

Reagan administration attacks criticism

Statement accuses legislators of 'distorting' policies, vows to 'set record straight'

By TERENCE HUNT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration complained yesterday that its policies for Central America are being distorted by a "shrill and often confusing debate" and said no plans are being drafted for using American troops to invade Nicaragua or any other country in the region.

Beset by criticism from Capitol Hill, the administration issued a lengthy statement to counter attacks from Democrats and Republicans for the mining of Nicaraguan harbors and a decision to remove its Central American policies from World Court jurisdiction.

The statement, issued by White House deputy press secretary Larry Speakes, did not enunciate any change in policy. Nor did it admit or deny CIA involvement in the mining of Nicaraguan waters.

Instead, it emphasized the strategic im-

portance of Central America to the United States and said, "The question is: will the United States support those countries that want democracy and are willing to fight for their own freedom?"

The statement was endorsed by Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, CIA Director William Casey and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

"In recent days a shrill and often confusing debate has developed over our goals, plans and activities in Central America," the statement said. "Because this debate, much of it uninformed and unattributed, is obscuring the real situation, we believe it is in the public interest to set the record straight on our objectives, our policy and our actions — on the record."

The statement said allegations have been raised that the United States is planning for an invasion of Central America. "We state

emphatically that we have not considered, nor have we developed plans to use U.S. military forces to invade Nicaragua or any other Central American country."

It said that some critics have confused invasion plans with U.S. obligations under the 1947 Rio Treaty, a pact aimed at hemisphere security which says that an attack on one country is an attack on all, or with treaty obligations to defend the Panama Canal, or military contingency plans for disaster relief, humanitarian assistance or emergency evacuations.

"For over a generation, as prudence would dictate, we have maintained and updated plans for these contingencies," the statement said. "We have not, however, planned to use our forces to invade any country in the region."

In an apparent reference to unnamed officials quoted by The Washington Post, the statement said "some have indicated that we are planning to conduct a post-election

military enterprise in Central America. This quite simply is not the case."

The Post said the CIA views its involvement in the laying of mines of Nicaragua as part of a "holding action" until its covert war against the Sandinista government can be stepped up if Reagan wins re-election.

On another point, the statement denied that congressional committees have not been adequately briefed on U.S. activities in Central America. "To the contrary, all U.S. activities in the Central America region have been fully briefed in detail to the committees of the Congress which exercise jurisdiction in full compliance with the law," the statement said.

The statement said the current debate has confused "the improvements that we have helped make in El Salvador, and what is really going on in Nicaragua."

It accused Nicaragua of being "the source of regional subversion and insurgency" and said its leaders have "tried to avoid a

comprehensive solution for the region by seeking to reduce all diplomacy to bilateral questions."

It said Nicaragua was "making propaganda at the United Nations" and was trying to "side-track negotiations by going to the International Court of Justice" to seek a stop to the mining of its ports and attacks on its territory.

"A government fanatically dedicated to intervention beyond its borders thus seeks to use an honorable international institution to protect it from its own citizens who are rising up against it," the statement said, noting the U.S. decision not to abide by court jurisdiction for two years in matters dealing with Central America.

By contrast, the administration said "we have witnessed an impressive display of courage and commitment to the democratic process" in El Salvador, where elections were held last month.



Solar energy
Preparing for the lunch-time rush, an unidentified hodge vendor relishes the sun's warm rays yesterday on a street near the state capitol building in Albany, N.Y.

Got ya: Shuttle crew retrieves Solar Max satellite from space

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
Associated Press Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Shouting "we got it," Challenger's astronauts plucked the costly Solar Max satellite from space yesterday and set it in the shuttle's cargo bay for an overhaul in orbit that ushers in an era of spacecraft salvage.

Dramatic as it was, the job won't be complete until two astronauts venture into the open cargo bay today to repair the satellite, which was sent into orbit in 1980 to study the sun.

Challenger was 300 miles above the Indian Ocean when mission specialist Terry Hart extended the shuttle's cargo crane and caught a pin on the side of the slowly spinning satellite.

It snugged it on the first try, saving a mission that looked like a failure only two days earlier when astronaut George Nelson flew himself over to it but was unable to dock with it.

Hart gingerly lowered the satellite into a special cradle and locked it in.

"Outstanding," said Mission Control and there was applause in the room.

President Reagan, too, expressed his delight.

"Bob I understand that the satellite you have on board would cost us about \$200 million to build at today's prices," he told commander Robert L. Crippen. "If you can't fix it up there would you mind bringing it back?"

That's precisely what the back-up plan is.

Nelson and fellow astronaut James D. van Hoften, known to their colleagues as "Finky" and "Ox," will climb into bulky space suits today and go into the cargo

bay to accomplish in six hours what they had planned for 12 earlier in the mission.

They will replace a control box that is four feet high and four feet wide, to restore the satellite's ability to point its scientific instruments at the sun with precision. Blown fuses more than three years ago destroyed that crucial capability.

Then the astronauts will cut through insulation, remove 36 screws, and swap out two electronic devices whose failure has shut down one of the seven experiments. If overnight checks show the satellite restored to health, it will be released to orbit tomorrow to resume its studies of the sun.

Crippen's careful flying used only half the amount of already-low fuel as flight directors thought. Still, they abandoned a plan to raise the shuttle's orbit by 15 miles to extend Solar Max's life by a year to 1992-1993.

NASA engineers said the satellite was retrieved in fine shape.

The astronauts are to land near their launch pad at Kennedy Space Center on Friday, one day late.

The capture, after a chase of 1.8 million miles, came at a time when satellites are becoming ever more expensive. Solar Max, which cost \$77 million when it was launched in 1980, would run more than \$25 million today.

The most likely candidates for another such rescue mission are the fuel-short Landsat 4 Earth resources observatory and two \$75 million communications satellites that failed to achieve proper orbit after their launch from the space shuttle in February.

The salvage effort is estimated to cost between \$45 million and \$55 million.



Women executives on the rise

Census Bureau study shows more women in male-dominated jobs

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Women now hold nearly one-third of the nation's management jobs and have significantly raised their representation in many other occupations, the Census Bureau reported yesterday.

A new analysis of employment figures comparing 1970 and 1980 found women increasing from 38 percent of the labor force to 42.6 percent.

But their share of many previously male-dominated jobs increased much more sharply than that growth would indicate.

Women, for example, comprised 17.1 percent of the nation's judges in 1980, up from 6.1 percent a decade earlier. And their representation among lawyers rose from 4.9 percent to 13.8 percent.

The appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court was symbolic of the growth in female lawyers and judges.

The new study compiled by the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics found women holding 26.5 percent of the nation's executive, administrative and managerial positions in 1980.

That's up from 18.5 percent a decade earlier, said Suzanne Bianchi and Nancy Rytkin, who prepared the study.

"Women have been at the vortex of sweeping changes in demographic, social and economic patterns" in recent decades, Bianchi said earlier.

Today, she observed, women are less likely to have children and more likely to finish college than in the past, and they are making ever greater inroads in the workforce, although earnings remain below those of men.

"The question for the upcoming decades is where the balance will be struck between the roles of women as wives and mothers and women as

workers and economic providers for their families," Bianchi wrote.

On the same day the Census study was released, Heidi Hartman, a researcher at the National Academy of Sciences, told a congressional panel that women still face pay discrimination. Wage rates for jobs traditionally held by women are depressed, she said, adding that it is why working women earn less than the wages of working men.

Fewer women, meanwhile, turned to elementary school teaching than in the past, holding 75.4 percent of those jobs in 1980, down from 83.9 percent in 1970. And they dropped to only 89 percent of special education teachers, a field which had been 100 percent women a decade earlier.

Women secondary school teachers increased from 46.6 percent to 56.5 percent, meanwhile.

In neither 1970 nor 1980 did women make up significant numbers of farmers, hunters, trappers, fishers, construction workers, masons, miners and tool and die makers.

Mideast cease-fire shaken by shelling

By MONA ZIADE
Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — New fighting broke out in Beirut yesterday, less than 15 hours after military leaders signed a disengagement accord. Rockets and shells exploded near the two open crossing points between the two sectors of the divided capital.

Police and hospital officials said at least two people, including a Lebanese soldier, were killed and 20 were wounded in the exchanges.

A new cease-fire was called at 8 p.m. and a local radio station said it appeared to be holding.

At least three mortar shells landed near the U.S. Embassy offices on the southeast in west Beirut, one in the water near the western end of the compound.

"I think they were probably trying to hit the Holiday Inn," said a U.S. Marine guard, who spoke on condition he not be named. The devastated hotel is about a half mile east of the embassy.

The early afternoon flareup came after snipers killed one Lebanese soldier and wounded two others in Christian east Beirut.

At 1 p.m., five shells slammed into an empty parking lot about 300 yards from the National Museum, where cars were stuck bumper-to-bumper waiting to cross from one side of the city to the other. Several cars were sprayed with shrapnel.

Soon thereafter, machine-gun and automatic rifle fire hit the area, forcing travelers to abandon their cars and seek refuge in nearby buildings. One policeman was wounded, a police report said.

The crossing is patrolled by policemen and by a 40-man team of French observers.

The "neutralization" of that crossing has been considered the major achievement of the higher

security-political committee, which is chaired by President Amin Gemayel and includes senior representatives of the rival factions.

The crossing remained open, though police and militiamen on either side advised travelers against using it.

At the same time, mortar, tank and machine-gun battles raged along the four-mile demarcation line in Beirut and scores of shells fell on Christian neighborhoods in east Beirut and the Moslem-inhabited southern suburbs.

At dusk, streets in west Beirut were almost deserted. Many shops closed after the fighting started. Radio stations urged people to remain indoors and a security committee met to try to end to the fighting.

Fighting had tapered off late Monday night after the announcement of the disengagement pact, agreed upon by the higher committee during a meeting at Gemayel's palace in suburban Baabda.

Committee spokesman Mounif Oweidat said other panels will work to implement the accord, which he described as a "first step" toward peace.

Government sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the plan provided for combatants to pull back several hundred yards from fighting positions, creating buffer zones which would be patrolled by police and security observers, including the French.

The sources said they did not expect the plan to take full effect before the planned summit between Gemayel and President Hafez Assad of Syria.

The meeting was expected to be held tomorrow, though some sources said it could be delayed until Saturday to give Gemayel time to cool tensions before departing for Damascus.

state news briefs

Policeman resigns after FBI probe
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The city's second highest-ranking police official resigned yesterday, a day after FBI agents searched his office and car in connection with a continuing federal investigation of police corruption.

Two other police officials also have been informed they are the targets of a grand jury investigation into bribes from operators of illegal lotteries, Police Commissioner Gregore Sambor announced.

The resignation of First Deputy Police Commissioner James Martin, a 30-year veteran in charge of the investigative forces, followed his sudden demotion by Mayor W. Wilson Goode, who had pledged to rid the 12,000-member force of corruption.

The ongoing probe, in which local officials are cooperating, already has resulted in the conviction and jailing of seven policemen for extorting more than \$125,000 to protect prostitutes, pimps and club owners involved in illegal sex and gambling.

Last month 13 other policemen were indicted on charges of racketeering, extortion and conspiracy.

Reward offered for four escapees

HARRISBURG (AP) — Four Dauphin County Prison inmates, including a convicted killer and a man charged with murder, remained at large for a fourth day yesterday, despite a \$1,000 reward offered for their capture.

The county commissioners issued the reward offer on Monday, when they also called on the state Board of Correction to renew security at the facility, which is located in Swatara Township outside of Harrisburg.

"There certainly was some type of breach of security procedure," said Commissioner Norman Heitick, who is also chairman of the County Prison Board. "Reasonable men would assume that somebody fell down on the job."

Six inmates, two of them convicted killers, broke out of a maximum security wing at the prison Friday by sawing window bars, climbing onto a roof, and jumping two stories to the ground.

Two of the inmates were captured in downtown Harrisburg on Saturday.

nation news briefs

Reagan OKs bill to reduce surpluses

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan yesterday signed into law a bill intended to cut budget deficits and surpluses, both of which hold the seeds of political trouble this election year.

Reagan, in a Rose Garden ceremony attended by farm-state lawmakers from both parties, praised the bill as "the first installment of the deficit down payment" he called for in his State of the Union speech in January.

The law provides for cash payments to wheat farmers who idle part of their land this year, and extends that offer to corn, cotton and rice farmers in 1985, if stocks of those commodities exceed certain trigger levels.

Then the astronauts will cut through insulation, remove 36 screws, and swap out two electronic devices whose failure has shut down one of the seven experiments. If overnight checks show the satellite restored to health, it will be released to orbit tomorrow to resume its studies of the sun.

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The salvage effort is estimated to cost between \$45 million and \$55 million.

Mother Teresa submits complaint

NEW YORK (AP) — Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the poor, has filed a complaint accusing a foundation of using her name without authorization to raise money.

The Foundation of "Tribute to Mother Teresa" is one more way of the rich using the poor to make money," Mother Teresa said in a letter filed with the complaint in the state attorney general's office.

The complaint was filed by Sister M. Priscilla, the local superior of the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa.

Officials of the foundation were not immediately available for comment.

"I have come to the conclusion that 'Tribute to Mother Teresa' is one more way of the rich using the poor to make money," Mother Teresa said in a handwritten March 17 letter to Robert Pearlman, who is listed as one of the directors of the foundation.

"I beg you in the name of God and in the name of the poorest of the poor who are dying of hunger and disease, please stop it," Mother Teresa said in the letter.

She wrote that 21,000 of 46,000 people given shelter from the streets in her home in Calcutta had died of hunger and disease.

Sister Priscilla, acting as attorney-in-fact for Mother Teresa, said in the complaint that the foundation did not have Mother Teresa's consent to use her name.

Legislation could freeze gas prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — An election-year bill to freeze natural gas prices and place new government price lids on some deregulated supplies began moving its way yesterday through the House.

Reagan administration officials who last year made the removal of all federal price ceilings on natural gas their top legislative priority conceded defeat in the House even before the House Energy and Commerce Committee began three days of work on the bill.

"No," Assistant Energy Secretary Robert Odle answered when asked if the administration had the votes among the 42 committee members to stop a bill aimed at halting the Jan. 1 removal of controls on some gas.

House Democrats claim their latest bill will save residential, business and utility consumers of natural gas more than \$16 billion over the next two years.

world news briefs

Brazilians demand direct elections

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — More than a million people surged into downtown Rio on yesterday for a rally demanding direct elections for president, abolished by the military regime that seized power 20 years ago.

State police Col. Vidal da Silveira Barros, in charge of crowd control, confirmed the figure and called it "a record."

Rio de Janeiro state Gov. Leonel Brizola called the rally "the biggest political demonstration in Brazilian history."

Huge signs and pennants hung over an outdoor speakers platform outside Candelaria Church at the end of President Vargas Avenue downtown, proclaiming "I Want to Vote for President."

President Joao Figueiredo, the fifth general to lead Brazil since the 1964 coup, has said that direct presidential elections now are "inopportune."

Soviet speculates on harbor request

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Soviet ambassador said yesterday his country would consider any Nicaraguan request to clear its harbors of mines placed by U.S.-backed rebels.

Oleg A. Troyanovsky added, however, that he could not predict how the Soviet Union would respond if such a request were made, and noted that France already had offered to sweep Nicaraguan harbors free of mines.

Troyanovsky, Moscow's chief U.N. delegate, told a news conference it was up to the Nicaraguans to say "whether they want to accept French assistance or... whether they would ask for assistance from other quarters."

Asked if the Soviet Union would undertake the task, Troyanovsky replied, "If there is a request, we would certainly consider it. I don't know what the reply would be."

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