General labels war photo fake

Westmoreland's claim contradicted by witnesses

BY PAUL SHANNON

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 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 bichac, an open grill.

I said, 'My God, if she's burned by napalm, she wouldn't have survived.' Westmoreland said in an interview after the speech. "I thought I was told to me that she was burned by a bichac.

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 passed on Wednesday to about 200 business people at a breakfast speech sponsored by Nova University at a Fort Lauderdale hotel.

The Army could not be reached for comment.

President has polyps removed

BY ELLEN WARREN and DAVID HESS

WASHINGTON — Navy doctors removed three small growths from President Reagan's intestine this week as part of his 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." In a statement released 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, the polyps, a small, superficial growth on the right side of Reagan's face, were 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 tests would be available.

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

U.S. helped contras get missiles

Sandinista copper downed by SAM

BY ALPONSO CHARDY

WASHINGTON — Reagan administration officials played a role in helping U.S.-backed Nicaraguan mercenaries to buy an antiaircraft missile that downed a Nicaraguan helicopter tail gunner 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 missile. A Sandinista radio broadcast Dec. 20, 1984, said a U.S.-made Stinger missile was fired at the Sandinista pilot, then shot down.

President Reagan has a history of buying off the press.

EAL's finances 'very perilous,' mediator says

BY DAVID MARCUS

Record 1981-1982

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 Walsworth, who arrived in Miami to take control of contract talks with Eastern's pilots and flight attendants, said the airline's "manpower, the auditors said, is worth at least $100,000 and probably much more. It has been in the past.

"Management was not paying attention to any of this. They were not really concerned with what was happening," head auditor Maggie Mansara said Friday. "Many of the records are missing. We have not worked on the books of the head of a man, the White House spokesman said. Though the statement was not offered, no information about the government's transactions was offered.

Please turn to MISSION 1/3.
President Reagan heads for hospital bearing gifts from 13-year-old leukemia victim Tina Fowler.

EAL's finances 'very perilous', mediator says

By DAVID LYONS

Eastern Airlines is in a "very perilous" financial state because its lenders are determined to take steps against the company unless it obtains acceptable labor concessions, according to an option by the company's chairman, Paul F. H. Dancy, the president of the company.

Wallace, a national authority on Eastern, however, was reported by the company as stating that it is a very perilous situation.

Wallace and federal mediator Harry Bickford are hoping to guide Eastern and the creditors toward a meeting between the two sides, Wallace said.

Many school buses fail FHA safety inspections

By DAVID MARCUS

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 dangerous to the roads. The school district's chief auditor said Friday.

After reading an early version of the audit this week, Superintendent Leonard Biscardi found the results "alarming," the school district's auditor said.

A team of auditors working for the past five months also found abuses in the schools' transportation department. A recent report said the system was supposed to increase efficiency actually dropped 2.8%.

President has polyph removed

By ELLEN WARREN and DAVID HESS

WASHINGTON -- A team of doctors removed three small growths from President Reagan's prostate, Wednesday, the President's first surgery since his cancer surgery last July.

The growths, which were removed during a routine checkup, were found by the White House after President Reagan's doctor said he was concerned about a possible recurrence.

One of the growths was removed for biopsy; the other two were not. The President's doctor said the President was doing well and that he would be discharged within 24 hours.

President Reagan has polyph removed.

Sandinista coterie downed by SAM

By ALFONSO CHALLER

Sandinistas were killed by SAMs.

President Reagan has polyph removed.

U.S. helped contras get missiles

By MARIA STEPAN

Washington: The Reagan administration announced Wednesday that it had supplied the contras with anti-aircraft missiles, a move that could escalate the war in Nicaragua.

President Reagan has polyph removed.

Casino firm to buy hotel in Sunny Isles

By DOwig OWENS

Resorts International is buying the 22-acre site of the defunct Betsy Hotel in Sunny Isles Beach, according to a copy of a tentative sales agreement obtained by The Herald.

The agreement, signed Dec. 23, 1980, was used to determine whether to license casino gambling. Resorts International is a North Miami-based gaming company that operates the casino in Atlantic City and another in Paradise Island, Bahamas.

The deal, which would allow the company to open a casino in Sunny Isles Beach, was announced Friday by the company's president and chief executive officer, Richard Olsen.

The agreement also states that Resorts International is interested in the property, as are several other interested parties.

In light of the deal, it appears that casino gambling in Sunny Isles Beach will continue.
Around the Americas

U.S. helped contras get missiles

Soviet-supplied chopper downed by rebel SAM

In an indirect effort to bolster the Sandinistas, the Reagan administration began secretly shipping military equipment to the Contras. The equipment included SAM-7 missiles, which were supplied to the Contras through third parties. The shipments were made without knowledge of the United States officials who were monitoring the rebels' activities. TheU.S. officials claimed to be acting on their own behalf, but American experts confirmed that the shipments were made to the Contras in secret. The U.S. government had decided to support the Contras in their struggle against the Sandinistas, who were supported by the Soviet Union.

Indirect methods

As the Contras began to receive the SAM-7 missiles, members of the Sandinista leadership were caught off guard. The missiles were capable of downing U.S. helicopter gunships, which had been previously used by the Sandinistas to attack Contra positions. The Contras had been receiving SAM-7 missiles from third parties, and the U.S. government had been covertly supplying the Contras with these weapons.

Indirect exits

The U.S. government had been supplying the Contras with SAM-7 missiles through third parties, including private American arms dealers. The U.S. officials had been meeting secretly with private dealers to facilitate the sale of the missiles. The dealers had been paid in U.S. dollars, and the arms had been shipped to Nicaragua.

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U.S. officials in Central America, as described for allegedly diverting weapons to rebels, failed to prevent the delivery of U.S. arms to the rebels. According to the U.S. officials, the rebels had acquired their first shipment of U.S. arms in February or March, and the U.S. officials claim they were unable to prevent the delivery of the arms to the rebels.

There were enough indirect hints from officials through various parties to those who could go and get the weapons. The entire thing seems to have been impossible without the knowledge and participation of U.S. officials.

The part American officials took was so discreet that it is said that it could be considered a well-established fact that they were involved in supplying arms to the rebels. The sources add that those who helped covertly in this way were not enough to prevent the delivery of arms, but they were involved in supplying arms to the rebels. The process began in late January, 1984. U.S. officials were involved, and it is necessary to review how the contras obtained access to the arms.

The report states that the contras had access to the U.S.-made M-79 grenade launchers and M-203 grenade launchers. These weapons were used in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and it is assumed that these weapons were supplied to the contras. The sources add that they receivedcurring an American source who was involved in supplying arms to the rebels.

At the same time, the American source who was involved in supplying arms to the rebels, and the American source who was involved in supplying arms to the rebels, were also involved in supplying arms to the rebels.

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Private fund-raisers

These sources say that the interest in Central America wasn't just the political pressure to continue the arms trade, but also the desire to support the contras in arms. The sources say that the American official who was involved in supplying arms to the rebels, and the American source who was involved in supplying arms to the rebels, were also involved in supplying arms to the rebels.

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