

World and Nation

Secord accounts for \$3.5 million in profits from Iranian arm sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord, leading off the congressional Iran-Contra hearings on Tuesday, traced profits from secret Iranian arms sales to Nicaraguan rebels and declared Reagan administration officials supported his efforts to help the Contras.

Breaking months of silence, Secord told the nationally broadcast, joint House-Senate hearing that about \$3.5 million in profits from the arms sales was diverted to the Contras through a Swiss bank account controlled by him and an associate.

He said he discussed his activities on three occasions with then-CIA Director William Casey and frequently was in contact with Lt. Col. Oliver North, the fired White House national security aide, and with other administration officials — all at a time Congress had banned military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Secord, during the first public sworn testimony linking the Iran arms sales with money for the Contras, said he "understood that this administration knew of my conduct and approved it."

President Reagan, meanwhile, said, "I'm waiting to hear as much as anyone else."

He denied anew that he had known of any illegal fund raising or diversion of money.

Secord, expected to be giving testimony for the rest of the week, was the first of as many as 50 witnesses who will appear during the hearings, which are scheduled to stretch into July.

Secord, testifying without the grant of limited immunity given to some other witnesses, had refused to appear before earlier congressional investigations, citing his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Committee leaders have said they expect to use the hearings to lay out in great detail the se-

cret network that they believe North helped set up for the Contras.

They also expect to reveal the deepening sense of frustration that led the Reagan administration to sell arms to Iran in hopes of winning the release of American hostages held in Lebanon.

Secord said North recruited him, noting a Nov. 19, 1985, memorandum on White House stationery saying, "Your discreet assistance is again required in support of our national interests." Secord said North had signed the memorandum on behalf of then-White House National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

These actions took place after a congressionally imposed ban on U.S. military aid to the Contras had taken effect and at a time the president was asking U.S. allies to refrain from dealing with Iran and other nations the administration had said were fostering terrorist activities.

Alien applicants trickle into offices on opening day

(AP) — The first wave of hopeful aliens picked up amnesty application forms Tuesday, but it was far from a stamped-on the opening day of a year-long federal program offering citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Although as many as 100 applicants were in line at midnight in Harlingen, the few who appeared at the Immigration and Naturalization Service center in Arlington, Va., were nearly outnumbered by reporters and photographers.

"How do I apply?" was the most frequent question, said Doug Brown, officer in charge of the INS office in Albuquerque, N.M.

Richard Casillas, INS district director in San Antonio, said, "People will get courage when they see we are treating them humanely, with compassion, as they come in. The word is going to get out that we are not going to use this procedure to deport people."

Those eligible for amnesty must have arrived in the United States before Jan. 1, 1982, and maintained their residence here continuously since then. The application fee is \$185 per adult and \$50 per child, with a maximum of \$420 per family.

The INS estimates that 3 million people are eligible.

In El Monte, Calif., the INS office had received only about 400 applications and ran out within 50 minutes. A computer breakdown delayed the first interviews at the office by half an hour.

Ruben Martinez of West Covina, one of the first applicants, said, "It's ridiculous. The first day, and they don't have the forms."

Rigoberto Beltran, 25, a Salva-

doran who has lived in the United States since 1980, arrived at the Tucson center at 6 a.m., expecting at least a few people. There was no waiting line.

Gloria Marte, a native of the Dominican Republic who handed in the first completed application at the INS center in Hialeah, Fla., said, "Thank God that we have been given this opportunity and that we will be able to know that we can stay here."

She said she has worked as a domestic since overstaying her visa nine years ago. INS supervisor Eric McLeod said the woman and her 16-year-old son might receive their work permits as early as Tuesday.

Director Richard Smith of the Seattle INS office said he expected only 100 to 150 people to come in Tuesday.

John Rebsamen, of Decatur, Ga., said, "In the beginning it will be a slow takeoff. They have been dodging us for years."

Rebsamen said his INS office handled about 50 applications by late Tuesday morning.

Jose Zeferino, 34, a native of Brazil, waited through the night for the INS office in Arlington to open. He had contacted a lawyer, who wanted \$2,000 for his advice, so Zeferino decided to try the process on his own.

"I have all the papers they ask for," he said. But the four-page application form caught him by surprise; he said he hadn't realized he would have to complete it before proceeding.

In El Paso, about 50 people protested with placards and red flags, saying the amnesty program is unfair to many illegal immigrants.

Stamp price to increase by next year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cost of mailing a letter will jump to a quarter sometime next year, and most other postage rates also will rise under a new rate structure proposed Tuesday by the U.S. Postal Service.

The Postal Service Board of Governors voted 5-1 for the new rates, an increase that will average 16 percent over all classes of mail.

Deputy Postmaster General Michael Coughlin said it probably would be about a year before new rates could take effect. He said the rate increases, which have been under discussion for several months, are being proposed now because of the lengthy legal processes required to raise postage prices.

South African blacks demonstrate against Botha's white elections

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — On the eve of white parliamentary elections, half a million blacks stayed home from work Tuesday in protest, grenades and land mines exploded, and police fought black crowds with birdshot and tear gas.

"The time has come to consult the white electorate about its views on how we should proceed with peaceful reform," President P.W. Botha told the nation's 24 million blacks, who have no vote on national affairs.

The government's Bureau for Information said Botha's message would be distributed in black communities, where labor unions and anti-apartheid groups called for two days of protest against the election.

Of South Africa's 5 million whites, 3,031,414 were registered to vote for 166 seats in the dominant white House of Assembly when polls open at 7 a.m. Wednesday.

Botha called the white election two years early, saying he and his National Party needed a mandate to pursue gradual reform of some discriminatory laws and to give blacks a limited role in national policy-making. He has vowed to resist majority rule and maintain segregated schools and neighborhoods.

The National Party, with 127 seats in the outgoing Parliament, is expected to keep a large majority.

Far-right parties, trying to increase their 18-seat share in Parliament, oppose any modification of apartheid.

The moderate Progressive Federal Party and its allies, with 27 seats in the last Parliament, favor abolition of all racially discriminatory laws and support negotiations that could lead to majority rule.

Five explosions at four sites were

reported Monday night and early Tuesday, including a land mine blast that killed a black truck driver and injured 10 blacks near the Zimbabwe border.

The government's Bureau for Information said three blacks were injured and six arrested in Durban area during 10 confrontations. It said police fired tear gas and birdshot at blacks who were stoning vehicles, trying to set cars afire or holding "illegal gatherings."

Bus company officials said militant youths there blocked streets with flaming barricades and stoned or burned more than a dozen buses.

In most townships, however, the first national black protest since 1958 against a white election was peaceful. Many black and mixed-race high schools were closed, and thousands of college students and professors skipped lectures.

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