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Reagan calls blame all his in Iran affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Wednesday he was "mad as a hornet" about damage to his administration from the Iran-Contra affair but acknowledged he erred in being "stubborn in my pursuit of a policy that went astray."

In a speech from the Oval Office, Reagan noted that John Poindexter had testified he kept the president in the dark about the diversion of Iran arms-sale money. However, Reagan

said "no president should ever be protected from the truth. No operation is so secret that it must be kept from the commander-in-chief."

The president said Poindexter and fired White House aide Oliver North "believed they were doing what I would have wanted done" in secretly supplying money to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Without saying whether he would have condoned or squelched the diversion, Reagan said, "I believed then and I believe now in preventing the Soviets from establishing a beachhead in Central America."

He repeated his contention that he did not know about the diversion of funds, and said he had not even been aware that there were excess funds from the arms sales.

Reagan did not deal directly with a host of questions that have been raised by lawmakers about possible violations of U.S. laws in connection with the arms-to-Iran scheme. Nor did he say whether he would pardon North and Poindexter, who have ac-

knowledged being under criminal investigation.

The president said the past nine months since the affair broke into the news "have been confusing and painful ones for the country."

Reagan said that over time he realized he had not been fully informed about what was happening in his White House and tried to find the answers.

"Some of the answers I don't like," Reagan said.

Reagan said that Poindexter was wrong when he said the buck stops with him.

"It stops with me," he said. "I am the one who is ultimately accountable to the American people."

The president said someone asked the other day why he wasn't outraged.

"Well, at times I've been mad as a hornet," he said. "Anyone would be — just look at the damage that's been done and the time that's been lost. But I've always found that the best therapy for outrage and anger is action."

Reagan said he has changed "both the system and the people who operate it."

He acknowledged anew that his top Cabinet aides were right when they said his initiative with Iran would be perceived as "an arms for hostages deal and nothing more." But he said that the image of American captives being held in chains "burdened my thoughts. This was a mistake."

Reagan said he had pondered how to explain to the nation what he had hoped to accomplish "but I respect you too much to make excuses."

"The fact of the matter is that there's nothing I can say that will make the situation right," he said.

The speech — Reagan's third major address on the subject since last November — did not go into detail about the story of deceit, discord and possible criminal wrongdoing that was outlined in 11 weeks of congressional testimony.

France, Britain send minesweepers to gulf after fifth mine found

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — A fifth floating mine has been found in a busy anchorage just south of the Persian Gulf where one blew a hole in an American-operated super-tanker two days ago, officials said Wednesday.

Iran said the decision by Britain and France to send minesweepers to the gulf, where it has been at war with Iraq since September 1980, showed support for the United States "in the various aggressions it has committed."

A Tehran radio commentary threatened a repeat of terrorist bomb attacks that killed about 300 U.S. and French military personnel in Beirut in 1983.

The United States accused Iran of obstructing U.N. peace efforts and said the world body should impose sanctions quickly if the "negative" attitude does not change. Iran said Tuesday it neither accepts nor rejects the Security Council's unanimous call July 20 for a cease-fire.

One of the five mines off the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah was exploded by gunfire from a helicopter and divers defused another after retrieving it, Emirates officials in Abu Dhabi reported. They said the mines were found by disposal teams operating from coast guard patrol boats.

Tankers transship cargo and take

on supplies at the anchorage, where 50 or more ships often can be found at one time. It also is used for assembling convoys of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and U.S. warships for trips up the gulf.

Mines appear to be turning up in "clusters" in an area about four miles in diameter, nine miles northeast of Fujairah, shipping sources reported. Officials in Abu Dhabi said a patrol boat found the fifth mine in that area, near where the 274,347-ton Texaco Caribbean was damaged by a mine Monday. Sightings of the other four were reported Tuesday.

Three Kuwaiti tankers were in Kuwait's oil-loading port at the head of the gulf Wednesday to take on cargoes for the return trip with a U.S. Navy escort down the 500-mile-long waterway and through the narrow Strait of Hormuz.

The 46,723-ton Gas King, 79,999-ton Ocean City and 81,283-ton Sea Isle City docked at Al-Ahmadi, Kuwait's main terminal. Loading all the ships is expected to take about five days.

No problems were reported on their trip up the gulf with four U.S. warships, the second of the convoys. On the first escorted trip to Kuwait last month, the supertanker Bridgeton hit a mine off a fortified Iranian island 120 miles from the emirate.



Photo by Karen Moskal

Up In Lights

Work is underway to change the old Campus Theater to a new night spot, the Campus, owned by

Don Ganter, who also owns the Dixie Chicken, Sticky Chins and the Chicken Oil Company.

Possible multiple sclerosis treatment discovered

BOSTON (AP) — A new treatment appears to slow and perhaps even reverse the destruction of multiple sclerosis in patients still in the mild early stages of the crippling disease, new research concludes.

Doctors said the experimental therapy seemed to produce a four-fold reduction in the progression of the disease when given over two years. But they cautioned that much larger studies will be needed before anyone knows whether the medicine will actually play a role in controlling multiple

sclerosis, a disease for which there is no adequate treatment.

MS drugs are difficult to test, in part because the disease often advances sporadically, crippling patients temporarily and then spontaneously retreating. Doctors say victims should not become overly optimistic about the new treatment, because several others that showed early promise have proved useless.

"It's very encouraging at the moment,"

said Dr. Murray B. Bornstein, who directed the study at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. The study was reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

"Surely it is not at the level where anybody can say this will significantly alter the course of the illness in a safe and effective way," he added in an interview.

The experimental medicine is a laboratory-made protein called Cop 1. It's pro-

duced in Israel and available only in very small quantities for research. Experts predicted it will be several years before the medicine is approved for general use, even if future testing goes smoothly.

In a memo to its local chapters, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society said black-market supplies of Cop 1 may be available. "If so," it warned, "it is important to recognize that there can be no assurance of the source, quality, therapeutic effectiveness or

safety with such preparations."

In limited experimentation so far, the medicine appears to benefit only people in the early, mildest stages of the disease.

"Clearly it is not the cure for MS," said Dr. Howard L. Weiner of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. "It is not going to be good for people who already have significant disability, so people who are using canes or wheelchairs shouldn't think this is going to help them."

Senator: President wrong

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. George Mitchell said Wednesday night that President Reagan made grave mistakes in the Iran-Contra affair, but once recognized and corrected, "they should be put behind us."

Mitchell, in the Democratic response to Reagan's address on the Iran-Contra affair, said the president was right to acknowledge "that the buck stops with him."

But Mitchell said the policy of selling arms to Iran for release of U.S. hostages was "a mistake so grave that Americans now risking their lives in that region face the terrible possibility of attack by a nation we've helped to arm."

And the mistake, he added, was "so grave that there are just as many Americans now held hostage in Lebanon as there were when this effort began."

"These were serious mistakes," Mitchell said. "But once recognized and corrected they should be put behind us. For there's much to be done together."

Animal rights often reason for vegetarianism

Meatless life enjoyed by some Americans

By Ed Holtgraver
Reporter

Picture a steer that is forced into a small pen. It is then hoisted onto a conveyor belt and hung upside down, often fully conscious, from one leg while waiting for the slaughterer to put an end to its agony. Often the leg or the pelvic bone breaks, or the leg the steer is hanging from

Vegetarian lifestyles Part one of a two-part series

is torn from its socket as the animal struggles to get free.

This method of ritual slaughter is quite common, occurring every day in this country.

Partly because of such methods of slaughtering animals for food, as well as the growing concern about the health risks of a diet including red meat, many people are turning to a vegetarian way of life.

A Roper poll conducted in 1978 estimated there are as many as 10 million Americans who consider themselves vegetarians.

Vegetarians do not live on vegetables alone.

"Vegetarians don't just sit around eating bowls of gruel with alfalfa sprouts sprinkled on top," says Carmen Mason, a student at Texas A&M. "A vegetarian diet consists of a lot of legumes and grains. Some vegetarians also consume dairy products, such as milk and eggs."

Legumes consist of dried beans and peas, including split peas, soybeans and red, white and black beans.

Grains — the seeds of cereal plants — include rice, wheat, corn, millet, barley and rye.

According to the British Vegetarian Society, which coined the term "vegetarian," the word has nothing to do with vegetables.

Vegetarian is based on the Latin word "vegetus," which means active, lively or vigorous. The word veget was once used to describe a healthy, physically active person, the society states.

There are many different categories of vegetarian diets.

According to Dudley Giehl, author of the book "Vegetarianism—A Way of Life," lacto-ovo vegetarians include eggs and dairy products in their diets.

Ari Rozycki, a Texas A&M stu-

dent, considers himself a lacto-ovo vegetarian.

"I eat eggs and milk, so I am considered a lacto-ovo vegetarian at the current time, although I eat fish," Rozycki said. "In the future I plan to go back to only eggs and milk and no fish products whatsoever."

Lacto vegetarians, according to Giehl, are nearly the same as lacto-ovo vegetarians except that they do not consume eggs.

The vegan diet is the strictest of the three vegetarian diets, Giehl says.

"Vegans, or total vegetarians, regard cow's milk as an unnatural food since it was intended (by Nature) to be nourishment for calves, not people," Giehl says.

Vegans also object to the use of dairy products because the dairy industry is so closely tied to the meat industry, Mason says.

"Dairy cows make up almost 20 percent of the nation's cow herd," Giehl says.

Mason considers herself a vegan.

"I do have to be careful I get enough necessary nutrients and amino acids," she says. "But if I plan my diet carefully, it isn't that hard at all."

There are many different vegetables and grains available to create a nutritious, enjoyable meal, she says.

People are so used to eating a meat-dominated diet that they cannot imagine eating anything else, she says. But, she says, they need to become aware that there are plenty of other good, nourishing foods to eat instead of meat.

One of the reasons vegetarians have for developing an animal-product free way of life is the issue of animal rights.

Many vegetarians object to the treatment of animals that are used as food for humans.

In children's picture books, farm animals are often portrayed as lazily roaming sunny fields or barnyards, contentedly passing the days away.

Pigs say "oink-oink," cows "moo" to each other, and fluffy yellow baby chicks walk around the farm searching for their mothers.

But picture books are not real life.

In actuality, animals on large factory farms are treated solely as "bio-machines," existing only to produce a product, Rozycki says.

On factory farms, little chicks never do find their mothers. Eggs are taken from the mother hen

when laid and placed in an incubator. When the eggs hatch, the male chicks are immediately killed, since they cannot produce eggs and their meat is unsatisfactory for sale. Of no practical use, the baby male chicks are gathered up and dumped into a large plastic bag and left to suffocate, Giehl says.

The female chicks begin life by having their heads placed in a machine that rips off the first three-fourths of their beaks, Giehl says. This helps prevent some of the unavoidable cannibalism that results from the severe overcrowding the hens experience when they are placed in cages to begin their lives as egg-producing machines, Giehl says.

It is quite common for as many as five large hens to be placed in a 12-inch by 18-inch wire cage, in which there is not even enough room for the hens to turn around in," Mason says.

The approximate 15 percent death rate the hens suffer from such conditions is overlooked as a business expense, she says, because the enormous number of eggs produced by all the rest of the hens more than makes up for the loss of some of the hens.