoring electric power generation.

The computer units are already in Switzerland, Gibson said. But under various trade agreements, the equipment could not be shipped from Switzerland to Iran without approval of the U.S. government.

Last month, Baldrige told a Senate Banking subcommittee he was baffled by Weinberger's opposition to the sale, saying the computer issue "have technologies that are eight to 10 years old."

Baldrige said in an interview "we should not put the very companies that we're counting on for an increase in technology at a disadvantage by unilaterally controlling products that the rest of the world doesn't."

# Senate panel OKs limited immunity for former adviser

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate panel investigating the Iran-Contra affair voted Tuesday to grant limited immunity to President Reagan's former national security adviser, Rear Adm. John M. Poindexter, opening the way for him to break his silence.

Poindexter, 50, one of the key figures in the affair, resigned as Reagan's national security adviser last Nov. 25 after Attorney General Edwin Meese III disclosed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to help the Nicaraguan rebels.

Because Poindexter, in his job, had been seeing Reagan each day, he has been regarded as the prime witness concerning what the president may or may not have known of the apparent diversion of the money.

Meanwhile, a top Pentagon official said the Defense Department now believes a secret Army unit, established and shut down in 1983, opened a hidden Swiss bank account that could have been used later to support the Contras.

The official, who commented on condition he not be named, said the Pentagon suspects Lt. Col. Oliver North and retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard Secord might have had access to the account.

North and Secord are already under investigation for their roles in the sale of arms to Iran and the al-

leged diversion of profits from those transactions to the Contras.

The Pentagon disclosures followed a report by CBS News Monday night detailing what the network said was a secret account maintained at the Credit Suisse Bank in Geneva. The network reported that in 1985, during the period when U.S. military aid to the Contras was banned by Congress, \$2.5 million was withdrawn from the account and \$75,000 of it used to charter a ship that ferried arms to the Contras.

Robert Sims, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said neither Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger nor Secretary of the Army John Marsh "approved or authorized anything remotely like the activities described in the report."

As for Poindexter, Reagan's former national security adviser repeatedly has invoked his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination in declining to testify before congressional committees.

The limited grant of immunity from prosecution would compel Poindexter's testimony in exchange for a guarantee that his words could not be used against him in a later criminal prosecution.

Poindexter still could be prosecuted on evidence Walsh gathered independently.

The House committee investigating the matter is expected to vote to grant him limited immunity today.

# Giant pandas to be shown at Bronx Zoo

NEW YORK (AP) — The Bronx Zoo is bracing for a human stampede it expects to follow the arrival of two giant pandas.

The zoo expects as many as 1 million people will come to see Ling Ling and Yong Yong, sent by China and on display April 30 through July 31.

The beloved but endangered panda is "the Rembrandt of the animal world," said William Conway, general director of the New York Zoological Society, which runs the zoo.

Tickets to see the pandas — only one will be on display each day — will be designated for specific hours to ease congestion. Conway said, estimating that up to 1,800 people will get to see the pandas every hour.

The pandas will be in an open, about 75 feet by 45 feet and filled with bamboo, trees and various flora.

Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Chinese effort to protect the pandas, which occur naturally only in China. Only about 700 remain in the wild.

The pandas arrived Saturday from China, and were placed in quarantine for 10 days.

Ling Ling, a male, was born at the Beijing Zoological Gardens on Sept. 5, 1985, and weighs 110 pounds. Yong Yong, a female, was rescued as an abandoned infant in the wilds of Sichuan Province.

Estimated to be 5 1/2, she weighs 187 pounds.

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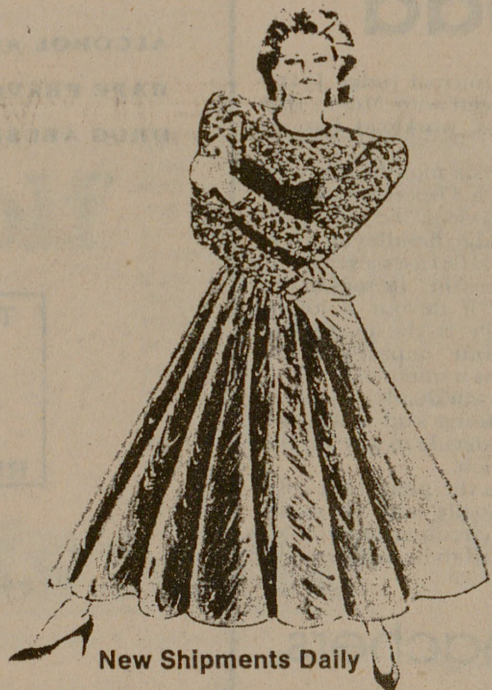
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# WANTED:

# Video Aggieland Editor applicants

**Application forms:** Available 8 a.m. 5 p.m. Journalism Department office, Room 230, Reed McDonald Building.

**Deadline:** Return to Room 230 by 5 p.m. Monday, April 27.

**Job Interviews:** At Student Publications Board meeting starting 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, in Room 215 Reed McDonald Building.

**Requirements:** Must have strong interest in video and be currently enrolled student at Texas A&M University, and continue enrollment throughout job tenure from June 1, 1987, through end of Spring Semester 1988. Current GPR of 2.0 both overall and in major, and necessity of maintaining that average throughout job tenure. Willingness to devote time and effort necessary to plan, staff, and produce a master videotape of a year's campus life at Texas A&M University, which can be used to reproduce saleable tapes for students and others.

**Suggested strengths:** Widespread and up-to-date interest in campus life and all activities at the University; experience and/or training in management/administration; experience and/or training in planning; experience and/or training in video production work, both field and post; experience and/or training in video editing.

**Responsibilities:** Will include but not be restricted to selecting and hiring student staff; planning year's shooting schedule; setting budget (within pre-set limits) for staff and other activities; overseeing shooting of all film necessary for a tape of 60-90 minutes; overseeing editing of raw tape and adding necessary background sound and technical devices for finished film.

**Technical assistance:** As available, Journalism Department faculty and staff and Student Publications staff will assist in all management and technical operations as requested.