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October 2, 1981

FROM: SJF - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger indicate^y/today that the Joint Chiefs of Staff are in disagreement with the announced decision on MX.

Weinberger, who talked to reporters following the President's announcement in the East Room, acknowledged that the Joint Chiefs were opposed to the option for deployment selected by the President. He added there are "preferences still" among the Joint Chiefs and said he could not predict whether the chiefs would be willing to testify in favor of the deployment system which has been decided upon. "I'm not going to make any predictions," he said, "I have my hopes."

Weinberger also predicted that in 1984 the administration would select a multiple system for deploying additional MX missiles. He indicated it might include some combination of airborne missiles, deep underground silos, and a more effective ballistic missile.

Weinberger denied that political considerations were involved in the decision not to deploy all of the MX missiles in the western states. He noted that he had told the commission studying the problem that "domestic political considerations were not to be considered." He acknowledged that the current choice also has some political problems attached to it. "I have yet to see a solution that removes all political problems," he said.

The full package that the administration unveiled today is expected to cost 180 billion dollars over the next six years, according to Weinberger. In no single year is the cost expected to exceed 14 percent of the overall defense budget.

One other key quote from the news conference: "The only people engaged in an arms race now are the Soviets. We have not entered and we do not intend to do it."

(END MEMO - CKM)

STORY:WHU3
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;10/02,11:08

to: mls lt dr jf jg bfp dxb gp jwm dcb lh rak pa pgh

From: sjf

The following material comes from a background session with

David Gergen:

At the invitation of President Reagan, former President Jimmy Carter will lobby for the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia during an upcoming trip to Washington.

Reagan telephoned Carter personally more than a week ago to request help on AWACS. Carter replied, "I'd be glad to help." Former President Gerald Ford has agreed to help too. Gergen expects both to come to Washington.

"Jimmy Carter sold this, he ought to be here helping with it," says Gergen, who fully recognizes the irony of the situation.

(A Carter aide says the former president will be in Washington October 13. He adds that Carter has already started calling Senators about AWACs.)

Gergen says the President hopes to sell the AWACS package using this idea: "Who makes American foreign policy, Begin or Reagan?" Reagan's remarks about outside interference in U.S. foreign policy also reflect his belief that Israeli Prime Minister Begin went too far when he began lobbying Congress in opposition to AWACS. "He ought to be careful not to piss off Ronald Reagan," says Gergen.

Gergen says signs from the Israeli embassy indicate the Israelis are beginning to have second thoughts. "They wonder if they've overplayed their hand," he says.

(MORE)

Reagan, in a go-for-broke mood, will spend the next two weeks personally applying pressure on members of the Senate. "It will be an investment of the President's personal prestige," he says. "He'll have intensive sessions with individual senators--eyeball to eyeball."

Asked what Reagan meant when he vowed to defend the monarchy in Saudi Arabia, Gergen had no explanation. "It's a vow he's made many times in private," says Gergen. (Gergen then picked up the telephone and sent instructions to the State Department and the National Security Council to come up with an explanation to be used Friday.)

Richard Allen. Gergen says Allen was put in charge of the AWACS lobbying at the suggestion of Haig. He suspects that Haig was trying to sandbag Allen, and perhaps the AWACS deal too.

Gergen sums up Allen's problem this way: "He's been given a lot of responsibility and no authority. Under the Kissinger and Brzezinski, the NSC was too strong. So we squashed it so hard it doesn't have any authority. We've let the pendulum swing totally the other way."

He says there's a need to have a National Security Adviser for analysis and coordination. Allen does not perform these functions effectively. Gergen says Allen has never been given a chance. "It's only fair to give him a chance." Yet there's no indication the President or the Big Three plan to make improvements in this area.

Rich Man's President. To counter his image as a "rich

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man's President," Reagan is planning to be photographed as much as possible in the company of blue collar workers and union leaders in the months ahead.

Gergen notes that Reagan campaigned effectively among blue collar workers last year. "He enjoys their company," says Gergen, stretching his credibility.

Labor leaders will be invited to the White House more often "once the dust settles" from Solidarity Day. Reagan also will emphasize his support of the Voting Rights Act with black and Hispanic groups.

(END)

STORY:GERGEN
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:ALC ;10/05,17:32

TO: MLS, LT, JF, DR, BFP, JG, DXB, GP, JWM, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, SXM

FROM: RAK

RE: David Gergen defends Reagan's millionaire style

Gergen was more sensitive than I expected over criticism that the Reagans flaunt their wealth and well-heeled connections. He was prepared to rattle off a long defense of the President, and also said Mike Deaver would like to talk to me--a clear sign that Reagan is in a defensive mood over the subject.

The public criticism, says Gergen, "is not a cutting issue, but it's a nibbling issue." He concedes that "Mrs. Reagan has been more of a lightning rod" for criticism "because she believes in style. That's her personality." But Nancy is not the only one who is sensitive to it. "The President believes he is getting a bum rap, too."

Gergen went so far as to insist that Reagan himself does not live a lavish lifestyle. "This is not the kind of President who likes to surround himself with luxury. He does not live ostentatiously....His only assets are an adobe house [at the ranch], a pickup truck and a Jeep."

What about his millionaire chums? "The friends he has who are well-to-do are, for the most part, self-made...What he appreciates about his friends is that they have succeeded--acting or athletics or making money, whatever."

Gergen says most of the criticism is a matter of partisan

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politics, but he adds, ``There are little symbols that come up from time to time--like the china and the cowboy boots--that catch people's eyes. It's when those are juxtaposed with the budget cuts that people object. We are sensitive to that...The Democrats are making political hay of it.''

What is the White House doing to counter the rich-man image? Gergen again cited the plans for Reagan to be photographed with blue-collar workers. ``But we have not intentionally tried to create a lot of symbolism to counter the criticism. We're sensitive to it, but we're not going to try to create an unnatural person....This President is not interested in limiting people's wealth. He wants to create more wealth. He sees nothing wrong with making money.''

§§§§§. The basic White House defense is that Reagan is not living lavishly at taxpayers' expense. Pay increases for White House aides have been held to 4.8 percent--the same as Reagan requested for the rest of the bureaucracy. Jim Baker recently turned down a request for new carpeting throughout the first floor of the White House. ``He felt it would be inappropriate,' ' because of Reagan's belt-tightening policies. The number of senior aides who get door-to-door chauffeur service has been limited to four. (Gergen says this is fewer than in previous administrations but admits it is the same number as in the Carter administration.) The White House also rejected earlier this year a suggestion that Reagan's friends buy a new presidential yacht.)

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“We haven’t spent a lot of taxpayers’ money on refurbishing the White House. You even did a story to that effect....

“This place in general was run down when we got here and some money had to be spent to fix it up...Every President finds that the White House is run down some when he moves in, because little is done in the last two years of the outgoing administration....But the Carter White House was especially skimpy. They tried to save all they could on upkeep...The President does believe the White House should be a showcase, but we’re careful not to go overboard....I don’t think the President is any more stylish than John Kennedy was. In fact, I would say Reagan’s style is more subdued than Kennedy’s...We’re not throwing anybody into the swimming pool.”

Gergen volunteered criticism of HHS Secretary Schweiker for posing in white tie, with his wife in an evening gown, for the cover of Dossier magazine. “I thought that incident was unfortunate. It raised a lot of eyebrows around here.” But Gergen pointed out that only a few nights later he attended a charity fund-raiser hosted by Mrs. Schweiker. “They’re out there doing their part.” (And as evidence that Schweiker “is a pretty down-to-earth guy,” Gergen noted that Schweikers’ kids and Gergen’s son have played Little League baseball together.)

(END)

STORY:DEAVER
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:DML ;10/06,09:31

TO: MLS, LT, JF, DR, BFP, JG, DXB, GP, JWM, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, SXM

FROM: RAK

RE: Mike Deaver defends the Reagans' ``flaunt-it'' style

Deaver dismisses criticism of the Reagans as ``largely the position of the Democrats. They're using it as an issue--Tip and Manatt...All I was hearing until three weeks ago when Tip and Manatt raised this was how nice it was to have style back in the White House...People were saying how they [the Reagans] knew how to entertain, that the town was taken by storm.''

RR. How does the President feel? ``He thinks that Nancy's really taking a bum rap, as he said. They think of themselves as stewards here.''

Deaver claims that Reagan is a man of modest means. ``He owns a ranch and six horses, a 1950s Jeep, an old tractor--and now, another pair of cowboy boots...Here's a guy who has never collected things for their own value--not paintings or fine carpets or jewelry.''

Deaver claims that Reagan did not buy the celebrated pair of cowboy boots, that they were given to him. And Deaver says they didn't cost \$1,000; they only cost \$200 or \$300.

``Being a westerner, the President over the years has been given 500 or 600 cowboy hats, all of which he gave away, except for one or two that he wears...It's the same with cowboy boots or saddles or jars of jelly beans.''

What's a President supposed to do, asks Deaver, turn them down and

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end people?

Nancy. Deaver left me with the impression that Nancy is much more upset about the criticism than the President is. ``Frankly, I think she's a little hurt. What she felt was important was to make her contribution to the White House without spending a penny of taxpayers' funds...The china was somethings she could do, something she knew about...She thought it was something she could contribute. She could raise the money quickly...She set about making the White House a place Americans could be proud of...The furthest thing from her mind was that she would be criticized.``

Reagan's assets. ``The Reagan's aren't rich by any stretch of the imagination,`` says Deaver. He says that Nancy drove a '67 Ford stationwagon around Beverly Hills`` until it was sold after Reagan was elected President. Reagan used a ``leased Monarch sedan,`` which is hardly a luxury automobile, says Deaver.

``I don't think the Reagans' style is much different than any other President's style. State dinners have always been black tie.`` All first ladies have had ``someone to do their hair.`` The Kennedy's weren't criticized for their flair, why should the Reagans be criticized, Deaver asks. He cited Hugh Sidey's column this week asserting that the Reagans ``are getting a bum rap.``

(END)

October ⁶~~A~~, 1981

FROM: SJF - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH

RE: Sadat Death

First reaction from the White House is that the death of Egyptian Prime Minister Anwar Sadat will not change President Reagan's determination to pursue the Camp David peace process or the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia.

In fact, the White House quickly incorporated the Sadat ~~slang~~ ^{SLAYING} into its sales pitch for the AWACS. "In the President's view," said David Gergen, "this tragedy in no way lessens the urgency of the sale. In fact, it increases the urgency. The arguments in favor of the sale are strengthened."

Gergen said the ~~slang~~ ^{SLAYING} shows "there continue to be destabilizing sources of unrest in that region. Peace would make it easier to deal with those sources of unrest. Saudi Arabia is an important key. It's important to strengthen the moderate forces in the area and Saudi Arabia is one of those moderate forces."

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) announced, after meeting with the President Tuesday afternoon, that he had changed his mind about AWACS as a result of the Sadat death. Hatch, one of eight senators who met with Reagan on Tuesday, had signed the Packwood letter indicating he was going to vote against AWACS. But he said on Tuesday, "If there ever was a time to support the President of the United States, now is the time."

Max Friedersdorf, the President's chief lobbyist, later said privately that Hatch had been committed to change his vote prior to the shooting in Cairo. He indicated the Sadat shooting gives the administration the "big break" that White House Chief of Staff Jim Baker was talking about last week. Asked if they considered withdrawing the AWACS plan after receiving news about Sadat, Friedersdorf replied, "Don't be silly."

On the prospects for continuing Camp David: "We are pleased the Egyptian government is pursuing its constitutional processes with regard to succession. We are pleased by the continuing of Egyptian policies, including the continued dedication of that nation to the Camp David accords."

Gergen^E was somewhat vague about how the Reagan White House learned of the government's continuing dedication to Camp David, although there was some suggestion that it came through the Egyptian ambassador in Washington. Gergen indicated that his statement was dictated by Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

There is some indication that the United States had advanced intelligence predicting an attempt on Sadat's life. When asked about it, Gergen said, "It may be our government will have more to say about that in the future."

Vice President George Bush got himself into an

embarrassing bind earlier in the day by telling Senator Howard Baker that Sadat was dead long before it was confirmed in Cairo. Bush later issued a statement saying he got his information from the White House situation room, and Gergen said it came from the U.S. embassy in Cairo. Gergen says the U.S. government never actually knew for certain that Sadat was dead until it was announced on television in Cairo.

The following is a blow-by-blow of the President's day on Tuesday as it relates to Sadat's shooting:

7:25 a.m. President received a call from Haig telling him about the shooting. Meese calls him a few minutes later. Nancy tries without success to place a call to Mrs. Sadat and talks instead to Ambassador Atherton in Cairo. Several more calls were received at the White House from Haig before 9 a.m.

9:10 a.m. Reagan receives a 20 to 30 minute briefing in the Oval Office from Richard Allen on the situation in Cairo.

9:30 a.m. Reagan meets separately with three Republican senators to talk about the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia.

11:00 a.m. In a staff meeting to prepare for the 11:30 a.m. meeting with the Prime Minister from Thailand, Reagan gets more news from Cairo.

2:00 p.m. Reagan is told by Jim Baker that Egypt has confirmed Sadat's death.

2:15 p.m. Reagan meets with Haig, Weinberger, Casey, Allen, Bush and the Big Three. They review the statements that Reagan has prepared.

2:30 p.m. Reagan, looking grim and clutching Nancy's hand, reads a statement about Sadat for cameras on the north portico of the White House. Meanwhile, Vice President Bush meets with his crisis-management team in the Situation Room. (Gergen says this was not an official meeting of the crisis-management group.)

4:00 p.m. President meets for 45 minutes in the Situation Room with the Big Three, Haig, Weinberger, Casey and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

The White House will announce on Wednesday whether the President plans to attend the Sadat funeral in Cairo.

(END FILE - ES)

STORY:WEU2

QUEUE:SJF-SJF

MSG:

MA:60 FMT:

HJ:

INI:

OPR:SJF

;10/07,16:25

o: mls lt jg dr jf bfp gp dxb jwm dcb lh sxm rak pa pgh

From: sjf

AWACS, Sadat's funeral and other matters.

Using the death of Anwar Sadat to bolster his case, President Reagan is slowly winning new converts in the Senate to his proposal to sell AWACS to Saudi Arabia.

The first convert was Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who announced Tuesday morning that the Sadat slaying had convinced him to support the AWACS sale. Hatch earlier signed the Packwood petition. A short time later, Senator Richard Lugar, R-Indiana, moved from the undecided column to support Reagan.

On Wednesday, aides said Reagan won two or three additional converts during a meeting with 43 Republican Senators. One of them was Senator Alan Simpson, R-Wyoming, also an original signer of the Packwood petition.

Larry Speakes characterized this as ``a step in the right direction--progress on our part.'' He added: ``We think we are making definite progress. There is reason in the White House for optimism.'' Although all of the converts to date have been Republicans, Speakes says he does not rule out the possibility of some Democrats joining Reagan's team.

From all accounts, Wednesday's meeting between the President and the 43 GOP Senators was somewhat emotional. Richard Allen told us off-the-record that Reagan told the Senators that he was sorry he had not talked to them sooner about AWACS. One Senator angrily shook his finger at Reagan, according to Allen.

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According to Speakes, Reagan told the group that the sale is "particularly important in light of the tragedy of yesterday." He said approval is "essential to the Middle East peace process." Speakes described Reagan as "determined, resolute."

"I need you," the President told the group. "Your country and the world needs you on this decision."

Although the Sadat death is being cited as a reason for supporting the President, the key to these recent conversions seems to be the Warner-Nunn resolution--a sense-of-the-Senate resolution that discusses how the United States expects the Saudis to operate these planes in cooperation with U.S. personnel. This is certainly what brought Hatch around to the President's point of view.

Reagan has promised to write a letter to the Senate Republican leadership expressing "wholehearted support" of the Warner-Nunn resolution. Speakes suggests that the President is telling members of the Senate that he has assurances from the Saudis that they will use the planes in a certain way. Speakes says that Reagan "discussed these matters privately with members of the Senate."

Sadat funeral. Security is the only reason being cited for Reagan's decision not to attend the Sadat funeral. Nixon, Ford and Carter are supposed to travel to the funeral together on the same plane. Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Carter may go too, but Pat Nixon is not expected to company her husband.

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Security is becoming quite an obsession at White House these days. Since his vacation, Reagan has made only five appearances outside the White House, three of them in Washington. (The third Washington appearance came Wednesday when he attended a memorial service for Sadat at the National Cathedral.) None of these were public appearances. Metal detectors are now even being used at the White House these days pm all reporters who do not have permanent White House passes.

Alaska Pipeline. The White House today announced that it is proposing waivers to the U.S. Alaska Transportation Act that will permit private financing of the Alaska natural gas pipeline. This is being done at the request of the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Energy Committee.

As White House officials explain it, this proposal will allow the builders of the pipeline to begin collecting money from the oil companies as soon as any one of three portions of the system is completed.

Details can be obtained from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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STORY:NOTES
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:DML ;10/08,16:46

TO: MLS, LT, JF, DR, BFP, JG, DXB, GP, JWM, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, SXM, CAS

FROM: RAK

RE: White House notes

AWACS. Larry Speakes says, on background only, that the White House now believes the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is its best chance of winning on AWACS. Speakes declined to give names, but said that ``we're within a vote or two of bottling up the resolution of disapproval in the committee.'' The committee is expected to vote on AWACS next week.

He notes, however, that if Reagan defeats the resolution of disapproval in the committee, it still could be brought to the floor under a discharge petition. But a discharge petition would require the signatures of 51 senators. If 51 senators would sign a discharge petition, Speakes reasons, the administration then would in all likelihood be beaten on the Senate floor. So, Speakes says, the battleground is going to be the committee.

Perhaps this explains why the White House today trooped out Nancy Kassebaum, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, before the cameras in the briefing room to say that she had decided to support the sale. The White House led to bill Kassebaum as a convert to Reagan's view when, in fact, she never has opposed AWACS and, according to Speakes, always has said she was leaning toward approval.

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○ The meeting. Speakes says there was nothing ``affable`` about the way Reagan dealt with the group of Republican senators he summoned to the White House this week to lobby for AWACS. ``It's as tough as I've ever seen the President in a meeting. It had the air of an old-time revival...He was pretty hard bitten...He shot right back at [Rudy] Boschwitz and [Slade] Gorton.``

Reagan is stressing these points to senators, in Speakes' words: ``AWACS is the key to our success in the Middle East. It's the key to keeping the Russians out. It's the key to keeping oil prices down. And if the sale doesn't go through, the President will be perceived as unable to control his foreign policy.``

○ Nixon, Ford, Carter. What will three former Presidents talk about during a 12 1/2-hour flight to Cairo? Joe Canzeri, Mike Deaver's top deputy, has arranged for Nixon, Ford, Carter and Rosalynn to sit together on the long flight. The plane they are taking is the AF 1 backup, so there is plenty of room for the presidents to be spread apart in separate compartments, but Canzeri has decided instead that they should sit together at the two tables in the front of the plane. Since Ford hates Carter, Carter hates Ford, and neither Ford nor Carter gets along with Nixon, what will the conversation be like? Sounds to me like Canzeri is asking for trouble.

○ In a meeting this afternoon with the Egyptian ambassador to the U.S., Reagan said he gets depressed at times when he

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○ thinks about Sadat's assassination. He said it keeps coming to mind when he is doing other things. Reagan also asked the ambassador to extend an invitation to Mubarak to visit the White House at an unspecified date early next year.

Voting Rights bill. Speakes says he has no doubt that after the voting-rights issue goes to the cabinet, Reagan will formally endorse simple extension. Speakes does not believe Reagan would offer any objection to the bail-out provision contained in the House bill.

Defense cuts. Speakes expects Reagan to go along with deeper defense cuts in '82. ``We won't say it yet, but we'll certainly accept modifications.``

○ Gergen. At today's daily briefing, Gergen declined to comment on the report in the New York Times that the Carter administration had organized a plan for covert action against Libya, but Gergen did say: ``This administration does not have plans to assassinate leaders of other countries.``

(END)

STORY:RUS
MA:60 10:10:10

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;10/08,17:32

To: mls lt jf dr bfp je dxb gp jwm deb lh

From: sjf

The following comes from an interview with Ed Meese.

To show support for the new Egyptian government, President Reagan is inviting Mubarak to visit the White House "at an early time." The invitation was extended by Reagan today during a meeting with the Egyptian ambassador.

No other overt action is planned, either to shore up the Egyptian government or the peace process. (Other sources say the U.S. is ready to supply additional arms to Egypt.)

"We stand ready to take whatever action is necessary, both symbolic and actual, to continue to support Egypt as an ally and also to work with them in advancement of the peace process," says Meese. "As particular opportunities arise, we'll respond to whatever needs they might have."

Meese thinks Mubarak will follow Sadat's policies. "We have no reason to believe that he will differ from the policies of Sadat," says Meese. But he acknowledges that Sadat's death has made the peace process more difficult.

"Obviously the death of a great leader like that, who had already achieved some very impressive accomplishments in the peace process, who was a symbol of the Camp David process, obviously made it more difficult," says Meese.

"But that in no way diminishes our resolve to continue the process of our hope of what we can accomplish."

Meese acknowledged that the administration has no concrete reason to believe the Saudis will join the peace

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process if they get AWACS. But he stated Reagan's intentions in the Middle East more clearly than I have yet heard them explained at the White House.

"The President is taking a strong role by trying to foster the next logical step, which is of course bringing in the moderate Arab states such as Saudi Arabia," says Meese. "Saudi Arabia has already demonstrated its sincere interest in furthering peace in the Middle East by its participation in the ceasefire in Lebanon. The sale of the defense material is important to symbolize our good faith to them as a valued friend in the Middle East. We know that the continued friendship of our countries will make more possible their entrance and participation in the peace process. Part of their consideration necessarily has to be the reliability of the United States as an ally.

It's a matter of working toward conditions in which Israel feels more comfortable entering into further steps of the peace process and I think.

On background, he added: "Much of this depends on who goes first--it's kind of a chicken and egg type thing. The Israelis, right down to this time, keep talking about the Holy War continuing. The Arabs are saying we want you to deal with us as equals irrespective of whatever relationship you have with Israel. Your relationships with us should not be dependent upon what Israel says. We're separate nations and we ought to be treated on an equal footing. On this air material sale, they're looking for

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clear assurances from us that we do recognize them in that regard and that our policy is not being dictated or influenced by Israel. So you have Israel and Israeli supporters saying 'we need a quid pro quo' and you have the Arab's saying 'you show us your quid pro quo--We went far in Lebanon, now show us that your willing to deal with us as a sovereign nation.' It's kind of a maze as to where you start something and where you finish. That's part of the problem here--how we weave our way very delicately and sensitively through this thing. Our tact is to go ahead with our relationship with the Saudis and at the same time bring Israel along and convince them that the Saudis can be trusted and that what we're doing is also ultimately in their best interest. What we're trying to do is take small steps, systematically to overcome problems that have been there for literally centuries. "

Meese acknowledges that issues of the West Bank settlements, the bombing of Iraq or negotiations with the PLO were not raised by Reagan in recent talks with Begin. "They were raised by other people...in the total framework of the discussions--or had been raised in earlier discussions," says Meese. He says Reagan did explain to Begin personally the reasons to sell AWACS to Saudi Arabia.

Foreign policy speech? Is President Reagan ever going to make a foreign policy speech? Meese's answer: "Our foreign policy address is 24th and C."--the address State Department. He says the President soon will speak out on

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some unspecified aspects of foreign policy, but this does not include the Middle East.

"If you want to know what our foreign policy is in the Middle East, it is (1) to support the peace process of Israel and Egypt, (2) to maintain peace and stability in that area through cooperative arrangements to the extent possible with moderate Arab states and (3) ultimately to draw moderate Arab states into the peace process."

AWACS. Meese says on background that Sadat's death has become a convenient excuse for some Senators to switch their vote on AWACS. "A lot of people got on the Packwood letter early, when they had not gotten all the facts," says Meese. "Many of them are looking for a way to change their mind. Others are genuinely concerned about the foreign policy prerogatives of the president. Others were motivated by Sadat's death. So you have a combination of these things that just coalesced in the last 24 to 48 hours. Many of these people just needed a symbolic reason to support the President. Two things made that possible--the Sadat death and the bipartisan resolution."

He's not yet predicting victory, however. "It's still very tough. The momentum is going our way, but it will still be a difficult battle."

Note: Probably the biggest news in this interview was Meese's offer to set up a regularly weekly interview with us. Just another sign that he's trying to improve his PR.

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STORY:WEUG CUEUE:SJF-SJF MSG: ;10/08,18:16
NA:60 FMT: EJ: INI: OPR:SJF

o: mls lt jf dr bfp jg dxb gp jwm dcb lh sxm rak

From: sjf

The following comes from a background interview with David Gergen.

Sadat's death got President Reagan "emotionally charged up" about the Middle East peace process--starting with the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia. To show support for the new government, the U.S. will step up arms sales to Egypt.

"It triggered a lot of emotions," says Gergen. "I've never seen him as worked up about anything--with the possible exception of the PATCO strike."

This is why Reagan got so emotional in his meeting with the 43 Senators on Wednesday. "He was very verbal about the Middle East--how it's turned into an armed camp," says Gergen. "He also came down very hard on the partisanship angle, saying that it was the duty of the majority party to do something about this."

Gergen says the Senator who shook his finger at the President during the meeting was Slade Gorton, R-Wa. Gorton told Reagan, "You can't trust these people (Saudis)."

Baker, who informed the President of Sadat's death, reported to Gergen that Reagan "took it very quietly--subdued." But he was not "wildly enthusiastic" about attending the funeral. "Those of us around here thought he could do a lot more for the Middle East alive than dead,"

ys Gergen, who thinks Nancy also played a large part in discouraging Reagan from going to Cairo.

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Sadat's death helped Reagan in many ways. Not only did it come part of the argument for the AWACS sale, it also drew attention away from other problems, including criticism of the MX plan. "Sadat changed the whole focus, which had been on mounting criticism," says Gergen.

But Reagan cautioned his staff not to go too hard linking Sadat's death and AWACS. "He didn't want us to overplay our hand," says Gerge. "It's something you use in private. He did not want us to exploit it publicly."

AWACS. The Warner-Nunn resolution was hammered out at John Warner's house last Sunday night with Baker, Friedersdorf, Meese and Deaver in attendance. It was designed to give some Senators a "reason" to switch to AWACS.

White House officials have been assuring members of the Senate that this resolution reflects the commitments that Reagan has obtained verbally from the Saudis. Another compromise resolution may also be in the works.

Although Gergen is not predicting victory now, he says that the momentum is working in the President's favor.

Nixon Letter. Gergen says that Nixon wrote the letter supporting the AWACS sale following a meeting with Richard Allen. He assumes that Allen asked Nixon to write it.

(END)

STF

STORY:PR2Z
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:RAK ;10/09,08:52

TO: MLS, LT, JF, DR, BFP, JG, DXB, GP, JWM, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, SXM
FROM: RAK

RE: Four Presidents at the White House

Quotes. Reagan was the only one to make any remarks. He spoke from a lectern on the South Lawn: ``Today the American people stand beside the Egyptian people; the people of a new nation with the people of an ancient land; the people of the West with the people of the East....

``To those who rejoice in the death of Anwar Sadat, to those who seek to set class against class, nation against nation, people against people, those who chose violence over brotherhood, those who prefer war over peace, let us stand in defiance. And let our words of warning to them be clear: In life you feared Anwar Sadat, but in death you must fear him more, for the memory of this good and brave man will vanquish you.``

The White House says there is no record of any previous time in which four American Presidents were assembled in the same place. The White House press office says for certain that four Presidents were never together before during this century.

Nixon, Ford, Carter and Rosalynn flew in the same Marine helicopter from Andrews AFB to the White House. David Gergen says, on background, that during the short trip, the four had ``a warm conversation`` that was ``quite

animated."

When the chopper landed on the South Lawn, Carter and Rosalynn were the first to get out, followed by Nixon and Ford. The Reagans greeted them all at the diplomatic entrance. Nancy kissed both Nixon and Ford, but only shook Carter's hand.

Reporters who have been around since the Nixon days swear that he is dying his hair. (There was no visible gray.) Nixon walked very stiffly and wooden-like. He acted extremely self-conscious, giving darting glances to the large group of reporters. But Carter looked almost as uncomfortable. He always stood apart from the others.

Everybody seemed to enjoy coming back to the White House.

The group then assembled for a half-hour private reception in the Blue Room. They had cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and, according to Gergen, the four Presidents and VP Bush stood in a circle talking while Nancy, Rosalynn and Barbara Bush talked in a separate group.

"They talked a good deal of substance about the Middle East," says Gergen [on background]. "Ford and Nixon told the President that he made a wise decision not to go to the Middle East...They did talk a good deal about Sadat, the heroic nature of the man."

Gergen says Reagan proposed this toast to the Presidents:

"Ordinarily, I would wish you happy landing. But you're all Navy men, so I'll wish you bon voyage."

After the reception, and after Reagan concluded his

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remarks on the South Lawn, Carter bounded over to Helen Thomas and started shaking reporters' hands, making his way down the line as though it were a campaign stop, while Nixon and Ford headed back toward the helicopter. Carter also was the only one to stop at the doorway of the chopper and turn and wave in grand presidential style to the network cameras. He certainly acted as though he wouldn't mind being in the White House again.

(END)

STORY:NOTES
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SRR-SRR
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:DML ;10/13,15:43

TO: MLS, LT, JF, DR, BFP, JG, DXB, GP, JWM, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, SXM, GY

FROM: RAK

RE: White House notes

Sudan. David Gergen sought today to downplay Reagan's decision to send technical teams of U.S. military personnel to Sudan. He claimed ignorance on the number of technicians who will be sent, and on how long they will stay.

The technical teams will be in the country only for the purpose of ``introducing the Sudanese to the use and maintenance'' of the military equipment the White House will send. Gergen declined to specify what kind of weapons will be sent, claiming that those decisions have not yet been made. He emphasized the difference between technical teams and ``military advisers.'' Sending technicians to accompany arms shipments is routine, Gergen said, citing recent arms deliveries to Kenya. U.S. representatives have been in Khartoum for the last 48 hours working out an arrangement to accelerate the arms shipment. The \$100 million military and economic aid package will require congressional approval.

Gergen also backed away from President Nimeri's assertion that Haig has pledged the U.S. would intervene to protect Sudan from a Libyan invasion. Haig said in an ABC interview this morning that Nimeri's remarks were ``overdrawn.'' Gergen carefully pointed out that it is Egypt--not the

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United States--that has a mutual defense treaty with Sudan. ``We're only trying to help the Sudanese defend themselves,`` said Gergen.

Cancun. On Thursday of this week, Reagan will deliver a speech in Philadelphia that is supposed to provide more details of the administration's policy toward the Third World. The White House is billing this as a significant speech, but Mort Allin was unable to cite anything new that the speech will contain. To understand Reagan's position at Cancun, Allin suggests reading four speeches: Haig's recent address to the UN; the President's speech to the IMF; Secretary Regan's speech to the IMF; and Reagan's upcoming Philadelphia speech.

Tentative plans call for Reagan to hold most of the bilateral sessions with Third World leaders on Wednesday in Cancun--the day before the summit starts. White House aides have said that it is unlikely Reagan will hold bilateral talks with the leaders of the industrialized countries, whom he has already met.

Juan Carlos. In his talks with Reagan today, the Spanish monarch asked for ``strong statements`` of U.S. support for Spain's entry into NATO and the EEC, Richard Allen said in a background-only briefing. The administration supports Spain on both counts. Spain's entry into NATO could come as early as the December meeting of NATO ministers, Allen said.

Reagan urged the king, in general terms only, to use his

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fluence to encourage moderate Arab states to join the Camp David peace process. Allen implied that Juan Carlos is on especially good terms with the Saudi royal family. When the king raised the question of U.S. talks with the PLO, the President restated his view that there must be preconditions to beginning any dialogue with Arafat.

Reagan also complained to Juan Carlos about Cuba's supplying of arms to the Nicaraguan government and to El Salvador's guerrillas. Allen declined to give the king's response.

And last, but not least, Juan Carlos urged Reagan to improve U.S. relations with--and economic assistance to--Equatorial Guinea, which recently kicked out the Soviets.

Spain has been supplying aid to the country, but the king thinks the Reagan administration should chip in, too.

(END)

STORY:WHU1
MA:62 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF MSG:
HJ: INI:

OPR:SJF ;12/13,17:52

c: mls lt jf dr bfp jg dxb gp jwm dcb lh rak pa pgh

From: sjf

AWACS and Carter's visit to the White House.

President Reagan still hopes to convince a majority of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee members to keep the AWACS issue from going to the full Senate.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee vote is scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday. The current head count is 10 to 7 against the AWACS sale to Saudia Arabia. Reagan must sway two more members to achieve an 8-8 tie, which would be a victory for him.

Reagan met Tuesday with Senator Larry Pressler, a Senate Foreign Relations Committee member who seems to be reconsidering his decision to vote against the AWACS sale.

"I'm thinking it over," Pressler said. "I'm still in the 'no' column. It's still still possible I'm going to help (the President) out." At least one more Senator is scheduled to meet privately with Reagan Wednesday.

Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker says he's somewhat "optimistic" that Reagan can win in committee. "It's not beyond the realm of possibility that we could win that one," he said. Even if the committee is deadlocked 8-8, Baker says it's unlikely the full Senate would vote for a discharge resolution. But if it goes to the Senate floor, he adds, the AWACS opponents have no more than 45 hard votes on their sides. "The world situation--particularly in the Middle East--has changed so dramatically that many

(MORE)

Senators are giving it second thoughts," says Baker.

Reagan is currently composing a letter to the Senate that Baker says will get "very, very specific" in providing assurances that the Saudis will not misuse the AWACS. The letter will include the provisions of the Warner-Nunn resolution, plus provisions demanded by other Senators. Pressler, for example, is demanding a promise from Reagan that the Israelis can have U.S.-made radar jamming equipment if Israel finds that the Saudis are spying on them with AWACS.

Carter. Carter spent 30-35 minutes alone with Reagan in the Oval Office today. Neither side is saying what they discussed. Carter told reporters he wants to reestablish a long-lost tradition that conversations with the President are confidential.

(END)

STORY: CARTER
MA: 07 2911

QUEUE: JSL-JSL
RJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR: JSL 11/13, 17:03

TO: MLS, IT, JF, LR, JWM, LE, TG, SJF PAK, PGH

FROM: JSL

CARTER NEWS CONFERENCE

It was billed as an invitation-only affair, but Jimmy Carter's folks were promiscuous, and there were at least 60 newsies attending. Carter appeared in a blue suit, white shirt and ugly tie, looking fit, relaxed and plumper than during the campaign.

Carter said he was 'grateful' for the chance to be back in D.C., that it's been 'a pleasant 9 months for me and we've found every aspect of Plains life better than anticipated.'

The former President noted that he had been reticent about speaking out on current issues and in coming here his primary purpose was not to be a critic.

However, he termed Reagan's tax reduction 'unfair and excessive.' Carter scoffed at the economic theory behind Reagan's tax cuts, said it makes moderate income, and working class people suffer most and 'already, even before it went into effect, it was shown to be fallacious.'

Carter said these cuts should be reduced, or at least delayed, but signaled that he thought that is unlikely: 'It's hard for me to understand how to correct serious errors made unless major decisions are undone.'

He criticized the President for shifting from what he called his own carefully planned and adequate defense spending plans--about 5 percent increase--to a 6.5 percent increase. In particular,

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he termed the B-1 bomber "a gross waste of money." Asserting that he studied this in detail with his own military advisers, he said, "There is no prospect for a manned bomber to penetrate Soviet defenses."

Asked if he were willing to act as mediator for the U.S. on Middle East problems, Carter kept a straight face and replied that was "unlikely." He did say that, as a result of meetings he had while in Egypt, "I can certify for you that Israeli and Egyptian leaders are totally committed to carrying out the peace agreement."

Carter said he believes the peace treaty will be carried out, but added that Israeli security and self-determination for Palestinians remain thorny issues that the Reagan administration is not properly focusing on.

Specifically, he said "There really should be a strong American presence in the peace talks. So far we have not done so."

Carter said he proposes that the PLO be negotiated with as soon as it recognizes the right of Israel to exist. He said not all PLO leaders are terrorists, and to call all Palestinians terrorists is "racism." "There are as many peace-loving Palestinians as there are peace-loving Americans."

He criticized Reagan for an imbalance in his approach to military affairs. Carter said he favors having a U.S. military presence in the Mideast, specifically in Oman, Egypt and the African East Coast, but he said that needs to be balanced--as it is not being done--by words and actions that show this nation is committed to

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peace, to limiting the spread of nuclear (he said ``nookyer'') weapons. He said not enough is being done to show that ``this country believes in human values.''

On Sadat's assassination, he said that ``obviously security was inadequate but I can't assess the reason for it.''

He noted that no security can be infallible but added that his own experience is that security is more lax when he visits U.S. military bases, and that Sadat's lack of protection is ``partically excusable'' since he appeared to be in similar circumstances.

Carter argued that it is a mistake to read calmness in Egypt as a sign that Sadat is not mourned. ``The reason for Egypts restraint is that there has been an attempt by Mubarak and other Egyptian leaders to prohibit any uprising.''

He said he believes the Mubarak regime will be stable.

Carter does not credit Reagan policies for the relatively rosy petroleum situation today. The glut is not due to decontrol, he said, but rather to conservation measures (for which he takes credit) and as a result of worldwide recession. Once that recession ends, he says, and as GNPs grow, oil demand will soar.

Back to Mideast: CARTER said he had been in regular contact with Sadat and had written both him and King Saud, urging them to refrain from making public comments that aggravate relations between those two countries. But he said, ``It was one thing Sadat refused to do.''

Carter added that he thinks it was wise of Begin to go to Sadat's funeral because he learned first-hand that Mubarak and Mrs. Sadat are committed to the peace process.

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On Domestic policy:

Carter said he didn't want to talk about the air traffic controllers strike because he doesn't know the circumstances that prevailed at the time. He did say he was prepared for the strike and had a plan that involved possible use of AWACS aircraft to handle air traffic.

Told that he sounded like a candidate for office, Carter said, "I don't have any ambitions along those lines at all." And he added that he "has a right and a duty to speak out."

On SALT II, he termed it "one of the worst mistakes" not to ratify that treaty. To do so, he said, would be a clear signal to the world that this nation is insisting on peace as well as military strength.

Asked if he thought Reagan's domestic policy reflect racism, he said, "I hope not." Then he said that while obviously the poor will suffer and are being disillusioned, "There is no sign of racism or racial discrimination yet." But he said he is concerned that Reagan's budget cuts limit his options for dealing with domestic unrest. He said that when he was in office he had the options of increasing food stamps, student loans and other program in specific locations where he felt it was needed, and that now Reagan does not have such tools at hand.

Carter said he is limited in his opportunities to speak out on issues because he has to finish his book by April or May and is working 8-10 hours a day on it. "Next summer and fall I will be more active speaking out on behalf of my party."

On AWACS, he said the Saudis did not make that a major issue

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with his administration. Carter said he did agree to upgrade their
bills. While he gave them no commitment on AWACS, he said he
considers it a close call and, once such a commitment is made by a
President, he feels Congress should support it. He said most of
the world does not understand that Congress has the final say in
such matters and, since AWACS is not an offensive weapon, it would
be bad for U.S. goals in Saudi Arabia for us not to honor REagan's
commitment.

On how he got along with Jerry Ford during his trip to Egypt:
"On the way over not very well, on the way back it was all
right." Carter said Ford made some personal comments about him
during the 80 campaign "which I remember." But on the return
flight he said this was discussed and the two had a
reconciliation. "For the first time I call him Jerry and He calls
me Jimmy. In fact, I would not hesitate now to pick up the phone
and call him."

On Nixon: "He kind of broke the ice. He went out of his way
from the beginning to talk about the books he is writing" and
(paraphrasing) about the famous leaders he has known.

After what was supposed to be the end of the news conference,
Carter was surrounded by reporters and I couldn't hear much of
what was said. He talked about meeting Sadat's widow, how she
spoke proudly of the way Sadat faced his death. Then he quoted her
as saying, "Fosnan Mubarek and I are also willing to die for the
same principles for which my husband gave his life."

(END)

STORY:WHU2
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;10/14,18:22

o: mls lt dr jf jg bfp dxb gp jwm dcb lh rak pa pgh

From: sjf

The following comes from a backounder with Larry Speakes:

Recent developments at home and abroad--the prospects of a recession, congressional resistance to budget cuts, a possible defeat on AWACS and problems in the Middle East--are having a sobering effect at the White House.

"After six months of unimpeded progress," says Speakes, "we realize that we've now hit on the toughest nuts."

A series of meetings is underway at the White House to determine a new strategy for handling all these problems. Speakes says there is a recognition that "things have been unfocused" since August 1, when Reagan's economic package was passed by Congress. No decision has yet been made on how the President will proceed from here.

AWACS. Reagan's chances of winning on AWACS in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday are slim. Baker tells Speakes that they are still one vote short. Chances of winning on the Senate floor also remain slim. "We've got a long way to go and we could very well lose it."

The strategy at this point is to let every Senator know of the President's willingness to write a letter designed to answer all of their misgivings about the sale. The letter will not be drafted finally until it has won Reagan every last available vote. So far, the letter has been used to win the support of those Senators who support the Nunn-Warner resolution plus Pressler and five other senators.

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In addition, says Speakes, other sweeteners are being offered. Among them: Judgeships and what he described as "farmer home loans."

Carter. When President Reagan met with former President Carter on Tuesday, he was completely unaware that Carter had just dumped on him at a press conference. The wire stories apparently moved too late to warn Reagan. White House reaction: "We didn't get alarmed about it because it made him look so small to come in here like that, grinning from ear-to-ear." Reagan and Carter discussed the Middle East and foreign policy primarily.

The White House is counting on Carter to convince Senators Nunn and Robert Byrd to support the AWACs sale.

Nixon. Speakes thinks Nixon's visit to Saudia Arabia and Jordan may be more than just a social call. "I suspect there's more to it," he says. He assumes that Nixon could be trying to bring those countries into the peace process.

But Speakes emphasizes that he has no first-hand knowledge of Nixon's mission. Only Haig knows for sure what the former President is doing, says Speakes.

Haig-Allen. White House National Security Adviser Richard V. Allen did not know about Nixon's trip to Jordon and Saudia Arabia until he read about it in the newspaper. Speakes offers this as an example (for RAK's profile) of how Haig keeps Allen in the dark on many matters.

Haig also criticized Allen on Tuesday for divulging too much information about the President's visit with King Juan

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Carlos. Haig thought Allen said too much about the King's offer to help in the Middle East. Speakes says Haig and Allen are constantly pointing out each other's flaws.

Middle East. Reagan does not plan any new effort to shore up the peace process. "The feeling is that things are moving along. There is only so much that can be done."

Speakes reports that Israeli radio is denying Wednesday's New York Times story quoting Begin as saying that he favors the Linowitz autonomy plan.

White House reaction to the suggestion by Carter and Ford that the PLO into the process: "It's fine for Carter and Ford to say we should bring in the PLO, but they know Israel would never buy it."

Democrats Switch to GOP. Speakes was almost no help on this subject. He knows nothing about it. Although he says Senator Harry Byrd came to the White House for an unannounced meeting on Wednesday to discuss the possibility of becoming a Republican.

Speakes says the Atkinson switch on Wednesday had to do with redistricting. "He was about to get screwed out of his district," says Speakes.

(END)

October 15, 1981

FROM: RAK - Philadelphia

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH,
GY

Although Richard Allen insists that the President's speech to the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia is a 'major address,' it contains little new information and few specifics. The speech does, however, reflect the general vagueness of Reagan's policies to stimulate development in the Third World. His remarks were long on rhetoric and short on details of programs to assist developing countries.

In essence, Reagan said his Third World policy consists of persuading developing countries to follow the U.S. model of free enterprise, along with offering 'practical proposals' to aid poor countries in achieving the successes of U.S. economic development.

These specific proposals center on five objectives --

*Stimulating international trade by opening up markets. This would be accomplished in part by strengthening the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT).

*Tailoring particular development strategies to the specific needs and potential of individual countries and regions, such as the administration's Caribbean Basin plan.

*Targeting U.S. assistance toward the development of self-sustaining production in food and energy. This includes: Emphasizing the development of crops that tolerate adverse soils and climate, insects and diseases;

research to increase irrigation efficiency; the production of several crops per year in the humid tropics; and methods of disease control to remove such problems as the tsetse fly in Africa.

*Improving ''the climate for private investment'' in the developing world, including ''investment safeguards'' and a ''general agreement on investment.''

*Creating a ''political atmosphere'' that does not restrain the international marketplace or foster inflation.

Here are some excerpts from the speech text:

''U.S. foreign policy proceeds from two important premises: The need to revitalize the U.S. and world economy as a basis for the social and economic progress of our own and other nations, and the need to provide adequate defenses to remain strong and safe in a precarious period of world history...

''We very much want a positive development dialogue, but sometimes this dialogue becomes oversimplified and unproductive...

''Free people build free markets that ignite dynamic development for everyone...No matter where you look today, you will see that development depends upon economic freedom. A mere handful of industrialized countries that have historically coupled personal freedom with economic reward now produce more than one half the wealth of the world...

"For the record, the Soviets will not attend the conference at Cancun. They simply wash their hands of any responsibility, insisting all the economic problems of the world result from capitalism, and all the solutions lie in socialism...They've had quite a long losing streak for a government which still insists the tides of history are running in its favor...

"The way we can provide the most opportunity for even the poorest of nations, is to follow through with our own economic-recovery program to insure strong, sustained, noninflationary growth...

"Certainly the record of the international system is not perfect, but people flirt with fantasy when they suggest it is a failure and unfair. We know that much must still be done to help low-income countries develop domestic markets and strengthen their exports. But the way to do that is not to weaken the system that has served us so well, but to continue working together to make it better."

(END FILE -- rw)

STORY:INFO
MA:70 FMT:

QUEUE:TG-TG
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:TG ;10/15,16:45

59F

October 15, 1981

MLS LT BFP DR GP AOK DCB SWW SJF APS from TG

Reagan seeks to weaken Freedom of Information Act.

The Justice Department today made its formal proposals to Congress to redress the imbalance the Reagan administration believes was created in the post-Watergate amendments to the law.

Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Rose briefed reporters this afternoon on the measure. I won't repeat what we report in Capitol Hill Issues in the coming week's book, but will make some key points--

* The administration believes in general that the law allows for the release of too much information that the public needs to know but which criminals and businesses are putting to their own, sometimes malicious uses. The law "has resulted in unnecessary burden and great expense to the government without any corresponding benefit to the general public," asserts Rose.

* Reagan supports in principle the idea of exempting the CIA from the Freedom of Information law, but details of a proposal are still being drafted and were not submitted to Congress today.

* Businesses requesting data under the law would have to pay most of the cost of processing it. Total cost to taxpayers exceeds 50 million dollars a year, much of it to help businesses.

* For this extra payment, data requesters would get slower service. Instead of the current law's requirements for an initial government response within 10 days and a final response within 20, the initial answer wouldn't be required for 30 days and the final one for one

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year. This would reduce burdens on bureaucrats now processing them.

* However, requests for data from media and others who aim to disseminate them broadly would still fall within the short time limits.

* The Attorney General would have the power to exempt from disclosure FBI files dealing with terrorism, organized crime and foreign counterintelligence. Rose believes that the FBI's COINTELPRO abuses would still have been uncovered had these amendments been in effect because that was domestic, not foreign, counterintelligence. Reporters were skeptical. Rose also noted that one of the major news stories routinely credited to a freedom of information request--the New York Times 1974 report on domestic CIA spying--was not in fact based on FOI requests.

Rose said the Justice Department had reviewed 276 major news stories based on FOI data and concluded that most of them could have been gotten even had the Reagan proposals been in effect. He declared that it is a ``great red herring`` to argue that the administration plan would limit legitimate news coverage.

* Another disputed point: The administration would allow businesses to prevent disclosure of data that ``may impair`` their competitive position. Now, they must prove that substantial damage would occur. Reporters suggested that businesses would not routinely win exemption for material they believed might prove embarrassing. Rose doesn't think that will happen, but he didn't sound very convincing. We might include points relating to business that we didn't cover in Capitol Hill Issues in News-Lines next week.

(END)