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Weinberger, Shultz on deck; Casey sick

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The Senate Intelligence Committee expects White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan to tell all he knows today about the festering Iran arms sale, the committee chairman said.

At the top of what the committee expects to hear is who authorized what actions in the White House about the sale and related matters.

"The issue is one of authority," Sen. David Durenberger, Minnesota Republican and committee chairman, said last night. "Who had the authority to do what is the important issue in this investigation. Don [Regan] can shed some light on who had what authority from the president because he was there."

Mr. Regan's closed-door testimony before the Intelligence Committee is expected to be followed today and Wednesday with appearances by Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Attorney General Edwin Meese III is expected to testify on Wednesday, but he has not formally accepted

the committee's request to appear, Mr. Durenberger said.

But CIA Director William J. Casey, who was scheduled to appear before the committee today, was hospitalized yesterday following a "minor cerebral seizure," according to the CIA. Mr. Casey's testimony has been postponed indefinitely.

A spokesman for Georgetown University Hospital later said the 73-year-old intelligence director had "a seizure in which his arms and legs suffered multiple spasms for a period of about a minute."

Meanwhile, Sen. Frank Murkowski, an Alaska Republican and member of the Intelligence Committee, said last night that the committee investigation has found that investors from countries other than Canada — the focus of disclosures last week — were involved in the Iranian arms sale. Mr. Murkowski would not elaborate on which other countries were involved.

"All I'll say is that there are a lot of bank accounts, and a lot of money has passed through a lot of hands in a lot of places," Mr. Murkowski said. "That seems to mean a lot of people weren't happy about the way business was conducted."

Mr. Durenberger said Mr. Regan "is going to be perfectly free" to "say anything that he wants to say" after the hearing slated to begin at 9:30 a.m. Unlike other witnesses who have testified before the investigating panel, Mr. Regan is not bound by

committee rules which forbid revealing secret testimony.

Since the widening Senate probe began Dec. 1, the committee has been shackled by administration witnesses who have refused to testify, invoking their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

But sources yesterday said the intricate details of the arms sale and alleged diversion of funds to the anti-Sandinista Nicaraguan rebels may begin to unfold publicly this week.

Sen. David Boren, Oklahoma Republican and incoming chairman of the Intelligence Committee, yesterday said "huge gaps" remain in the investigation that is entering its third week.

"We're a long way from knowing what has actually happened," Mr. Boren said. "The greatest injustice would be if the committee tried to rush a conclusion before the facts are known."

He said the committee expects to call more witnesses in "the intelligence field" before the probe is concluded. Also scheduled to appear today or tomorrow is National Security Council political military affairs director Howard Teicher.

Committee members were meeting behind closed doors late last night to decide the next steps in the inquiry into the administration's role into the arms sale and alleged diversion of up to \$30 million in proceeds to the Nicaraguan resistance.

Under discussion, sources said, was how to make the transition in the committee's inquiry when the new Senate convenes Jan. 6, and the relation between the committee and a

select Senate panel that will be appointed today to investigate the affair.

Mr. Boren will replace Mr. Durenberger as chairman of the Intelligence Committee, while Sen. William Cohen, Maine Republican, will replace Sen. Patrick Leahy, Vermont Democrat, as vice chairman.

Mr. Cohen and Mr. Boren have sent Senate leaders a memorandum urging a continuation of the Intelligence Committee probe, rather than combining it with the select Senate committee inquiry, Mr. Cohen said yesterday.

"We really are concerned about protecting the scope of the investigation regarding covert activities," Mr. Cohen said in an interview. "That's something that belongs in our jurisdiction."

Despite use of the Fifth Amendment by former National Security

Adviser John Poindexter and Lt. Col. Oliver North, a former NSC aide. Mr. Cohen said the Intelligence Committee's probe has unearthed a wealth of information — but key gaps remain.

He said it has gathered most of the details of the arms deal, "unless there are icebergs lurking below the surface."

But the most important piece in the puzzle — the alleged diversion of funds to the Nicaraguan rebels — remains a mystery, Mr. Cohen said.

"We do not have the story of what, if anything, happened to the funds being sent to the Contras," Mr. Cohen said. "But that, in my judgement, could be cleared up in a couple of days with the testimony of Mr. North and Mr. Poindexter."

Meanwhile, President Reagan yesterday paved the way for Mr. Regan's testimony by waiving a claim of executive privilege.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Regan is willing to answer questions — in an open session — about his knowledge of the Iran-Contra affair. But a committee spokesman said an open hearing is unlikely.

Mr. Speakes said Mr. Regan is prepared to answer questions from the committee on "what happened — what he knows. . . . I think he's perfectly willing to talk about whatever would help the committee in their pursuit of the facts."

Mr. Regan has acknowledged he knew about the arms sale to Iran and

supported it but has said he was not aware of the diversion of proceeds to the Nicaraguan resistance.

News of Mr. Regan's plans to testify before the committee came amid reports that the president would be willing to make an unprecedented appearance before the congressional panel.

Sen. Paul Laxalt, the Nevada Republican regarded as Mr. Reagan's closest friend in Congress, said he had discussed with Mr. Reagan the idea of the president testifying about the arms deal. Mr. Laxalt said it would be a dramatic gesture to demonstrate the president's willingness to get the facts before the public.

But Tom Loranger, Mr. Laxalt's spokesman, yesterday said the senator had recommended the president not take such a step unless Col. North and Adm. Poindexter first make full disclosures to Congress.

Mr. Speakes said there had been no request for the president to talk to Capitol Hill investigators and none was anticipated.

But Mr. Speakes, alluding to pres-

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sure on the White House to persuade Col. North and Adm. Poindexter to testify in full, said: "We do reiterate, underscore and publicly proclaim we'd like them to tell evrything as quickly as possible. We'd like to work out a way for them to do so."

Some members of Congress have suggested the two former officials should be granted immunity from prosecution to encourage their testimony. But Mr. Speakes said the president would not offer clemency to the former officials.

"There are no plans for executive clemency," Mr. Speakes said.

In other developments:

- Sources confirmed reports that Iraq has been getting CIA intelligence data on the Iran-Iraq war for nearly two years. The aid, said to be satellite reconnaissance photographs, coincided with secret U.S. weapons sales to Iran.

- Congressional sources said 11 members of the House Judiciary Committee were appealing to the special court to expand the special prosecutor's mandate to include "possible obstruction of justice by the [Justice] Department," including the decision to delay an FBI investigation in Miami, and to examine the whole Contra supply network.

Members of the Senate judiciary panel made a similar request earlier.

- Scripps Howard News Service reported that retiring Sen. Thomas Eagleton, Missouri Democrat, has been asked to work as a special counsel to the Senate committee. Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd last week asked Mr. Eagleton to begin drafting the legislation needed to set up the new panel when Congress convenes Jan. 5, aides said.

- The Justice Department's internal inspector is investigating Attorney General Edwin Meese's handling of the initial probe of the secret Iran arms deals that turned up the diversion of millions to Nicaragua, officials said yesterday.

Justice Department officials said Michael Shaheen, counsel to the department's Office of Professional Responsibility, has opened an in-

quiry into Mr. Meese's weekend fact-finding review that led to the startling disclosure on Nov. 25 that up to \$30 million in proceeds from the arms sales were funneled to the Nicaraguan resistance.

- A private group of former Reagan political appointees announced a campaign to back the president during his worst crisis.

The group's directors include former U.N. Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick; Helene von Damm-Guertler, former ambassador to Austria; Gerald P. Carmen, former chief of the General Services Administration; and Donald J. Devine, former director of the Office of Personnel Management.

- A federal judge, taking note of the Iran arms scandal, urged a parole commission to free a defendant he sentenced to prison for conspiring to ship arms to Iran and Chile.

U.S. District Judge Robert Vining sent a letter Dec. 10 to the U.S. Parole Commission in Dallas, recommending that Lemuel M. Stevens III be released immediately, a spokesman in Judge Vining's office said.

Stevens, a former arms broker and president of the Marietta, Ga.-based International Services and Logistics Ltd., pleaded guilty before Judge Vining in September 1985 to two counts of export law violations.

- Staff writer Walter Andrews contributed to this report which is based in part of wire service dispatches.