

Dropped word permits changes in Contra aid

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration expects to take advantage of a minor change in the new humanitarian aid package for the Contra rebels to institute a series of non-military training programs designed to make the insurgents more self-sufficient.

The aid program that expired Friday said the administration could use the \$17.7 million package "only" for food, clothing, medical services and shelter.

The new \$27 million six-month package signed into law by President Reagan Saturday calls for assistance in the same four areas but the word "only" has been deleted, permitting

the administration greater flexibility in how the money is spent.

In signing the \$14.3 billion foreign aid bill, Reagan criticized what he said was a minimal amount of humanitarian aid for the Contras.

U.S. officials, insisting on anonymity, said they envision U.S.-sponsored "skills training" in areas ranging from radio maintenance to record keeping, human rights and health care.

The officials said such programs should boost the morale of the thousands of rebels who are camped along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border with little to keep them occupied. Many of the rebels flocked to these

camp from inside Nicaragua over the past six months to take advantage of the assistance programs being carried out in the border area by the Agency for International Development.

No deliveries were made inside Nicaragua because agreement could not be reached with the Sandinista government on an acceptable delivery system.

The officials said they expect opposition to the proposed training programs from members of Congress hostile to the Contras who don't want them to survive as a viable organization.

The prospects for a renewal of military aid for the rebels are not

good. The aid package, initially approved by the Senate in August, authorized the release of \$16.5 million in stockpiled military equipment under certain conditions.

But the funds would require congressional approval before adjournment of the current session, and there is only about a week left before members go home until the next session starts in January.

There has been no attempt by the administration to trigger a vote on release of the funds. Both the Republican and Democratic campaigns for president seem willing to ignore the Contra aid issue, sensing there is little political profit in raising it.

Congress rejected an administration military aid request on Feb. 3 and the formal cutoff of weapons deliveries to the Contras occurred on Feb. 29.

The majority of the Contras have since resettled along the border area, faced with the prospect that their principal benefactor, the United States, can no longer be relied on to aid in their quest to topple the Sandinista government.

According to officials, the Contras have some ammunition left but are no match for the Sandinistas, who received an estimated \$400 million in military equipment from the Soviet Union during the first eight months of the year.



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Civic readies for 'Dashing Dan' and 'Lordly Lloyd'

OMAHA — Workers mopped up the last of Andre the Giant's sweat Sunday and began to transform the Civic Auditorium into a political debate hall for this week's clash between "Dashing" Dan Quayle and "Lordly" Lloyd Bentsen.

The names of Brutus the Barber, Beefcake, "Macho Man" Randy Savage and Outlaw Ron Bass graced the auditorium's marquee for Sunday's pro wrestling exhibition.

But arena laborers — who cleared the stage for a Christian rock band Saturday and soon must arrange for a "monster truck" mud race — switched gears late Sunday in preparation for Wednesday's vice presidential debate between Sens. Quayle of Indiana and Bentsen of Texas.

Ed Fouhy, executive producer of the debate, said all was going smoothly and he expected the debate stage to be set by Monday night.

"We're on schedule, just waiting for the wrestlers to leave," he said.

City Public Events Manager Terry Forsberg said one of the biggest tasks ahead will be decorating the candidates' dressing rooms with carpeting and drapes.

Fluorescent lights will be replaced with lamps, smudged mirrors with pictures and benches with tables, he said.

"They'll look like your living room - or better yet, theirs," he said.

The only tickets available to the public for Wednesday night's debate were being distributed in a raffle through the state's newspapers, but city officials said they still have been hit with countless requests.

"I don't think there is an official in town — county, state, local level — who hasn't had a friend call him and ask for a ticket," said Kevin Collison, media aide to Mayor Walt Calinger.

Space shuttle landing also very risky but dry lakebed leaves more room for safety

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The Challenger tragedy highlighted the danger of space shuttle launches, but astronauts also face risks when their orbiter rips through Earth's atmosphere and plunges toward landing "like a streamlined brick," experts say.

"The landing is not as dramatic and exciting as the launch and doesn't involve extremely powerful rockets, but there's no question landing is a very critical operation and requires a great deal of attention," said B. John Garrick, president of a Newport Beach engineering consulting firm.

Discovery is to conclude its four-day mission with a landing Monday morning at 9:33 a.m. PDT. It will swoop across California's coast at 4.37 times the speed of sound, slow to subsonic speeds, then drop at a steep angle before leveling out without any power and glide toward touchdown on the unpaved surface of Rogers Dry Lake.

"It comes down like a streamlined brick," said Milt Thompson, chief engineer for NASA's Dryden Flight Research Facility at this Mojave Desert military base, where 18 of 24 previous shuttle missions landed. Five flights landed at Cape Canaveral, Fla., and one at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Thompson said that while shuttle landings are less dangerous than launches, "there is still an element of risk on whether or not you make this landing properly because a lot of it does rely on the pilot's judgment and you are approaching the ground at an extremely high rate of descent."

The Jan. 28, 1986, explosion that destroyed Challenger and killed seven crew members 73 seconds after liftoff from Florida prompted redesign of faulty shuttle booster rockets and many other changes, including installation of an emergency escape system so astronauts can bail out while approaching the landing site.

The braking and steering systems also were modified to try to avoid the brake and tire damage that had occurred during earlier landings.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said the changes were meant to eliminate mechanical and heat-caused brake damage, improve steering to provide better control in crosswinds or if tires blow out, and prevent bending of main landing gear axles caused by brake overheating.

At the urging of astronauts and the Rogers Commission, which investigated the Challenger disaster, shuttles will land here for the foreseeable future, frustrating NASA's initial plans to save time and money by landing the spacecraft regularly back at the Cape Canaveral launch site.

The 44-square-mile dry lakebed at Edwards leaves plenty of room for safety if brakes fail or tires blow, while a similar mishap at the Cape could put the shuttle in the water.

Foes call Botha move 'sheer hypocrisy'

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Government officials are elated by the success of their diplomatic offensive into black Africa, but foes of apartheid said Sunday the campaign does nothing to resolve domestic racial problems.

"Africa is talking to South Africa," President P.W. Botha said after meeting Saturday with President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. It was Botha's third summit with a black African leader in three weeks.

City Press, South Africa's largest-selling black newspaper, described the visit to Zaire as "sheer hypocrisy." An official of the African National Congress guerrilla movement condemned Mobutu for agreeing to meet Botha.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha and the president said on the flight from Zaire that the increasingly open contacts between South Africa and its black neighbors discredited the sanctions campaign waged against South Africa by Western countries opposed

to apartheid.

Apartheid establishes a racially segregated society in which the 26 million blacks have no vote in national affairs. The 5 million whites control the economy and maintain separate districts, schools and health services.

"I have often stated that South Africa has something to convey to Africa, and especially to southern Africa," President Botha said. "Now, suddenly, it seems they are coming to grips with this truth."

City Press, in an editorial Sunday, asked: "What is the point of achieving peace and stability with neighbors when your own country is engulfed in flames?"

Apartheid must be abolished and negotiations held with legitimate black leaders, City Press said. "Until these minimum demands are met, Mr. Botha can tour the rest of Africa as much as he likes — peace will not come to this country."

Stanley Mabizela, the ANC's

chief representative in Zimbabwe, said African leaders should shun Botha because he "executes people who are victims of an inhuman society, as well as political prisoners."

The summit also drew criticism in Zaire, where troops fired warning shots to disperse university students protesting Botha's visit.

But Botha said he planned more trips in Africa soon. He also invited Mobutu to visit South Africa.

Last month, Botha traveled to Mozambique and invited its president, Joaquim Chissano, to visit South Africa. Both Chissano and Mobutu accepted the invitations, although no dates for their visits were set.

No black African leader has made a state visit to South Africa since Botha took power in 1978.

One of Botha's chief foreign policy goals has been to expand ties with black Africa without having to promise concessions to the disenfranchised black majority in his own country.

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Estonians cheer plans for autonomy, object to Kremlin's "colonialist" policy

TALLINN, U.S.S.R. — Members of an Estonian nationalist group accused the Kremlin on Sunday of sapping their republic's resources and demanded that Moscow give them greater control over their land and economy.

Thousands of supporters cheered the speakers at the first congress of the fledgling People's Front.

"We have been reduced to the level of slaves in a manor," farmer Enno Peets told more than 3,000 delegates.

Some speakers objected to what they called the Kremlin's "colonialist" policy, which they said siphons off Estonia's agricultural output and manufactured goods.

"These people are to blame for our suffering here, the lack of food here," delegate Albert Danielson told the audience at the Town Hall in Tallinn, the picturesque capital of this republic on the Baltic Sea.

The two-day conference opened Saturday with an address by Estonia's Communist Party chief, Vajno Vyalyas, who greeted the group in the name of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Official sanction for the meeting was an indication of the changing attitudes of authorities, who recently would have thrown in jail anyone espousing nationalist sentiments.

The issue of ethnic relations is key for Gorbachev, who is beset by unrest among the Soviet Union's more than 100 ethnic groups. The stirrings have been particularly troublesome in the Baltic republics of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, and in the southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Soviet Union took over the Baltic republics under a 1939 agreement with Nazi Germany.