

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Contra leaders offer to meet Sandinistas for cease-fire talks

WASHINGTON — The political directorate of Nicaragua's Contra rebels offered Thursday to go to Managua for direct talks with the leftist Sandinista government to arrange a cease-fire by a Nov. 7 deadline.

The surprise announcement, made at a brief Capitol Hill news conference, means that "we are starting today the hardball game" in testing Sandinista commitment to a five-nation peace accord signed Aug. 7, said Alfredo Cesar, a member of the directorate of the Nicaraguan resistance.

"So far the Sandinistas have been able to comply with the easy part of the plan," by reopening some news media outlets and taking other steps required by the peace plan, Cesar said.

Another member of the directorate, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, read a statement saying the group would "send to Managua a delegation at the highest level to demand of the Sandinista front a direct dialogue with the resistance, to lead to an immediate cease-fire as is contemplated in the peace agreement."

Chamorro said the leaders of the four other Central American countries that signed the accord had been briefed on the offer, and all "told us of their decision to support it."

The statement said that the resistance "does not embrace the amnesty" offered by the Sandinistas or the current political process in Nicaragua.

"Rather it makes an extra effort" toward a cease-fire that could enhance the peace process and stop bloodshed in the country," Chamorro said.

The group has asked Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, a leading critic of the Managua regime, to serve as an intermediary in arranging the trip and setting up the talks.

Adolfo Calero, another Contra leader, said the trip could not be made until the Sandinistas approve of it.

The Sandinistas have in the past steadfastly objected to direct talks with the rebels, saying they are creatures of U.S. policy and therefore any talks should be with the United States. The United States has refused such a course.

But the Contra leaders noted that leaders in Guatemala and El Salvador are talking directly with the rebel groups in their countries and said the government of Nicaragua should do the same.

"If they don't change their mind, they will be responsible for the failing of the peace process in Central America," Chamorro said.

Emergency crews seek Stealth fighter

Secret plane reported missing

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — An Air Force plane that Pentagon sources said was a top-secret Stealth fighter was missing Thursday, and the Air Force said it was searching for the aircraft.

A Pentagon official in Washington who asked not to be named described the missing plane as a Stealth fighter, similar to the plane that crashed in 1986 in California.

The source refused to discuss the conditions under which the plane disappeared and it could not be learned immediately whether the plane was on a training exercise of a flight test.

CBS News, quoting unidentified

Pentagon source, said the pilot of the Stealth was missing.

The Air Force refused, however, to say what kind of plane it was or how many crew members were aboard.

The plane was last tracked on radar at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday about 100 miles northwest of here, said Major Victor Andrijauskas of Nellis Air Force Base.

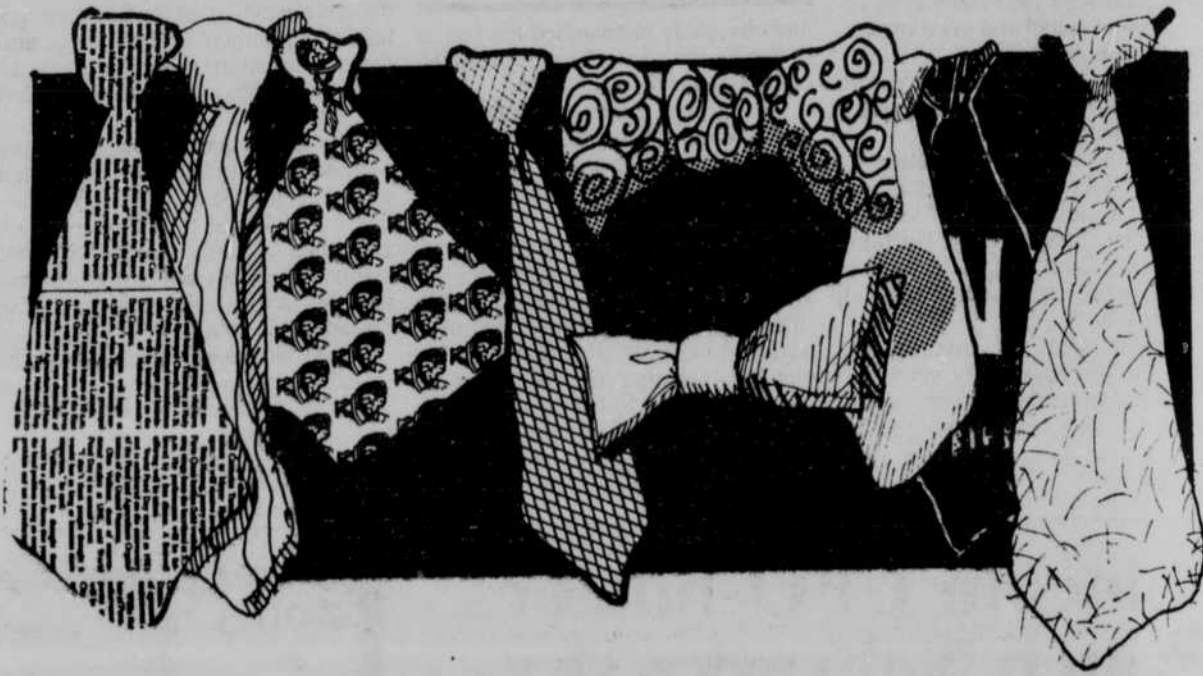
Andrijauskas would not say where the plane was from or release any other details. He said emergency crews are in the vicinity searching for the aircraft.

The area of the crash is about

100 miles south of a secret base where the Air Force is known to be testing Stealth fighter aircraft.

A plane believed to be a Stealth fighter crashed in July 1986 in the western Sierra Nevada, touching off a 150-acre brushfire in Sequoia National Park. The crash occurred about 12 miles northeast of Bakersfield, Calif. Air Force guards carrying rifles and pistols barred people from that crash site.

Nellis is one of three sites in Nevada used to test super-secret aircraft. Its bombing and gunnery range covers about 3 million acres of desert and mountain areas.



Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

In Brief

Plane carrying 37 crashes in northern Italy

COMO, Italy — An Italian airliner carrying 37 people on a flight from Milan to West German crashed in the foothills of the Italian Alps during a heavy rainstorm, authorities said.

There was no word from the crash site on whether there were any survivors.

Officers stage raid, bag 200 pounds of pot

BEATRICE — Lawmen said the more than 200 pounds of marijuana they seized at a farm Thursday was the product of a sophisticated marijuana operation that even used a railroad handcar to transport the illegal crop.

About 20 officers from the Nebraska State Patrol, the Gage and Jefferson county sheriffs' departments and Beatrice police filled 25 to 30 garbage bags with marijuana during the midnight raid late Wednesday and early Thursday. Authorities said they expected to issue arrest warrants in the case today.

Better schools would get more aid under plan

Nebraska schools that can prove they have above average their teachers' preparation, scope of the curriculum and other areas would get more state aid under a proposal being considered by several education groups.

The "incentive grants" would be in addition to, not a replacement for, existing state aid, said Dale Siefkes, associate executive director of the Nebraska Association of School Boards. They would help districts experiencing significant increases or declines in enrollment.

Pickles should be an issue in 1988, Orr says

Pickle card gambling is an issue that the 1988 Nebraska Legislature must address, Gov. Kay Orr said.

"A great deal of mischief" is being done by pickle parlors, she said. She did not elaborate, however, beyond saying the state should face the issue.

Milwaukee fire kills six children as they sleep

MILWAUKEE — Fire killed six children as they slept early Thursday in a crowded home where electric space heaters were being used because the gas had been shut off, bringing to 18 the number of people who have died in inner-city fires in three weeks.

The mother of five of the six children was away from home, hospitalized after giving birth to another child two days earlier. Neighbors who tried to rescue the children were driven back by heat and smoke.

It's hairy, paisley, the ugliest tie

NEW YORK — It's aqua and hairy, it's "ugly to the touch... ugly in the dark." It's officially the ugliest tie in America and the minister who bought it at a church rummage sale says he knew it would come in handy some day.

"I'd never seen anything like it and I haven't since," said the Rev. James Konrad, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Peru, Ill. "I thought it was a winner."

"I must confess I didn't buy it with the intent of wearing it in any normal way," added Konrad, who said the tie has made several appearances at

Halloween parties.

He was moved by its exquisite ugliness to pay 25 cents for the silk paisley tie that has threads hanging all over it, and he wrestled over whether to enter it in a Father's Day ugly tie contest at a local J.C. Penney store.

"It was one of the difficulties of entering — they told me I'd have to give it up and I'd grown a bit affectionate of it," Konrad said.

As part of a Father's Day promotion, people took more than 10,000 entries to 200 participating men's stores nationwide. The winner in each store was given a \$25 gift certificate.

Navy says Stark's crew was ill-prepared before attack

WASHINGTON — The Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark could have been prevented had the frigate's top officers properly done their jobs. But the crew reacted heroically after the attack to save the ship from a terrible fire, Navy reports concluded Thursday.

The May 17 attack in the Persian Gulf killed 37 sailors and touched off a still-unresolved fight between President Reagan and Congress over Reagan's policy of placing 11 Ku-

waiti oil tankers under the American flag and escorting them with Navy ships.

The conclusions about the Stark attack were contained in a pair of reports provided to the House Armed Services seapower subcommittee.

The final report paints a picture of a fighting ship that wasn't ready to fight despite warnings from higher U.S. authorities about the possibility of "indiscriminate attacks" in the war-torn gulf.

The winners in each area were sent to New York and put on display during the National Association of men's Sportswear Buyers trade show this week. Retailers voted.

Konrad's tie beat revolting crushed velours and polyester eyelet, and one made of pheasant and peacock feathers. It beat hideous clip-ons and psychedelic stripes, huge polka dots and plaid seer sucker.

Herschlag said the finalists might be kept on permanent display for people who are interested in fashion trends.

"Maybe I'll have to come visit it," Konrad said.

Correction

An article in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan about the Love Library book sale incorrectly stated that the sale raised about \$28,000 dollars last year. The sale netted \$2,800.

Daily Nebraskan

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Study: exercise reverses heart damage

NEW ORLEANS — Half an hour of aerobic exercise three times a week can reverse heart damage caused by high blood pressure and thereby cut the risk of a heart attack, a study presented Thursday shows.

Such an exercise program can also lower blood pressure, Dr. Garry Jennings said at the American Heart Association's annual meeting on high blood pressure.

"Exercise has not had much credibility as a means of lowering blood

pressure," said Jennings, director of clinical research at the Baker Medical Research Institute and Hospital in Melbourne, Australia.

"It's always been known that athletes have lower blood than others, but it's never been known whether that's because they exercise or for lots of other reasons — they weigh less, they have different diets," Jennings said.

Jennings studied 13 sedentary men and women ranging in age from 37 to

64 with average blood pressure readings of 148 over 99. High blood pressure is generally defined as anything above 140 over 90.

The group remained sedentary for a month, exercised three times a week for a month, exercised daily for a month and then continued on exercise three times a week for a year.

Moderate exercise produced a drop of 10 or 15 points in blood pressure, he said, about the same as that produced by a single anti-hy-

pertensive drug.

Daily exercise showed little extra benefit when compared to exercise three times a week.

"Most of the benefit is from going from nothing to a little bit," Jennings said.

He found, however, that the beneficial effects of exercise disappear if the exercise is not continued. Within a month after stopping exercise, the subjects' blood pressures returned to what they had been.