

Reagan sends 3,200 troops to Honduras

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is sending 3,200 U.S. troops on an "emergency deployment" exercise to southern Honduras as a "measured response" to the reported incursion of Nicaraguan forces into that country, the White House announced late Wednesday night.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the American troops would not be deployed "to any area of ongoing hostilities."

He characterized the troop movement as a

training exercise and also "a signal to the governments and the people of Central America."

The White House statement was delivered in the press room shortly after 10 p.m. after a day-long series of meetings among Reagan's national security advisers. In the statement, Fitzwater did not say how long the forces would remain in Central America.

Fitzwater said Reagan ordered the action in response to a "cross-border incursion by

Sandinista armed forces into Honduras from Nicaragua.

"And at the request of the government of Honduras, the president has ordered the immediate deployment of an infantry brigade task force consisting of two battalions of the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C., two battalions from the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Ord, Calif., plus supporting units."

He said they were being sent to an air force base in Honduras for "an emergency deploy-

ment readiness exercise."

Even before the president's decision was announced, criticism arose.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said, "This is not the first time the president has made use of his military authority after he lost a vote on the Contras. President Reagan's decision to send the 82nd Airborne to Honduras has more to do with politics than with American security. It is an irresponsible involvement of American troops on the conflict in Central America and an unwise escalation of tensions in that region."

Honduran troops surround Nicaraguan soldiers

Honduran troops on Wednesday surrounded about 2,000 Nicaraguan soldiers who entered the country chasing Contra rebels, military intelligence sources told The Associated Press.

They said the Sandinista troops had crossed about 3 miles into the Honduran border province of Olancho, east of the capital of Tegucigalpa, and had remained in the area for 24 hours.

One official, who asked not to be identified, said the Nicaraguan troops "have been surrounded by our army... and we are only waiting superior orders to enter into action."

"There really is tension and there is crisis, however we are acting with prudence but with

strength in these affairs, and we hope that everything will stabilize in the next two days," he said.

The Honduran military went on alert, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said that Honduras president, Jose Azcona Hoyo, contacted Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to demand the withdrawal of the troops.

Ortega did not confirm or deny the Reagan administration's claims that Nicaraguan soldiers crossed into Honduras, but said there was "cross fire from Honduran territory against our forces."

But Ortega said Wednesday that Sandinista troops pushed back Contra rebels into Honduran territory and fighting was raging along the border.

The Defense Ministry earlier denied that its troops invaded Honduras during an attack on Contras, and government radio put out an urgent call for Nicaraguans to be on alert against a U.S. invasion.

Ortega said the U.S.-backed Contra fighters were receiving logistical support and evacuation from Chinook helicopters owned by the United States.

Referring to early reports that the Reagan administration was considering sending mili-

tary support to Honduras, Ortega said: "This is the most serious threat in recent years. We are calling on the Nicaraguan public to be alert, to be in combat readiness, ready to repel, resist, defeat whatever aggression from the United States."

State-run Voice of Nicaragua radio said there were reports from the Atlantic coastal city of Puerto Cabezas, 250 miles east of Managua, that unidentified airplanes were seen and that residents feared the city would be bombed.

It called on Nicaraguans to "maintain a state of alert... because we can't discount the possibility that President Reagan will invade Nicaragua in defense of his mercenaries."

Soldiers loyal to Noriega defeat coup attempt

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Soldiers tried to overthrow Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega on Wednesday but loyal troops prevailed and he emerged from army headquarters after sounds of battle, calling the gunshots "kisses."

Thousands of people went into the streets to protest Noriega's continued rule. It was the largest outpouring of discontent since civilian opponents began trying last summer to oust the

general as chief of the Panama Defense Forces, which include the military and police.

The Defense Forces said the coup attempt had been staged by officers apparently led by Col. Leonidas Macias, head of the national police force. He was arrested along with three majors and a captain, as were an unspecified number of civilians, the communique said.

The coup attempt was the first indication of trouble within Noriega's Defense Forces, who had maintained a solid front through nine months of civil unrest caused by accusations that he was involved in crimes ranging from drug trafficking to political assassination. He has been indicted on drug charges in Florida.

Washington has but pressure on Noriega, and President Reagan said Tuesday the United

States wants him "out of there." Sanctions such as freezing Panamanian accounts in U.S. banks and withholding Panama Canal fees have created a cash shortage that makes it impossible to pay public employees.

Flaming barricades blocked hundreds of streets on the third day of the latest public protest. By midafternoon, police and military units began reappearing in the city.

Poindexter, North indicted

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's former national security adviser, John M. Poindexter, and fired White House aide Lt. Col. Oliver L. North were indicted Wednesday along with two arms dealers on charges they conspired to divert Iranian arms sales profits to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The long-awaited 23-count indictment, which also named retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord and his business partner, Albert Hakim, said the four men "deceitfully and without legal authorization" organized, directed and concealed "a program to continue funding of and logistical and other support for military and paramilitary operations in Nicaragua by the Contras" at a time U.S. law barred such action.

Corrections

In a story "RHA execs may get paid," (DN, March 11), it stated incorrectly that the Residence Hall Association discussed a proposal to pay its executives. Although the bill to pay executives was proposed, it was not discussed according to Ken Libby, speaker of the RHA senate. However, one senator informed a DN reporter that the bill was discussed.

In the article "Union Board OKs kiosks in campus union, library" (DN March 16) it was stated incorrectly that changes in appropriation criteria for University Program Council's Funds Allocations Committee must next be approved by the NU Board of Regents. The next step in the process is approval by Jim Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

In the article "New UNL project to emphasize liberal arts," (DN, March 14), it was incorrectly stated that no students joined curriculum change committees. Student involvement was low, but existed. A seventh subcommittee on Services and Advising was also formed.

Also, the general education mathematics course mentioned in the article is designed for those students who ordinarily take no university courses in mathematics. It will be a 200-level course that will introduce mathematical concepts by examples from modern society.

Departments will first review proposed course models. If approved by the departments, the courses will be approved the normal way.

Outside the U.S. Courthouse, Iran-Contra independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh told reporters the investigation was continuing but declined to say whether there would be any more criminal charges brought in the case.

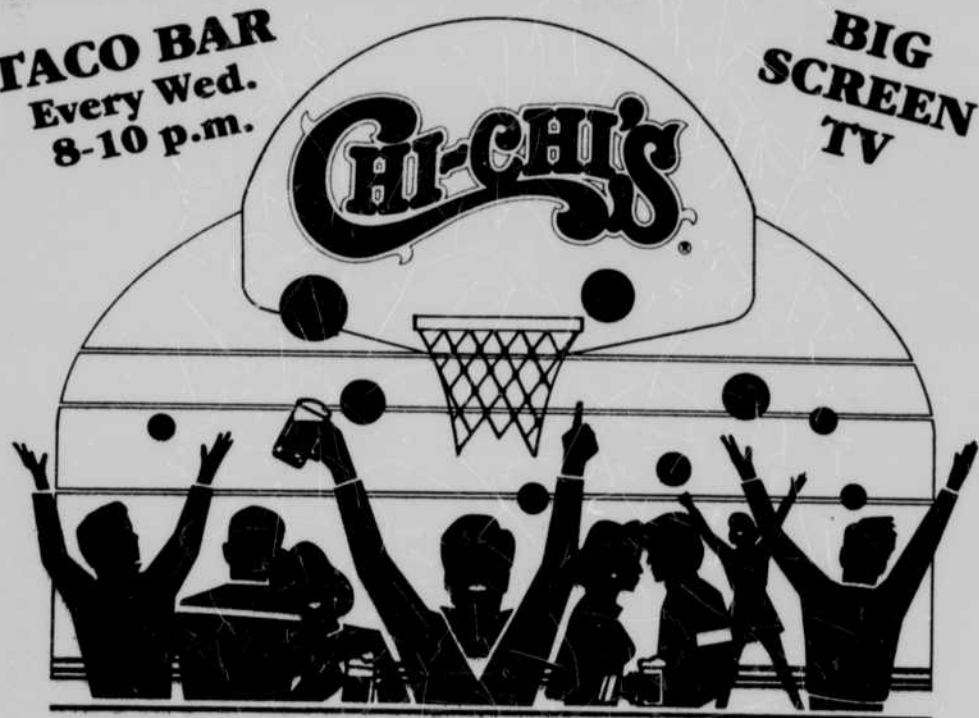
"The grand jury is not finished," Walsh said. "This is simply an interim report."

North, who was fired from his job as a National Security council aide in late, 1986, said after the indictment: "I did not commit any crime. I intend to fight the allegations of wrongdoing for as long as necessary."

His voice breaking, North said that the months ahead will be difficult. But, he added: "Nonetheless, I can assure you, I will never give up, we will win, I just cannot tell you how soon."

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. (except holidays); weekly during the summer session.

Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb.
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