

World and Nation

Reagan must release diary entries

From Associated Press reports
 WASHINGTON — A federal judge Tuesday ordered former President Reagan to provide excerpts from his personal diaries to John Poindexter for the former national security adviser's upcoming Iran-Contra trial.

U.S. District Court Judge Harold Greene said a 1985 entry includes a "somewhat ambiguous comment" indicating that Reagan knew of Poindexter's work for the Nicaraguan Contras.

Greene said Reagan had to surrender the material by Monday, a move that could trigger a claim of executive privilege by the former president and might delay the Feb. 20 starting date of the Poindexter trial.

Reagan submitted more than 100 entries last Thursday. Greene said entries covering more than 29 different dates in 1985 and 1986 contained

"information of significance." Theodore Olson, one of Reagan's lawyers, declined to comment.

If Reagan balks at turning over the material, Greene said he would provide the former president and the Justice Department with a secret document Poindexter submitted to the court outlining why he needs the diaries.

After court filings by all sides, including Iran-Contra prosecutors, the court will "make a final decision with respect to enforcement of the subpoena" for the diaries, Greene said.

Reagan was ordered to give Poindexter a diary entry relating to a "successful" trip Poindexter took in December 1985 to Central America.

The entry includes a somewhat ambiguous comment arguably indicating that the former president knew of Poindexter's "activities on behalf of the Contras," Greene said.

The judge said Poindexter was entitled to diary entries in which Reagan described an effort to persuade the government of Honduras to release a seized arms shipment that had been destined for the Contras.

Greene also said Poindexter must receive diary entries focusing on U.S. military assistance to an unidentified Central American country.

Poindexter also is entitled to Reagan's diary entries concerning meetings with Poindexter and others in December 1985 "to discuss the sales of arms to Iran," Green said, adding that one entry "addresses briefly the issue of the proceeds from these sales."

Greene said that none of the diary entries shed "any light on the question of what President Reagan may have known about the diversion" of proceeds to the Contras from the administration's secret sale of arms to Iran.



Ronald Reagan

Anti-nuclear protesters celebrate after 9-year vigil

From Associated Press reports
 GREENHAM COMMON, England — Pam Jones huddled under a tattered umbrella on a muddy patch outside this U.S. air base, where women have kept up an anti-nuclear vigil for nearly nine years.

The base is to be closed in 1991, a symbol of the changing face of Europe, but Ms. Jones isn't leaving yet. "We'll see it through to the end. No one will ever forget Greenham Common," she said Tuesday.

Surrounded by a dismal clutter of broken chairs, plastic sheeting and the dying embers of a fire, she said, "It's a time of celebration."

Greenham Common has been a U.S. base for nearly 50 years. It's where Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower saw off his D-Day invasion troops, and it has been a rallying point for the anti-nuclear movement since it became a base for cruise missiles.

Bulgarian leader fends off split

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Communist Party chief Petar Mladenov fiercely attacked the ousted leadership Tuesday but offered few ideas for change as he tried to please reformers and conservatives and avoid a party split.

As the party began a three-day congress, Mladenov proposed splitting the post of party chief and state president, which he assumed when Todor Zhivkov was removed Nov. 10 after 35 years in power.

"It's my suggestion that the comrades adopt a decision that the same person should not be leading the party and the state at the same time," Mladenov told the 2,752 delegates.

News in Brief

Romanian minister sways army

BUCHAREST, Romania — Nicolae Ceausescu's defense minister shot himself in the heart because he could not bring himself to obey the dictator and fire on demonstrators during last month's revolt, according to testimony Tuesday at a military tribunal.

The death of the former defense chief, Vasile Milea, helped turn army units against Ceausescu in the uprising that ended his 24-year rule.

At the trial of four top Ceausescu associates, Col. Corneliu Pircalabescu testified that Milea asked him to tell his wife and children that he couldn't order defenseless demonstrators killed.

Minutes later, he shot himself, said Pircalabescu.

Iraqi army accused of brutality

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Amnesty International said Tuesday that the Iraqi army attacked dozens of villages in southern Iraq this month and killed many civilians in an apparent attempt to capture army deserters.

Also Tuesday, an Iraqi Kurdish group claimed the Iraqi military killed more than 60 fishermen this month. Iraq denied both reports.

The London-based human rights monitoring group said it received reports that "large numbers of people, including unarmed civilians and army deserters, were killed or wounded" in southern Iraq.

Budget director backs Bush spending plan

From Associated Press reports
 WASHINGTON — White House Budget Director Richard Darman Tuesday defended President Bush's \$1.23 trillion budget against Democratic criticism of gimmicks and rosy predictions and tried to snuff out a movement to cut Social Security taxes.

There are far fewer "gimmicks," such as shifting payments from one year to another to make the deficit look smaller, than in past budgets, Darman told the House Budget Committee.

"I think every one of them (in the new budget) is defensible," he said.

As for projections of greater economic growth and less inflation than

private economists are forecasting, Darman pointed to the administration's figures from July as "amazingly accurate."

"You are not dealing with people who are totally out of bounds," he said.

Darman spent most of the day before the committee listening to Democratic members complain that the budget, which Bush sent to Congress on Monday, does not reflect a changing world because it proposes \$292.1 billion for the military in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

"You've blown the opportunity for economic growth by spending more on military," Rep. Barbara Boxer, D-

Calif., said.

She said the administration proposal to save money starting in 1994 by eliminating several military bases was an effort to intimidate lawmakers who might prefer less spending for defense.

"Why are some kinds of cuts good but other kinds are not?" Darman asked.

Darman was peppered with questions about Social Security, specifically a bill by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y. That bill, which has drawn the interest of several lawmakers but opposition from the administration, would cut payroll taxes as a way to keep the government from using surplus Social Security taxes to finance

other federal programs.

"It is my personal opinion that he (Moynihan) never intended the plan to be taken as seriously as the press has taken it," Darman said, implying that Moynihan was simply trying to draw attention to the practice of using Social Security taxes for purposes other than providing benefits to retirees.

Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Calif., chairman of the committee, interjected: "I get the impression that he is quite serious about the proposal."

At the White House, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady told reporters Moynihan's proposal was "the height of folly" and "goofy."



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