

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: News Summary Office, White House:
News Summaries, 1981-1989

SERIES: II: WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY FINALS,
1981-1989

Folder Title: 09/12/1984

Box: 375

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>



The White House NEWS SUMMARY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1984 -- 6 a.m. EDT Edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Says He'll Meet with Gromyko this Month -- President Reagan said he will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko this month to confer on a range of issues, including arms reductions and improving U.S. relations with the Soviet Union.

(AP, UPI, Reuter, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times)

U.S. Wants to Bring 10,000 Vietnamese Prisoners Here -- The Administration told Congress it would seek to bring to the United States 10,000 Vietnamese political prisoners now in communist reeducation camps because of their past American associations.

(AP, Reuter, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

Distinguished Award for HHH -- The President presented the Congressional Gold Medal to Muriel Humphrey Brown, widow of Hubert Humphrey, who thanked Reagan for a "beautiful message and summation of Hubert's goals and life."

(Washington Times, Washington Post)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY (Tuesday Evening)

GROMYKO MEETING -- Ronald Reagan was handed a plum by the Soviet Union that could offset the criticism that he has plunged U.S.-Soviet relations into a deep freeze.

MONDALE CAMPAIGN -- The Reagan-Gromyko meeting deflates one of Walter Mondale's principal charges against Reagan, that he hasn't met with any top Soviets during his term in office.

FAULTY MICROCHIPS -- The failure of a microchip made by Texas Instruments forced the last-second shutdown in the launch of the space shuttle, a failure that could be the tip of a nightmare-sized iceberg.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.....A-2

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-7

NEWS FROM NEW YORK.....A-11

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

EDITORIALS.....B-8

This Summary is prepared Monday through Friday by the White House News Summary Staff. For complete stories or information, please call ext. 2950

INTERNATIONAL NEWSPRESIDENT, GROMYKO TO MEET

President Reagan announced that he will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko Sept. 28 to discuss arms control and U.S.-Soviet relations in a session the Republicans hope will help to neutralize the war-and-peace issue in the presidential campaign.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

Reagan Says He'll Meet with Gromyko This Month

The President made a rare appearance in the White House press room to announce the Gromyko visit personally, and the session quickly turned into a press conference nearly 13 minutes long.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Reagan Would Tell Gromyko 'The U.S. Means No Harm'

In announcing the invitation at a televised briefing, Mr. Reagan denied that he had been motivated by the election campaign and by criticism that Soviet-American relations had worsened under his Administration and that he had not met with any Soviet leader.

(Francis Clines, New York Times, A1)

Reagan-Gromyko Meeting May Give Push to Arms Talks

The resumption of U.S.-Soviet arms control talks sometime next year may hinge on the outcome of the meeting between President Reagan and Foreign Minister Gromyko, senior American analysts say. "At a minimum there should be the beginning of talks about negotiations," said one key analyst, who spoke on the condition he not be identified.

(R. Gregory Nokes, AP)

Reagan Blitzes Mondale with 'September Surprise'

At a stroke, Reagan's announcement that he would hold talks with Gromyko took the edge off Mondale's charge that he refused to sit down with the Soviets and distracted attention from a major Mondale offensive on the economy just as it was gathering steam.

(Rodney Pinder, Reuter)

"This gives him the opportunity to lay to rest our charge that he won't even sit down with the 'Russkis,'" said a top Democratic Party official who asked not to be identified.

(David Nagy, Reuter)

House Republican leader Michel called the meeting "a big plus" for the President.

(Anne Saker, UPI)

Editor's Note: A transcript of the exchange between the President and reporters in the press room is printed on page A14 of The New York Times under the headline: "Transcript of Reagan's News Conference on Gromyko Meeting and Budget."

REAGAN HOPES GROMYKO TALKS WILL EASE TENSION

President Reagan hopes that his meeting with Foreign Minister Gromyko will ease U.S.-Soviet hostility and help pave the way for renewed talks on controlling nuclear arms. (William Scally, Reuter)

President Reagan says his forthcoming meeting with Gromyko may lead to "an easing of any suspicion or hostility" between the superpowers before they resume negotiations on nuclear arms. (Helen Thomas, UPI)

TIMING OF GROMYKO MEETING RAPPED

CHICAGO -- Walter Mondale said it was "pathetic" that President Reagan's first scheduled encounter with a top-level leader of the Soviet Union had not been arranged until Reagan was in the midst of a reelection campaign. (Paul Taylor, Washington Post, A9)

But as details of the Gromyko-Reagan visit were released, Mondale found himself both criticizing the President and wishing him luck. (Arthur Spiegelman, Reuter)

U.S. TO LET MOSCOW BUY MORE GRAIN

President Reagan attempted to give farm-state Republican lawmakers ammunition for their campaigns with an announcement that the Agriculture Department would allow the Soviet Union to purchase another 10 million metric tons of American grain starting Oct. 1. (David Hoffman, Washington Post, A17)

STUDY SAYS SOVIET BROKE ARMS PACTS

President Reagan will release within the next week a study charging multiple violations of arms-control agreements by the Soviet Union, the White House said. (Wayne Biddle, New York Times, A13)

SOVIET SPY PLANES MAY BE ENTERING MEXICAN AIR SPACE

HARLINGEN, Texas -- High-altitude Soviet spy planes regularly fly out of bases in Cuba on Central American missions and recently have been reported to be violating Mexico's airspace. A Texas Air National Guard commander based at Houston says the Soviet planes fly west and north out of Cuba to Central America and retired Adm. Elmo Zumwalt believes the Soviets have flown over southern Mexico. (Mack Sisk, UPI)

OGARKOV HAD HEART ATTACK, INSTITUTE SAYS

FRANKFURT, West Germany -- The Frankfurt Institute for Soviet Studies said that Marshal Ogarkov suffered a heart attack before being replaced as the Soviet Union's No. 2 defense official. (AP)

CHERNENKO REPORTED HOSPITALIZED

BONN -- Soviet leader Chernenko is hospitalized in a Moscow suburb, the West German newspaper Die Welt reported, amid signs of a possible leadership change at the Kremlin. (UPI)

U.S. TO ACCEPT VIET PRISONERS, CHILDREN OF AMERICAN GIs

Secretary Shultz said that the Reagan Administration will give asylum to as many as 10,000 political prisoners in Vietnamese reeducation camps over the next two years if Hanoi will let them go.

(Lens Sun, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. Wants to Bring 10,000 Vietnamese Prisoners Here

In separate testimony to the Senate and House subcommittees on immigration, Secretary Shultz also asked Congress to allow all American children still in Vietnam and "qualifying family members" to come to the United States over the next three years.

(Russell Warren Howe, Washington Times, A1)

Shultz described both groups as "much abused populations" who were "of particular humanitarian concern" to the United States.

(Carol Giacomo, Reuter)

But a New York-based private group, Human Rights Advocates International, criticized Shultz's proposal, claiming the Reagan Administration should take Vietnam up on what it says is Hanoi's offer to resettle the children in the United States immediately.

(George Gedda, AP)

More Vietnamese to Get Permission to Enter the U.S.

Vietnam's Prime Minister said in May that Hanoi would be willing to send all the so-called Amerasian children as well as the inmates of the "re-education" camps to the United States.

(Bernard Gwertzman, New York Times, A1)

IMF SAYS STRONG U.S. ECONOMY OUTWEIGHING HIGH INTEREST RATES

The beneficial effect of the vibrant U.S. recovery has far outweighed the negative impact of high American interest rates on global economic health, the International Monetary Fund said.

(Alver Carlson, Reuter)

DISSIDENTS PROTEST AT GRAHAM PRAYER MEETING

LENINGRAD -- Dissidents protested the alleged persecution of Christians in the Soviet Union at an emotional prayer meeting conducted by U.S. evangelist Billy Graham.

(Barry James, UPI)

U.S. ENCOURAGING EAST EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE FROM MOSCOW

The Reagan Administration is encouraging the East Europeans' independence from Moscow but says it is not trying to wrest them out of the Soviet bloc.

(Jim Adams, Reuter)

VOLUNTEER GROUP ASKED CIA TO AID IN CONTACTING REBELS

The leader of a private expeditionary force, Tom Posey of Civilian-Military Assistance, asked the CIA last November to put him in touch with "guerrillas in Honduras to fight the communist Nicaraguan government," but the agency turned his inquiry over to the Justice Department, a Senate Committee was told.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

CIA SAYS IT DIDN'T KNOW OF ILL-FATED MISSION

The CIA says it had no advance knowledge of a helicopter mission into Nicaragua that led to the death of two members of an American anti-communist group, but a bipartisan congressional group says U.S. officials failed to stop what may have been illegal arms exports by the private organization.

(W. Dale Nelson, AP)

ILLEGAL AID TO PARAMILITARY GROUP ALLEGED

U.S. officials may have violated the Neutrality Act and other laws in aiding groups like the Alabama-based Civilian Military Assistance, two members of which were killed recently during guerrilla activity against Nicaragua, according to a congressional study.

(Washington Times, A2)

DEMOCRATS OPPOSE PRIVATE LATIN AID

House Democratic leaders expressed concern over contributions to the Nicaraguan rebels made by private United States citizens and corporations and over the military involvement of private citizens in Central America.

(Martin Tolchin, New York Times, A10)

COSTA RICANS CHEERED BY VOA EXPANSION

The Voice of America plans to set up a powerful radio relay transmitter in Costa Rica, a move that the tiny country is welcoming as a means of increasing its own broadcasting capability.

(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A4)

LATIN POLICIES FAULTED IN EX-OFFICER'S REPORT

United States military policies in Central America are "not working" and are unwelcome to nations they are meant to help, according to Edward King, a retired military officer who often travels in the area.

(New York Times, A9)

ATTACKING SUDAN REBELS KIDNAP U.S. PRIEST

KHARTOUM, Sudan -- Antigovernment guerrillas struck at Sudanese President Nimeri's hopes for economic development with an attack on the oil town of Bentiu. Underscoring their challenge to Khartoum's control, the rebels kidnaped three priests, including an American, church officials said.

(Loren Jenkins, Washington Post, A18)

CIA AID FOR AFGHAN GUERRILLAS LOST TO CORRUPTION, LEADER SAYS

GHAZNI, Afghanistan -- Most of the money earmarked by the CIA for the freedom fighters inside Afghanistan goes to line the pockets of corrupt Pakistani officials and leaders of the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance organizations, a major regional commander of the resistance has charged.

(Jack Wheeler, Washington Times, A1)

ARGENTINE PROTESTERS BLOCK U.S. WARSHIPS

BUENOS AIRES -- Argentines protesting American tilt toward Britain in the 1982 Falklands war (sic) forced the U.S. Navy to abandon plans to load provisions onto five warships at the southern Argentine harbor of Puerto Madryn.

(Timothy O'Leary, Washington Times, A5)

NATIONAL NEWS

PRESIDENT HONORS HUMPHREY

President Reagan paid tribute to the "great happy warrior," Hubert Humphrey, whom he posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a Rose Garden ceremony attended by prominent Democrats.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A3)

Note: The Washington Times printed a color photograph of Mrs. Humphrey on page A1 over an extended caption headlined, "Distinguished award for HHH."

REAGAN MOVES INTO DEMOCRATIC TURF

President Reagan, aggressively pursuing blocs of voters long wed to the Democratic Party, campaigns today among Italian and Polish Americans in a bastion of the rival party -- Buffalo, N.Y.

(Laurence McQuillan, UPI)

PRESIDENT BLAMES CONGRESS FOR RISE IN BUDGET DEFICIT

President Reagan said that the federal budget deficit would be much lower if Congress had approved all his budget proposals, and he added that he would propose similar budget "cuts" if he was re-elected.

(Robert Pear, New York Times, A1)

BUSH SAYS ABORTION VALID IN RAPE CASES

CHARLESTON, S.C. -- Vice President Bush, reluctantly entering the debate on abortion between the Roman Catholic archbishop of New York and Geraldine Ferraro, said that he supports abortion when women become pregnant as a result of rape.

(Juan Williams, Washington Post, A5)

Bush Backs Abortions in Specific Instances

The Vice President made his remarks in response to persistent questions at a news conference and said he wanted to make it clear that he did not bring up the subject.

(Don McLeod, Washington Times, A1)

PATRIOTIC EXTRAVAGANZA LAUNCHES REAGAN TV CAMPAIGN

President Reagan's television campaign for re-election was launched with a half-hour advertisement extolling American pride and patriotism.

(Reuter)

Reagan campaigned at home as his first 30-minute television commercial was broadcast over the four major television networks, plus the ESPN sports network. The advertisement was an expanded version of the film that was aired at the Republican National Convention, updated to include a segment from the President's speech to the delegates.

(William Welch, AP)

MONDALE, REAGAN AIDES NEAR ACCORD ON DEBATES

Negotiations for President Reagan and Walter Mondale neared agreement on televised debates between the presidential candidates and between their running mates.

(Lou Cannon and Milton Coleman, Washington Post, A8)

REAGAN DISMISSES MONDALE 'TAX PLAN'

President Reagan dismissed Walter Mondale's blueprint for reducing the federal deficit as only a tax increase plan.

(Washington Times, A3)

WEINBERGER SEES PERIL IN MONDALE'S ARMS CUTS

Walter Mondale's proposed \$25 billion cut in the defense budget is irresponsible and very dangerous, Secretary Weinberger said.

(Walter Andrews, Washington Times, A2)

KEMP BLASTS MONDALE'S DEFICIT-REDUCTION PLAN

Rep. Kemp, a leading "Reaganomics" advocate of fostering economic growth by lowering taxes, blasted Walter Mondale's proposal to reduce federal deficits with \$85 billion in higher taxes, charging that the Democratic nominee "sounds like Herbert Hoover in the 1930s."

(Bill Kling, Washington Times, A2)

FERRARO: 'I'D QUIT' IF FAITH, DUTY CLASH

TOLEDO -- Geraldine Ferraro said that "I'd quit my job" if it ever became impossible to reconcile her religious beliefs and her constitutional obligation to uphold the separation of church and state.

(Rick Atkinson, Washington Post, A8)

FERRARO CARRIES DEFICIT PLAN TO INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND

COLUMBUS -- Geraldine Ferraro, saying President Reagan is trying to avoid dealing with the federal deficit, is taking the Democratic deficit-attack plan to the economically depressed industrial heartland.

(Edward Shields, Reuter)

FULL HEARING ON FERRARO IS DEMANDED

Several Republicans on the House ethics committee have pledged to resign from the panel if there is a move to "whitewash or stonewall" a complaint against Rep. Ferraro when it goes before the committee in a closed door session today, GOP sources say.

(Thomas Brandt, Washington Times, A1)

U.S. BECOMING DEBTOR NATION: MONDALE

GREEN BAY, Wis. -- Walter Mondale, carrying his deficit-reduction offensive into the Middle West, hit a plant gate, a high school and a business group with his dire warnings of red ink.

(Alan McConagha, Washington Times, A3)

HISPANICS WARN MONDALE TO HALT IMMIGRATION BILL

Hispanic leaders said they will withhold support for Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro if the candidates refuse to pressure Democratic leaders into halting a sweeping revision of immigration laws.

(Rita McWilliams, Washington Times, A3)

GOP SENATORS ASK REAGAN'S SUPPORT

Senate Republicans, eager to capitalize on President Reagan's strong showing in opinion polls, are pressing for him to make a big pitch for GOP Senate candidates this fall in hopes of enlarging the party's 10-seat majority and shoring its defenses against a major Democratic assault in 1986.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A9)

U.S. JUDGE REFUSES TO IMPEDE PROBE OF DONOVAN FIRM

NEW YORK -- A federal judge refused to block a Bronx grand jury investigation that lawyers for Secretary Donovan's construction firm said threatened the company with "imminent" indictment.

(George Lardner, Washington Post, A2)

PENTAGON SAYS FAULTY CHIPS THREATEN ARMS

The Pentagon said that inadequately tested electrical parts, called chips, manufactured by Texas Instruments Inc. have put a "serious" question mark over the reliability of thousands of the nation's most sophisticated weapons.

(George Wilson, Washington Post, A1)

PENTAGON MAY SUE OVER FAULTY MICROCHIPS

The Defense Department considered whether to pursue criminal or civil charges against the Texas Instruments Corp. because of the suspected faulty microcircuits that may be components in dozens of sophisticated weapons.

(Richard Gross, UPI)

O'NEILL AND BAKER SEEK TO SLATE MX FOR POST-ELECTION VOTE

House Speaker O'Neill and Senate Majority Leader Baker neared agreement on a plan to defer a vote on new production of MX missiles until after the Nov. 6 elections as part of an overall defense spending compromise for next year.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A14)

Accord Reported Near on Delaying MX Vote

Agreement on the MX, which was reported to be close after the two leaders met for half an hour, would be an important step toward a compromise among the Democratic-controlled House, the Republican Senate and the Reagan Administration on military spending for 1985.

(Jonathan Fuerbringer, New York Times, A21)

SUPPORT FOR WHISTLEBLOWER WELCOMED

Sen. Grassley, a leading advocate of procurement reform in the military, has welcomed the personal interest President Reagan has shown in the case of whistleblowing auditor George Spanton.

(Clark Mollenhoff, Washington Times, A4)

UNION SAYS EPA IS STALLING ON ASBESTOS CLEANUP

Calling asbestos in the schools the worst potential health threat to children since polio, the Service Employees International Union sued to require the EPA to address the danger.

(Philip Shabecoff, New York Times, A19)

NEWS FROM NEW YORK

WATERTOWN, N.Y. (UPI) -- Fort Drum has been chosen as the home base for one of the U.S. Army's new light infantry divisions, Defense Department officials announced today. The Jefferson County facility will receive approximately 9,960 military personnel over a three-year period beginning in October, the start of the 1984 fiscal year, said Tom Franjola, a spokesman for Rep. David Martin, R-Canton. Fort Benning in Georgia will receive one brigade of the 17th Active Component Division. The unit -- smaller than existing divisions -- is designed to respond quickly to low-level insurgencies, rather than full-scale conflict, Defense Department officials said. Martin scheduled a late-morning news conference in Watertown to announce the stationing at the same time the Defense Department unveiled the details in Washington. In addition to the added military personnel, the division is expected to bring 11,200 dependents and \$800 million in construction revenue to the hard-pressed North Country economy. Construction of 3,243 housing units will begin in the 1985 fiscal year, when the bulk of the new personnel begin arriving, Franjola said. The new division will increase the civilian workforce from 920 to 2,410, the Martin aide said.

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- The Senate, after five days of frustration, voted 95-2 Tuesday to consider a banking deregulation bill that its chief sponsor says "greedy" New York banks are trying to kill. The overwhelming vote came one day after the Senate voted 89-3 to end a filibuster by two New York senators, Republican Alfonse D'Amato and Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan, against even taking it up. Chairman Jake Garn, R-Utah, of the Senate Banking Committee, charged that two huge banking firms, Citicorp and Chase Manhattan, were behind the effort to scuttle the entire bill. Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., who supports the bill but seeks changes, also warned that D'Amato has hundreds of amendments ready to offer.

BUFFALO, N.Y. (UPI) -- Citing cutbacks in funding from Erie County, The executive committee of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Tuesday announced several cost-cutting measures, including an increase in ticket prices and the elimination of youth concerts.

NEW YORK (UPI) -- Turnout was light Tuesday in primary election balloting highlighted by a four-way Democratic fight for the seat vacated by vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro. Board of Elections Executive Director Betty Dolen said the city's low turnout might reflect the major parties' concentration on the presidential election in November at the expense of the primary.

MONTAUK, N.Y. (UPI) -- James E. Fitzgerald, senior vice president for finance and administration at Newsday, Tuesday was elected president of the New York State Publishers Association Inc.

ALBANY, N.Y. (UPI) -- Three men -- including two South Americans -- were jailed after federal agents seized more than 11 pounds of pure cocaine worth an estimated \$1 million at an Albany hotel.

BUFFALO, N.Y. (UPI) -- Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority officials have announced that the surface section of Buffalo's 6.4 mile light rail rapid transit line will open during the week of Oct. 8.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR TUESDAY EVENING, September 11, 1984

GROMYKO MEETING

CBS's Dan Rather: President and Candidate Reagan confirmed at a hastily-called White House news conference that he will hold his first meeting since becoming President with a top Kremlin official.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: The September surprise. Ronald Reagan was handed a plum by the Soviet Union that could offset the criticism that he has plunged U.S.-Soviet relations into a deep freeze. (President Reagan: "I have invited Soviet Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to meet with me at the White House on September 28th and Mr. Gromyko has accepted.") The President was asked if the meeting would dispel what some call his image as a trigger-happy cowboy. (President: "The most important thing is to, is what understanding we can, I can reach with Foreign Minister Gromyko to maybe convince him that the United States means no harm.") The announcement sent the Democrats reeling. (Mondale: "I'm glad he's meeting with him but, this, for nearly 3 1/2 years, the theme of this Administration was 'the Russians are coming.' Now the theme is the Russians will soon be here.") Republicans were ecstatic. They say this will show the President is flexible toward the Soviets. (Sen. Percy: "Now that they are convinced that the President's going to be reelected, I would presume that they feel a dialogue, a continuing dialogue is necessary.") Gromyko has met with every American president since Franklin Roosevelt, is almost totally in charge of Soviet foreign policy now, and U.S. officials say he agreed to this meeting in the belief that Mr. Reagan is likely to be more flexible under the pressure of the campaign than afterward. Partly to sweeten the atmosphere of the meeting with Gromyko, Mr. Reagan announced late today that the drought-stricken Soviet Union can buy more American grain. (President: "The Soviets can increase by 10M metric tons their purchase of wheat and/or corn for shipment during the second year of the agreement.") The main objective of that announcement was not the Soviet Union, but the American heartland, where the President's farm policies have been unpopular. Mondale got a big lesson today in incumbency politics. (CBS-2)

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The Kremlin seemed to sign on to the Reagan reelection campaign and the President himself was pleased to make the announcement. (President: "I have invited Soviet Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to meet with me at the White House on September 28th and Mr. Gromyko has accepted.") Mr. Reagan denied he had invited Gromyko for domestic political purposes and he refused to speculate on why Gromyko had accepted. But top congressional Republicans openly discussed the mutual political advantages. (Sen. Percy: "I'm speaking only for myself. I think they have decided that the President is going to be reelected. They're going to be dealing with Ronald Reagan for four more years. I think it dispels all this business that the President is unwilling to talk and unyielding and unbending...I think it's a good plus for him.") Gromyko has not met with an American president at the White House since 1978. Such meetings used to be almost routine.

-more-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR TUESDAY EVENING, September 11, 1984

GROMYKO MEETING (continued)

Donaldson continues: A resumption of the practice, domestic politics aside, has the potential of being a step forward toward better Soviet-American relations. The President pointed to the atmospherics of the meeting as being the important thing. (President: "So the most important thing is to, is what understanding we can, I can reach with Foreign Minister Gromyko to maybe convince him that the United States means no harm.") Atmospheric in nature or not, Washington's European allies in the person of NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington, greeted news of the meeting enthusiastically. (Carrington, with President outside White House: "Very pleased to hear it.") But if Mr. Reagan was having a good day, so were the Soviets, who it turns out are getting more U.S. grain. (President: "We've decided and the Department of Agriculture is notifying the Soviet Union that the Soviets can increase by 10M metric tons their purchase of wheat and/or corn for shipment during the second year of the agreement.") American farmers, of course, are delighted at the prospect of selling more grain. Maybe neither of today's announcements were made for the purpose of enhancing the President's reelection campaign, but it does seem they may turn out that way. (ABC-2)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: President Reagan, who early in his Administration referred to the Soviet Union as an evil empire, confirmed he would meet with Gromyko. The President said he doesn't know what to expect from this meeting, but he does believe it is time to determine if there can be an easing of suspicion and hostility.

NBC's Chris Wallace: It was a big diplomatic and political move, the President announcing that after almost four years in office, he'll meet for the first time with a top Soviet official. (President: "I have invited Soviet Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to meet with me at the White House on September 28th and Mr. Gromyko has accepted.") Administration officials said the two men will discuss the range of U.S.-Soviet relations but they expect no breakthroughs. They acknowledge the Soviets could use the meeting to embarrass the President. But Mr. Reagan said he just wants an understanding... (President finishes sentence: "...I could reach with Foreign Minister Gromyko to maybe convince him that the United States means no harm.") Gromyko has met with U.S. presidents for 40 years and is thought to have more influence than ever over Soviet policy. Tense relations with the Reagan Administration got even worse after the Soviets downed a Korean airliner last year. But today, Republicans claimed Gromyko agreed to meet with the President after deciding he must deal with Mr. Reagan four more years. (Sen. Percy: "But now that they're convinced that the President's going to be reelected, I would presume they feel a dialogue, a continuing dialogue, is necessary.") But improved relations could be hurt when the White House, under pressure from Senate conservatives, releases a secret report soon.

-more-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR TUESDAY EVENING, September 11, 1984

GROMYKO MEETING (continued)

Wallace continues: Congressional sources say it charges at least 17 Soviet arms violations since 1958, including deployment of nuclear-armed submarines in Cuba and release of nuclear debris beyond Soviet borders. Mr. Reagan said the report is mandated by Congress, but there is no such requirement. Late today, the President showed one more benefit of dealing with the Soviets, telling farm state congressmen he'll let the Russians buy another 10M metric tons of grain. (President: "I just thought that you'd like to have that news." Applause.) Reagan advisers see the President's bad relations with the Soviets as his biggest political weakness and they see the Gromyko meeting as helping take away that issue. And so this lifelong anti-communist may get an election-year boost from his old foes. (NBC-Lead)

MONDALE CAMPAIGN

ABC's Brit Hume: Seldom have the difficulties of being the challenger been more evident than they were to Mondale today. While Mr. Reagan was at the White House announcing an unexpected step forward in his dealings with the Soviets, Mondale was in Chicago trying to make a complicated economic point about the relationship between the budget and trade deficits. At a news conference before departing for Wisconsin, Mondale wanted to reemphasize his point, but the questions centered on Reagan and Gromyko. (Mondale: "I'm glad it's finally happening, but it is clear to Americans that it's pretty pathetic that an Administration in the middle of its campaign for reelection has its first meeting not with the Soviet counterpart of the President, but with the foreign minister.") Mondale was asked if Mr. Reagan had now deprived him of a major campaign issue. (Mondale: "If they would come out with a significant arms control agreement, I would be thrilled.") A similar view was heard from Ferraro when she was asked about the Reagan announcement at a news conference in Toledo. (Ferraro: "Does it take the wind out of our sails? I don't think that that's at all possible on the issue of arms control and the fact that we have not moved at all toward serious negotiations and we do not have a treaty in place.") The Mondale-Ferraro campaign has been criticized for lacking a clear and consistent theme, but sometimes events are what matter in a campaign, and it's hard to imagine a theme that wouldn't have been drowned out by today's events at the White House. (ABC-4)

Brokaw: The Reagan-Gromyko meeting deflates one of Mondale's principal charges against Reagan, that he hasn't met with any top Soviets during his term in office. Mondale was in Chicago when he commented on this meeting. (Mondale: "He is the first president since Hoover not to meet with his Soviet counterpart. I'm glad it's finally happening, but measured against four years of the opposite and most dangerous trends, I think it's pathetic that we're just now having a meeting of this kind.") (NBC-2)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR TUESDAY EVENING, September 11, 1984

FERRARO

CBS's Phil Jones: The abortion issue and religion in politics continue to follow Ferraro on the campaign trail. (TV Coverage of protesters in Flint, Michigan carrying signs.) She describes anti-abortion protesters as becoming more organized and Ferraro said only her Church seems to have trouble accepting her position. (Ferraro: "I am a public official, I swear to uphold the Constitution and the laws of this land. Abortion is legal in this country and I will not impose my religious views on any other person.") Archbishop O'Connor has gone back to a letter signed by Ferraro in 1982 stating the Catholic position on abortion is not monolithic, that there can be a range of personal and political responses to the issue. Even Ferraro's personal phone call to the Archbishop yesterday failed to resolve the dispute. (O'Connor: "The issue is that the teaching of the Catholic Church is monolithic on the subject of abortion and it is stated in a letter signed by Mrs. Ferraro that it is not monolithic. Now, to me that's pretty basic disagreement.") Rep. Panetta, who also signed the letter with Ferraro, expressed concern that Catholic bishops are being too one-sided on this issue. (Panetta: "You know there are Catholic doctrines regarding the need to deal with the poor...It seems to me that they could probably take the same position in criticizing the President of the United States with regard to some of those positions, but they aren't doing that.") For Ferraro, this is one of those no-win issues. There are probably few votes to be gained by feuding publicly with an archbishop, but on the other hand she doesn't want the image of someone in her own Church pushing her around on a volatile campaign issue. (CBS-3)

FAULTY MICROCHIPS

CBS's David Martin reports that the failure of a microchip made by Texas Instruments forced the last-second shutdown in the launch of the space shuttle, a failure that could be the tip of a nightmare-sized iceberg. Pentagon officials say the problem does automatically mean all weapons using these microcircuits are defective, but the Pentagon could launch a criminal investigation and has already told defense contractors to reject delivery of the suspect chips.

(ABC-9, NBC-5, CBS-7)

BUSINESS INVESTMENT

Rather: The Commerce Department reported that American businesses plan to spend \$307B this year on modernization and expansion. That's an increase of 14.3% over last year, when business investment actually declined. (CBS-6)

UAW/GM

ABC's Dan Cordtz: Negotiators for the union did not flatly reject GM's job security proposal, but they made it clear it's not satisfactory in its present form. Experts say the prospects for an agreement before the Friday night deadline are growing dimmer. (ABC-10)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR TUESDAY EVENING, September 11, 1984

HUMPHREY MEDAL

Rather: Talk about politics and strange bedfellows and lessons in the power of the incumbency, there was President Reagan at the White House presiding over ceremonies honoring the late liberal Democrat, Hubert Humphrey. With plenty of prominent Democrats attending, the President gave a congressional gold medal to Humphrey's widow. (TV Coverage: President presenting medal to Mrs. Humphrey as guests applaud.) Not attending was the Minnesota Democrat who called Humphrey his "model and mentor," Walter Mondale. Mondale was invited but cited his campaign schedule as the reason for begging off. His wife, Joan, was there instead. (CBS-5)

ABC's Mike von Fremd: With Muriel Humphrey Brown and Hubert Humphrey Jr. at his side, President Reagan honored a man whose political views, for the most part, were exactly opposite his. But on this special day, Ronald Reagan had nothing but the highest praise for the man known as the happy warrior. (President: "He was a passionate democrat, small 'd' and big 'D', and no one was better than he at infusing his followers with a fighting spirit.") Humphrey's closest follower and protege is Mondale. He was represented at this ceremony by wife Joan. Other close friends of Humphrey seemed moved by Ronald Reagan's tribute. (Sen. Kennedy: "Today, we're not talking, you know, politics. This was, I thought, a gracious act by a gracious President.") And Muriel Humphrey Brown, in accepting the medal for her husband, said he was a man who made a difference. (Muriel Humphrey Brown: "He was one man who changed, made a great change, in the life of our country.") Said Humphrey's son of the celebration, if his father were here today he would have complained about all the fuss, but privately would have loved the limelight. (ABC-11)

VIETNAM/POLITICAL PRISONERS

Jennings: The Reagan Administration today has been telling Congress it wants to do more for those Vietnamese who were left behind, thousands of Vietnamese who were loyal to the American cause and who subsequently have paid dearly for their allegiance.

ABC's Dennis Troute: Secretary Shultz asked Congress to support a new effort to arrange the release of its former allies and employees. (Shultz: "These current and former political prisoners are a particular humanitarian concern to the United States.") The U.S. is responding to two recent offers from Hanoi to free its political prisoners if the U.S. will take them in. (ABC-8)

NBC's Lee McCarthy: The Reagan Administration proposes to admit 10,000 political prisoners and their families. The State Department also plans to resettle 15,000 children of Vietnamese mothers and American fathers. International public interest lawyers objected to the State Department's plan. (Spokesman: "The State Department has made the horrible error, in our view, of treating these children as refugees rather than American citizens....") (NBC-6)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR TUESDAY EVENING, September 11, 1984

SAKHAROV

Jennings: The Soviet journalist Victor Louis is quoted as saying Sakharov has been released from the hospital and has rejoined his wife in Gorky. (ABC-6)

SOVIET RELATIONS

NBC's Garrick Utley describes how the Soviets get their information: The Moscow TV tower dominates the city, a symbol of the importance Soviet leaders attach to televised propaganda. It includes a barrage of news and images about American life. It is always presented in a way to make life in the U.S. look bad compared with life in the Soviet Union. The emphasis is on violence, unemployment, human misery. (TV Coverage: Rioting, deteriorating neighborhoods, man with ragged clothes on bench within sight of the White House. Translation from Soviet narrator: "He has no home, no place to lay his head. Should we approach him, talk to him? No. That would be impossible in America. In a society where the only criterion of the value of a human life is success, success at any price, to admit you are a failure means to disown yourself....") Soviet journalists insist they are objective, but their job is not to show things the way they are, but rather as they are supposed to be according to communist ideology and the dictates of the Communist Party. That can be seen each night at 9 o'clock, when every TV station in the country carries the same newscast. It is a captive audience. The system works. (Soviet citizens make pro-Soviet, anti-American comments.) On the whole, Soviet citizens seem to believe what they are told about us. People here are told that one of the advantages of their life over ours is that they don't have to watch commercials, except Soviet television is one big commercial with one sponsor, the Communist Party. (NBC-9)

COMMENTARIES -- SOVIET RELATIONS

ABC's George Will on the Gromyko meeting: Now the Soviets are giving Mr. Reagan at least the illusion of some thaw. It almost certainly is an illusion. Soviet intransigence is unchanged -- boycotting arms talks, blocking visits to Western Europe by East European leaders. And perhaps the intransigence cannot be changed. Chernenko is sick; the Kremlin may be paralyzed. But illusions matter, not least in American politics. And the Soviets are handing a useful one to Mr. Reagan. It almost seems the Soviets are resigned to Mr. Reagan's reelection. (ABC-5)

NBC's John Chancellor on the death of detente: The Democrats would like to blame it all on Ronald Reagan, that tough-talking anti-communist. It's a false charge. If you look at the record, detente died before Mr. Reagan got to the White House. What finally killed off detente was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Now as the election approaches, Mr. Reagan is speaking softly and Mr. Gromyko is coming to call. But these moves ought not to disguise the central fact: detente has been dead a long time and we are not likely to see it rise again in the years to come. (NBC-10)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR TUESDAY EVENING, September 11, 1984

HURRICANE DIANA

CBS's Dan Rather: In the words of one forecaster, if Diana continues on its track, it could be a dangerous hurricane. Police urged residents and tourists to seek higher ground in both Carolinas.
(ABC-Lead, NBC-3, CBS-Lead)

RELIGION AND POLITICS

NBC's Ken Bode examines the role of the Catholic Church. Bode recounts the President's greeting the Pope in Alaska in May, eating spaghetti at St. Anne's Church in Hoboken in July, lunching with the papal ambassador at the ranch in July. Just last Sunday in Doylestown, Pa., the Cardinal all but endorsed Mr. Reagan. Meanwhile, on the Democratic side, there is a running skirmish over abortion.
(NBC-11)

MIDDLE CLASS

CBS's Ed Rabel: Millions of Americans, by one account, lost their middle class status in the last 6 years. What has happened is being called the quiet depression. In the 1950s and 60s, you could expect to make 1/3 more than your father. In the 70s and 80s, you can expect to earn 13% less. Labor union members are getting a lot of the blame for the situation; their critics claim increasing demands for higher wages forced management to hire cheap labor abroad, leaving American laborers out of work or underworked and out of the middle class. The fear is that, despite America's successes, an age of diminished dreams and hopes has set in, that in the midst of what is for some a boom economy, many Americans slipping from the middle class have lost the faith in the possibility of progress. (CBS-9)

###

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS ON MONDALE DEFICIT PLAN

The Mondale Budget -- "Perhaps, having hazarded so much in outlining his tax-raising plans, Mr. Mondale is to be forgiven for his vagueness about spending cuts. He is not, after all, in office. And the man who is refuses to be specific at all." (Washington Post, 9/11)

'Prudent' Mondale -- "Surveys show that most Americans are anticipating a tax increase under either Mondale or Reagan next year, whatever the two are saying now. We will know more in coming days and weeks, as the public weighs his economic pitch, whether voters feel this is a time for Mondale prudence vs. Reagan optimism." (Christian Science Monitor, 9/11)

Deficit Politics -- "The plan the Democratic candidate outlined yesterday isn't perfect, but that's a small failing compared with President Reagan's failure to propose any plan at all....Most important is Mr. Mondale's pledge to dedicate all new revenue to deficit reduction....That's a tough promise to make, and it will be tougher to keep....The Republicans may ask us not to believe that promise, but if they, too, aim to wipe out the looming deficits, it would be good to know how." (New York Times, 9/11)

The Tax Debate -- "So taxes will go up for everyone earning over \$25,000 a year and interest payments will drop miraculously. Wonderful. It won't run in Peoria and it won't run anywhere else. Mondale doesn't kid himself it will. His strategy is to force Reagan to come clean, to admit either that he has a plan to cut the deficit, and that means more taxes, or that he has no plan at all, and that would be scandalous. At the same time, Mondale wants to show he's a man of honesty and decision, ready to face the hard choices instead of promising pie in the sky, like Reagan. Now the ball's in Reagan's court, and the nature of the election campaign may be decided in large measure by how he returns it."

(New York Daily News, 9/11)

Ron or Fritz? A Tough Economic Call -- "Am I better off today than I was four years ago? Sure. For one thing, I don't have Ronald Reagan telling me what terrible shape the country is in. Instead, I have Walter Mondale, and Mondale is a lot less convincing....Give Mondale credit for making an honest attempt to grapple with a tough and complex issue -- and for not overpromising on the results. But when it comes down to selling the sunniest scenario for the future, Reagan wins every time." (Lars-Erik Nelson, New York Daily News, 9/11)

Mondale's Economic Plan: Realistic but Unconvincing -- "The Democratic presidential candidate was entirely correct in asserting that the national economy cannot survive in acceptable health unless those deficits are brought very sharply down. Beyond that, however, Mondale and his plan left a great deal of doubt about his intentions and the potential of his leadership." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/11)

Mondale's Challenge -- "(Mondale) has tried to raise campaigning to a serious plane so that voters can make a choice. He and all Americans deserve a serious answer from the White House." (Los Angeles Times, 9/11)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

Herbert Hoover Mondale -- "In 1932, President Hoover, assisted by a Democratic Congress, tried to solve the 'deficit issue' in that year's campaign by doubling tax rates at all levels of income, raising the top rate to an extraordinary 63% from 25%. (Not surprisingly, revenue actually derived from the 'rich' promptly fell.) Not even Franklin Roosevelt's fabled 'pragmatism' was able to overcome that blow to the economy, and the Depression dragged on for years. Fortunately Mr. Mondale appears to have nothing so drastic in mind -- or does he? Perhaps he has a secret plan for getting rid of the other half of the deficit. Whatever the case, Mr. Mondale has hitched his star to tax policies we know from experience don't work. It is he, not Ronald Reagan, who is refighting the battle of 1932."
(Detroit News, 9/11)

###

New York Post (9/11)Person-in-the street interviews on the Mondale plan to cut the deficit:

Liz Koppel, Jersey City, N.J. -- "I think it's a terrible idea. It won't do good for people in general."

James Hinckley, Warwick, N.Y. -- "I don't think it's necessary because there is yet more fat in the budget that can be cut out."

Frank Dowd, Queens, N.Y. -- "He'll have the same deficit problems Reagan does because he's promised to do everything for everybody."

Bari Klaffey, Harrison, N.Y. -- "I think it's not fair. The taxes that we pay are high enough."

Dennis Coleman, The Bronx -- "I think it's probably realistic to make up for the high deficit. Walter Mondale should be praised for his honesty."

Elizabeth Dinkel, Manhattan -- "I don't know how much validity there is in it but it will certainly decrease his chances for election."

Rik Kopelan, Manhattan -- "It's ridiculous. Mondale is buried in old Democratic principles that don't work. They're Depression era."

Peter Wragg, Manhattan -- "I think it's terrible."

Fran Kostuck, Manhattan -- "It doesn't make sense. It's not necessary. We don't need to pass on the high spending to the American public."

Stanley Kallman, Manhattan -- "The increase should be more. If taxes aren't raised, probably everybody's money in the U.S. will become worthless."

Fred Wilson, Manhattan -- "It's probably the right thing to do but politically it's pretty dumb...."

-end-