2 News Digest By the Associated Press Edited by Bob Nelson

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Democrats seek alternatives for Contras

WASHINGTON - Congressional Democrats who dealt a severe blow to President Reagan's Central America policy set out Thursday to produce an alternative that will sustain the Nicaraguan Contra rebels while stimulating regional peace efforts.

"We will make sure those we lured into this battle are not left high and dry," said House Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas. He promised to bring a new package of purely hu-manitarian aid for the Contras up for action within three weeks.

The House, with only a dozen Republicans in the majority, voted 219-211 Wednesday night to kill Reagan's request for \$36.2 million in new aid for the rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

The package included arms, ra-

dios and other logistical military support as well as food, clothing and medicine. Weapons and ammunition accounted for only \$3.6 million of the total but were at the root of the opposition

Despite the death of the president's package, the Senate went through the motions of a debate Thursday that gave senators an opportunity to speak and vote on the issue.

Vice President George Bush, the Senate's presiding officer, and Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., interrupted presidential campaign swings in Iowa to attend the session, which Contra backers apparently believed could serve as a forum for their views.

house, Contra aid is dead in Con-

gress, and the Senate should not waste its time trying to bring Contra aid back from the grave," Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said in arguing against holding the debate.

The outlines of the new Democratic aid package remained vague. House Majority Whip Tony Coelho, D-Calif., said, however, it is likely to reach beyond the short-term needs of the rebels, whose U.S. aid ends Feb. 29, to encompass a long-term economic development package for the region.

In addition, Coehlo said the legislation may address the issue of whether private American citizens should be permitted to raise thirdparty contributions as a way of keeping military aid flowing to the rebels an action seen by anti-Contra "After last night's vote in the forces as potentially undermining the peace process.

In Brief

Israeli civilian shoots Arab stone-thrower

JERUSALEM - Palestinian protesters set fire to a bus and an Israeli civilian shot and wounded an Arab stone-thrower in clashes in the West Bank Thursday.

Two Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian guerrilla died in a foggy, predawn skirmish on the Lebanon border.

In the West Bank, Arab reports said seven Palestinians suffered gunshot wounds in clashes with Israeli soldiers. The army said two Arabs were wounded, and soldiers shot three others, including a 10year-old boy who was in serious condition, in an overnight clash near the village of Burka.

On Israel's northern border, Israeli paratroopers battled with a threeman guerrilla squad that cut through a fence and planned to attack a civilian settlement, army officials said. A guerrilla and two Israeli soldiers were killed, one guerrilla was captured and another one escaped back to Lebanon.

Panamanian general indicted on drug charges

MIAMI - Panama's military strongman, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, was indicted Thursday by a federal grand jury here on charges of aiding international cocaine traffickers, sources said.

The 30-page indictment includes racketeering and other drug-related charges, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

The indictment was presented Thursday to Chief U.S. Magistrate Peter Palermo, who immediately ordered it sealed at the request of Assistant U.S. Attorney William Junge.

U.S. Attorney Leon Kelner of Miami scheduled a news conference for Friday at which he was expected to announce the indictment.

Noriega, who leads Panama's national guard, is considered the power behind the civilian government.

Noriega has been accused of protecting drug shipments of Colombia's Medellin Cartel in return for expensive bribes, and of providing facilities for smugglers.

Effort to draft surrogate-motherhood law stalls

PHILADELPHIA-Efforts by legal and medical experts hoping to shape the future of surrogate motherhood on the heels of a New Jersey court's groundbreaking decision got bogged down quickly Thursday.

Twenty-six participants in an American Bar Association conference aimed at drafting a model state law found they could not agree easily on an all-inclusive definition of surrogacy or on just what constitutes a 'commercial" surrogate agreement.

"We have two days to come up with something," said moderator Robert Arenstein, a New York city lawyer. "It's a big task."

If the two-day conference can reach agreement, its proposal probably will be sent to the ABA's policy-making House of Delegates in August. If approved, the proposal would spark ABA lobbying efforts in state legislatures

Much of Thursday's discussion focused on the New Jersey Supreme Court ruling a day earlier in the widely publicized Baby M case. -

13 people injured, authorities say **Omaha train collision injures 13**

OMAHA - An Amtrak passenger train ran a red signal and collided with a Burlington Northern freight train Thursday, slightly injuring 13 people, authorities said.

Angela Sullivan, a spokeswoman for the Federal Railroad Administration in Washington, said an Amtrak crew member told investigators that the passenger train ran the red signal.

Witnesses confirmed the account, according to Gary Telfer, manager of public affairs for Burlington Northern's Chicago region.

Interviews with crew members indicated the passenger train reduced its speed before the collision, but rates of speed are not known, said Bill Loftus, executive director of the federal railroad agency.

About 12 people involved in the accident, including train engineers and the dispatcher, will be tested for alcohol and drugs, Loftus said. The test results will be available in about 10 days, he said.

It was the second Amtrak accident in less than a week. An Amtrak train carrying 160 people slammed into a work vehicle on tracks outside Philadelphia Jan. 29, injuring 25

The train that derailed Thursday had about 190 passengers on board and originated in Oakland, Calif. It left the Omaha station at 7:23 a.m. en route to Chicago and the accident occurred about 15 minutes later, said ticket agent Jerry Butcher.

There were 123 cars on the freight train, which was struck near the caboose.

Assistant Fire Chief Bob Warsocki said about 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled from the Amtrak train, but that there was no danger of fire and that the spill was contained. Officials also said there was no

environmental danger from anything on the freight train.

A section of track about 20-feet long was torn from the ground. Five empty cars on the freight train derailed, including the boxcar that was struck by the Amtrak train. The side of that boxcar had been ripped away.

One of the freight cars was lying on its side on top of two utility sheds.

Both the Amtrak engines derailed, but remained upright, Butcher said.

Four other cars derailed, including a mail car and three baggage cars. One car was resting against an embankment, but the other cars were standing upright. There were 10 other cars on the train.

rtega says Nicaraguan war to continue despite vote

MANAGUA, Nicaragua-President Daniel Ortega said Thursday the rejection of further aid for the Contra rebels by the U.S. Congress will strengthen peace efforts, "but it does not make the war disappear.'

President Reagan is meeting with the National Security Council, studying ways to continue the war against Nicaragua," Ortega said in a news conference the day after Congress turned down the Reagan administration's request for \$36.2

million for the anti-Sandinista rebels.

"If the president of the United States . . . tells the North American people and the international community that he has decided to cut off all kind of military aid and financing to the mercenary forces and begin a direct dialogue with the government of Nicaragua on security matters and direct the Contras to cease fire, then, yes, we would be able to say we are on the road to peace," he said.

The leftist Sandinista government

generally refers to the U.S. -funded and -trained Contras, who have been waging a guerrilla campaign against the Sandinistas since late 1981, as 'mercenaries.

State-run radio on Thursday called on the rebels to lay down their arms and take advantage of political amnesty.

The rebels, in a clandestine Radio Liberation broadcast, said, "The Nicaraguan Resistance will continue. The people's desire for liberty will not be stopped." The station reportedly broadcasts from El Salvador and is jammed in Managua.

Ortega lobbied hard to end the funding. His campaign included restoring many lost rights in the last five months, courting visiting Democratic Congress members, and recently completing a European trip that included an audience with Pope John Paul II.

Military analysts speculated the Contras could not survive more than a year without the food and weaponry airdropped to isolated, rugged regions by CIA-operated planes. The Contras have been most active lately in central Chontales and northern Zelaya provinces.

They say they have up to 18,000 men under arms, although the Sandinistas put their strength at 6,000.

Late notice shows limit of glasnost

MOSCOW - Georgi M. Malenkov died more than two weeks ago but the death of one of Josef V. Stalin's main lieutenants has gone unreported in the Soviet press

Such official silence illustrates the Kremlin's hesitance to embrace fully its policy of greater openness and acknowledge the darker pages of its past.

Malenkov died Jan. 14 and was buried in Kuntsevskoye Cemetery in western Moscow five days later. But no Soviet newspaper or staterun broadcast reported this infor-mation, keeping silent about a man who helped shape the world's first socialist state before being consigned to the oblivion of a power plant in east Kazakhstan.

On Tuesday, the official news agency Tass issued the first report of Malenkov's death but no papers or radio stations carried it.

The government's failure to report Malenkov's death, however, reflects a continuing uncertainty among the current Kremlin leader



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

ship over how to present past errors and excesses to the Soviet people.

It also demonstrates that Com-munist Party chief Mikhail S. Gorbachev's policy of "glasnost," or openness, is easily sacrificed in matters concerning the party and its reputation.

The only official note of his passing came Tuesday when Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov gave the date of his death, in answer to a reporter's question, and Tass ran it as brief comment.

Roy A. Medvede, an unofficial Soviet historian who has written several books on Stalin and his supporters, observed that party protocol would forbid such an official burial for Malenkov because he was ousted from the party in 1961.

Malenkov, the round-faced communist who lost out to Nikita S. Khrushchev in a power struggle after Stalin died, had been living in obscurity since 1957.

Ironically, those very changes such as a greater emphasis on consumer goods and a de-emphasis on agriculture collectivization are being pushed today by Gorbachev and his followers.

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