

World and Nation

Witness: North led Contra meeting

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — A witness in Oliver North's criminal trial testified Thursday he heard North suggest at a meeting of Nicaraguan rebels that they open a new military front and block a government supply route by sinking a barge in a river.

"Basically," said Rafael Quintero, "North ran the meeting."

North, who was an aide to then-President Reagan's National Security Council, is on trial on 12 criminal charges. One accusation is that he drafted letters to Congress saying he had no involvement in the Contra effort to overthrow the leftist Nicaraguan government at a time when U.S. law prohibited official aid to the rebels.

The meeting, in a Miami Airport hotel room, was in June 1985. Quintero testified. North is accused of lying to Congress in 1985 and 1986

by denying involvement.

Quintero said participants at the meeting in Miami discussed strategy for countering 60,000 Sandinistas who were blocking Contra infiltrations into Nicaragua. And the possibility was raised of obstructing the Rama River where, the witness said, 80 percent of the Sandinistas' supplies crossed.

He used a map and pointer while he spoke and North, who had never before moved from the defense table during testimony, crossed the room so that he could follow the demonstration.

"Who suggested obstructing the river?" asked prosecution lawyer Michael Bromwich.

"Mr. North did," said Quintero. Also attending the meeting, he said, were Contra leaders Adolfo Calero and Enrique Bermudez as well as

retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard Secord and Secord associate Thomas Clines, an ex-CIA official, who were both involved in obtaining arms and shipping them to the Contras.

Quintero, testifying under immunity from prosecution, said he got involved in the covert Contra activities through a call from Secord.

He described himself as "a combination soldier and logistics expert" who fought in the revolution that overthrew Fulgencio Batista in Cuba. He said he became disenchanted when Fidel Castro allied himself with the Soviet Union. Quintero said he came to the United States, was trained by the CIA and was back in Cuba to work with the resistance in the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion that failed.

His mission in the North operation, he said, "was to help the Contras stay alive for the period of time until

Congress resumed aid to the Nicaraguan Contras." He was hired at \$4,000 a month, plus a bonus for each shipment of arms he got to the Contras. He made 16 trips to Central America from January to June 1986 to oversee construction of an airstrip to be used for the southern military front.

Quintero also testified he once heard North say that President Reagan backed clandestine efforts to resupply the Contras.

This was, Quintero said, at a 1986 meeting in El Salvador when a high Salvadoran official declared he "was not going to stick his neck out and have it cut off."

"Mr. North pointed out the president was very much aware of the efforts this high Salvadoran official was doing, that the president wanted these efforts to continue," he added.

75 former refugees return to Vietnam

From Associated Press reports

HONG KONG — Seventy-five Vietnamese returned by charter jet Thursday to the communist homeland they fled, beginning the first repatriation program for boat people no longer willing to languish in crowded detention centers.

The boat people were among about 11,000 Vietnamese who have sailed into this British colony since it adopted a tough new policy last year that for most of them rules out resettlement.

The 2-hour flight marked the first large-scale repatriation of boat people, who have sailed by the tens of thousands to seek asylum in non-communist southeast Asia.

Many of the returning 46 men, 19 women and 10 children boarded the U.N.-chartered Boeing 737 jet smil-

ing, waving and shaking hands with local officials. Several wore new clothes; a few carried cassette tape players.

When their plane touched down in Hanoi on Thursday evening, they were met by Vietnamese, British and U.N. officials, Hong Kong radio reported. Relief officials aboard the airplane said there was no tension during the flight, it said.

"I'm happy to be back," Lan Bun See told reporters as he stepped off the plane. "This is my homeland. I feel . . . very happy." The group was whisked to the passenger terminal by coach, where they were rushed through immigration, reports from Hanoi said.

"This is an important start," said Security Branch official Michael Hanson, who watched the group

leave Hong Kong. "We hope more people will take this route back to Vietnam" and relieve the crowded camps that are home to about 26,000 boat people in Hong Kong.

The repatriation was arranged under an agreement reached by Vietnam and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Hanoi promised not to prosecute its returning citizens and to allow the international organization to monitor their treatment back home.

The U.N. commission agreed to provide assistance to the repatriated Vietnamese. Returning adults received \$50 and their children \$25, according to U.N. officials, and the commission will offer unspecified assistance to others.

Two U.N. officials flew back with the group and were expected to accompany the Vietnamese to their hometowns.

Hong Kong, about 500 miles north of Vietnam, long classified all arriving

Vietnamese as refugees who could stay in the colony until resettled elsewhere. Fewer than two dozen of the more than 120,000 Vietnamese who have come to Hong Kong returned home between 1979 and 1988.

But to stem a growing influx of boat people, the colony adopted a new policy in June under which Vietnamese are considered refugees only if they can prove they fled their homeland because of persecution.

The vast majority of the 11,000 boat people who have arrived under the new policy do not meet that standard under a Hong Kong government screening program and are classified as illegal immigrants who fled their impoverished homeland for economic reasons.

Hong Kong wants to send them home forcibly, but Hanoi insists it will only accept boat people who want to return.

West German spy ring found selling computer passwords

From Associated Press reports

BONN, West Germany — Investigators have cracked a major spy ring in which West German "hackers" allegedly acquired sensitive military computer passwords and codes and sold them to the Soviets, a government official said Thursday.

A West German TV network said the passwords and other information came from key military and research computers in the United States, Western Europe and Japan.

Several West Germans have been detained on suspicion of "obtaining information about access to databanks and (passing) that on to Soviet intelligence agents," said Roland Bachmeier, spokesman for the federal Interior Ministry.

He refused to confirm other details of a report by the Norddeutsche Rundfunk broadcasting network.

Jews protest rights violations

MOSCOW — Soviet Jews staged their first protest in half a year Thursday, gathering within sight of the Kremlin to accuse their government of violating international human rights agreements by barring their emigration.

A police major repeatedly told about 20 protesters they were

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breaking the law by holding a demonstration without a permit, but uniformed and plainclothes officers who swarmed around the steps of Lenin Library made no move to halt the half-hour protest.

"We're hearing many words about how we are observing the Vienna human rights agreements, but they are not being fulfilled in deeds," said protest organizer Yuri Semenovskiy, who has sought for three years to obtain a Soviet exit visa. "We have been deceived."

English amendment opposed

DENVER — Four months after voters passed "official English" amendments in Colorado, Arizona and Florida, the effect is far from clear, with supporters and opponents remaining split over the measures' legal meaning.

In Arizona, a state employee's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the amendment is pending in U.S. District Court.

The author of the Colorado amendment has criticized the governor and Denver's mayor for issuing executive orders directing that bilingual government information still be provided.

BOG

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chose not to participate in the caucus.

Warner, who is chairman of the House Higher Education Subcommittee, said he left the caucus because he did not think the board should be a political issue.

"I went to the caucus, and I chose to leave," he said. "I don't see any reason for slate selection."

House Majority Leader Dennis Wicker, D-Lee, who called the caucus, could not be reached for comment.

Asa Spaulding Jr. of Durham — whom the House Democrats also endorsed in the caucus — got the remaining seat when he was re-elected to the seat reserved for a Republican. He defeated Gastonia dentist Bill Current.

"My top priority is to support the

(BOG) chairman," Spaulding said. "We have to look at the needs of all 16 institutions."

The Senate elected former educator Wallace Hyde of Raleigh and re-elected Texas businessman Walter Davis for the Senate's two at-large seats on the board.

The two defeated former state Democratic Party Chairman James Van Hecke of Greensboro.

Davis could not be reached for comment, but Hyde said he was pleased to be on the board.

"Basically, I'll be a very active member," he said.

For the minority seat the Senate chose Maxine O'Kelley of Alamance County, and Lois Britt of Duplin County was elected to the seat reserved for a woman.

Representation

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are overrepresented.

Corrections, if they can be worked out, will probably not go into effect this year, but will be made by the next general election in spring 1990, Davis said.

"We have to review and study the situation," Davis said. "The best way to go about it is to look at all off-campus students' addresses, find where they live and reapportion on that basis."

It is possible that reapportioning could establish between five and six off-campus districts, compared to four now, and create new off-campus congress seats, Davis said.

Jurgen Buchenau (Dist. 3) said the underrepresentation of off-campus undergraduates was not evident in last year's elections board study. Buchenau said it was important for congress to do something to fix the situation.

"It doesn't affect our workings, but it does affect our representativeness as far as truly representing the campus," he said.

Increasing the number of off-campus representatives is an alternative to subtracting seats from on-campus and graduate students, Buchenau said. There is sufficient interest among graduate students to maintain their present number of seats, and redistricting is difficult because of the possibility of having to shift dorms from their present district, he said.

Stephanie Ahlschwede (Dist. 12) said the problem with off-campus representation was that geographic representation made no difference as far as constituent needs, because the needs were not based on where students lived, but on their living situation. Redistricting should take

into consideration what type of residence a student occupies, she said.

But Buchenau said students' geographic location presented different concerns depending on their distance from campus. Some off-campus students are still able to walk to campus whereas others must face parking dilemmas, he said.

Jill Gilbert (Dist. 17) said adding more representatives would allow congress members to reach more of their constituents, enabling congress to better serve student needs.

Lisa Madry (Dist. 18) said although the situation was not something that was intended, she did not know how it could be fixed. Off-campus districts often go unopposed or remain vacant, and people moving creates another problem for redistricting, she said.

Congress Speaker Neil Riemann said he did not feel that the underrepresentation had significantly affected off-campus students, but he said there were many more things that could be done to reach off-campus students and involve them in student government.

The Elections Board is required to study possible misrepresentation every two years. Board Chairman Wilborn Roberson said he had no viable ideas about correcting the situation.

"It's a difficult issue because you have to determine where they live this year compared to where they will live next year," Roberson said. "It's hard to determine who will live where."

Most off-campus students asked about the problem Thursday said they either had no knowledge of the situation or did not feel it significantly affected them.

Don't miss the arts news in Thursday's Omnibus

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For the Record

Thursday's editorial, "Violations plague elections," incorrectly stated that the Elections Board and decisions it might make would be null following a Student Supreme Court decision based on the Board's lack

of graduate students. The Board added graduate students last week, and so its makeup conforms with regulations. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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