

1-16-1987

Summary: Selected Developments On Investigations Of Iran Arms Deal, U.S. Official & Contra Wrongdoing, Jan. 5-9

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Summary: Selected Developments On Investigations Of Iran Arms Deal, U.S. Official & Contra Wrongdoing, Jan. 5-9." (1987). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/335>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Summary: Selected Developments On Investigations Of Iran Arms Deal, U.S. Official & Contra Wrongdoing, Jan. 5-9

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, January 16, 1987

Jan. 5: The Senate Intelligence Committee refused a request by President Reagan to publicly release its report on the Iran- contra funding scandal. Then-Committee head Republican David Durenberger said, "the entire report is embarrassing to the government if you want to know the truth." Durenberger and Democrat Patrick Leahy refused to comment on how committee members voted. Reagan asked the committee numerous times to release the 159-page report, or at least an edited version. Durenberger and Leahy said the report would be delivered to the Senate Select Committee in charge of investigating the scandal. Some Senate Democrats who oppose making the document public said it draws no conclusions and contains inaccurate information. Jan. 6: According to the NEW YORK TIMES, the chronology of events related to the Iran arms deal provided to the White House by Lt. Col. Oliver North and turned over to the Senate Intelligence Committee is at variance with the testimony given by Chief of Staff Donald Regan, Attorney General Edwin Meese, and former national security adviser Robert McFarlane. White House officials reportedly disclosed some details of the chronology to emphasize Reagan's assertion that he had no knowledge of some aspects of the secret dealings. Congressional sources and Jack Terrell, a man who was present, told REUTERS that Robert Owen attended a meeting in Jan. 1985 during which a plot was devised to kill Eden Pastora, a former leader of one of the rebel groups fighting the Sandinista government. The sources said Owen attended the meeting at the Miami home of UNO leader Adolfo Calero. In an interview with REUTERS, Terrell said rebel leaders wanted Pastora removed because he refused to cooperate with them in a united front against the Sandinista government. Pastora argued that other contra factions were dominated by former Somoza National Guardsmen. Terrell said he told the rebel leaders that if Pastora were to be murdered, it should be staged to appear as if the Nicaraguan government had done it. He added contra leaders wanted him to come up with a detailed murder plan but he did not do so and later voiced opposition to killing Pastora. The assassination idea was apparently dropped. According to Terrell, another contra leader at the meeting said of Pastora: "The bombing should have worked but the timing was off." Terrell said he did not know what this meant at the time, but later decided it may have been a reference to the 1984 bomb attempt on Pastora's life at a press conference in La Penca, Nicaragua. Pastora was wounded and four people died in the blast. Reagan signed an executive order in 1981 that says "no person employed by or acting on behalf of the United States government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination." Terrell said he became disillusioned with the contras partly because their leaders lived in luxury while rebels in the field endured a harsh existence. Jan. 7: According to a Senate report, the State Department, which solicited \$10 million in non-lethal aid from the Sultan of Brunei, lost track of the money and has no idea of how it was spent. The report asserts that Brunei deposited \$10 million in a Swiss bank account on Aug. 19 but that State did not learn of the deposit until months later. By that time the money had been withdrawn. Intelligence reports show a sharp increase in weapons deliveries to the contras, beginning in August. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the Army might have charged too little for anti-tank missiles sold to the CIA and ultimately

delivered to Iran. He said he knew nothing of the transfer of profits from the arms sales to the contras. Jan. 8: Jack Terrell, former member of the Civilian Material Assistance group, told REUTERS that during a meeting in January 1985, Oliver North's private liaison with the contras Robert Owen said he was providing the contras (via supporters in Costa Rica) with \$10,000 per month from the National Security Council (NSC) on North's behalf. The meeting, which congressional sources said took place, occurred during a congressional ban on military aid to the contras and months before North allegedly began diverting profits from the secret Iran arms sales to the same. Terrell said he attended a Miami meeting of contra leaders at the home of Adolfo Calero during which Owen made the comment. Civilian Material Assistance is a private anti-communist group which provided military support to the contras. Terrell has agreed to cooperate with congressional investigators in probes on contra activities. Congressional aide Richard McCall, who has helped investigate the contras for Sen. John Kerry, said Terrell was a credible source whose testimony had proved consistently correct. The LOS ANGELES TIMES reported that in late 1984 North showed NSC colleagues a safe stuffed with cash and boasted that it contained \$1 million. The TIMES quoted officials familiar with the safe incident as saying North stated he was holding the money for transfer to the contras. Jan. 9: The CIA admitted it had received information in October 1986 about the possible delivery of money to the contras from Iranian payments for US arms. Agency director William Casey, said CIA spokespersons, alerted the White House of his suspicions. The National Security Council was informed "on several occasions" and Casey recommended that the White House "review the program." The Agency said there are no indications that the CIA was involved in the providing funds for the contras from Iran arms sales profits, nor in any violation of US law.

-- End --