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## Cabinet resistance to budget plan surfaces

By OWEN ULLMANN  
Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Budget Director David A. Stockman's assault on next year's federal budget, expected to rival the record reductions already achieved, has spawned a strong resistance movement within President Reagan's own camp.

Cabinet secretaries and agency directors are fighting Stockman's latest budget-shaping proposals with a tenacity and skill they lacked last winter, when Stockman called virtually all the shots. "The growing opposition from top ad-

ministration officers adds a new and formidable barrier to the president's drive for major new savings in his 1983 budget plan, which he must send to Congress early next year.

Congress, which went along last summer with much of the president's budget and tax cuts for 1982, also seems less inclined to be as cooperative this time around.

"Dave (Stockman) doesn't expect to win all of these cuts," conceded one aide at the Office of Management and Budget. "We never expected it to be the same second time around."

Before, the Cabinet officers didn't even know where the bathroom was. They weren't on their feet. Now they are."

A year ago, even before Reagan and his Cabinet took office, then-Rep. Stockman of Michigan was assembling an awesome package of spending cuts totaling nearly \$50 billion. Acknowledged widely as a brilliant budget mastermind, Stockman sold the president on almost every item on the list.

For the next budget, Stockman is expected to produce a package of cuts at least as large as the last one, to narrow a gaping deficit projected at more than \$100 billion.

But top department administrators, having grown familiar with and protective of their programs, are complaining that Stockman is going too far. They hope the president will listen to them this time.

In acknowledging the fights that lie ahead, White House officials announced last weekend that next month the president will become heavily involved in shaping the 1983 budget by personally hearing his Cabinet officers' appeals. Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes

said Reagan "expects an unusual number of appeals" because the cuts for 1983 will be "very deep."

"We're going through a more normal process this year," said a budget official at the Labor Department, which plans to appeal proposed budget cuts in its programs. "Last time, it all happened so fast; this time, it's a more orderly procedure."

Several department budget officials said the stiffened resistance has not been prompted in any way by Stockman's confessed doubts about Reagan's economic program.

Reagan's economic program was sharply attacked proposed U.S. weapons sales to Taiwan, saying that American supporters of such sales are meddling in Chinese affairs and acting like "overlords."

The commentary was the latest sign of increasing Chinese opposition to U.S. policy on Taiwan, the Chinese island province governed by the rival Nationalists. China has vowed an unspecified but, strong reaction.

Xinhua said: "Unable to advance any tenable arguments to justify their position in favor of arms sales as they unsuccessfully tried to increase spending for military manpower and conventional war gear."

Rejected in virtual party-line votes were amendments to the \$205.5 billion military spending bill, which includes \$2.43 billion sought by President Reagan to start construction of 100 B-1 bombers.

The Democrats said they were trying to shift money away from the B-1. An amendment to eliminate funds for the bombers was expected to be offered later.

Among the defeated amendments were proposals to add \$77 million for more soldiers and armor, \$48 million for Army ammunition, \$60 million for faster production of tanks, trucks and other equipment; and \$74.6 million to intensify U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., said the United States is "overprepared for nuclear war" and would be "unprepared for conventional war," unless spending on such items as ammunition and manpower was increased.

Sen. J. James Easton, D-Neb., sponsor of the \$60-million force-modernization amendment, appealed to Republicans not to "follow blindly the dictates of the leadership," but his proposal was defeated 66-37, with no Republican support.

The manpower amendment would have provided funds for 6,000 more soldiers and 6,000 more airmen.

Hollings said the administration's decision to abandon its original request for the troop increases was "a reversal of a manpower policy and a defense posture that had been carefully considered as a minimum force necessary."

Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., contended that the Air Force and Army supported the amendments already in the bill, which would increase Air Force strength by 10,500 people and maintain Army strength at existing levels.

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David A. Stockman

## Senate Democrats find opposition to amendments for military bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats, saying the nation is "overprepared for nuclear war," met solid Republican opposition yesterday as they unsuccessfully tried to increase spending for military manpower and conventional war gear.

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Troops go through the changing of the guard ceremony in Moscow's Red Square, Monday night, after the first heavy snowfall of the season.

## Canada's House of Commons nears final vote on charter

By CHARLES J. HANLEY  
Associated Press Writer  
OTTAWA (AP) — The House of Commons was approaching a final vote yesterday in a 30-year drive to give Canada a true national charter for the first time. The resolution on constitutional reform, expected to be overwhelmingly approved, could also spur on the French separatists of Quebec.

The resolution asks the British Parliament to end a legal anachronism by giving up control of Canada's constitution, after first inserting a U.S.-style bill of rights and other new provisions in the document.

The resolution must go from the House of Commons to the powerless Canadian Senate before being sent to London, where the British Parliament is expected to approve it.

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's government hopes to have the process completed by February.

The constitutional plan, goal of Canadian leaders for more than 50 years, was the product of a compromise between Trudeau and the premiers of Canada's nine English-speaking provinces, and of last-minute struggles over the rights of women and Canadian native peoples.

The last remaining problem is the opposition of Quebec's separatist premier, Rene Levesque, who plans to go to the Canadian Supreme Court one fine time in a desperation bid to block a constitution that he contends diminishes the provincial powers of French-speaking Quebec. The courts have ruled against him before.

In one move last week, Levesque's Cabinet issued a decree declaring that Quebec was exercising a "veto" over the new constitution, something it said French-Canadians were entitled to do as one of the country's "two founding nations."

But federal Justice Minister Jean Chretien, a French Quebecer but a staunch federalist, replied that Levesque "can pass a decree if he wants that there will be no snow in Quebec this winter and it will have the same effect."

Levesque says he opposes the plan because, among other things, it makes illegal parts of a Quebec law that discourages English-language education in the province, and overrides other laws that favor Quebecers over other Canadians in employment.

The Quebec leader's critics assert that he never planned to accept any constitutional agreement, in the hope that a new split between Quebec and English Canada would boost the cause of his Parti

Quebecois government, which wants to pull the province out of the Canadian confederation.

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## Nicaragua gains Soviet support

Nation becoming superpower in Central America, U.S. official says

By MICHAEL J. SNIFEN  
Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — A senior U.S. official said yesterday that Nicaragua is preparing to bolster its air force with Soviet-made MIG jets and is "on the verge of becoming a superpower in Central American terms."

The official, who spoke on condition his name and position not be identified, disclosed that the revolutionary government in Nicaragua recently lengthened three runways to accommodate MIGs.

The official said the U.S. government now expects about two dozen MIG jets to arrive in Nicaragua next spring.

"As a result, the official said, the Soviet bloc 'can see for the first time the possibility of a military base in Central America.'"

That statement represented the most serious statement yet in a recently stepped-up Reagan administration campaign warning of a drift of the Sandinista government toward the Soviet bloc.

"The appearance of the planes will tip the balance. Now the Hondurans have air superiority, but when the MIGs and pilots get there (Nicaragua) they won't."

—U.S. official

Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. had said previously there are 3,000 Cubans in Nicaragua, including doctors, teachers and some military advisers.

The senior official who disclosed the information on the MIG jets said one of the powerful Ortega brothers recently won't."

Honduras has a pro-Western government.

The arrival of the planes "will cement Nicaragua's military superiority in Central America," the official said.

Last week, another senior U.S. official said the Soviet Union recently transferred 17 MIG-21 jets to Cuba, prompting speculation this would allow Cuba to send older MIGs to Nicaragua. Earlier, U.S. officials had said Nicaraguan pilots are being trained in Bulgaria.

Reviewing Soviet bloc influence in Nicaragua, the senior official said yesterday that the capital, Managua, "has become an international center with East Germans there, Bulgarians there, North Koreans there, Soviets there, Cubans there, and even the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization)."

The official said East Germans were handling Nicaragua's internal security, and Cubans were running its army.

## Haig schedules meeting with Nicaraguan official

By MARC D. CHARNEY  
Associated Press Writer  
CASTRIES, St. Lucia (AP) — Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., arriving in this Caribbean island nation yesterday at the start of the Organization of American States assembly, set talks with Nicaragua's foreign minister as his first private meeting, a U.S. spokesman said.



Alexander M. Haig Jr.

Haig is expected to address the 27-member general assembly today. A Newswatch magazine report said he would call for a tough new line by the U.S. of the Americas against Cuba.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said Haig would meet privately later today with Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, Nicaragua's foreign minister. Ashley Willis, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in the eastern Caribbean, said it was Haig's first scheduled bilateral conversation.

Recent U.S. charges that Nicaragua was drifting to the left, and accusations by the Central American nations that the United States was preparing some form of action against Nicaragua, have formed a worrisome backdrop to the opening of this assembly.

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