

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Reagan calls for continued aid to Contra rebels

NEW YORK — President Reagan, staking out a tough position on the eve of the Iran-Contra hearings, said Sunday that cutting off aid to rebels in Nicaragua would give the Soviet Union a free hand in Central America and "one of their greatest foreign policy victories since World War II."

Reagan said that when members of Congress vote later this year on aid to the rebels, it may well be the most important vote of 1987 and "possibly one of the most important cast in their careers in public office."

Reagan's remarks came in an address prepared for delivery on Ellis Island during the opening ceremonies of the American Newspaper Publisher's Association annual convention.

In his remarks, Reagan made no mention of the televised hearings opening on Capitol Hill Tuesday on the secret sale of the arms to Iran and the possible diversion of profits to the Contras. He said nothing about the purported transfer of funds — a subject about which he has pleaded ignorance — and he was silent about the division within the Contra leadership.

Arguing that America has maintained a bipartisan consensus on foreign policy for 50 years, Reagan declared, "This is no time for either party to turn its back on that tradition or on the cause of freedom, especially when the threat to both is so close to home."

"I do not think there is anyone in Congress who wants to see another base for Soviet subversion, another Cuba established on American shores — yet that is what is happening right now," Reagan said.

"If we cut off the freedom fighters, we will be

giving the Soviets a free hand in Central America, handing them one of their greatest foreign policy victories since World War II," the president added.

Reagan said, "Make no mistakes: the Soviets are challenging the United States to a test of wills over the future of this hemisphere."

"For as long as I am president, I have no intention of withdrawing our support of these efforts by the Nicaraguan people to gain their freedom and the right to choose their own national future," Reagan said.

## Tax increase talk raises concern, makes some Democrats uneasy

SANTA FE, N.M. — All the talk by congressional Democrats of the need for a tax increase to help reduce the federal budget deficit is making many party officials uneasy as they look ahead to the 1988 election.

"It's playing Russian roulette again," said Charles Whitehead, Florida Democratic Party chairman.

"It will absolutely kill us in the state of Florida," he added.

Whitehead is one of the party leaders who believe the Democrats paid a heavy price in 1984 when Walter F. Mondale told the nation as he accepted the presidential nomination that a tax increase would be needed to reduce the record budget deficits.

"The politics of saying you're going to raise

taxes is bad, no question about it," said Donald Fowler of South Carolina, a member of the Democratic National Committee.

But, Fowler added, advocating new revenues when they are needed is "a matter of political leadership."

Many of the Democrats said the party is in the uncomfortable position of taking the lead in calling for new revenues to deal with the budget deficits run up during the Reagan presidency.

"We're advocating taxes to bail out eight years of Reagan," Whitehead complained.

Back in Washington, the Senate was moving ahead with a budget proposal drafted by the Democratic majority that would freeze spending for the Pentagon and most domestic programs and also call for \$11.5 billion in new revenue.

## Soviet wheat sale pleases farmers despite continued surplus, low prices

WICHITA, Kan. — Farmers and others cheered the sale of 147 million bushels of wheat to the Soviet Union, but they say it can't do much to solve the industry's low prices and 2 billion-bushel surplus.

"The reason it's excellent news is it's the first significant wheat transaction with them in a long period of time," said Del Wiedeman, a Wakeeney area farmer who is president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

The sale announced Thursday amounts to about 7 percent of the 2 billion bushels of surplus wheat on hand. It is less than half the amount expected to be harvested this summer in Kansas, the nation's No. 1 wheat-producing state.

The sale was subsidized by the federal govern-

ment under the Export Enhancement Program. Grain exporting companies will receive wheat from the government-controlled surplus to reimburse them for lowering their prices to an estimated \$2.18 a bushel, about 60 cents less than current national wheat prices on the spot market.

"I think this might spur additional sales," said Doyle Rahjes, president of the state's largest agricultural organization, the Kansas Farm Bureau.

Bill Tierney, a Kansas State University agricultural economist, said the sale did have a slight psychological effect on the wheat futures market, which moved up six cents a bushel Friday to close at \$2.745. Wheat prices have been at a seven year low since the 1986 harvest.

## Investigators look into Bush's role in Contra weapons shipments

WASHINGTON — Iran-Contra investigators are looking into Vice President George Bush's connections to the supply of weapons to the Nicaraguan Contras, including a record of involvement from start to finish by a former CIA agent who is a top aide to the vice president.

Reporting to Congress on the progress of his investigation, independent counsel Lawrence Walsh specifically listed the office of the vice president as among the objects of his ongoing criminal investigation. He said those inquiries were "proving fruitful" and none has been abandoned.

While there have been questions about the vice president's role since last winter, only recently has the focus sharpened on Bush and his aides. The Tower commission's report released in February made scant mention of Bush's

role despite signs of involvement in the affair by him and his staff. But the Tower panel interviewed only Bush and none of his staff.

Wary that Bush's 1988 presidential chances could be wrecked on the shoals of the Iran-Contra affair, the vice president's political advisers insist that they do not have a problem as congressional hearings open Tuesday.

In addition, Bush, himself a former CIA director, has had meetings with key figures in both the arms sales to Iran and the private aid network for supplying the Contras.

Moreover, Bush attended the daily intelligence briefings for President Reagan where a number of key decisions in the case were made, including the one at which the Iran initiative was formally approved.

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### Correction

In the April 30 issue of the Daily Nebraskan, Barb Meister, chairperson of Farm Action Concerns Tomorrow's Society, was misquoted in a page 3 story about her speech on the Harkin/Gephardt bill for the ag crisis series. The quote should have read: "Consumers might oppose the bill because it could increase the food prices by up to five percent." The incorrect quote said the bill might increase food price by up to 10 percent.

The article also defined parity incorrectly as the price the government guarantees to pay the farmer for products. Parity should be defined as a price concept in which the production price is covered and the product makes a reasonable profit, based on 1914 prices. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the errors.

## Pope criticizes Nazism Pontiff beautifies priest, warns of 'de-Christianization'

MUNICH, West Germany — Pope John Paul II on Sunday beatified a German priest who defiantly preached the gospel of peace to the Nazis, and the pontiff called for greater religious fervor to counter today's "de-Christianization."

"Where God and his laws are not respected, man's rights, too, will not be respected," John Paul said. "This was clear from the conduct of the Nazi rulers."

A cheering crowd of more than 85,000 gathered in Munich's Olympic stadium Sunday morning for the beatification of Rev. Rupert Mayer. Many wore traditional green Bavarian costumes with plumed hats.

The pope, wearing a gold robe and miter, said of Mayer: "As an incorruptible witness to the truth, he openly opposed the false prophets of those (Nazi) years, always prepared to fight for the gospel of peace."

"Equipped with the shield of a deep, unwavering faith, he brandished in his famous sermons the sword of the spirit, the word of God."

Mayer, a German Jesuit, was jailed three times for his sermons against Nazism, and was sent to a concentration camp. He died in 1945, after World War II ended, while working in Munich. Beatification is a step toward possible sainthood.

Mayer protested against Adolf Hitler's government in dozens of sermons delivered at Masses he celebrated in Munich's train station. The Nazis murdered 6 million Jews and hundreds of thousands of Gypsies, homosexuals and others from 1933-45.

During his homily, the pontiff also denounced divorce and increasing

secularism, saying: "Do not allow the process of de-Christianization to continue."

The pontiff did not spell out what he meant by de-Christianization, but he frequently has warned of what he sees as a growing abandonment of Christian principles, especially in industrialized countries.

Late Sunday, the Vatican announced that steady downpours forced cancellation of an outdoor Mass in Augsburg, 55 miles north of Munich. It was the first weather-related cancellation of an outdoor Mass in the 34 foreign trips John Paul has taken since he became pope in 1978. The Mass was moved to the Augsburg cathedral.

Since his arrival Thursday, the pontiff has used his five-day trip to West Germany to deliver what Vatican analysts call the toughest papal condemnation of Nazi atrocities to date.

Sunday's ceremony came two days after the pope beatified Jewish-born Carmelite nun Edith Stein, who was gassed in Auschwitz death camp in 1942.

Dozens of yellow-and-white Vatican flags fluttered atop the stadium, alongside blue-and-white Bavarian banners. Bavaria, the country's largest state, is 70 percent Catholic. The national average is 43.6 percent.

The stadium where Sunday's ceremony took place was site of the 1972 Summer Olympic Games, which were overshadowed by the killing of 11 Israeli athletes and trainers by Arab terrorists.

John Paul made no reference to the massacre during his 3 1/2-hour Mass.

The pope is scheduled to return to Rome on Monday.

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