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The Iran-Contra Hearings: Likely Members of the Cast

A parade of witnesses will go to Capitol Hill beginning tomorrow and continuing into the summer to testify in public hearings on the Iran-contra affair. The Senate and House investigating committees have not announced a witness list, except to say that Richard V. Secord will be the opening witness, to be followed by Robert C. McFarlane. Here is a list of some of the people likely to testify. The Congressional committees have given some potential witnesses limited immunity, or immunity from prosecution based on their testimony.



Elliott Abrams Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. He may have accidentally deposited money from the Sultan of Brunei meant for the Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras, in the wrong Swiss bank account. Mr. Abrams has acknowledged that he was given the number of the account by Lieut. Col. Oliver L. North.

Col. Robert C. Dutton A retired Air Force officer and associate of General Secord. He helped oversee the contra supply effort and was instrumental in an arms shipment to Iran last fall. Given limited immunity by the Congressional committees.

Lieut. Col. Robert Earl Colonel North's deputy on the counterterrorism unit at the National Security Council until late 1986. Given limited immunity.

Col. Richard B. Gadd A retired Air Force officer and business partner of General Secord. He reportedly helped provide aircraft and recruit pilots to fly supplies to the contras. Given limited immunity.



Carl R. Channell A professional fund-raiser who runs several conservative organizations. He pleaded guilty last Wednesday to charges of conspiring to defraud the Government by raising tax-exempt funds to arm

the contras. He named Colonel North as a co-conspirator.

Robert M. Gates In the first months of the Iran initiative, he was the Deputy Director for Intelligence, the C.I.A.'s senior analyst. Last year he replaced John N. McMahon as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. On March 2, President Reagan withdrew his nomination of Mr. Gates to be Director of Central Intelligence.



Albert Hakim An Iranian-born arms dealer and businessman who is now an American. He is a business partner of General Secord. Given limited immunity.

Duane Clarridge Chief of the C.I.A.'s European division. He helped Colonel North arrange a flight by a European airline connected to the C.I.A. that carried arms to Iran in November 1985.

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Fawn Hall Colonel North's secretary on the National Security Council staff. She has reportedly testified that she helped destroy documents and alter some memorandums when the details of the Iran-contra affair

were first being disclosed. Given limited immunity.

Michael A. Ledeen A part-time consultant to the National Security Council. He first broached the Administration's hope for better relations with Iran in meetings in 1985 with Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel.



Robert C. McFarlane National security adviser until Dec. 4, 1985. He continued to assist the Administration through December 1985 and secretly went to Teheran in May 1986 at President Reagan's request.



Edwin Meese 3d The Attorney General. He advised President Reagan on the legality of not informing Congress in advance about the arms sales. He conducted his own investigation of Colonel North's activities

before calling in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Last Nov. 25 he announced that profits from the arms sales to Iran had been diverted to the contras.



Lieut. Col. Oliver L. North A National Security Council aide until he was dismissed last Nov. 25. He is said to have been the central figure in arranging the secret arms sales to Iran and diverting profits to

the contras. The Congressional committees have agreed not to vote on immunity for Colonel North before June.



Rear Adm. John M. Poindexter Resigned as national security adviser last Nov. 25 after it was disclosed that he knew about the diversion of profits in the Iran arms sales to the contras. Given limited immunity.



Donald T. Regan Resigned as White House chief of staff on Feb. 27 amid intense criticism of his handling of the Iran-contra affair.



Richard V. Secord A retired Air Force major general and an associate of Colonel North. General Secord is reported to have arranged logistics, worked on negotiations and helped develop a channel for the Iran arms

shipments. He is also believed to have been involved in running a private supply network for the contras.

Theodore G. Shackley A former top C.I.A. official. He met with Manucher Ghorbanifar, an Iranian middleman, in late 1984 to discuss possible arms sales to Iran in return for the release of American hostages in Lebanon.



George P. Shultz The Secretary of State. He disapproved of the covert Iran operation and has said he was not informed about key aspects of the arms sales.



Caspar W. Weinberger The Secretary of Defense. He repeatedly objected to the arms sales, but ordered his subordinates to make the weapons available.