

## Official: North met twice with Noriega

WASHINGTON — Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama's military ruler, met with Lt. Col. Oliver L. North twice in 1985 and agreed to provide military training for U.S.-backed Contra rebels, an exiled former Panamanian official testified Wednesday.

The witness, Jose I. Bandon, once a senior member of Panama's intelligence apparatus, said Noriega later offered to send Panamanian soldiers inside Nicaragua to conduct "terrorist sabotage" against that

country's leftist Sandinista government.

But he said North replied that he had no authority to accept such an offer and would relay it to his superiors at the National Security Council.

Bandon also testified that Vice President George Bush used Noriega in October 1983 to warn Cuban leader Fidel Castro that the United States was about to invade Grenada.

He said the message from Bush was to warn Cuba not to try to intervene in the U.S. military action

against the Caribbean island nation. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said the phone call from Noriega meant "Fidel Castro probably knew about it (the invasion) before we did."

Bandon, appearing under oath before the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on terrorism, contradicted statements by Noriega last week that in a December 1985 meeting with Rear Adm. John Poindexter, just installed as presidential national security adviser, the subject of Nicaragua had not come up.

## Homeland leader ousted in coup

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The army of Bophuthatswana seized control of the tribal homeland early Wednesday and deposed the president. South African troops then entered the homeland to aid the ousted government.

President P.W. Botha of South Africa told Parliament in Cape Town that he ordered South African security forces into Bophuthatswana at the request of members of the Cabinet of deposed President Lucas Mangope.

Bophuthatswana, 200 miles northwest of Johannesburg, is one of four nominally independent black homelands inside South Africa. No other country recognizes their independence.

In seizing control early Wednesday the Bophuthatswana army accused Mangope of corruption and human rights abuses. The army said

power would be handed over to an opposition party.

Botha said South African forces were in the process of carrying out their mission and he was awaiting information from the forces' commander. He made it clear that South African troops had entered the homeland.

He said the South African forces had been ordered to give priority to the safety of the South African Embassy and its personnel in the capital, Mmapatho, to Mangope, his Cabinet and their families.

He said the request for assistance "in the name of peace and justice" had come from Bophuthatswana Foreign Minister S.L.L. Rathebe, who had taken refuge in the South African Embassy with some other members of the Cabinet, relatives and officials.

## Correction

In a Daily Nebraskan article Tuesday it was reported that debate would continue Wednesday on a bill to establish living wills. Debate was not scheduled to continue Wednesday.

## Human rights report released

Soviet improvements cited, dramatic progress awaited

WASHINGTON — Mikhail S. Gorbachev improved the Soviet human rights performance last year, and there "has been some relaxation in the harshness of repression," but more dramatic progress is awaited, the State Department said Wednesday.

In its annual report on human rights in 169 countries and territories, the department also said it observed positive signs in Poland, Hungary, South Korea and Taiwan.

On the negative side, Richard Schifter, assistant secretary of state for human rights, told a news confer-

ence North Korea is the worst violator of human rights.

The report, repeating a long list of conditions imposed by the Israeli government on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza territory, said hopes for the establishment of democracy in Haiti were set back and concluded "there was no progress toward respect for human rights in South Africa."

On the situation in the Soviet Union, Schifter said, "we have not witnessed the dawn of democracy in the USSR," which he called a one-party dictatorship dominated by se-

cret police.

In the past, dissenters and demonstrators in the Soviet Union were often sent to Siberian camps; they are still beaten or harassed, but the overall new philosophy is "to let them be," Schifter said.

The 1,358-page report was sent to Congress to give senators and representatives guidance in deciding which nations are worthy of U.S. aid and trade benefits.

Israeli police action that has led to more than 50 deaths among Palestinians does not warrant cuts in U.S. aid to Israel, Schifter said.

## In Brief

### Gorbachev criticizes NATO effort on weapons

MOSCOW — NATO efforts to develop weapons to supplant those banned by the new superpower accord will undermine the agreement and could have serious consequences, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev said Tuesday.

He also acknowledged a "deep-rooted" fear of the Soviets by some Europeans that could make them reluctant to give up nuclear arms.

The Kremlin leader made the comments in a meeting with Lothar Spaeth, minister-president of the West German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, who is on an official visit to Moscow, the Tass news agency reported.

On Sunday, two U.S. officials attending a weekend meeting in West Germany called for improvements in the North Atlantic treaty Organization's short-range nuclear missiles and conventional forces.

### Robertson declares himself 'on the winning edge'

CONCORD, N.H. — Republican Pat Robertson declared in New Hampshire Wednesday that "I'm on the winning edge" after finishing second in Iowa, while Paul Simon, the Iowa runner-up among Democrats, stepped up his criticism of Richard Gephardt but admitted his own campaign had money problems.

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis settled in for a fight on his home turf, declaring he would lead the pack after the Feb. 16 primary here. Iowa winner Gephardt at least partly agreed, describing himself as "clearly the underdog".

### U.N. envoy says final Afghan agreement near

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez announced Tuesday that a virtual agreement had been reached to end the Soviet Union's eight years of military intervention in Afghanistan.

Cordovez, appearing tired but pleased, told a news conference in the Pakistani capital that officials from Islamabad and Kabul would go to Geneva for a new and possibly final round of indirect peace talks on March 2.

All that remains is to "fill in the blanks" of the Soviets' disengagement, Cordovez said.

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