

# World Briefs

## Ortega visits Mexico in unexpected stop

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega made a surprise stop here on his way home from the United States and said he would brief President Miguel de la Madrid on a new Nicaraguan proposal for a truce in the Contra war.

"Now is a good time to exchange views with President Miguel de la Madrid, so he knows directly the steps my country is taking to comply with a Central American peace plan," he told reporters when he arrived at Mexico City airport Saturday.

The arrival of the Ortegas came as a complete surprise to Mexican officials.

"We know nothing about his activities," Mario Enciso, the Foreign Ministry spokesman on duty, said

Sunday. "We didn't know he was going to come."

Unidentified officials reported that Ortega and his family spent the day in a park.

A presidential press office official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Ortega will meet with de la Madrid on Monday.

During his four days in Washington, Ortega proposed an 11-point plan for a cease-fire.

A peace plan which Ortega and the four other Central American presidents signed last Aug. 7 calls for cease-fires in Nicaragua's Contra war and the war waged by leftist guerrillas in El Salvador, along with national conciliation talks between governments and opposition groups.

## Contra peace talks create heat for Wright

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republican Leader Robert H. Michel on Sunday sharply criticized House Speaker Jim Wright for his involvement in the negotiations between Nicaragua and the U.S.-backed Contra rebels, charging that the Democrat is "absolutely wrong" to step into the peace process.

The House speaker, D-Texas, who has been deeply involved in the process since he and President Reagan put forth their own peace plan in August, participated in a meeting Friday in which Nicaraguan Presi-

dent Daniel Ortega proposed a plan for reaching a cease-fire in three weeks with the Nicaraguan rebels.

Wright's involvement immediately came under fire from Reagan administration officials.

Michel, an Illinois Republican, on Sunday continued the attack on Wright's involvement in the process.

"I think it's absolutely wrong," Michel said.

Wright said he was not pretending to be a diplomat and had participated only at the invitation of the principals in the talks.

## Abortion groups split over justice choice

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anthony M. Kennedy's Supreme Court nomination has split the anti-abortion community, even though he has never ruled on an abortion case during 12 years on the bench.

One anti-abortion organization offered positive, but guarded praise for the nomination, a second strongly criticized it, and two other groups took no position.

The abortion question is crucial to these groups and to pro-choice organizations because the court is considered split 4-4 on the issue. The next

nominee could tip the balance for years to come.

The Sacramento, Calif., jurist, who is on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, has not spoken out on any issue since his nomination was announced Wednesday by President Reagan. None of the organizations researching his abortion record has found any previous comment on the subject.

Another anti-abortion group, March For Life, said it also had no position yet on the nomination.

## Soviet's image toughens with removal of party chief

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's dramatic break with one of his top lieutenants toughens his image in the weeks before a superpower summit, but casts doubt on how far his drive for reform can and will go.

The firing of Boris N. Yeltsin, the outspoken Moscow party boss, seems certain to temper the approach to "perestroika," Gorbachev's campaign for social and economic change that Yeltsin vocally had advocated.

By presiding over Yeltsin's downfall Wednesday, Gorbachev put his

stamp on the ouster of his former protege. It remains a question whether he did so to remove a volatile renegade or under pressure from the party's more conservative officials, reportedly led by Politburo member Yegor K. Ligachev.

Whatever Gorbachev's motives, the removal of the outspoken Yeltsin from the Moscow leadership post and two city government positions will bolster the course of "revolutionary restraint" espoused by Gorbachev in a Kremlin speech this month.

## Budget negotiators call reduction talks promising

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deficit reduction talks between the White House and Congress are into their deadline week with participants confident of success — because they can't permit a failure.

"The whole country views it as a test of whether the president and Congress can really govern," Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Calif., one of the negotiators, said this weekend.

The talks nearly collapsed on Thursday, scaring not only the peo-

ple in the room but also those outside.

"Not only didn't we like the taste of it, but clearly the signal from our fellow members (was) they wanted something significant done," Sen. Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., a negotiator and senior Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, said this weekend. On Friday, the talks restarted. Taped on the wall was a full-page newspaper ad from business and civic leaders calling for "Decisive Action: A Bipartisan Budget Plan."

## Wisconsin program to cut aid for families with dropouts

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin is launching a first-of-its-kind program to cut a family's welfare benefits if a teen-ager skips school in an effort to keep one generation of welfare recipients from raising another.

State officials hope the program, known as learnfare, will shrink high school dropout rates and encourage inner-city youths who have already dropped out to return to classes. They note that people with high school diplomas spend on average half the time on welfare of those without a diploma.

However, critics say learnfare would penalize whole families for an unruly teen-ager and amounts to experimentation on society's most dependent.

"It's a win for the state, it's a win for the families, it's a win for the kids," Gov. Tommy G. Thompson said in a recent interview.

"It gives them an opportunity they wouldn't have by dropping out of school," said Thompson, who came up with the idea during his campaign for governor last year. "It's got to work."


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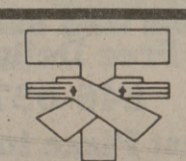
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