

state/nation/world

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Contras receive Israeli aid

By MASHA HAMILTON
Associated Press Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel — An Israeli researcher said yesterday that Israel has aided the Contra rebels in Nicaragua since the leftist Sandinistas overthrew the Somoza dynasty seven years ago.

Israeli assistance, including training and weapons, was instrumental in getting the Contra movement started, Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi told The Associated Press in an interview. He said the help started immediately after President Anastasio Somoza was ousted in July 1979.

He said the government of Somoza's father was among the first to recognize Israel when it was created in 1948 and supplied Nicaraguan passports to Israeli secret agents the following year, beginning a relationship that lasted three decades.

Beit-Hallahmi is a professor at Haifa University and has written a book about Israel's covert foreign relationships. In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir again denied that Israel supplied arms, funds or training to the Contra rebels. But he did not rule out the possibility that Israeli weapons reached the Contras through third parties.

"I don't think we have any contacts with, any connection with the Contras, but if other countries did, it's not our responsibility," Shamir told reporters in response to a question.

Emerging details of how payments from Israeli-brokered U.S. arms shipments to Iran reached the Contras, however, have prompted several Israelis to speak publicly or privately about direct links between the Jewish state and the rebels.

Beit-Hallahmi's information was confirmed by Israeli sources, who insisted on anonymity. An opposition legislator spoke in Parliament of Israeli links with Nicaraguan rebels, and Israeli newspapers yesterday quoted U.S. officials as confirming Israeli weapons sales to the Contras. In 1984, Time magazine quoted

Contra leader Edgar Chamorro as saying the rebels received 2,000 weapons from the Israelis in October 1983. Chamorro, who later abandoned the Contra cause, said most were Soviet-designed AK-47 assault rifles seized from the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon.

Southern Air linked to Contra weapon deals

By ROBERT PARRY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A former CIA air transport company, which reportedly played key roles in both arms sales to Iran and shipments to Nicaraguan rebels, flew more than 400 tons of cargo this year into an air base used by an American-named Contra resupply operation, according to documents.

Southern Air Transport of Miami reported making 15 flights into El Salvador's Ilopango military airport in the first six months of 1986 — from Portugal, New Orleans, Miami and Washington, D.C., according to Transportation Department records. The records show a total of 406 tons of cargo aboard the planes, but not the type of supplies.

The flights coincide with creation of an air resupply wing to carry weapons to the Contra rebels, which according to government sources, was managed by White House aide Oliver North, and financed with \$10 million to \$20 million in profits from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

Southern Air officials declined to discuss their operations. North, a lieutenant colonel in the Marines on assignment at the White House, was fired by President Reagan last week. The air operation came to light Oct. 5 when an arms-laden, American-manned C-124K cargo plane was shot down over southern Nicaragua, killing two Americans and leaving a third, Eugene Hasenfus, a prisoner of Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

The records, made available to The Associated Press, detail for the first time since the crash of the cargo plane the magnitude and extent of the air resupply operation, in terms of the volume of cargo transported.

At the time of the diversions — earlier this year — the U.S. government was barred from giving military aid to the Contra rebels, and the White House role in the secret supply network is a principal focus of congressional investigations.

Documents recovered from the downed C-124K show the air wing making scores of flights this year to deliver aid to Contra bases, both inside and outside Nicaragua.



Pillow talk
Jonathan Getty, 1, rests with his mother Kathleen after a day of shopping in Philadelphia's Bellevue Stratford Hotel. The \$5,000 item sale is an effort to clear the hotel that closed in March.

More U.S. firms leave S. Africa

NEW YORK (AP) — Revlon Group Inc. said yesterday it will sell its operations in South Africa, becoming the latest U.S. company to withdraw from the racially-divided country.

Revlon, a beauty products concern, said it was leaving because of "the uncertainty in the economic and political situation in South Africa created by the government's lack of progress in dismantling its system of apartheid and its failure to achieve racial equality."

Revlon's announcement also said it was reviewing hiring practices to enhance advancement opportunities "for blacks and other minorities."

Revlon's proposed sale follows a pattern set by General Motors Corp., International Business Machines Corp. and dozens of other U.S. companies that have withdrawn from South African holdings.

It also followed by hours the announcement by Honeywell Inc., a Minneapolis-based electronics and computer company, that it would sell its electronic controls affiliate in South Africa to a local firm.

Revlon operates a manufacturing plant in Johannesburg that employs about 300 people. The company, which posted total revenue of \$1.24 billion in the nine months ended Sept. 30, does not break out the results from its South African operations.

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Fewer jobs for grads, says employer survey

By VIVIAN VEGA
Associated Press Writer

EAST LANSING, Mich. — College graduates in the 1986-87 academic year will find fewer jobs but higher salaries than students who earned their degrees a year earlier, according to an annual survey of employers.

The survey also found that employers consider drug screening an ethical procedure, with 20 percent saying they screen new college graduates for drug use, and 95 percent of those who do saying they'll reject job applicants when tests turn up positive.

More than 630 job providers throughout the nation said they expected to hire 58,942 graduates during the year, a 2.4 percent fewer than the 61,651 graduates hired last year by 647 job providers, according to the survey, conducted by Michigan State University and released yesterday.

"It is evident that surveyed employers are approaching this year's recruitment with caution, since they are anticipating a slight decrease from last year's job market for new college graduates," the study concluded.

Slightly more than 100 of the 761 businesses, industries, governmental agencies and educational institutions surveyed say they don't expect to hire any new graduates during the year.

Employers with 10,000 or more workers will be largely responsible for the decrease in new jobs, since they are expecting to hire 9.3 percent fewer graduates, roughly 31,100 hires this year, compared with almost 34,000 last year, the survey said.

"That's quite a cut," said John Shingleton, Michigan State's placement director and author of the study.

"They're downsizing, that's the buzzword today in industry. They've decided there's a lot of fat... and they're going to cut that fat out."

Reasons for the decrease include an even economy, changes in technology and global competition, Shingleton said.

The survey found that employers

with up to 5,000 workers said they expect to hire more new graduates than last year, while those with 5,000-9,999 employees expect a slight decrease.

Minorities and women should find more jobs, since the employers reported increases of 4 percent above last year for minorities and 2.5 percent for women, according to the study.

It also found increases in demand for graduates with majors in hotel, restaurant and institutional management, 2.9 percent; marketing and sales, 2.1 percent; education, 1.7 percent and electrical engineering, 1.2 percent.

Starting salaries for graduates with bachelor's degrees will likely rise to about \$21,815. The survey says employers expected the average starting salary to be 2.9 percent higher than last year.

Graduates with master's degrees can expect to command starting salaries of about \$26,628, while graduates with doctorates will start at about \$30,754.

Again this year, the highest of the starting salaries by major are electrical engineering, \$29,680; mechanical engineering, \$29,636; chemical engineering, \$29,254; metallurgy and materials science, \$28,309; and computer science, \$28,087.

This year's graduates will find jobs most available in the Southwest, according to employers responding to the survey. Rated next best by location are the Northeast and Southeast.

"For the first time in several years, the south-central region slipped from the employers' list of the top three regions; it is now in fifth place," the study said.

The Southeast led the survey when starting salary increases were broken down by region, since employers there predicted 3.5 percent increases, compared with 3.1 percent in the north- and south-central regions. The Northeast expected 2.3 percent increases in starting salaries.

state news briefs

Inmates protest questionable suicide

STATE COLLEGE (AP) — Seven inmates at nearby Huntingdon state prison staged a brief hunger strike to protest the suicide of a prisoner, according to an inmate who said the strikers want a federal investigation of the death.

Of the seven inmates, who began fasting last Thursday and Friday, six missed five meals and one missed 10 meals, Department of Corrections spokesman Ken Robinson said yesterday. The fast ended when the last inmate ate breakfast Monday morning, Robinson said.

In a letter received yesterday, Huntingdon inmate Don Jones wrote, "This protest was brought on by a recent death (murder) of a fellow inmate who was savagely beaten by guards and was later found hung to death in his cell."

Kakara Udhallum, 34, of Philadelphia, was found hanging in his cell at 9:54 p.m. Nov. 25, and his death was ruled a suicide, said Sheryl Grove, assistant to the superintendent at the Huntingdon County prison.

Udhallum, serving four to 10 years for robbery and related offenses in Philadelphia County, "had a history of mental problems and had recently returned from Fairview State Hospital," Grove said.

Huntingdon County Coroner Daniel Kuarry said there were no signs that Udhallum had been beaten. He said the inmate had fashioned a noose from bed sheets and that an autopsy showed he died of strangulation.

nation news briefs

AIDS vaccine development boosted

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Scientists have taken what they think is an important step toward producing a vaccine against AIDS, showing for the first time that only a fragment of protein from the responsible virus is necessary for developing antibodies against it.

A team of industry, government and university researchers says the segment of viral protein spurs high levels of antibodies that neutralize the virus in test animals such as goats.

In addition, the researchers say they showed this protein can be inexpensively mass-produced in large, pure quantities using genetically engineered bacteria.

However, they cautioned, it remains to be proven whether the protein segment can produce sufficient neutralizing antibodies in humans to protect them against acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Even if effective, a practical preventive vaccine still is years away because of the extensive safety and effectiveness tests that would be required before approval, experts say.

Youth to lengthen his own leg

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — For the next four months, 13-year-old Juan Garcia will use a wrench each morning to turn screws embedded in his left leg in a procedure designed to make the 3-foot, 10-inch boy taller.

Juan on Wednesday became the first American dwarf to undergo a new surgical technique that will eventually lengthen his legs by 8 inches, according to his surgeon, Dr. Chad Price.

"Am I any bigger yet? When can I start turning the screws?" were the first words the teen-ager asked his mother, Carmen, after recovering from anesthesia following the 90-minute operation.

"This is an answer to my Christmas wish," she said. "I always wanted my son to be big; now he's going to be." Juan's parents, two brothers and two sisters are of normal size.

Price and the surgeon who perfected the technique in Italy, Dr. Renzo Brivio, attached the metal device to the outside of the left leg adjacent to the bones above and below the knee. The device is attached to the bones internally by 3-inch tapered screws.

Once the device is in place, both the upper and lower leg bones are cut in half. Lengthening comes by gradually adjusting the screws on the outside of the leg so that the bones move apart.

The same operation will later be performed on the right leg, once the treatment on the left leg is finished.

"With gradual separation, the bone has ossified or re-formed," said Price. "There is no implant or artificial device. It utilizes the body's natural ability to create new bone growth."

Price said Juan will be in no pain, not even when he's turning the screws attached to the leg.

Factory orders post sharp decline

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — U.S. factory orders plummeted 3.6 percent in October, the sharpest decline in more than six years, the government said yesterday in a report that prompted economists to express new fears about a possible recession.

The Commerce Department said orders for manufactured goods, after adjusting for seasonal factors, totaled \$192.3 billion in October, \$7.1 billion below their level in September.

The September figure, which had represented a 3.4 percent rise, had raised hopes among some economists that the American manufacturing sector might be staging a rebound after being battered for two years by foreign competition.

However, analysts said the big October drop showed that domestic producers have yet to see improvement in their trade difficulties. Some analysts expressed fear that the continued weakness in manufacturing, coupled with declines in consumer purchasing, may be enough to push the country into a recession next year.

Jay Levy, head of an economic consulting firm in Chappaqua, N.Y., said he was one of those in the minority who is forecasting the "four-year economic recovery will come to an end in 1987."

"These factory orders are telling us that we are getting deeper into a phase of sluggish growth," he said. "We think the chances of a recession beginning next year are about 2-1. Only a very marked improvement in the trade balance could avert a recession."

Beryl Sprinkel, President Reagan's chief economist, predicted Wednesday that the huge trade deficit will shrink by between \$25 billion and \$40 billion from this year's expected record \$170 billion imbalance.

14 convicted for Bishop murder

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP) — Fourteen people were convicted yesterday and sentenced to hang for the slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a coup that prompted the United States to invade this Caribbean island in 1983.

Three of the 14 defendants were convicted of manslaughter, with prison sentences of up to 45 years, and one was acquitted by a jury of seven men and five women that deliberated only three hours. All the defendants pleaded innocent.

They were accused of killing Bishop, three Cabinet members and seven other people Oct. 19, 1983, during the coup. Witnesses said Bishop was among eight victims lined against a wall and cut down with machine gun fire.

Six days later, 6,000 U.S. Marines and paratroopers landed on Grenada. The Reagan administration said the invasion's purpose was to restore order, protect Americans — including several hundred medical students — and prevent a further buildup of Cuban military advisers and weapons on the island.

The United States, already alarmed by Bishop's Marxist leanings and warm ties with Cuba and the Soviet Union, also wanted to stop a more extreme move to the left by the radical military faction that overthrew Bishop and his New Jewel Movement.

Three of those sentenced to hang are Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, considered the mastermind of the plot; his wife Phyllis, and Gen. Hudson Austin, the armed forces commander and coup leader.

Coard said they were convicted in a "kangaroo court and show trial." His wife shouted at Judge Dennis Byron: "The world will condemn you!"

Arms furor receives nicknames

By ROBERT FURLOW
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — How about "Iranamuk"? Or "Contraceptive"? How can there be a real scandal without a catchy name?

While Washington goes about the serious business of sorting out who did what and who knew what in the complicated matter of U.S. arms sales to Iran, through Israel, with some of the payments diverted to Contra rebels in Nicaragua, by way of a numbered Swiss bank account controlled by the CIA (whew), a lot of less serious folk are struggling to come up with a name for the whole thing.

It hasn't been easy. But people who live in the nation's capital, and have seen scandals in other years, are trying desperately to upgrade the Iranian arms affair.

"Iranamuk" was the winner yesterday voting by several hundred listeners to radio station WCLY in Greenbelt, Md., just outside the city.

"Contrascam," "ContraGate," "Armssgate" and other such derivatives were suggested by many callers to the station, suggesting imaginations are still controlled by the Watergate scandal that forced Richard M. Nixon out of the White House and the Abcam scandal that sent a senator and several congressmen to jail.

Other nominees phoned in to the station, including "Iranamuk" and "Contraceptive," were a bit more original. Listeners, many of them presumably government workers, also came up with:

"Contrafiction," for those who have trouble believing what officials are saying.

"Payatollah" or "Ayatollah-so" to get the Iranian leader's name in.

"Reagan-armies" or "Gipper's Gap" or even "Bomzo's Boo-Boo" for those who blame the president.

"Scantra-claus," suggested WCLY disc jockey Scott Woodside, combining "scam" and the Contras and a hint of the Christmas season.

"I like it because I thought of it," he said in a telephone interview, "but I can't see it behind Peter Jennings."



Drive to save farm needs \$64,000 more

By JOSEPH B. FRAZIER
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — A drive to save the farm of a widow whose husband killed himself fell more than \$64,000 short yesterday, but a businessman said the Federal Land Bank had given him an extra two weeks to raise the money.

The contract with the bank on Annabell Hill's farm had been scheduled to expire at 5 p.m. yesterday. Hill's husband had committed suicide in February as the farm was about to be foreclosed.

Atlanta businessman Frank Argenbright, Jr. said under the terms of the extension, the entire farm would have to be paid off within two weeks, removing the possibility of saving part of it and having part of it sold at auction.

He returned from Dallas yesterday afternoon with a \$5,000 check from a farmer. The farmer told Argenbright that he will consider paying off half of the remaining mortgage after he talks to Hill, 65, and her son Leonard.

Argenbright said the farmer, who did not want to be identified, was seeking assurances that the land would not go back into debt.

Under the terms of the land bank extension, the entire debt of \$187,000 must be paid off or the Hills will lose the entire farm.

Argenbright said with the money already raised, including recent contributions, the Hills still have to raise \$25,000 and New York real estate developer Donald Trump would provide the remaining \$39,000.

Trump, at one point, had offered to match half of the then-outstanding debt of \$78,000 if the other half could be raised elsewhere. Of the \$39,000 needed for Trump's contribution, \$14,000 has been raised.

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