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Date: April 16, 1999

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. list	re 3/31/81 Morning Summary documents, 1p	3/31/81	P1, F1
2. report	Current Reports, 2p	3/31/81	P1, F1
3. report	re analysis, 4p	3/31/81	P1, F1
4. cables	30 MAR 2325Z and 30 MAR 2320Z (partial), 1p P 6/12/00 NLSF97098/2 #82	3/30/81	P3, F3
5. cables	30 MAR 2308Z and 30 MAR 2306Z (partial), 1p P ^ * #83	3/30/81	P3, F3
6. cable	30 MAR 2301Z (partial), 1p P " 21 #84	3/30/81	P3, F3

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 31, 1981

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES AND
DR. DENNIS O'LEARY AND
AND DR. DANIEL RUGE
Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

8:40 A.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: We have with you to answer questions this morning, Dr. Dennis O'Leary, the Dean for Clinical Affairs at George Washington University and Dr. Daniel Ruge, the White House physician, after which I'll be available to answer questions.

DR. O'LEARY: The President had an excellent night. The endotracheal tube which was placed in his surgery was removed at 3:00 this morning. And he was moved from the recovery room to a private area at about 5:00 this morning. He did not get a lot of sleep last night, busy night. He maintained a constant dialogue with the nurses and doctors who were in constant attendance with him, maintaining an excellent sense of humor. I'm sure you'll hear many of his remarks. My favorite one is he said, "If I got this much attention in Hollywood, I'd never have left." This went on all night. I had an opportunity to see him this morning. He is in excellent spirits. All of his vital signs are entirely normal. He's on almost no medication and at this point in time, he really probably does not require an intensive level of medical care. He's doing extremely well.

Mr. McCarthy is also doing extremely well. And he is complaining a little bit of soreness in the liver area which is a little bit understandable. He has a mild elevation of his temperature and of his white blood count which would be expected after a liver injury. But he otherwise is doing extremely well.

Mr. Brady is much improved over his initial prognosis. He still has his endotracheal tube in. However, he is responsive and is moving the right side of his body in response to command. It is anticipated his tube will be removed later today. We are guarded as to his prognosis. But his progress thus far has really been extraordinary.

Q Are you suggesting that Mr. Brady understands your directives or questions to him and responds to them?

DR. O'LEARY: Yes.

Q Dr. O'Leary, I take it then that the prognosis for the President's complete recovery is excellent and you expect it?

DR. O'LEARY: That is correct.

Q Well, how soon do you expect that then?

DR. O'LEARY: How soon for his complete recovery?

Q For that kind of person --

DR. O'LEARY: Okay, the hospital, of course, is -- does vary by patients probably in the range of a week or two. But that will depend upon his specific, of course, and then after that probably

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a couple of months until he is totally back to riding horses.

Q Dr. O'Leary, has the President been using the telephone? Has he been in contact with the White House, do you know?

DR. O'LEARY: Well, there've been a number of people from the White House in to see the President. This morning he is, as I say, fully alert, joking back and forth--

Q Has he been using the telephone --

DR. O'LEARY: I don't believe so.

Q How soon do you think the President can carry out a full-time day?

Q The question?

DR. O'LEARY: Well, the question was, how soon can I put the President -- put in a full-time day. That's a little bit speculative. He's obviously able to function right now in terms of his thought process, capacity to make decisions and so forth. He can probably put in a full-time day today as long as he gets a nap this afternoon.

Q What about the chances for post-operative complications such as pneumonia or --

DR. O'LEARY: At this point in time, I would be very surprised to see such complications develop. He is doing as well as any patient who has had an operation in his chest could do.

Q Has the President at all asked or has he been told about the condition of his Press Secretary?

DR. O'LEARY: He is not aware of the other people who were shot and injured at this time.

Q Has he asked at all about them?

DR. O'LEARY: He did not ask in my presence. I can't say whether he's asked anyone else but he is not aware of it as of this morning. Yes?

Q Doctor, could you say that the President's talking so much and joking so much, is this normal or is he on some kind of high? Or why is he --

DR. O'LEARY: I don't think he's on any high and I don't think we put him there on the basis of any of his drugs. He's a very outgoing, very vital person, from what I've seen of him, this is quite in character.

Q Does the President have much pain? What is his comfort level?

DR. O'LEARY: The President is requiring almost no pain medication at all. He is tough in a good sense.

Q Doctor, are there indications that there is going to be -- brain damage that Jim Brady might have suffered?

DR. O'LEARY: Well, the bullet did -- entered just lateral to his left eye and really traversed across to the right posterior skull where it stopped and it was removed. There was fairly extensive damage of the right hemisphere of the brain. However that is his non-dominant side and the important area that

There was some minimal amount of damage involving the left side of the brain. In patients like this the spectrum of possible outcomes is very, very wide. It'd be really highly speculative right now to guess at what will happen to him.

Q Dr. O'Leary, it does seem rather strange that you have not told the President of the condition of his own press secretary. Is that a medical decision? Are you concerned about Mr. Reagan's reaction?

DR. O'LEARY: No. I think you have to remember the President has been through a little bit of an experience himself and our general experience is that we don't forcefeed information to people. Rather, we respond when they feel ready to deal with an answer by asking a question.

Q In your presence did he ask any questions or make any specific requests?

DR. O'LEARY: No. I can relate to you that Mr. Nofziger related to him that he'd be happy to know that the government was running normally and he responded, "What makes you think I'd be happy about that?" (Laughter.)

Q Why do you suppose that he did stay up all night talking with nurses and doctors?

DR. O'LEARY: Well, if you've ever been in a recovery room or an intensive care setting, it's really not very conducive to good sleep because lights are on and there's a lot of activity and monitors going and people running blood tests and checking vital signs. It's not peaceful sleep. I'm not surprised he was awake. Most people would have been awake most of the night.

Q Is he concerned about his own medical condition, how soon he will recover, that kind of thing?

DR. O'LEARY: No, I don't think he seems anxious at all. He's had a few questions but nothing particularly definitive. I think he's happy with the care he's getting. He's getting a lot of attention from the nursing staff and from the doctors.

Q Doctor, are there plans to move him to a military hospital and, if so, when?

DR. O'LEARY: That determination has not been made and will be a judgment, of course, of the family and the White House Staff.

Q Doctor, the President is making a number of remarks and jokes. But you say he has not yet asked about the condition of his press secretary or anybody else, if they've been hurt in that shooting?

DR. O'LEARY: That's what I said.

Q Has the President asked about or been curious about the assassination attempt?

DR. O'LEARY: Has he been briefed about it? He has some curiosity as to who the assassin was. He was provided a little bit of information along those lines. You have to remember, he's coming out of major surgery. He's been up all day and all night and I don't think you'd expect him to have a total overview of the world at this point. I am really stunned by how alert and with it that he is.

controls not only his motor movement on his right side but all of his speech and mental processes are on the left side. 2

MORE

Q What drugs is he on now?

Q Tell us some more of these quips. Perhaps you have some more?

DR. O'LEARY: Perhaps some of the others could relate those to you. There are quite a number around.

Q Could you give us his blood pressure and his heart rate?

DR. O'LEARY: His blood pressure has been running about 130 over 80, which is totally normal. His pulse rate's about 70. You and I would do well to have such a good pulse rate. His temperature's normal.

Q Could you give us an idea as to whether the President actually knew that he was hit?

DR. O'LEARY: Okay. We did chat a little bit about that this morning. He really did not appreciate that he had been shot until he was actually in the emergency room itself. As you remember, he was pushed down. He thought he might have bruised or cracked a rib and that was his belief, at least at the time he entered the emergency room. It was only after he was in the emergency room that he realized it.

Q So he didn't experience much pain or discomfort as a result of the shot itself?

DR. O'LEARY: He knew that he had been hurt in some fashion because he was experiencing some pain in the chest wall, but he did not equate that with a bullet wound.

Q Do you know of any more of his thoughts at the time that the shots were fired? Did he mention them?

DR. O'LEARY: No, he did not.

Q Doctor, could you clarify one of your earlier answers? Is the President aware at all that anybody else is injured?

DR. O'LEARY: I don't believe that he is.

Q What kind of medication is the President receiving?

DR. O'LEARY: He is receiving one antibiotic, which is a cephalosporin, and he will probably come off of that within the next 24 hours. That's routine care for the patient and he has an as-needed pain medication which he isn't needing very much, and that's it.

Q Will the President be able to walk around?

Q Was Mrs. Reagan there this morning?

DR. O'LEARY: I don't think she's there this morning.

MORE

Q Doctor, you said it'll be about a week or two weeks before he will be out of the hospital. Can you give us an idea whether he'll be walking soon or exactly what kind of progress he is expected to be making?

DR. O'LEARY: That's a little bit hard to guess, but I would not be surprised to see him up walking around within the next couple of days.

MORE

Q What is the possibility of going back to California to recuperate there?

DR. O'LEARY : He said he really didn't want to go back there until he could ride a horse.

Q Doctor, how do you explain a person being shot in the chest, bullets in his lung and being able to after that time, walk from the car into the hospital without somebody knowing that that had happened?

DR. O'LEARY: Well, it would seem remarkable to any of us but I think we've seen things like that before. One gets quite a surge of adrenalin under these circumstances and we do things that we might not otherwise be able to do if we realized we'd been shot or otherwise injured.

Q Can you tell us more about Brady's response -- is it to light, is it to pin pricks, is he semi-conscious? Has he shown any sign of semi-consciousness?

DR. O'LEARY: Well, I think his level of consciousness is reflected by virtue of his responsiveness. He is asked to move his right arm. He moves it. He is asked to move his right leg. He moves it. He is clearly receptive to command. He's obviously not able to talk or to reflect other levels of alertness until his endotracheal tube comes out.

Q Eyes open or closed?

DR. O'LEARY: His eyes are open and his pupils are small and reactive to light. Very good sign.

Q Have all the fragments of the bullet been removed from Brady's brain?

DR. O'LEARY: We believe so, that the whole bullet was removed.

Q You said he could move his right leg and his right arm. Is he able to move his left leg and his left arm? Is there any paralysis that has appeared?

DR. O'LEARY: Well, again, we will not be able to assess that until we get a little bit further downstream. The left side of the body is predominantly controlled by the right side of the brain, and so we're not surprised if he's going to have a level impairment, it would probably affect the left side of the body.

Q Did the President ask specifically, "Who was it who shot me?" and was there an answer given?

DR. O'LEARY: He didn't phrase it in quite that fashion, but he showed some interest as to who was the person in terms of his demographic characteristics and what have you.

Q And was he told who it was?

DR. O'LEARY: He was simply told that it was a young man who came from a good family, which was about the extent of it.

Q How did the President respond to that?

DR. O'LEARY: I can't remember his specific response. It was basically noncommittal, I think.

Q Does he have an IV or a catheter?

MORE

DR. O'LEARY: He's still on IV to receive his antibiotic. That's all.

Q What about a catheter?

DR. O'LEARY: I'm really not sure. He will probably not need a catheter pretty shortly, if not right now.

Q One more question. Doctor, Mr. Reagan is a 70-year-old man and he received a bullet. He didn't feel it, but it was clear that he was hurt. (Inaudible.)

DR. O'LEARY: I don't think I understand all of the question. I think that his response to the injury was appropriate. He perceived that he had pain and he has really performed through all of this, as I said yesterday, like a physiologically young person. His responses have been totally normal.

Q Dr. O'Leary, if you think it is medically wise to withhold information about the other victims of this shooting, do you also feel it advisable that official information and problems be withheld as well for the President's medical benefit?

DR. O'LEARY: That's not really a judgment for me to make. That's up to the White House staff.

Q Well, then from a medical point of view, is it in the President's best interest not to have official stresses at this point?

DR. O'LEARY: Yes, I -- again, I think his primary limitation is a physical limitation because of what he's been through. But, I think he could use a little bit of sleep probably and I'm sure he gets that in the course of the day. He is a very cool-headed man and what might be stressful for you or me is not necessarily stressful for him.

Q Are there any possible post-operative complications for either the President or Mr. Brady such as pneumonia or any other things?

DR. O'LEARY: Again, I think the **likelihood** of complications for the President is quite, quite small. Mr. Brady's had a serious injury. There are potential complications. We hope they won't develop. We're prepared to deal with them if they did.

Q Are his prospects of

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Then one of the questions he's had, "Will I be able to do ranch work?" And I think you've heard from the doctor that's a very positive sign on that.

Other than that, I'll accept your questions for a few minutes.

Q Larry, can you tell us what arrangement has been worked out to bring matters to the President's attention, what division of authority and what division of work has been worked out between the senior staff and the President?

MR. SPEAKES: Basically there is no division of authority. The President remains the President, of course. The senior staff, the top three senior staff members, have met with him this morning. I anticipate that the Vice President will be going out to visit the President today. The Vice President attended the senior staff (meeting) this morning and his statement there was that, "We will continue business as usual," that, "I will sit in on the meetings that the President would have normally attended and will act as if he were here."

Q Was this the deadline for signing this bill?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q This morning.

MR. SPEAKES: It had to be signed because otherwise the dairy price supports escalation would go into effect tomorrow.

Q Has the President made any other decisions aside from signing the bill, things that could be characterized as presidential decisions?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not aware of it. Jim Baker and them were with him for 10 minutes or so but that was the immediate thing that required action this morning and he clearly took that, signing it on his breakfast tray.

Q Is there a military aide there with him now at the hospital and is "the football" there or is it with the Vice President?

MR. SPEAKES: John, we're very careful about discussing that. Yes, the military aide is present. As far as any of these other matters, they're clearly matters of national security which are classified that I can't discuss, but I can assure you that there's certainly no problem, nor was there ever any problem with that matter.

Q What kind of White House communication has been established with the hospital itself?

MORE

recovery better today now? I mean Brady.

DR. O'LEARY: We believe that he is going to live. We are cautiously optimistic but we have no idea where he's going to end up.

Q Who has the President seen this morning and who will he be seeing today? How many people should he be seeing and talking to during the day?

DR. O'LEARY: Well, we're trying to keep the flow of people small but obviously there are a number of people who need to be in contact with him. He was covered through the night by the director of the intensive care unit and the director of emergency services personally as well as the nursing staff and other staff. He was visited this morning by his surgeons. Dr. Aaron was in the hospital through the night. Mr. Nofziger and myself visited with him this morning. I think Mr. Meese and some of the other staff did as well.

So he's handling all of this extremely well.

Q Dr. O'Leary, would you say that the President will be able to handle the stresses of the presidency right now at this moment?

DR. O'LEARY: I think I've tried to deal with that question. I think that he is quite capable of making decisions, interacting with people. I wouldn't encourage him to put in an 18-hour day, but I am sure that he can attend to the important matters of government today.

MR. SPEAKES: Thank you, Doctor.

I have a couple of items and then I will take your questions. This morning Jim Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, and Ed Meese, the Counselor to the President, and Mike Deaver, the Assistant to the President, met at the hospital for breakfast together. They visited the President for about 10 to 12 minutes around 7:15. As they went in the President was sitting up. He was brushing his teeth. They have presented him with the Dairy Bill, which you have there, an actual copy of what he signed. As you know, the Dairy Price Support Bill had to be signed today in order to be effective on the April 1st date.

A couple of additional quotes. These are written quotes. He sent out a Winston Churchill quote which said, "Winston Churchill said, 'There is no more exhilarating feeling than being shot without result.'" Then the quote that Dr. O'Leary gave him, which is a written quote. The first one was at midnight. This one is at 2:05 a.m. "If I had this much attention in Hollywood I'd have never left."

Then to a nurse, a spoken, something he said after the tubes had been removed at 3:00 a.m. "I always heal fast." The nurse said, "Keep up the good work." The President said, "You mean this may happen several more times?"

MORE

MR. SPEAKES:

We have the White House phone system installed and certainly, as it is, wherever the President of the United States is, there's complete communications apparatus.

Q Who was the senior staff person with him at this time? Are there people there --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, there are people there. There's a working office there and there will be people from the President's staff and there will be constant communications.

Q Then has the White House formed a recovery place and worked out where the President will remain, where he'll go?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't think we've gotten that far yet.

Q Who's there, Larry? Can you tell us specifically who's going to be there in that office?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, at the moment, David Fisher is there. I don't know who will work from there later in the day. I'm sure Helene Van Damm will be out there later today.

Q Not Meese or Baker or --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't anticipate them being there. I think they'll be here.

Q Mr. Speakes, has the President or any of his senior staff discussed the events of yesterday in terms of the way the President left the hotel, whether there should be changes in the future, his method of operation?

MR. SPEAKES: Sam, I don't think we've gotten into the security aspects of it or of those type things. No, I haven't heard discussion.

Q Well, Larry, how does he think the Secret Service responded in the circumstances?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think he's expressed an opinion on that.

Q What is the feeling in terms of recuperation? The President said he didn't want to go to California until he could ride a horse. But clearly he must be doing some plans --

MR. SPEAKES: Sure, I don't think we've covered that with him. We're progressing day by day. So, I don't think we've covered specifically what happens next.

Q Larry, he would be assassinated fired from, in effect, the cover of newsmen. In other words, he was in that spot in the pool area, all right? That makes me wonder whether or not, there, first of all, is there a certain amount of bitterness on the part of the White House as to how close the press can get to the President, whether you intend now to attempt to put more restrictions on our movement, whether this will be in any way used as an example as to how close the assassin can get by working among the newsmen?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I heard no discussion of that.

Q Larry, were you able to find out if, in fact, the decision was made to withhold announcement of the fact that the President was shot to give somebody a chance to notify Bush or Mrs. Reagan or to do anything else?

MR. SPEAKES: I think our only consideration is that we move with factual information and we moved as quickly as we had the complete facts. I didn't hear of any discussion of delaying anything for any notification process. Yes, Bruce?

Q Will Bush continue to pick up the President's schedule for the duration of his hospital stay?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, for the next few days, I'm sure he will. As the Vice President said, he'll sit in where the President was supposed to sit in.

Q How much has the President's schedule been cancelled?

MR. SPEAKES: Helen --

Q I mean travel and so forth.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, clearly, the trip to Springfield, Illinois is not on. (Laughter.) We have not made a decision about the Cincinnati trip which is announced, but you can certainly draw your own conclusions about what we'd be able to do about that.

Q How about the border --

MR. SPEAKES: I just don't know. That hasn't been discussed.

Q What items has Mr. Block brought before the President this morning by --

MR. SPEAKES: The Dairy Bill is the one I'm aware of. There could have been others. But that was the one requiring his immediate attention.

Q Larry, as far as you know, no one was definitively aware that the President was shot until he was in the emergency room?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, as you heard, the President himself was not aware --

Q Did the President on his own walk into the -- Why was he allowed to walk into the hospital when he was wounded?

MR. SPEAKES: You've had the doctor. I wasn't present so I can't really address that.

Q Larry, how was the decision made to go to the hospital? The car initially headed down Connecticut Avenue -- then diverted. Can you tell us anything about that?

MR. SPEAKES: I can't address that, Hal. I guess that would be better for the Secret Service to address, though. I don't have the particulars on the immediate movements.

Q Larry, is there any explanation as to how this

MR. SPEAKES: The President will make all the decisions, as he always has.

Q So if a decision has be made at this meeting, it will be by reference to a call to the hospital?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I don't know the mechanism but I can assure you that whatever decisions are required the President will make them and he'll certainly be consulting with the Vice President and they will meet today.

Q Will the Secretary of State be in the Situation Room all day today, do you know?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know the Secretary of State's schedule.

Q Will the crisis management group or the same group or something like that be in the situation room today?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know that they will assemble today.

Q Larry, to follow up on that, was the President advised of Secretary Haig's efforts at crisis management yesterday?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know that that's been transmitted to the President.

Q Larry, what's the purpose of the Cabinet meeting today and the meeting with congressional leaders? Is this a normal meeting or is this to assure them as a result of the shooting?

MR. SPEAKES: No, we wanted to bring the Cabinet in. Most of them were here yesterday but they wanted to bring the remainder of them in that are in town to give them an update on the President's situation and to discuss whatever other matters they may have on their mind.

The meeting with the Republican leaders was scheduled. The meeting with the congressional leaders was a Republican leadership meeting which, of course, has been expanded to include a bipartisan group.

Q Larry, is it true that the President's signature that you've given us here on this bill to show his first act since the incident is not his normal signature, that it does reflect a weakened man who's in the hospital?

MR. SPEAKES: I wouldn't agree with that at all.

Q You would think that is his normal strong signature?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, sir.

Q Larry, was the President questioned about the shooting by the FBI or the Secret Service or will he be in the near future?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. All of the law enforcement aspects should probably come from the Justice Department. I just won't be able to get into it.

assassin got so close to the President, in what they call a secure area. Somebody said that there was the media and a few others who were considered well wishers. Usually it is the people with the White House clearance, who have a White House pass, are given a prior hassle, and if people are there -- just float in?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I'm not in a position to discuss the security matters of what was happening there. I'm sure that will be --

Q Is there any enquiry under way to determine the facts of this other than what the Secret Service would normally do and FBI, and in terms of the White House itself?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not aware of any.

Q Larry, are there any other plans to tell the President about the chance of the others or are you waiting for the advice of doctors?

MR. SPEAKES: I would judge we're waiting the advice of the doctor.

Q Larry, the meetings that Bush is going to sit in, that normally would be chaired by the President, are they now going to be discussion meetings or action meetings? And if action is taken at these meetings, will the Vice President have decision-making power?

MORE

Q Larry, are there any other staff members staying in the hospital and is there going to be a press room in the hospital?

MR. SPEAKES: I think we've closed our press operation down and everything will come from here, although there will be members of the President's immediate staff there.

Q Larry, that's not the President's normal signature. Is it? It's not like that. I mean have you looked at it? It's a little wobbly.

MR. SPEAKES: I will let you be the handwriting experts today.

Q Larry, could you clarify the command authority arrangement that you described yesterday, whether that is a carry-over from past administrations or whether that's a standing order for this administration?

MR. SPEAKES: I think every administration establishes it.

Q Was it different? Was it the same one?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know.

Q Larry, in the Situation Room yesterday, right after this happened, can you tell us was there any confusion about that order?

MR. SPEAKES: No confusion whatsoever.

Q Who was in that room and who made the decision and who pulled out the documents?

MR. SPEAKES: Sure. I did account for you yesterday who was in it. I don't have my list here but that's available. It was a cooperative effort completely. There was an open line from the President's senior staff who were talking with the President, an open line from the hospital to the Situation Room. Both the hospital and the Situation Room were in contact with the Vice President.

Q Larry, was Secretary Haig asked by the White House Staff to make the appearance at the White House yesterday afternoon or did he do that on his own?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I'm not sure. I was in the Briefing Room at the time. The Secretary came up because he thought, and it was certainly -- the entire meeting was a spirit of cooperation -- he felt that it was important to reassure the American people and our friends abroad and that's what he did.

The important thing to note on that is that the White House did not skip a beat. The government did not skip a beat. The White House performed effectively. There was not a single ripple. It was a complete spirit of cooperation. It was a real teamwork effort and I think it's a commendable effort.

Q Was there contact with Speaker O'Neill?

MORE

MR. SPEAKES: I'm sure there was some contact with Speaker O'Neill, but not anything specific.

Q Who was asking for those assurances? What allies were expressing concern about authority over the government?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think anybody had asked for any. Let me take one more question so we can get over to those meetings.

Q Larry, if the President didn't know he was injured until he got to the hospital, why did he go to the hospital?

MR. SPEAKES: He knew he was injured.

Q Is the White House under crisis management right now, today?

MR. SPEAKES: I think the White House is operating very normally. As close to normal --

Q Will you hold a briefing this afternoon or noon?

MR. SPEAKES: Why don't I try to get out maybe after 12:00, 1:00 or 2:00 just to take what questions --

Q Here?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I'll do it in the briefing room.

END

9:12 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 31, 1981

QUESTION AND ANSWER
SESSION WITH
SENATORS LAXALT, BAKER,
BYRD AND, CRANSTON

Outside the West Wing

10:40 A.M. EST

Q What can you tell us about your conversation with the Vice President?

SENATOR LAXALT: Well, we just had a leadership meeting in which the Vice President briefed everybody concerning the President's medical condition as well as the others, and briefly, I think, to indicate that transitionally yesterday everything was in order, continues to be today and that we're going to work cooperatively.

Q What did he say about the President's condition?

SENATOR LAXALT: Oh, he reflected pretty much what you've already heard, that the President is in exceedingly good condition.

Q Senator, what's your impression of the -- I'm sorry.

Q You saw him yesterday.

SENATOR LAXALT: Yes, I saw him.

Q All right. When did you actually see him?

SENATOR LAXALT: I saw him as he was being wheeled to the operating room.

Q And he said some things to you at that time -- or he said something to you?

SENATOR LAXALT: Yes, he said, "Don't worry. I'll get out of this."

Q When do you conclude that he'll be able to go back to work?

SENATOR LAXALT: All I know is what the doctor indicated today, and that's we're looking two to three weeks on a conservative estimate in terms of being released from the hospital. Going back to work full-time, I don't know.

Q Senator, you're one of the closest friends of the President. What are your thoughts about what happened yesterday concerning security, concerning the methods of the operation for the President of the United States -- just the general air of what happened?

SENATOR LAXALT: Well, just from what I've observed, I think the Secret Service did an absolutely magnificent job. One agent, as we know, actually intentionally threw himself into the line of fire. I don't know what more you can expect. This President doesn't want to be isolated as a prisoner in this White House. He wants to continue communicating with people. So what we have out here

I think, to some measure is the price of freedom. There's no way of knowing him that Ronald Reagan is going to permit himself to be a prisoner of this situation. There's just no way that this is going to happen.

Q Senator, can situations like that be prevented?

Q -- if he doesn't want to be a prisoner in the White House and he wants to be able to go back out --

SENATOR LAXALT: I haven't had a discussion with him since surgery.

Q You just know him well enough.

SENATOR LAXALT: I just know him well enough that I just know that's --

Q Do you think he'll change his views on gun control?

SENATOR LAXALT: I wouldn't speak for that at all.

Q Have you heard antagonism or talk of it in the White House toward Alexander Haig's taking over control here yesterday?

SENATOR LAXALT: None whatsoever.

Q Was he invoked temporarily by the President --

SENATOR LAXALT: I don't know. I wasn't here. I was at the hospital. It wasn't discussed.

Q Was it discussed this morning?

Q What did you mean by "working cooperatively"?

SENATOR LAXALT: Well, I think that the leadership indicates, particularly Senator Baker, he thought that the best service that we render the President on the Hill was to continue processing the budget legislation. That's precisely what the Senate will be doing today.

Q Can you say anything about the mood of the Senate toward gun control legislation?

SENATOR LAXALT: I haven't been back to the Senate really. I went to the hospital immediately after I was advised what happened and haven't been back.

Q What do mean, "Everything is in order transitionally"?

SENATOR LAXALT: Well, in terms yesterday of the President being where he was and having the back-up planners --

Q What was the back-up plan?

SENATOR LAXALT: Well, you'll have to speak with someone here in the White House. But you had the Cabinet people convene immediately in the Situation Room. The Senior Cabinet person, Alexander Haig took over, there was immediate communication with the Vice President, who was brought back here. And I think in terms of the procedures which are in place that all these people who were involved should be highly commended.

Q Senator, having just been briefed by the Vice President, how would you characterize the ongoing operations of government now?

SENATOR LAXALT: I think it's being conducted in a calm, orderly, business-like fashion.

Q According to the initial reports, the alleged would-be assassin travelled from state to state acquiring guns. The man who was shot is one of your closest friends. I'd like to ask you if your views on gun controls have changed at all or if you think you're going to think about them at least?

SENATOR LAXALT: Well, of course, I'm going to think about it. I already have.

Q And?

SENATOR LAXALT: But I've long held the conclusion that there's no amount of gun control law, no amount of registration, that's going to contain someone who's in this frame of mind.

Q What did the Vice President say about the operation of government today -- what he will be doing, about the chain of command and so forth?

SENATOR LAXALT: Essentially, he'll be doing what is ordinarily scheduled. He's going to be meeting with the President very shortly. He's going to be meeting, as he would be otherwise, with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, and I think essentially the Vice President will be doing business as usual.

Q Have you heard anything more about the motive of this man Hinkley who is the suspect?

SENATOR LAXALT: I know, but I don't think I should speak to this at all. In fact, I don't think any of us should because the last thing you'd want to do is color his prosecution.

Q -- suggesting that there was more than just one individual involved.

SENATOR LAXALT: There's no indication that there's anyone other than the individual involved.

Q Did anyone but Bush brief you?

SENATOR LAXALT: Yes, we were briefed by Secretary of the Treasury Regan --

Q Was he the one who gave you the motive?

SENATOR LAXALT: No, we were briefed by the Attorney General as well and those are matters, I think, that are best kept private.

Q The ongoing operation of government -- you've met with both the President and the Vice President. What role do you see the President playing now?

SENATOR LAXALT: He's going to continue performing the same role that he traditionally has. He is in business already. This morning he signed the Dairy Bill so I don't think he's going to have any difficulty whatsoever in just doing what he normally would.

Q Regan briefed on the Secret Service operation?

SENATOR LAXALT: He distinctly indicated Secret Service operations. Thank you very much, everybody.

Q Senator Byrd, can we ask you some questions?

Q If the President is not going to be a prisoner, do you think he will be more cautious?

SENATOR BYRD: Maybe. Maybe not, Helen. I mean, yesterday what more could you have done really?

Q Do you think your security procedures will change?

SENATOR BYRD: That I can't speak to. But there again, they're going to re-evaluate and look at the whole situation.

Q Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER (?): -- assailant's bullet or other assault. But I would not expect that the President would ever to change that. I'm sure that will upset the Secret Service, but that's my guess.

Q Do you suspect or think that in any way a rethinking of the security, of access of crowds, of press, is being done?

SENATOR BAKER: Knowing what the President is like -- but I don't see how you can protect against a single assailant, a would-be assassin. My hunch is the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, will not change that --

Q Do you know something about the motive of this suspect?

SENATOR BAKER: I'd rather leave that up to the Justice Department.

Q Were you briefed by the Attorney General?

SENATOR BAKER: Not in this meeting, no. Some details about the alleged assailant and since that's such a sensitive matter that could possibly affect future legal proceedings, I'd defer to the Justice Department --

Q He seems to be an aberrant. This is not part of a plot or this is not a motive -- something other than abnormal?

SENATOR BAKER: It does appear to be part of a plot and beyond that, I'd refer to Justice Department.

Q Senator Baker, has the time come now for gun control?

SENATOR BAKER: The time has not come to talk about that subject yet. I --

Q Why? The President's been shot.

SENATOR BAKER: I rather expect that the passions of this moment, the excitement of the times will have to subside before we discuss that.

Q Were you aware of a command authority that they
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affect our judgment of each bill and each amendment.

Q Is there a gap between "should not" and "will not," sir?

SENATOR : I don't think so.

Q Senator Byrd, did you hear Senator Cranston's thoughts about how this will affect **efforts in favor** of gun control?

SENATOR BYRD: I don't know what will be the final impact. There will be a heightened interest at this point, but I don't know what the final outcome will be.

Q Senator Cranston, are you entirely satisfied with Secretary Haig's performance yesterday afternoon?

SENATOR CRANSTON: Ed Meese commented this morning on who had done what and stated that Secretary Haig, the senior cabinet Cabinet officer, came to the White House, as did other Cabinet officers, and there was no dispute within the Cabinet or with others about who did what. Secretary Weinberger, meanwhile, took charge of the national defense moves that were made, and we contacted leaders around the world, both our allies and our commanders and everything was done, Mr. Meese said, in orderly fashion and I have no complaints about what was done.

Q Was the Soviet Union contacted?

SENATOR CRANSTON: I presume so. I do not know.

Q Do you know, Senator Byrd?

SENATOR BYRD: I have no doubt whatsoever that it was, and we were told this morning that messages had come in from all around the world, including President Brezhnev, as well as well as our allies.

Q Senator Byrd, I know you're anxious to get back to the Hill, but security -- presidential security is going to be debated as a result of this, no doubt. Do you see any way to protect the President really under these kinds of circumstances?

SENATOR BYRD: Politics is a very dangerous -- I mean, in this society we have, an open society, it's extremely difficult to prevent attack upon the President. I hate to say that it's inevitable. I don't like to think that it's inevitable, but there's no way to fully guarantee that there won't be some occurrence again at some point in time, unless a President were just kept prisoner in the White House here and that's unthinkable.

This President likes to get out and meet people and most Presidents are that way. So I think it's something that we have to think about and try to find the answers for, but I don't have any answer at this point.

Q Thank you.

Q Senator Baker?

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have talked about here in the White House, that when the President isn't quite able to do everything, there is a response by the Vice President and after that the Secretary of Defense --

SENATOR BAKER: -- and that system worked perfectly yesterday. My part of that system is to be notified and the Speaker and I were both notified at the time we were yesterday that the people who were supposed to be in the Situation Room were indeed in the Situation Room and reported to us --

Q That was clear and responsible.

SENATOR BAKER: Clear and unequivocal. There was never a moment, there was never a second when there was not a complete and uninterrupted chain of authority.

Q How do you expect this situation to affect Congress -- is there going to be any spilling over --

SENATOR BAKER: My contribution in the Senate to this situation is to try to show that we're going to conduct business as normal, that things are indeed normal. The Senate went in this morning at 9:30 and will continue its debate on the budget resolution, the President and then pass it -- pass it today or tomorrow, in my judgment.

Q This won't slow down the economic package at all?

Q Your pass is literally speeded up by this?

SENATOR BAKER: It will not speed it up and it will not slow it down. We're going to transact the people's business in the Senate in a regular and orderly way.

Q Can we come over now?

SENATOR BAKER: I think we've done it all, haven't we?

Q No, we haven't. My cameraman was there, as I kept trying to tell you, sir.

Q If you haven't been on CBS, you haven't been on.

Q He knows that. You don't have to tell him.

Q Senator Baker, in the briefing that you received inside, were you informed that the Bush family knows the Hinkley family?

SENATOR BAKER: No.

Q There's report to that effect in the Houston paper that indicates -- there was no discussion of that in there?

SENATOR BAKER: No.

(Transition to another speaker. Answer in progress.)

SENATOR BYRD : I'm very sympathetic towards what has happened. I think it was a shameful act and a tragic act, but when it comes to acting on the piece of legislation that you're talking about, I think we have to be objective about that and I think that members of the Senate and House will be on both sides of the aisle.

SENATOR CRANSTON : I'm convinced we'll deal with legislation on its merits. If it's good, we'll pass it. If it's bad, we won't pass it. We should not let emotions aroused by an attack on the President

Q Senator Baker, what were you told today by the Attorney General about the assailant?

SENATOR BAKER: Well, to begin with, the meeting with the Vice President in the Cabinet Room was in the nature of a briefing on the events of yesterday and last night and this morning. And the first thing that the Vice President told us was something that most of us already knew and that is that never for a moment during the day yesterday, or last night, or today, was there any interruption in the normal and lawful chain of command and authority of the government of the United States.

The Attorney General then reported on the situation in respect to the alleged assailant. It was clear that he is in custody and that procedures are being carefully kept and followed that will make sure that there's no interference with the lawful and orderly disposition of the charges that will be made against him.

Q Why did he do it, Senator?

SENATOR BAKER: Presumably and any remark that I might make beyond that, although the Attorney General did give us more details and information, and any remark that I might make beyond that, I think would at least run the risk of contaminating the prosecution. So, I will yield to the Attorney General to make any further comments on this issue in that respect.

Q Any feeling, though, that it was a plot of any kind?

SENATOR BAKER: I have absolutely no indication that it was a plot.

Q Senator, why does this happen in our country? Why are there so many assassination attempts?

SENATOR BAKER: I don't know that there is any answer for that except that it's one of those balancing judgments you have to make in a free society between a President being in contact with the country, on the one hand, and being secure and protected on the other.

Q This doesn't happen in Canada or Great Britain, why here?

SENATOR BAKER: Because in all fairness and respect to our friends in Canada or Great Britain, they are not as much a peoples' country as we are, or peoples' government. This is the freest, most untrammelled country in the world and our people feel closer to the President and to the Senators, and the Congressmen, and Governors than any other country on earth. They feel they're entitled to disagree with them, even to vilify them and criticize them, perfectly freely. And if you're going to preserve that spontaneity and that repose between the people and their public officials, you run this risk. And it is a balance judgement. It's a greater risk for someone like Ronald Reagan who is so warm and outgoing and who thrives on his contacts with the people. So --

Q Will that change?

SENATOR BAKER: I would not expect that to change. I think that when the President is back on duty and fully recovered, which won't be very long, because he's recovering faster than any one of us in that room would have recovered, I'm convinced. He's strong and he's young, physiologically, and he's doing very, very well. But I'm convinced, and I, of course, haven't talked to the President,

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I don't know, but I'm convinced that when he's back on the job that he'll do the job the same way. I do not believe this President is going to be deprived of that contact and input with the people.

Q Senator, despite all you've said about this being a free society, was there a breakdown in security, though, the fact that someone could get 10 feet from the President armed?

SENATOR BAKER: I don't like to say, you know. That also is part of the risk. And it's a risk not only for Presidents but for others too.

You know, I was thinking of the Ford's Theater Gala the other night that was on one the networks. And my wife and I and Speaker O'Neill and his wife were out front at that theater to receive the President, to greet him because he was the honored guest. And the press, many of you, were there, many others, and the public. There were hundreds. There were hundreds of people there within 10 feet of the President. And I suppose maximum security would say, "You don't let that happen." But I can't conceive of the President of the United States attending that event under other circumstances. So, I don't think you can prevent it altogether or guard against it completely.

Q But don't you think that Secret Service will institute much more stringent precautions now and that access will have to be somewhat restrictive?

SENATOR BAKER: The Secret Service ought to do everything they can do and still not come between the President and the country.

Q You say you were thinking about that just the other night at the Ford's Theater Gala, about the possibility?

SENATOR BAKER: You've got to think of think. And you do when you're with the President. Even when you're running for President, you think about that some, because the world is full of nuts, frankly.

Q When you were running for President, did you have that fear?

SENATOR BAKER: But you know, that's also part of that package if you're going to be in this business, you've got to understand that's part of the risk. And that in no way diminishes the terrible nature of this thing but it is to say the President of the United States is a warm, outgoing person who enjoys being with people and I would bet you anything that he doesn't change his method of operations.

Q When and how were you notified, Senator Baker, that the President was shot?

SENATOR BAKER: No, I don't remember now who notified me. I was on the floor of the Senate and received a message that the President had been shot. I went back to the Cloak Room off the Senate floor, picked up the telephone to the White House to confirm that that was so and then went back to the Senate floor to make the announcement.

Q Do you remember the time, approximately?

SENATOR BAKER: No, I don't. But the President had been shot only a matter of minutes before they --

Q Senator, in the briefing today, was there any

discussion of whether the 25th Amendment should have been invoked or whether it might be in the future in a case like this?

SENATOR BAKER: No direct conversation about the 25th Amendment, as I recall. It was only touched on obliquely or indirectly in the sense that the Vice President and others pointed out that never for a moment during this entire episode yesterday and last night was there an interruption in the chain of lawful command in the country.

Q Senator, after this briefing, what are you able to tell us about the nuts and bolts of how the government is going to work now?

SENATOR BAKER: Well, I think the government will continue to work as it has in the past. The President this morning, for instance, signed a Milk Bill. He is alert. He will continue to make decisions and to confer with his principle staff. He'll not do that extensively today, I expect, as none of us would, under the circumstances. But today, the President of the United States is fully capable of discharging his responsibilities and duties.

Q Senator, were you aware of this arrangement that the White House described last night of command authority devolving on the Vice President, then the Secretary of Defense?

SENATOR BAKER: I am aware of that, yes.

Q Was that, to your knowledge, did that same set-up exist in the Carter administration -- in his administration?

SENATOR BAKER: Let me not try to describe that system. There's some elements of that that may or may not be classified. But just to be safe, I won't describe it. Let me, instead, simply say that my part of that plan, which is to be notified in the event of an incident involving the President or the Vice President, was carried out promptly and was dispatched. And I was notified by Secretary Haig by telephone that he was in the Situation Room, that the others, who were supposed to be in the Situation Room were there and that the system was functioning properly.

Q What about the legislation? Do you think that this will have any effect on the President's economic program, budget cuts and taxes?

SENATOR BAKER: Not directly. I think that the President's popularity is likely to be enhanced by his courage and by his warmth and his humor in a terrible situation. But I don't think it will have any direct effect on his legislative program as such.

Q There may be a second honeymoon?

Q Senator, what about gun control? Could you comment on that?

Q Please, Senator, to gun control?

SENATOR BAKER: It's too early to tell. This is not the time to talk about this. Thank you very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

11:05 A.M.

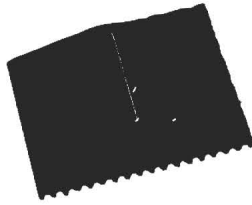
Phyllis Kaminsky

March 31, 1981

TO RICHARD V. ALLEN

Attached, as promised.

PHYLLIS KAMINSKY



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 31, 1981

BRIEFING FOR REPORTERS
BY MR. BAKER AND MR. GERGEN

Mr. Baker's Office

12:30 P.M. EST

MR. BAKER: I have a couple matters that I want to cover. We are on the record. First of all, there was some report that the President had not inquired about the health of others who were with him. Last night, and I can't pinpoint the exact time for you, he inquired about the one person that he saw on the ground before the car pulled out, that he thought was a Secret Service agent. And he was given an answer that I cannot -- that I do not have. I mean I don't know what the answer was but he did make the inquiry.

Perhaps more importantly, he was told this morning at 12:16 -- I mean this afternoon at 12:16 by Dr. Ruge about Jim Brady and about the extent and nature of the injuries to the other two people. Dr. Ruge told him that the reason he didn't tell him last night or early this morning was because of the tube that would have prevented --

Q What was that?

MR. BAKER: The tubes in his nose and mouth that would have prevented him from talking about it. He has slept a fair bit since we were there this morning.

Q What was his reaction when he was told?

MR. BAKER: Yes, I'll get back to that. Since we were there this morning. His reaction when told by Dr. Ruge was, I think he said, "Oh, damn. Oh, damn," and his eyes welled up with tears. He then asked, "Did it go into the brain?" And was told that it did. He said, "Oh, dear. What is the prognosis?" He was told that there might be some weakness on the left side. Mrs. Reagan, who was in the room, then told him that last night that many people didn't think that Jim was going to make it at all, and his response to that was, "Oh, dear, we must pray," or something like that.

He then asked about the agent, once again about the agent. He was told that he was fine, recovering. He then was told by Dr. Ruge about the policeman and he said, "That means four bullets hit. Good Lord."

Now, turning to the activities of yesterday, I'd like to suggest that the activities that took place in the hospital, here in the Situation Room, and on the Vice President's plane, reflected a spirit of cooperation and dedication toward one goal, the goal of keeping our government running smoothly during a time of distress.

A point that I think has been made but that I would like to reiterate is that we at all times had full communication between the hospital, the Situation Room here at the White House, where the Cabinet or at least a majority of the Cabinet were, and

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the Bush airplane. Within about the first 30 minutes after arrival at the hospital -- it may have been 45 -- but there were White House phones and communications in place --

Q At the hospital?

MR. BAKER: At the hospital. Excuse me, let me go through all this, Mike, and then you can come back and ask me whatever questions you want.

Q How many minutes?

MR. BAKER: Thirty to 45 minutes, I would think, on the outside. We were using commercial phones for the first 45 minutes.

When news of this first broke here it was probably 2:30 in the afternoon, around that. At that time I conferred twice with Secretary Haig by telephone.

Q You called him?

MR. BAKER: He called me the first time, and I told him that I would keep him advised. You see, our first report here was that the President had not been hit.

Q Where did you get that report?

MR. BAKER: I got that report from Mike Deaver at the hospital.

Q Mike didn't get to the hospital -- he didn't ride with the President, did he? He went in a separate car?

MR. BAKER: No, I don't believe he did. But when he first called me he was of the view that the President had not been hit. He quickly called me back. At that time almost immediately the call came in from Al. We agreed that it was very important how we handled this in terms of foreign perception.

Q This was before Haig knew that he was hit and before you knew?

MR. BAKER: No. This was after I had gotten the second call from the hospital telling me that the President had received a wound. They weren't sure of the extent of it.

Q Who called?

MR. BAKER: That was Mike again. But he had walked into the hospital on his own, under his own power, and fallen, sort of passed out there in the emergency room.

Q He passed out?

MR. BAKER: Well, he collapsed.

Q Collapsed?

MR. BAKER: He was then given transfusions and his condition was restored, stable.

Back to the telephone calls.

MR. BAKER: I can't answer that for you. I was just imply told that he collapsed when he got to the emergency room. No one knew that he had actually been hit until he was examined.

Q Why was he taken to the hospital?

MR. BAKER: Because he was complaining of a soreness in his ribcage. It was thought at first, Sam, that he had been injured when the agents pushed him in the car and agent Jerry Carr at first ordered that the limo. proceed to the White House. It's my understanding that he changed that order and directed that they go, after the President complained of -- and I think he may even have complained of a difficulty in breathing -- ordered that they go to George Washington.

Q One point, Jim. His jacket was off when he got out of the car and walked into the hospital. They couldn't see the blood on his shirt?

Q No, it wasn't.

Q Are you sure?

Q Yes.

Q The eyewitness said it was on but that he saw a little bit of blood.

MR. BAKER: I cannot answer that for you.

Q He was holding his left side, some blood.

Q A little bit of blood.

Q Coming down.

Q Okay. All right.

MR. BAKER: I shouldn't really be speculating on this, but I believe -- and I don't know this of my own personal knowledge -- but I'm not sure that they recovered a whole bullet in there. I mean there's a question of whether it was a ricochet or whether it was a fragment of a bullet as opposed to a whole bullet.

Q They said it was mangled.

MR. BAKER: Yes.

Q Is there some theory that it might have hit the car first and then hit him?

MR. BAKER: That is -- there was -- obviously, you can see on the car window right there, the door that was open, you can see where one bullet hit. I suppose it could have hit and gone -- I don't think they have a -- you'd have to go to the Secret Service and to the FBI for that.

When I told Al that the President had in fact been hit he left to come over here. I told him that I would be in touch with him and left to go to the hospital.

Q He volunteered that he'd come here or you asked him to?

But this was done by agreement. I want to make that very plain. This was an agreed upon thing. It wasn't something that was debated or with respect to which there was any disagreement. We wanted to get all the Cabinet, as many of the Cabinet over here as we could.

Q But you made the second call?

MR. BAKER: From the hospital.

Q Oh, from the hospital you called him and said he had been hit?

MR. BAKER: I don't know whether I made the call or whether he made the call but I did say that we would be in touch as soon as I got to the hospital. We talked almost as soon as I got to the hospital and agreed that he, as the senior Cabinet officer present, would serve as the chief contact point between Ed Meese and me at the hospital and the Situation Room and he did so, and this arrangement -- this arrangement existed in numerous conversations after that. I can't tell you how many but we had a number of conversations during the course of the surgery.

Q You agreed. Who proposed the arrangement?

MORE

(Pages previously issued as pages A through M pick up here.)
(Pages will be renumbered as pages 5 through 17 in later complete transcript.)

In progress.)

MR. BAKER: I think it was probably just mutually understood. I don't recall anybody specifically proposing it. I mean, it was an understanding that we readily arrived at.

Q Where were you when he called you the first time knowing that the President had been hit?

MR. BAKER: Had been hit. That's correct.

Q He knew it as quickly as you did?

MR. BAKER: That's correct.

Q Did he know it before you?

MR. BAKER: No, he didn't. No, he learned it from me. I'm sorry, Judy. I misunderstood your question. He learned it from me.

Q Oh, then he called you to find out --

MR. BAKER: Yes.

Q -- what was going on?

MR. BAKER: What was going on. And he called right after I got the second call.

Q Did you also call Weinberger at that time?

MR. BAKER: No. Others did, though. We put out word to notify the Cabinet to come to the Situation Room. I clearly agreed with Al that he should be the point of contact and he was. He was the senior Cabinet officer present in the Situation Room.

Q "Point of contact". Would you define that phrase further as you understood it yesterday?

MR. BAKER: Well, my understanding of it was he was the senior person, senior Cabinet officer aboard here in the Situation Room with whom those of us at the hospital would coordinate actions. After all, the President was alert and conscious until he actually had anesthesia.

Now, moving to the briefing that the Secretary conducted, and I was not here so I don't speak from personal knowledge on this, but it's my understanding that at some point during the afternoon -- I believe it was right after Larry left the hospital to come back over here -- a question arose about the alert status of American forces and our overall security. Secretary Haig at that point felt that it was important to reassure our allies that there was continuity of government here in the United States.

He did so. Certainly we support his doing so.

Q He felt it was important?

MR. BAKER: That's correct. I think we all believed it was important.

Q You say you support his doing so.

MR. BAKER: Absolutely.

Q You suggest that he made the statement and you support his making of it.

MR. BAKER: That's correct.

Q But he did not consult with you prior to making it?

MR. BAKER: No. That's correct.

Q Speakes took the question to him?

MR. BAKER: But you have to remember, Sam, that we had the press room here and we had a large contingent of press at the hospital to whom we were speaking with respect to immediate developments there, the President's condition and that sort of thing.

Q I think that some people look at the phraseology that he used. Do you have any problem with it?

MR. BAKER: Let me just finish and then I'll get into that. I just want to point out that at all times, I think it's fair to say that officials of the administration were prepared to deal with any contingency. We had the appropriate Cabinet officers in place in the Situation Room. We had instant and direct communication between them and the President and the Vice President's airplane. Had any decision been required we were in a position to take such action. If the President had not been able to make it, we were in a position to immediately take the action which might have been required.

Q You mean the 25th Amendment?

MR. BAKER: To take a decision. Either the 25th Amendment or the national command authority, either one. We were in -- remember now, we're in constant communication not only with the Situation Room but with the Vice President's airplane.

Q When he was going into surgery, was he there beforehand?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

Q Did he say anything about, "I'm going into surgery. Call the Vice President and tell him to take over..."

MR. BAKER: No, it was never -- he said, "Honey...", he said to Nancy, "Honey, I forgot to duck," winked at -- he winked at me as he went in there, and he --

Q But there was no question? He didn't have any feeling of transferring authority?

MR. BAKER: He did not say -- no.

Q Mr. Baker, when that confusion arose, or uncertainty, in the minds of reporters who, after all, are citizens, residents, as I am --

MR. BAKER: Sure.

Q -- was Mr. Haig's remark, "I am in control here."

Q The phraseology.

MR. BAKER: Well, I don't think that there's any dispute over there. He was in control in the Situation Room. And this was by agreement. I mean this was an understanding that we had. As the senior Cabinet officer present it would be normal that he would be the control person in the Situation Room until the Vice President arrived.

Q That's an agreement of the Cabinet?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

Q And the command authority would not have taken effect?

MR. BAKER: Command authority only applies under very -- it's unfortunate that we -- not unfortunate but it's -- that's confusing to people. The command authority only applies in a narrow set of circumstances, range of circumstances. It's classified. It is -- I don't want to discuss it any further. But it's basically as it was outlined.

Q Before we get into all that, do you have one more point or two that you want to make with us?

MR. BAKER: No, that's basically it.

Q That's basically it.

MR. BAKER: Yes, more or less.

Q Okay.

Q If it's classified, did somebody let --

MR. BAKER: Well, I would only say this: We feel here and we took pains at the senior staff meetings this morning to congratulate the Cabinet and the staff for what we think was pretty good teamwork during this thing. It went, under the circumstances, about as smoothly as I think any reasonable person could have expected that it would. There were no hitches. I think even if a presidential decision had been required the proper procedures and processes could have been followed so that it could have been attained.

Q Well, going back to the command authority, which you say is classified, but can it be said that whatever it is, it was established prior to yesterday?

MR. BAKER: That's correct. It was established at the inception of the administration, as it always is.

Q So whatever line of command authority exists under those set of circumstances was not a reaction to any events of the last several days --

MR. BAKER: No.

Q -- or the crisis management flap.

MR. BAKER: No.

Q I want to ask you about the classified. Now that this is out that there is a command authority and what the line is, have you told us a military secret? No? That there is one?

Q What about the order?

MR. BAKER: The order is but we haven't really gone -- we're not going to go into that any more.

Q But you've already told us it goes Vice President to Secretary of Defense.

MR. BAKER: I haven't told you where. We haven't told you everywhere it goes. And it can be changed at any time.

Q Are we right to assume that this is a dire -- this would be implemented in a dire military situation?

MR. BAKER: That's correct.

Q An emergency of real import?

MR. BAKER: That's correct.

Q Every administration sets a new one, is that what you're saying, and they do it at the beginning and it can be -- you can change it today?

MR. BAKER: That's correct. It's the President's decision, though.

Q Even though Mr. Haig, as you pointed out, was the senior Cabinet minister -- officer -- here and took control by agreement with you, Larry said last night that under the command authority Mr. Weinberger would be in line after the Vice President. Is that also part of this classified --

MR. BAKER: That's correct. That was a correct statement. But that applies only in a very narrow, narrow, limited range of circumstances, none of which were even approached in this --

Q Why did, then, why did Weinberger have a big fight with Haig?

MR. BAKER: I can't discuss that with you because I was not over here.

Q You didn't witness it?

MR. BAKER: No. I didn't get back here until about an hour --

Q Hasn't anybody told you about it?

MR. BAKER: -- about an hour or so -- yes, but whatever was told, whatever was said to me.

MR. GERGEN: I was there and there was no big fight between Weinberger and Haig.

Q There was not a big fight?

Q A small fight?

MR. GERGEN: No, there was not.

Q How would you describe it, then?

MR. GERGEN: I think that there were discussions all during the afternoon as to this -- there were discussions both before and after the Secretary's statement about what steps ought to be taken. There was no row. There was no shouting, as some people are alleging. And I think if you -- I received word, I think both the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State are both saying that today.

Q There was a disagreement, there was a difference of opinion of some sort.

MR. GERGEN: I would say that there were discussions during the day. There was no disagreement over who was in command or who was in charge.

Q What about what the Secretary of State had said in that statement?

MR. GERGEN: No, there was -- it's been our view during and after that, those meetings down there, that they did deal with delicate subjects. Some of the matters were matters of national security, and that it's inappropriate to discuss what was actually said or not said, but that I can just assure you there was no row down there.

MR. BAKER: Let me say this. I -- after it became apparent that the operation was successful and that the President was in absolutely no danger and perhaps -- this was perhaps 45 minutes to an hour before the statement over at the hospital because the doctors were unwilling to make any statement until they'd actually completed the operation -- I came back over here in the Situation Room and I can assure you that there did not appear to me to be -- to have been any row.

Q Why did you talk to Weinberger today?

Q Did you talk to Ed Meese about this? Has either one of you? Do you know what his view is?

MR. BAKER: Well, Ed stayed at the hospital longer than I did, so he wasn't here. When I left to come back to the Situation Room Ed left to go meet the Vice President.

Q Why are some State Department people saying that their impression is after talking to people at the White House that there was unhappiness over the way Haig handled this?

MR. BAKER: I don't know. I do not know and we saw that in the -- we saw that, Diane Sawyer's report today. That's one reason I wanted to get all of these facts before you, because I can't speak for the State Department but there's no unhappiness on the part of White House Staff.

Q There was not?

MR. BAKER: There is not. There is not unhappiness.

Q On any facet of how Haig conducted himself last evening?

MR. BAKER: With respect to any of the events that I have outlined for you.

Q Have you carefully --

MR. BAKER: I cannot speak for the Secretary of Defense. I am not carefully omitting anything, no. We think, as I just said before, that all elements of the government pulled together on the same car at a difficult time and that the performance was good.

Q May I ask you something on a different subject? There appeared to many of us to be a huge time lag between when you were notifying other people in the government, on the Hill, and past presidents, and other people like that, before you were telling the American public, through us. Why did you decide to have that lag and go through that huge notification process before you addressed the public on the President's condition and other --

MR. BAKER: We thought it important to notify former presidents. We thought it important to notify the Hill. But the real reason, Lesley, was because the doctors were appropriately unwilling to come out and make a statement, notwithstanding the fact that they would tell us, "Things are --", "He's doing extremely well. The operation is successful. There will be absolutely no complications." They were, nevertheless, unwilling to go out before the cameras and before the entire press and take the questions that they took, in great degree and for a long period of time, yesterday afternoon, until the operation had actually been completed.

Q But if you were notifying these other people, couldn't you have notified us of the end of the operation?

MR. BAKER: We thought it was important that you hear it from the horse's mouth. We thought it was important that the American people hear it from the horse's mouth and that we think that the briefing that Dr. O'Leary did over there went a long way to calm all the fears that might have existed out there about the President's well-being.

Q I think we're getting to the point, what you would call a discussion someone else might call a little bit of a tiff. Okay?

MR. GERGEN: Yes, I think that could be in the eyes of the beholder.

MR. BAKER: I agree.

Q Well, what was the nature of the discussion?

MR. GERGEN: Well, that's what I defer.

Q So there was a little dispute?

MR. GERGEN: There were discussions and there were different points of view at various times in the day, as one would expect in a group of 10 to 15 people in the room.

Q Right. But was it, without getting into anything that's Top Secret, was it on a modus operandi or was it in terms of how the U.S. would deal --

MR. GERGEN: It was not over who was in charge or who was in command. That's very clear. It was not over who was in charge or who was in command. It was not over that kind of issue. The discussions that took place -- I think that people are arguing or suggesting that there was some sort of argument over who was in charge, and I think that's basically incorrect.

MR. BAKER: I don't think I've even heard that as a

rumor, that there was any argument over --

Q Did that come before or after Haig's appearance in the press room?

MR. GERGEN: There were different points of view both before and after, but I would --

Q On substance?

MR. GERGEN: On some substantive issues. But let me just say this: I think that you have to see it in the context of what I thought was a remarkably harmonious meeting to last for six hours down there. The overall context of that meeting and the view that, if I can only echo what Jim said there, the view of people I talked to, certainly from the White House point of view, after it was over, was that Al Haig did one hell of a job down there and we really thoroughly appreciate what he did.

It's been a great surprise to us, frankly, to have this question arise.

MR. BAKER: And to have it come out of the State Department.

Q Well, they say it's coming from here.

MR. BAKER: I know but all I can tell you is that there is absolutely no dissatisfaction on the part of certainly senior staff over here and they were the only ones, for the most part, involved with the conduct of the Secretary of State yesterday and what he did he did, in terms of being the senior officer present in the Situation Room, he did by agreement.

Q But you've made it plain that he suggested the agreement.

MR. BAKER: I suppose that we could have said no, we don't like that agreement. The fact of the matter is we liked the agreement. It was a good agreement. It was one that we, had he not suggested it, we probably would have.

Q But you didn't because he suggested it first.

MR. BAKER: Well, that just happens to be the fact of the matter, yes.

Q When do you think we'll be able to see the President in front of cameras?

MR. BAKER: But, Sam, it was an appropriate agreement and we promptly agreed to it and were happy with it.

Q When do you think we'll be able to get in and see the President on camera?

MR. BAKER: I can't answer that for you. I would not think it would be for a few days, a number of days.

Q Are you going to show us his operation? Scar?

Q How long before he gets out of there?

MR. BAKER: His scar? (Laughter.) You had a president once that used to do that.

Q He was from Texas.

Q Do you know why he did it? He actually did it on the first picture taking. So we're really --

MR. BAKER: I can't tell you when that'll be yet.

Q Senators Laxalt and Baker both said that they think this president will go out in public again, will not be a prisoner on the White House, will not change his method of mingling with the general public. Is that your view? Is that the view of the staff here?

MR. BAKER: That would be my view today.

Q Meaning -- what do you mean? You might rethink it?

MR. BAKER: Well, obviously there will be other -- we will have, I'm sure, recommendations from the Service and it may be that those could be convincing. We'd just have to take a look at them and see.

Q How soon do you think the --

MR. BAKER: The President, obviously, didn't have on a bullet-proof vest.

Q Has he ever worn one since he's been President?

MR. BAKER: Yes, he -- since he's been President? Not to my knowledge.

Q But during the campaign?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

Q Can you tell us, do you know when?

MR. BAKER: Several times. Usually large rallies where you -- where it's very difficult to see the crowd, see the people that make up the crowd. I remember him, on a number of occasions, putting it on in the airplane.

Q Has the Service ever suggested it since he's been President and he said no?

MR. BAKER: No.

Q There's a report that we know something about, or the authorities know something about, the motive of the suspect. What was the motive of the suspect?

MR. BAKER: You'd have to talk to the Justice Department.

Q Are they going to brief today on this, do you know?

MR. BAKER: I don't know.

Q Has the President been briefed --

MR. BAKER: They're going to be very cautious about what they say in order not to prejudice the case. I know that.

Q How soon do you think you'll be able to get out of the hospital and do some work in the office?

MR. BAKER: I think you'll have to ask the doctors. Did they give you a timeframe on the --

Q They said two or three weeks in the hospital and they didn't know --

Q He's fully able to make decisions today, carry on the duties of the presidency.

MR. BAKER: He made one today. He signed the Dairy Bill. Some people -- some people -- questioned whether the signature was genuine. But I want to tell you, here's the pen he signed it with.

Q Ah, the very pen.

Q The very pen.

MR. BAKER: And it was genuine. And he could make decisions. He's not -- I don't think he's heavily sedated. He's still drowsy because he's been up off and on all night.

Q Are you all going to try to go see him every morning and talk about the day's events?

MR. BAKER: We really haven't gotten into that yet but I assume we will, maybe more than just in the morning.

Q Did you all sit around yesterday at any time and talk about the 25th Amendment, whether --

MR. BAKER: That was discussed here in the Situation Room. It was discussed -- Ed and I talked about it at the hospital. And I think it was the view of all concerned that if the President were in a position to make decisions and if the period -- if we were looking only at the period of time during which he was under anesthesia or recuperating from anesthesia, that there would not be any even preliminary steps taken toward the 25th Amendment, that the best approach as far as the country and the American people were concerned would be business as usual, to the extent that that could happen.

Q Is that why you gathered the Cabinet here?

MR. BAKER: We had the Cabinet here in the event we needed them for the purpose of the 25th Amendment. Absolutely.

Q Right.

MR. BAKER: That, by the way, was George Bush's view too and that's what he announced when he arrived in the Situation Room.

Q Who was that?

MR. BAKER: George Bush. That based on the medical reports we'd received at that time, that there did not appear to be any cause to consider invoking the 25th Amendment. This was the

unanimous view, I believe, of all concerned. I had personally spoken to Al Haig to that effect from the hospital before I left to come back over here.

Q That there was no need to invoke it? This was after the report on the surgery?

MR. BAKER: Well, there was no need because no presidential decision was called for during that period of time.

Q He would have had to decide his own disability, wouldn't he?

MR. BAKER: No. There's another -- if the President cannot decide his own disability and, of course, you cannot when you're under anesthesia, then the Vice President and a majority of the Cabinet make that determination. But there was never any question in the Vice President's mind.

Q Is that why it was important to mention that there was a majority of the Cabinet present in the Situation Room?

MR. BAKER: Yes. Yes. Frankly, we were positioned to take whatever action we needed, whether it was under the 25th Amendment, whether it was under the normal chain of command responsibilities of Cabinet officers, or whether it was under the national command authority, to deal with whatever contingency happened. And there was complete and instant communication between those three places.

Q Was there any effort made or were any assurances sought from the Soviets that they would not seek to take advantage of the situation?

MR. BAKER: I don't want to get into that. You'd have to ask other -- somebody else that.

Q You trailed off. What'd you say?

MR. BAKER: That's not a question for me to answer.

Q Because you don't know or because you --

Q Did you suggest someone else would be better for it?

Q Was there any warning given to them not to make a move?

MR. BAKER: I don't want to get into that.

Q Was the hotline used?

MR. BAKER: You should ask the Secretary of State that.

Q Was the state of U.S. forces, the readiness state, ever changed? Was the state of readiness --

MR. BAKER: I don't want to get into that either, Sam.

Q Tell us about the President's curiosity about the shooting.

MR. BAKER: You can ask the Secretary of Defense that and you can ask the Secretary of State that.

Q The President's curiosity about the shooting?

Q Of the Cabinet government?

MR. BAKER: The Cabinet government, that's right.

Q The President's curiosity about the shooting, himself? It seems he was very interested in who the young man was and --

MR. BAKER: Yes.

Q Did he ask you what the motive was and --

MR. BAKER: I'm told that he did. I was not there when -- he asked who it was and I don't remember specifically what he was told other than that he was an unlikely gunman, that he came from a fairly well-to-do family in Denver, Colorado -- originally Lubbock, Texas.

Q Was it Evergreen or Denver?

MR. BAKER: I'm sorry, Evergreen, Colorado. Recently from Lubbock, Texas. I don't know. What else was he told, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know.

Q You don't know what specific questions he asked about it, what the President's questions were?

MR. BAKER: No, I was not there. I was not there when he was carrying on.

Q Do you think he saw the man? Do you think he saw him?

MR. BAKER: I don't know.

Q He only saw one agent fall, saw one agent fall. But he didn't see Brady fall, did he?

MR. BAKER: I don't know. He saw one person on the ground as he left and that's why his inquiry last night -- he assumed it was an agent and he inquired last night at some point about the welfare of that agent. And I believe it was the agent, not Jim, that he --

Q He was aware that the firing was going on when he was being pushed in the limousine?

MR. BAKER: Yes. Yes.

Q By that time he heard the fire?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: May I prevail on you for a loan of your tape so that we can pick up the first part?

Q Do you think he'll have to wipe out the border trip, San Diego?

MR. BAKER: I don't know.

Q You know, I wish you would reconsider telling us what this discussion, this discussion between Weinberger and Haig was because it simply now will be part of the rumor. I mean we will think of all kinds of things which will be worse, probably, than the fact.

MR. GERGEN: Well, I know the rumor.

Q Can you give a hazy idea?

MR. GERGEN: No, I think we've talked with the principals involved and they really do not believe there was any row.

Q Was it over invoking the 25th Amendment?

MR. GERGEN: Oh, no, no.

Q See, by not telling us we're now going to have to think of all sorts of things.

Q Wasn't it over the suggestion that Haig had opened the bag on this national command authority?

MR. GERGEN: I think it's really better that -- I think the critical thing from our point of view was that there was -- from our perspective and from the perspective of the individuals that there was no row. I can't tell you how other people will characterize any conversation.

Q I wonder why it got out like that.

MR. GERGEN: Well, you never know what other people do.

Q They're known in recent days not to have great -- there's a problem, you see.

MR. GERGEN: That's what we would suggest to you that there is not.

Q A week ago Monday we had a little problem here involving Haig and the White House Staff. If it weren't for that --

MR. BAKER: That's the point I'm trying to get across to you, that the White House Staff is not displeased at all with the Secretary's performance yesterday. We think the entire government functioned well yesterday. We particularly think he functioned well yesterday here as the contact in the Situation Room. Now, just because there was some difference of opinion between Secretary Haig and Secretary Weinberger, we now have a story out there that the White House Staff and Secretary Haig are feuding once again. We are not. We agree on this procedure.

Q Which he suggested?

MR. BAKER: Which he suggested, which, as I told you, we probably would have suggested had he not suggested it. And to which we readily agreed. Readily.

MR. GERGEN: It's the natural order of things, after all, given his senior status.

Q Forgive me if I missed one of the comments. Just because there was a difference of opinion, I think, just because there was a difference of opinion between Secretary Haig and Secretary Weinberger, we now have stories that they have been feuding again.

MR. BAKER: No, that Secretary Haig and the White House Staff is feuding.

Q I beg your pardon.

MR. BAKER: I'm really hopeful that I can lay that one to rest. We are not. This arrangement was agreed to. It was originally his suggestion but if it hadn't been, Sam, I think it would have been ours. It just happened like that. And before I even left this -- left the premises to go to the hospital, I said, absolutely, "I will be in touch with you the minute I get to the hospital," and he was the point of contact during the entire situation.

Q Medical update? Are we going to get another one?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

Q No late word on Brady?

MR. BAKER: Brady's doing a little better.

Q Has he shown any conscious signs?

MR. BAKER: Yes. His pupils are good. They say, "Wiggle your toes." He wiggles his toes. His arm.

Q But he has not spoken?

MR. BAKER: No, but they think he might speak this afternoon.

Q He doesn't speak?

MR. BAKER: He can't speak until they take out the endotrachial tube.

Q Oh, I see. So they really don't know whether he can speak?

MR. BAKER: Haven't you ever had an endotrachial tube? You can't even breath. It does your breathing for you.

Q Are they telling you that they think he's going to be able to function and --

MR. BAKER: Well, they're cautiously optimistic that he'll be able to regain a lot of it. They're certainly now saying, as they were not yesterday afternoon, that he's going to live. A, he's going to live. B, they think that the mental capacity will be there and that there may be some weakness on the left side of the body. Whether that's a total paralysis or just weakness -- mostly it's the arm, they think. But, I mean, it's incredible because they told us when he first came -- when they first brought him in there that people just normally don't recover from this kind of a wound. That was the first thing they said when he walked in. They said, "We hold out very little hope." So maybe some of those people are doing some good.

Mr. Allen's Record of Schedule

Monday, March 30, 1981

0700 Arrived office

0758 WH Staff Meeting (Roosevelt Room)

0850 Returned from Staff Meeting--Haig phoned.

0855 Adm. Murphy (0900)

0911 Mike Deaver called

0912 Oval Office (1040)

1045 Dan Johnson (1100)

1100 Staff Meeting (NSC, Room 305, OEOB) (1140)

1140 Returned to office w/Jim Lilley

1143 Lunch with Secretary Baldrige and Anderson (1255)

1300 Fukuda at L'Enfant Plaza

1415 U.C.

1455 Returned to Office

1500 Went to Brady's Office

1510 RVA/Regan/Haig/Darman in Situation Room
(M. Anderson, David Gergen, Woody, Fielding, Hodsoll,
AG Smith, Mort Allen, Weinberger, Bill Casey)

1615 RVA, Haig, Gergen left for Press Office

1620 RVA, Haig, et al, returned to Situation Room

1635 RVA, Weinberger in RVA's office

1637 RVA, Weinberger returned to Situation Room

1825 RVA, Haig in RVA's office w/Dan Murphy

1826 Returned to Situation Room

1900 Vice President arrived in Situation Room

2000 VP - Haig - Weinberger - Meese - Baker, et al departed

2020 Returned to office from Situation Room

2030 Depart for GWU Hospital (2100)

2100 Directly to WH Mess for dinner w/PAA

2115 Depart for Residence w/PAA

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1981

Dear Chief Stover:

Your swift and sure response to the request to provide additional security at my home, 2343 South Meade Street, is deeply appreciated.

At such a time, one can never know what is likely to happen, and your concern and cooperation helped ease my mind as I went about my duties here at the White House during those fateful hours yesterday.

You have my thanks and that of my family, and I hope you will extend this gratitude to the officers who patrolled our area throughout the night. I noticed that they devoted extra attention to our home, reflecting their own professionalism and kindness.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Richard V. Allen
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Chief William K. Stover
Arlington County Police Department
2100 North 15th Street -
Arlington, Virginia 22201

cc: Mr. Stephen H. Detwiler
Chairman, Arlington County Board

BCC: Jerry Jennings

Jerry - Thanks!

RONALD W. REAGAN LIBRARY

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1-3 LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

Cross file

Trouper

President Reagan has given everyone a lift with a sense of humor that refuses to be hospitalized. It's humor with a show-biz tang, quick, resilient, playing with classic lines from the entertainment world in which he starred. And probably no one laughed harder to hear himself kidded Hollywood-style in the Academy Award ceremonies that brought his prerecorded image to an international audience of 300 million so soon after he had been shot.

To see the President there, speaking as "a former member of the academy," was to be reminded that the man who came quipping out of surgery was a trouper in more ways than one.

It's one attractive measure of Mr. Reagan that he has never belittled the acting profession for which he as a politician has so often been belittled. He doesn't snub the old friends anymore than the old jokes.

There is a humility here, the kind that can be afforded by someone secure enough to laugh at himself.

Not to be more solemn about it than Mr. Reagan would be, it is a quality linking him to those 300 million and more. When he talked about movies at their best reaching to emotions that everybody shares, he could have been talking about the common touch that leaders need to have.

And not just leaders — anyone trying to live with understanding on our crowded planet.

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BC-REAGAN-SUCCESSION (REPEATING)

WASHINGTON, MARCH 30, REUTER - THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, TWO AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, AND LEGISLATION PASSED IN 1947 DETERMINE WHO SHALL SUCCEED A PRESIDENT WHO DIES IN OFFICE OR IS UNABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES.

THE VICE PRESIDENT SUCCEEDS THE PRESIDENT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, UNDER THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION.

THE 22ND AMENDMENT, RATIFIED IN 1933, GIVES CONGRESS THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHO WOULD SUCCEED THE VICE PRESIDENT, SHOULD HE DIE IN OFFICE OR BECOME DISABLED WHILE SERVING AS PRESIDENT.

UNDER THE 1947 LAW, IF THE VICE PRESIDENT DIES OR BECOMES DISABLED, HE IS SUCCEEDED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

NEXT IN LINE IS THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, USUALLY THE SENIOR SENATOR, FOLLOWED BY CABINET OFFICERS IN THIS ORDER: SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, DEFENSE; THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; THE SECRETARIES OF THE INTERIOR, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION.

MORE 2331 JO

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BC-REAGAN-SUCCESSION 2 WASHINGTON

THE 25TH AMENDMENT, RATIFIED IN 1967, DEALS WITH THE QUESTION OF A PRESIDENT WHO BECOMES DISABLED WHILE SERVING. IT ALLOWS A PRESIDENT TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE THAT HE IS UNABLE TO DISCHARGE HIS DUTIES, WHEREUPON THE VICE PRESIDENT TAKES OVER UNTIL A WRITTEN STATEMENT IS RECEIVED FROM THE PRESIDENT SAYING THAT HE IS AGAIN ABLE TO SERVE.

THE SAME AMENDMENT PROVIDES THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT "AND A MAJORITY OF EITHER THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS OR OF SUCH OTHER BODY AS CONGRESS MAY BY LAW PROVIDE" MAY TELL THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE THAT THE ELECTED PRESIDENT IS UNABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES. IN THAT CASE, THE VICE PRESIDENT ASSUMES THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENCY.

IF AN ELECTED PRESIDENT DISPUTES THE ASSESSMENT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND A MAJORITY OF THE CABINET SECRETARIES, CONGRESS DECIDES THE ISSUE, UNDER THE 25TH AMENDMENT.

REUTER 2334 JO

*Keep
C1, 815
file*

N118

RW

WEINBERGER-HAIG

BY W. DALE NELSON

WASHINGTON (AP) -- DEFENSE SECRETARY CASPAR WEINBERGER DENIED THURSDAY THAT HE AND SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER HAIG HAD ANY "CLASHES OR DISAGREEMENTS" ABOUT WHO WAS RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS SHOT.

"I THINK THAT GIVEN THE TRAGIC OVERTONES OF THE SITUATION, THE WHOLE PERFORMANCE TURNED OUT PERFECTLY WELL," WEINBERGER TOLD REPORTERS. "THERE WERE NO CLASHES OR ANYTHING OF THAT KIND."

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS WHO REQUESTED ANONYMITY HAVE SAID HAIG AND WEINBERGER DISAGREED ABOUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE TENSE HOURS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST REAGAN ON MONDAY. SPOKESMEN FOR BOTH MEN HAVE DENIED THERE WAS ANY DISPUTE.

REPORTERS, CATCHING UP WITH WEINBERGER AFTER HE TESTIFIED AT A SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING, ASKED IF HE "HAD WORDS" WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE MONDAY.

"NO, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY WORDS," HE SAID. "I SIMPLY BROUGHT HIM UP TO DATE ON SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT I HAD TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH MY RESPONSIBILITIES WITH THE MILITARY COMMAND AND ADVISED HIM AS TO WHAT THOSE HAD BEEN. THERE WERE NO CLASHES OR DISAGREEMENTS OR ANYTHING OF THAT KIND."

WEINBERGER SCOFFED AT THE SUGGESTION THAT HE MIGHT HAVE FELT HAIG WAS ENCRANCHING ON HIS AUTHORITY.

"WE DON'T WORRY ABOUT TURFS IN THIS TERRITORY," HE SAID.

"THIS IS A VERY LARGE TURF IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY IS A VERY LARGE TURF AND WE EACH HAVE ENOUGH TO OCCUPY US FULLY. THERE WAS NO ENCRANCHMENT OR NO CLAIM OF ENCRANCHMENT OR NO CONCERN ABOUT IT."

ONE REPORTER ASKED ABOUT AN ACCOUNT THAT A REMARK THAT WEINBERGER INTENDED AS A JOKE AND OTHERS TOOK SERIOUSLY HAD GIVEN RISE TO REPORTS OF A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO.

"WELL, I DON'T KNOW," WEINBERGER REPLIED. "ONE TRIES TO RELIEVE THE NORMAL TENSIONS OF SITUATIONS OF THAT KIND. MY JOKES PERHAPS AREN'T ALWAYS MEMORABLE. I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THIS ONE."

MEANWHILE, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HOWARD H. BAKER JR., R-TENN., DECLINED COMMENT ON A REPORT THAT HAIG HAD TELEPHONED HIM AT NIGHT GS ON HAIG'S NOMINATION AND SAID HE WAS WITHDRAWING HIS NAME FROM CONSIDERATION.

"I CAN'T COMMENT ON THAT AT ALL," BAKER SAID. "HE WAS CONFIRMED AND I AM PLEASED WITH THAT AND THAT IS A CLOSED CHAPTER."

AP-WX-04-02-81 1728EST

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 30, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM: JERRY JENNINGS

SUBJECT: ENHANCED SECURITY
MEASURES AT YOUR
RESIDENCE.

Effective at 5:30PM this afternoon the Arlington County Police Department instituted increased patrols and surveillance in and around the area of your residence at 2343 South Meade Street. This action has been taken at my request by Chief William Stover who has been most helpful and who stated he is not going to stand by and allow one of the President's men in his jurisdiction become a "sitting duck". The Chief did request that if you or your family observe any unusual or suspicious activity you should immediately report it to him at 558-2207 (Office) or 241-8368 (home).

BP078

U W

ADD REAGAN-SHOTS

THE ASSAILANT WAS A YOUNG WHITE, BLOND MALE, AND HE WAS SHOVED INTO A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SQUAD CAR SHORTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT.

AMBULANCES SPED TO THE SCENE TO TAKE BRADY TO THE HOSPITAL.

BRADY WAS APPARENTLY STRUCK IN THE HEAD, BLOOD POURING PROFUSELY FROM THE WOUND. THE SEVERITY OF HIS WOUNDS WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN.

WHEN THE SHOTS RANG OUT, REAGAN WAS LEAVING THE HOTEL, LAUGHING AND WAVING TO A CROWD OUTSIDE THE HOTEL WHERE HE HAD BEEN ADDRESSING AN AFL-CIO MEETING.

UPI'S DEAN REYNOLDS SAID THE GUNMAN WAS ABOUT 10 FEET FROM REAGAN WHEN THE SHOTS RANG OUT.

BRADY WAS JUST A STEP OR TWO BEHIND REAGAN AS THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WAS LEAVING THE HOTEL.

DEPUTY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY LARRY SPEAKES, EXPLAINING INITIAL CONFUSION ABOUT WHETHER REAGAN WAS HIT, SAID, "THERE WAS SOME PUSHING AND SHOVING WHEN THEY WENT INTO THE CAR."

REAGAN WENT TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE BRADY WAS TAKEN, SPEAKES SAID. HE SAID DEPUTY WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF MICHAEL DEEVER ACCOMPANIED REAGAN TO THE HOSPITAL.

R157U A7711>420THYBZSA

AM-REAGAN 4 WASHINGTON

MR SPEAKES SAID: "THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT HIT."

HE SAID MR BRADY WAS HIT AND SECRET SERVICE AGENTS OR POLICEMEN WERE ALSO SHOT.

THE PRESIDENT WAS FIRED AT AS HE WAS LEAVING THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, WHERE HE HAD MADE A SPEECH TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT OF THE AFL-CIO LABOR MOVEMENT.

MR REAGAN WAS THROWN INTO HIS CAR BY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS WHEN THE SHOTS WERE FIRED.

MR SPEAKES SAID THE PRESIDENT SUSTAINED "A BUMP" WHEN HE WAS PUSHED BY THE AGENTS BUT HE DID NOT SAY WHERE.

A MAN DESCRIBED AS WHITE WITH BLOND HAIR WAS IMMEDIATELY OVERPOWERED BY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AND TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. HE WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIED.

MORE 1459 RH

UP073

B W

ADD REAGAN-SHOTS

THE FIRST LADY WAS NOT WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PRESS SECRETARY JIM BRADY, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF MICHAEL DEEVER AND OTHER ASSISTANTS.

WHEN THE SHOTS WERE FIRED PEOPLE BEGAN TO PANIC, DUCKING, SOMETIMES FALLING TO GROUND OTHERS IN CROUCH.

IT WAS RAINING AT THE TIME WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE STANDING ALONG THE SIDEWALK AT THE TIME. THEY WERE CHEERING AND WAVING WHEN THE PRESIDENT CAME OUT. HE TURNED TO WAVE AND THE SHOTS WERE FIRED.

BRADY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND A POLICEMAN HAVE BEEN REPORTED HIT.

UPI 03-30-81 02:48 PES

UP074

R U

REAGAN-GUNSHOTS, 1ST LD-1ST ADD,

WASHN: NOT HARMED

THREE MEN WERE WOUNDED, INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY JAMES S. BRADY, ACCORDING TO HIS DEPUTY, LARRY SPEAKES.

BRADY WAS RUSHED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL. REAGAN, WHO DID SUFFER A BUMP IN THE CHAOS, ACCOMPANIED HIM.

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS SHOVED THE PRESIDENT INTO HIS ARMORED LIMOUSINE, WHICH SPED AWAY FROM THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL. TWO OTHER MEN, ONE A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND THE OTHER A WASHINGTON POLICEMAN, WERE WOUNDED, JUST STEPS FROM WHERE REAGAN HAD BEEN SPEAKING TO REPORTERS.

THE PRESIDENT HAD DELIVERED A SPEECH TO THE AFL-CIO'S BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TRADES CONFERENCE MEETING AT THE HOTEL.

POLICE GRABBED A SANDY-HAIRED MAN WHO APPEARED TO BE IN HIS LATE 30S OR EARLY 40S, CBS NEWS REPORTED.

ONE REPORTER SAID HE HEARD FIVE SHOTS.

THE SCENE OUTSIDE THE HOTEL IMMEDIATELY BECAME ONE OF CHAOS. A CROWD GATHERED.

REAGAN HAD EMERGED FROM THE HOTEL'S VIP ENTRANCE AND REPORTERS WERE ATTEMPTING TO SHOUT QUESTION AT HIM WHEN THERE WAS A RAPID FIRE SUCCESSION OF SHOTS.

AP-WX-03-30-81 1454EST

U W

ADD REAGAN-SHOTS THE WHITE HOUSE SAID REAGAN WAS NOT HIT BUT WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JAMES BRADY WAS SHOT AND WOUNDED.

SECRET SERVICE MEN SHOVED THE PRESIDENT INSIDE HIS WAITING LIMOUSINE AS SOON AS THE SHOTS WERE FIRED -- REPORTEDLY FOUR SHOTS, JUST TO HIS RIGHT -- BY AN UNKNOWN MALE.

ABC REPORTED THAT IN ADDITION TO BRADY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT WAS WOUNDED IN THE SHOOTING ABOUT 2:30 P.M. OUTSIDE THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL.

THE GUNMAN WAS TACKLED BY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AND POLICE AND PINNED TO THE GROUND AS THE MOTORCADE SPED AWAY TO SAFETY.

UPI 03-30-81 02:53 PES

UP098

R U

ADD REAGAN-SHOT

CBS IDENTIFIES REAGAN'S ASSAILANT AS JOHN W HIPPLEY OF EVERGREEN, COLO., AND SAYS THE SECRET SERVICE AGENT INJURED IS TIMOTHY J MCCARTHY. A .38 CALIBRE PISTON WAS USED, THEY SAY.

UPI 03-30-81 03:38 PES

UP094

R W

ADD REAGAN-SHOT

JIM BRADY WAS WHEELED AT 3:05 P.M. INTO A CAT-SCANNING ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF GEORGE WASHINGTON HOSPITAL. BRADY WAS BANDAGED AND APPEARED TO HAVE HEAD WOUNDS. HE WASN'T STIRRING.

UPI 03-30-81 03:31 PES

UP091

U W

ADD REAGAN-SHOT

REAGAN WALKED INTO THE HOSPITAL, OFFICIALS SAID. NOFZIGER SAID THE PRESIDENT APPARENTLY DID NOT IMMEDIATELY REALIZE HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED AND THE BULLET WAS STILL LODGED IN HIS CHEST.

NOFZIGER REPORTEDLY SAID REAGAN "IS NOT AT THIS TIME IN SURGERY, OR HEADED FOR SURGERY."

FOUR OR FIVE SHOTS WERE FIRED AT CLOSE RANGE BY GUNMAN, AND THE SECRET SERVICE IMMEDIATELY SHOVE REAGAN INTO THE WAITING LIMOUSINE.

BRADY'S CONDITION WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN, BUT HE WAS TAKEN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON BLEEDING PROFUSELY FROM A HEAD WOUND.

THE UNIDENTIFIED WHITE, BLOND MALE, REPORTEDLY IN HIS LATE 30S OR EARLY 40S, WAS IMMEDIATELY THROWN TO THE GROUND AND PINNED BY SECRET SERVICE MEN AND POLICE OFFERS. HE WAS QUICKLY WHISKED AWAY IN A SQUAD CAR.

NANCY REAGAN, WHO WAS NOT WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE HOTEL, RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL TO BE WITH HER HUSBAND.

UPI 03-30-81 03:28 PES

UP092

R U

ADD REAGAN-SHOT

VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, EN ROUTE FROM FORT WORTH, TEXAS, TO MAKE A SPEECH IN AUSTIN, TEXAS, HEADED TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY UPON NEWS OF THE SHOOTING. HIS PLANE CHANGED COURSE AND HEADED FOR THE CAPITAL.

UPI 03-30-81 03:29 PES

PICKUP)
REUTER 1601 BM
R174U F0191)129TZSAUIV
AM-REAGAN-MARKETS****

NEW YORK, MARCH 30, REUTER -- FINANCIAL MARKETS CLOSED HERE EARLY TODAY FOLLOWING NEWS THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD BEEN SHOT AND WOUNDED OUTSIDE A WASHINGTON HOTEL.

THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE SAID TRADING WAS HALTED AT 3:17 P.M. EST UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BY ORDER OF TRADING FLOOR OFFICIALS.

THE AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE DID LIKEWISE AND TRADING IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES ALSO CEASED.

THE MARKETS NORMALLY CLOSE AT 4 P.M.
MORE 1602 SB

UP100

R U

ADD REAGAN-SHOT
THE SECRET SERVICE IDENTIFIED THE SUSPECTED GUNMAN AS JOHN WARNOCK HINKLEY JR., 33, OF EVERGREEN, COLO.
UPI 03-30-81 03:41 PES

UP101

UP105

R W

(SHOTS-ALERT)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE ALERT STATUS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES WORLDWIDE REMAINED AT NORMAL PEACETIME READINESS THIS AFTERNOON DESPITE THE WOUNDING OF PRESIDENT REAGAN, THE PENTAGON SAID.

ONLY THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND AND U.S. FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA WERE AT THEIR ROUTINE HEIGHTENED STATE OF ALERT, WHICH IS INCREASED INTELLIGENCE WATCH AND STRENGTHENED SECURITY MEASURES, THE PENTAGON SAID.

ALL OTHER FORCES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES, WERE ON DEFENSE CONDITION 5 -- THE LOWEST LEVEL OF ALERT DURING PEACETIME, A PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID.

UPI 03-30-81 03:49 PES

R113U

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6998)1ZQTZQTZYR

AM-POLAND-AMERICAN-LEAD R107 *****

BY RALPH HARRIS

WASHINGTON, MARCH 30, REUTER - PRESIDENT REAGAN AND WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT AGREED TODAY THAT FURTHER ECONOMIC AID TO POLAND WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IF MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO SUPPRESS POLISH UNIONS, THE WHITE HOUSE SAID.

PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY JAMES BRADY SAID MR REAGAN AND MR SCHMIDT HELD A 15-MINUTE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THIS MORNING AND DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY DIRECT SOVIET MOVE AGAINST POLAND OR MEASURES BY THE POLISH GOVERNMENT ITSELF.

MORE 1234 RH

R114R F5980)1ZQTZQTUIV

AM-IRAN-ECONOMY

232

R112U 16380ZQTZQTBYL

AM-POLAND-PAP ***** URGENT

WARSAW, MARCH 30, REUTER -- THE SOLIDARITY UNION MOVEMENT TONIGHT SUSPENDED A GENERAL STRIKE THREATENED FOR TOMORROW PENDING A FINAL DECISION BY ITS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY PAP REPORTED.
REUTER 1233 W3

BT 130

R U

ADD REAGAN-SHOT

AS REAGAN WAS BEING WHEELED INTO THE OPERATING ROOM, HE TOLD NANCY REAGAN, "HONEY, I FORGOT TO DUCK." HE ALSO TOLD SEN. PAUL LAXALT, R-NEV., "DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'LL MAKE IT," ACCORDING TO LYN NOFSIGER.

UPI 03-30-81 05:39 PES

UP139

R U

ADD BRADY

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOSPITAL ALSO DENIED BRADY HAD DIED.

UPI 03-30-81 05:41 PES

UP130

R A

(REAGAN-CARTER)

ATLANTA (UPI) -- FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER WITHHELD IMMEDIATE COMMENT TODAY ON THE SHOOTING OF PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THREE OTHERS IN WASHINGTON BUT AIDES SAID HE WAS "AWAITING FURTHER WORD."

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY HIS OFFICE IN ATLANTA:

"PRESIDENT CARTER IS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING FURTHER WORD ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CONDITION AND THAT OF THE OTHERS WOUNDED. HE AND MRS. CARTER JOIN THE ENTIRE NATION IN PRAYER FOR THE WELL BEING OF ALL THOSE WOUNDED AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES."

UPI 03-30-81 05:28 PES

UP137

RW

REAGAN-SENATE REAX

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE SENATE HALTED LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS MONDAY AS SHOCKED LEGISLATORS RECEIVED NEWS THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD BEEN WOUNDED.

SEN. CLAIBORNE PELL, D-R.I., SAID THE "GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF ALL OF US IS ONE OF SHOCK AND HORROR."

HE SAID NEWS OF THE 1963 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SEEMED "LIKE ONLY A MONTH AGO."

SHORTLY AFTER NEWS ORGANIZATIONS REPORTED THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN WOUNDED, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HOWARD H. BAKER JR. RECESSED THE SENATE, CITING THE "GRAVITY" OF THE SITUATION.

THE HOUSE HAD ALREADY FINISHED ITS BUSINESS FOR THE DAY BEFORE THE PRESIDENT WAS SHOT.

HOUSE SPEAKER THOMAS P. O'NEILL, D-MASS., WHO IS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL LINE OF SUCCESSION TO THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE VICE PRESIDENT, WAS IN A MEETING IN HIS OFFICE WHEN NOTIFIED OF THE SHOOTING.

BAKER TOLD A HUSHED CHAMBER THAT REAGAN HAD BEEN WOUNDED.

SEN. ALAN CRANSTON, D-CALIF., THE ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER OF THE SENATE, SAID HE WAS CHATTING WITH SEN. S.I. HAYAKAWA, R-CALIF., WHEN SEN. J. JAMES EXON, D-NEB., WALKED BY AND SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN SHOT AT BUT APPARENTLY NOT HIT.

"IT IS DEEPLY TRAGIC FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN, FOR (PRESS SECRETARY) JIM BRADY AND FOR THE OTHER TWO WHO SUSTAINED WOUNDS THAT THIS TERRIBLE EVENT OCCURRED," CRANSTON SAID.

"IT IS ALSO PROFOUNDLY TRAGIC FOR OUR COUNTRY THAT THESE EVENTS OCCUR; THAT THEY CAN EFFECT THE HIGHEST PEOPLE IN THE LAND, TO THE LOWEST, PEOPLE SIMPLY WALKING THE STREETS. WE MUST FIND A WAY TO STEM THE VIOLENCE THAT SWEEPS OUR NATION AND THAT AFFECTS TOO MUCH OF THE WORLD."

CRANSTON SAID HE ASSUMED THE SHOOTING WOULD LEAD TO RENEWED CALLS FOR GUN CONTROL, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW IF THEY WOULD BE MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN BEFORE BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS LEGITIMATE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THE ISSUE.

THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP SAID SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, D-MASS., WHO LOST TWO BROTHERS TO ASSASSINS, AND SEN. RUSSELL LONG, D-LA., WHOSE FATHER, FORMER SEN. HUEY LONG, WAS GUNNED DOWN BY AN ASSASSIN, WERE AMONG THOSE WATCHING IN THE CLOAKROOM. HE SAID NEITHER MADE ANY COMMENT, ALTHOUGH KENNEDY MADE A SPEECH ON THE FLOOR.

CRANSTON SAID THE SENATORS WERE "SHOCKED AND STARTLED WHEN THE STORY CHANGED" AND IT TURNED OUT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN WOUNDED.

HE SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 20 SENATORS IN THE GROUP.

A SHAKEN SEN. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, D-N.Y., SAID SOFTLY: "HOW MUCH SHOOTING IS GOING TO HAVE TO HAPPEN BEFORE WE GET RID OF THOSE GUNS."

SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., A FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HIMSELF, SAID, "WE'RE REMINDED ONCE AGAIN OF HOW DANGEROUS THIS WORLD IS."

AGAIN, OUR HOPES ARE DASHED "THAT VIOLENCE ONCE AGAIN WOULD NOT VISIT AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT," JACKSON SAID. "WHAT CAN ONE SAY?"

"OBVIOUSLY THE MAN (THE SHOOTING SUSPECT) HAD TO BE A FANATIC," JACKSON ADDED.

BEFORE THE SENATE RECESSED, KENNEDY SPOKE BRIEFLY ON THE FLOOR, SAYING, "WITH OUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED I THINK MUST GO OUR RESOLUTION TO RID OUR SOCIETY OF HATRED."

"VIOLENCE AND HATRED ARE ALIEN TO EVERYTHING THIS COUNTRY IS ABOUT," KENNEDY SAID.

AP-WX-03-30-81 1739EST

UP186

U W

AM-HINCKLEY 1STLD-2NDADD 3-30

X X X OCT. 7.

JIM ROBINSON, AN ATTORNEY FOR HINCKLEY'S FATHER, JOHN W. HINCKLEY SR. OF EVERGREEN, COLO., ISSUED A STATEMENT FROM THE FAMILY THAT THE YOUNGER HINCKLEY "HAD BEEN UNDER PSYCHIATRIC CARE. HOWEVER, THE EVALUATIONS DID NOT ALERT ANYONE TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF HIS CONDITION."

ROBINSON REFUSED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATURE OF HINCKLEY'S PRESENT OR PAST CONDITION, OR HIS TREATMENT. MORE

UPI 03-30-81 09:08 PES

FBIS 127

MOSCOW REPORTS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CONDITION 'STABLE'

LD302304 MOSCOW DOMESTIC SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 2100 GMT 30 MAR 81

(TEXT) AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON ON THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN. AN UNKNOWN PERSON OPENED FIRE ON THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE LEFT A HOTEL LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF WASHINGTON AFTER A SPEECH AT A CONFERENCE OF A CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' LABOR UNION.

CITING A STATEMENT BY PERSONS IN THE PRESIDENT'S ENTOURAGE, AP AND UPI REPORT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEFT SIDE OF THE CHEST. HE WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL, IS CONSCIOUS, AND HIS CONDITION IS STABLE.

DURING THE ATTEMPT, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY BRADY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND A POLICE OFFICER WERE ALSO WOUNDED. THE GUNMAN WAS SEIZED BY THE PRESIDENT'S GUARDS.

30 MAR 2325Z [REDACTED]

FBIS 125

WARSAW REPORTS REAGAN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

LD302246 WARSAW DOMESTIC SERVICE IN POLISH 2130 GMT 30 MAR 81

(TEXT) THIS EVENING AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE IN WASHINGTON ON THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RONALD REAGAN. THE ASSASSIN FIRED SEVERAL SHOTS JUST AS THE PRESIDENT WAS LEAVING THE HILTON HOTEL, WHERE HE HAD BEEN TAKING PART IN A TRADE UNION CONFERENCE OF THE AFL-CIO ORGANIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. ONE OF THE BULLETS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED THE PRESIDENT IN THE CHEST. ALSO WOUNDED WERE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY JAMES BRADY AND A POLICE OFFICER AND A SECURITY SERVICE AGENT. THE ASSASSIN WAS ARRESTED.

30 MAR 2320Z [REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

FILE #97-098/2 #82

BY mjs, NARA, Date 6/12/00

N144

UA

HINCKLEY

DENVER (AP) -- JOHN W. HINCKLEY JR.'S FATHER RUSHED HOME TO BE WITH HIS WIFE AFTER LEARNING HIS SON WAS BEING HELD MONDAY IN AN ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LIFE, ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL OF THE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION COMPANY THE SENIOR HINCKLEY HEADS.

"HE DID NOT REACT AT ALL," ARNOLD BJORK, TREASURER OF VANDERBILT ENERGY CORP. OF EVERGREEN, COLO., SAID OF THE SENIOR HINCKLEY.

"HE JUST WANTED TO LISTEN TO THE RADIO, BUT THERE WERE NO OTHER STORIES ABOUT IT, SO HE WENT HOME TO BE WITH HIS WIFE."

AN FBI AGENT WAS PRESENT IN THE VANDERBILT OFFICES WHEN A REPORTER ARRIVED. J.W. "JACK" HINCKLEY HAD ALREADY LEFT.

THE SENIOR HINCKLEY IS PRESIDENT OF THE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION COMPANY, WHICH MOVED FROM DALLAS TO DENVER IN 1974. YOUNG HINCKLEY ATTENDED THE AFFLUENT HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL IN SUBURBAN DALLAS.

"I WAS DUMBFOUNDED TO LEARN HE WAS ONE OF OUR FORMER STUDENTS," SAID HIGHLAND PRINCIPAL DR. E.A. SIGLER, AN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN 1973 WHEN HINCKLEY GRADUATED.

"I RECALL HAVING SEEN HIM, BUT NOTHING STICKS OUT IN MY MIND," SIGLER ADDED.

THE FBI IDENTIFIED THE MAN BEING HELD IN WASHINGTON AS JOHN W. HINCKLEY JR., 25.

SIGLER SAID A CHECK OF THE SCHOOL YEARBOOK SHOWED THAT HINCKLEY WAS A MEMBER OF THREE NOW-DEFUNCT STUDENT CLUBS -- YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT, SPANISH AND RODEO.

LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT HINCKLEY'S ACTIVITIES IN RECENT YEARS, BUT NBC NEWS REPORTED HINCKLEY HAD NO PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORD.

BJORK SAID HINCKLEY'S FATHER WOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT ONCE IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT HIS SON WAS INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING.

THE SENIOR HINCKLEY AND HIS WIFE, JOANNE, HAVE ANOTHER SON, SCOTT, WHO WORKS FOR VANDERBILT ENERGY. JOHN JR. DID NOT WORK FOR THE COMPANY, BJORK SAID.

EVERGREEN IS A BEDROOM COMMUNITY OF DENVER, LOCATED ABOUT 20 MILES WEST OF THE CITY IN THE ROCKIES. THE HINCKLEYS LIVE IN A CONDOMINIUM IN THE HIWAN COUNTRY CLUB.

IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THE SUSPECT LIVED WITH HIS FAMILY.
AP-WX-03-30-81 1824EST

UP145

R W

ADD BRADY

THREE HOURS AFTER BEING SHOT IN THE HEAD DURING A PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT TODAY, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JIM BRADY CLUNG TO LIFE BUT HIS OUTLOOK WAS REPORTED TO BE "NOT GOOD."

BRADY WAS STANDING BESIDE PRESIDENT REAGAN WHEN WOULD-BE ASSASSIN JOHN HINKLEY OPENED FIRE AND WOUNDED THE PRESIDENT, THE PRESS SECRETARY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND A WASHINGTON POLICEMAN. BRADY WAS SHOT IN THE FOREHEAD AND BLED PROFUSELY AS HE WAS BEING LIFTED INTO AN AMBULANCE FOR A TRIP TO THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER.

MUTUAL BROADCASTING REPORTER ROSS SIMPSON SAID HE HAD BEEN ON THE THIRD FLOOR AND HAD TALKED TO A FRIEND OF THE SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE, WHO SAID THE BULLET "ENTERED BRADY'S BRAIN ABOVE THE EYE AND DID EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN. THE PROGNOSIS (OUTLOOK FOR RECOVERY) IS NOT GOOD."

HE SAID THE SOURCE TOLD HIM "FEW PEOPLE SURVIVE SUCH A WOUND."

MEDICAL OFFICIALS WERE GIVING MRS. BRADY A REPORT, AND SIMPSON SAID, "SHE BEGAN CRYING VERY LIGHTLY."

THE HOSPITAL WAS STILL DESCRIBING HIS CONDITION AS "VERY CRITICAL."

EARLIER, THE THREE TELEVISION NETWORKS QUOTED WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL DAVID PROSPERI AS SAYING BRADY WAS DEAD. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKES TOLD REPORTERS THAT REPORT WAS WRONG.

"IT IS NOT TRUE," HE SAID. "HE IS IN SERIOUS CONDITION."

HPT 03-30-81 05:04 PFS

FBIS 122

EGYPT: AS-SADAT CABLES GOOD WISHES TO PRESIDENT REAGAN.

NC302248 CAIRO MENA IN ARABIC 2245 GMT 30 MAR 81

(TEXT) CAIRO, 30 MAR (MENA)--PRESIDENT MUHAMMAD ANWAR AS-SADAT SENT AN URGENT CABLE TO U.S. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN SOON AFTER HE HEARD OF THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON HIM IN WASHINGTON TODAY. THE CABLE READS:

I RECEIVED WITH EXTREME ALARM AND DEEP SORROW THE REPORT OF THE CRIMINAL ATTEMPT YOU WERE SUBJECTED TO TODAY.

WHILE CONDEMNING THIS CRIMINAL ACTION, WHICH HAS SHOCKED THE SENTIMENTS OF THE ENTIRE WORLD, I IMPORE GOD ALMIGHTY TO GRANT YOU THE BLESSING OF A SPEEDY RECOVERY SO THAT YOU WILL RESUME THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR GREAT AND FREE COUNTRY.

30 MAR 2308Z [REDACTED]

FBIS 121

FRG: SCHMIDT WISHES REAGAN SPEEDY RECOVERY

LD302152 HAMBURG DPA IN GERMAN 2120 GMT 30 MAR 81 -

(TEXT) HAMBURG, 30 MAR (DPA)--FEDERAL CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT STRESSED LATE THIS EVENING IN A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN THAT THE ATTACK HAD FILLED HIM WITH HORROR, AND HE EXPRESSED SINCERE GOOD WISHES FOR HIS RECOVERY.

ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL PRESS OFFICE, THE TEXT OF THE TELEGRAM WAS AS FOLLOWS: "DEAR MR PRESIDENT, I HAVE JUST HEARD WITH DEEP DISGUST OF AN ATTACK MADE ON YOU. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE NEWS IS CORRECT THAT YOU ARE NOT SERIOUSLY INJURED. WITH MY SINCERE, DEEPLY FELT GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR EARLY RECOVERY AND PERSONAL WELL-BEING, I ALSO SEND GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES WHO WERE ALSO INJURED IN THIS ATTACK."

30 MAR 2306Z [REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

FILE # 97-098/2 # 83

DATE 10/12/00 BY [signature]

FBIS 120

FRG'S GENSCHER SENDS BEST WISHES FOR REAGAN'S RECOVERY

LD302126 HAMBURG DPA IN GERMAN 2059 GMT 30 MAR 81

(TEXT) HAMBURG (DPA)--FEDERAL FOREIGN MINISTER
HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER HAS SENT U.S. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
GET-WELL WISHES LATE THIS EVENING. ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN
OFFICE SPOKESMAN, THE TEXT OF THE TELEGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS:
"DEEPLY SHOCKED, I SEND YOU BEST WISHES FOR YOUR RECOVERY."

30 MAR 2301Z 

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLS F97-098/2 #84

By MMJ, NARA, Date 6/12/00

BW

BRADY, 1ST ADD

URGENT

WASHINGTON: PRESIDENT REAGAN.

RON MCMAHON, PRESS SECRETARY FOR SEN. HOWARD H. BAKER JR., THE
MAJORITY LEADER, SAID BRADY WAS DEAD.

WITHIN MINUTES, WHITE HOUSE AIDE DAVID PROSPERI ALSO TOLD
REPORTERS BRADY HAD DIED.

AP-WX-03-30-81 1722EST

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LINKER, SAID DEIKOIL WMAOK COGEMH
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HERE IS THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS:

RA

"EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD" IS THE WAY DOCTORS DESCRIBE PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CONDITION THIS MORNING . . .

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKES SAYS WHITE HOUSE DOCTOR DANIEL RUGE (ROO'-GEE) VISITED REAGAN AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL THIS MORNING, AND QUOTES RUGE AS SAYING THE PRESIDENT SLEPT WELL, AND THAT ALL OF HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE "IN THE NORMAL RANGE." SPEAKES SAYS REAGAN HAS BEEN MOVED INTO INTENSIVE CARE FROM THE RECOVERY ROOM, AND THAT TUBES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM HIS THROAT.

DOCTORS SAY THE PRESIDENT IS WELL ENOUGH TO RESUME COMMAND DESPITE BEING SHOT IN THE CHEST YESTERDAY AFTERNOON OUTSIDE A WASHINGTON HOTEL. ALSO SHOT WAS WHITE HOUSE NEWS SECRETARY JAMES BRADY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND A WASHINGTON POLICEMAN.

THE TWO LAWYERS ARE LISTED IN STABLE CONDITION. HOWEVER, BRADY IS FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE WITH A BULLET WOUND IN THE BRAIN. HE IS SAID TO BE IN "SERIOUS BUT IMPROVING" CONDITION THIS MORNING.

THE ALLEGED ASSAILANT IS 25 YEAR-OLD JOHN HINCKLEY JUNIOR OF EVERGREEN, COLORADO. HE'S CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT AND WITH THE ASSAULT OF A SECRET SERVICE OFFICER. HE'S SCHEDULED TO UNDERGO PSYCHIATRIC TESTING TODAY. OFFICIALS SAY THERE IS NO KNOWN MOTIVE FOR THE SHOOTING AND NO EVIDENCE OF A CONSPIRACY.

VICE PRESIDENT REAGAN WILL BE CARRYING OUT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SCHEDULE TODAY, INCLUDING A CABINET SESSION AND A MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS.

AND IN CONGRESS, LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES SAY THE WOUNDING OF THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT DELAY BUDGET ACTION.

RM

REAGAN-SENATE REAX

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE SENATE HALTED LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS MONDAY AS SHOCKED LEGISLATORS RECEIVED NEWS THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD BEEN WOUNDED.

SEN. CLAIBORNE PELL, D-R.I., SAID THE "GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF ALL OF US IS ONE OF SHOCK AND HORROR."

HE SAID NEWS OF THE 1963 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SEEMED "LIKE ONLY A MONTH AGO."

SHORTLY AFTER NEWS ORGANIZATIONS REPORTED THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN WOUNDED, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HOWARD H. BAKER JR. RECESSED THE SENATE, CITING THE "GRAVITY" OF THE SITUATION.

THE HOUSE HAD ALREADY FINISHED ITS BUSINESS FOR THE DAY BEFORE THE PRESIDENT WAS SHOT.

HOUSE SPEAKER THOMAS P. O'NEILL, D-MASS., WHO IS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL LINE OF SUCCESSION TO THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE VICE PRESIDENT, WAS IN A MEETING IN HIS OFFICE WHEN NOTIFIED OF THE SHOOTING.

BAKER TOLD A HUSHED CHAMBER THAT REAGAN HAD BEEN WOUNDED.

SEN. ALAN CRANSTON, D-CALIF., THE ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER OF THE SENATE, SAID HE WAS CHATTING WITH SEN. S.I. HAYAKAWA, R-CALIF., WHEN SEN. J. JAMES EXON, D-NEB., WALKED BY AND SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN SHOT AT BUT APPARENTLY NOT HIT.

"IT IS DEEPLY TRAGIC FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN, FOR (PRESS SECRETARY) JIM BRADY AND FOR THE OTHER TWO WHO SUSTAINED WOUNDS THAT THIS TERRIBLE EVENT OCCURRED," CRANSTON SAID.

"IT IS ALSO PROFOUNDLY TRAGIC FOR OUR COUNTRY THAT THESE EVENTS OCCUR; THAT THEY CAN EFFECT THE HIGHEST PEOPLE IN THE LAND, TO THE LOWEST, PEOPLE SIMPLY WALKING THE STREETS. WE MUST FIND A WAY TO STEM THE VIOLENCE THAT SWEEPS OUR NATION AND THAT AFFECTS TOO MUCH OF THE WORLD."

CRANSTON SAID HE ASSUMED THE SHOOTING WOULD LEAD TO RENEWED CALLS FOR GUN CONTROL, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW IF THEY WOULD BE MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN BEFORE BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS LEGITIMATE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THE ISSUE.

THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP SAID SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, D-MASS., WHO LOST TWO BROTHERS TO ASSASSINS, AND SEN. RUSSELL LONG, D-LA., WHOSE FATHER, FORMER SEN. HUEY LONG, WAS GUNNED DOWN BY AN ASSASSIN, WERE AMONG THOSE WATCHING IN THE CLOAKROOM. HE SAID NEITHER MADE ANY COMMENT, ALTHOUGH KENNEDY MADE A SPEECH ON THE FLOOR.

CRANSTON SAID THE SENATORS WERE "SHOCKED AND STARTLED WHEN THE STORY CHANGED" AND IT TURNED OUT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN WOUNDED.

HE SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 20 SENATORS IN THE GROUP.

A SHAKEN SEN. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, D-N.Y., SAID SOFTLY: "HOW MUCH SHOOTING IS GOING TO HAVE TO HAPPEN BEFORE WE GET RID OF THOSE GUNS."

SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., A FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HIMSELF, SAID, "WE'RE REMINDED ONCE AGAIN OF HOW DANGEROUS THIS WORLD IS."

AGAIN, OUR HOPES ARE DASHED "THAT VIOLENCE ONCE AGAIN WOULD NOT VISIT AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT," JACKSON SAID. "WHAT CAN ONE SAY?"

"OBVIOUSLY THE MAN (THE SHOOTING SUSPECT) HAD TO BE A FANATIC," JACKSON ADDED.

BEFORE THE SENATE RECESSED, KENNEDY SPOKE BRIEFLY ON THE FLOOR, SAYING, "WITH OUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED I THINK MUST GO OUR RESOLUTION TO RID OUR SOCIETY OF HATRED."

"VIOLENCE AND HATRED ARE ALIEN TO EVERYTHING THIS COUNTRY IS ABOUT," KENNEDY SAID.

AP-WX-03-30-81 1739EST

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BUSH LEAD ALL

BY KEN HERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) -- VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TOOK UP HIS POST AS THE ADMINISTRATION'S CRISIS MANAGER LATE MONDAY, JUST AS PRESIDENT REAGAN EMERGED FROM GUNSHOT SURGERY IN "STABLE" CONDITION. EARLIER, SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER M. HAIG JR. HAD ASSUMED INTERIM CONTROL.

HAIG HAD DECLARED THAT "CRISIS MANAGEMENT IS IN EFFECT" FOLLOWING THE WOUNDING OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AND PRONOUNCED HIMSELF CONTROL AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHILE BUSH RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO TEXAS.

BUSH, MEANWHILE, CANCELED AN ADDRESS TO THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND FLEW DIRECTLY TO THE CAPITAL UPON LEARNING OF THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

BUSH WENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN EARLY EVENING. NOT LONG THEREAFTER, THE PRESIDENT WAS REPORTED OUT OF SURGERY, AWAKE, AND IN "STABLE CONDITION" FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF A BULLET IN HIS LEFT CHEST.

ON THE FLIGHT BACK, HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER JIM WRIGHT OF TEXAS SAID BUSH TOLD HIM HE FOUND IT "UTTERLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT ANYBODY COULD WORK UP SUFFICIENT MALICE AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN TO WANT HIM DEAD."

WHILE BUSH WAS AIRBORNE, HAIG SAID THAT "AS OF NOW, I AM IN CONTROL IN THE WHITE HOUSE PENDING THE RETURN OF THE VICE PRESIDENT."

HAIG SAID THAT IN SUCH AN EMERGENCY, "CONSTITUTIONALLY, YOU HAVE THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE, IN THAT ORDER." ACTUALLY, UNDER LAW, THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS FIFTH IN LINE, BEHIND THE VICE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF THE SENATE.

REAGAN ONLY LAST WEEK NAMED BUSH THE ADMINISTRATION'S CRISIS MANAGER -- A ROLE HAIG SOUGHT FOR HIMSELF. ASKED IF "CRISIS MANAGEMENT" WOULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT WHEN BUSH ARRIVED, HAIG REPLIED: "THE CRISIS MANAGEMENT IS IN EFFECT."

BUT HAIG SAID IT WAS "A FUNDAMENTALLY PREMATURE QUESTION" TO ASK IF BUSH WOULD EFFECTIVELY BE ACTING PRESIDENT.

AP-WX-03-30-81 2013EST

BRADY

BY TERENCE HUNT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JAMES S. BRADY, FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE AFTER BEING GRAVELY WOUNDED IN AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN, WAS REPORTED IN IMPROVING CONDITION TODAY, BUT DOCTORS SAID HE MAY HAVE SUFFERED LASTING BRAIN DAMAGE.

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKES SAID WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN DANIEL RUGE VISITED BRADY THIS MORNING AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND DESCRIBED HIM "SERIOUS BUT IMPROVING."

REAGAN IS RECOVERING IN THE SAME HOSPITAL FROM A BULLET WOUND IN THE CHEST. RUGE LISTED THE PRESIDENT IN "EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD CONDITION" TODAY, SPEAKES SAID.

THE 40-YEAR-OLD BRADY, THE FATHER OF A 2-YEAR-OLD SON AND A COLLEGE-AGE DAUGHTER, WAS SHOT MONDAY AFTERNOON AS HE WALKED OUT OF A WASHINGTON HOTEL AN ARMS-LENGTH FROM REAGAN AND HEADED FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE.

THE .22-CALIBER BULLET ENTERED BRADY'S FOREHEAD AT THE TEMPLE, PASSED THROUGH HIS BRAIN AND CAME OUT THE OTHER SIDE. AS SECURITY AGENTS PUSHED THE PRESIDENT INTO HIS CAR, BRADY CRUMPLED TO THE SIDEWALK, DROPPING FACE DOWN ON A GRATE, BLOOD SPILLING FROM HIS WOUND.

BRADY UNDERWENT NEARLY FIVE HOURS OF SURGERY. IN AN OPERATION CALLED A CRANIOTOMY, SURGEONS WORKED WITH A MICROSCOPE TO ASSESS THE EXTENT OF BRAIN DAMAGE AND REMOVED IRREPARABLY DAMAGED BITS OF TISSUE AND BONE, SAID DR. DENNIS O'LEARY, THE HOSPITAL SPOKESMAN.

LYN NOFZIGER, A WHITE HOUSE AIDE, QUOTED THE CHIEF SURGEON IN THE OPERATION AS SAYING "THE PROGNOSIS IS CERTAINLY BETTER THAN IT WAS EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON." HE SAID THE SURGEON, DR. ARTHUR-KOBRINE, REPORTED THAT BRADY'S VITAL SIGNS WERE STABLE AND THAT HIS PUPILLARY REFLEXES WERE NORMAL, WHICH HE SAID WAS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.

EARLIER, O'LEARY TOLD REPORTERS THAT BRAIN DAMAGE "PROBABLY IS LIKELY."

NOFZIGER SAID KOBRINE BELIEVES THERE "MAY BE SOME (BRAIN) IMPAIRMENT BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW MUCH AT THIS TIME. HE SAID IT MIGHT BE SOME TIME BEFORE THAT IS KNOWN."

BRADY'S WIFE, SARAH, WAS AT HIS BEDSIDE LATE MONDAY. SHE REACHED DOWN AND SQUEEZED HIS HAND; HE SQUEEZED BACK, SAID SEN. CHARLES PERCY, R-ILL., WHO SPOKE WITH HER.

AP-WX-03-31-81 0947EST

RA

Sup

REAGAN-BRADY

URGENT

RA

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT REAGAN, TOLD FOR THE FIRST TIME TUESDAY THAT HIS PRESS SECRETARY HAD BEEN CRITICALLY WOUNDED IN THE SAME FUSILLADE THAT HIT HIM, REPLIED:

"OH, DAMN. OH, DAMN."

REAGAN WAS TOLD BY THE WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN, DR. DANIEL RUGE, JUST AFTER NOON THAT PRESS SECRETARY JAMES S. BRADY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND A CITY POLICEMAN HAD ALSO BEEN HIT OUTSIDE THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL.

THEN, REAGAN'S CHIEF OF STAFF, JAMES A. BAKER, TOLD REPORTERS, THE PRESIDENT ASKED IF BRADY HAD BEEN HIT IN THE BRAIN.

RUGE SAID HE HAD AND REAGAN SAID, "OH, DAMN. OH, DAMN."

AP-WX-03-31-81 1416EST

OMAHA (UPI) -- A CALLER TELEPHONED THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD AND CLAIMED A GROUP CALLED THE EARTH LIBERATION ARMY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT REAGAN. THE FBI WAS INVESTIGATING THE REPORT.

RA

A MAN WHO SAID HE WAS CONNECTED WITH THE ORGANIZATION TELEPHONED THE NEWSPAPER YESTERDAY AND SAID:

"THIS IS THE EARTH LIBERATION ARMY AND I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TELL YOU THE ASSASSINATION WILL BE COMPLETED. THIS ATTEMPT WAS A FAILURE AND THE NEXT ATTEMPT WILL NOT BE. WE WISH TO MAKE THE FACT KNOWN AND THAT WE ARE RESPONSIBLE AND THE NEXT TIME WILL NOT BE A FAILURE."

THE CALLER, WHO SPOKE PRECISELY AND WITHOUT ACCENT, DECLINED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF OR INDICATE FROM WHERE HE WAS CALLING.

FBI OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD NOT HEARD OF THE EARTH LIBERATION ARMY BUT WERE INVESTIGATING ALL REPORTS CONCERNING THE SHOOTING.

(WORLD REACTION)

(BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL)

RA

WORLD LEADERS EXPRESSED SHOCK AT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN AND WISHED THE U.S. LEADER A SPEEDY RECOVERY, BUT MOSCOW GAVE THE NEWS SECOND BILLING BEHIND THE RETURN OF TWO COSMONAUTS.

IN THE STREETS OF THE WORLD, SOME VOICES, ESPECIALLY IN JAPAN, SAID VIOLENCE APPEARED ENDEMIC TO AMERICA BECAUSE OF A LOOSE CONTROL ON GUN SALES. "AMERICA IS A TERRIBLE PLACE," SAID AN OFFICE CLERK IN TOKYO. "WHY CAN'T THEY BAN GUNS LIKE WE DO?"

BUT IN THE CHANCELLERIES OF THE WORLD, BOTH TRADITIONAL ALLIES LIKE AUSTRALIA AND BRITAIN AND NEWLY BEFRIENDED COUNTRIES LIKE ARGENTINA AND SOUTH KOREA LAMENTED THE WOUNDING OF A LEADER THEY FEEL IS TAKING AMERICA ON A MORE VIGOROUS PATH.

"IT'S A TRAGEDY NOT ONLY TO THE PRESIDENT AND HIS FAMILY, BUT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES," AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM FRASER SAID. "HE'S TAKING AMERICA IN THE DIRECTION THAT I BELIEVE WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO THE U.S. AND ALSO TO AUSTRALIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE FREE WORLD."

SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV SENT A TELEGRAM SAYING, "WE HAVE LEARNED WITH INDIGNATION ABOUT AN ATTEMPT ON YOUR LIFE. WE ARE FIRMLY CONDEMNING THAT CRIMINAL ACT. ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP AND ON MY OWN BEHALF I WISH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, FULL AND EARLY RECOVERY."

IN MOSCOW, HOWEVER, THE SHOOTING WAS GIVEN SECONDARY MENTION ON MOSCOW RADIO BEHIND A REPORT TWO COSMONAUTS HAD RETURNED TO EARTH. THE TASS NEWS AGENCY MOVED A NINE-LINE STORY ON THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT 75 MINUTES AFTER THE NEWS WAS FLASHED ELSEWHERE.

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT ROBERTO VIOLA, WHOSE NATION WAS SHUNNED BY JIMMY CARTER FOR ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BUT WHO RECENTLY MET REAGAN IN WASHINGTON, "DEPLORED AND REJECTED THE TREMENDOUS TREACHERY OF THE CRIME," SAYING YOUR...SHORT PERIOD IN OFFICE" HAS ALREADY "DEPOSITED A LARGE QUOTA OF HOPE."

EL SALVADOR, WHICH HAS LOST 17,000 PEOPLE TO LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST BATH SQUADS BUT CHOSEN AS A TEST CASE OF REAGAN'S TOUGH POLICY AGAINST LEFTIST INSURGENCIES, SAID: "WE CONDEMN ALL OF THESE ACTS, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY COME FROM AND WHO THEY ARE AIMED AT."

IN SOUTH KOREA, WHICH HAS IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON SINCE REAGAN ENTERED OFFICE, PRESIDENT CHUN DOO HWAN SAID, "JOINED BY MRS. CHUN AND ALL THE KOREAN PEOPLE, I PRAY FOR HIS PROMPT AND FULL RECOVERY."

U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM EXPRESSED "SHOCK AND DISGUST" AND CONDEMNED "THIS ACT OF TERRORISM."

CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU DEPLORED THE "INSANE ASSAULT" AND SENT A MESSAGE TO REAGAN SAYING "MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND MRS. REAGAN."

BRITISH QUEEN ELIZABETH SENT A MESSAGE, SAYING SHE "WAS VERY SHOCKED TO HEAR ABOUT THE ATTACK" THAT WOUNDED REAGAN, HIS PRESS SECRETARY JIM BRADY, AND A SECRET SERVICE AGENT TIMOTHY MCCARTHY. "I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF MAKE A SPEEDY AND SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY FROM YOUR INJURIES," THE QUEEN SAID.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER SAID IN A MESSAGE SHE WAS SHOCKED AND DISTRESSED AND "I HAVE PRAYED THAT YOUR INJURIES ARE NOT SERIOUS."

IN TOKYO, JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER ZENKO SUZUKI CABLED A TELEGRAM OF SYMPATHY EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN AND JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MASAYOSHI ITO DEPLORED "SUCH SENSELESS ACTS OF VIOLENCE."

BUT SOME JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN WHETHER A PLANNED U.S.-JAPAN SUMMIT NEXT MONTH WILL TAKE PLACE.

THE OFFICIAL CHINESE NEWS AGENCY XINHUA REPORTED THE ASSASSINATION TRY IN A SEVEN-PARAGRAPH ARTICLE WITHOUT COMMENT. BUT CHINESE PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG SENT A CABLE TO REAGAN, EXPRESSING SHOCK AND WISHING HIM A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT SENT A MESSAGE, SAYING "WHILE CONDENNING THIS CRIMINAL ACTION, WHICH JOLTED THE ENTIRE WORLD, I PRAY ALMIGHTY GOD TO GRANT YOU A SPEEDY RECOVERY SO THAT YOU MAY RESUME THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR GREAT AND FREE COUNTRY."

SPANISH KING JUAN CARLOS TELEPHONED THE WHITE HOUSE TO EXPRESS "FULL SOLIDARITY...AGAINST THE CRIMINAL ATTACK WHICH DISGRACEFULLY PROVED THAT TERRORIST VIOLENCE TODAY IS GENERALIZED."

WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT, WHO HAD TALKED TO REAGAN THAT MORNING BY TELEPHONE, SAID IN A TELEGRAM: "WITH DEEP HORROR I HAVE JUST LEARNED OF AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON YOU. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE NEWS THAT YOU ARE NOT SERIOUSLY HURT IS ACCURATE."

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN REACTED "WITH SHOCK AND ASTONISHMENT" AND FOREIGN MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR SENT A TELEGRAM WISHING "SPEEDY RECOVERY."

IN BEIRUT, THE PLO SAID "IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS."

TEHRAN RADIO ANNOUNCED THE SHOOTING IN A BRIEF MORNING BULLETIN WITHOUT COMMENT.

UPI 03-31-81 10:09 AES

NEW YORK (AP) -- THE STOCK MARKET RALLIED SHARPLY IN ACTIVE TRADING TODAY ON WORD THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS RECOVERING RAPIDLY FROM THE BULLET WOUND HE SUFFERED MONDAY AFTERNOON.

RA

ALL THE NATION'S MAJOR EXCHANGES AND THE OVER-THE-COUNTER MARKET CLOSED ABOUT 45 MINUTES EARLY ON MONDAY AFTER THE ATTEMPT ON REAGAN'S LIFE.

WITH REAGAN RESUMING THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENCY FROM HIS HOSPITAL BED, THE MARKETS REOPENED AT THE NORMAL 10 A.M. EST TIME TODAY.

THE DOW JONES AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIALS CLIMBED 10 POINTS TO 1,002.16 IN THE FIRST HALF HOUR.

GAINERS OUTNUMBERED LOSERS BY A ONE-SIDED MARGIN IN THE EARLY TALLY OF NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE-LISTED ISSUES.

"THE MARKET IS HAPPY ABOUT REAGAN'S GOOD HEALTH," SAID DANIEL J. MURPHY AT OPPENHEIMER & CO.

"THE DEATH OF ANY PRESIDENT WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC. BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY SO IN REAGAN'S CASE, SINCE HE HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY."

BOND PRICES ALSO ROSE SHARPLY, AND THE PRICE OF GOLD, WHICH SPURTED UPWARD LATE MONDAY ON THE NEWS OF THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, FELL BACK ABOUT \$16 TO \$509 AN OUNCE.

IN MONDAY'S ABBREVIATED STOCK TRADING, THE DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE DROPPED 2.62 TO 992.16.

PM-REAGAN-FORD

TOKYO, MARCH 31, REUTER -- THE SECRET SERVICE CANNOT PROTECT A PRESIDENT FROM "LONERS, KOOKS AND SCREWBALLS" INTENT ON MURDER, ACCORDING TO FORMER PRESIDENT GERALD FORD, HIMSELF THE VICTIM OF TWO ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS.

RA

MR FORD, WHO WAS NOT HIT IN EITHER OF THE SEPTEMBER, 1975, HANDGUN ATTACKS, WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS HERE ON THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN.

HE SAID ATTACKS MOUNTED AGAINST PRESIDENTS SINCE THE DEATH OF JOHN F. KENNEDY IN 1963 HAVE NOT BEEN MOUNTED BY ORGANIZED GANGS.

"THEY HAVE BEEN LONERS, KOOKS, SCREWBALLS," HE SAID. "WE DON'T HAVE TERRORISTS IN THE UNITED STATES. WE JUST HAVE A LOT OF SCREWBALLS. THEY ARE MENTALLY UNSOUND. THEY ARE OFF THEIR ROCKERS."

HE SAID THAT WHILE THE SECRET SERVICE WAS THE BEST BODYGUARD ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD, "APPARENTLY THEY CANNOT PRECLUDE OR PREVENT AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT."

"EVEN THE BEST CAN'T GIVE YOU 100 PER CENT SECURITY," HE SAID. "THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN A LONER IS GOING TO CREATE A PROBLEM."

HERE IS THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS:

RA

"EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD" IS THE WAY DOCTORS DESCRIBE PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CONDITION THIS MORNING . . .

Gene

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKES SAYS WHITE HOUSE DOCTOR DANIEL RUGE (ROO'-GEE) VISITED REAGAN AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL THIS MORNING, AND QUOTES RUGE AS SAYING THE PRESIDENT SLEPT WELL, AND THAT ALL OF HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE "IN THE NORMAL RANGE." SPEAKES SAYS REAGAN HAS BEEN MOVED INTO INTENSIVE CARE FROM THE RECOVERY ROOM, AND THAT TUBES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM HIS THROAT.

DOCTORS SAY THE PRESIDENT IS WELL ENOUGH TO RESUME COMMAND DESPITE BEING SHOT IN THE CHEST YESTERDAY AFTERNOON OUTSIDE A WASHINGTON HOTEL. ALSO SHOT WAS WHITE HOUSE NEWS SECRETARY JAMES BRADY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND A WASHINGTON POLICEMAN.

THE TWO LAWYEN ARE LISTED IN STABLE CONDITION. HOWEVER, BRADY IS FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE WITH A BULLET WOUND IN THE BRAIN. HE IS SAID TO BE IN "SERIOUS BUT IMPROVING" CONDITION THIS MORNING.

THE ALLEGED ASSAILANT IS 25 YEAR-OLD JOHN HINCKLEY JUNIOR OF EVERGREEN, COLORADO. HE'S CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT AND WITH THE ASSAULT OF A SECRET SERVICE OFFICER. HE'S SCHEDULED TO UNDERGO PSYCHIATRIC TESTING TODAY. OFFICIALS SAY THERE IS NO KNOWN MOTIVE FOR THE SHOOTING AND NO EVIDENCE OF A CONSPIRACY.

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AND IN CONGRESS, LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES SAY THE WOUNDING OF THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT DELAY BUDGET ACTION.

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- DOCTORS EXPECT WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JIM BRADY TO SURVIVE THE HEAD WOUND HE SUFFERED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, BUT PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID "OH DAMN, OH DAMN" WHEN INFORMED TODAY OF THE INJURY.

TEARS FILLED THE PRESIDENT'S EYES WHEN HE WAS TOLD SHORTLY AFTER NOON THAT BRADY HAD BEEN HIT, SAID WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES BAKER.

BAKER TOLD REPORTERS THE REASON REAGAN WAS NOT INFORMED OF BRADY'S CRITICAL INJURIES LAST NIGHT WAS BECAUSE TRACHEAL TUBES IN HIS MOUTH PREVENTED HIS TALKING.

"HIS REACTION WAS 'OH DAMN, OH DAMN,' AND HIS EYES WELLED UP WITH TEARS," BAKER SAID.

REAGAN ALSO INQUIRED IF THE BULLET HAD GONE INTO THE BRAIN AND WAS TOLD IT HAD.

"OH DEAR," THE PRESIDENT SAID, AND ASKED, "WHAT IS THE PROGNOSIS?"

BAKER SAID WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN DR. DANIEL RUGE TOLD THE PRESIDENT, "THERE MAY BE SOME WEAKNESS ON THE LEFT SIDE, AND LAST NIGHT PEOPLE DIDN'T THINK HE WAS GOING TO MAKE IT AT ALL."

"OH DEAR, WE MUST PRAY," BAKER QUOTED REAGAN AS SAYING.

BUT BAKER ALSO TOLD REPORTERS: "BRADY IS GOING TO LIVE...IT'S INCREDIBLE. THEY TOLD US WHEN PEOPLE ARE BROUGHT IN LIKE THAT THEY DON'T RECOVER, AND THEY HELD OUT VERY LITTLE HOPE. MAYBE OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED."

URGENT

BY MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN

WASHINGTON (AP) -- FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS HAVE FOUND AN UNMAILED LETTER WRITTEN BY ACCUSED PRESIDENTIAL ASSAILANT JOHN WARMOCK HINCKLEY JR. WHICH INDICATED "HE MIGHT GO OUT AND DO SOMETHING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED," ACCORDING TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SOURCES.

THE SOURCES, WHO DECLINED IDENTIFICATION, SAID THE LETTER ALSO REFLECTED THAT HINCKLEY WAS IN AN "I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME" FRAME OF MIND.

SOURCES DID NOT SAY TO WHOM THE LETTER WAS ADDRESSED, NOR WOULD THEY SAY EXACTLY WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN. THEY SAID IT WAS FOUND IN HINCKLEY'S QUARTERS BUT REFUSED TO SAY EXACTLY WHICH LOCATION THEY REFERRED TO.

ONCE SOURCE SAID, "THE LETTER INDICATED HE MIGHT GO OUT AND DO SOMETHING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED."

HINCKLEY WAS CHARGED AT MIDNIGHT MONDAY WITH ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT AND ASSAULTING A SECRET SERVICE AGENT. THE GUNFIRE ALSO SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JAMES S. BRADY AND A POLICE OFFICER, BUT CHARGES IN THOSE CASES HAVE YET TO BE FILED.

EARLIER TUESDAY, SEN. PAUL LAXALT, R-NEVADA, SAID AUTHORITIES HAD ESTABLISHED A MOTIVE IN THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION, BUT THE SENATOR, A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE PRESIDENT, REFUSED TO DIVULGE DETAILS.

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM FRENCH SMITH HAD BRIEFED LAXALT AND OTHER CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ABOUT THE SHOOTING. BUT THERE WAS NO PUBLIC WORD AS TO WHETHER DISCOVERY OF THE LETTER WAS CRITICAL AS TO ASSESSMENT OF MOTIVE.

HINCKLEY, 25, IS THE SON OF A WEALTHY DENVER OILMAN AND HAS BEEN PORTRAYED IN COURT AS A DISTURBED DRIFTER WITH A HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC CARE.

HINCKLEY WAS BEING HELD WITHOUT BOND TUESDAY AT A MARINE BASE SOUTH OF WASHINGTON WHILE AWAITING PSYCHIATRIC TESTING TO DETERMINE IF HE IS COMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUESTS FOR VISITORS TO SEE HINCKLEY.

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06

USINFO
EO 12065 N/A
WHITE HOUSE FOR JAMES BRADY, KARNA SMALL, DAVID GERGEN AND
MORT ALLEN
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN AND MANUEL
RUBIO
HEW: FOR KENNETH BACHE VOA/P - ROOM 2009
PGM/FN - FOR JAMES B. MILLER
PGM/FW - FOR ROBERT S. MEYERS
UN/N.Y. - FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, U.N. PLAZA
US TREASURY - FOR BILL JOY (RUEATRA)
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PASS MG SULLIVAN, CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIR
SECDEF/ISA FOR HUFF
SECSTATE FOR DYESS
SECSTATE FOR SHERWOOD GOLDBERG - ROOM 7234A
EARLY MORNING DIGEST OF FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION ICA (FINAL
PORTION) MEDIA REACTION STAFF, PGM/RC, 724-9057
///FYI EDITORS, THIS ITEM IS FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION AND
BACKGROUND AND NOT FOR BROADCAST.///

"GOOD NAME OF THE U.S. IS AT STAKE"
THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY EXPRESS ASKED, "HOW MANY MORE
AMERICANS, PROMINENT AND HUMBLE, MUST BE SHOT OR KILLED BEFORE
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS REFORMS THE LWA (ON GUN
CONGROL)? THE GOOD NAME OF THE UNITED STATES IS AT STAKE."
BRITISH RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE COMMENTED ON WHAT
WAS DEEMED PANIC DISPLAYED BY THE SECRET SERVICE.
TODAY'S FRENCH NEWSPAPERS RAN STREAMER HEADLINES AND
EXTENSIVE FRONT AND INSIDE-PAGE REPORTS AND BACKGROUNDEERS.
"AMERICA WILL CLOSE RANKS"
INDEPENDENT QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS RAN AN ARTICLE BY A

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PAGE 01

USINFO WASHDC 3604

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS WRITER WHO SAID: "...WE KNOW NOTHING OF THE MAN WHO TRIED TO CHANGE THE WORLD SITUATION BY SHOOTING THE U.S. PRESIDENT...ON THE OTHER HAND, WE KNOW THAT IF RONALD REAGAN SURVIVES--AND THIS IS WHAT WE WISH, NOT ONLY FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS BUT FOR WORLD PEACE--HE WILL GAIN FROM THE TRAGEDY A HITHERTO UNREACHED LEVEL OF POPULARITY...IN ANY CASE, AS ALWAYS IN THE DARKER HOURS OF ITS HISTORY, AMERICA WILL CLOSE RANKS AROUND THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER...BECAUSE RONALD REAGAN EMBODIES MORE THAN A TEMPORARY POLITICAL FASHION...MORE THAN A TEMPORARY REACTION OF NATIONAL PRIDE AFTER THE SETBACK OF VIETNAM AND THE FAILURE IN TABAS (IRAN). HE SYMBOLIZES THE RETURN OF THE UNITED STATES TO ITS ORIGINAL VALUES: FAITH IN GOD, BELIEF IN MAN AND IN INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND. HENCE IT WOULD BE VAIN TO EXPECT A WEAKENING OF AMERICA. THOSE BEYOND THE IRON CURTAIN...ARE PERFECTLY AWARE OF THIS AND WILL BE UNLIKELY TO TRY TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION..."

TV CORRESPONDENTS STAY ON THE AIR
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS OF FRENCH RADIO AND TV STAYED ON THE AIR UNTIL LATE LAST NIGHT TO GIVE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SURGERY. PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, PARTICIPATING IN A SPECIAL ELECTORAL PROGRAM ON TV ANTENNE 2, WAS INFORMED DURING A LIVE INTERVIEW
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06

USINFO
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OF THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT REAGAN.

"U.S. IN A STATE OF SHOCK"

COMMENTATOR ETIENNE MOUGEOTTE SAID ON PARIS-BASED
COMMERCIAL EUROPE ONE RADIO THAT MR. REAGAN WAS "COOL" AND
SHOWED A "GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR...AFTER A FEW WEEKS OF
UNAVAILABILITY, THE PRESIDENT WILL BE BACK ON THE JOB. BUT
THIS MORNING, THE UNITED STATES IS IN A STATE OF SHOCK.
EIGHTEEN YEARS AFTER PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION IN
DALLAS, THE DOSSIER IS NOT CLOSED...THE FREE SALE OF ARMS IN
SOME STATES FAVORS VIOLENCE BUT DOES NOT EXPLAIN IT...THE
WORST IS THE FRAGILITY OF POWER..."

TV FILM FOOTAGE AND UPDATES

WEST GERMAN TELEVISION NEWSCASTS LAST NIGHT OPENED
WITH EARLY FACTUAL REPORTS OF THE ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT.
TV ONE AFTER ITS REGULAR NEWSCAST TURNED TO SPECIAL PROGRAMM
ING WITH EXCERPTS FROM U.S. TV MATERIAL AND RUNNING UPDATES
WITH SUBTITLES. TV TWO EXTENDED ITS MIDNIGHT NEWS
SHOW TO INCLUDE A FILMED REPORT BY A WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT.

THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS THE LEAD NEWS STORY TODAY
IN LATE-DEADLINE WEST GERMAN PAPERS, WHICH ALSO CARRIED
TEXTS OF TELEGRAMS TO THE PRESIDENT FROM PRESIDENT CARSTEN
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND OTHERS.

IN WEST BERLIN THE ATTACK WAS BANNERED IN ALL PAPERS
EXCEPT THE TINY COMMUNIST PAPER DIE WAHRHEIT, WHICH RAN THE
NEWS UNDER A FRONT-PAGE SUBHEAD.

"TRAGEDY IF THIS HELD UP REAGAN PROGRAM"

LEADING INDEPENDENT TAGESSPIEGEL REMARKED THAT "ONCE

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PAGE 01

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AGAIN THERE HAS OCCURRED IN THE PERSON OF THE ASSAILANT THAT NEUROTIC EXPLOSION WHICH IS NURSED BY THE IDEA THAT POLITICAL IDEAS OR ONE'S OWN VISIONS WOULD MATERIALIZE IF ONE ATTACKED PUBLIC FIGURES...

"IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF THE ATTEMPT PREVENTED PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM CARRYING OUT HIS INTENDED POLICY TO WHICH THE VOTERS AGREED IN A LANDSLIDE ELECTION. A NEW TRAUMA HAS IMPOSED ITSELF ON U.S. POLICY, WITH ALL THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COMMON INTEREST OF THE WESTERN WORLD."

CONTINUOUS TV REPORTING

THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT DOMINATED ITALIAN MEDIA. LAST NIGHT'S SCHEDULED TV PROGRAMS WERE INTERRUPTED BY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONTINUOUS REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON. VIDEOTAPES WERE CARRIED ON LATE-NIGHT NEWSCASTS. ITALIAN PRESIDENT PERTINI'S EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET WERE TRANSMITTED FROM COSTA RICA, WHERE HE WAS ON A VISIT.

RADIO NEWSCASTS THIS MORNING REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS IN GOOD CONDITION AFTER A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION AND THAT HE WOULD BE BACK ON HIS FEET IN TWO WEEKS AND ABLE TO CARRY ON HIS DUTIES.

"A PART OF U.S. HISTORY"

INFLUENTIAL CENTRIST CORRIERE DELLA SERA OF MILAN SAID IN A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "THIS GREAT FREE NATION ON WHICH SO MUCH OF THE FATE OF THE WORLD DEPENDS HAS A HISTORY OF SOLIDARY DEEDS (OF THIS TYPE) WHOSE CONSEQUENCES MAKE NATIONS AND EVEN BLOCs OF NATIONS TREMBLE. BLOOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF U.S. HISTORY...A SECRET COMPONENT OF VIOLENCE WHICH EXPLODES PERIODICALLY LIKE A SLEEPING VOLCANO...WE HAVE BUT ONE WISH: MAY REAGAN SOON RETURN TO THE WHITE HOUSE."

PRO-COMMUNIST PAPER: "FRUIT OF THE CULT OF ARMS"

PRO-COMMUNIST PAPER: "FRUIT OF THE CULT OF ARMS" PRO-COMMUNIST PAPER: "FRUIT OF THE CULT OF ARMS" THAT "THE LEAST ONE CAN SAY OF THIS ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION... IS THAT IT IS LARGELY THE FRUIT OF THE CULT OF ARMS THAT HAS SPREAD OVER THE UNITED STATES AND HAS ITS MOST DOGGED DEFENDERS IN THOSE VERY STATES THAT BOAST ABOUT HAVING SENT THEIR MAN TO WASHINGTON...DESPITE THE CURRENT FRUSTRATIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES, HOWEVER, MOST AMERICANS HAVE MORE MODERATE AND REASONABLE ATTITUDES THAN IN THE PAST."

COMMUNIST PAPER: "A SINISTER SHADOW ON THE WORLD"

COMMUNIST L'UNITA OF ROME DECLARED: "...THE TRAGEDY OF

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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06

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 DALLAS IS FAR BACK IN TIME, THE TIME IS DIFFERENT BUT THE PERSON HIT IS THE SAME, A MAN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO REPRESENTS AND HOLDS IMMENSE POWER, WHO IS AT THE PINNACLE OF WORLD POWER. WHY SHOULD WE NOT BE CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY WHEN WE BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD IS CRISIS-CROSSED WITH GIGANTIC DANGERS?...THESE SHOTS PROJECT ANOTHER SINISTER SHADOW ON THE WORLD AND SCARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT INTELLIGENCE, REASON AND CIVILIZATION CAN DEFEAT OUTBURSTS OF IRRATIONALITY AND BARBARISM."

"EVEN SHOULD BLOCK POSSIBLE INVASION OF POLAND"
 MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT JAS GASHONSKI REPORTED ON ITALIAN RADIO NEWSCASTS THIS MORNING: "MOSCOW ANNOUNCED THE NEWS WITH UNUSUAL SPEED BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION YET. CERTAINLY, THIS ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT REAGAN SHOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF BLOCKING A POSSIBLE SOVIET INVASION OF POLAND. IT WOULD BE AN ERROR (FOR THE SOVIETS) TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICA IS WEAKER NOW. REAGAN HAS BEEN ONE OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS MOST ATTACKED BY THE SOVIETS. THERE WILL BE NO ATTACKS FOR A WHILE BUT PRESUMABLY SOVIET PROPAGANDA WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS EVENT TO PAINT THE UNITED STATES IN SOMBER COLORS."

IN STOCKHOLM, SPECIAL EARLY MORNING RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS CARRIED FILM OF THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND UPDATED DEVELOPMENTS. COMMENTATORS ELABORATED ON THE LINE OF SUCCESSION IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND STRESSED VIOLENCE IN AMERICA AND THE EASE OF OBTAINING WEAPONS.

"AMERICANS CANNOT COPE WITH THIS VIOLENCE"

MODERATE SVENSKA DAGBLADET OF STOCKHOLM OBSERVED THAT

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PAGE 01

USINFO WASHDC 3604

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"SINCE JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED IN DALLAS IN 1963, VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES HAS INCREASED ALARMINGLY AND THE LIST OF POLITICIANS AND LEADERS AFFECTED IS FRIGHTENING... BUT AMERICANS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH THIS VIOLENCE... EACH ATTEMPT TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TO GET HOLD OF WEAPONS HAS FAILED..."

"CONCERN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD"

SWISS ROMANDE RADIO NEWS OPENED TODAY WITH A REPORT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS OUT OF DANGER. LATER IT CARRIED A REPORT ON THE ATTACKER. A COMMENTATOR SAID, "THE NEWS HAS CAUSED CONCERN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."

INDEPENDENT LA SUISSE OF GENEVA DEVOTED ITS ENTIRE FRONT PAGE TO THE STORY. LATE EDITIONS OF OTHER PAPERS RAN BANNER HEADLINES.

SPANISH RADIO HAD SPECIAL BROADCASTS AND LATE NIGHT TELEVISION RAN FILM FOOTAGE RECEIVED BY SATELLITE FOR SEVERAL HOURS.

"A RISK FOR ALL U.S. PRESIDENTS"

INDEPENDENT EL PAIS OF MADRID HELD THAT "NO ONE IS GOING TO SAY THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS ATTEMPT THE AMERICANS ARE NOT READY FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT... TO BE SHOT TO DEATH WILL CONTINUE TO BE A RISK FOR ALL U.S. PRESIDENTS WHO CARRY OUT THEIR MOST ELEMENTARY OBLIGATIONS..."

DIARIO 16 REPORTED THAT KING JUAN CARLOS TELEPHONED THE WHITE HOUSE AND SENT A CABLE EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE.

TOKYO TELEVISION NETWORKS GAVE TOP COVERAGE. ALL NETWORKS RAN VIDEOTAPED SCENES OF THE SHOOTING, AND CARRIED REPORTS ON THE SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S OPERATION. TELEVISION COMMENTATORS SAID THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS SHOCKED BY THE INCIDENT. REPORTS DID NOT MAKE THE DEADLINE FOR TODAY'S MORNING PAPERS.

CONCERN ABOUT REAGAN-SUZUKI ALKS

PUBLICLY FINANCED NHK TELEVISION AND OTHER NETWORKS SPoke OF PRIME MINISTER SUZUKI'S SHOCK OVER THE INCIDENT AND QUOTE HIM AS SAYING, "I WILL PRAY THAT THE OPERATION WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL RECOVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." TBS TELEVISION SAID HE HAD SENT A CABLE OF SYMPATHY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN. THE NETWORK STATED THAT ATTENTION IN JAPAN IS NOW FOCUSING ON WHETHER THE PLANNED BT

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UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06

USINFO
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REAGAN-SUZUKI TALKS IN MAY CAN TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED.
NHK CITED FOREIGN MINISTER ITO AS EXPRESSING HOPE FOR
THE PRESIDENT'S QUICK RECOVERY AND AS ADDING THAT HE EXPECTS
THE INCIDENT WILL NOT HAVE ANY GREAT EFFECT ON U.S. FOREIGN
POLICY.

THE KYODO NEWS SERVICE REPORTED THAT EMPEROR HIROHITO
SENT A CABLE OF SYMPATHY. IN A SEPARATE REPORT, THE NEWS
AGENCY ASSERTED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON THE PRESIDENT MIGHT
AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO SETTLE THE U.S.-JAPAN AUTO
PROBLEM BEFORE PRIME MINISTER SUZUKI'S U.S. VISIT.

THE NEWS AGENCY CITED INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY
MINISTER TANAKA AS SAYING THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THE INCIDENT
TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S
POLICY ON THE AUTO PROBLEM OR ON OTHER ISSUES BUT THAT EVERY-
THING "NOW DEPENDS" ON THE PRESIDENT'S CONDITION. THE NEWS
AGENCY ADDED THAT JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADERS HAD ALSO
EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

SOUTH KOREA: EXTRA EDITIONS ISSUED
SEOUL PAPERS WERE DOMINATED BY NEWS COVERAGE OF THE
SHOOTING. MORNING PAPERS ISSUED EXTRAS ON THE SUBJECT,
AND SOME REPORTS CARRIED APPREHENSIVE COMMENTS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S HEALTH AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA. CONSERVATIVE
DONGA ILBO DESCRIBED THE EVENT AS A TRAGEDY CAUSED BY THE
SICKNESS OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT. SEVERAL PAPERS
RAN REPORTS THAT GEORGE BUSH HAD STARTED ACTING FOR THE
PRESIDENT.

TAIWAN: OFFICIAL MESSAGE

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PAGE 01

USINFO WASHDC 3604

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AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE, IN A TAIPEI-DATELINED DISPATCH, REPORTED TODAY THAT TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHIANG CHING-KUO "CONDEMNED AS A 'BARBAROUS AND CRIMINAL' ACT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN YESTERDAY. IN A CABLE SENT TO THE U.S. PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT CHIANG SAID SUCH AN ACT SHOULD BE 'CONDEMNED AND DEPLORED' BY THE WHOLE CIVILIZED WORLD."

AUSTRALIA: "AN INJURY TO ALL AMERICANS"

AUSTRALIAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA GAVE STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT, MUCH OF IT FROM U.S. NETWORK COVERAGE.

THE CANBERRA TIMES PUBLISHED A SPECIAL MID-DAY EDITION DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. IN AN EDITORIAL THE PAPER EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER THE INCIDENT AND SYMPATHY FOR THE PRESIDENT, HIS FAMILY, AND FOR "THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE THE PRESIDENT SO CLOSELY, IN A PHYSICAL SENSE, THAT THEY HAVE TO BEAR THE REAL AND CONSTANT DANGER OF THAT PROXIMITY...IN A SENSE, THE SHOOTING OF THE PRESIDENT BECOMES AN INJURY TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES."

THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER A POSSIBLE LENGTHY CONVALESCENCE OF THE PRESIDENT WHICH, IT SAID WOULD PROVIDE "INTOLERABLE LEADERSHIP FOR A GREAT COUNTRY WHICH HAS TO BE DECISIVE ABOUT ITSELF, DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE SEPARATION OF POWERS AMONG EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL HAS BEEN INHIBITING U.S. POLICY AND PERFORMANCE FOR A LONG TIME. IF THE EXECUTIVE, ON ITS OWN, ALSO BECAME DIVIDED, WITH A VICE PRESIDENT LIKE THE YOUNG MR. BUSH INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY THE LINGERING INEFFECTIVENESS OF HIS PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE GRAVELY AT RISK. FOR POLITICAL AS WELL AS HUMAN REASONS, WE MUST WISH PRESIDENT REAGAN A CONVENTIONALLY SPEEDY RECOVERY."

IN CONCLUDING, THE EDITORIAL DECRIED THE VIOLENCE IN THIS COUNTRY AND SAID, "IT IS SAD INDEED TODAY TO RECALL THE WORDS OF THE CHIEF LOBBYIST OF THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS: IT WOULD SAY REAGAN IS THE MOST PRO-GUN PRESIDENT SINCE THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

THAILAND: PM'S MESSAGE

BANGKOK DOMESTIC RADIO REPORTED TODAY THAT THAI PRIME MINISTER GENERAL PREM TINSULANONDA "EXTENDED HIS REGRETS TO BT

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UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06

USINFO
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THE U.S. PRESIDENT REAGAN SOON AFTER LEARNING ABOUT THE NEWS
OF THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT...HE WISHES THE U.S. PRESIDENT
A QUICK RECOVERY."

INDIA: GANDHI STATEMENT

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE TODAY RAN A REPORT FROM NEW DELHI
WHICH SAID "PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI TODAY EXPRESSED
SHOCK AT THE SENSELESS ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF U.S.
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AND WISHED HIM A SPEEDY RECOVERY."

EGYPT: SADAT CABLE

CAIRO'S MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT
PRESIDENT SADAT "SENT AN URGENT CABLE TO PRESIDENT
REAGAN" WHICH SAID, "I RECEIVED WITH EXTREME ALARM AND DEEP
SORROW THE REPORT OF THE CRIMINAL ATTEMPT YOU WERE SUBJECTED
TO TODAY. WHILE CONDEMNING THIS CRIMINAL ACTION, WHICH HAS
SHOCKED THE SENTIMENTS OF THE ENTIRE WORLD, I IMPLORE GOD
ALMIGHTY TO GRANT YOU THE BLESSING OF A SPEEDY RECOVERY SO
THAT YOU WILL RESUME THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR GREAT AND FREE
COUNTRY."

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SANAA DOMESTIC RADIO REPORTED TODAY THAT PRESIDENT
SALIH HAD SENT A CABLE TO MR. REAGAN IN WHICH HE
EXPRESSED HIS STRONG DENUNCIATION OF THE HEINOUS INCIDENT
TO WHICH PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS SUBJECTED YESTERDAY.
(PRESIDENT SALIH) EXPRESSED HAPPINESS OVER HIS SAFETY AND
WISHED HIM A SPEEDY RECOVERY."

ISRAEL: "NEED A REMEDY FOR THIS AFFLICTION"

INDEPENDENT MAARIV OF TEL AVIV DECLARED: "NO MEASURES
IN THE WORLD ARE SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE

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PAGE 01

USINFO WASHDC 3604

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WHEN A MENTALLY DERANGED MAN IS FREE TO BUY AND CARRY A GUN, THAT IS ONE OF THE GRAVE EFFECTS OF THE CONCEPT OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AS PRACTICED IN THE UNITED STATES...THE RESPONSIBILITY RESTING ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE GREAT POWER WHICH HAS JUST BEGUN TO REASSERT ITS ROLE AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD CALLS FOR A REMEDY FOR THIS AFFLICTION, EVEN AT THE COST OF EXAGGERATED LIBERTY..."

"SOVIET UNION STANDS TO GAIN"

LEFT-OF-CENTER AL HAMISHMAR BELIEVED THAT "THE HEART OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND OF THE ENTIRE FREE WORLD" HAD BEEN THREATENED AND FEARED THAT "THESE SHOTS MAY BRING BACK THE UNCERTAINTY AND APPREHENSIONS OF THE MID-SIXTIES AND EARLY SEVENTIES..." THE PAPER ALSO SAID THAT THE "SOVIET UNION STANDS TO GAIN BY THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT" BECAUSE "THE WORLD'S ATTENTION WILL NOW BE DIVERTED FROM POLAND TO THE WASHINGTON HOSPITAL."

A WRITER FOR INDEPENDENT YEDYOT AHARONOT SAID THAT THE INCIDENT "MAY BE EXPECTED TO HEIGHTEN THE FEUD BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT BUSH...AND SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG. RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM HAVE NOT BEEN OF THE BEST AND ARE BOUND TO BECOME MORE STRAINED AND AFFECT THE COURSE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY..."

BRAZIL: "ANOTHER SYMPTOM OF WORLD WAVE OF VIOLENCE"

NATIONALISTIC DIARIO POPULAR OF SAO PAULO SAW THE ATTEMPT AS "ANOTHER SYMPTOM OF THE FRIGHTENING WAVE OF VIOLENCE INTO WHICH OUR WORLD HAS PLUNGED" AND SAID THAT WHILE IT DISAGREED WITH MANY OF THE NEW PRESIDENT'S POLICIES, "THIS IS NOT THE MOMENT TO DISCUSS HIS RASHNESS AND CERTAIN MISTAKES HE COMMITTED IN ANALYZING BRAZILIAN POLICY..."

SOVIET UNION: "THE QUESTION WHICH WORRIES AMERICANS"

MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH PROVIDED AN ACCOUNT OF THE SHOOTING, THE ARREST OF A SUSPECT, AND VICE PRESIDENT BUSH'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON. IT ALSO CARRIED THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S TELEGRAM TO MR. REAGAN.

MOSCOW DOMESTIC RADIO REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON THAT "NOW, AFTER THE FIRST HOURS OF CONFUSION THAT SEIZED THE U.S. CAPITAL AT THE NEWS OF THE ATTEMPT ON RONALD REAGAN'S LIFE, THE PRESS HERE IS RAISING A DIFFICULT

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UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06

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QUESTION WHICH IS WORRYING AMERICANS: HOW COULD IT HAPPEN THAT ANOTHER U.S. PRESIDENT HAS BECOME THE VICTIM OF CRIME?... MANY PAPERS TODAY RECALL THAT FOUR PRESIDENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO MURDERERS... AFTER THE ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT REAGAN, HIS BROTHER NEIL TOLD REPORTERS, I EXPECTED THIS TO HAPPEN; SUCH IS THE SOCIETY IN WHICH WE ARE LIVING. THE SCALE OF TERROR IS STAGGERING AND FRIGHTENING, STATED SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL. FROM YEAR TO YEAR TERROR FLOURISHES MORE AND MORE IN OUR COUNTRY, STRESSED EDWARD KENNEDY."

CHINA: NEWS TREATMENT

THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY IN ENGLISH CARRIED NEWS REPORTING OF THE SHOOTING AND THE ARREST OF A SUSPECT.

YUGOSLAVIA: "THE BLIND ALLEY OF TERRORISM"

SOCIAL ALLIANCE PAPER DELO OF LJUBLJANA TODAY CALLED THE ATTACK "ANOTHER DREADFUL INCIDENT SO CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR TIME AND, WE ADMIT, OF OUR WORLD. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MOTIVES OF THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN WERE. WHATEVER THEY WERE-- HIS AND SIMILAR DEEDS, MEMORIES OF WHICH ARE STILL PAINFULLY FRESH ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC--LEAD INEVITABLY TO THE BLIND ALLEY OF TERRORISM."

ITEM

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PAGE 01 OF 01 USINFO WASHDC 3604

DTG1311904Z MAR 81 PSN1005107
TOR: 090/1945Z

OP IMMED
DE RUEHFO #3601/01 0901544
O 311542Z MAR 81
FM USINFO WASHDC

TO SEC ARMY WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEFENSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USTREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02

USINFO
EO 12065 N/A
WHITE HOUSE FOR JAMES BRADY, KARNA SMALL, DAVID GERGEN AND
MORT ALLEN
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN AND MANUEL
RUBIO
HEW: FOR KENNETH BACHE VOA/P - ROOM 2069
PGM/FN - FOR JAMES B. MILLER
PGM/FN - FOR ROBERT S. MEYERS
UN/N.Y. - FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, U.N. PLAZA
US TREASURY - FOR BILL JOY (RUEATRS)
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PASS MG SULLIVAN, CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIR
SECDEF/ISA FOR HUFF
SECSTATE FOR DYESS
SECSTATE FOR SHERWOOD GOLDBERG - ROOM 7234A
EARLY MORNING DIGEST OF FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION ICA
MEDIA REACTION STAFF, PGM/RC, 724 - 9057
///FYI EDITORS, THIS ITEM IS FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION
AND BACKGROUND AND NOT FOR BROADCAST.///

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT--AVAILABLE MEDIA COMMENT TODAY WAS
EXTENSIVE IN EXPRESSION OF DEEP CONCERN OVER THE ATTEMPT
ON THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE AS WELL AS SYMPATHY. MANY COMMENTA-
TORS WORRIED OVER INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CRIME,
DEPLORED WHAT SOME SAW AS ENDEMIC VIOLENCE IN AMERICA RECAL-
LING THE ASSASSINATIONS ON JOHN F. KENNEDY AND OTHER PRESI-
DENTS, AND PUZZLED OVER THE MOTIVES FOR THE ATTACK.

SOME ANALYSTS SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULD
EMERGE POLITICALLY STRONGER AS AMERICA CLOSED RANKS BEHIND
THE ADMINISTRATION.

SPECIAL PRESS EDITIONS AND EXTENDED RADIO AND TELEVISION

SIT: COL SPEAKES GERGEN SMALL MR
FOR: KAMINSKY
WHOR COMMENTS:

PAGE 01

USINFO WASHDC 3601

DTG:311542Z MAR 81 PSN:004734
TOR: 090/1611Z

BROADCASTS COVERED THE INCIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT'S SURGERY. THE EVENTS CAME TOO LATE FOR COMMENT OR EVEN NEWS TREATMENT IN MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD.

"HONEY, I FORGOT TO DUCK!"

AMONG HEADLINES IN LONDON TODAY WERE, "PRESIDENT REAGAN: BULLET REMOVED FROM LUNG--HONEY, I FORGOT TO DUCK--DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, I'LL MAKE IT" (TIMES OF LONDON), "PRESIDENT JOKES ON WAY TO SURGERY" (LIBERAL GUARDIAN), AND "REAGAN INCH FROM DEATH" (CONSERVATIVE DAILY EXPRESS).

COVERAGE IN THE BRITISH PRESS INCLUDED RECAPS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST POLITICAL FIGURES IN AMERICA.

"EXPECT AMERICANS TO RALLY AROUND THE PRESIDENT"

TODAY'S TIMES SPOKE OF THE "SHOCK AT ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS EPISODE WILL BE TAKEN, NOT UNREASONABLY, AS A SYMPTOM OF THE VIOLENCE THAT SEEMS TO BE ENDEMIC IN AMERICAN LIFE...

"THE SENSE OF SYMPATHY WILL DO MUCH TO DETERMINE THE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE SHOOTING. WITHIN THE UNITED STATES THERE WILL BE A WAVE OF FEELING IN WHICH IT WILL BE MUCH HARDER FOR ANYONE TO CRITICIZE EITHER THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY OR HIS POLICIES....THIS WILL APPLY TO CONGRESS, TO THE PRESS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE MOOD IS LIKELY TO BE ONE IN WHICH IT IS A NATIONAL EMOTIONAL

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02

USINFO
EO 12065 N/A

REQUIREMENT TO RALLY BEHIND THE PRESIDENT...

"AT THE SAME TIME, IT MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO ORDER THE LINES OF COMMAND WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION....YET THIS JUDGMENT SHOULD BE TEMPERED BY...THE WAVE OF SYMPATHY TOWARDS THE PRESIDENT...WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS OUTSIDE" AND "THE NATURAL TENDENCY WILL BE TO RALLY AROUND THE PRESIDENT AT THIS TIME..."

THE PAPER PREDICTED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF, "LED BY MR. ED MEESE AND MR. JIM BAKER," WOULD "EXERCISE CORRESPONDINGLY GREATER SWAY SO LONG AS MR. REAGAN IS OUT OF ACTION. OTHERS...WILL FIND IT HARD TO CONTEST THEIR DECISIONS UNLESS THEY ARE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT."

"THE MOST GRIEVOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR US ALL"

THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY TELEGRAPH OBSERVED THAT "A QUESTION MARK IS THROWN OVER THE WAY IN WHICH THE WESTERN WORLD AND ITS LEADERS GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS...WHAT IF WE ARE NOW COMPELLED TO CHANGE THIS STYLE? WHAT HAPPENED OUTSIDE A HOTEL IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY, TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH WHAT HAPPENED IN DALLAS WITHIN THIS GENERATION, MUST ALTER THE ODDS, NO MATTER HOW BRAVE A FACE RESPECTIVE HEADS OF STATE MAY CHOOSE TO PUT ON THEM. AND THAT CAN ONLY HAVE, FOR US ALL, MOST GRIEVOUS CONSEQUENCES."

"A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE WESTERN WORLD"

TODAY'S CONSERVATIVE NATIONALISTIC DAILY MAIL SAID THE PRESIDENT "WILL SURVIVE THE ASSASSIN'S BULLETS. BUT WHAT OF AMERICA? HOW LONG CAN THIS COUNTRY, SO TRUSTING, SO LIBERAL, SO FULL OF GENUINE GENEROSITY--AS THE WHOLE OF POSTWAR WESTERN EUROPE CAN TESTIFY TO--CONTINUE TO DESCEND

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PAGE 01

USINFO WASHDC 3601

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IN THE PITLESS ABYSS OF VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION?
 "IT IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO EVERYONE IN THE WESTERN
 WORLD. WHAT USE IS A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING, OF AFFLUENCE,
 OF LEISURE AND COMFORT AND FULFILLMENT IF VILENT DEATH
 IS A CONSTANT COMPANION?....IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT PRESIDENT
 REAGAN WILL MAKE A FULL RECOVERY AND RESUME HIS OFFICE
 BEFORE TOO LONG A TIME ELAPSES, WHEN HE DOES, HE MUST
 ADDRESS HIMSELF TO THIS, THE BIGGEST OF ALL THE PROBLEMS
 WHICH FACE HIS COUNTRY."

NOTE: MORNING DIGEST ITEMS ARE BASED ON USICA CABLES RECEIVER
 BY 8 A.M. IF LATER MATERIAL INDICATES A CHANGE, A SUPPLEMENT
 WILL BE ISSUED.

ITEM
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OP IMMED /ROUTINE
STU7974
DE RUEHNG #1504 090211Z
O P 312036Z MAR 81
FM ICA MANAGUA

June

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO WASHDC
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UNCLAS

ICA FOR PGM/RC, PGM/PPL, PGM/TD, VOA/PL, AR
STATE FOR ARA/CEN

1. FROM THE MOMENT THE FIRST WIRE SERVICE STORY WAS RECEIVED, THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT COMPLETELY ABSORBED THE LOCAL MEDIA. ICA MANAGUA RECEIVED A FLOOD OF ENQUIRIES CONCERNING ALL ASPECTS OF THIS UNIT. LOCAL RADIO STATIONS USED LIVE REPORTS FROM US (BASED ON VOA REPORTS AND WIRE SERVICE STORIES) FOR PARTS OF THEIR REPORTING. POST SUPPLIED VTR FOOTAGE OF PRES AND PRES SEC BRADY TO THE SANDINISTA TV SYSTEM FOR USE IN ITS NEWSCAST MARCH 30. PHOTOS WERE ALSO GIVEN TO AND USED BY LOCAL PAPERS.

2. LOCAL DAILIES HAVE ALL GIVEN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT TO STORY. INDEPENDENT LA PRESNA BEAT THE COMPETITION BY TURNING OUT ITS MARCH 31 EDITION THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON. PAPER'S PAGE ONE STORY HEADLINED "PRES REAGAN INJURED IN ATTACK". LEAD ITEM BASED ON UP STORY. WASHINGTON AFP STORY CARRIED HEADLINE "SECRETARY BRADY IN AGONY."

3. FSLN OFFICIAL ORGAN BARRICADA (MARCH 31) CARRIED FRONTPAGE HEADLINE "REAGAN OUT OF DANGER", WITH SUBHEADS "FULMINATING ATTACK", "CRISIS OFFICE FUNCTIONS", AND "GRN REPUDIATES ATTACK". ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS SHOWED "THREE MOMENTS OF NE ATTACK" A STORY ON PAGE FIVE REPORTED THAT "HINCKLEY HAS (A) HISTORY - HE HAD BEEN DETAINED IN 1980 NEAR CARTER."

4. PRO-FSLN/GRN EL NUEVO DIARIO HEADLINED "REAL BULLETS FOR REAGAN". ACCOMPANYING STORY OBSERVED THAT "THE EXFILM ACTOR DURING A GREAT PART OF LIFE, VIRTUALLY PLAYED WITH PISTOLS AND FAKE BULLETS HE FIRED OR WHICH WERE FIRED AT

SIT: COL VP
EOB: ARA, KAMINSKY
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PAGE 01

ICA MANAGUA 1504

DTG: 312036Z MAR 81 PSN: 005277
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HIM IN WESTERN MOVIES". IN ADDITION TO ITS FIRST TWO PAGES REPLET WITH PHOTOS THE PAPER ALSO DEDICATED WHAT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN ITS FIRST PAGE ALMOST ENTIRELY TO THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. HEADLINE READ "INJURED, REAGAN JOKED". WASHINGTON AP ITEM UNDER THIS LEAD PROVIDED SOURCE OF PAPER'S OBSERVATION CONCERNING "REAL BULLETS." ANOTHER STORY ON SAME PAGE (NY AP) HEADED "AN AMERICAN NIGHTMARE?", WDBX SUBHEAD "ASTONISHMENT, SADNESS, AND INDIGNATION." AS DID BARRICADA, EL NUEVO DIARIO ALSO PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF GRN MESSAGE TO MRS REAGAN CONDEMNING THE ATTACK AND DESIRING QUICK RECUPERATION FOR THE PRESIDENT.

5. FINALLY, WASHINGTON EFE ITEM HADED "HAIG DID WHAT CORNELIO DID!" ACCORDING TO THIS WIRE STORY, "THE OBSESSION WITH POWER, MANIFESTED ON REPEATED OCCASIONS BY THE NORTH AMERICAN SEC OF STATE ALEXANDER HAIG HAS PLAYED A TRICK ON HIM FOR WHICH HE WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN BY TIME". STORY ADDED THAT "HIS (SECRETARY'S) PUBLIC DECLARATION THAT, WHILE HE WAS AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF VPRES BUSH, HE WAS ASSUMING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE HAIG THE TARGET OF HIS DETRACTORS AND, WHAT IS WORSE, OF THE POWERFUL NORTH AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA." (IN A FOOTNOTE, EL NUEVO DIARIO REMINDED ITS READERS THAT CORNELIO HUECK "TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE PRESIDENCY WHEN SOMOZA SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK WHICH FORCED HIM TO BE HOSPITALIZED IN MIAMI FOR TWO MONTHS. THIS SAME THING IS WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE OCCURRED WITH HAIG IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY".) ITEM

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2978

UNCLAS PARIS 09673

USOEC
EUR/RPF FOR MONTGOMERY
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: AORG, OECD
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM OECD SECRETARY GENERAL TO PRESIDENT
- REAGAN

1. OECD SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP HAS REQUESTED US TO
FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN,
- THE WHITE HOUSE,
- WASHINGTON

ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS MYSELF, MAY I EXPRESS TO YOU
AND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OUR SENSE OF SHOCK AT WHAT HAS
OCCURRED AND OUR BEST WISHES FOR A COMPLETE AND RAPID
RECOVERY. MAY I ALSO EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND
BEST WISHES TO MRS. REAGAN, TO OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR
FAMILY AND TO ALL THOSE WHO SUFFERED IN THIS TRAGIC
INCIDENT. EMILE VAN LENNEP, SECRETARY-GENERAL. END
QUOTE. RYAN
BT

SIT: COL MREOB: ECON, EURW, WEUR
EOB: NTS:
WHSR COMMENTS:

PAGE 01 OF 01 PARIS 9673

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