Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

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

Collection: Speakes, Larry: Files
Folder Title: Wick, Charles [USIA (United States Information Agency)] (1)

Box: OA 13877

To see more digitized collections visit: https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit: https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection

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

Citation Guidelines: https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing

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





DEC 3 0 1986

Dear Larry:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an article on your October 27 comments at the White House on the Soviet Union's propaganda, as carried on our Wireless File the same day.

This article was transmitted to 210 posts in 128 countries. It will be translated where appropriate and released in each country to an array of media. Thank you for this contribution to our public affairs efforts overseas.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick Director

The Honorable
Larry M. Speakes
Assistant to the President and
Principal Deputy Press Secretary
The White House

United States Information Agency

Washington, D.C. 20547



December 19, 1986

Dear Frank:

On New Year's Day 1986, the President made an unedited televised address to the Soviet people. A reciprocal address to the American people was made by General Secretary Gorbachev. These were a product of our efforts to pursue with the Soviets greater direct access by U.S. officials to Soviet audiences. I strongly endorsed this precedent-setting exchange of messages, and believe that it should be followed up by a similar exchange this New Year's Day.

These messages are in harmony with the principal of reciprocal communications and media access and help emphasize the importance of such efforts at the highest levels of our government. It is my belief that arranging reciprocal messages this year will go a long ways toward institutionalizing this vital initiative.

I am aware that time is short to make arrangements for televised appearances on New Year's Day. I fully support the attached memorandum from the Department of State and hope you will give the project speedy consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick Director

The Honorable Frank C. Carlucci National Security Council The White House

Voc: Larry Speakes



÷

Washington, D.C. 20520

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ALTON G. KEEL, JR. THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO THE SOVIET PUBLIC

Last New Year's Day, the President made an unedited, televised address to the Soviet people; General Secretary Gorbachev made a reciprocal address over U.S. television. Both messages were well received on all sides as a political symbol. There is no tradition of such messages—last year's exchange broke new ground—and the political atmosphere has obviously changed. Nevertheless, exchanging messages once again would send a signal both personal and political about the considerable progress made over the last year, and the President's willingness to push on from Reykjavik.

The Secretary has authorized exploratory discussions with the Soviets about a similar exchange of messages this year. We will, of course, make no commitments before receiving White House authorization. A draft Presidential message, approved by the Secretary, is attached for your consideration.

In view of the date and the complexity of arranging simultaneous televised appearances, we would appreciate early authorization to make arrangements with the Soviets as well as comments on the draft.

Nicholas Platt Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Draft Presidential message to the Soviet public





DEC 16 1986

Dear Larry:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an article on your November 12 remarks on speculation of the public about efforts to free U.S. hostages in Lebanon, as carried on our Wireless File the same day.

This article was transmitted to 210 posts in 128 countries. It will be translated where appropriate and released in each country to an array of media. Thank you for this contribution to our public affairs efforts overseas.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick Director

The Honorable
Larry M. Speakes
Assistant to the President and
Principal Deputy Press Secretary
The White House

USIA WIRELESS FILE

THIS IS THE "HOUSEWIRE," THE CENTRAL EDITION OF THE USIA WIRELESS FILE. IT IS PREPARED DAILY BY THE AGENCY'S PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS SERVICE. ARTICLES FROM THE HOUSEWIRE ARE COMBINED WITH OTHERS OF SPECIAL REGIONAL INTEREST TO FORM THE FIVE REGIONAL EDITIONS -- AFRICA, EAST ASIA/PACIFIC, EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA, NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA -- THAT ARE TRANSMITTED OVERSEAS.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1986	PAGE
SPECULATION ON EFFORTS FOR HOSTAGES CALLED MISINFORMED (Article on Speakes remarks to reporters)	3
OAS APPROVES NEW INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON DRUGS (Article on General Assembly action)	5
KAMPELMAN CALLS ARMS TALKS "MOST PRODUCTIVE TO DATE" (Article on U.SSoviet talks, with text)	7
MCPHERSON SEES THIRD WORLD TREND TOWARD DEMOCRACY (Article on Mcpherson speech, Q and A, at press club)	10
ABRAHAMSON: SDI RESEARCH TARGETS SHORT-RANGE NUKES (Article on Worldnet interview)	12
WHITE HOUSE AIDE SEES "TREMENDOUS PROGRESS" ON ARMS CONTROL (Article on Howard Foreign Press Center briefing)	14
CAPITAL MOBILITY LINKS GLOBAL SECURITIES MARKETS By John Shad	18
FACTS ABOUT A.I.D. (A.I.D. fact sheet on U.S. bilateral economic assistance)	24
WHITE HOUSE REPORT, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (Iran, radar, Alfonsin, Thatcher)	31
STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (Syria-hostages-Iran, South Africa, U.SPoland, North Korea)	32
UNITED NATIONS REPORT, WENESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (South Africa; human rights report on Afghanistan;	2.5
human rights in El Salvador, Chile)	35
ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (Global debt, trade talks with Soviets, gross income tax)	38

Q-

USIA WIRELESS FILE

NEWS ROUNDUP, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (FS)	41
ADD NEWS ROUNDUP, NOVEMBER 12 (FS)	44
VOA EDITORIALS IN BRIEF	45
A QUARTER CENTURY OF A.I.D. (VOA editorial)	47
U.SIRAN RELATIONS, AND NICARAGUA (U.S. opinion roundup)	49
EAST BLOC "MASSIVELY" VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS ACCORDS (Text: Zimmermann remarks at CSCE meeting)	52
OFFICIAL URGES CLOSE WATCH ON DEBT GROWTH IN U.S. (Text: Seidman speech to League of Savings Institutions)	59
U.S. IS GEARING UP A NATIONAL CRUSADE AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS (Text: Nancy Reagan remarks to narcotics conference)	65
MCPHERSON MARKS 25TH YEAR OF A.I.D. PROGRAM (Text: McPherson remarks at National Press Club)	68
REAGAN SAYS ARMS TALKS PRODUCTIVE, DESPITE USSR SDI STANCE (Text: Reagan statement on end of Geneva session)	75
SDI RESEARCH TARGETS SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES (Transcript: Abrahamson Worldnet interview)	79
AMERICAN REPUBLICS WIRELESS FILE LOG	96
EAST ASIA/PACIFIC WIRELESS FILE LOG	100
AFRICA WIRELESS FILE LOG	102
NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA WIRELESS FILE LOG	104
EUROPEAN WIRELESS FILE LOG	106

•

PAGE 3

*GLP302 11/12/86 SPECULATION ON EFFORTS FOR HOSTAGES CALLED MISINFORMED (Article on Speakes remarks to reporters) (430)

Washington -- President Reagan believes public opinion is being misinformed by speculation about efforts to free U.S. hostages held in Lebanon, the White House said November 12.

Reagan himself turned aside reporters' questions about news reports that Washington, in effect, traded shipments of military spare parts to Iran in exchange for release of two of the hostages.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said Reagan feels that "a lot of the speculation is misinformed. We are not at liberty to explain some of the actions we have taken. Until we are, until all the facts come out, I would caution the press, the Congress and others not to jump to conclusions and not to make judgments on the basis of what they may read or hear."

Speakes told questioners the administration will wait to see whether a congressional investigation actually materializes before saying how it will deal with one. "We would like to be cooperative," he noted, "but we will have to see what the needs and the questions" of such a probe turn out to be.

He said Reagan will reveal the facts of the Iranian connection "when it is appropriate and consistent with the safety of the hostages and the long-term interests of the United States." Unnamed administration officials have been quoted as saying U.S. contacts with Iranians were arranged in terms of looking beyond the strained relations of the Khomeini era to the possibility of improved relations after the ayatollah passes from the scene.

Speakes said it will be up to Reagan "alone" to determine when that "appropriate" time arrives. "It will be a judgmental call by the president," he said.

Speakes maintained there is still "hope" that two of the remaining hostages thought to be held by Islamic Jihad -- Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland -- may be released soon. He suggested that reporters had misinterpreted his meaning last week when he commented that U.S. hopes had been "dashed" by publicity.

PAGE 4

He said the U.S. policy concerning terrorism is well-established and has not changed. It is: the United States will talk to anyone about the safety of hostages but will not negotiate with or make concessions to terrorists.

Speakes told a questioner that the president "absolutely" retains his full confidence in his national security adviser, John Poindexter; some commentators have called on Poindexter to resign for assertedly "miscalculating" the ability of administration contacts in Iran to deliver on their promises.

NNNN





MOV 2 0 1986

Dear Larry:

I wish to offer you my sincere thanks for arranging resumption of delivery of my personal copy of the Daily White House News Summary. I find this an extremely valuable resource, and am pleased to be back in the loop.

To further extend the value of this vital document, may I suggest your office explore reinstituting distribution of the Summary to selected ambassadors as was once the practice. I am convinced that such a decision would be welcomed.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick

Director

The Honorable
Larry M. Speakes
Assistant to the President
and Principal Deputy Press Secretary
The White House





November 10, 1986

Dear Larry:

As a great friend and supporter of the Voice of America I thought you would be interested to learn that we have received reliable reports that Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini is a regular VOA listener. Dilip Hiro, a well-respected expert on Iran, was told by close Khomeini associates that the Ayatollah Khomeini carries a radio during his evening walks to listen to VOA.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick

Director

The Honorable Larry M. Speakes Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary The White House



NOV 1 1986

Office of the Director



80

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

The Honorable MEMORANDUM FOR:

Larry M. Speakes

Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary

The White House

Charles Z. Wick Zw FROM:

Director

European Public Opinion on Reykjavik SUBJECT:

The attached results from two post-Reykjavik telephone polls conducted by USIA's Office of Research in Britain, France and West Germany show that:

- Public opinion is most troublesome for U.S. interests in Britain and West Germany, where upcoming elections will involve opposition parties committed to anti-nuclear policies threatening NATO's viability.
- o Support for U.S. SDI research has eroded significantly: the British public has joined the West Germans in opposing SDI research while the previously supportive French are now closely divided.
- o Fully half of European publics continue to be ignorant of Soviet strategic defense research.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 550 3/1/18

United States Information Agency

Washington, D.C. 20547



October 29, 1986

Dear Larry:

We have received a request from Ambassador Anthony Quainton asking for a written Presidential interview for the Kuwait newspaper Al-Qabas. When published, it would appear in Kuwait and 11 other Arabic-speaking countries. The peg for the interview would be the 25th anniversary, on November 17, of U.S-Kuwait diplomatic relations.

In addition to Ambassador Quainton, the request has the strong backing of Assistant Secretary Murphy and his staff at State. They have indicated they would be willing to draft the answers to be issued in the President's name.

The Embassy, State, and USIA feel that this would be an appropriate occasion for the President to reaffirm U.S. policy and long-term interests in the area. It would also give him an opportunity to highlight our relationship with Kuwait as a case study of the shared interests we have with governments in that area even though we do not hold identical views on all issues (Israel, being a case in point). At a time of increased tension over the protracted Iran-Iraq war, he can assure those of moderate views of our good-faith efforts in that dispute and of our concern over the protection of shipping in the Gulf.

As you know, the President has not previously, at least in recent years, granted an exclusive interview to a Middle Eastern newspaper. Al-Qabas would be an ideal choice for such an interview. Arabic readers respect Kuwaiti journalistic standards, and Al-Qabas Editor Mohammed Jassim Al-Sager, educated in the U.S., has assured our Embassy that he can arrange co-publication of his article with the following newspapers: Al-Ahram in Egypt, Al-Ra'y in Jordan, Al-Khaleej in the UAE, Al-Rayat in Qatar, Akhbar al-Khaleej in Bahrain, Al-Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Al-Saafer in Lebanon, and Al-Sabah in Tunisia. This would be in addition to the Al-Qabas circulation of about 75,000 in Kuwait, 7000 in Morocco, 7000 in Libya, 2000 in Tunisia, 2500 in Algeria and its foreign editions printed in England and France.

The Honorable
Larry Speakes
Assistant to the President and
Principal Deputy Press Secretary
The White House

Once you give the go-ahead on this interview, our Foreign Press Center will obtain the questions from Al-Qabas. If you are able to arrange a photo opportunity with the President, the Foreign Press Center will assist Editor Al-Sager in obtaining radio transmission of the photos.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick Director

United States Information Agency

Washington, D.C. 20547



October 28, 1986

Dear Larry:

Thank you for your letter of October 22 recommending Bob Clark for a position with USIA. He sounds quite impressive and appears to have excellent credentials.

Given the austere budget climate of USIA, we do not anticipate filling many positions in the future. Even so, I will discuss Mr. Clark's qualifications with Marvin Stone when he returns to the office next week to see if we might have something for him. Marvin or I will get back with you on this.

I appreciate your bringing Mr. Clark's interest in USIA to my personal attention and your strong endorsement of him.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick

The Honorable
Larry Speakes
Deputy Press Secretary
to the President
The White House

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

November 7, 1986

Dear Bob:

Enclosed are letters from Charlie Wick and Marvine Stone at USIA. As you can see, Charlie had Marv look into the possibilites for you at VOA, and he wants you to call him to set up an appointment. Let me know so I can precede your visit with a strong recommendation to Dick Carlson.

Give Connie Romero a call here at the office at 456-2100, and maybe I can pave the way.

Best regards,

Larry Speakes
Deputy Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Bob Clark 420 N. Park Drive Arlington, Virginia 22203



November 4, 1986

Dear Larry:

If Bob Clark will call me next week I will be more than happy to set up an appointment with our Director of the Voice of America, Dick Carlson, to take a good hard look at whether there is something at the Voice for Bob. I can assure you no one is more familiar with Bob's work than I am. We were colleagues in the old INS days and I had then, and have ever since, the highest regard for him. Let's see if something works out at the Voice. If not there, I will make sure he gets a hearing at our Television Service.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

Marvin L. Stone Deputy Director

The Honorable
Larry Speakes
Deputy Press Secretary
to the President
The White House





October 23, 1986

Dear Larry:

Thank you so much for your praise of the USIA personnel who supported the President's trip to Iceland. I will be certain to pass your letter of appreciation to Messrs. Brown, Allin, Snow and Ivory.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick Director

The Honorable
Larry M. Speakes
Assistant to the President
and Principal Deputy Press Secretary
The White House

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

October 22, 1986

Dear Charlie:

Bob Clark, the long-time ABC correspondent, has written me concerning his interest in a position with the Administration.

As you know, Bob retired a couple of years ago after many years with ABC, and is a real pro. I thought that his expertise in television and his knowledge of the news business might fit in somewhere at USIA.

I would give him the highest recommendation. Besides knowing the business, he is a prince of a fellow.

Larry Speakes

Deputy Press Secretary to the President

The Honorable Charles Wick Director United States Information Agency Washington, D.C.

cc: Marvin Stone

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 22, 1986

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for your letter, and it was so good to hear from you. I would like to visit sometime when it is convenient for the both of us. It would be good to talk over old times, and as always I would value your advice and counsel.

I'll be glad to run through some checkpoints and see if there are opportunities that would take advantage of
your vast talent and experience. It is
no doubt you would be a tremendous asset
to the Administration.

Let me get on this, and I will get back in touch.

Best regards,

Larry Speakes
Deputy Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Bob Clark 420 N. Park Drive Arlington, Virginia 22203 420 N. Park Dr. Arlington, Va. 22203 July 22. 1986

Dear Larry:

I have partially overcome a case of the early retirement blahs by working part-time for C-Span on Capitol Hill, helping set up their coverage of the Senate. I have an urge, however, to get back into some more active role.

I'm not sure what sort of contribution I might make in a government job, but I'd like to explore the possibilities. I'm interested primarily in a full-time position but a temporary assignment, as with a study commission, might be a possibility.

Besides my 24 years with ABC News, I spent two years with the Washington Star and ten years with the old International News Service. I was also briefly Director of the GNA in the Eisenhower administration. I'm 64.

I took the GM post as a political independent, which I've always been. It was Jim Hagerty, Eisenhower's press secretary, who hired me at ABC.

I'll be happy to supply a full resume to anyone who's interested. If there's anything you know of or could suggest, I would be most grateful.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Bob Clark

P.3.: You continue to have my boundless admiration for handling both your job and Sam Donaldson with unflappable skill.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 14, 1986

Dear Mr. Director:

Thank you so much for the tremendous job the men and women of USIA did in making the President's trip to Iceland a success. We were operating under less than ideal conditions, but the professionalism of your team made the job easy.

Words of special praise go to Phil Brown, who managed the team; Mort Allin, who operated the Press Center; Chris Snow, who managed the International Press Center; and Hugh Ivory, the Iceland Public Affairs Officer.

Best regards,

Larry Speakes
Deputy Press Secretary
to the President

The Honorable Charles Wick Director United States Information Agency Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR CHARLES Z. WICK

Director, USIA

FROM:

Larry Speakes

SUBJECT:

Press Events

Here is the lineup of planned television events for the next few

0 Secretary Shultz Press Conference

> This will be held in the United States press center and video and audio will be provided to the International Press Center. The White House Press Center is covered by TV crews and correspondents from every NATO country, and from Japan. Most European and Asian print media are also represented in our briefing room.

Sunday Television Shows

Secretary Shultz

- NBC Meet the Press

Donald T. Regan

- Face the Nation

Max Kampleman

- Brinkley Show

Assistant Secretary - CNN Newsmaker Sunday

Roz Ridgway

All of these shows have European connections.

- The President will make a statement to the families of U.S. servicemen at Keflavik, and this will serve as an immediate statement on the meeting from the highest levels of the U.S. Government.
- In addition, Secretary Shultz will hold a press conference on Monday morning at NATO Headquarters.

- o Don Regan, Max Kampelman and Roz Ridgway will appear on Monday morning television news shows again with European feeds.
- o The President will address the Nation from the Oval Office Monday night.
- o Secretary Shultz will appear on Worldnet on Wednesday.

I have spoken with Mr. Gerasimov regarding a possible Soviet violation of our blackout understanding and expressed hope that there will be no further problems.





October 1, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Honorable

Larry Speakes

Assistant to the President and

Principal Deputy Press Secretary

The White House

FROM:

Charles Z. Wick

Director

SUBJECT:

USIA Coverage of the President's UNGA

Speech

The President's September 22 address to the United Nations General Assembly drew wide coverage by USIA's media elements.

The attached report summarizes USIA public diplomacy activities in support of the speech and highlights the depth and variety of Agency programming. I hope that you will find it of interest.

HIGHLIGHTS OF USIA COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S UNGA SPEECH September 22, 1986

USIA media elements gave full coverage and wide distribution to the President's address to the United Nations General Assembly on September 22 to ensure the widest and largest possible overseas audience, including:

Television

TV fed a 10-minute edited version of the speech in Spanish to Latin American TV stations on September 22. The entire speech was transmitted in English to European posts the following day. Tapes of the speech were immediately shipped to East Asian posts and offered worldwide to all posts.

Wireless File

Advance texts of the speech were sent out on September 21; and the entire text, as delivered the following day, in English, Arabic, French and Spanish.

VOA

The speech was broadcast live in English to Europe, Africa, the Middle East, East Asia and South Asia. VOA language services, already on the air when the speech was being delivered, used the advance text to go live with simultaneous translations. Other language services broadcast excerpts from the speech throughout the day. An editorial on the speech was broadcast the following day.

Foreign Press Centers

The New York Foreign Press Center assisted in providing journalists credentials for the UN address as well as for reporters awaiting the President's Newark appearance. A large group of foreign journalists gathered at the Washington Foreign Press Center to hear the address piped in live and receive copies of the advance text of the speech.

Media Reaction

An 18-page special report on foreign media reaction was distributed September 23 to the White House and senior administration officials.

Pamphlet

Excerpts of the President's speech have been incorporated into the revised and updated text of the pamphlet, "In Search of Peace", which will soon be printed.





September 18, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Honorable

Larry Speakes

Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary

The White House

FROM:

Charles Z.

Director

SUBJECT:

Foreign Media Reaction to President

and First Lady's Joint Television Address

on Drugs

The President and Mrs. Reagan's joint television message on drugs drew an overall positive comment from foreign media. (See Tab A.)

There were a few doubters who suggested that the drug issue was a good one for the November elections or wondered whether the nation could sustain the effort to eliminate drug abuse. But praise for the First Lady and admiration for the President's call for a crusade against drugs was the general response.

SPECIAL REPORT

Foreign Media Reaction

United States Information Agency

Tuesday, September 16, 1986

THE REAGANS' JOINT TV ADDRESS ON DRUGS

Summary

Worldwide coverage of the President and Mrs. Reagan's "unprecedented dual appearance" on nationwide television Sunday night drew a positive response. Numerous writers agreed with BRT radio in Brussels that it was an "emotional call by the Reagan couple for the American people to take part in the crusade against drugs."

Many commentators recalled the First Lady's five year fight against drugs, now joined by the President. London's <u>Daily Mail</u> remarked that "the President has taken command of the crusade....Nobody could have done it better. He is a father figure--a grandfather figure--with towering moral authority among his people."

There were some dissenters. Left-of-center Liberation in Paris pointed out that "Reagan talked about the failure of his policy to put an end to illegal entry of drugs into the U.S." And Italy's leftist, influential La Repubblica said that "the President's proposals themselves are not really new. But beyond the substance of the speech, the message set the tone of it."

As for how to handle drug dealers, others echoed Mexico City's moderate Novedades report that "the First Lady and President Ronald Reagan supported the death penalty for drug traffickers." Many noted the call for use of the Army within U.S. borders.

Two papers contemplated the effect the U.S. campaign might have on their countries. Bonn's conservative <u>Die Welt</u> asserted, "We Europeans cannot be indifferent...for the drug dealers will look for new routes and markets outside the United States." And Malaysia's <u>Utusan Melayu</u> warned that "when the big nations tighten their control, drug agents will channel their drugs to third world nations like Malaysia."

And some media representatives saw political ramifications in the address. Italy's leftist La Repubblica suggested that "the issue of drugs is a good one for the upcoming November elections," while centrist Corriere della Sera held that "with U.S.-Soviet detente facing an impasse caused by the Daniloff case, another very popular initiative has become Ronald Reagan's strong point."

Material Available on September 15

EUROPE

BRITAIN

"Reagans Open U.S. 'Crusade' on Drugs"

London headlines were "Reagans Open U.S. 'Crusade' on Drugs" (<u>Times</u>) and "Crack at Prime Time for Ron and Nancy" (<u>Guardian</u>).

"Unusual Broadcast From Their Private Quarters"

The conservative <u>Times'</u> Washington correspondent Michael Binyon said this morning, "In an unusual televised broadcast from their private quarters in the White House, President and Mrs. Reagan made an emotional appeal yesterday to Americans to join in a national crusade against drugs."

"Current Frenzy Has an Air About It of a Brief Interlude"

The liberal <u>Guardian</u>'s Washington correspondent Michael White reported, "The broadcast was the high point to date of the five-year crusade against drugs by which Mrs. Reagan has established herself as a serious Presidential consort rather than a mere clotheshorse. (But)...like Colonel Qaddafi, or Nicaragua, the current frenzy has the air about it of a brief interlude, after which the professionals will be left to struggle on with the problem much as before."

ITALY

"Reagan's Antidrug Campaign Has Become a Crusade"

Though the speech was delivered too late for the Italian media, centrist <u>Corriere della Sera</u> yesterday had a report by New York correspondent Renzo Cianfanelli who commented, "Reagan's antidrug campaign has become a crusade. Tonight President and Mrs. Reagan...will appear on television for what we can call, without fear of exaggerating, a national mobilization...

"For the first time...the House of Representatives has decided to resort to the systematic use of military forces in the fight against drugs....Secretary of Defense Weinberger opposes the use of the army, which he considers 'constitutionally incorrect.'..."

SPAIN

"The United States Is at War Against Drugs"

Spanish Government television TVE aired a report on President Reagan's speech on the war against drugs.

Although they did not have texts of the speeches, several morning papers speculated on the contents. Liberal <u>El Pais</u> ran a report by Washington correspondent Francisco Basterra that "the United States is at war against drugs. The Congress is ready to use the army within its borders and is asking for the death penalty against dealers...

"President Reagan's objective is to turn drugs into something unacceptable in the United States, 'mobilizing all the sectors of society.'..."

BELGIUM

"'Programs Cut Almost in Half Under President Reagan'"

Reporting on what it termed "the rather emotional call by the Reagan couple," BRT Radio said, "The President announced plans to devote \$1 billion to the fight against drugs while Mrs. Reagan called on the American people to join the crusade."

The facility's New York correspondent reported, "Almost every-body in the United States is in favor of a tougher approach to drugs, but people working with addicts and former addicts had words of criticism for the President.

"At Dayton Village, a treatment center for addicts in New York, people complained that Federal Government contributions to the programs had been cut almost in half under President Reagan."

President Announces Funding for Fight Will Be Tripled

RTBF radio reported that the President announced that funding for the fight against drugs would be tripled. The radio said the President compared mobilization against drugs to the U.S. World War II effort.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

NEW ZEALAND

"An Unusual and Emotional Appeal"

Radio New Zealand reported at noontime today, "President Reagan and his wife Nancy have made an unusual and emotional appeal for help in the fight against drug abuse. In a joint TV appearance, the Reagans say they want to inspire a national crusade to stop what they call the chemical destruction and terrorizing of America.

"The President says drug abuse is a repudiation of everything America is, and he is urging Americans to mobilize against drugs as they did in World War II..."

LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

"President and Mrs. Reagan Urge National Crusade Against Drugs"

Moderate Novedades today front-paged a wire service article with a Washington dateline which said that "the First Lady of the United States and President Ronald Reagan support the death penalty for drug traffickers: 'We, North Americans, have never been neutral against any form of tyranny. Tonight we are not asking for anything less than what we are, what we have been and what we are when we fight together.'

"The President and the First Lady said that drugs 'are killing and terrifying North America,' and they urged the nation to commit itself to a 'national crusade' against drugs."

BRAZIL

"Total War Declared Against Drugs in Washington"

Rio's conservative <u>O Globo</u> front-paged the headline as above today and said, "For the first time, President Reagan and the First Lady of the United States appeared together on a nationwide TV program to make an emotional appeal for the declaration of a total war on drugs. Speaking from the White House as 'parents, grandparents and concerned neighbors,' the couple prepared the ground for the presentation, today, of an extensive governmental antidrug program."

"Nancy Defends the Death Penalty"

In another article, the paper ran the above headline and wrote, "Mrs. Reagan yesterday defended the death penalty for those responsible for deaths caused by the use of drugs....The wife of President Reagan also stated her support for drug testing for everyone who occupies a position of responsibility."

"Nancy, a Leader in the U.S. Campaign Against Drug Traffic"

Independent <u>Jornal do Brasil</u> of Rio de Janeiro reported, "Nancy, a leader in the U.S. campaign against the trafficking in and consumption of drugs, was preparing for a speech on the subject last night, at the side of Ronald Reagan."

Material Available on September 16

WESTERN EUROPE

BRITAIN

"Reagan Unveils \$900 Million Plan to Combat Drugs"

Today's London headlines were "Reagan Unveils \$900 Million Plan to Combat Drugs" (Financial Times) and "Marshall of the Western World" (Daily Mail).

"Politicians Capitalize on Drug Concern in U.S."

The independent Financial Times Washington correspondent Nancy Dunne said, "Politicians of both parties returned from their August recess clearly determined to capitalize on a growing concern by the U.S. public about the use of cocaine and its derivative, crack. Last week's House bill swept through the chamber in record time with Democrats and Republicans in rare accord. Only civil libertarians and constitutional purists stood against the tide..."

"No One Could Have Done It Better Than Reagan"

An editorial in the independent tabloid <u>Daily Mail</u> commented, "Ronald Reagan has now taken command of the crusade to save the most powerful nation on earth from the chemical and biological plague that threatens to rot it from within...

"Nobody could have done it better. He is a father figure—a grandfather figure—with towering moral authority among his people. The man in the White House comes over as a cross between marshal and preacher, rallying neighbors to see off the bad men in the days before the West was won. America could respond to such a lead. So could Britain...

"Margaret Thatcher can and must trust in her own emotions and sympathies to find words which will mobilize the whole nation. Drugs are not a side show to be delegated to a middle rank minister (however able). Drugs are a more deadly and immediate threat to this country than all the Soviet rockets in their silos.

"America's President has woken up to that. So should Britain's Prime Minister."

FRANCE

"With as Much Energy as Those Who Fought Against Nazis"

This morning in Paris, Antenne 2 TV said, "In the United States, President Reagan and his wife continued their antidrug campaign. Sunday in a televised address, they asked Americans to come together and join the crusade with as much energy as those who fought during the World War II against the Nazis."

"Reagans a Symbol of U.S. Family's Fight Against Drugs"

Washington correspondent Jacques Abouchar observed in the same program, "A budget of \$3 billion. This is the strength of the antidrug crusade that Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy are championing. Their appearance, side-by-side on the major American television networks, was symbolic of the fight that each American family is invited to join in against drugs...

"A figure to give you an idea of the amplitude of the catastrophe: each day in the United States, there are 5,000 new drug addicts, of which the majority are youngsters."

"Drugs--How to Get Rid of Them?"

And the anchorman added, "Drugs--how to get rid of them? It's one of the obsessions of our neighbor. Ronald and Nancy Reagan have just launched a vigorous national campaign against drugs. The slogan for the campaign? 'Just say no.'"

"U.S. President Totally Involved in Drug Campaign"

According to TF-1 TV, "The American President is totally involved in this campaign. He was on television Sunday night with his wife Nancy at his side, launching a new crusade against drugs."

"A Familial Image: Hand-in-Hand"

TF-1 correspondent Roger-Xavier Lanteri noted from Washington, "Hand-in-hand, the President and his wife Nancy offered this familial image on television Sunday night to launch a national campaign against drugs. For the President: 'Each American should have the strength to resist the temptation. No one has a right to ruin your dreams or life.' For Nancy Reagan: 'No one can hide. Not you, not me. And certainly not your children.' Drugs have become the number one problem in American schools."

"Reagan: The Antidrug Crusade"

In Paris, left-of-center Liberation bannered "Reagan: The Antidrug Crusade...Nancy and Ronnie: 'Say No to Drugs'...The Crusade for Children...Lady Coke and Mr. Crack...Reagan Persists."

"Reagan Talked About Progress, Failures"

Washington correspondent Michel Faure filed in the same paper, "Sitting side-by-side on the sofa in their private quarters at the White House, Nancy and Ronald Reagan exhorted their compatriots to wake up about drugs.... In the course of this address, which lasted 20 minutes, Reagan talked about the progress made by his Administration. But he also talked about the failure of his policy to put an end to the illegal entry of drugs, particularly cocaine, into the United States."

"Unfair to Hold Reagans Responsible for Total Failure"

Liberation had this editorial opinion, "In calling for Americans to mobilize against drugs, the 'number one danger,' (the Reagans) admitted with a touching conjugal unanimity, the failure of Reagan's five year antidrug policy, which had been firmly supported by his wife who participated in numerous antidrug talks at schools.

"It would be unfair to hold them responsible for a total failure because several children have heard their call: they have called the police to tell them about their parents using drugs."

WEST GERMANY

"Reagan Calls for Crusade Against Drugs"

FRG headlines today included "Reagan Calls for Crusade Against Drugs" (Frankfurter Allgemeine and others), "Reagan Wants More Money for 'Drug-Free America'" (Rheinische Post), "'Drug Dealers Terrorize America'" (Die Welt) and "Children Turning in Parents...Concern, Helplessness and Election Campaign Lead to More Stringent Drug Legislation in U.S." (Frankfurter Rundschau).

"Europeans Cannot Be Indifferent to Drug War Consequences"

An editorial by Washington correspondent Fritz Wirth in Bonn's conservative <u>Die Welt</u> remarked, "America has declared war on its most worrying enemy: drugs....In an emotional TV appeal, Ronald and Nancy Reagan yesterday warned against drugs, 'which destroy our society.'

"For too long, America's politicians have kept quiet about this problem, which threatens to become an epidemic. Some of the proposed measures are draconian. They are so draconian, they have civil rights activists up in arms. They are usually the ones who combat environmental pollution, and now they do not comprehend that trade in drugs is one of the deadliest forms of environmental pollution...

"We Europeans cannot be indifferent to the consequences, for these dealers will look for new routes and markets outside the 'American theater of war.' It is time for the Europeans to act now, before a drug war becomes their only escape."

"Nancy Reagan Dramatizes Extent of Drug Dilemma"

Pro-Social Democratic Neue Ruhr Zeitung of Essen featured this editorial view by New York correspondent Brigitte Lebens, "When Nancy Reagan calls on her fellow Americans to say yes to life and no to drugs, she is speaking as a concerned, well-meaning mother. Asked about possible measures against those in the drug business...Nancy Reagan demanded that dealers whose customers die from the results of 'drug trips' be condemned to death.

"Whether that is enough to scare smugglers and dealers is more than questionable. For the number of murders has not decreased since the reintroduction and implementation of the death sentence...It seems that Nancy Reagan's call for the death penalty reflects the growing opinion of the people that something must be done to combat the drug epidemic. However, the death penalty for dealers cannot end the drug crisis in America.

"But Nancy Reagan did achieve one thing with her radical demand: she dramatized the extent of the drug dilemma and shook awake those of her fellow Americans who were not yet alarmed. The success of the antidrug crusade will not depend on the electric chair, but on the reaction of individuals, families, schools, and firms."

ITALY

"Reagan and Nancy Appeal to America: 'War Against Drugs'"

These were significant headlines in Italy this morning "Antidrug Certificate for U.S. Federal Employees" (Corriere della Sera), "Reagan Asks for Death Penalty in Fight Against Drugs" (La Stampa), "Reagan's Crusade: 'Let's Get Together Against Drugs'" (La Repubblica) and "Reagan and Nancy Appeal to America: 'War Against Drugs'" (Il Tempo).

"Reagan's Psychological Mobilization Against Drugs"

Renzo Cianfanelli wrote from New York in front page of centrist, top-circulation <u>Corriere della Sera</u>, "With U.S.-Soviet detente facing the impasse caused by the Daniloff case... another very popular initiative has become Ronald Reagan's strong point. The American President..engaged in a psychological mobilization Sunday night during a televised speech together with his wife Nancy...

"Reagan's antidrug strategy is substantially aimed at action but, perhaps even to a larger degree, at psychological dissuasion..."

"A Good Issue for November Elections"

New York correspondent Enrico Franceschini commented in leftist, influential La Repubblica, "The issue of drugs--a daily obsession for Americans nowadays--is a good one for the upcoming November elections: and Reagan, wno is trying to help the Republican Party not to loose seats, decided to exploit it. The President performed very well during a televised speech with the First Lady--a dual appearance which is unprecedented during his Presidency...

"Ronald and Nancy did not say much that was new. Nor are the President's proposals themselves really new.... But beyond the substance of the speech, the message set the tone of it..."

SWITZERLAND

"Reagan Battles Against Drugs"

Swiss papers headlined today "Reagan's Call to Antidrug Campaign...Will Be Campaign Issue" (moderately conservative Neue Zuercher Zeitung), "Reagan's War on Drugs" (center-left Tages-Anzeiger), "Drugs: The Reagans' Crusade" (conservative Journal de Geneve) and "Reagan Battles Against Drugs...American President Launches \$3 Billion Campaign...Million Brochures Distributed in Schools" (middle-of-the-road Le Matin).

NORWAY

"Initiative Came at Time of Greatest Attention to Drug Problem"

Oslo's conservative Aftenposten's story from Washington was headlined "President Reagan With Strong Appeal for National Crusade Against Drugs." The article said, "The President's initiative came at a time when the attention focused on drug abuse is greater than ever before. Opinion polls show that the public sees drug abuse as the nation's number one problem, and one that looms as the main issue in the Congressional election campaigns this fall.

"Last Thursday the House passed the most comprehensive drug abuse act in two decades. It is doubtful that the bill, which calls for the death penalty for serious crimes, will get through the Senate, but it undoubtedly reflects the mood of the nation."

The paper then quoted Mr. Reagan as saying, "The efforts against drug abuse seem to be paying off. But much remains to be done, especially after a new epidemic, with the introduction of crack, is spreading like wildfire."

Aftenposten also reported on Mrs. Reagan's long-time efforts against drug abuse, her speech on Sunday and her appearance on 'Meet the Press' Saturday.

"Mrs. Reagan Involved in Creating Strong Posture Against Abuse"

Under the headline "Strong Appeal in Joint TV Speech: Ronald and Nancy Fight Narcotics," Christian Peoples Party's Vaart Land had this view, "On September 14 the President presented several concrete proposals about the antidrug crusade. He will probably recommend that public officials responsible for the lives and health of others be required to submit to urine tests to reveal possible drug abuse.

"Nancy Reagan has for the last four years been strongly involved in creating a strong posture against drug abuse, and last summer the President also decided to involve himself more actively. Mrs. Reagan underscored that no one is immune against the drug epidemic."

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

JAPAN

"Reagan Called on Americans to Make America Drug Free"

Publicly-financed NHK-TV said today, "The President pointed out that U.S. society is seriously threatened by drugs and called on Americans to rise up to make America drug free."

"Reagans Call for Elimination of Drugs"

Typical headlines were "Reagans Call for Elimination of Drugs" (Mainichi and Sankei) and "\$3 Billion to Eliminate Drugs" (Nihon Keizai).

"Mrs. Reagan Earnestly Promoted the Drug Campaign"

Today's liberal Mainichi published a report from Washington by correspondent Kuroiwa saying, "The Reagans appealed to individual Americans to stand up and fight drug abuse which is one of the most difficult problems in the United States...

"Mrs. Reagan has earnestly promoted the antidrug campaign and the President has joined in to strongly launch a national movement against drugs."

"The Greatest Social Problem in U.S."

Economic Nihon Keizai carried a report from Washington correspondent Tase stating that "President and Mrs. Reagan appealed for the elimination of drugs as it is the greatest social problem in the United States. The appeal by the Reagans was televised on the three major TV networks and CNN during prime time."

USIA/P/M 11 9/16/86

SOUTH KOREA

Reagan Ordered Drug Test for Federal Government Workers

Today's conservative Chosun Ilbo played AP reports that President Reagan ordered each cabinet member to implement a drug test for certain federal Government workers.

HONG KONG

"Reagan Issues Antidrug Mobilization Order"

Sample headlines over wire stories in independent and conservative papers were "Delivering TV Speech With His Lady, Reagan Issues Antidrug Mobilization Order, Announces Series of New Steps" (Sing Tao Jih Pao) and "Ron and Nancy in Antidrug Crusade" (Evening Standard).

"Six Antidrug Goals"

Headlines on wire stories in the pro-PRC press included "Reagan Couple Appear on TV, Call on All Citizens to Oppose Drugs...

Drugs Have Become a Major Problem for U.S. Youth" (New Evening Post), "Reagan Appears on TV, Says He Will Declare War on Drugs ...U.S. Drug Problem Becomes Serious With Annual Losses of \$60 Billion Every Year...Six Antidrug Goals, Including Strikes Against Drug Traffickers" (Ta Kung Pao) and "U.S. Drug Problem Serious...Reagan Couple Appeal Against Drugs...TV Address Also Attacks Alcohol Abuse" (Ching Po).

MALAYSIA

"Death Sentence for Drug Traffickers in America"

An editorial in today's Jawi-script Utusan Melayu of Kuala Lumpur said under this headline: "President Reagan and his wife appeared on TV to announce that drug traffickers will be sentenced to death if they are responsible for someone's death.

"It is clear to the world that drugs are a most-feared enemy, even to a superpower such as the United States.

"At the same time, President Reagan called on the American people to unite and participate in a crusade against drugs. This reflects how frightening the drug epidemic is to the U.S. Administration. There are 5 million Americans on cocaine and another half million on heroine. If immediate measures are not taken, more American youths will be 'living' on drugs...

"What we must be cautious about is that when the big nations tighten their control, drug agents will channel their drugs to third world nations like Malaysia. To ensure that the flow will not come in, the authorities must step up their vigilance."

AUSTRALIA

The Administration's "Tough Stance on Drugs"

Electronic media today reported on the Reagans' appearance on television in an effort to reinforce the Administration's "tough stance on drugs."

"The Current Frenzy Has Air of Brief Interlude"

Today's independent <u>Sydney Morning Herald</u> ran a report from Michael White in Washington headed "Reagans Make TV Appeal for National Crusade Against Drugs."

White wrote: "They appealed to Americans to begin a 'national crusade' against the 'cancer of drugs."...Like Colonel Qaddafi, or Nicaragua, the current frenzy has the air about it of a brief interlude, after which the professionals will be left to struggle on with the problem, much as before."

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL

Most Americans Stand Firmly Behind Reagan's Drive

Israeli TV, radio and press today highlighted wire service reports on the Reagans' joint appeal on the drug issue. Independent Maariv said that most Americans stand firmly behind the President's drive.

OATAR

New Measures to Create a "Drug-Free America"

Qatar television yesterday ran brief footage of President and Mrs. Reagan's TV address announcing new measures to create a "drug-free America."

USIA/P/M 13 9/16/86

"Reagan Launches \$3 Billion Antidrug Program"

Doha's English-language <u>Gulf Times</u> ran a wire story with the above headline which said the address "was the climax of a week in which many Government officials and members of Congress voiced support for the antidrug primaries preceding the November general elections."

AFRICA

GHANA

"Drug Use in U.S."

The Government-supported Ghanaian Times headlined today "Drug Abuse in U.S." over a wire service article on the Reagans' joint address.

USIA/P/M

Washington, D.C. 20547

September 16, 1986



CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Honorable

Larry Speakes

Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary

The White House

FROM:

Charles Z. Wick

Director

SUBJECT:

USIA Actions on the Daniloff Case

USIA is putting considerable effort into publicizing the Administration's position on the detention of Nicholas Daniloff. All Agency media — the Wireless File, VOA, TV — have extensively reported the story and the Administration's reaction to it. Our media reaction staff have carefully monitored foreign reporting on the incident. USIA field posts have been directed to seek out their journalist contacts and encourage public condemnation of the Soviets' action.

We have worked to ensure that foreign journalists understand the sense of outrage engendered in the American people -- and emphatically in American journalists. As the enclosed media reports show, foreign journalists initially viewed the Daniloff case from the limited perspective of its implications for superpower relations, arms control, and the like. (See Tab A). Later, as U.S. efforts to inform foreign opinion-makers took hold, they came to report it as a human rights case that speaks to the nature of the Soviet system. (See Tab B).

After Friday's events, however, foreign media reaction over the weekend took a turn for the worse. The concurrent releases of Messrs. Daniloff and Zakharov were portrayed as a swap involving "Diplomatic Defeat for Washington" (Switzerland's Tages-Anzeiger), or worse (e.g., "Kremlin Outsmarts White House on Daniloff" -- London Times; "Gorbachev Gets the Better of Reagan on Daniloff Case" -- Italy's La Repubblica). (See Tab C).

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by: / Charles Z. Wick Declassify or Downgrade on: OADR

United States Information Agency

Washington, D.C. 20547

r 15, 1986 **USIA**

September 15, 1986

Dear Larry:

Our Ambassador Richard Walker in Seoul, has asked me to forward to you a request for a Presidential television interview by South Korea's Munwha Broadcasting Corporation. With a viewing audience of about 40 million, it would be an excellent opportunity for us to get our message across directly to the Korean people. We could also, of course, expect secondary play in the written press based on the interview.

However, there are two points you may wish to consider before taking action at this time on the request. First, the interview would be aired a year from now—August 15, 1987—on the Anniversary of Korean Liberation at the end of World War II. That would give us an excellent peg to review our contribution in WW II to Korean independence, our later efforts during the Korean War and our ongoing commitment to Korean security made explicit by the President during his visit there in 1983. Since it is a year down the road, it might be wise to accept the request now for planning purposes, but to take a second look next summer to assess the situation in Korea regarding elections and other issues before finalizing the decision.

Secondly, since there may be reluctance to grant a one-on-one foreign television interview and not at the same time to honor the many similar requests you have from the American networks. Perhaps an alternate approach would be to grant written questions and answers with a five-or 10-minute television photo opportunity to personalize the interview.

I will ask the Foreign Press Center to keep in touch with your Deputy for Foreign Affairs on this matter and take a fresh look at the request next summer.

I am also enclosing copies of the two telegrams from our Embassy in Seoul in the event you wish further background information on the request.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick Director

The Honorable
Larry Speakes
Assistant to the President and
Principal Deputy Press Secretary
The White House

Don --

What do you think about this?

Larry

Sept. 17 - Wednesday

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 22, 1986

Dear Charlie:

The Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi is producing a weekly two-hour radio program on the blues -- one of America's most unique forms of music. The program is currently aired on Mississippi Public Radio. William Ferris, the Center's director, is interested in producing a similar series for Voice of America.

The Center is involved in an exciting range of blues programs based at the University. The University's Blues Archives is the largest in the world and includes the entire personal record collection of B.B. King. The Blues Archives' 40,000 records provide rich resources for radio programming.

The Center also publishes <u>Living Blues</u> magazine, the leading international publication on blues. Its founder and editor, Jim O'Neal, is Publications Editor at the Center. The magazine reports on blues activities throughout the world.

The Center is also developing films and a record and book series on the blues. These and other projects draw many international and American visitors to their program. International interest in blues has always been strong, and a regular radio program on the music would have great appeal overseas.

I would appreciate your contacting Bill Ferris at 601-232-5993. Thank you, Charlie.

Sincerely,

Larry Speakes
Deputy Press Secretary
to the President

The Honorable Charles Wick Director United States Information Agency Washington, D.C.



Washington, D.C. 20547



August 20, 1986

Dear Larry:

I was glad to get your letter of August 11 confirming the interview for the Mexican newspaper <u>Excelsior</u> with the President.

I understand from my staff in Mexico that the interview went extremely well and thought you would be interested in the excellent play it received. The full text of the questions and answers, along with fifteen photos and a short introduction, were carried in the Sunday, August 17 edition of Excelsior. The story covered almost half of the front page and was continued on two full pages inside the first section.

The introduction, written by the editor-in-chief, Regino Diaz Redondo, was extremely positive and spoke in glowing terms of the President's sincerity, easygoing manner and the overall positive impression he made on the interviewer.

Such prominent placement in Mexico's most influential newspaper served as outstanding reinforcement for the message of friendship and cooperation that was the keynote for President De la Madrid's visit. I have instructed my staff to send a tearsheet of the interview to your office as soon as it arrives from Mexico, but in the meantime I thought you would like to hear how successful the interview had been.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Many Town for CZW
Charles Z. Wick

Director

The Honorable
Larry Speakes
Principal Deputy Press Secretary
to the President
The White House

(Dictated but not signed by the Director during his absence from the office.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 11, 1986

Dear Charlie:

Thanks for your letter of July 31st and the useful suggestions it contained. We have looked at all of the excellent possibilities for interviews during the de la Madrid visit and have decided that a written interview with Excelsior would most effectively serve our needs and meet Mexican interests.

Don Mathes has been working with your people and the NSC on the questions and answers, and we expect the interview to be ready for the visit. In addition, we are hopeful about having a photo opportunity with the President for Excelsior's editor on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Larry Speakes

Deputy Press Secretary

to the President

The Honorable Charles Z. Wick, Director U.S. Information Agency Washington, D.C. 20547

United States Information Agency

Washington, D.C. 20547



July 31, 1986



Dear Larry:

Our Mexico City Embassy has recommended that President Reagan grant interviews with two Mexican journalists, Miguel Aleman of Televisa, and Regino Diaz Redondo of Excelsior, prior to his August 13 meeting with President Miguel de la Madrid. USIA would like to add its support to that request.

I understand that Miguel Aleman, the executive vice-president of Televisa, and a son of a former Mexican president, has written you directly asking for the interview. You will remember that he made a request prior to the January meeting and that it was not granted. In addition to the television interview, Mr. Aleman would most likely publish the text verbatim in the daily Novedades newspaper chain, of which he is one of two owners. Both Televisa and Novedades are conservative. pro-American news organizations and good choices for an interview with the President. Televisa reaches an audience throughout Mexico of approximately 30 million. The interview would also reach millions in the United States, as Televisa news programs are carried by the Spanish International Network (SIN). The Novedades newspaper chain consists of the flagship in Mexico City with a circulation of about 50,000, and five provincial newspapers located mainly in the central portion of Mexico.

The other request that we strongly support comes from Regino Diaz Redondo, the editor-in-chief of Mexico City's most prestigious and influential newspaper, Excelsior. Mr. Diaz Redondo has interviewed many world leaders and the story would cover much of page one of this widely-read newspaper. The interview would also be carried by Excelsior's wire service meaning nationwide coverage. Excelsior has a daily circulation of around 185,000. It is nationalistic in orientation, which, in the Mexican context, means that it is often critical of the United States and any perceived infringement on Mexican sovereignty. But, given the influence the Mexican Government exercises with the Mexican media and its determination to have this visit portrayed positively, the President's interview would resound throughout Mexico.

The Honorable
Larry Speakes
Assistant to the President and
Principal Deputy Press Secretary
The White House

We do not recommend that the request from Jose Carreno, the Washington correspondent of Mexico's official news agency, NOTIMEX, be granted at this time. He had a written interview with the President prior to the January, 1986 meeting between the two presidents.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick

Director



Washington, D.C. 20547



August 8, 1986

Dear Larry:

America Illustrated, the USIA's monthly Russian language magazine that is distributed in the Soviet Union under the exchange agreement, was the subject of a lengthy interview in the June 6 issue of Smena, the young Communist League newspaper in Leningrad.

The U.S. Consul General in Leningrad, analyzing the interview, concluded that it reflected the "continuing Soviet concern over the great appeal" that America Illustrated has for young Soviets and the strong impact it has upon them.

A translation is attached.

A <u>Smena</u> writer conducted the interview with Ernest Shirayev, Deputy Director of the Komsomol (Youth) Committee at Leningrad State University. He is a candidate of psychological sciences (roughly the equivalent of the holder of a Ph.D. degree). He directs a study group that analyzes propaganda content in the foreign press. The interview deals with <u>America Illustrated</u>; <u>Anglia</u>, the English equivalent of <u>America Illustrated</u>; and <u>Guten Tag</u>, the German one. The interview acknowledged wide readership for the magazines -- every fourth student.

Shirayev says it is the presentation of material in America Illustrated -- the art and graphics -- that is most interesting: subjects such as cars, music and fashion that are easy for visual perception rather than deep understanding are used to attract readers.

The Consul General commented that the length of the interview and prominence clearly reflect Soviet concern over the positive appeal of the journals. He said:

The Honorable
Larry M. Speakes
Assistant to the President and
Principal Deputy Press Secretary
The White House

"Clearly, the attention given to the western magazines in this article reflects continuing Soviet concern over the great appeal the publications have to the young. While Shirayev acknowledges their graphic excellence, he also makes it obvious that the subject matter is also of considerable reader interest. Overall, this is a relatively restrained article and shows none of the invective unleashed from time to time against USIA and VOA...That the article on World War II was chosen for detailed analysis also reflects Soviet sensitivity to treatment of that subject.

America's earlier attention to the meeting at the Elbe and other wartime cooperation is conveniently ignored."

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick Director