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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1985 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Weir Urges Positive Bid To Free Six -- "They state that if there is not a positive response to their demand in the near future, they are prepared to kidnap other Americans and that, though they do not want to harm anyone, they will go so far as to proceed to execute their hostages if their demands are not met," said Rev. Benjamin Weir.

(Washington Times, Washington Post, AP, UPI)

NATIONAL NEWS

Economy's Prospects Weighed -- The Bureau of Economic Analysis settled on a range from 2.5 percent to 4 percent growth for the July-September period. Anything outside of that range will be either exciting or depressing for Wall Street and Foreign Exchange markets.

(UPI, Washington Post, Washington Times)

NETWORK NEWS (Thursday Evening)

MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE -- A killer earthquake hit Mexico City.

(All Nets Lead)

WEIR/HOSTAGES -- Rev. Weir said in his news conference he didn't know why he was kidnapped or why he was freed, except to deliver a critical message to President Reagan.

ARMS CONTROL -- Viktor Karpov says progress is up to the Americans.

FOR PRESTIGE'S SAKE

The ways of connoting prestige in the capital seem as varied and relentless as the separate egos that keep the city in motion....

One visiting foreign diplomat with a keen sense for the game jotted a note last week to a casual tennis partner that was written on stationery headed: "The White House. Washington." The alien had done some exquisite filching on a White House visit.

(New York Time's "Briefing" column, 9/2)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WEIR SAYS CAPTORS THREATEN TO KIDNAP, KILL AMERICANS

The Rev. Benjamin Weir, freed after 16 months of captivity in Lebanon, said Thursday that his Moslem extremist kidnappers had released him to warn President Reagan that they are ready to kidnap and possibly execute more Americans if there is no response "soon" to their demand for the release of 17 terrorists imprisoned in Kuwait.

U.S. officials responded coolly. White House spokesman Edward Djerejian repeated the Administration's policy of refusing to "give in to the demands of terrorists" and said it will not pressure Kuwait. President Reagan, he added, watched Weir's televised plea for stepped-up U.S. action with "a great deal of interest and enormous sympathy."

(Kathy Sawyer, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. Holds Firm Against Terrorist Terms

Weir, freed by Moslem terrorists after 16 months in captivity, urged the Administration Thursday to make a "maximum creative effort" to obtain freedom for six other U.S. hostages who face a death threat in Lebanon.

(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A1)

Reagan Spokesman: No Deals With Lebanese Captors

Reagan acknowledged criticism from some relatives of the hostages that the Administration has not done everything possible to secure their loved ones' release.

"Unfortunately, we can't tell even the families all the things that we are doing," he said. "We just have to take that criticism, but it is not justified."

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

A Freed Hostage Spotlights Other Captives

"They have released me as a sign of their good intentions," (Weir) told a press conference. "However, they are not willing to wait much longer."

(Charlotte Saikowski, Christian Science Monitor, A1)

U.S. CONDUCTING SECRET TALKS TO FREE HOSTAGES IN LEBANON

The United States has been involved in secret talks with Arab and other intermediaries for more than a year to gain the release of American hostages in Lebanon, Arab and other diplomatic sources say.

The Administration has been counting on the intervention of Syrian President Assad to help free the Americans.

(David Ottaway, Washington Post, A18)

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BUSH UNABLE TO REASSURE HOSTAGE KIN

Vice President Bush said Thursday he will be unable to allay the worst fears of the American hostage families he meets today, because the United States will not give in to terrorist demands.

"I don't know that I'll be able to help" ease the families' fears about new hostage execution threats, Mr. Bush said in an interview.

(Mary Belcher and Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Hostages' Relatives Plead For Administration Help

Relatives of the American hostages Thursday tried to push the Administration to escalate efforts to free the prisoners -- some of whom have sent home desperate letters for help. (Thomas Ferraro, UPI)

MOZAMBIQUE'S LEADER GIVEN WARM WELCOME

President Samora Machel of Mozambique, a dedicated Marxist who has turned to the United States for economic and diplomatic support to bolster his war-battered and economically hard-pressed southern Africa nation, was welcomed warmly at the White House Thursday by President Reagan.

(David Ottaway, Washington Post, A23)

Reagan Hails Mozambique's President's Shift Toward West

Calling each other "amigos," President Reagan and Marxist Mozambique President Machel explored yesterday ways of bringing the once Soviet-dominated South African nation closer to the West.

(Washington Times, A7)

U.S. SOVIETS EXPRESS HOPE AS TALKS RESUME IN GENEVA

GENEVA -- The United States and the Soviet Union resumed negotiations on nuclear and space weapons today in a critical six-week round of talks that will set the stage for the November 19 summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev.

(William Drozdiak, Washington Post, A1)

Upcoming Summit Adds Importance To Arms Talks

If round three of the talks follows the pattern of two previous rounds, it will conclude about two weeks before President Reagan and Gorbachev meet in Geneva November 19-20. (Edward Roby, UPI)

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U.S. AIDE SAYS SOVIET BUILDUP PUTS ABM PACT "IN QUESTION"

An authoritative Administration official said Thursday that a massive Soviet arms buildup puts "very much in question" the value of the 1972 Antiballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, banning most defensive strategic weapons. He said "it might be wise" to modify the ABM treaty in the years after President Reagan leaves office.

Thursday the senior official said Reagan will be making a series of public statements on superpower relations before the summit begins.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

ADMIT FEWER SOVIETS, U.S. URGED

Secretary Weinberger called Thursday for "reductions" in the number of Soviet representatives permitted to live in the United States, asserting that Moscow sends only people who are trained to hunt for U.S. military secrets. (Michael Weisskopf and John Mintz, Washington Post, A12)

Pentagon Chief Wants Soviet Presence In U.S. Cut

"I think we have to bear in mind, and it's only prudent to do so that the Soviets don't send people to countries like the United States unless they are fully equipped fully trained and either part of the KGB or might just as well be....," (Weinberger) continued. (Norman Black, AP)

Reduce Soviet Delegation To U.S., Says Weinberger

(Weinberger) said he agreed "completely" with Assistant Defense Secretary Perle, who asserted Wednesday the U.S. would benefit "by enormously reducing the number of Soviet officials in this country."

(Richard Gross, UPI)

WEINBERGER: SOVIETS STILL VIOLATE ARMS TREATIES

The Soviet Union is continuing to violate nuclear arms agreements despite President Reagan's June warning that the United States would reconsider its compliance if the violations continued, Secretary Weinberger said Thursday.

In a Pentagon press conference, Mr. Weinberger also for the first time explicitly said the Soviets have more than 10 nuclear warheads on their missiles, which violates the limit set in the unratified 1979 Salt II nuclear arms agreement. (Walter Andrews, Washington Times, A3)

SDI SEEN AS AN ANSWER TO NUCLEAR IMBALANCE

The United States must go ahead with research and testing for the Strategic Defense Initiative because it needs to counter Soviet development of a mobile missile system, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

This was the official's assessment of how President Reagan is preparing for next week's meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the November summit with Gorbachev.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A3)

WALTERS UPHOLDS TRAVEL LIMIT ON U.N. STAFFS OF 6 NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS -- Ambassador Vernon Walters Thursday defended the recent U.S. move to restrict the right to travel by U.N. Secretariat personnel from six countries.

The American move was designed to monitor U.N. personnel from those countries suspected of engaging in espionage.

(Narayan Keshavan, Washington Times, A4)

KIDNAPPING NEWS SILENCED IN EL SALVADOR

SAN SALVADOR -- The local news media blacked out news Thursday of the kidnapping of President Duarte's daughter. (Washington Times, A5)

TURKEY NOTIFIES U.S. OF DESIRE TO DISCUSS EXPIRING AGREEMENT

Turkey has notified Washington that it wants to discuss "certain points" in its five-year defense and economic cooperation agreement with the United States, State Department officials said Thursday.

(David Ottaway, Washington Post, A13)

RIFT IN ANZUS NOT HEALED

New Zealand and the United States failed Thursday to agree on a compromise proposal from Prime Minister David Lange's government for ending the dispute over nuclear vessels that has disrupted the Australia-New Zealand-United States alliance (ANZUS) since February.

(John Goshko, Washington Post, A13)

U.S. CRITICIZES TAIWAN ARREST

The arrest in Taiwan of an American newspaper publisher for professional activities in the United States was "an act of intimidation and harassment," the State Department said Thursday in asking for her immediate release.

(Lena Sun, Washington Post, A16)

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NATIONAL NEWS

ECONOMIC GROWTH EXPECTED TO TOP 4 PCT. THIS QUARTER

A big smile from Wall Street, the White House and the rest of the nation is expected today when the government releases its "flash" estimate of economic growth for the July-September quarter.

Today's eagerly awaited number will show the nation's output of goods and services growing at better than 4 percent and perhaps as high as 4.6 percent.

(Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A3)

Economy's Prospects Weighed

The nation's economy is on the rebound, but the rate of growth is much less than the robust surge the White House hoped for, private economists say.

(Denis Gulino, UPI)

WHITE HOUSE: TAX REFORM STILL POSSIBLE THIS YEAR

President Reagan believes Congress will be able to pass a tax reform bill this year, a spokesman says, despite clear signs from Democratic and Republican leaders that the issue is virtually dead for 1985.

"It is both possible and very important for the Senate to join the House in completing their work on a tax bill this year," Edward Djerejian said Thursday. "We think there's plenty of time."

(Joseph Mianowany, AP)

DOLE TO ADD 1,000 CONTROLLERS TO FAA

Transportation Secretary Dole said Thursday that she will add about 1,000 air traffic controllers and 500 safety inspectors to the Federal Aviation Administration "to make the safest system in the world even safer."

(Douglas Feaver, Washington Post, A1)

More Air Traffic Controllers Inspectors To Be Hired

More air traffic controllers and inspectors will be hired to meet a projected increase in air travel -- not because of a recent wave of deadly plane crashes, Administration officials say.

(Frank Csongos, UPI)

RIGHTS OFFICIALS AT ODDS

The head of the Civil Rights Commission accused a House subcommittee chairman of racism Thursday for questioning why more women and members of minorities were not appointed to the commission's new state advisory panels.

(Washington Post, A4)

IMMIGRATION BILL ADVANCES

The Senate approved a landmark revision of the nation's immigration laws yesterday that would grant amnesty to illegal aliens who entered the country before January 1, 1980, and provide civil and criminal penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

(Mary Thornton, Washington Post, A5)

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Senate Finally OKs Immigration Reforms

The Senate, winding up eight days of arduous, protracted debate, late yesterday approved sweeping reforms to the nation's immigration laws that largely have been untouched for two decades.

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

Senate Passes Immigration Bill By 69-30 Vote

"There are an awful lot of land mines out there before you can get this bill passed," said Rep. Leon Panetta (D.-CA), who is working ... to draft a compromise on the most controversial issue, the guest-worker program.

(Ellen Hume, Wall Street Journal, A2)

HAVE A SEAT

President Reagan loaned his desk in the oval office for a few minutes to Carlos Rome, 18, who was named national Youth of the Year by the Boys Clubs of America.

After meeting Reagan Thursday and sitting in the President's chair, he said he would "like to be President someday." (UPI)

DEMOCRATS IN HOUSE PUSH PROTECTIONIST TRADE POLICY

Charging the Reagan Administration with abdicating its responsibility to protect U.S. exports, House Democrats adopted a national trade policy yesterday and ordered committees to send bills to the floor by Oct. 30 to implement the plan.

(Thomas Brandt, Washington Times, A4)

House Democrats Attack Trade Deficit

The full Ways and Means Committee will consider the measure next week.

(Mary Beth Franklin, UPI)

Trade Panel Backs Quotas On Textiles

A House trade subcommittee, riding the wave of protectionist sentiment, voted to impose quotas on some textile imports.

The proposal was approved on a voice vote, and is expected to win approval by the full House Ways and Means Committee.

(David Shribman, Wall Street Journal, 54)

AUGUST OUTLAYS BY CONSUMERS JUMPED 1.2%

Consumer spending surged 1.2% in August, outstripping a modest 0.3% rise in personal income and plunging the national savings rate to its lowest level in more than a quarter of a century.

(Paul Duke Jr., Wall Street Journal, 3)

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IOWA'S GOP CHIEF LATEST VICTIM OF FARM CRISIS.

Agriculture's economic crisis is forcing Iowa's Republican state chairman to step down so he can resume full-time management of his two financially pressed farms.

"I have to admit that I'm angry and frustrated at the lack of sensitivity that has been displayed within the Administration, more by staff members than by the President himself," (Robert Baur) said.

"The President's popularity among Iowa farmers is down to 23 percent," one Iowa political source said. "I've not seen any numbers like these since Watergate."

(Bill Kling, Washington Times, A5)

GUARDING SOCIAL SECURITY

A House subcommittee unanimously approved legislation yesterday to make the Social Security Administration an independent agency starting in one year and to remove its old-age and disability trust fund operations from the federal budget in fiscal 1987.

Secretary Heckler said in a letter that the Administration strongly opposes taking the Social Security Administration out of HHS and making it an independent agency because it would "disrupt" medicare, which would remain in HHS and in the unified budget.

(Spencer Rich, Washington Post, A4)

MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICE HIT

A Pentagon report that chastises Air Force and Army medical services for jockeying to take care of the Marines wounded during a 1983 bombing in Beirut was wrongly classified "secret" last year by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, not because it would breach national security, but because it would embarrass the Pentagon and alarm military personnel, members of a Senate Armed services subcommittee charged yesterday.

(Chris Spolar, Washington Post, A4)

HOUSE VOTES CUT IN AMTRAK FUNDS

The House voted Thursday to reduce funding for Amtrak next year by about 11.5 percent, to \$603.5 million, and to create a commission to seek ways to increase the passenger rail service's income.

(Margaret Shapiro, Washington Post, A5)

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SCIENTISTS SAY ASAT TARGET WAS STILL USEFUL

The Solwind satellite destroyed last Friday during the test of a U.S. antisatellite (ASAT) weapon was providing "very useful data" on solar activity until the moment it was hit, according to astrophysicists who were surprised and upset at seeing a fruitful experiment being used as a military target.

Secretary Weinberger as recently as Thursday referred to the target as a "burned-out satellite." But physicist Robert M. MacQueen, director of the high-altitude observatory of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado, said yesterday that it was "deplorable" that the Pentagon "had taken a scientifically useful thing and sacrificed it in this way."

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

President Reagan has said the test was well within the bounds of the U.S.-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. (UPI)

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Thursday Evening, September 19, 1985)

MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE

NBC's Tom Brokaw reports a killer earthquake hit Mexico City this morning and they are still counting the dead tonight. At last report, at least 250 people were confirmed dead. Thousands more had been injured. The quake was 7.8% on the Richter scale. It was felt as far away as South Texas. (ALL NETS LEAD)

WEIR/HOSTAGES

CBS's Susan Spencer reports Rev. Weir said in his news conference he didn't know why he was kidnapped or why he was freed, except to deliver a critical message to President Reagan.

(Weir: "They have one demand, namely the release of 17 prisoners being held in Kuwait. They are ready to release the six hostages in exchange for the 17 prisoners.")

Weir urged the U.S. Government to act. Otherwise --

(Weir: "Though they do not want to harm anyone, they will go so far as to proceed to execute their hostages if their demand is not met.")

He said he takes that threat seriously and revealed that he knows for a fact that four of the six remaining hostages are safe. But about hostages Kilburn and Buckley, Weir said sadly, he knew nothing.

CBS's Dan Rather: For all the happiness and hope in the appearance of Benjamin Weir today, there was also a new note of terror for the families of the remaining six hostages, and a new dilemma for President Reagan: the demand of the kidnappers to free some of their jailed comrades in Kuwait, or else.

CBS's Bob Schieffer: Even for the families who got good news today, there seemed to be a growing feeling that more should be done by the Administration.

(Hostage Jenco's sister: "I don't feel that the avenues have all been challenged. I don't think all the doors have been opened yet.")

CBS's Bill Plante: The Reagan Administration says it's willing to negotiate the release of the six remaining American hostages, but firmly rejected any deal to exchange them for 17 convicted prisoners in Kuwait.

(Bernard Kalb: "This Administration will not pressure other governments to make concessions to those holding hostages.")

The prisoners held in Kuwait were convicted of a series of bombings there, including an attack on the U.S. Embassy. The U.S. regards them as lawfully-imprisoned criminals, unlike the Lebanese Shiites detained by Israel, whose release was demanded by the TWA hijackers. Rev. Weir believes that his release may signal a last chance for the remaining Americans.

(Weir: "I believe a new window of opportunity has been opened at least a crack. I fear that opportunity may not last long. I urge that new efforts be made and that new and creative options be explored.")

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(Thursday Evening, September 19, 1985)

Plante continues: President Reagan responded to criticism from the hostage families that he isn't doing enough.

(President on South Lawn: "Unfortunately, we can't tell even the families all the things that we are doing, so we just have to take that criticism. But it is not justified.")

In fact, some officials fear the moment of opportunity may have come and gone. Contacts continue with intermediaries, including Iran, in an effort to get the six released. But right now, said one official, there is no reason to be optimistic. (CBS-2)

Rather interviews Rev. and Mrs. Weir:

Mrs. Weir: "I was becoming very, very discouraged that it was going on and on and on, and I really didn't see efforts being made for his release that I thought needed to be made."

Rather: Did you personally have a strong and continuing line of communication with our government?

Mrs. Weir: "We had to develop that line of communication. We were never invited to come to Washington. I was never able to see the President. His staff wrote and said he didn't have time. We, however, did develop some communication with the Administration and we have tried to keep that open and asked for appointments periodically." (CBS-5)

Jennings: It is clear today that Rev. Weir was released by his captors in Lebanon so that he could deliver a message to President Reagan and the American public, a very threatening message about the safety of six other Americans still there. It is simple; it is ugly. Unless the kidnappers' demands are met, Americans in Lebanon could be executed.

ABC's Jack Smith reports on Weir's news conference. Weir explained the main reason for the conference, to convey a message from his captors which, he said, he delivered yesterday by phone to President Reagan.

(Weir: "They have one demand, namely the release of 17 prisoners being held in Kuwait....They state that if there is not a positive response to their demand in the near future, they are prepared to kidnap other Americans...")

Senior U.S. officials said they did have evidence James Buckley and Peter Kilburn were alive, but they'd heard reports to the contrary so they can't be sure.

(Hostage son Eric Jacobsen: "I'm encouraged because it's said out in the open now, we know what has to be done to get them released. The U.S. Government cannot push that aside anymore. It's time to get it done.")

The families of the men still held captive went on to lobby on Capitol Hill. The families meet with Vice President Bush tomorrow.

(Thursday Evening, September 19, 1985)

Jennings interviews Weir:

Jennings: Would you tell (the President) that the lives of those six are more important than this country's principles?

Weir: "Well, I don't think of it that way. It seems to me that the lives of the six are important and certainly the lives of the American people are important. But I don't think it's the case of contrasting one with the other."

ABC's Sam Donaldson: Reagan Administration officials expressed compassion today for the plight of the remaining hostages, but flatly turned down the kidnappers' demands for freeing them.

(Bernard Kalb: "We of course are always willing to discuss the safety of American citizens, but to give in to demands would only encourage further acts and lead to the taking of additional hostages.")

No deals and no pressure on Kuwait to release its 17 Shiite prisoners. And on the kidnappers' threat to abduct other Americans, the President's reply was restrained.

(TV Coverage of the President commenting on South Lawn. Comments are unintelligible.)

Mr. Reagan was told that some hostage relatives don't feel he's doing enough to free their loved ones.

(President: "Unfortunately, we can't tell even the families all the things that we are doing, so we just have to take that criticism.")

The son of one of the hostages was told of the President's answer.

(Eric Jacobsen: "We don't like coming on TV and criticizing the Administration. I hate it. We all hate it. But the fact is we're not getting any information passed on to us.")

Tomorrow, Vice President Bush will see the hostage families, but not the President.

(TV Coverage of President saying he has already met with the hostage families.)

The Administration has not continued to press its initial claim that its efforts resulted in Rev. Weir's release. "I don't know why it happened," said a senior White House official. "I guess they released him to carry his message." And what's to be done now? "More of the same," said the official -- without specifying what that is.

ABC's Charles Glass reports on the 17 prisoners being held in Kuwait and why they are being held. (ABC-2)

NBC's Marvin Kalb reports Rev. Weir urged the Administration to make what he called a maximum creative effort to free the other hostages. Weir urged the Administration to re-examine its policy in the Middle East, especially toward Israel. Not seen by Weir before his release were Peter Kilburn and James Buckley. Both, a White House official said, are believed to be alive. Some hostage family members expressed frustration and impatience, saying they are not being given enough information. The President said there is no other way.

(Thursday Evening, September 19, 1985)

Kalb continues: (President: "Well, unfortunately, we can't tell even the families all the things that we are doing. So we just have to take that criticism, but it is not justified.")

A senior official said the U.S. will not make concessions and will not pressure Kuwait. He also said the U.S. takes the captors' threat seriously and is pressing five diplomatic tracts to free the hostages. But today, no break seems imminent.

Brokaw interviews Weir:

Brokaw: The White House is saying today that it will stand by its policy of not negotiating with terrorists....Does that disappoint you?

Weir: "It would disappoint me if it means there's going to be no attempt really to communicate and try to find out what the final demands are or what might be worked out because, as I said, I think there may be right now a crack in the window of negotiation and I would hope it would be followed up. It seems to me it's only reasonable to explore that." (NBC-2)

ARMS CONTROL

Rather: It was handshakes for the cameras all around in Geneva today as U.S. and Soviet negotiators resumed arms control talks and to set the tone for the Reagan-Gorbachev summit two months away. But some of the latest arms control thinking was being leaked today in Washington, where a senior Reagan Administration official told correspondent Bill Plante that both the U.S. and the Soviet Union think the 1972 ABM treaty may need to be scrapped because it is outdated -- the Russians believing it could be violated by U.S. star wars defense research, the U.S. believing the Russians may violate it with their own space defense research. (CBS-3)

ABC's Rick Inderfurth reports from Geneva that Viktor Karpov says progress is up to the Americans. But Max Kampelman said he was hoping for something from the Soviets. (ABC-3)

NATO EXERCISES

ABC's Dean Reynolds reports from the English Channel that "Ocean Safari '85," by all accounts, succeeded. War games like these are supposed to keep the U.S. and its allies sharp, but they are also designed to send a signal to potential adversaries: that Western interests can and will be protected. (ABC-4)

IMMIGRATION

Rather: The Senate tonight passed a sweeping overhaul of this nation's immigration laws. House passage of this bill is by no means certain. (CBS-4)

Brokaw: Hispanic leaders immediately branded it the most damaging bill since the racial quotas of the 1920s. (NBC-6)

(Thursday Evening, September 19, 1985)

TRADE

Brokaw: President Reagan lost the first round in the fight over trade protection on Capitol Hill. A key House subcommittee easily passed a bill to restrict textile and clothing imports from the Far East.

NBC's Kenley Jones reports from Eastman, Georgia, a textile town where more than 300 textile workers lost their jobs when the local mill shut down last March. American-made goods simply can't compete with imported textiles and apparel made with cheap foreign labor from a wide variety of countries. (NBC-7)

ECONOMY

Rather: The government said Americans spent money faster in August while registering only a modest increase in income. The Commerce Department said all that buying was financed by dropping personal savings to a record low. The report said personal spending jumped 1.2% last month, three times the rate in July. But personal income rose just 0.3%. The personal savings rate dropping to 2.8% in August, the lowest since the government began keeping such figures in 1959. (ABC-9, CBS-6)

ROCK AND ROLL

CBS's Phil Jones reports on a congressional hearing on rock music. It is believed to be the biggest media event in the history of congressional hearings.

(Susan Baker of Parents' Music Resource Center: "Rock lyrics have turned from, 'I can't get no satisfaction,' to 'I'm going to force you at gunpoint to eat me alive.'")

It was two prominent political spouses -- Secretary Baker's and Sen. Gore's wives -- who started this public campaign to get record companies to label their products. No legislation is before Congress, but one senator was warning that things may change.

(Sen. Exon: " -- Unless the free enterprise system, both the producers and you as the performers, see fit to clean up their act -- ")

(ABC-7, NBC-10, CBS-7)

AIDS

Rather reports federal health officials said as many as one million Americans may have been infected by the AIDS virus, and the report said that more than 12,000 of them may develop AIDS next year. The officials also reported an apparent link between prostitution and AIDS, saying that could help explain the spread of the disease to heterosexual men and their wives. (ABC-6, NBC-9, CBS-10)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE

Two Out of Three -- "President Reagan Tuesday night gave his best press conference in recent memory. He allayed fears of his core supporters on two big issues: protectionism and strategic defense. Amid increasing pressure for protectionism (can 300 bills be wrong?), the President confronted head-on the shallow reasoning and crass politics behind protectionism, citing 'the lesson of the Smoot-Hawley tariff in 1930, which helped trigger a worldwide trade war that spread, deepened, and prolonged the worst depression in history.' ...On strategic defense, Mr. Reagan gave an articulate defense of the concept, flatly denied that it is a bargaining chip, and pointed out Soviet progress on its own SDI. He reduced UPI's Helen Thomas to muttering about 'militarization of the heavens.' ...Alas, asked by our Jeremiah O'Leary about why he is hosting the Marxist strongman of Mozambique, the president doffed the Gipper's helmet and donned the wimpish banker's bowler, whose wearers tend to believe that everyone not actually shooting at us is our ally -- except, of course, our allies. Mr. Reagan should read fewer State Department memos and more pronouncements from Maputo, where Samora Machel's unceasing expressions of undying fealty to the Soviet Union and the revolutionary cause might make Mr. Reagan wonder just who staffs the Africa desk."

(Washington Times, 9/19)

Star Wars: Vanity and Reality -- "You can hear two voices whenever Ronald Reagan talks about 'Star Wars,' as he did again Tuesday evening. One speaks for a presidential vanity, insisting he has pointed the way to a perfect defense that will one day make nuclear weapons obsolete. The other speaks for Presidential reality, longing in the three short years that remain to develop a saner relationship with the Soviet Union. Heedless pursuit of the vanity could soon exacerbate the arms race and make the world more dangerous. But scattered among the President's words were hints that, as he approaches his meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, he prefers to dwell on reality."

(New York Times, 9/19)

Stampede To Protectionism -- "President Reagan is fighting the good fight when he declares that 'a mindless stampede toward protectionism will be a one-way trip to disaster.' ...But he does his cause no good when he muddles up the three great deficits confronting our country -- the trade deficit, the balance-of-payments deficit and the federal government deficit. Both Republicans and Democrats may be so far down the 'slippery slope' of protectionism, however, that Mr. Reagan will have to use his veto to stop passage of a trade-war bill. If this is his only recourse, he should not hesitate. A president is better positioned than a legislator to look at the national interest whole and to act without fear of retribution from a relatively narrow constituency."

(Baltimore Sun, 9/19)

Protectionism And Jobs -- "President Reagan's strong words regarding the importance of world commerce -- and the pitfalls to global economic growth resulting from protectionism -- should be noted. In short, Washington must avoid protectionist measures that invite retaliation against American goods. At the same time, the White House and Congress must take firmer action to reduce the deficit -- one main factor explaining those lost export sales."

(Christian Science Monitor, 9/19)

NEWS CONFERENCE (continued)

Bargaining -- "Within this administration there are differences on whether any (arms control) agreement that may be available is in the American interest. The evidence is, however, that the administration understands tradeoffs are going to be needed for an agreement. Just what these trade-offs should be is a matter still and necessarily under review. What Mr. Reagan should be judged on is not how he looks in the run up to the summit but what discipline and responsibility he brings to the process of hammering out a position there. In any event, wherever the process fetches, Mr. Reagan is plainly determined that he, and not Mikhail Gorbachev, be the master of it".
(Washington Post, 9/19)

The Cost Of Star Wars -- "Reagan hopes to bequeath to his successors a legacy of long-term security against nuclear attack. But the price is heightened danger for the next 10 or 15 years and a huge increase in the arms race. That's dangerous and costly. The President should think again and consider a deal to drop SDI in exchange for a big cut in the Soviet missile arsenal."
(New York Daily News, 9/19)

Star Wars Should Be a Bargaining Chip -- "In some quarters, President Ronald Reagan is being applauded as a shrewd tactician for refusing to negotiate restrictions on testing and development of a 'Star Wars' missile defense. This is not one of those quarters....The question is whether Star Wars testing and development are negotiable in return for sharp reductions in both U.S. and Soviet strategic weapons. Reagan's muddled reply Tuesday was that he wouldn't 'be willing to trade that off for a different number of nuclear missiles when there are already more than enough to blow both countries out of the world.' Does he seriously mean that he won't negotiate missile reductions because there are too many missiles? The nation needs a better answer than that." (Newsday, 9/19)

No Deal -- "President Reagan is wholly justified in refusing to deal away his Strategic Defense Initiative -- 'star wars' -- in return for nebulous missile-reduction pledges from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev....Arms negotiations have gone nowhere. The productivity of the forthcoming summit is unpredictable, even given good faith on both sides. The United States, therefore, must proceed with defense objectives that could lead to international nuclear restraint."
(Chicago Sun-Times, 9/19)

Reagan and 'Star Wars' -- "Since Mr. Reagan proposed SDI 2 1/2 years ago, it has served a valuable purpose: it has gotten the Soviets' attention. Now the U.S. should use it to gain major concessions from the Soviets on the matter of land-based missiles. As the President himself observed, there are enough missiles 'to blow both countries out of the world.' Mr. Reagan can help reduce the threat by placing SDI on the bargaining table -- at the appropriate time."
(Dallas Times Herald, 9/19)

Hang in There -- "Strategic defense has been called an end run around the nuclear arms threat. It is precisely that. No arms reduction treaty is going to do away with missiles. The way to remove the threat is to threaten the missiles. 'We're talking about a weapon that won't kill people,' said Reagan at the press conference. 'It'll kill weapons.' Exactly. If Reagan cleaves to that reasoning when the Geneva 'bargaining' recommences, and if Congress doesn't undercut him, there is nothing to fear from the talks."
(Dallas Morning News, 9/19)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE

Reagan's Firm Stance Defined Framework for Arms Talks -- "The President's intransigence (on SDI) has dismayed many people here, including some Administration officials who see SDI as a means of obtaining deep cuts in the Soviet arsenal. But Mr. Kampelman...said yesterday that he did not expect the President's remarks to affect the talks."

(London Times)

SDI Too Important a U.S. Card to Warrant a Deal -- "The President appeared as passionately devoted as ever to his futuristic technology. Critics were mortified....What was not in doubt here yesterday was that Mr. Reagan's insistence on testing...was no gaffe of the kind which have dogged some public utterances. There were no desperate reinterpretations of his words and the President appeared confident and relaxed."

(Guardian, Britain)

An End to Rumors of Kampelman's 'Flexibility' -- "Political circles were somewhat surprised by the President's firmness on SDI....Although Reagan's position is not new, he has rarely expressed his support for SDI with so much fervor. This is important since it ends the rumors that Kampelman was to display 'flexibility.'"

(Figaro, France)

Up to the Soviets to Determine Summit's Success -- "(The Soviets) have been trying to undermine decisive American negotiating positions before the upcoming summit meeting. At his news conference yesterday, the American President radically thwarted such attempts. His statements on SDI cleared the atmosphere....Since Reagan has practically ruled out the possibility of making SDI a central subject of negotiations in Geneva, it is up to the Soviets to determine the climate for the summit and the prospects for success."

(Die Welt, West Germany)

Reagan Will Be an Alert Negotiator at Geneva -- "Most Americans are sure now that Mr. Reagan will be an alert negotiator in the test with the new Kremlin leader."

(Sueddeutsche Zeitung, West Germany)

Reagan's Position Hardly Provides for Progress at Geneva -- "President Reagan's position (on SDI) hardly provides for progress at the Geneva negotiations and at the summit meeting...."

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, West Germany)

Is U.S. Willing to Disarm? -- "President Reagan's...statement that he will not, under any circumstances, negotiate with Kremlin leader Gorbachev about the effort to deploy these (outer-space) weapons has...thrown suspicion on the U.S. willingness to disarm. His adversaries may well derive tactical advantages in the fields of domestic and foreign policy, because Reagan's harsh words will unnecessarily burden the Geneva talks."

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, West Berlin)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION (continued)

Reagan Cleared Away Misunderstandings -- "Reagan's objective (at the press conference) was to clear away the misunderstandings caused by Soviet propaganda and by the rumors of a new flexibility spread by the U.S. press. The President achieved this objective fully."

(La Stampa, Italy)

The Geneva Negotiators Can Pack Their Bags -- "(With Mr. Reagan's statements on SDI), every prospect of agreements to control the arms race has been crushed. The Geneva negotiators can pack their bags, and the coming summit between Reagan and Gorbachev will be a confrontation of interest only to those who enjoy gladiator fights in the media spotlight."

(Information, Denmark)

Reagan in Complete Contradiction to Gorbachev Position -- "Never before has Mr. Reagan expressed with such clarity his refusal to consider SDI as a bargaining chip in disarmament negotiations. Apparently, his remarks are in complete contradiction with the position adopted by Mr. Gorbachev who indicated that the American 'obstinacy' in the field of space defense arms excludes every progress in nuclear arms reductions. In fact, the gap is perhaps less deep than it seems. Mr. Reagan is clearly limiting the nonnegotiable character of SDI to research and tests, and he underscores his desire to consult with his allies and...the USSR before deciding on deployment."

(Le Soir, Belgium)

Reagan Discards Limiting SDI in Negotiations with Moscow -- "Ronald Reagan has discarded the possibility of reaching an agreement with Moscow for limiting the controversial space defense system, thus creating serious doubts about the possibilities of his agreeing with Gorbachev on arms control during their future meeting in Geneva."

(El Pais, Spain)

The Same Hardheaded Reagan -- "If anyone expected to find Reagan daunted by the strong pressure to which he has been subjected, even among his own staff, they found that he continues to be the same hardheaded person determined to make his space project a reality."

(Diario, Spain)

One of His Better Press Conferences -- "Reagan gave one of his better press conferences, looking fresh, aggressive and eager to show he was both both relaxed (and) fit to return to work."

(Australian Financial Review)

SDI Compared to Gas Mask -- "Comparing his Star Wars space defense program with a gas mask protecting people from mustard gas, President Reagan ruled out last night using it as a bargaining chip when he meets Gorbachev in Geneva. But he maintained that still left room for negotiation."

(Toronto Globe and Mail, Canada)

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