

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Peace plan needs truce

Central American presidents offer new measures to comply

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The author of the Central American peace plan said Thursday that only a negotiated truce in Nicaragua will make it work, and the Sandinistas called a rally to hear President Daniel Ortega declare whether a truce is possible.

Ortega returned from a quick trip to the Soviet Union in search of more aid.

Thursday originally was the deadline for implementing cease-fires, amnesties and moves toward democracy required by the peace agreement. With progress on some points stalled, however, the region's foreign ministers said last week that only progress

toward peace would be required.

The presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica signed the agreement Aug. 7 in Guatemala City. They allowed 90 days for implementation.

Banners of red and black, the colors of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front, and the blue and white Nicaraguan flag were strung across wide avenues and tied around rows of trees in Managua.

White cloth banners made some of the leftist government's attitudes clear.

"Peace with Dignity, No to the Suspension of the State of Emer-

gency," they said, and "Talks Yes. But with the Owners of the Circus." Lettered in red, "Total Amnesty, Never, Never, Never."

Owners of the Circus refers to the United States, which provides aid to the Contra rebels. Ortega's government has demanded talks with the Contra rebels. Ortega's government has demanded talks with Washington and refused so far to negotiate with the Contras.

President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, who devised the peace plan and won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts, said "the essence" of peace in the region is "reaching a negotiated cease-fire in Nicaragua."

In Brief

Committees approve final Iran-Contra report

WASHINGTON — The congressional Iran-Contra investigating committees approved the final draft of their report on the affair Thursday with House Republicans unanimously voting against it and voicing complaints it is laced with "unsupported conclusions and innuendoes."

The Senate investigating panel was reported to have voted to approve release of the document 9-2, with two of the panel's five Republicans voting no.

Ed secretary threatens to cut off school aid

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Education William J. Bennett threatened to expel colleges and trade schools from all federal student aid programs if their future student loan default rates exceed 20 percent.

Nearly 2,200 institutions, or almost a third of all post secondary schools, now have default rates that high. The government will have to spend \$1.6 billion this year to repay banks for defaulted loans. Bennett called that intolerable.

Haiti's pre-election violence enters second day

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Arsonists hurled a firebomb through the window of a political party and a member of Haiti's independent pre-election violence persisted Wednesday.

"It is assassins and arsonists that rule this country," said the Electoral Council member, Emmanuel Ambroise.

Reagan lauds retiring defense chief Weinberger

WASHINGTON — President Reagan hailed retiring Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, the driving force behind a big military buildup, as a friend who "never let me down" and named national security adviser Frank Carlucci on Thursday to succeed him.

Completing a major turnover in the national security leadership, Reagan also promoted Army Lt. Gen. Collin Powell, the No. 2 man on the NSC staff, to succeed Carlucci.

Deficit reducers plow ahead

WASHINGTON — Participants in the budget deficit-reduction negotiations traded Republican and Democratic proposals Thursday and said they were plowing ahead. But House Speaker Jim Wright said Democrats couldn't count on success in the talks between the Reagan administration and Congress.

Sen. Pete V. Domenici of New

Mexico, senior Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, put forward a proposal for compromise and said the talks seemed to be moving along in a full day of meetings.

"I have to be happier than I was. We're kicking around new ideas at least, and that's worthwhile," he told reporters after one of the closed-door bargaining sessions.

Ginsburg admits smoking marijuana

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Douglas H. Ginsburg admitted Thursday that he used marijuana once in the 1960s and on a few occasions in the 1970s and said, "It was a mistake and I regret it."

President Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese III immediately issued statements declaring their continued support for Ginsburg, nominated to the Supreme Court last week.

Summit spot questionable

WASHINGTON — It's expected to be a stay-at-home summit for President Reagan.

Dwight D. Eisenhower opened the gates of Camp David to Nikita S. Khrushchev in 1959. Lyndon B. Johnson rendezvoused with Aleksei Kosygin at a college in Glassboro, N.J., in 1967.

But when Reagan meets with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev on Dec. 7, White House sources say the meetings are almost certain to be held at the White House itself.

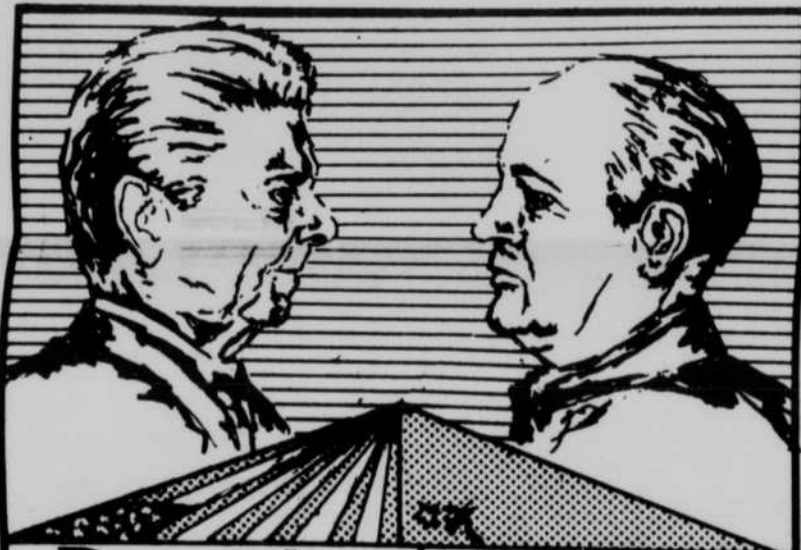
For the thousands of reporters who will descend on Washington, however, briefings will be at other locations around town. Where the locations will be remains uncertain as U.S. and Soviet officials grapple with the logistical problems of a superpower

summit. The Washington Convention Center, the capital's biggest meeting place, is booked for an automobile show.

"I'm not sure we are in a position to drive it away," said Robert Garrity, director of foreign press centers for the U.S. Information Agency, which is making arrangements for the foreign press.

At the only previous U.S.-Soviet summit held in Washington, when Richard M. Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev met in 1972, reporters were briefed at three different locations set up around town by the State Department.

"We are looking to a more coordinated approach," said Garrity, still hoping to find one room big enough into which to cram all the reporters.



December 7 Summit

Michelle Miklos/Daily Nebraskan

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