

The Arizona Daily Star

Vol. 147 No. 77 ©1988 The Arizona Daily Star Final Edition, Tucson, Thursday, March 17, 1988 BEST AVAILABLE COPY 35¢ 68 Pages

Reagan orders 3,200 troops to Honduras after incursion

U.S. forces won't join fight where Sandinistas crossed border

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

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 last night.

Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the troops would leave this morning, but would not be sent "to any areas of ongoing hostilities." The troops were to be deployed at Palmerola Air

Force Base in Honduras, about 125 miles from the area of hostilities.

Fitzwater said 1,500 to 2,000 Sandinista troops were in Honduras. "They are there at this time and we have seen no evidence that they are retreating to their own country."

Congressional leaders were being briefed on Reagan's order by telephone, Fitzwater said, and Democratic skepticism came immediately.

"It's an overreaction," said Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, D-W.Va. "The Sandinistas have

crossed over the border before and gone back."

Fitzwater characterized the troop movement as a training exercise and also "a signal to the government and the people of Central America."

In November 1986, the United States sent helicopters and helicopter crews that were used to airlift Honduran forces to engage Sandinista forces that had crossed into Honduras. The Americans did not directly get involved in hostilities.

The White House statement was

delivered in the press room shortly after 10 p.m. after a series of meetings among Reagan's national security advisers. In the statement, Fitzwater did not say how long the forces would remain in Honduras.

Fitzwater said Reagan ordered the action in response to a "cross-border incursion by Sandinista armed forces into Honduras from Nicaragua."

Fitzwater said the troops were formally requested by Honduran President Jose Azcona, first in a tel-

ephone call and later in a cable.

White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker and national security adviser Colin Powell briefed Reagan on the request about 8 p.m. in the president's residence, and "the president made his decision to provide this support to the government of Honduras and also were taken to put into effect the plan we are describing tonight," Fitzwater said.

"As the president said when he was briefed on this issue, 'When friends ask for our support, we



3 killed at IRA funeral



Under fire — Mourners huddling behind gravestones comfort one another after an attack by a gunman who opened fire and hurled grenades at a funeral for three IRA members. Three people were killed in the Belfast attack yesterday, and 52 were wounded. The funeral was for three guerrillas who were killed in Gibraltar by British commandos. Story, Page 7A.

North, Secord, Poindexter and Hakim indicted

Accused of trying to defraud U.S. in Iran-Contra affair



By Philip Shenon
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WASHINGTON — Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, Rear Adm. John M. Poindexter and two other key participants in the Iran-Contra affair were indicted yesterday on charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States by illegally providing the Nicaraguan rebels with profits from the sale of American weapons to Iran.

The indictment was the most sweeping criminal action against former White House officials since the Watergate scandals and presented to President Reagan the politically delicate issue of whether he should pardon his former aides before his term ends next January.

The long-awaited indictment, following a 14-month grand jury investigation, named North, who was a member of the National Security Council Staff, and Poindexter, Reagan's former national security adviser.



Oliver L. North — Marine lieutenant colonel... former right-hand man to the national security adviser... driving force behind the Iran-Contra operation... fired when the operation was made public... called "a national hero" by Reagan.



It also named two middlemen in the arms transfer, Richard V. Secord, a retired Air Force major general, and Albert A. Hakim, an Iranian-American businessman.

23-count indictment

All four are accused in the 23-count indictment of stealing money belonging to the government — proceeds from the arms sales to Iran in 1985 and 1986 — and transferring a portion of it to rebel groups, known as the Contras, battling the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

They were also accused of wire fraud, which means that they used telephones or other wire communications to further their scheme.

According to the indictment, the defendants also defrauded the government by "deceptively exploiting for their own purposes" the Iran-Contra initiative, "rather than pursuing solely the specified governmental objectives of the initiative, including the release of Americans being held hostage in Lebanon."

Yesterday's indictment did not specify how much money may have been stolen.



1987 AP photos
John M. Poindexter — Navy rear admiral... succeeded Robert C. McFarlane as national security adviser... said he knew about the diversion of money to the Contras, but did not tell Reagan... resigned from the NSC on Nov. 25, 1986.

Mecham says he wanted to fire Milstead

By Melissa Rigg
The Arizona Daily Star

PHOENIX — Inpeached Gov. Evan Mecham took the witness stand yesterday afternoon and said he should have fired the director of the state Department of Public Safety last year.

In his first appearance at his 13-day-old Senate impeachment trial, Mecham charged that DPS Director Ralph Milstead misused his state car, doctored his expense account and had DPS secretaries work in his master's bedroom.

Mecham arrived at the Senate

cham's political fate stood as the governor entered their chambers at 3:55 p.m. and was sworn in.

They also listened to him attentively, settling beside the magazine, newspapers and mail they occasionally perused while previous witnesses testified.

Mecham arrived at the Senate

building shortly before noon under tight security and met with his defense team during the two-hour lunch break.

Immediately before he took the stand, senators overwhelmingly rejected a motion to declare a mistrial or dismiss the first of three charges against Mecham — obstruction of justice — because of alleged witness

tampering by the DPS.

Senators currently are hearing testimony on the obstruction charge, in which Mecham is accused of wrongfully hindering the state attorney general's investigation into an alleged death threat.

The governor — who testified that his campaign theme was riding the state of corruption — also is accused of trying to conceal a \$200,000 campaign loan and of improperly issuing \$80,000 in state money to his Glendale car dealer.

Mecham attorney Jerris Leonard

WEATHER

Cool breezes. Today and tomorrow will be mostly sunny and breezy at times in the afternoon. Today's high will be in the upper 60s. The low tonight will be in the upper 30s, and the high tomorrow will be in the lower 70s. Winds today will be from the west at 10 to 20 mph. The high yesterday was 75. The low was 50. Page 2A.

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President vetoes civil rights bill despite warnings; override likely

By Julie Johnson
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WASHINGTON — President Reagan disregarded warnings of a political backlash from Republican congressional leaders yesterday and vetoed a major civil rights bill.

The measure, which would expand the reach of federal anti-discrimination laws that the Supreme Court had limited in 1984, was passed by both houses of Congress with more than enough votes to override a veto, and Senate leaders planned to call the bill up today.

But Reagan offered an alternative he said would "protect civil rights and at the same time preserve the independence of state and local governments, the freedom of religion and the right of America's citizens to order their lives and businesses without extensive federal intrusion."

The president said Congress "has sent me a bill that would vastly and unambiguously expand the power of the federal government over the decisions and affairs of private organizations, such as churches and synagogues, farms, businesses, and state and local governments," adding, "In the process, it would place at risk such cherished values as religious liberty."

The bill the president vetoed was intended to overturn the effects of a Supreme Court decision involving Grove City College in Pennsylvania. The court had ruled that anti-discrimination provisions governing the use of federal aid applied only to specific programs or activities aided by those funds.

In the Grove City case, the ruling meant that federal regulations on sex discrimination did not bind every

such carried values as religious liberty."

Mecham attorney Jerris Leonard

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INSIDE

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- John M. Poindexter methodically purged all his messages from White House computer files, prosecutors say. Page 5A.