

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Reagan takes action

President names NSC adviser; seeks counsel

WASHINGTON — Under pressure from Congress, President Reagan called Tuesday for appointment of a special counsel to investigate the diversion of Iranian arms sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels and named a former CIA official as his national security adviser.

"If illegal acts were undertaken, those who did so will be brought to justice," the president declared as he also announced that Frank Car-

lucci, onetime deputy CIA director and deputy secretary of defense, will replace Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter, who resigned last week as national security adviser.

The president said he'd been informed by Attorney General Edwin Meese III earlier Tuesday that "reasonable grounds" existed to seek appointment of an independent counsel by a three-judge court.

While Reagan was speaking in a

rare midday broadcast to the nation, the Senate Intelligence Committee, continuing closed-door hearings on the American-Iran-Contra uproar, questioned Poindexter.

Republican congressional leaders praised Reagan for moving decisively to end the disarray wrought by the Iranian arms sales disclosures. Democrats, too, applauded his decision to seek an independent counsel.

Israel denies siphoning funds to Contras

JERUSALEM — Israeli leaders Tuesday denied new assertions that their country siphoned funds from arms deals with Iran to Nicaraguan rebels. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called the reports "complete falsehood."

Denials from the top three government officials put Israel in apparent conflict with President Reagan, who was quoted in Time magazine as saying a third country channeled money to the rebels from inflated prices Iran paid for weapons.

Newspapers quoted American officials as saying Reagan meant Israel, which has acknowledged secretly shipping U.S. arms to Iran but has denied handling payments to the rebels, known as Contras.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Parliament during a 45-minute debate: "The Israeli government

doesn't maintain contact ties or supply weapons from here to the rebels in Nicaragua. It has not given approval for any Israeli to assist, supply know-how or weapons from Israel to the rebels."

The U.S. Justice Department informally has told Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government that it will seek to question some Israelis in an investigation of the Iranian arms deal, officials said privately.

They said Israel has promised to cooperate with U.S. investigators, but no formal request had been made.

Israel seeks clarification from Washington on the Reagan remarks published in Time, an Israeli legislator said. He spoke on condition of anonymity and would not elaborate.

In Brief

ETV tower collapses

BASSETT, Neb. — The Nebraska ETV Network's 1,524-foot television tower near here collapsed early Tuesday apparently because of severe icing during a storm, ETV officials said in a news release.

The tower's collapse eliminated educational and public television service for the entire north central portion of Nebraska, a circle of coverage with a radius of 90 miles in all directions.

A preliminary estimate to replace the Bassett tower and broadcast antenna is \$1.9 million, the release said.

It will take an estimated six months from the time financing is approved to fabricate, deliver and construct a replacement tower before service can be restored, it said.

Nebraska Education Telecommunications commissioners are studying ways to restore service on an emergency basis until the tower is replaced, the release said.

Death row cases put on hold

LINCOLN — A federal magistrate has stayed additional action on two cases involving death row inmates at the Nebraska State Penitentiary pending the outcome of another case involving convicted killer Richard Holtan.

The two cases awaiting resolution of Holtan's case involve Carey Dean Moore and Peter Hochstein.

Moore was sentenced to death for the murders of two Omaha cab drivers in 1979. Hochstein was given the death penalty for his part in the 1978 contract slaying of Omaha real estate broker Ronald Abboud.

U.S. District Judge Warren Urbom ruled Nov. 5 on Holtan's case and declared a portion of Nebraska's death penalty law unconstitutional.

Urbom gave the state 60 days to initiate resentencing proceedings or reduce Holtan's death sentence to life in prison.

The executions for both Moore and Hochstein were stayed in 1984.

Violence hits New Delhi; police arrest 1,500 in struggle to control riots

NEW DELHI, India — Mobs of Hindus angered by Sikh terrorism rampaged through the capital Tuesday and battled Sikhs outside their temples. Police reported 1,500 arrests as they struggle to control the 16,000 Hindu rioters. There was no immediate figure on the total number of injuries.

The rioting erupted during a general strike called by a Hindu party to express "anger and anguish" over the massacre Sunday of 24 Hindus in Punjab state by assailants described by police as Sikh terrorists.

Police fired shots in the air, burst tear gas shells and made repeated charges with steel-tipped bamboo clubs to break up the

melee at the temple.

"They challenged us," temple spokesman Hardeep Singh said to explain why 150 Sikhs came out of the shrine with ceremonial swords to confront 8,000 Hindu protesters. He said the Hindus shouted curses and derisive chants.

The street in front of the temple was littered with rocks and broken bricks after the battle and a curfew was declared in the area Tuesday night.

Sikhs and Hindus also battled outside a Sikh temple in east Delhi, and police fought running battles in other areas with Hindu rioters who threw stones, blocked roads and set fires. Eight

vehicles and two Sikh houses were set ablaze.

The army was put on alert after a meeting of military and government officials, and police cars with loudspeakers cruised the city's neighborhoods at nightfall warning people to stay inside.

General strikes or other protests were declared in six Indian states Tuesday, but widespread violence developed only in New Delhi, where 7,000 extra police and paramilitary troops were called in.

Sikhs make up about 2 percent of India's 780 million people but form a majority in Punjab, a rich farming state.

Desi Arnaz dies of lung cancer

HOLLYWOOD — Desi Arnaz, the Cuban-born singer-bandleader beloved by generations of TV viewers as Lucille Ball's harassed husband Ricky Ricardo on the "I Love Lucy" show, died of lung cancer Tuesday. He was 69.

Arnaz, who was married to Ball for 20 years before their divorce in 1960 and became one of television's most successful producers, died at his Del Mar home in San Diego County just after midnight. Daughter Lucie Arnaz Luckinbill was at his side, reading prayers, publicist Charlie Pomerantz said.

"He was the father of my children and we were always friends, always very friendly and close," Ball said. "I was

down there last week. We've talked all the time, through the years. Lucie, our daughter, was with him.

Dr. Charles Campbell of San Diego, Arnaz' physician, said his patient had been ill for about a year.


"He died of lung cancer. It was from smoking those Cuban cigars; that's the truth," Campbell said.

"I Love Lucy," which Arnaz produced, was one of television's most successful and longest running shows.

Arnaz pioneered the three-camera technique, widespread today, in which three cameras simultaneously filmed the "Lucy" show from different angles, with a final program combined later.

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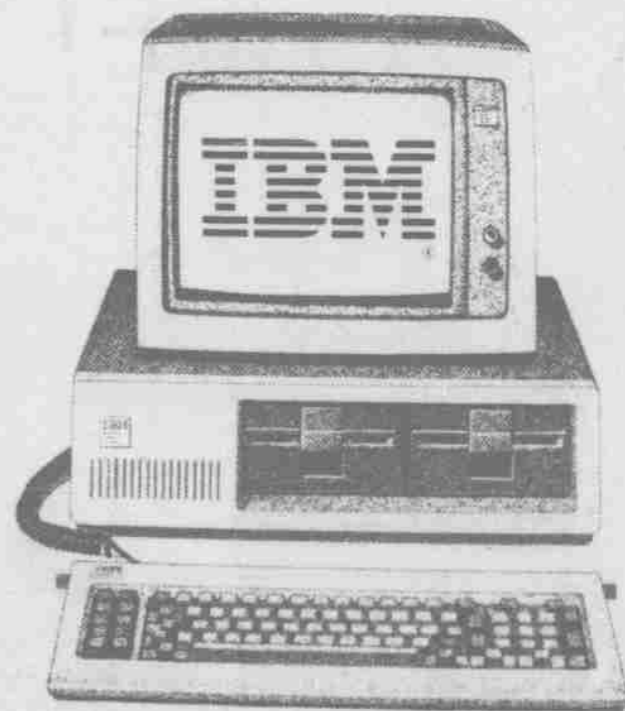
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