

North documents could endanger lives

WASHINGTON — Secret documents seized from former Lt. Col. Oliver L. North's office could expose, "people in very difficult situations to torture and death" in the Middle East if publicly disclosed, the prosecutor in the Iran-Contra case said today.

At a hearing on providing classified documents to the defense, independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh told U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell that some of the documents contain information so sensitive that a person known to have seen it would be endangered by travel to the Middle East.

"There were documents found in Col. North's safe he shouldn't have had," under government security regulations, Walsh said.

The material included compilations of highly sensitive information that is usually scattered in bits and pieces throughout other documents.

"Why he had them, I don't know," Walsh said.

Gesell has ruled that the defense is

entitled to see 300,000 pages of classified material collected by Walsh so that lawyers for North and three co-defendants, businessman Albert Hakim, Walsh said.

"As advocates we have no interest in this whatever," Walsh said, indicating a rift with the Reagan administration over disclosure.

But government security experts are concerned about giving full access to Hakim, a security consultant who deals with governments in the Middle East and Asia, he said.

I don't see why he would like to have in his possession that type of information when he is traveling in the Middle East," Walsh said.

"He's put in jeopardy by that kind of information."

The restriction sought by government security officials would also apply, at least temporarily, to retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord, another defendant charged in the case, according to court papers. Lawyers for Hakim and Secord,

however, could see the material.

Walsh said the government had no objection to North and his former boss, one-time national security adviser John M. Poindexter, examining all the documents being placed in a secure facility for defense lawyers to work with the material.

North and his three co-defendants are charged with conspiring to illegally divert profits from the U.S.-Iran arms sales to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Gesell said resolving the issue might involve a month of secret hearings.

According to court papers filed this week by Hakim's lawyers, the sensitive information the government seeks to protect includes documents that would expose hostages in the Middle East to death if released.

Disclosure would also compromise U.S. intelligence gathering military planning and sensitive foreign policy initiatives, according to a letter Walsh's office sent to the defense earlier this week.

Jackson: Dukakis 'managing Reaganomics'

Jesse Jackson charged Thursday that Democratic presidential front-runner Michael Dukakis had tried to "manage Reaganomics" rather than reverse it. Dukakis called on President Reagan to drop plans to veto trade legislation.

All was quiet on the Republican front, where Vice President George Bush gained a mathematical lock on his nomination with the delegates earned in Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary. The vice president was in Washington, with his next campaign trip set for Friday to Indiana.

Massachusetts Gov. Dukakis spent most of the day in his statehouse office in Boston, where he met with

Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez Marques while his campaign organization welcomed a trickle of additional delegates to the fold.

The converts included two delegates formerly backing Sen. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee and one supporter of Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois. Both men have suspended their campaigns, but have said they intend to hold onto their delegates until the party convention.

Dukakis leads Jackson by more than 400 delegates in the Associated Press count, and holds more than 1,250 of the 2,081 needed to win the nomination. Aides say they hope he will command a nominating majority

by the time the primary season ends on June 7.

Dukakis released a letter he sent to Reagan urging him to sign the trade bill, which contains a provision requiring a 60-day notice to workers before a factory can be shut down.

"Mr. President, I believe that our record trade deficit requires that we put partisan politics aside and take action that will be in the best interest of all Americans," he wrote.

Later, in a statehouse news conference, Dukakis said he would make the trade bill an issue in his campaign against Bush.

In Brief

Old drug may be effective against AIDS

WASHINGTON — A drug that can be purchased over the counter in Mexico and Japan has been shown in laboratory tests to be a potent agent against the AIDS virus, a group of National Cancer Institute researchers report.

The drug, called dextran sulfate, was found to prevent the AIDS virus from infecting and killing the body's T-cell lymphocytes, the main target of the virus, a researcher said Thursday.

"We found in the test tube that this agent is a very powerful inhibitor of the HIV virus," said Dr. Flossie Wong-Staal, a NCI researcher and co-author of a study on dextran sulfate. HIV, for human immunodeficiency virus, is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Dr. Wong-Staal said the drug has been used for more than two decades in Japan and elsewhere as an anticoagulant and has demonstrated that it has no significant toxicity.

"This drug may be very promising against AIDS," said Dr. Wong-Staal, "because it is already in use and because it has been shown to be very potent against HIV-1 and HIV-2 (two viruses that cause AIDS)."

But her co-investigator, Dr. Samuel Broder, cautioned: "This is not a breakthrough."

"He said that although the drug "is a potent agent against HIV-1 and HIV-2" in the test tube, it is not at all clear that the drug can be given to AIDS patients in sufficiently strong doses to affect the course of the disease in the body.

Politburo member visits strikebound plant

WARSAW, Poland — A member of the ruling Politburo went to a strikebound steel mill Thursday, but there was no sign of progress toward settling Poland's worst labor unrest in six years.

Authorities moved to block a second strike called for Friday in another city by reportedly detaining an organizer, but activists said their plans were still on.

The high-level visit to the Lenin steel mill near Krakow by Politburo member Alfred Miodowicz came on the third day of a strike by thousands of workers for higher pay.

FAA finds no 'grossly unsafe' conditions

WASHINGTON — The special inspection of Eastern and Continental airlines has uncovered no "grossly unsafe" conditions so far, although planes were ordered out of service briefly because of safety infractions about 5 percent of the time, officials said Thursday.

The Federal Aviation Administration began its plane-by-plane ramp inspections April 13 and so far has made more than 2,000 inspections at the two airlines, FAA Administrator Allan McArdor told reporters. He said inspections would continue through mid-May.

Karnes leads in campaign contributions

Raising twice as much in campaign contributions as Rep. Hal Daub has since the first of the year, Sen. David Karnes has widened his funding advantage over the Omaha congressman in the latest Senate campaign finance reports.

Karnes raised another \$102,955 between April 1 and April 20, bringing his total campaign funding to \$1,033,339.

Daub added \$76,823 to his campaign war chest during the latest reporting figure, boosting his total funding to \$837,582.

An additional \$8,500 flowed in after the reporting period, the Daub campaign said in a statement dated April 25.

Since Jan. 1, Karnes has raised \$496,063 to Daub's \$250,375.

However, Daub had \$130,174 in cash on hand at the end of the latest reporting period as compared to \$73,991 for Karnes.

Karnes reported \$66,559 in campaign debts as compared to none for Daub.

Karnes' newest receipts brought his total contributions from political action committees to \$196,800 compared to \$244,881 for Daub.

In a report filed Thursday with the Federal Election Commission, Democratic Senate candidate Bob Kerrey listed \$113,652 in contributions for the period April 1 through April 20. The year-to-date total of Kerrey contributions was \$355,005.

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Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

Bird sounds inspire unhatched chick

SAN DIEGO — A California condor chick, inspired by recordings of vulture hisses and grunts, was slowly chipping its way out of its shell today, San Diego Wild Animal Park officials said.

"Everything is proceeding fine," park spokeswoman Martha Baker said this morning. "The chick is moving around inside the shell and the condor keepers can hear the chick tapping."

Meanwhile, keepers are playing recordings of bird noises and gently tapping the egg with a light metal rod every two hours to

simulate what condor parents would do to encourage the youth, he said.

The egg is being watched on a remote television monitor but keepers are reluctant to help the chick because of the danger that blood vessels linked to a surrounding membrane will rupture, which could cause fatal bleeding.

The egg was laid March 3 at the park's "condorminium" after its parents engaged in the first captive mating in the history of a 15-year program aimed at saving North America's largest land bird.