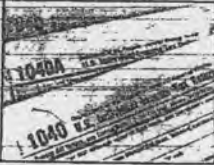


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The Miami Herald

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General labels war photo fake

Westmoreland's claim contradicted by witnesses

By PAUL SHANNON
Herald Staff Writer

In a Fort Lauderdale speech in which he accused the press of distorting its coverage of the Vietnam War, retired Gen. William C. Westmoreland this week said one of the most haunting photographs to come out of the conflict is a fake.

The photographer who took the 1972 photo of a Vietnamese girl — running, naked and screaming, from a wall of fire and smoke — reacted with disbelief. He said the photo is authentic, and he is backed up by a television crew's film of the event and by the girl herself.

The girl, Phan Thi Kim Phuc, now 21, has been interviewed numerous times

about the picture and about the burns she suffered. Kim Phuc was flown to a hospital in West Germany for burn treatment last year, the 10th anniversary of the American withdrawal from the war.

The photograph of Kim Phuc won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973. It has been reprinted thousands of times throughout the world.

Westmoreland, commander of U.S. ground forces in Vietnam and unsuccessful plaintiff last year in a \$120 million libel suit against CBS, said in a speech Wednesday that he doesn't believe the girl was burned by napalm. He said an investigation determined that she had been burned in an accident involving a

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"I said, 'My God, if she was hit by napalm, she would not have survived,'" Westmoreland said in an interview after his speech. "I said it was told to me that she was burned by a hibachi."

Westmoreland, Army chief of staff in Washington when the photo was taken, told The Herald that he didn't remember the extent of the investigation. He also said he didn't remember who told him the finding that he passed on Wednesday to about 300 business people at a breakfast speech sponsored by Nova University at a Fort Lauderdale hotel.

The Army could find no record of any

Please turn to NAPALM / 8A



Phan Thi Kim Phuc, crying in pain and terror after her clothes were burned off, runs down a Vietnamese road in a 1972 Pulitzer-winning photo. Associated Press



President Reagan heads for hospital bearing gifts from 13-year-old leukemia victim Tina Fowler. United Press International

President has polyps removed

By ELLEN WARREN and DAVID HESS
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Navy doctors removed three small growths from President Reagan's intestine Friday afternoon, during Reagan's first examination of his colon since his cancer surgery last July.

The doctors said the growths, which they described as "very small polyps," were "clinically benign." But, in a statement issued by the White House after Reagan's examination, officials said the polyps will be subjected to a laboratory evaluation to determine whether they contain cancer cells.

In addition to the polyps, a small, superficial growth on the right side of Reagan's face was shaved and sent to the laboratory for a biopsy. Two cancerous growths were removed from the president's nose a few months ago.

The White House gave no indication when the results of the lab tests would be available.

Doctors at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center administered several tests to the 74-year-old president, checking his blood, lungs, liver and other vital organs by X-ray and CAT scan.

The polyps were discovered by a colonoscope, a narrow, supple tube with a fiber-optic light that is inserted through the anal cavity into the intestines. A similar examination revealed the two-inch cancerous tumor that was removed from Reagan's large intestine last July 13.

The polyps removed Friday measured only one to two millimeters, about the size of the head of a pin, the White House statement said. Though the statement offered no information about the

Please turn to REAGAN / 11A

U.S. helped contras get missiles

Sandinista copter downed by SAM

By ALFONSO CHARDY
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Reagan administration officials played a role in helping U.S.-backed Nicaraguan insurgents to buy an anti-aircraft missile that downed a Nicaraguan helicopter in December, according to administration officials and congressional sources familiar with the case.

Senior officials, including Secretary of State George Shultz, have denied charges by the Sandinista government in Managua that the United States provided the rebels with the heat-seeking, surface-to-air SAM-7 missile that downed the Soviet-supplied Mi8 Sandinista helicopter on Dec. 2. Twelve Nicaraguan soldiers and two Cuban pilots were reported killed. Knowledgeable sources, while

Please turn to MISSILE / 16A

EAL's finances 'very perilous,' mediator says

By DAVID LYONS
Herald Business Writer

Eastern Airlines is in a "very perilous" financial state because its lenders are determined to take steps against the company unless it obtains sweeping labor concessions by Feb. 28, the chairman of the National Mediation Board said Friday.

Walter Wallace, who arrived in Miami to take control of contract talks with Eastern's 7,200 flight attendants, told a press conference

Many school buses fail FHP safety inspections

By DAVID MARCUS
Herald Staff Writer

Sixty percent of Dade County's public school buses failed safety inspections by the Florida Highway Patrol last year, and more than 14 percent were so poorly maintained they were too dangerous to be on the road, the school district's chief auditor said Friday.

After reading an early version of the audit this week, Superintendent Leonard Britton ordered an emergency inspection of all 586 of the district's buses. The inspection

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And they said tires, spare parts and fuel — worth at least \$100,000 and probably much more — have been stolen in the past year.

"Management was not paying attention to any of this. They were not really concerned with what was happening," head auditor Maggie Manrara said Friday. "Many of the records are missing. We have work orders that were altered and forged. The opportunity was there for a lot of people to steal a lot of tires."

U.S. to ease gas mileage rules

By MARCIA STEPANEK
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WASHINGTON — The government, apparently worried that the nation's top two automakers

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Please turn to REAGAN / 11A

Please turn to MISSILE / 16A

U.S. to ease gas mileage rules

By MARCIA STEPANIK
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The government, apparently worried that the nation's top two automakers might make good on threats to scrap thousands of assembly jobs and idle some of their big-car factories, agreed Friday to ease gas mileage standards for the next two model years.

The decision, the latest round in a 15-year controversy over whether the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration should re-

quire Detroit to make cars that use less gasoline, would extend the already relaxed 28-mile-per-gallon standard for two more years. It would not be final, however, until public hearings are conducted next month.

Both General Motors and Ford say their cars won't average the 27.5-mpg standard that would be required for the 1987 and 1988 model years, largely because fierce Japanese competition is expected

Please turn to FUEL / 14A

Many school buses fail FHP safety inspections

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After reading an early version of the audit this week, Superintendent Leonard Britton ordered an emergency inspection of all 586 of the district's buses. The inspection will reach its peak during this three-day weekend, when inspectors and mechanics, working overtime, search for safety hazards.

A team of four auditors working for the past five months also found abundant waste in the schools' transportation department. A million-dollar computer routing system that was supposed to increase efficiency actually cost \$2.6 million in extra buses and

manpower, the auditors said. And they said tires, spare parts and fuel — worth at least \$100,000 and probably much more — have been stolen in the past year.

"Management was not paying attention to any of this. They were not really concerned with what was happening," head auditor Maggie Manrara said Friday. "Many of the records are missing. We have work orders that were altered and forged. The opportunity was there for a lot of people to steal a lot of tires."

And that is exactly what happened, she said. Records showed that 14 tires were bought for one bus in six months, and then the Highway Patrol declared it unsafe because of a balding tire.

In other cases, 17 tires were charged for a bus that had driven only 2,000 miles, and 18 tires were purchased for a bus that had

Please turn to BUSES / 9A

EAL's finances 'very perilous,' mediator says

By DAVID LYONS
Herald Business Writer

Eastern Airlines is in a "very perilous" financial state because its leaders are determined to take steps against the company unless it obtains sweeping labor concessions by Feb. 23, the chairman of the National Mediation Board said Friday.

Walter Wallace, who arrived in Miami to take control of contract talks with Eastern's 7,200 flight attendants, told a press conference that after recent conversations with Eastern's bankers, "we are persuaded that it is a very perilous situation."

Wallace and federal mediator Harry Bickford are hoping to guide Eastern and the attendants toward a contract settlement by midnight Sunday, which is the end of a 30-day

Please turn to EASTERN / 8A

Casino firm to buy hotel in Sunny Isles

Resorts International gets 22-acre site

By DORY OWENS
Herald Business Writer

An affiliate of Resorts International Inc., which owns casinos in Atlantic City and the Bahamas, plans to buy the once-grand Sheraton Beach Hotel and 22 acres of prime land in northern Dade County, according to a copy of a tentative sales agreement obtained by The Herald.

The agreement, signed Dec. 23, comes about 10 months before Florida voters are to decide whether to legalize casino gam-

bling. Resorts International is a North Miami-based gaming company that operates one casino in Atlantic City and another in Paradise Island, the Bahamas.

The Karja Corp., described by its attorney as "affiliated with" Resorts International, will spend \$14 million to buy the property at State Road 11A and 194th Street in Sunny Isles, according to the agreement.

Miami lawyer Richard Olsen said Resorts International is interested in the property whether or

not gambling is legalized.

"The property looked like a good long-term real estate investment. The reason for that is its size. You just can't find a tract that size on the Beach," Olsen said.

The Sheraton and surrounding land, which in the 1978 drive to legalize gambling were named as a possible casino site, would make a highly desirable location: six acres fronting the Atlantic, while the 16 acres on the west side of 11A would provide ample space for parking.

In its glory days, the 536-room Sheraton was a showpiece, its cavernous lobby topped by a walnut ceiling with inlaid panels and wooden beams. The hotel was closed about four years ago, however, and its ground floor was gutted by fire in 1984. Today it is a crumbling derelict.

Olsen said Resorts International has been negotiating for the land for two years. "The decision to acquire it was made prior to any announcement on the gaming referendum. Whether that referendum is passed or not, they would have bought the property," he said.

Asked whether Resorts International will open a casino in Sunny Isles if gambling is approved, Olsen said, "God only knows."

But Bennett Litter, the Sunny Isles "hoteller" who has helped finance the statewide pro-casino drive, said he had no doubt about Resorts International's plans.

"Who's kidding who?" asked Litter, who has long condemned the Sheraton as an eyesore. "I don't think Resorts would come in and buy property and allow it to remain fallow. No one thought it was such a good real estate

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COCKLE

Temperamental: Easy
Hum, easy glow.

Around the Americas

U.S. helped contras get missiles

Soviet-supplied chopper downed by rebel SAM

MISSILE from 1A

confirming that the United States did not supply the Soviet-made SAM-7 missiles, said officials who monitor the rebels' activities. The rebels passed information to the contras through third parties on how to secure the weapons through foreign arms dealers.

In another instance of U.S. involvement, administration sources said that while the contras awaited delivery of the missiles, U.S. officials in Central America, acting on their own, described for the rebels the vulnerabilities of the Russian helicopters so they could use their new weapons effectively. The rebels, or contras, reportedly purchased their first missiles from European arms dealers in February or March, took delivery in April at their Honduran camps and were trained in their use by private American firms experts. "It wasn't a question of U.S. officials meeting secretly with guerrillas in the basement of the White House in the middle of the night and telling them 'Now boys, you gotta get surface-to-air missiles' and 'don't worry, we'll get them for you,'" said one official aware of contra activities.

'Indirect hints'

"But there were enough indirect hints from officials through third parties as to where they could go and get the weapons and training. The whole thing would have been impossible without some sort of U.S. participation."

The part American officials played was so discreet that it is unlikely that it could be conclusively established that they circumvented a congressional ban on assisting the contras, which was in place when the missiles were acquired in early 1985, the sources said.

"Those who helped covered their tracks so well that enough deniability was preserved," said a congressional source who was briefed by U.S. intelligence officials. He said there is no evidence the administration had a policy of supplying missiles to the rebels.

To understand the context in which U.S. officials became involved, it is necessary to review chronologically how the contras came to acquire the SAM-7s.

The process began election night, Nov. 6, 1984, when American intelligence sources reported that a Soviet merchant ship, the Bakurlani, was en route to Nicaragua reportedly carrying crated MIG-21 combat jets.

The report was wrong, but the crates did contain a new weapon for the Sandinistas: the first of several sophisticated Mi24 helicopter gunships that the Soviets have used against rebels in Afghanistan.

Within days U.S. officials warned the contras that the Sandinistas planned to employ the Mi24s against the Nicaraguan guerrillas and suggested that they needed anti-aircraft weapons.

At the time, contra leaders Adolfo Calero and Enrique Bermudez raised the possibility of obtaining U.S.-made Redeye surface-to-air missiles but the effort failed because of the congressional ban against supplying the contras with weapons, the sources said.

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They added, however, that National Security Council staffers involved with the contras, particularly White House liaison Lt. Col. Oliver North, suggested to private contra fund-raisers the possibility of steering the guerrillas toward an arms market source.

North did not talk to the rebels about the missiles but discussed the issue in conversations with individuals who raise private funds for the insurgents.

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Singlaub, 65, was removed as chief of staff of U.S. forces in South Korea in 1977 after publicly disagreeing with President Carter's decision to reduce the level of American troops there.

"I was instrumental in helping the freedom fighters get the

SAM-7 Missile

LAUNCHER

MISSILE

0 FEET 1 2 3 4
0 METERS 0.25 0.50 0.75 1.0 1.25

PURPOSE: Anti-aircraft missile
MANUFACTURER: Soviet Union
OPERATION: Shoulder-launched Operator sights target, fires when indicator light signals missile has locked in on heat from target's engine.
WARHEAD: 5.5 pounds of high explosives.
LENGTH: 4.3 feet
DIAMETER: 2.4 inches

WEIGHT: 20 pounds
NUMBER IN USE: 50,000
USERS: Soviet Union, Angola, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Mozambique, North Korea, North Vietnam, Peru, Poland, Romania, Syria, South Yemen, Yugoslavia.

SOURCE: The World's Missile Systems

VIVIAN E. RIPPE/Miami Herald Staff

accounts where American donors deposited money. The reason, he said, was to avoid violating the 185-year-old Neutrality Act. The act prohibits arming expeditions from U.S. soil against a country with which the United States is not at war.

In January 1985, Calero said that a rich U.S. donor, whom he declined to identify, had deposited enough funds in a foreign bank account to purchase the first missiles.

Congressional sources said they were told by U.S. intelligence officials that in February or March of last year a contra representative traveled to Western Europe, either Portugal or Belgium, and met with an arms dealer for the missile transaction. Singlaub said the contras paid about \$45,000 per missile, including about \$5,000 per launcher.

Administration officials said the contras took delivery of the first four SAM-7s in April and began training on the weapons at their camps in Honduras. Singlaub said Americans taught the contras how to fire the missiles. He declined to identify the Americans and denied that U.S. government personnel were involved.

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The contras, however, failed to make use of the first delivery of missiles because at least three of them would not fire, a U.S. official said. He said moisture had damaged the missile launcher's delicate trigger system that responds to electronic commands.

Additional missiles and launchers were bought during the summer, and by August the contras had an arsenal of 13, said a congressional source who visited the area at the time.

A U.S. official said last week that the contras may now have "more than 30" missiles. Contra leader Calero declined to provide a precise number, saying that he did not want to "give away" sensitive data to the Sandinistas.

Calero said in a recent interview with The Herald that the contras plan to buy additional missiles and disclosed that a "rich lady" outside the United States had provided the movement with \$1 million for more such weapons. He refused to identify the woman by name or nationality.

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Sideboard in oak 72" x 32" x 19" d
Reg. \$316 **SALE \$248**

\$178
\$58

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"I was instrumental in helping the freedom fighters get the missiles," Singlaub acknowledged in a telephone conversation last week from Hawaii, where he was attending a military conference.

Singlaub denied that North or any other U.S. official guided him or the contras to arms dealers. But he admitted "discussing" the subject with North.

"I was not told by any official that this is what I had to do," said Singlaub, "but I did advise them of the plans so as to keep them informed and so they wouldn't be surprised." North's office offered no comment and refused a request for an interview.

Singlaub said he recommended the SAM-7s because they are the only portable ground-to-air missiles "freely" available through arms dealers who obtain them from East bloc countries or from warring factions in Lebanon.

Singlaub said that while he raised "a lot of money" for the contras in the United States in 1984 and 1985, all of the funds used to purchase the SAM-7s came from contributors outside U.S. territory or from foreign bank

WEIGHT: 2,000 pounds
MANUFACTURER: Soviet Union
OPERATION:
 Shoulder-launched. Operator sights target, fires when indicator light signals missile has locked in on heat from target's engine.
WARHEAD: 5.5 pounds of high explosives
LENGTH: 4.3 feet
DIAMETER: 2.4 inches
SOURCE: The World's Missile Systems

USERS: Soviet Union, Angola, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Mozambique, North Korea, North Vietnam, Peru, Poland, Romania, Syria, South Yemen, Yugoslavia.

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VIVIAN E. RIPPE/Miami Herald Staff

BOVA'S

FANTAS-TEAK!

Slive

Teak roll top desk with pull-out shelf
 36" w x 38" h x 18" d
 Reg. \$548
SALE \$398

Uborg

6 1/2 feet wall system in teak wood. Danish top quality craftsmanship. Ample storage for TV stereo etc. Drooped desk, glass doors, 4 solid wood drawers and lots of storage space behind the 2 sliding doors.
 80" w x 72" h x 20" d Base / 12" d top. Reg. \$695
SALE \$458

Rungsted

The traditional Danish teak bedroom. A great look and quality at an affordable price. Queen size bed with nightstands. Headboard 108" l. Reg. \$545
SALE \$448
 Also available in King Size. Reg. \$578 **SALE \$498**
 Armors 48" w x 18" d x 45" h. Reg. \$498 **SALE \$418**
 Not shown: High Chest 34" w x 18" d x 45" h. Reg. \$348 **SALE \$278**

Stavanger

Dining table in teak 47" l x 30" w (extends to 86" l). Reg. \$226 **SALE \$178**
 Side chair in solid teak. Reg. \$36 **SALE \$28**
 Sideboard in teak 72" l x 32" h x 19" d. Reg. \$316 **SALE \$248**

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Quilted fabric at NO EXTRA CHARGE

3 Pieces Rattan Set, Sofa, Loveseat, & Chair

Scottishard Fabric Protector
 Comfortable Rattan Sofa, Loveseat & Chair with quilt cushions.

\$429

Rattan Bar-Stool **\$39**

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\$99

Comfortable Rattan Picnic Pecan or Natural color. Choice of Fabric (Cushion Included)

Rattan Swivel & Rocking Chair Natural or Pecan Color (Cushion Included)

Modern Natural Rattan Footstool with Ottoman Choice of Fabric (Cushion Included)

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