

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Congress moves into action Committees prepare Iranian arms sale hearings

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders on Thursday brushed aside President Reagan's defense of his secret sale of arms to Iran, branding it a "mistake" that may very well have violated the law.

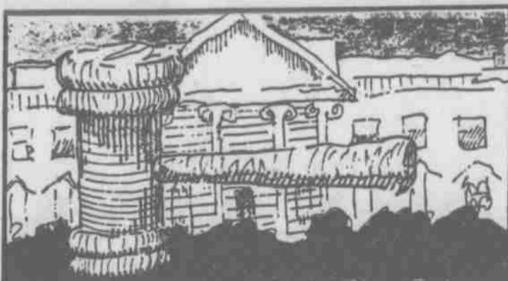
As two congressional committees prepared for closed door sessions with CIA Director William Casey, Republicans and Democrats used nearly identical terms to criticize the president's actions.

Reagan met with the House Democratic and GOP leaders at the White House but had nothing further to say publicly, following a Wednesday night news conference in which he defended the sales as a "high-risk gamble" that at least gained the release of three American hostages.

Reagan's former national security adviser Robert McFarlane, who delivered a planeload of weapons to Iran, issued a statement taking responsibility for "a serious error in judgment" in not realizing that the sale would have a damaging effect on the national interest.

"The bottom line is that we should not even have a perception of trading arms for hostages," said Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan.

After meeting with Reagan, House Majority Leader Jim Wright, D-Texas, told reporters that the administration had not complied with several laws requiring that Congress be notified in a "timely" way of major transfers of arms.



"I think the law is unequivocal," said Wright, who is in line to become House speaker when the new Congress convenes in January. "The law commands (a) timely report (to Congress)."

Asked whether the president had been well-advised by Attorney General Edwin Meese to delay informing Congress, Wright said, "If the attorney general says to the president that he doesn't have to follow the law, that would have been very bad advice indeed."

Legislators will be investigating whether Reagan complied with several laws which could be applicable to the U.S.-Iran negotiations and the shipment of what Reagan says were defensive weapons.

## In Brief

### Assembly condemn U.S. raids

UNITED NATIONS — The general assembly voted 79-28 Thursday to condemn last April's U.S. bombing raids on Libya as a violation of international law.

There were 33 abstentions on the resolution, which was sponsored by 27 countries, mostly Arab and Soviet Bloc states.

In addition to condemning the April 15 U.S. bombing raids on Tripoli and Benghazi, the resolution called on the United States "to refrain from the use or threat of use of force" against Libya.

It also said Libya has the right to "appropriate compensation for the material and human losses inflicted."

Responding for the United States on Wednesday, Sen. Larry Pressler told the assembly the U.S. raids were carried out in legitimate self-defense "to reduce Libya's ability to continue to commit unlawful aggression through terrorist force against the United States and its nationals."

### Boss's album to top music charts

NEW YORK — Bruce Springsteen's live five-record set, which set off a sales frenzy when it was released last week, will make its debut next week on Billboard magazine's pop LP chart in the No. 1 spot.

It is the first time in 10 years that an album has premiered at the top of the chart and the first time that a five-album set has been in Billboard's Top 25, let alone No. 1.

The last album to hit the charts as No. 1 was Stevie Wonder's "Songs in the Key of Life" in 1976.

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations. Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1986 DAILY NEBRASKAN

## Khomeini denounces U.S. relations

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iran's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on Thursday ruled out reconciliation with Washington and said any Iranian officials who seek to improve relations are "Satan-oriented."

"I never expected such things from these people," Khomeini, 86, said in a speech at his residence in north Tehran. His remarks were broadcast by Tehran radio and monitored in Nicosia.

"This is a time when they should be screaming at America. (But) they are shouting at themselves," Khomeini said in his first public comment on contacts between Washington and Tehran.

He also urged unity within Iran's

revolutionary leadership, in which Western observers recently have reported deep divisions.

Without mentioning names, Khomeini criticized Iranian leaders who publicly have demonstrated flexibility towards the United States in recent weeks. He accused them of falling prey to propaganda from the White House, which he called the "Black House."

President Reagan disclosed last week that the United States had secret diplomatic contacts with Iran over the past 18 months and delivered small amounts of defensive weapons in a bid to improve relations.

Several Iranian leaders, including Parliament speaker Hashemi Rafsan-



jani, have spoken of possible reconciliation with the United States, but they have stipulated that Washington first must meet certain conditions, such as releasing weapons bought by the Shah's government but never delivered.

## FAA orders jet inspections for cracks

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration Thursday ordered airlines to inspect nearly 100 Lockheed L-1011 jetliners for possible metal fatigue in the wings after a 6 3/4-inch crack was found in the wing of a Delta jet after it landed in Newark.

The FAA directive, which formally will be sent to the carriers later Friday, requires the inspections within 50 fly-

ing hours, or about a week, and is unlikely to cause significant disruptions in airline operations, an FAA spokesman said.

Spokesmen for several airlines that operate large numbers of the wide-body jetliners said they already have begun inspecting the planes and anticipate no interruption of scheduled flights.

FAA spokesman Fred Farrar said the

inspections are "designed to detect any fatigue crack" in the wing-support structure of the aircraft.

The FAA acted after the National Transportation Safety Board announced it was urging an "immediate inspection" of the L-1011 aircraft for possible metal fatigue because of the incident Nov. 13 involving the Delta jet at Newark.

## Senators choose new leaders in Capitol changing of the guard

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats, flexing their new political muscle, reinstated Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia as majority leader Thursday and Republicans picked Bob Dole of Kansas as minority leader for the 100th Congress which convenes Jan. 6.

That reverses the roles Byrd and Dole playing the 99th Congress and reflects the outcome of the Nov. 4 elections, which ended six years of GOP control in the Senate.

"We are in the majority and we are ready to do business," said Byrd, who has led Senate Democrats since 1977. He is returning to the majority position he held until 1980.

With each party's choices for its leadership posts all but settled in advance, there was no suspense as the 55 upbeat Democrats and 45 Republi-

cans met privately in different rooms near the Senate chamber.

But the feisty Democrats served notice they intend to put together a comprehensive agenda of domestic and foreign policy issues to try to capture the legislative initiative from the White House early next year.

"We are not going to wait three months in the presidential waiting room. The president has his timetable, we have ours," Byrd said. "We're going to send to the American people a signal that it is no longer business as usual."

Byrd called on the administration to send its fiscal 1988 budget to Congress on Jan. 5, as required by the Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing law. However, administration officials have said the spending proposal may not be ready until early February.

## Filipinos rally to support political leftists

MANILA, Philippines — More than 100,000 people joined the funeral procession of slain labor leader Rolando Olalia on Thursday in the biggest display by the political left since a communist rebellion began 17 years ago.

At a stop about 500 yards from President Corazon Aquino's office in Malacanang Palace, speakers urged her to use the left in confronting rightist challenges from Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile or loyalists of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos, who fled the country last February.

Enrile, who also was defense minister under Marcos, has been outspoken in criticizing government policy. Rumors of coup plots by his supporters in the army have filled the city.

About 50,000 people followed a truck carrying the caskets of Olalia, 52, and his driver, Leonor Alayay, in a day-long procession that was largely peaceful. It wound for 12 miles from suburbs to the downtown district.

An equal number lined the route, many chanting "Revolution! Revolution!" "Long Live the Communist Party

of the Philippines!" and slogans demanding Enrile's ouster.

Riot police were deployed in the city but kept away from the procession.

Many people wore T-shirts bearing the hammer and sickle symbol of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines.

Olalia, 52-year-old leader of the Partido ng Bayan (People's Party) and the militant May 1st Movement labor federation, and Alayay were kidnapped and murdered last week.

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