

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Reagan OKs military aid to Nicaragua

WASHINGTON — President Reagan has "approved in principle" a plan to resume military aid to rebels fighting the Marxist-led Sandinista government of Nicaragua, a White House official said Wednesday.

The official, revealing the military aid offensive on condition he not be identified, said the plan calls for a \$90 million to \$100 million and would do away with a congressional ban on paying for ammunition or weapons.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said only, "The president has sought ways to support the anti-Sandinista movement there. We are working with Congress for a package, and that's the extent of it."

Reagan recently has stepped up his campaign for public support for efforts to cut off trade with Nicaragua and to isolate the Managua regime. The president accuses Nicaragua of fomenting terrorism and revolution in Central

America.

The president met Wednesday with 47 of the 53 Republicans who control the senate, but Speakes said he did not detail his program of aid to the rebels.

The senior official who spoke anonymously Wednesday said the president has not officially endorsed the specific dollar amount, but has approved the main outlines of the aid proposal.

The Central Intelligence Agency gave the rebels undercover military aid and advice during Reagan's first term. But Congress last year turned down the president's request for continued clandestine assistance. It approved instead a compromise program to give the rebels \$37 million in non-lethal assistance, such as clothing, medical supplies and food.

The senior official said the plan approved in principle by the president calls for about two-thirds of the total

aid package to be spent for weapons, ammunition and other military aid.

Mexico and some other nations in the region have disagreed with Reagan's approach, pressing instead for further diplomatic efforts to win a regional peace treaty.

Congressional sentiment has been divided.

Meanwhile, a U.S.-sponsored Nicaraguan rebel unity group — central to Reagan's plan to resume military aid to the insurgents — has failed to heal the deep divisions that have plagued the war against that nation's leftist government, prominent Nicaraguan exiles say.

Many of the exiles, longtime opponents of Nicaragua's Sandinista government, also expressed doubt that even renewed American military aid can avert the rebels' ultimate defeat as long as the movement is run by leaders

the exiles contend are hand-picked by the U.S. government.

The grim assessment by leading Nicaraguans in Miami, Washington and California comes as Reagan prepares to ask Congress for as much as \$100 million in military and non-lethal aid for the Contra rebels — a proposal expected to reignite bitter debate over Central America.

Administration and congressional officials say the success of Reagan's expected request hinges on persuading moderate House members that the United Nicaraguan Opposition, UNO, the rebels' principal umbrella group, poses a unified and effective democratic alternative to the Sandinistas.

But Nicaraguan exiles, interviewed by The Associated Press, questioned UNO's success in unifying and controlling rebel ranks after it was created at the administration's urging last June.

## Sikhs convicted in Gandhi death

NEW DELHI, India — A judge seated behind bulletproof glass convicted three Sikhs on Wednesday and sentenced them to death for the murder of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984.

More than 200 riot police guarded the jail to prevent a possible attack by Sikh militants and to enforce a 48-hour ban on public assembly that authorities imposed Tuesday in surrounding neighborhoods.

One of those convicted, a member of Mrs. Gandhi's personal guard, was accused of firing the shots in the garden of the prime minister's residential compound, along with another guard who was killed at the scene. The other two defendants were found guilty of conspiracy.

No date was set for the executions, which in India usually are by hanging.

## Obesity linked to genes, study shows

BOSTON — Whether people grow up to be fat or skinny depends in large part on their genes and seems to have nothing to do with the eating habits they learn as children, a new study concludes.

The research helps explain why some people remain chubby even when they diet constantly, while others stay trim no matter what they eat: Fatness and thinness are in their genes.

The findings were based on a study of adopted children. They often grew

up to have the body builds of their biologic parents. Slim offspring frequently had slender natural parents and overweight children had fat ones. There was no evidence that they mirrored the shape of the adoptive parents who raised them.

"The real surprise is that the adoptive family has no impact at all, as far as we can tell," said the study's director, Dr. Albert J. Stunkard of the University of Pennsylvania. "I had certainly thought that early childhood

eating habits have a lot to do with becoming fat. They may not."

Authorities have long argued over whether nature or nurture is the key to obesity that runs in families. Dr. Theodore B. Van Itallie of St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York concludes that the new research "appears to resolve that controversy."

"What has been shown here is that there is a strong genetic factor," said Dr. Jules Hirsch of Rockefeller University.

## Statehouse Roundup

LINCOLN — The Legislature's Judiciary Committee heard testimony Wednesday from two opposing lawyers on whether two bills decriminalizing extra-marital sex should be enacted. Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh introduced LB874, which would abolish civil laws pertaining to alienation of affection and criminal conversation between a spouse and someone outside the marriage. His bill would also eliminate adultery as a criminal offense. Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha sponsored LB877, which also would erase civil statutes pertaining to alienation of affection and criminal conversation. Criminal conversation is the violation of a spouse's right to the exclusive privilege of sexual intercourse, according to a 1954 ruling by the Nebraska Supreme Court. Both senators contended that current law treats women as "pieces of property."

Local governments could allow operation of video lotteries whose proceeds would help bolster state financing of education. In the latest attempt to legalize the controversial machines, which were banned a couple of years ago, Sens. Paul Hartnett of Bellevue, Tom Vickers of Farnam and Gerald Conway of Wayne introduced LB1185.

Nebraska's financially strapped farmers and ranchers could gain a reprieve from foreclosure actions. LB1218, introduced by Sen. Loran Schmit of Bellwood, would permit district judges and trustees to order a moratorium on certain farm and ranch foreclosure proceedings until Jan. 1, 1988.

Sen. Tom Vickers of Farnam introduced LB1171, designed to help protect Nebraska's interests in Washington by dispatching a liaison officer to the nation's capital.

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## February 28, 1986 is the Deadline!

All applications for the Student Health and Accident Insurance must be received by February 28, 1986.

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UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER  
or call 472-7437

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- Am I still eligible for coverage under my parent's plan?
  - A. Is there an age limit? Most policies limit the age for dependent coverage to age 23.
  - B. Are you thinking of marriage? Most policies exclude a dependent after he becomes married.
- Have I declared financial independence from my parents by receiving financial aid, and no longer eligible as a dependent under their plan?
- Would a medical emergency deplete funds set aside for my education?

