

More Iran-Contra charges expected

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran-Contra prosecutors said Thursday that more indictments in the arms-for-hostages affair are possible this summer and "we are attempting to determine whether officials at the highest level of government" broke the law.

In a report to Congress, the prosecutors said these officials — whom they did not name — might have lied to investigators about the White House-approved arms deliveries to Iran in 1985.

Thursday's report is the strongest statement to date that independent counsel Lawrence Walsh plans to continue the criminal investigation.

"We are attempting to determine whether officials at the highest level of government, acting individually or in concert, sought to obstruct official inquiries into the Iran initiative ... by supplying a false account of the 1985 arms sales from Israeli stocks," Mr. Walsh's report said.

"The continuing investigation has developed new and disturbing evidence that made it necessary to re-interview many of the witnesses first questioned in 1987," said the prosecutors' report.

"This was not merely a cleanup chore — it has provided a significant shift in our understanding of which administration officials had knowledge of Iran-Contra, who participated in its coverup, and which areas required far more scrutiny," the report added.

The statement said Mr. Walsh was considering whether other proposed indictments would be presented to a grand jury.

"That investigation should be completed this summer," it added.

Mr. Walsh said he will work fulltime in the Iran-Contra prosecutors' office in Washington "to com-

plete the final phase of our investigation." Mr. Walsh had been spending most of his time at home in Oklahoma since late last year.

Iran-Contra prosecutors last month tried to persuade former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to provide evidence against former President Reagan, sources familiar with the investigation have said. Those sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Weinberger was indicted a week and a half ago on charges of obstruction and lying to Congress and Iran-Contra prosecutors about his knowledge of the 1985 arms sales.

The report said prosecutors had gotten little cooperation from top Reagan administration aides in the 5½ year investigation.

While "there were many witnesses ... the most central figures were not cooperative," said the prosecutors' report. "There were few government officers who volunteered information willingly."

The Weinberger indictment said Mr. Reagan and his top aides attended a Nov. 24, 1986, meeting where then-Attorney General Edwin Meese III announced that a shipment of Hawk missiles a year earlier to Iran by way of Israel might have been illegal.

Mr. Meese announced that the president hadn't known about the Hawks shipment, according to the indictment, which is based on Mr. Weinberger's notes.

The indictment added, "No one contradicted Mr. Meese's incorrect statement concerning President Reagan's lack of knowledge, although several of those present ... had contrary information." Subsequently, Mr. Meese said publicly that the president hadn't known about the shipment.