

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Contra debate continues

Spokesman: Reagan had no part in Contra affair

WASHINGTON — President Reagan had no part in conservative fund-raiser Carl R. Channell's conspiracy to defraud the government in raising weapons money for the Contra rebels, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Thursday.

"In the legal view of the White House, the president is not a part of this conspiracy," Fitzwater told reporters.

Channell, who pleaded guilty to a single conspiracy charge on Wednesday, set up meetings between Reagan and supporters of Channell's tax-exempt foundation at the White House in 1985 and 1986, but Reagan believed he was thanking the supporters for purchasing commercials for the Contra cause, the spokesman said.

Fitzwater said several such meetings occurred. He said he could not immediately provide an exact number.

Channell pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the government of taxes on \$2 million in contributions for military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels. He cited former White House aide Lt. Col. Oliver North as a fellow conspirator.

In the first criminal charge brought in the Iran-Contra affair, the fund-raiser agreed to cooperate with independent counsel Lawrence Walsh's investigation.

Channell did not implicate Reagan in the illegal activities.

Fitzwater, citing a statement Reagan made at a March 19 news conference, said, "It was his understanding the money was being raised for advertisement purposes."

At the news conference, Reagan had been asked about a North memorandum, quoted in the report of the presidentially appointed Tower board, saying: "The president



obviously knows why he has been meeting with several select people to thank them for their 'support for democracy' in Central America."

North was fired and National Security Adviser John Poindexter resigned last November after disclosure of plans to divert profits from the secret Iran arms sales to the rebels battling the government of Nicaragua.

Reagan also was asked at the news conference if he knew about solicitation of money from private sources for the Contras.

In Brief

Nakasone orders interest rate cuts in Japan

WASHINGTON — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone told President Reagan Thursday that he had ordered the Bank of Japan to lower short-term interest rates to spur Japanese economic growth, Reagan's spokesman said.

The announcement came at the end of the first session of talks during Nakasone's three-day visit. It was welcomed by U.S. officials.

"The president was very pleased," said a senior U.S. administration official who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Fitzwater later explained that a major impact of reducing Japanese interest rates would be to boost Japan's economic growth and increase consumer demand, as well as increase imports from the United States and other countries.

The U.S. senior official said lower interest rates in Japan would also tend to bolster the U.S. dollar against yen.

Earthquake hits northwestern China

BEIJING — A strong earthquake struck northwestern China today, and there were initial reports of damage to houses, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The earthquake measured six on the Richter scale and struck at 2:17 p.m. near the town of Kashi in Xinjiang province, 4,250 miles west of the capital and near the western border with the Soviet Union, Xinhua said.

The tremor caused cracks in some houses in Wudua county near Kashi, the agency said.

No other details were immediately available, it said.

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released on a seismograph. A quake of magnitude six can cause severe damage in populated areas.

Ronnie's mom won't give up organ donation drive

PITTSBURGH — Even after her son Ronnie died while waiting for his fourth liver transplant, Maria DeSillers refused to give up her fight for children needing life-saving organ transplants.

"The nation will keep on hearing Ronnie's name. The nation will keep on hearing about organ donation — and I don't care if I have to travel to the ends of the earth to get that message across to people," she vowed less than two hours after the 7-year-old's death Wednesday night at Children's Hospital.

"If there's one thing that will come of this, it's that maybe other parents and other children won't have to go through what I've been through.

'The nation will keep on hearing Ronnie's name. The nation will keep on hearing about organ donation — and I don't care if I have to travel to the ends of the earth to get that message across to people.'

—DeSillers

They won't have to go through what Ronnie has been through," a teary-eyed DeSillers said.

DeSillers, 31, a former public relations consultant, decided she "was not going to take it sitting down" when she learned her son, born

with defective bile ducts, needed a liver transplant.

She never gave up her public prayers and pleas. She comforted others while promoting organ donation in a campaign that touched the

White House and challenged the nation's transplant system.

Desperate to give her son a chance to become "a leader of tomorrow," DeSillers campaigned in southern Florida early this year to finance the costly transplant. She is divorced and lost her medical insurance when she quit work to be with her ailing son.

Ronnie underwent his first transplant Feb. 24, but a viral infection damaged the organ, necessitating a second transplant April 3. That organ failed, too, and a third transplant was performed April 23. That organ was failed.

Family arrives in Nicaragua to bury American killed by Contra rebels

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The parents of Benjamin Linder, an American volunteer killed in an attack by U.S.-backed Contra rebels, arrived Thursday to bury their son with honors among the people he was trying to help.

Linder, a 27-year-old mechanical engineer from Portland, Ore., and two Nicaraguan militiamen were killed Tuesday near the hamlet of La Camaleona in northern Nicaragua, where he worked as an unpaid volunteer in a rural electrification project.

President Daniel Ortega accompanied the family on Thursday afternoon to Matagalpa, 80 miles north of Managua, to which the body was taken for the funeral, according to presidential spokesman Manuel Espinoza.

State radio said the leftist Sandinista government had awarded the Order of Commander Jose Benito Escobar to the dead volunteer. It is the highest citation for workers and had never been given to a foreigner.

Shortly after arrival, David Linder said of his son: "He worked here and he gave his life here, and he must be buried here. He belongs here. He wanted to make this a better place for people to live."

When asked who killed his son, Linder said: "Who killed Ben? Someone who paid someone who paid someone who paid someone and so on down the line to the president of the United States." His voice broke and he wept. The Contra rebels are supported by the U.S. government.

Correction

A story in Wednesday's DN said Makoala Marake will return to his wife and two children in Lesotho in two years when he finishes his master's degree. It should have said Neo Mthokho will return to his wife and two children in two years. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

Spread of AIDS linked to rise in tuberculosis cases

ATLANTA — Cases of tuberculosis in the United States are up significantly for the first time in the 34 years records have been kept, and the spread of AIDS may be partly to blame, federal officials reported Thursday.

New TB cases had declined by an average of 1,706 a year from 1982 to 1984, but by only 54 in 1985. In 1986, the number of new cases recorded rose by 374 to 22,575, an increase of 1.7 percent, the Centers for Disease Control reported.

"This indicates to us that we have a very serious problem; we need to pay attention to this," said Dr. Dixie Snider, director of the CDC's tuberculosis division. He warned that an increase of TB among AIDS patients may mean an increase in the disease among the general population.

The report said the matching of lists of AIDS and TB patients in roughly half the states found that 4.2 percent of the AIDS patients in those states also had TB. The relationship between AIDS and TB would be better understood if all states matched AIDS and TB registries, the CDC said.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome is a fatal condition that destroys the body's ability to fight disease and leaves it open to a variety of infections, including tuberculosis. It has been diagnosed in more than 33,000 Americans, and more than 19,000 have died.

In July, the Journal of the American Medical Association said AIDS patients often suffer severe and unusual forms of TB and said tuberculosis should be seen as a signal of possible AIDS infection. A survey of 134 New Jersey AIDS patients found 29 of them, or 21 percent, to have TB, it said.

While TB is usually confined to the lungs, in AIDS patients it appears in bones, the heart lining, the nerves, lymph glands or rectum, the magazine said.



MAY FIESTA OF GOLD CELEBRATION

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 Happy Hour 10-Close	2 Happy Hour 10-Close
3 Happy Hour 6-Close	4 \$3 Gold Margs 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	5 Margville 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	6 Margville 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	7 Beach Club Nite 7-11 p.m. 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	8 Happy Hour 10-Close	9 Happy Hour 10-Close
10 Happy Hour 6-Close	11 \$3 Gold Margs 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	12 Margville 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	13 Margville 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	14 Beach Club Nite 7-11 p.m. 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	15 Happy Hour 10-Close	16 Happy Hour 10-Close
17 Happy Hour 6-Close	18 \$3 Gold Margs 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	19 Margville 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	20 Margville 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	21 Beach Club Nite 7-11 p.m. 9 p.m. Gold Coin Giveaway	22 Happy Hour 10-Close	23 Happy Hour 10-Close
24 Happy Hour 6-Close	25 \$3 Gold Margs	26 Margville	27 Margville	28 Beach Club Nite 7-11 p.m.	29 Happy Hour 10-Close	30 Happy Hour 10-Close
31 Happy Hour 6-Close	Mon. For the month of May only \$3 for our Special Gold Margaritas made with Jose Guervo, Cointreau and our own Sweet & Sour Mix Tues. Margaritaville 1/2 Price Margaritas all day Wed. Margarita Wednesday - 1/2 Price Margaritas all day Thurs. Chi Chi Beach Club Nite - Wear your Chi-Chi Beach Club Shirt for \$1 Off margaritas and 50¢ off all Mexican Beer					

On Monday nights, Chi-Chi's will make available a room in our lounge for Birthday party reservations. We will also provide an authentic pinata, which may be filled by you with gifts or gags. Reserve your room now.

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Bring in this calendar and receive \$1 Off your appetizers any night in May.

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