

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Iran-Contra report

President Reagan contributed to deception

WASHINGTON — President Reagan contributed to a massive deception of Congress and the public in the Iran-Contra affair and bears responsibility for thwarting the law by allowing zealots to seize policy control, congressional investigators concluded Wednesday.

"These committees found no direct evidence suggesting that the president was a knowing participant in the effort to deceive Congress and the American public," the Senate and House investigating panels wrote. "But the president's actions and statements contributed to the deception."

"The ultimate responsibility for the events in the Iran-Contra affair must rest with the president," the

panels' 690-page final report concluded. "If the president did not know what his national security advisers were doing, he should have."

The report comes three months after the conclusion of summer-long hearings into the secret sales of U.S. weapons to Iran and the diversion of some profits to the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras.

The report, in one new disclosure, indicates the administration was deceived when after concluding that middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar was untrustworthy, it switched to what it saw as a more reliable "second channel" for dealing with Iranian "moderates."

The report said American operatives were dismayed to discover that the second channel represented the same Iranian leaders as did the first channel, that some U.S. weapons destined for so-called moderates in fact went to Iran's radical Revolutionary Guards, and that one of the "moderates" may have masterminded the kidnapping of at least two of the Americans then being held hostage in Lebanon — educator Frank Reed and William Buckley, the Beirut CIA station chief who was killed while in captivity.



Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

One treaty issue is solved

WASHINGTON — American and Soviet negotiators have removed a major sticking point in the way of a treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles and are close to settling a second problem, Reagan administration officials said Wednesday.

But two tough verifications issues remain on the table less than

three weeks before the scheduled arrival on Dec. 7 of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev for talks with President Reagan.

Two officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the negotiators in Geneva had decided against language in the treaty calling for further talks on nuclear weapons in Europe.

In Brief

Continental official defends pilots' records

DENVER — A Continental Airlines official on Wednesday defended the relatively short experience the crew of the crashed Flight 1713 had with that model aircraft, saying it was not an unusual situation for expanding airlines.

The pilot, Capt. Frank Zvonek, and co-pilot, Lee Bruecher, had only been certified to fly DC-9s in October. The plane they were flying flipped over on takeoff Sunday at Stapleton International Airport, killing 28 passengers.

Subway fire traps, kills rush-hour commuters

LONDON — Fire broke out Wednesday evening below a wooden escalator in one of London's busiest subway stations, killing 32 commuters and injuring about 80 others, fire and transport officials said.

Dense smoke billowed from the mammoth King's Cross station, where five lines of the Underground system connect with British Rail inter-city services. Ambulances with sirens blaring ferried the dead and injured to hospitals.

Cigarettes cause half of female heart disease

BOSTON — Smoking causes about half of all heart attacks among young and middle-aged women, and even three or four cigarettes a day sharply increase the risk, research concludes.

Until a few years ago, many experts believed that cigarettes did not contribute to heart disease in women. But recent studies have concluded that smoking is an important hazard for women, as it is for men.

\$9 billion tax increase cited for budget-balancing agreement

WASHINGTON — White House and congressional negotiators struggled Wednesday to cement a two-year, \$75 billion budget deficit-reduction agreement and saw their still-unfinished work coming under attack even from within their own ranks.

"It's pretty weak. A pretty weak package unless you like taxes," said Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole of Kansas, who said many of this GOP colleagues would have trouble voting for it.

The package would reduce the deficit in fiscal 1988, which began Oct. 1, by about \$30 billion and cut fiscal 1989 red ink by more than \$45 billion. That would more than meet the minimum goal of the Gramm-Rudman law, which requires \$23 billion in fiscal 1988 deficit reduction.

A draft agreement obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday included unspecified tax increases of \$9 billion, plus \$400 million in new fees for government services in fiscal 1988.

Bishops O.K. fund drive for impoverished nuns

WASHINGTON — America's Roman Catholic bishops have voted to raise funds to aid thousands of the nuns who taught young Catholics in past decades and now have grown old with little or no money to live on.

"It's a matter of justice, not merely of a matter of charity," Bishop Michael Sheehan of Lubbock, Texas, said before the National Conference of Catholic Bishops voted 156-10 to launch the national fund-raising drive.

Numerous other bishops made similar comments, all praising the work of the nuns in parochial schools, hospitals and other ministries. Several bishops emphasized the word "justice," noting that women in Catholic religious orders have traditionally worked for low wages, a fact has contributed to their current problems.

Bishop John R. McGann of Rockville Centre, N.Y., head of a committee sponsoring the proposal, declined to specify a goal for the drive. An accounting firm estimated the eventual need might reach \$2.5 billion.

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