By Douglas Chevalier

Mrs. Earl McMaugh sits with daughter Cherie ... ing guard ...

Polygraph Tests Are Unreliable, Pentagon Told

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Even as President Reagan is ordering wider use of lie detector tests to try to stop security leaks within the government, the Pentagon's health director has charged that the polygraph "misclassifies innocent people as liars."

John F. Beary III, a medical doctor who is acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, told Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger and other Pentagon executives in a memo obtained by The Washington Post that polygraph tests often can be misleading in determining whether people are telling the truth.

Beary's memo came amid a flap last winter over a draft Pentagon directive authorizing wider use of lie detector tests in leak investigations. That Pentagon directive was a prelude to Reagan's decision last month to make greater use of lie detector tests in all government agencies.

Henry E. Catto Jr., assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said yesterday that he had received a copy of the Beary memo and supplemented it with a letter of his own

See DETECTORS, A6, Col. 1

Panel Urges Measures to Halt Dec...

By Lawrence Feinberg
Washington Post Staff Writer

American education has deteriorated so drastically in the past two decades that "our very future as a nation and a people" is threatened, an education commission warned yesterday in a study released by the White House.

To halt a "rising tide of mediocrity," the National Commission on Educational Excellence recommended a wide range of educational overhauls, including seven-hour school days, 200- to 220-day school years, "far more homework," more required courses for high school students, higher teacher pay, standardized achievement tests for entrance to college and higher standards at all levels from first grade through the university.

"If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose upon America the mediocre education performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as a ... the study said. "We ha... been committing an ac... ing, unilateral educati... ment."

The panel, appoint... tion Secretary Terrel ... on the federal gover... vide national leade... meet a variety of ot... ities toward educati... not criticize Reagan ... moves to cut federa...

Zimbabwe's Hopes Dim

Killings Undermine Founding Ideals

By Jay Ross
Washington Post Foreign Service

HARARE, Zimbabwe—"If yesterday you hated me, today you cannot avoid the love that binds you to me and me to you," Prime Minister Robert Mugabe told his countrymen in 1980, when independence ended a bitter, seven-year civil war. "The wrongs of the past must now stand forgiven and forgotten."

At a rally three weeks ago, Mugabe had a different message for Zimbabweans. "If you support the dissidents," he said, "people are going to be killed, because this is war. Don't cry if your relatives are killed."

The contrast between those two speeches is a good measure of how the atmosphere in Africa's youngest nation has changed three years after the world applauded its hard-won independence.

With Mugabe calling for reconciliation after the civil war, Zimbabwe was born in a mood of euphoria in 1980.

As Africa's newest nation, Zimbabwe represented the continent's hope for a successful multiracial democracy, incorporating a mixed economy. It was to refute white-controlled South Africa's argument that black rule meant bad rule.

South Africa's defense of its racist policy is as questionable as ever, but few neutral observers would hold up Zimbabwe today as a shining light after weeks of Army brutalities against civilians in Matabeleland, the tribal stronghold of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo.

To some, the dream has faded and Zimbabwe is becoming "just another African country."

The promise remains, however, since Zimbabwe still has a lot going for it despite problems

See ZIMBABWE, A18, Col. 1

ROBERT MUGABE
speech points up tensions

Colts Pick Elway 1st, Redskins Take Green

The Baltimore Colts, spurning all trade offers, made Stanford quarterback John Elway the No. 1 pick in yesterday's National Football League draft. The Redskins, picking last in the first round after winning the Super Bowl, took Texas A&I cornerback Darrell Green.

Elway said he would rather play baseball for the New York Yankees; they are discussing a five-year deal allowing him to leave after any of the first three seasons and paying him an average of $500,000 annually. Elway would be eligible for next year's NFL draft and would be a free agent in two years.

Sweden ... Six Sovi... Violated

By Pet...
Washington Po...

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