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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1985 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Imposes Limited U.S. Anti-Apartheid Sanctions -- President Reagan, seeking to avert a politically damaging confrontation with Congress, has abandoned his opposition to sanctions and imposed limited measures against South Africa's white minority government.

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

Sakharov Stepson Meets with White House Aide to Plead for Parents -- White House Communications Director Patrick Buchanan says he will brief the National Security Council about concerns expressed by the hunger-striking stepson of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov over his parents' well-being.

(AP, Washington Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

Two Democrats Plan to File Suit to Stop ASAT Test on Friday -- The Pentagon is scheduled to begin final testing of an anti-satellite weapon on Friday, but two Democratic congressmen plan to ask a federal court to halt the demonstration shot, sources say.

(AP, Washington Post)

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

SOUTH AFRICA/REAGAN SANCTIONS --
Faced with bipartisan repudiation of his policy, the President changed course, and agreed to impose sanctions.
(All Nets Lead)

THAILAND COUP ATTEMPT -- Troops loyal to the government crushed a coup attempt.

SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS -- The new space shuttle Atlantis goes up next month carrying the shuttle program's second secret military payload.

CBS White House correspondent Lesley Stahl asked, in light of the Dallas-Fort Worth airplane disaster, whether "Reagan administration budget cuts" are imperiling air safety. Sure, Lesley, no planes ever crash when liberal Democrats are in the White House. Really, though, doesn't the credibility of such liberal reporters crash as they grow ever more frantic in their search for ways to attack "conservative Reaganism"? (Now, how can we blame Reagan for the big Japanese plane crash?)

Orange County Register September 5, 1985

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LIMITED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON SOUTH AFRICA

President Reagan dropped his unyielding opposition to sanctions against South Africa's system of racial segregation by imposing a series of limited economic sanctions against the Pretoria government, including restrictions on U.S. bank loans and technology exports.

(John Goshko, Washington Post, A1)

Reagan Imposes Limited U.S. Anti-Apartheid Sanctions

The order pre-empted stronger measures Congress was on the verge of approving and the Republican-controlled Senate agreed by a vote of 53 to 34 to postpone action on the legislation.

But Democrats accused the Senate of abrogating its responsibility to make law on the controversial issue and promised to try again to force a Senate vote on the bill, possibly as early as this week.

(Patricia Wilson, Reuter)

Reagan Orders Limited Curbs for S. Africa

"I respect and share the goals that have motivated many in Congress to send a message of U.S. concern about apartheid ...," Reagan said. "(But) I believe the measures I am announcing here today will best advance our goals."

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Reagan, in Reversal, Orders Sanctions on South Africa; Move Causes Split in Senate

By themselves, the sanctions that Reagan adopted will have a negligible impact on the economy of South Africa and on the American companies doing business with the country, according to experts in international trade. But the analysts also said the decision might strengthen the resolve of other governments to expand their own sanctions.

(Bernard Weinraub, New York Times, A1)

BOTHA TERMS MOVES HARMFUL; TUTU CALLS REAGAN A RACIST

JOHANNESBURG -- Leaders on both sides of the widening gap between South Africa's white-ruled government and its predominantly black opposition reacted negatively to President Reagan's sanctions measures, with whites saying the move could damage the country economically and blacks saying it does not go nearly far enough.

President Botha condemned the measures as "harmful" and "negative," contending they could hurt the economies of South Africa and its black-ruled neighboring states.

But Bishop Tutu derided them as "not even a flea bite" and issued his strongest denunciation to date of Reagan, branding him a "racist."

(Glenn Frankel, Washington Post, A1)

Botha Calls U.S. Sanctions Counter-Productive

Botha issued a statement saying the sanctions would harm both black and white South Africans.

"No attempt was made to analyze the harmful effect of sanctions on all the communities in south and southern Africa," he said.

(David Cowell, UPI)

Botha Says Sanctions Will Hurt Blacks

(Botha) avoided criticizing Reagan, saying he was forced by Congress to adopt sanctions "in disregard of the welfare and interests of our region."

(AP)

Botha Declares Sanctions Will Retard Racial Charge

The South African leader's protestations did not seem to tally with the realities of a nation where a white minority weilds a vast power and where racial segregation underpins a divided society. Botha's plans to extend political changes to the black majority have not so far been carried out.

(Alan Cowell, New York Times, A12)

Pretoria Condemns Sanctions; Tutu Says U.S. Moves Too Weak

Tutu said Botha seemed to be paralyzed in the face of international and internal opposition to apartheid.

The black Anglican bishop told reporters, "We are here and we are going to run this country, and we want to run it with every South African together."

(Ruth Pitchford, Reuter)

Reaction to Reagan's Sanctions Mixed

The Rev. Jerry Falwell, a close friend of Reagan and the South African government, said the President had been "forced by a spineless Congress and a biased media" into imposing "relatively painless and mild" sanctions.

(Kathleen Silvassy, UPI)

Critics Find Reagan Soft on Apartheid

"The worst part about this executive order is that it will send a message to the South African government that the United States is still willing to cozy up to the system of apartheid," said Jean Sindab, the executive director of the Washington Office on Africa, a group that lobbies for a "progressive" foreign policy toward southern Africa.

(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A4)

Reactions to U.S. Sanctions Package Mixed in S. Africa, Other Nations

A spokesman for British PM Thatcher said, "There's no doubting our revulsion at the policy of apartheid," but "we judge sanctions as likely to be counter-productive." The spokesman, speaking on the condition that he not be identified, added there would be no change in Britain's opposition to sanctions.

(Michael Sullivan, Washington Times, A6)

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Reagan's Sanctions Criticized by Both Sides in the Dispute

As demonstrations continued outside the South African Embassy, Randall Robinson, co-chairman of the Free South Africa Movement, said of Reagan: "The executive order and speech were designed to help him reconcile his reflexive sympathy for the white minority government of South Africa with the building opposition to his program of constructive engagement in the United States."

(Francis X. Clines, New York Times, A13)

IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF REAGAN PLAN MOSTLY SYMBOLIC, OBSERVERS SAY

NEW YORK -- With Krugerrand sales already in a slump, President Reagan's anti-apartheid sanctions against South Africa are not likely to affect the market here much, according to industry observers.

Likewise, American companies doing business in South Africa should be relatively unaffected because of the limited business involved, analysts said.

(John Given, AP)

Curbs Seen as Having Mixed Effects

Some analysts speculated that South Africa would respond in a way that would work against President Reagan's commitment to the moment, as he put it, "when apartheid will be no more." The sanctions could encourage the country to redouble its effort to build a self-supporting economy, leaving it free to pursue its segregationist policies, these experts said.

(Peter Kilborn, New York Times, A13)

REAGAN ORDER ECHOES SULLIVAN PRINCIPLES

President Reagan urged the more than 300 U.S. companies doing business in South Africa to abide by the Sullivan Principles, a code that "has set the highest standards of labor practices" for South African employers.

Reagan's executive order could increase the number of companies that have signed the six Sullivan Principles. Only about half the U.S. companies doing business in South Africa now have done so.

(UPI)

REAGAN PREVAILS IN EARLY SENATE SHOWDOWN VOTE ON SANCTIONS

President Reagan prevailed in a Senate showdown vote on sanctions against the white-minority government of South Africa, but Senate Democrats moved immediately to force a second vote on the sanctions legislation that the President opposes.

After a day of maneuvering on Capitol Hill, it was clear that Reagan's announcement that he was imposing key provisions of the sanctions legislation by executive order had not defused the politically volatile issue or necessarily headed off confrontation between Congress and the Administration over policy toward South Africa.

(Edward Walsh and Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A11)

Reagan's Pre-Emptive Strike Stalls Sanctions Bill

The Senate voted 53-34 to uphold Reagan by defeating a motion that would have brought to the floor for a vote a ballot deferred since last month by a threatened filibuster.

The bill needed 60 votes to come to the floor.

(E. Michael Myers, UPI)

Senate Backs Off Sanctions Showdown

Sen. Lugar, a leader of the fight to force the Reagan Administration into a tougher policy against South Africa, said he voted to postpone the passage of the congressional sanctions to show "Americans speak with one voice" and that "the President has spoken for us."

(Rita McWilliams, Washington Times, A1)

Senators Fighting for Tougher Move

Both the White House and the Republican leadership characterized Reagan's action as largely an effort to avoid a head-on collision with Congress over sanctions.

But Democrats in the Senate as well as Republicans made it clear that they would fight to get a tougher package of sanctions through the Senate and to the President's desk, forcing Reagan, as he promised, to veto the bill. The senators argued that the sanctions imposed by the President were significantly weaker than those included in the legislation on which the Republican leadership is trying to avoid a battle.

(Jonathan Fuerbringer, New York Times, A12)

SENATE DEMOCRATS VOW FIGHT FOR TOUGHER SANCTIONS

Senate Democrats vow they'll try again to push through a package of economic sanctions against South Africa, but Republican leaders say the effort is a political move to punish President Reagan rather than South Africa's white minority government.

Democratic leaders, contending they may well be able to gather the 60 votes needed to cut off a Senate filibuster, said they were not impressed by Reagan's effort to capture the initiative on the matter by issuing an executive order containing his own set of sanctions.

(Lawrence Knutson, AP)

REAGAN SAYS NOT HAVING LINE-ITEM VETO POWER FORCED HAND

President Reagan, explaining why he acted administratively to head off legislation imposing sanctions on South Africa, said that he would not have had to do so if Congress had approved line-item veto authority for the President.

This raised eyebrows on Capitol Hill because none of the pending veto measures, including a Senate bill embraced by the Administration, would apply to anything other than appropriations bills.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A11)

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REAGAN ARRIVES RELUCTANTLY AT SANCTIONS

President Reagan arrived late and reluctantly at a position of supporting sanctions against the white-minority government of South Africa -- but soon enough to thwart a militant Congress.

Reagan unveiled the sanctions only hours before the Senate returned from a five-week vacation poised to kill a filibuster and give swift passage of a sanctions bill already passed by the House.

By stepping out at the last minute, Reagan hoped the Senate would either forget or, at worst, postpone action on the legislation.

(Steve Gerstel, UPI)

AN ATTEMPT TO AVOID DIPLOMATIC DISARRAY

President Reagan made his decision to impose some limited sanctions against South Africa to avoid foreign policy disarray abroad and political humiliation at home, Administration officials said.

They acknowledged that in adopting for the first time a set of modest punitive steps to press South Africa to renounce apartheid, Reagan was significantly altering his often-stated policy of "constructive engagement" to a new approach he called "active constructive engagement."

(Bernard Gwertzman, New York Times, A1)

REAGAN'S REVERSAL FOLLOWS PATTERN OF PRESIDENCY

Two weeks ago, in a radio interview while vacationing at his California ranch, President Reagan declared, "I am basically opposed to the idea of punitive sanctions" against South Africa.

At the same time, he was telling aides privately that he would veto a sanctions bill even at the risk of major confrontation with Congress.

Yesterday, Reagan partially reversed himself and put into effect many of the same limited economic sanctions against the white-minority government of South Africa that he had earlier opposed. In so doing, Reagan followed a common pattern of his Presidency, holding out to the very last before retreating when threatened with certain defeat.

(News analysis by David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

REAGAN'S SANCTIONS DESIGNED TO PRESSURE PRETORIA, NOT DISRUPT ECONOMY

Despite new trade restrictions and tougher rhetoric, the Reagan Administration is still using persuasion instead of pressure to try to change South Africa's racial policy.

The economic measures announced by President Reagan were designed to send a message to Pretoria but not to wreck its economy.

(News analysis by Barry Schweid, AP)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FACES TOUGH DEBATE ON PRETORIA SANCTIONS

LUXEMBOURG -- European Community foreign ministers face a tough debate over sanctions against South Africa after President Reagan's announcement of U.S. measures against Pretoria.

Reagan's announcement of limited economic sanctions has clearly put those Community members opposing such measures in a difficult position, diplomats said. (Paul Mylrea, Reuter)

SOUTH AFRICANS ARTFUL AT DODGING SANCTIONS

JOHANNESBURG -- President Reagan's package of limited sanctions against South Africa falls on a country long accustomed to dodging the brickbats of a disapproving international community.

Despite a voluntary arms embargo approved 22 years ago by the United Nations and later made mandatory, South Africa has emerged as an arms exporter that touts its hardware, in particular the G-6 mobile cannon, at international arms fairs.

(Maureen Johnson, AP)

BUSH SEES PROMISE IN SUMMIT

Vice President Bush said that the United States and Soviet Union are approaching the November summit in Geneva with a "basic difference" in strategy, and predicted that the Soviets would engage in serious negotiations after staging a massive propaganda effort.

Bush, delivering the Alfred M. Landon lecture in Manhattan, Kan., appeared to be giving the most detailed response yet from the Administration to recent statements from Soviet leader Gorbachev.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

Bush Warns on Soviet Blitz

The speech was carefully prepared by Bush, the State Department and the National Security Council. It was meant to counter a recent Soviet propaganda blitz and to present the official public U.S. position before the scheduled meeting in October in Geneva between President Reagan and Soviet Communist Party First Secretary Gorbachev.

Bush said he hoped his speech would not only be of interest to Americans but would be carefully read in the Kremlin.

(Bernard Collier, Washington Times, A3)

REAGAN-CONFERENCE

President Reagan, on the eve of renewed talks in Stockholm aimed at improving East-West relations, called for "serious and detailed negotiations" that will lead to reduce the risk of military confrontation in Europe.

Reagan's comments came in a statement issued late Monday by the White House as the European security conference prepared to reconvene in Stockholm for its seventh session.

(Susanne Schafer, AP)

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SPY SCANDAL PLAYED DOWN

Secretary Weinberger said that the current West German spy scandal does not shake U.S. trust in European allies or alter plans to include them in sensitive research on the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative.

(Michael Weisskopf, Washington Post, A5)

Weinberger Says SDI Pact Expected This Year

The United States expects to sign its first formal agreement soon with a European ally -- probably England -- for cooperative research on a space-based nuclear missile defense system, Secretary Weinberger said.

Asked during a briefing of NATO journalists how close the United States is to signing a memorandum of understanding with a European ally, Weinberger noted that there have been a series of meetings with British officials.

(Walter Andrews, Washington Times, A3)

WEINBERGER

Weinberger dismissed as "chimerical" the Soviet Union's offer of a limit on nuclear weapons testing.

He also asserted, in a talk at the Pentagon to regional leaders of the private Foreign Policy Association, that the United States must keep its nuclear deterrent strong to thwart Soviet determination to "dominate the world."

(William Ringle, Gannett)

F-15 FIGHTERS FOR SAUDIS ARE ON HOLD

The Reagan Administration is expected to drop plans to include 40 additional F-15 combat aircraft in the new arms sales package for Saudi Arabia that Congress will soon consider, according to congressional and State Department sources.

U.S. officials said the decision reflected mounting congressional opposition to the Administration's plan for major new arms sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

(David Ottaway, Washington Post, A6)

SENATE READY TO CONFRONT REAGAN OVER TRADE DISPUTE CONCESSIONS

Senate sponsors of legislation to aid import-battered U.S. industries say they're ready to join forces and move ahead with their bills this month despite new Reagan Administration initiatives on trade.

"I am very pessimistic that we're going to work anything out with the Administration," Sen. Danforth said following a meeting late Monday among Senate leaders and President Reagan's trade representative.

(Tom Raum, AP)

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SOUTHERN LEADERS CONFER ON TRADE

MIAMI -- The governors of 12 Southern states gathered at what was billed as a conference on doing business with foreign countries, but much of the talk centered on imports as a growing threat to Southern industries.

"We're frustrated as hell," said Gov. Richard Riley of South Carolina, a Democrat.
(William Schmidt, New York Times, A21)

REAGAN HOSTING DANISH PRIME MINISTER TODAY

PM Schluter of Denmark is appealing to President Reagan to resist the protectionist fever spreading through Congress and maintain his position in favor of free trade.

As Reagan's lieutenants search for ways to seize the trade initiative to forestall growing pressure from Capitol Hill, trade is likely to be one of the prime topics Schluter discusses with the President during their Oval Office talks.
(Maureen Santini, AP)

"It's a protocol visit," said an aide, who explained there were no major issues in dispute between the United States and Denmark.

Denmark is a NATO ally, and the two leaders were expected to discuss security issues as well as the November summit in Geneva between Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev.
(UPI)

SAKHAROV'S STEPSON MEETS WITH BUCHANAN

Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov's stepson met with Patrick Buchanan to seek U.S. assistance in securing the release of Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, from the Soviet Union.

"He listened favorably and expressed the Administration's concern," said Alexey Semyonov after his half-hour meeting with Buchanan.
(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A4)

Sakharov Stepson Meets with White House Aide to Plead for Parents

"I told him I could not promise anything, but I told him I would communicate what he had to say with the people in there who would make those decisions," Buchanan said in a telephone interview after meeting with Semyonov at the White House. "I told him I would have to communicate the whole thing to the National Security Council, and that is what I am in the process of doing."
(Daniel Beegan, AP)

REAGAN TO PRESS MOSCOW ON JEWS

President Reagan told a Jewish delegation that he planned to raise the issue of the plight of Soviet Jews at his meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev.

"He will raise the issue at the summit," Morris Abram, chairman of the delegations, said at a news conference after the White House meeting.
(Martin Tolchin, New York Times, A4)

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AMERICA RETURNS TO MOSCOW BOOK FAIR

MOSCOW -- Moscow's biennial book fair opens Tuesday with American publishers taking part for the first time since 1979, before a boycott that began in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan four months later.

The fact that American publishers have returned to the fair in the face of international uncertainty about the fate of writers imprisoned or exiled in the Soviet Union reflects anxiousness about how writers and artists will fare under the new Soviet leadership, according to both Western observers and Soviets speaking privately.

(Gary Lee, Washington Post, A14)

ETHIOPIA NOT STARVING REBELS, REAGAN REPORTS

President Reagan certified to Congress that the Ethiopian government is not currently conducting "a deliberate policy of starvation" against some of its own citizens who live in areas controlled by Ethiopian rebels.

But in a report requested by Congress and released yesterday, the Administration lists other extensive human-rights violations by the government in Ethiopia, ranging from forced resettlement of famine victims to bombing and strafing refugees fleeing to the Sudan.

(Jay Mallin, Washington Times, A7)

HONDURAS BOLSTERS ITS REPORT ON RAID

TEGUCIGALPA -- A government informant supported the official version of what happened when the Honduran Army raided a Salvadoran refugee camp 11 days ago.

The informant, Jose Antonion Chicas Sanchez, was presented at a Honduran army news conference. Chicas appeared instead of a promised appearance by 10 Salvadoran refugees who were captured in the army raid on suspicion of being guerrillas. A senior Honduran army officer had previously said the captured men would be present, but an army spokesman said that "military reasons" had kept the men from meeting journalists.

(James LeMoyne, New York Times, A3)

CANADA GROUP FAULTS LATIN POLICY OF THE U.S.

A delegation of prominent Canadians said that conditions in Central America were deteriorating and blamed the United States policy for the lack of peace in the region.

The private fact-finding delegation of seven Canadians with backgrounds in international and domestic affairs spent two weeks in Central America and will make recommendations on Canada's role in the region to the Ottawa government.

(New York Times, A19)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Transcript of Reagan's Remarks on South Africa" is on page A12 of The Washington Post.

NATIONAL NEWS

ASAT TEST HEARINGS SET

The Administration decision to hold the first test of an antisatellite weapon against a target in space, now scheduled for Friday, will be subjected to two congressional hearings and a court suit this week, according to sources.

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A7)

Two Democrats Plan to File Suit to Stop ASAT Test on Friday

Reps. George Brown and Joseph Moakley planned to join with the Union of Concerned Scientists today in a lawsuit in U.S. District Court, seeking an injunction blocking the test.

Sources said Brown and Moakley would challenge the Reagan Administration's alleged compliance with congressional requirements for notifying Congress of the planned test.

(Tim Ahern, AP)

UNIVERSITY SCIENTISTS ENLIST SUPPORT TO BOYCOTT STAR WARS FUNDS

BOSTON -- Petitions are circulating on at least 37 campuses as hundreds of university scientists critical of President Reagan's proposed "Star Wars" anti-missile system band together in a nationwide research boycott to try to defeat the plan.

(Jane Seagrave, AP)

SPEAKES: FRICTION BETWEEN REGAN, OTHER AIDES 'OVERBLOWN'

Larry Speakes says reports of growing friction between Chief of Staff Regan and other Presidential aides is "grossly overblown."

In recent days The Washington Post and news magazines have reported on acrimonious turf battles between Regan and other White House officials.

Speakes, when asked about the reports, said: "As I've told reporters for the last months, that's grossly overblown. I just don't see it."

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

REAGAN PLAN WOULD HURT MANY LOW-INCOME TAXPAYERS, TAX GROUP CLAIMS

Analysts have found a world of provisions in President Reagan's tax overhaul plan to disagree about, but they have been virtually unanimous in praising the measure's benefits for the poor.

But now, a research organization headed by an author of President Reagan's 1981 tax cuts concludes that many low-income taxpayers would suffer if Reagan's overhaul plan becomes law.

The Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation, headed by Norman Ture, a former undersecretary of the Treasury, noted Reagan often points out that a four-member family with \$12,000 income would pay no tax under the plan. However, a single person with the same amount of income who was unemployed part of the year would face a stiff tax increase, the study found.

(Jim Luther, AP)

DISPUTE EMERGING OVER TOP TAX RATE

Rep. Rostenkowski suggested that President Reagan's tax revision plan would be too generous to upper-income taxpayers and that his committee might vote for a higher maximum tax rate than the 35 percent the President has proposed.

Rostenkowski's remark underscored a point of tension between Congress and the President that seems likely to arise when the committee begins drafting tax legislation later this month.

(David Rosenbaum, New York Times, A24)

MIDWEST OFFICIALS FEAR EFFECT OF REAGAN TAX PLAN

CLEVELAND -- The Reagan Administration's tax overhaul plan, particularly its proposed suspension of deductions for state and local taxes and its strict limits on investment incentives, could hurt the Middle West's chances for an economic comeback, state and local officials say.

At best, according to the officials, the Administration's tax proposals would have mixed results in the 13-state area.

(James Barron, New York Times, A24)

IMMIGRATION BILL CALLED VITAL

The Reagan Administration badly wants Congress to pass an immigration reform bill this year and is willing to compromise with House Democrats on details to get legislation enacted, Attorney General Meese said.

"The Administration gives this a very high priority among its legislative objectives in this session of Congress," said Meese, testifying before the House immigration subcommittee. "We will be very reasonable and flexible...."

(Washington Post, A4)

Meese Advocates New Aliens Code

Meese said that he and President Reagan were "committed to comprehensive immigration reform," including penalties against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

(Robert Pear, New York Times, A22)

OFFSHORE OIL

Interior Secretary Hodel is returning to the bargaining table with members of the California congressional delegation in an attempt to modify their tentative agreement to limit offshore oil drilling in that state.

Interior Department spokesman David Prospero sidestepped reporters' questions whether the deal was dead. But an environmentalist leader, Karl Wendelowski, executive director of Friends of the Earth, said the agreement seems to be unraveling.

(Robert Andrews, AP)

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Interior Secretary to Seek New Accord on Offshore Drilling

Hodel said in a telephone interview that new information has indicated that the 150 tracts that would be open to drilling under the agreement reached in July did not offer enough energy resources "to serve the national interest."

He said he would seek a revised agreement that not only answers California's environmental concerns "but also meets the resource potential" of offshore waters. (Philip Shabecoff, New York Times, A21)

U.S. REFUSES TO FORBID TRUCKING ATOMIC WASTE THROUGH NEW YORK

Federal regulators refused to block the trucking of spent nuclear fuel through New York City.

The regulators, from the Department of Transportation, acted in a case brought by New York City, which claimed that the city's dense population made it unsafe to move the radioactive material through Queens and the Bronx.

Officials in Connecticut were jubilant over the decision because they had feared that the nuclear material would be detoured through their state if New York City had won its case.

(Michael Oreskes, New York Times, A1)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Democrats Plan Broader Scrutiny Of Reagan's Judicial Candidates" by Philip Shenon is on page A25 of The New York Times.

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Monday Evening, September 9, 1985)

SOUTH AFRICA/REAGAN SANCTIONS

CBS's Dan Rather: President Reagan did an abrupt about-face today on his policy of quote "Constructive engagement" towards South Africa, he imposed limited economic sanctions. And he said his modified sanctions were quote "aimed against the machinery of apartheid."

CBS's Lesley Stahl: Under overwhelming pressure from Congress, President Reagan ordered sanctions similar to those he threatened to veto.

(President: "The system of apartheid means deliberate, systematic, institutionalized racial discrimination, denying the black majority their God-given rights. America's view of apartheid is simple and straightforward. We believe it's wrong. We condemn it, and we're united

in hoping for the day when apartheid will be no more.")

(TV Coverage: President reading statement to reporters in Oval Office.)

Faced with bipartisan repudiation of his policy, the President changed course, and agreed to ban all computer exports to South African law enforcement agencies, prohibit bank loans to the government unless they help blacks, limit exports of nuclear technology, and ask America's trading partners for permission to ban the importation of krugerrands. The President's measures are weaker than the bill in Congress, but Republican leaders agreed to go along with the White House, and are trying to postpone a vote until March, which would spare the President a major foreign policy defeat.

(TV Coverage: file film of rioting South Africans; cutaway to Secretary Shultz and Sens. Lugar, Dole.)

Lugar: "It is important we approach it in a unified way, that the South African state President hear from our President. Not just from the Congress, but the President singing a different tune."

But the Democrats were outraged, complaining the President's actions have no teeth.

Speaker O'Neill: "This package may play in Pretoria; it'll be seen for what it's worth by the people suffering under the government of South Africa.")

The harshest reaction came from the chief lobbyist for South African blacks.

(Randall Robinson of TransAfrica: "President Reagan has a sense of natural affinity with that white minority. I think he values white life over black life. I think he is not sympathetic to black suffering in South Africa.")

Now that President Reagan has imposed sanctions on South Africa, his advisers are worried about leaving an impression that he caved in and that Congress has taken over the formulating of foreign policy.

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CBS's John Blackstone reporting from South Africa: South Africans are already for paying a price for their racial policies. That price has been raised only slightly by President Reagan's sanctions. Krugerrands may be blocked from the American market, but whatever South Africa fails to sell in the form of gold coins, it can certainly sell in the form of gold bars. American exports to South Africa will barely be touched by the limited sanctions on computer sales and nuclear technology. Most of the \$2½ billion annual trade between the two countries will remain intact. American companies here, most of which already operate under non-racial policies, will generally be unaffected. For most white South Africans, President Reagan's action will amount to little more than a mild scolding. It is black South Africans, however, who critics often depict as the ones who will suffer most under sanctions. But the latest survey of urban black opinion reports that the majority of those blacks would be willing to accept a loss of jobs if that brought an end to apartheid. Strong sanctions, stronger than President Reagan has chosen, were approved by 73 percent of those surveyed.

(Pollster Mark Orkin: "I think that three-quarters would feel that what President Reagan is proposing falls far short of the sorts of measures that they were urging.")

In a written statement tonight, President Botha said he regrets President Reagan's decision. Botha said sanctions will not solve the problems in this country. But the vigor with which the South African government has opposed even such limited sanctions, suggests they do have an effect. South Africa knows that if this condemnation is not followed by reform, a stronger condemnation may follow.

Rather: Both sides in South Africa's apartheid struggle attacked today's U.S. sanctions. President Botha called them "negative" and said they would hurt U.S. efforts to influence change there. Bishop Tutu called them too mild, and said they would please the Pretoria government. Tutu said of President Reagan, and I quote, "I think I should call him a racist, pure and simple." (CBS-Lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan will impose some sanctions on the government of South Africa, if he hadn't, the Congress would have done it for him. The President's sanctions are not as tough as Congress would like, but it was enough for the Senate to put off its own vote on a sanctions bill.

ABC's Sheilah Kast: After months of opposing sanctions, President Reagan imposed his own, but insisted it was not a major change in his policy toward South Africa.

(TV Coverage: President in Oval Office; file photos from S. Africa)

(President: "I'm signing today an executive order that will put in place a set of measures designed and aimed against the machinery of apartheid, without indiscriminately punishing the people who are victims of that system.")

Kast continues:

Those steps copied the mildest set of sanctions considered by Congress:

- Stopping sales of computers to South African police and other agencies which enforce apartheid.
- Stopping new U.S. bank loans to the South African government, except for non-discriminatory education, health or housing.
- Pressuring U.S. businesses in South Africa to follow fair employment practices.
- Seeking approval from U.S. trading partners to ban sales of krugerrands in the U.S.

Some measures, such as a ban on sales of nuclear equipment, already are in effect.

(President: "We happen to believe that negotiation is the thing that must take place.")

Reporter's Question: At what point would you feel free to lift what you did today?

(President: "Well, that would be hard for me right now to say. I think you have to see the intent, and see whether the steps are being taken in a forthright manner...")

The President said he would veto the sanctions Congress was on the verge of passing, and the Secretary of State explained that was because the Congressional package would require serious economic sanctions, such as a ban on commercial investment if apartheid is not dismantled.

(Shultz: "The President has wanted to distinguish between measures directed against apartheid and measures that would wind up with substantial loss of jobs.")

(TV Coverage: Shultz, Sens. Lugar and Dole; Shultz in briefing room)

Earlier, the President gave his ambassador to South Africa, Herman Nichol, a letter for President Botha. Nichol, who had spent three months in the U.S. for consultations, headed back to Pretoria to keep the lines of communication open. The President is walking a narrow path, attempting to persuade Congressmen his sanctions are serious enough that they can forego theirs, while at the same time reassuring Pretoria his sanctions won't really hurt.

ABC's Brit Hume reporting from Capitol Hill: Republican Senate leaders, hoping to persuade their colleagues to go along with the President and not pass a sanctions bill anyway, were joined by Secretary Shultz today.

(TV Coverage: Shultz, Sens. Lugar and Dole)

Sen. Lugar, who played a major role in writing the sanctions bill, had already agreed to go along.

(Lugar: "I wish it had come earlier, it might have come last spring or midsummer, or what have you, the President could have done a number of things.")

But other Republicans were not aboard, and there was still a chance enough of them would join the Democrats to force Senate action on sanctions.

(Sen. Weicker: "We're not going to give up on this. There's not going to be an obfuscated statement by the United States of America on apartheid.")

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Hume continues:

(Rep. William Gray: "The President has come forward with an ill-disguised, ill-advised attempt to circumvent an overwhelming, bipartisan consensus in the Congress.")

(Sen. Kennedy: "Our response should be to pass a law and to welcome the President to sign it.")

Outside of Congress, the President's action drew bitter denunciations from leaders of the anti-apartheid movement in this country.

(Randall Robinson of TransAfrica: "It is an absolutely toothless American commitment of virtually no opposition to the practice of apartheid at all. And the South African government will be pleased, no doubt, that President Reagan remains a defacto ally of that vicious regime.")

(Jesse Jackson: "President Reagan's proposals announced today are a desperate attempt to rescue a failed policy and block action by the Senate.")

For the most part, President Reagan's conservative allies were satisfied.

(Falwell: "I think this is victory number one. I think for the first time, we have put on hold this steamroller that was about to put South Africa into oblivion.")

Late today, the Senate refused to clear the way for a vote on South African sanctions. Although there were too many absentees to tell what will happen when a similar vote is taken later this week, there were enough members voting with the President that it seems certain he could sustain a veto if it came to that.

Jennings: The economic effect of these sanctions may not be very dramatic. Two examples. South Africa can still sell its gold here as bullion, and Americans can buy the Canadian maple leaf instead of the krugerrand. The South African government can get its computers elsewhere, and that particular market is not a big one for American companies. But what about the symbolic effect? Does the South African government still think of President Reagan as its best friend?

ABC's Jim Hickey reporting from South Africa: President Botha calls President Reagan's plan "regrettable." But he let the President off the hook, blaming Congress for forcing Reagan into a corner.

(TV Coverage: Botha in his office)

In a written statement tonight, Botha said cooperation should not be based on coercion. He said although the President's plan is less harmful than proposed Congressional legislation, it is nonetheless punitive and a negative step. Deputy Foreign Minister Louis Nel, on ABC's Good Morning America today, also criticized Congress for ignoring the impact sanctions will have on other African countries, economically dependent on South Africa.

(Nel: "The United States Congress -- Senate and House -- are apparently going into debate on sanctions without having done any research whatsoever.")

(Opposition party member Helen Juzman: "Whether it will have any effect on the obstinate South African government, is of course another matter.")

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Hickey continues:

A new poll released here today by the South African-based Institute for Black Research claims more than 70 percent of blacks here favor sanctions. But a sampling in the streets of Johannesburg found a mixed reaction.

(TV Coverage: Black and white South Africans being interviewed)
The South African government has said all along it had faith President Reagan would not be too harsh. Some South Africans tonight are surprised the President wasn't tougher. One even said he thought the message was rather meek. (ABC-Lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: President Reagan tonight is under attack from both sides of the South Africa dispute for steps that he took today. The President, who has always said that he opposes economic sanctions against South Africa, issued an executive order that amounts to limited sanctions. The President banned computer sales to South African agencies that are involved in the enforcement of apartheid. He also banned the sale of nuclear technology. He banned bank loans unless they help blacks as well as whites. And the President proposed a possible ban on the sale of krugerrands. The President took this action as Congress was preparing to pass its own tougher sanctions against South Africa. Chris Wallace at the White House tonight. This is a real about-face for the President, isn't it?

NBC's Chris Wallace: Well, Tom, officials here deny any flip-flop in basic policy toward South Africa. But they acknowledge that faced with a changing situation the President did change his tactics.

(TV Coverage: 8/28 file film of South African rioting)

(TV Coverage: President in Oval Office.)

After years of pushing constructive engagement, trying to influence South Africa through dialogue, not pressure, Mr. Reagan today approved limited sanctions.

(President: "I'm signing today an executive order that will put in place a set of measures designed and aimed against the machinery of apartheid, without indiscriminately punishing the people who are victims of that system.")

Aides say the big difference from the Congressional bill is that the President rejected a call for broad sanctions in twelve months if there's no progress. But they admit the ban on krugerrand imports would affect the South African economy, in just the way Mr. Reagan has opposed. The President said the U.S. policy should now be called "active constructive engagement."

(President: "It is persuasion but also indicating that the American people can get impatient with this.")

Impatience with South Africa was the reason for the President's switch. Administration officials realized Congress would pass sanctions even over a Reagan veto, and wanted to avoid an embarrassing defeat. Critics called today's actions everything from public relations to a sell-out.

(Jesse Jackson: "President Reagan's proposals announced today are a desperate attempt to rescue a failed policy and block action by the Senate.")

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Wallace continues: (Howard Phillips of Conservative Caucus: "I profoundly regret President Reagan's decision to switch, rather than fight, on the issue of sanctions against South Africa.") Administration officials note that U.S. influence over South Africa is limited. In fact, some of today's sanctions, such as the computer ban, are already in effect. So the real story today may be something else: how much influence Congress has over the Reagan foreign policy.

Brokaw: On Capitol Hill, John Dancy, where Congress is feeling much more muscular today. John, it's forced the President's hand.

NBC's John Dancy reporting from Capitol Hill: Congress really won this battle, because it forced the President to invoke sanctions - something which he said he would not do. By the time he arrived at the Capitol this morning, Sen. Byrd knew Congress had forced the President to compromise. (Sen. Byrd: "The President and the Administration attempted to avoid a showdown on this issue. They have seen the signals...") To avoid a showdown with Congress, the President sent Secretary of State Shultz to Capitol Hill. His message to the Senate leaders was to put off a vote, give the President's plan a chance. (TV Coverage: Shultz, Dole, Lugar.) Under pressure from the President, Shultz and majority leader Dole, Senate Republicans agreed to effectively put off action on the Congressional sanctions, and leave the President's executive order as the only U.S. statement on apartheid. Proponents of tougher sanctions were outraged. (Sen. Weicker: "The executive order is an act of political expediency to avert defeat in the United States Senate.") Kennedy of Massachusetts said the President's order is weaker than the legislation would have been, and sends the wrong signal to the leaders of South Africa. (Sen. Kennedy: "The message would be that they have more time, that they don't really have to address the issue of apartheid...") But conservative Republican Jesse Helms, who filibustered against the tougher sanctions in the Senate bill, supports the President's executive action. (Sen. Helms: "It clears the thick, so that he can hope that the Senate will spend its time on issues of real concern and issues of real importance to the American people, instead of spinning its wheels on a lot of conversation about an irrelevant issue - apartheid - which nobody favors.") With the exception of Helms and a few other conservatives, Congress does not really like the sanctions as written by the President. It says they aren't tough enough. But Congress probably will accept them.

Brokaw: In South Africa, President Botha blamed Congress for pressuring President Reagan. He said, "The President's actions were less harmful than what Congress has in mind." But Botha said they were nonetheless "regrettable", a "negative step." In South Africa, black leaders were much tougher on President Reagan.

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NBC's John Cochran: Bishop Tutu got word of President Reagan's decision not long after his oldest son, Trevor, came home from with a jailhouse haircut, after two weeks in detention, held without charge under emergency regulations. Maybe that is why Trevor's father was so angry, calling President Reagan's actions today "meaningless", and calling Mr. Reagan a "crypto-racist."

(Tutu: "He doesn't care two beans about black people in South Africa. I don't think he cares at all. And that's why I call him a crypto-racist. I think I should call him a racist, pure and simple.")

White businessmen took President Reagan's decision calmly.

(South African Chamber of Commerce head Freeman Parsons: "The impact on the private sector in South Africa will be minimal.")

(The sanctions) will hurt South Africa, but not much. Restricting bank loans would hurt. South Africa is in the middle of an economic recession and a financial crisis. South Africa needs foreign credit. What South Africans already know is that gasoline prices went up ten cents a gallon today. Not because of President Reagan, but because the South African currency has dropped to record lows, largely the result of American banks calling in loans here. The South African economy is hemorrhaging from decisions made in the boardrooms of New York.

(NBC-Lead)

AIDS IN NEW YORK SCHOOLS

Rather: This was the first day of school in New York City, the nation's largest school system, but more than a quarter of the pupils did not show up at two New York districts. They were kept from school by an epidemic, an epidemic of fear that seems to be spreading faster than any disease. They were kept from school by the fear of AIDS.

CBS's Susan Spencer: Somewhere in New York, an unidentified second grader with AIDS started school today, only one of nearly a million students in the city. But the decision to let the youngster in brought parents to the schoolhouse doors in at least six Queens schools, and kept more than ten thousand students out of class.

(TV Coverage: Parents protest child's inclusion in school.)

Despite pleas from school officials, a state supreme court judge refused this afternoon to bar the 7-year-old from class. And many parents who took their children to school said they were not afraid.,

(CBS-2, ABC-4, NBC-4)

THAILAND COUP ATTEMPT

Rather: Troops loyal to the government today crushed a coup attempt.

The attempt was led by a disgruntled Army colonel. Four people died in this brief military challenge, two of the dead were western journalists.

(CBS-3, ABC-2, NBC-2)

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SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS

Rather: The new space shuttle Atlantis goes up next month for the first time, carrying the shuttle program's second, officially secret military payload. But CBS Pentagon correspondent David Martin didn't have much trouble solving the mystery.

CBS's David Martin: The space shuttle Atlantis sits eerily on the pad, waiting for its maiden voyage, a military mission, scheduled for October 3. The Pentagon says it will not release any information about what's on board, but it's easy to find out. (Scientist John Pike: "It looks like it's going to be a pair of defense satellite communications systems satellites, the so-called Discus III. These provide communications services for the military, State Department and the White House.") So why, if it's so easy to find out what's on board the Atlantis, does the Pentagon classify it as a secret? Air Force officials acknowledge the Atlantis mission is not a deep, dark secret. But they say it is being treated as one in an effort to establish the principle of secrecy for future military missions of the space shuttle. (CBS-4)

NUCLEAR COMMAND AND CONTROL

NBC's Fred Francis reports in a "Special Segment" on America's nuclear command and control system. The report outlines how the Soviets knew of some of its "weaknesses." The General who oversees the system says sabotage is a concern, but not simple to carry out. (Gen. Robert Herres: "There are a lot of uncertainties in the process of doing that sort of thing, and things don't always happen as neatly as they do on "Mission:Impossible." (NBC-3)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

GENEVA SUMMIT

Will Reagan Be Ready For Summit? -- "Reagan outlived three doddering Kremlin chiefs. But now he's 74, ailing, and facing a younger man who has revitalized the Soviet image. Warns old champion of detente Richard Nixon: 'Gorbachev, at 54, is a man who does not need to be in a hurry. He may live long enough to deal with as many as five American Presidents.' ...Will Gorbachev clean (Reagan's) clock? Maybe, maybe not. The Reagan who took a bullet in the chest and asked his doctors if they were all Republicans is a man not to be written off. His pluck and optimism are genuine assets: he can never be ruled out."

(David Nyhan, Boston Sunday Globe, 9/8)

'And Now, With The Imperialist View...' -- "Everyone's talking about how President Reagan should be allowed to go on Soviet television. But what difference would it make? Since Soviet spokesmen appear on American television all the time (Western media call these Kremlin spokesmen 'journalists', a courtesy they never extend to Larry Speakes), it would be peachy to have American views presented directly to Moscow and environs. But the Soviet government is less than receptive to Western views, as indicated by its jamming of outside radio signals. Gorbachev, however, is said to belong to a new generation. Maybe he'll suggest a deal whereby the Soviets get, say, fishing rights in the Mississippi River and Mr. Reagan gets a five-minute spot during halftime of the Monday night tractor radio. That's going halfway, isn't it?"

(Washington Times, 9/9)

PROTECTIONISM

Touching Bottom -- "Don't look to your government for redress if a torrent of imports destroys your job and forces your employer out of business. That's the back-of-the-hand Labor Day message that President Reagan gave to America's shoe workers when he turned down the recommendations of the International Trade Commission for a temporary ceiling on imports....President Reagan's inaction on shoe quotas makes clear the futility of giving this Administration powers that it has no intention of using. Let Congress act, or take the responsibility for continued inaction. The buck stops at Capitol Hill." (AFL-CIO News, 9/7)

Protectionism -- "Protectionist measures send a signal to the world that the U.S. lacks the initiative to retool its industry, retrain its workers, and revamp its dated view of the global marketplace. Forcing Japan to curb its exports and open its own markets provides a vent for congressmen who can think of no other solutions. But should Japan, directly or indirectly, be held responsible for revitalizing the U.S. economic machine? Of course not. This is something that can only be done from the inside."

(Charleston Daily Mail, 9/5)

Cutting Deficit Will Help -- Not Protectionism -- "Liberals are blasting Ronald Reagan because he refused to place quotas on shoe imports. It is a case of the President advocating sound economics, and his opponents sound politics."

(Newport (Ark.) Daily Independent, 9/6)

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TAX REFORM

Tax Reform, But... -- "...as Mr. Reagan will learn, when you get down to the nitty-gritty, Americans become suspicious about those advocating tax reform. Kent Colton, executive vice president of the National Association of Home Builders, says support for the general idea of tax reform is 'on mile wide and one-half inch deep.'....That is why Congress is likely to decide that budget and trade deficit reductions, and the protection of Americans' jobs, must have priority over tax reform."

(Carl Rowan, Washington Post, 9/7)

Reigniting Tax Reform -- "We urge citizens to join the President's fight to close loopholes and reduce rates for a fairer and more productive tax system."

(Denver Post, 9/4)

DEFICIT

Series Of Vetoes Now The Only Way To Cut Deficit -- "All the President needs is the support of one third plus one member in either house and he can make such a veto stick. Congress would then have to come back with a revised bill providing a lower total of spending for that particular department; and if it's not low enough, the process could be repeated....It's time for toughness, to be embodied in a series of stern vetoes from the pen of Ronald Reagan."

(Robert Ackerman, Atlanta Journal, 9/5)

FEDERAL PAY

Fiscal Scapegoats -- "President Reagan's one-year pay freeze for federal employees is a pitiful substitute for the kind of across-the-board freeze on federal social and military spending needed to avoid national insolvency....Federal employees can probably accept the freeze -- which is at least better than the 5 percent pay cut Reagan originally recommended. But they certainly have a right to resent being once again singled out as scapegoats for policies for which the President and the Congress should bear full blame."

(Denver Post, 9/3)

REAGAN TRADE POLICIES

Reagan's Poor Trade Policies Hurting Workers -- "The President's shoe decision reminds me of the fellow who traps himself in a corner while repainting his living room floor....Let's not waste one or two years with the endless procedures of petitions, investigations, hearings and presentations. The President should act immediately to make believers of the world's most cavalier trade scofflaws. Unfortunately, I don't think the President will do that. He has abdicated leadership on trade. That's why Congress needs to reclaim the initiative on trade policy. We cannot let Reagan and a distracted Administration continue to fiddle the tunes of Adam Smith while the American economy burns away in trade deficits."

(House Majority Leader Jim Wright, Boston Globe, 9/6)