

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Turmoil in Washington

Congressional leaders criticize Reagan on reported Iran deal

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders accused the Reagan administration Sunday of keeping them in the dark about reported White House deals to send arms to Iran, and some suggested its power to conduct such operations should be curbed.

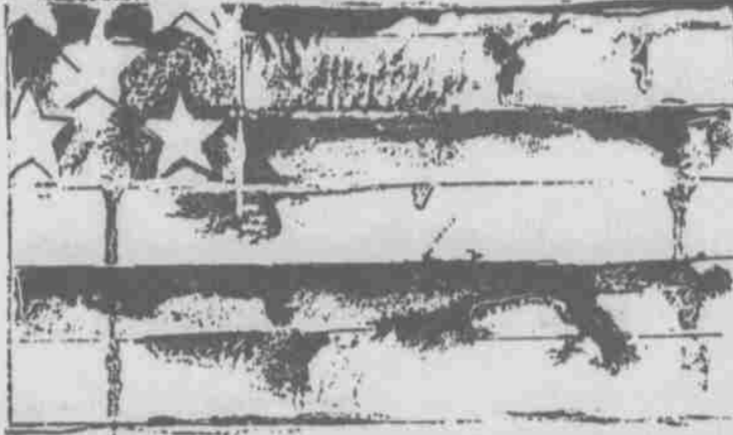
The criticism came amid speculation that Secretary of State George Shultz, who also apparently knew little about the contacts that reportedly produced arms deliveries in return for hostage releases, could resign over the matter.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he had spoken to Shultz on Saturday. "In my judgment, he will not resign."

News reports last week said former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane traveled to Tehran earlier this year and arranged to ship arms to Iran in exchange for the release of U.S. hostages kidnapped in Beirut.

An embargo on arms shipments to Iran, which is at war with Iraq, has been in effect since 1979. The official U.S. position on the war is neutrality.

If the press reports are true, said Senate Democratic



Leader Robert Byrd, the arms trade was "a major blunder" that guarantees hostage-taking will continue and could tip the balance of power in the Middle East.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., told a conference in Atlanta Sunday that it would be a "terrible mistake" to cut an arms deal with Iran. "We all want the hostages home," he said, "but I don't think we want to deal with (Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini in an effort to do that."

Government says missing Israeli under arrest

JERUSALEM — Israel revealed Sunday that Mordechai Vanunu, a former nuclear technician who allegedly leaked state atomic secrets, is in detention and will be tried. But it denied that secret agents kidnapped Vanunu in England to bring him to justice.

The brief government communique ended weeks of speculation about Vanunu's whereabouts. He disappeared in London nearly six weeks ago, after the Sunday Times of London published photographs and information he reportedly supplied about an Israeli nuclear weapons plant.

A senior government official said the 32-year-old Israeli could be tried for treason, a crime punishable by death. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

A spokesman for Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir insisted that Vanunu was arrested "according to law" and will be tried "according to law."

Vanunu was last seen on Sept. 30 in London. On Oct. 5, the Sunday Times published a story that quoted him as saying Israel has produced 100 to 200 nuclear weapons at a subterranean factory in southern Israel, where he worked for 10 years.

Aquino warns against persisting coup rumors

MANILA, Philippines — President Corazon Aquino warned "self-appointed messiahs" in the military on Sunday that she will call people into the streets if needed to defend her rule.

It was her strongest statement yet on persistent coup rumors and came during a televised speech on the eve of her four-day visit to Japan.

The president said she ordered the military to "repel any attacks against our units or centers of government as well as any threat to the security of our people" while she is gone.

Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, the chief of staff, put the military on maximum alert. Guards increased security at the Defense Ministry and at armed forces headquarters at suburban Camp Aguinaldo.

The Manila Chronicle newspaper meanwhile said a threat continued from officers linked to Defense Minister Juna Ponce Enrile who were disenchanted with Mrs. Aquino's government and its peace policy toward communist rebels.

She promised to prevent the destruction of the armed forces by "a few misguided elements" and said a soldier's duty was to "fight the enemies of government and not fight the very government it is ordained to serve."

"If it should be necessary, I shall once more ask you to take to the streets," she said, alluding to the popular revolt that overthrew Marcos. Philippine newspapers credited Ramos with heading off the coup.

Khomeini: My death will not affect revolution

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's ailing, 86-year-old spiritual leader, said Sunday his death would not end the country's Islamic revolution. He apparently was trying to defuse a power struggle within the clergy-led regime.

"Our enemies must understand that the Islamic Republic . . . has been stabilized and is not dependent on any person, but on the people and the armed forces," Khomeini said in a speech to military men at his residence in Jamaran, north of Tehran.

Widespread reports said Khomeini, who had a heart attack in 1980, recently suffered one or two more attacks. Rumors that he is in declining health are common, but this time people in power seem to be taking the reports seriously.

They come at a time when academic, diplomatic and business sources say a struggle for survival is under way in Iran's leadership, nearly eight years after uprisings inspired by Khomeini ended the reign of the late Shah Reza Pahlavi.

"They (Iran's enemies) should not rejoice. This is something that happens and you will see that, God willing, the Islamic Republic will remain, whether or not I stay," Khomeini said.

The struggle for power in Iran is not a simple affair between right and left or moderates and hard-liners. Numerous groups are involved, and some switch sides frequently.

Iran specialists say at least two hardline groups of clergymen are pitted against each other, each claiming

to speak for Islam and the revolution.

The hard-liners include such uncompromising figures as Seyyed Mohammad Musavi Khomeiniha, 45, who was in charge of militants who occupied the U.S. Embassy in Tehran for 444 days in 1979-80 and held 52 Americans hostage.

Other hard-liners are Ayatollah Ali Meshkini, head of the Assembly of Experts which rules on appointments to government posts, and Khomeini's son, Ahmad.

First major snowstorm strikes northern plains

Road crews worked to clear highways Sunday after the northern Plains' first major snow storm of the season stranded hundreds of travelers and killed at least five people.

The storm had moved into Canada on Sunday, after spreading wind-blown snow and low temperatures from the northern Rockies to the Great Lakes.

The heaviest snow was in North Dakota, with 25 inches at Devils Lake. Bismarck got 18 inches, a record for any November storm and just short of the 22-inch single-storm record set in March 1966. Earlier, Red Lodge, Mont., got 21 inches.

Wind gusted to 65 mph at Grand Forks, N.D., and police in Minot reported snowdrifts up to 5 feet high.

A gust to 66 mph was recorded at the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., and trees and utility poles toppled, blacking out more than 6,000 customers around the cities. About 3,200 remained without power Sunday, said Northern States Power Co. spokesman Sam Macalus.

It was the first weekend of deer hunting season in Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Daily Nebraskan

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Commission proposes doubling number of college graduates by turn of century

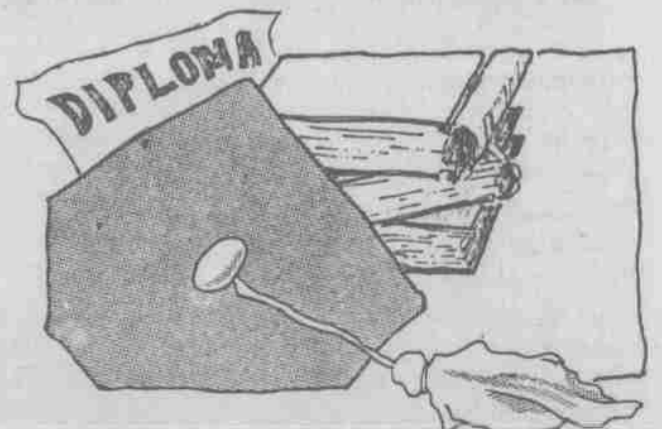
WASHINGTON — A national commission headed by former Education Secretary Terrel H. Bell called Sunday for a massive effort to nearly double the number of college-educated adults by the turn of the century.

And the commission took a sharp slap at members of the Reagan administration and other politicians for "unthinkingly abetting an act of national suicide" by trying to cut aid for college students.

Bell's 22-member panel prepared the report for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, which represents 372 four-year campuses that enroll 2.5 million students and award a third of all bachelor degrees.

"America has far too many people whose abilities are never awakened," declared the 22-member National Commission on the Role and Future of State Colleges and Universities in its 56-page report, "To Secure the Blessings of Liberty."

Bell's report said, "With a high school dropout rate ranging from 25 to 50 percent and with almost 10 percent of our total population functionally illiterate, who can deny that we have a massive population of undereducated people?"



"Public officials who propose budget reductions in education at a time when the republic is handicapped by the burden of an undereducated populace are unthinkingly abetting an act of national suicide," the Bell commission said. "Their priorities are wrong."

"Tragically for the American people, the federal student financial aid program today is on the chopping block in Washington," said the report, adding that the real value of federal aid has fallen 25 percent since President Reagan took office in 1981.