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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1985 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Aide Faults Soviet Arms Plan -- Robert McFarlane says that the Soviet proposal for a 50 percent cut in nuclear warheads would increase Moscow's ability to launch a "first strike."

(Washington Post, Washington Times, AP)

U.S. Plan On Global Debt Attracts Cautious Approval And Skepticism -- SEOUL -- There were indications that the U.S. may encounter serious opposition on some aspects of its plan.

(Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

Budget Debate Ties Up Senate -- The Senate failed Sunday to choke off debate on legislation to balance the federal budget by 1991.

(Washington Post, Washington Times, Wall Street Journal, AP, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

ARMS CONTROL -- McFarlane said that the new Soviet arms proposals are both advantageous to the USSR and unfair to the United States.

WORLD ECONOMY -- The IMF expressed concern over the Third World's ability to pay its foreign debt.

FEDERAL BUDGET -- The Senate rejected pleas from President Reagan to kill a Democratic-led filibuster blocking action on a balanced budget amendment.

INDEX

International News A-2

National News A-6

Network News B-1

TV Talk Shows B-6

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN AIDE FAULTS SOVIET ARMS PLAN

National security affairs adviser Robert McFarlane said Sunday that the Soviet proposal for a 50 percent cut in nuclear warheads would increase Moscow's ability to launch a "first strike" against the United States but that the plan also offers a "constructive beginning" for superpower negotiations.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," McFarlane appeared to be trying to steer a middle course between those welcoming the Soviet proposal and those saying it would put the United States at a disadvantage. Both points of view are represented in the Reagan Administration. (Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

Reagan Won't Bargain Away 'Star Wars,' McFarlane Says

Robert McFarlane sought yesterday to dispel suggestions that President Reagan was ready to bargain away his Strategic Defense Initiative despite his assistance to the contrary.

"There's a lot of uninformed comment coming out of the White House," Mr. McFarlane said of reports quoting unnamed White House officials. (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

McFarlane Says Soviets Angling For First-Strike Capability

Robert McFarlane says Gorbachev has launched a "constructive beginning" for arms reduction talks, although his proposal to halve strategic missile forces would improve Moscow's capability for a "first strike" attack. (AP)

U.S. PLAN ON GLOBAL DEBT ATTRACTS CAUTIOUS APPROVAL AND SKEPTICISM

SEOUL -- The U.S. isn't slated to unveil the formal outlines of the plan until Tuesday at the joint annual meeting here of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and the details aren't expected to be worked out for several weeks. (Art Pine, Wall Street Journal, 27)

Aid Plan For Africa Withdrawn

SEOUL -- The United States here withdrew its plan to create a new \$5.4 billion lending fund within the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to help the least developed nations, mostly in Africa.

Secretary James Baker's decision to introduce the new measures -- including the one pulled back Sunday -- indicated a recognition that the current method of dealing with the debt crisis, particularly in Latin America, has not been working and that a new approach is needed.

(Hobart Rowen, Washington Post, A1)

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Industrial Nations Rule Day At IMF Meeting

Industrial nations Monday defused calls from poor countries for an overhaul of the world financial system, leaving developing world hopes resting with a new U.S. initiative to tackle the debt crisis.

Financial sources said poor nations must now pin their hopes on a much touted U.S. plan to boost the role of the World Bank. U.S. Treasury Secretary Baker has promised to outline the plan tomorrow after the official opening of this year's conference.

(Stephen Jukes, Reuter)

POLICY-MAKERS STUDY EFFECT OF CUTBACKS

After years of calling for the Soviet Union to accept deep cuts in strategic nuclear weapons, the Reagan Administration suddenly had its wish fulfilled last Monday in Geneva. Now Washington policy-makers are trying to decide what to do about it.

The central questions under consideration in the Reagan administration are whether and how to build on the positive aspects of the Soviet proposal while rejecting or negotiating changes in the negative ones. No definite course of action has been agreed upon in the Administration, sources said.

(News Analysis, Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

FRENCH PAN 'GORBASHOW'

PARIS -- They are calling it "Le Gorbashow," the four days of whirlwind press conferences, meetings with top French officials, state dinners, and dramatic pronouncements in which the Soviet leader brought his well-oiled media blitz to the West.

The reviews are in, and while Gorbachev committed no major faux pas in Paris, his reception was less than enthusiastic.

(Michael J. Bonafield, Washington Times, A1)

U.S. WOULD CONSIDER A PHILLIPINE PULLOUT

ANDERSON AFB, GUAM -- The United States is prepared, if necessary, to withdraw its huge military bases from the Philippines at a moment's notice and spread them throughout the Pacific, several interviews with military officials indicate.

From Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean to Guam in the Western Pacific, the U.S. is quietly preparing a contingency plan in the event the situation in the Philippines explodes.

(Tom Breen, Washington Times, A1)

FAILURE TO BACK TRADE ROUND WILL BOOST PROTECTIONISM

SEOUL -- Secretary Baker told developing nations Monday that if they failed to pay back a new trade round, protectionist trends in America may increase.

"The failure to launch a (new trade) round could increase the likelihood of protectionist legislation," Baker said. "I therefore urge all of you to lend your active support to the new round."

(Reuter)

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SECURITY ADVISER PREDICTS PROGRESS IN MIDEAST

Robert McFarlane said Sunday that "milestones of progress" could be expected in the Middle East peace process within "a month." "Behind the scenes, we think there's a real possibility of making some headway before long," he said.

The commitment of Jordan's King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Peres to the peace process could yield positive results, he added.

President Reagan is "committed to that," he said.

(Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A6)

CALLER VOWS SOVIETS WILL BE HELD UNTIL WAR ENDS

BEIRUT -- A caller saying he represented the extremist group holding three Soviet embassy personnel as hostages said Sunday they would not be freed until the Soviet Union and America end Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war.

(AP story, Washington Times, A6)

U.S. ABSTAINED ON U.N. VOTE TO PROTECT TUNISIA, PAPER SAYS

NEW YORK -- The United States abstained on a U.N. vote condemning Israel's Tunisian raid to protect the pro-Western Tunis government from possible overthrow by Libyan-backed mobs, the New York Times said Monday. A White House aide said there was overwhelming information suggesting a United States veto would provide Libya with an emotional issue with which to unleash leftist students and other groups into the streets, the Times reported.

(Reuter)

WICK ASKS GORBACHEV FOR INTERVIEWS

Charles Wick, director of the U.S. Information Agency, Sunday invited Soviet leader Gorbachev to be interviewed by U.S. journalists on a worldwide broadcast.

"I would like now to invite ... Gorbachev to go on Worldnet and be interviewed by American journalists who would broadcast worldwide and hope in turn, reciprocally, he would allow us to have Russian journalists interview our policy people."

Worldnet is a USIA television program that allows journalists in other countries to interview U.S. officials by satellite.

(UPI story, Washington Post, A5)

KGB PAID FORMER CIA AGENT, FBI SAYS

Fugitive ex-CIA agent Edward Howard met in Austria a year ago with Soviet KGB officials who paid him money for U.S. intelligence secrets, the FBI says. Meanwhile, sources in Washington said FBI agents are also watching and investigating a second former U.S. intelligence officer suspecting of spying for the Soviets.

(AP, Washington Times, A5)

TOTAL TEST-BAN URGED

A number of high-ranking officials in the Kennedy Administration, led by W. Averell Harriman, called on the Reagan Administration Sunday to join the nuclear weapons testing moratorium announced by the Soviet Union July 30. (Washington Post, A6)

GOP SENATORS URGE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION

The United States "does not back its words with actions" and should establish "linkage" between U.S. dealings with Moscow and their human rights record, four Republican senators have charged.

Sen. D'Amato (R.-NY), along with Sens. Humphrey (R.-NH), Heinz (R.-PA) and Wallop, (R.-WY) urged that American economic, cultural, technical and other dealings with the Soviets be linked to improvements in their human rights record. (Dave Doubrava, Washington Times, A6)

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NATIONAL NEWS

BUDGET DEBATE TIES UP SENATE

The Senate, meeting in an extraordinary Sunday session, failed Sunday to choke off debate on legislation to balance the federal budget by 1991, although the proposal won enough support to pass if further procedural hurdles can be scaled.

In a statement from his retreat at Camp David, President Reagan reiterated his call for prompt action on the measure.

"Zero hour is approaching," he said, adding, "The American people have grown weary of delays, excuses and inaction."

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A1)

Senate Filibuster Delays Plan To Balance Budget

A Democratic-led filibuster in the Senate Sunday again delayed a proposed sweeping balanced budget plan, forcing Sen. Dole to seek a meeting between Senate, House and White House leaders to find a compromise.

(Thomas Brandt, Washington Times, A1)

Little Hope Congress Will Act Quickly On Debt Bill

The government, according to President Reagan and Secretary Baker, runs out of money today. There is virtually no hope Congress can act quickly enough to keep checks from bouncing.

(Steve Gerstel, UPI)

Government Running Short Of Cash As Senate Runs Long On Words

The government opened for business today with its line of credit gone and Congress unable to approve new borrowing because of a Senate tangle over a budget-balancing amendment.

White House spokesman Albert Brashear said Sunday he could not say what specific problems would be caused by failure to enact the debt limit measure. The President's chief congressional liaison, Max Friedersdorf, said the Administration would not ask for any short-term extension of the debt-ceiling -- an indication the White House, too, would keep the pressure on the lawmakers.

(Steven Komarow, AP)

Senate Remains Deadlocked On Debt Ceiling

On a 57-38 roll call, the GOP leadership fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to restrict debate. While the vote demonstrated strong support for the amendment, it did little to resolve the parliamentary maneuvering that consumed an unusual weekend session.

(David Rogers/David Shribman, Wall Street Journal, 3)

PLIGHT OF BLACKS TERMED 'URGENT'

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund ... blames the Reagan Administration for creating a climate that "is almost universally perceived to be unfavorable to the advancement of civil rights law and to meeting urgent needs of blacks."

Attorney General Meese has said he is proud of his department's civil rights enforcement record.

(AP story, Washington Times, A5)

REYNOLDS GETS A JOB WITHOUT THE TITLE THE SENATE DENIED

When the Senate Judiciary Committee soundly rejected William Bradford Reynolds' nomination for associate attorney general June 27, his critics on Capitol Hill and in the civil rights community cheered.

President Reagan -- secure in his second term -- quickly came to Reynolds' defense, and the Attorney General gave his 43-year-old assistant a much larger role to play.

(John McCaslin, Washington Times, A1)

COURT CONFRONTS REAGAN AGENDA

The Supreme Court opens its 1985 term today confronting a recharged, revamped and newly aggressive Justice Department effort to translate the Reagan Administration's views on race, religion and abortion into the law of the land.

The Administration will go full-tilt against civil rights organizations over the issues of affirmative action, voting rights and racial discrimination in the criminal justice process.

(Al Kamen, Washington Post, A1)

Oldest High Court Confronts Potpourri Of Divisive Issues

Bruce Fein, Supreme Court analyst for the American Enterprise Institute, said the upcoming term will be crucial to some of the Reagan Administration's main objectives.

"Congress will not be able to act on school prayer, abortion or voting rights," Mr. Fein said. "The only channel for obtaining the President's goals in the civil rights area is in the Supreme Court," he said.

(David Sellers, Washington Times, A4)

LURCHING TOWARD OBLIVION?

Publicly, White House officials pretend that the public is clamoring for tax reform. Privately, they acknowledge that even presidential polls put tax reform far down the list of issues about which Americans are most concerned.

Reagan receives near-saturation media coverage on his tax trips, but much of it is of the "President is coming to town" variety. In fact, as even some White House officials acknowledge, the speeches have been duds.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

CRIME DROPS TO 4.1 PERCENT, LOWEST IN 12 YEARS

Crime fell 4.1 percent in 1984, the lowest level in the 12-year history of the National Crime Survey of randomly selected American households, the Justice Department reported Sunday. The number of violent crimes excluding murder, however, rose 0.9 percent from 5,903,000 in 1983 to 5,954,000 in 1984. These incidents include assault, armed robbery and rape.
(Merrill Hartson, AP, Washington Post, A14)

Crime Dips To Lowest In At Least 12 Years

There were 1.5 million fewer crimes last year than in 1983, the Justice Department said. The overall total is about 14 percent below the 41.5 million crimes estimated for the peak year of 1982.
(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A4)

Crime 'Victimizations' Down 4.1 Percent in '84, Report Says

"Because the aging of the population can account for only a small fraction of the drop, much of the decline is most likely the result of increased citizen involvement in crime prevention activities as well as the greater success of law enforcement authorities in apprehending, convicting and incarcerating repeat criminal offenders," said FBI Uniform Crime Report Bureau director Steven Schlessinger.
(Merrill Hartson, AP)

CANDIDATES ABOUND FOR 'MINORITY' SEAT

The Federal Communications Commission is buzzing over several people who wouldn't mind filling what has been described as the commission's "minority seat."

A rainbow coalition of people has been in to see various commissioners, including FCC Chairman MARK Fowler, about the job, which must go to a Democrat or an independent.
(Washington Post, A11)

ASPIN SEES ONLY SMALL GAINS IN U.S. READINESS

President Reagan's historic \$1 trillion buildup can claim only tiny improvements in U.S. security, a key congressman asserted Sunday.

"The results are discomfoting and disconcerting, to say the least, for they indicate miniscule improvements -- outside of the personnel area -- despite immense budgetary increases," Rep. Les Aspin (D.-WI) said.
(Reuter story, Washington Times, A4)

Reagan Defense Buildup Seen Improving Only Personnel Area

"Is Ronald Reagan doing with defense what he accused the previous administration of doing with social welfare -- just throwing billions at the problem, and then the statistics show that poverty remains rampant?" said Aspin.
(Eliot Brenner, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985 -- NOTE: NBC did not air a broadcast.)

FEDERAL BUDGET

CBS's Bill Redeker: The federal government has once again moved to the brink of a financial crisis. Late today, the Senate rejected pleas from President Reagan and refused to kill a Democratic-led filibuster blocking action on a balanced budget amendment and an emergency boost in the national debt limit.

CBS's Ike Pappas: President Reagan issued a statement saying that the choice before the Senate was clear -- to meet its responsibilities, said Mr. Reagan, to bring the deficit down, or to resort to a temporary quick fix that will only delay the day of reckoning. Mr. Reagan was referring to a move by Democrats to extend the present borrowing law another two weeks to permit them to study the controversial amendment which would mandate a balanced budget by 1991. Sen. Dole wants to deny the Democrats the time and force an early vote on the amendment, but first he has to get the Senate to approve a motion to cut off debate. He tried and failed by only seven votes. Predictions are that by tomorrow cash available will run out and the government will grind to a halt because it will be unable to pay bills. (Sen. Rudman: "The American people are staggered by reading in the newspapers and watching on their television sets that we're about to raise the debt to \$2 trillion. That's a riveting kind of an event. And it is because of that event that we had this window of opportunity that today on a Sunday you have the entire United States Senate sitting there, paying close attention, involved.") (CBS-Lead)

ABC's Ann Compton: The vote to break a filibuster was certain to flush out support for a five-year plan to force the deficit to zero, allowing the President to make cuts when Congress failed. Hours before the vote, President Reagan himself issued a challenge to senators to seize this moment to opportunity. The President warned that opponents of the concept who want delay would only resort to a temporary quick fix that will only postpone the day of reckoning and raise the price all of us must pay. The vote was 57-38 in favor of the budget language but that was seven votes short of the margin needed to break this filibuster. Republican leaders now hope to keep the pressure on by refusing to extend even for a few days the government's borrowing power. Today's vote was important but it doesn't tell the whole story. No cause has become dearer to Congress's heart than bringing down the deficit. Even opponents say they're convinced the time has come; a balanced budget law will be passed sometime before the year is out. (ABC-Lead)

ARMS CONTROL

Donaldson: NSC Adviser McFarlane today continued the delicate public relations task of pointing out the flaws in the new Soviet arms control proposal while still not rejecting it as a basis for negotiation. As presented it would nail down a first-strike capability for the Soviets, said McFarlane.

(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985)

ABC's Steve Shepard: McFarlane said bluntly that the new Soviet arms proposals are both advantageous to the USSR and unfair to the United States.

(McFarlane: "The proposals that they have put on the table is pretty transparently self-serving. The central measure of equity in an arms control proposal is measured by the extent to which a first-strike capability, which the Soviets have today, improves or declines. Now under this proposal it would clearly improve.")

But if Gorbachev's arms control proposals don't impress McFarlane, they clearly scored propaganda points in Europe at the expense of President Reagan. U.S. officials insist, however, that Gorbachev's public relations achievement will be short-lived. On ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," USIA Director Charles Wick said that as the Reagan Administration's views become known, they will counter much of what Gorbachev had to say.

(Wick: "This so-called war of words or war of ideas really revolves around this resolution as to what's the truth. We have great confidence that President Reagan does tell the truth.")

But Lord Carrington, now General Secretary of NATO, warned that Gorbachev's public relations expertise could cause problems for the West in arms control negotiations.

(Carrington: "What matters is the substance of the negotiations. What we have to be careful about is that public opinion is not beguiled by a change of style and by a smile.")

It is now clear that Gorbachev has a knack for effective propaganda and that President Reagan, the Great Communicator, has some serious competition. (ABC-2)

WORLD ECONOMY

Redeker: The IMF reported a softening in the world's economy. The report came as the IMF and World Bank prepared for their annual meeting in Seoul Tuesday. The report said world industrial output would be less this year than predicted. And a confidential memo expressed concern over the Third World's ability to repay its foreign debt. (CBS-2)

BISHOPS/ECONOMY

Donaldson: U.S. Roman Catholic bishops issued a second draft of their pastoral letter on the economy today and it gave nothing back to conservatives who had wanted it toned down. The bishops called poverty in America amid the country's riches a "social and moral scandal." The final letter will be completed a year from now. (ABC-3)

LEBANON/SOVIET HOSTAGES

Donaldson: A caller in Beirut claiming to represent the terrorists who hold three kidnapped Soviets said the three will not be freed until the Soviet Union and the United States end Lebanon's civil war. (ABC-6)

(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985)

ISRAEL

Redeker: The latest cycle of Middle East vengeance is threatening the already-fragile relations between Egypt and Israel. A divisive debate erupted over the killing of seven Israeli tourists in the Sinai Peninsula by an Egyptian who reportedly went berserk. Israel has demanded that Cairo explain why its soldiers failed to give first aid and also charged Egypt may have violated the peace accord by posting soldiers in the area. Egypt said the men at the site were police, not soldiers.

The raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis is believed to be the motive behind the killing of three Israelis last week.

CBS's Bruno Wassertheil reports on the funeral services which marked the end of 11 days of violence and retribution. The most recent killings were carried out just after Israeli warplanes devastated PLO headquarters outside Tunis.

(Defense Minister Rabin: "We'll try to minimize the damage and to increase the damage that we are going to inflict on them.")

And Rabin did not expect the Tunis air strike would mean an end to attacks on Israelis.

(Rabin: "The struggle against terrorism is a prolonged one. No one in Israel assumes that you can achieve it by one war or by one act.")

(CBS-5)

Donaldson: NSC Adviser McFarlane predicted that progress toward direct Israeli-Jordanian peace negotiations could be achieved within a month's time. He did not elaborate.

ABC's Bob Zelnick reports from Israel: Doctors who examined the bodies of the Israelis shot by a supposedly deranged Egyptian officer said several could have been saved had Israeli medical students been permitted to treat them. But eyewitnesses said Egyptian soldiers were merely trying to prevent others from getting into the line of fire.

Friday's Security Council resolution condemning Israel's bombing of the PLO base near Tunis and the failure of the U.S. to veto the resolution troubled Israeli leaders, who are under domestic pressure to step up their campaign against terrorism.

(Prime Minister Peres: "We shall fight terror unconditionally and we shall continue to work for peace...")

Every incident which costs Israeli lives makes Israeli leaders less willing to trade tangible assets like land for intangible assets like Arab good will. It also could mean trouble for the peace process so much desired by the U.S. The Israelis say if this means relaxing the war against terrorism, count them out.

(ABC-5)

SOUTH AFRICA

Redeker: Archbishop Tutu offered a fresh warning to his country's white government. Tutu said he remained opposed to all forms of violence, but he told TV interviewers in London that it may be too late to stop it.

(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985)

Redeker continues: (Tutu: "...there may come a time, and we are very, very close, perhaps, to that time when we have to say that the lesser of two evils is to overthrow this unjust system.")

CBS's Steve Croft: It was no coincidence that Bishop Tutu and South African guerrilla leader Oliver Khambo were both in London lobbying for economic sanctions and putting some political heat on Margaret Thatcher. Mrs. Thatcher says she's against sanctions because they would hurt blacks in South Africa the most.

(Tutu: "We're not going to remain un-free forever. And it's not a threat when we say we will remember who helped us. And I hope I'm around to do the reminding.")

As Bishop Tutu told the British this week, it's now a matter of backing the right horse. (ABC-7, CBS-7)

SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

CBS's Eric Engburg reports that a Unitarian congregation just north of the White House today defied the government by agreeing to help a Salvadoran man live in the U.S. illegally. Renee, the Salvadoran, says he was tortured by troops in his homeland and is afraid to go back. The sanctuary movement says only a few Salvadorans, 328 last year, win asylum because the Reagan Administration wants to hide persecution in El Salvador.

(Sanctuary movement lawyer: "No nationality should be discriminatorily denied any immigration benefits under U.S. law, and that is in fact what's happened to the Salvadorans.")

U.S. officials argue most Salvadorans are not here fleeing persecution.

(State Department spokeswoman: "Generalized conditions of poverty and civil unrest are not grounds for granting of asylum. If this were the test, probably half the 100 million people who live between the Rio Grande and Panama could simply move to the United States and stay here.")

The Unitarians who took in Renee say they are prepared to face arrest. So far the government has not wanted to raid churches, out of concern for creating publicity and martyrs for this new cause.

(CBS-9)

ASPIN/DEFENSE SPENDING

Redeker: Rep. Aspin is sharply critical of President Reagan's huge defense buildup, saying the U.S. is not getting its money's worth. Aspin says that despite hundreds of billions of dollars spent on defense, weapons inventories have only grown minimally. And, he says, the U.S. lags behind in research and development. Aspin says the only improvements have come in the quality and number of military personnel. The Pentagon's response: military strength has improved but more remains to be done. (CBS-10)

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(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985)

GERRYMANDERING

Redeker: Tomorrow, the Supreme Court begins reviewing a case that is potentially a political bombshell. At issue is how much power parties in power should have to change the shape of political districts.

CBS's Bruce Morton reports from Indiana: Out here in the Indiana heartland a storm is brewing that could shatter one of America's oldest political institutions -- the Gerrymander. Recently in Indiana the Republicans drew the lines so that in voting for state legislators last year the Democrats got 52% of the votes but only 43% of the seats. The Democrats sued and a lower court ruling supported them, saying discrimination against political parties was unconstitutional. But nationally, the Democrats control a lot more state legislatures than the Republicans, so the Republican National Committee filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the Indiana Democrats. It even included a map showing how redrawing the district lines around Indianapolis could cost the Republicans eight seats without changing the original vote count. The Indiana GOP is angry. But Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf says busting gerrymanders is the only way the GOP will ever control the House of Representatives.

(Fahrenkopf: "Tip O'Neill is the Speaker of the House of Representatives today not because of the will of the American people as represented by their votes but because of the skill of Democratic draftsmen in 1981.")

He means in places like California where, he says, Republicans got 51% of the votes for Congress but Democrats won the most seats, 27-18. California Democrats have filed a brief supporting Indiana Republicans.

(Rep. Berman, D-Cal: "Do we want the U.S. Supreme Court telling each state and each state's legislature just what standard it considers to be fair this particular week?")

So the lineup looks this way: Yes, we want the Supreme Court to say gerrymandering is illegal: Indiana Democrats, National Republicans, and the NAACP. No, leave it up to the politicians the way it is now: Indiana Republicans, California Democrats and the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund. Politics really does make for strange bedfellows.

(CBS-11)

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ABC -- THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY

Moderator: David Brinkley. Panelists: Sam Donaldson and George Will.

Guests: Thierry de Montbrial, Director of the French Institute for International Relations, followed by Lord Carrington, NATO Secretary General; USIA Director Charles Wick.

Brinkley: Mr. Montbrial, you are in Paris, roughly halfway between the two debating, competing, arguing superpowers soon to have a summit meeting. How does it look to you from your vantage point?

Montbrial: I think there are two ways to read this trip of Mr. Gorbachev in Paris. One is to see it as a formidable piece of propaganda and a very efficient one, I would say. But there is also another reading that after all, Mr. Gorbachev and the Soviets might have something serious to propose, and they might be willing to seriously negotiate with the United States. So I think there are two possible interpretations and it is probably too early to know what is the right one.

Will: I'd like to ask you two questions about the effect on the French public of this so-called "charm offensive." The first is this. How did the French public react when Mr. Gorbachev said the Jews in the Soviet Union are really rather tickled to be there, and they're in, if anything, almost a privileged position?

Montbrial: More generally I would say that the French public reacted relatively coolly to the charm offensive, and in particular this is very clear from the press. However, I think that there is recognition of the fact that Mr. Gorbachev and the Soviets are now on their way to master Western communication techniques and many people think that over the long run this could have an impact....

Will: What is the feeling in France as to why Mr. Gorbachev made a proposal to the French and, indirectly to the British, for separate negotiations on their separate deterrents that was bound to be, and indeed was, promptly rejected? What was the thinking in France about what was on Gorbachev's mind when he did this?

Montbrial: ...I think this is a test, and what they certainly want is to try to create a problem to drive a wedge among us, but they did it relatively softly, and I think this is the beginning of a process that will probably last a long time. Of course, the reaction of Mr. Mitterrand was expected, and I think that any French or British government will remain strongly opposed to direct negotiations with the Soviets in this matter. But again, over the months or the years it could create some problems.

Donaldson: In the style campaign between Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, which will culminate I guess in the short run in November in Geneva, how do the French see both leaders?...

Montbrial: I think that the image is not clear yet. Ronald Reagan, as you know, is extremely popular in France. The question is that now you have the young man...Mr. Gorbachev...and Mr. Reagan is getting old.

THIS WEEK (continued)

Montbrial continues: But for the time being I think the French would certainly choose, if I can say so, from the public opinion, from the image viewpoint, Mr. Reagan, but I would not be surprised if this stand changed in the next few weeks or months. Essentially I think it depends on how Mr. Reagan will behave in November. I think it is extremely important that the French, and more generally the Europeans, have the impression that the United States is ready to negotiate seriously...

Guest: NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington.

Carrington: I think you've got to differentiate between style and substance (regarding the Soviets). I don't think we've seen all that much difference in substance so far....One's got to look very carefully at these (arms) proposals, but I think it's a good thing that they've been put on the table...

Will: One of the items in this proposal is that a "strategic arm" will be considered any weapon that can strike the homeland of the other. Which means that none of their theater systems would be counted against the strategic totals and all of ours would be. Can that be negotiated?

Carrington: You obviously can't leave it like that. And incidentally there's an illogicality in the idea that you deal with the British and French nuclear deterrents on a basis quite different from the others, because the British and the French nuclear deterrents cannot reach the Soviet homeland....

Will: Do you think the Dutch will go ahead (with missile deployment) and does NATO accept the United States' as opposed to the Soviet Union's estimate of how many SS-20s there are there?

Carrington: To the last question, yes, everybody in Europe I think accepts the United States' figure. I think what Mr. Gorbachev said the other day has to be looked at rather carefully. I mean, what does it mean, "missiles on a standby alert" and what's happened to all the others?...

Will: Given that the superpowers seem to be going...to mobile missiles, does this not mean that arms control may be over? You can't count them, you can't verify them.

Carrington: It makes it much more difficult, of course. And I don't think, perhaps, that you can get the total verification that you would like....But whatever the difficulties of these problems, I think we really have to try to get some agreement....

Donaldson asks what will come out of the Geneva summit meeting:

Carrington: The substance of Geneva is going to be what the negotiators do after this meeting is over. I think what the two can do is to give it an impetus. They can push it forward....

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THIS WEEK (continued)

Guest: USIA Director Charles Wick.

Brinkley: How are we making out in this (propaganda) contest?

Wick: I think we're making out rather well....Just in the last four years, nine countries in Latin America have gone toward democracy. There are many people that are benefiting by reading our books that we distribute through libraries. We bring through Worldnet our top policy leaders who face the attrition of radio, print and television journalists in different nations....

Will: I'd like to know, for example, how you in your job are responding to what Gorbachev did in Paris. He told some extravagant, lurid lies in Paris about the treatment of Jews, about there not being political prisoners in the Soviet Union and all that stuff. What are you doing in response and second, how can you do it, because everything you do is met by a violation of the Helsinki Accords on the Soviet Union's part? They jam you and they block you out...

Wick: It's really an ongoing process. We don't react to every single statement he makes....As to Soviet Jewry, we have Voice of American editorials as to what happens with Scharansky and Sakharov....(Wick plays tape of USIA broadcasts before and after jamming. Jamming makes broadcast unintelligible.)

Donaldson: The Washington Monthly this month has a piece in it this month which says, is anybody out there watching Charlie Wick's latest flop? The claim is there is that you are spending \$15M a year on Worldnet but you don't have an audience. Do you have an audience?

Wick: We do. Yes we are getting through....We've done 116 Worldnets and the estimate based upon various extrapolations we get from the field is that over two billion people have watched Worldnets.

Donaldson: Have you heard anything more on your proposal that President Reagan be granted access to the Soviet airways so that he can deliver messages to the Russian people directly?

Wick: ...I wrote on behalf of our government to Leonid Zamyatin, who is head of the International Information Department of the Communist Party on January 25th in response to a tirade he had about our piracy of the airwaves, which we don't own. I would like to now invite, on behalf of our country, General Secretary Gorbachev to go on Worldnet and be interviewed by American journalists, which we would broadcast worldwide, and hope, reciprocity, he would allow us to have Russian journalists interview our policy people.

FREE-FOR-ALL DISCUSSION -- Hodding Carter joins panel.

On the Israeli bombing of the PLO base in Tunisia:

Will: The United States, by abstaining (on a U.N. resolution condemning Israel for the bombing) has crippled itself in its future right to do what George Shultz says it may have to do.

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THIS WEEK (continued)

Will continues: He said this in a December speech. That is, both attack pre-emptively or responsively and make attacks that might include casualties on non-terrorists.

Donaldson: Ronald Reagan's visceral instinct is to side with Israel....People like George Shultz say, hold on, we're trying to help the peace process in the Middle East that we are not just in Israel's back pocket as a lot of people think. And so he backs off. Now George, the killing of innocent people, I give you another quotation. Who was it that said, no, I'm not going to just strike in a general sense because "the result would be a terrorist attack in itself and the killing and victimizing of innocent people." That man's name was Ronald Reagan.

Carter: On that point alone, George, I think you'd have to accept some other consequences....New Zealand, I assume, has a perfect right to bomb Paris and I assume that if the Sandinistas could, they would have a perfect right to bomb at least training areas around Miami if not Washington....

On raising the debt ceiling and the balanced budget plan in the Senate:

Carter: It is another way of announcing that they do not really have a handle on getting the budget deficit under control and getting the national debt under control. If you think passing a resolution in 1985 is in fact going to deal with the behavior of the Congress or the President of the United States in 1986-88 or that anybody really knows what they're voting on in that resolution, I would say that you believe in the tooth fairy.

Donaldson: This resolution actually would tell them in a broad sense how to cut the budget. Next year for instance it would require another \$20B out of the Defense Department. But since you're not talking about defense contracts...you're talking about that very narrow area of manpower, of salaries, of ammunition. And you can't get \$20B out of that.

Will: There is something wrong. It's an abdication of the basic moral duty of a legislator to say, "I can't help it, we're going to take 15% out of Amtrak and 15% out of programs for spina bifida babies." Now that's crazy, that's morally repulsive, and it's an abdication of what it means to be a legislator.

On the Margaret Heckler affair:

Donaldson: Even Ronald Reagan, when he came out to tell us how wonderful it was that she'd accepted (appointment as ambassador) didn't try to sell us on the idea that she'd been promoted.

Carter: It's not the first time that a former Cabinet officer or high-ranking appointee who has been an embarrassment has gone into a "file 13," labeled "another nation." And other nations know it and the Irish, I would assume, are as unhappy about this as others have been.

Brinkley: The Irish have said they're unhappy. They have said they weren't asked. Courtesy requires that a country be asked.

THIS WEEK (continued)

Will: We have been a republic now under a constitution for nearly 200 years and have not figured out the art of resignation. Everyone appointed at that level serves at the pleasure of the President. If the President isn't pleased, he can call them in and say, "I'm no longer pleased, go home." And they should go home. Instead we have this internecine warfare conducted in the Washington press leading finally to a humiliation of the person, an embarrassment to the country to which the person is promoted. And then we have the President himself, I think, really injured by this because Ronald Reagan's strength derives from the fact that he's nice and not disingenuous and he looked neither in this case.

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CBS -- FACE THE NATION

Moderator: Lesley Stahl. Guests: Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Defense Minister, followed by Morton Kondracke of Newsweek; Robert Kupperman of the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies; Barry Rubin of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Stahl: We spoke with Rabin this morning about the Israeli raid of last week into Tunisia and recent murders of three Israelis by terrorists. I asked him if Israel would not retaliate for those murders.

Rabin: We are not going to react to one -- it's a prolonged war which we are going to use all kind of means, at first preventive means; second punishing means. We are not going to tell what we are going to do. We know it's a long war. We are ready to fight.

Stahl: But let me ask you again what you think you accomplished if you bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunisia and within a week three more Israelis are gunned down within Israel itself.

Rabin: I believe that by attacking the headquarters of the PLO terror organizations in Tunisia we didn't attack Tunisia....It doesn't mean that terror will be stopped. But no doubt terror organizations are going to pay much more heavily for their intention and for their action to continue with terror against us.

Stahl: You know there are people in this country who are thoroughly convinced that the main motive for the raid in Tunisia was Israel's desire to assassinate Yasser Arafat.

Rabin: Total nonsense. Since I am responsible to present the idea before the Cabinet, I did it before knowing even that Mr. Arafat will be there....

Stahl: Twelve Tunisians died in the raid.

Rabin: ...They were employees of the PLO and guardians of the PLO headquarters. There is no one Tunisian who was hit, injured and no doubt died, outside of the PLO compound....Therefore all countries in the area will be aware, whoever gives a refuge to terrorists will pay for keeping them there.

Stahl: Jordan as well?

Rabin: I would advise the Jordanian government to refrain from allowing it to be done and to restore the policy that was kept by Jordan for almost 15 years, a policy which practically prevented any terror acts to be originated or to be carried out from Jordan. (Policy not elaborated.)

Stahl: When you went to make the decision about the raid, knowing that King Hussein was in Washington meeting with the President at the time, did you take into consideration that this raid might embarrass Ronald Reagan and the United States Government?

FACE THE NATION (continued)

Rabin: I believe that we calculated the timing in a way that on the one hand it will be done in some sort of time relationship to the murder in Larnaca. At the same time, we waited until President Mubarak left the United States, that King Hussein delivered his speech in the United Nations and finished his meeting with President Reagan. Only then, we acted. And for the time being I don't see any change in the position of Jordan as a result of the raid...

Stahl: But Mr. Arafat is making claims that not only did the United States help Israel refuel the planes for this raid but also that President Reagan helped you plan the raid....

Rabin: Look, Israel is an independent country. We took our decision by ourselves. No one was notified whatsoever...

Stahl: Let me...ask you what your reaction has been to the sort of back and forth or changing of positions of the Reagan Administration on the raid, first seeming to condone it or endorse it and then softening its position and then finally refusing Israel's request to veto the resolution at the U.N. condemning the raid.

Rabin: I appreciate very much what was said by the President immediately after the raid. When it comes to the resolution by the United Nations Security Council, first I believe it's a shame that a so-called international organization can come with such a resolution. I'm sorry that the United States did not veto the resolution. I understand that there were other considerations. But the main blame is on the United Nations which pretends to be a peaceful organization and does nothing against international terrorism.

Guests: Robert Kupperman, Barry Rubin and Morton Kondracke.

Stahl: Bob Kupperman...if (William Buckley) is dead, do you think that the execution was carried out because of the Israeli raid into Tunisia?

Kupperman: No, I don't believe that at all. I think they're just taking kind of a double media shot. First of all they are cypocattng the Sunni operation to some extent -- that is the one that kidnapped the Soviets. But I think that they are trying to place more and more pressure on us to put back-channel means to push the Kuwaitis into releasing the various terrorists that they are holding.

Stahl: Barry Rubin, the Soviets find themselves in the same position that we have been in many times in the past. Do you think they're handling it any better than we have?

Rubin: They're certainly handling it differently, in four ways. First of all, no hostage families, no terrorists on televisions taking control of publicity. Secondly, no public implication or statement any way leading to the idea that they are negotiating with terrorists. Thirdly, behind the scenes, they put pressure on the terrorists through Soviet allies who have strong antiterrorist connections. And finally, after this is over they will probably retaliate secretly and try to assassinate terrorists whom they consider responsible for this attack.

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FACE THE NATION (continued)

Stahl: Mort Kondracke...I read a column the other day in The New York Times that suggested that the reason the Soviets have never had this happen to them before but it's happening now is because of Mr. Gorbachev's PR campaign, that terrorists don't take actions like this against countries that don't care about public opinion.

Kondracke: I thought there was a lot of sense to that column. They are pretending to be nice guys for the moment....But what both Barry and Bob have said is that we don't know what's going to happen....

Stahl: ...Why is it that we can't carry out any kind of a raid over there where you suggest the Soviets can, using surrogates or whatever, and the Israelis can by daring, bold moves? Why can't we do that?

Kupperman: There are a whole bunch of reasons. Number one is we don't necessarily have the intelligence, that is the specific knowledge as to where the given terrorists are. Number two is that we are absolutely open in what we do. That is, we have no covert capacity. Number three, we have a media that, if we go in with F-18s somewhere bombing someplace, the media is going to be in there filming charred babies. We are in deep trouble when it comes to that.

Kondracke: I think that's right....There is a concern in this country that we not kill innocent civilians....

Rubin: I think the way that the media and the Administration is handling the current issue in the Israeli raid is making it harder for the U.S. to retaliate because this was a raid in Tunisia which was aimed at the terrorist planning center of the PLO, after long provocation, dozens of attacks that the PLO had claimed, and if we portray this as something bad...then it's going to make it that much more difficult for the United States to do something in the future.

Stahl: Mort, I want to ask you if you can shed some light on what's been happening within the Reagan Administration concerning the whole Middle East, particularly the Israeli raid...

Kondracke: The Administration policy toward terrorism is schizophrenic. On the one hand, George Shultz himself has come out saying that we have got to be prepared to retaliate against terrorist organizations, to conduct preemptive raids regardless of whether innocent people get killed, right? And so that policy was the first out of the box, out of the White House from Press Secretary Larry Speakes and the President himself. It's the "Rambo" solution; we will attack terrorists. Then the second thoughts come along. This was a raid conducted in the country of an ally, Tunisia, which is under pressure from another enemy -- Libya, heavy pressure. So we have a double kind of policy....

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NBC -- MEET THE PRESS

Moderator: Marvin Kalb.

Panelists: Robert Kaiser of The Washington Post; Robert Novak.

Guest: National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

Kalb: Do you feel...that there is in these (Soviet) proposals an acceptable basis for getting an arms control agreement, perhaps even a framework for one at the summit?

McFarlane: I think that any serious observer acknowledges that it is a starting point. I doubt that even the Soviet Union pretends that this is an equitable basis for an outcome. They seem to have two motives: to terminate the United States' strategic defense program while their own continues, and secondly, to drive wedges between ourselves and our European allies....We hope, President Reagan hopes, that we can establish a framework that will lead us to an equitable, fair, verifiable outcome.

Kalb: A question that I've heard asked this week by a number of people is, why should the United States not accept a 50% cutback in long-range offensive missiles...in exchange for what is, by your definition, only a research program, the strategic defense?

McFarlane: First of all, the proposal is not 50% of offensive, strategic missiles. It is 50%...of not only strategic but of medium-range systems, of aircraft, of carrier-based aircraft, and of systems that don't have any relevance to the strategic equation. In addition, it excludes, on the Soviet side, a thousand, or actually, over 1,300 warheads on SS-20s that threaten our allies. In so many words, it says that it's all right for the Soviet Union to threaten Europe but it isn't all right for Europe to defend itself. In a nutshell, it requires the United States to choose whether we will defend our allies or we will defend ourselves, for in the limits they propose you couldn't do both....

Novak: Quite apart from their demand to junk the Strategic Defense Initiative, just if they were offering the so-called 50% proposition by itself, would that mean that we would be stronger in relation to the Soviets or weaker?...

McFarlane: It would be much weaker and the situation would be much less stable. In a nutshell, whether an outcome is better or worse is measured by whether the Soviet Union is more or less able to execute a first strike against the United States or not....

Kalb: Do you believe -- is it the U.S. Government's view that the Soviet Union right now, with all of the buildups of the past 15 years, has been putting itself in a position to go for a "first strike" against the United States?

McFarlane: I think surely that they have gone for the first-strike capability. That is different from saying that they intend to execute a first strike....

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Kaiser: How do you have a first-strike capability against a country which maintains so many nuclear weapons on invulnerable submarines at sea? I don't understand this and we keep hearing about it. We could always strike back; we could always destroy the Soviet Union....

McFarlane: Basically, if they are able in their first attack to leave you with options that are infeasible or unlikely, then they will have succeeded.

Novak: The President says that the Strategic Defense Initiative...is not a bargaining chip....And yet, in this morning's Washington Post we have White House officials saying that he has left running room on this issue, and there is an implication that many of these White House officials, including you, really do consider this a bargaining chip. What's the truth on this?

McFarlane: First of all, it ought to be clear that this past week I have insisted that my staff in no sense, on any occasion, talk to any reporter about this issue, and they haven't. So there's a lot of uninformed comment coming out of the White House.

Novak: You're not saying that Lou Cannon, the respected White House correspondent for the Washington Post, has made up these quotes by White House officials, are you?

McFarlane: I'm saying that it is one thing to speak about what is the President's policy. I'm sure Lou didn't talk to the President, for the President's made it very clear publicly that his objective here is to provide for a safer world, both for us and the Soviet Union and our allies and all of mankind. He is posing the question, is it feasible for us to move away from exclusive reliance on non-nuclear defensive systems. And he intends to pursue that through a vigorous research testing program, which is clearly consistent with the ABM treaty.

Kalb: The President is saying that in terms of research he is also talking about research and testing. The Russians consider that testing is part of development. Now is there not in there some area for potential compromise if in fact both sides are seeking an agreement that embraces SDI?

McFarlane: I think that the President is guided by the ABM Treaty and the terms of that treaty are very explicit....They make clear that on research involving new physical concepts that that activity, as well as testing, as well as development indeed, are approved and authorized by the treaty. Only deployment is foreclosed, except in accordance with Articles XIII and XIV....

Novak: Quoted in this story is Michael K. Deaver...and it says, and I have heard this previously, that he has been brought into the White House to advise on the PR on the summit. Is he advising you on what positions to take at the summit? Is that his role?

McFarlane: I think first of all that I would welcome Mike's counsel on how this meeting can best fulfill the President's goals for it. He knows the President quite well....

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Kaiser: ...Why aren't you applauding the fact that the Russians have finally seen it your way, have agreed on the need for 50% reductions, and why aren't you taking them up on this in an aggressive way? It seems to me that you won. Why can't you declare a victory?

McFarlane: I do applaud the commitment to reductions, and I don't mean to be frivolous about that. There are elements in that proposal that we find a very constructive beginning, but not an end...

Novak: We have been talking about arms control in this program. That's all anybody is talking about. There is no conversation about the Soviet outrages in Afghanistan, Soviet violation of human rights, Soviet meddling in Central America. You people are quiet about that. Haven't they won the propaganda war leading up to the summit?

McFarlane: Not at all, and I'm glad you raised this issue because if indeed as President Reagan wants, we're going to establish a stable basis for U.S.-Soviet relations in the 21st Century, it's got to deal with this kind of issue -- regional disagreements, human rights issues, and other bilateral issues which probably transcend in importance the arms control issue.

Kalb: Has the Israeli raid against the PLO headquarters in Tunisia badly hurt America's interests in the Middle East?

McFarlane: I think that's not accurate. I think that what we have seen is terrorism escalated through a cycle of action and reaction to an intolerable state. It is understandable and I expect that it is sobering, and that sobering effect will be perhaps some retrenchment by all parties. But I think that the commitment to peace that is evidenced by King Hussein, by Prime Minister Peres, will be renewed and can achieve some milestones of progress within a month's time. President Reagan's committed to that.

Novak: How do you think President Bourguiba and his government in Tunisia felt after having been asked by the United States to give sanctuary to the PLO after being brought into the Western setup, they are attacked by Israeli warplanes and the White House spokesman says that's okay?

McFarlane: I think President Reagan's support for, friendship for President Bourguiba and Tunisia and clearly his knowledge of the threats that they face from neighbors is firm and enduring. Now as a separate matter, there is a terrorist headquarters in Tunisia and recently the PLO has fomented violence against Israel...and it led Israel to respond.

Kalb: You were talking about something developing possibly in the Middle East, within a month. Are you making reference there, indirectly, to the United States sitting down with a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation and in that way advancing the peace process?

McFarlane: No, but I wouldn't describe on this show exactly what we have in mind. It'll involve cooperation with both Jordan and Israel. It has to.

AGRONSKY & COMPANY

Moderator: Martin Agronsky.

Panelists: Elizabeth Drew, Jack Kilpatrick, Carl Rowan, Hugh Sidey.

On arms control:

Agronsky: Are Gorbachev and Reagan moving closer to an arms control agreement?

Talbott: Yes they are. And the Soviets have made some significant movement just in the past week. But this proposal that they have made to the United States for the arms control agreement, they have put on the table some positions...that are clearly unacceptable to the United States, but there are some other aspects to it that are negotiable and still some that are really quite positive. I think that on the basis of this negotiation now there will be an agreement, not in time for the summit meeting in November but before the end of Reagan's second term.

Drew: You have to assume that what the Soviets have put forward...is not its final position....It contains the outlines of a package that many people have thought if there is an agreement would have to contain and that is in exchange for deep reductions in offensive weapons the United States would have to limit its proceeding with star wars....I've also noticed out of our Administration some suggestions that maybe they would limit star wars.

Rowan: After some stumbles down a very rocky road and some heavy bumps between the United States and the Soviet Union and some serious strains in the Western Alliance, we will get an arms control agreement.

Kilpatrick: I'm in the minority as usual. I don't think any significant agreement is going to come out of this. You look at Gorbachev's proposals, as much as we know about them, and they all fall apart like a blueberry muffin. I don't think there's much to them and I'm not sure that Gorbachev wants an agreement.

Agronsky: I'm with the majority in being optimistic...

Talbott: ...The leaking out of this Administration has come, I'm convinced, from the conservatives, the hardliners who want to see the thing discredited....It's interesting that President Reagan's own comments have been somewhat more favorable than those of some of his Cabinet officers....I think that's because, among other things, he wants to keep his options open. He doesn't want to give the Soviets an excuse to say the Americans aren't taking this seriously.

Rowan: I think the number two player (the President being number one) is Mrs. Reagan. And I am just as convinced as I can be that she wants her husband to reach an arms agreement. And I don't think he is locked in concrete in some of these things. Nor can Gorbachev be...

AGRONSKY & COMPANY (continued)

On Israel's bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunisia:

Kilpatrick: I loved it. I love the Israelis; I admire them excessively. They do something. We don't. We stand around fumbling, twittling our fingers....It's too bad they missed Arafat but this was a good thing.

Rowan: Doing something is not necessarily wise....I said right from this chair when they went into Lebanon that Israel and the United States would pay dearly for that invasion. The records show that I was right. This they will pay dearly for also in another cycle of violence in the Middle East. Tunisia did not export the killings in Lacarna. We asked the Tunisians to take the PLO. Shultz admitted that in an interview with The New York Times editors just the day before yesterday....

Talbott: Over the years, the Israelis have tended to get away with these kind of lightening strikes of retaliation, and they have not paid a big price for that. I think it's false to compare that to their invasion of Lebanon.

Agronsky: Entebbe brought no violent reaction, the Israeli strike against the nuclear reactor in Baghdad brought no violent reaction.

Drew: ...I think the more significant thing though was the confusion within our own government. The President made a statement, the Secretary of State didn't know it. The Secretary of Defense disagreed. It's a strange way to make policy.

On the Margaret Heckler affair:

Drew: It wasn't a very pretty picture and obviously what they did was fire her....But it's really rather appalling how the whole thing was handled....The President has every right to get rid of whomever he wants for whatever reason. But for months now it was leaking out of the White House, and it wasn't very hard to figure out what part of the White House it was coming from, that Mr. Regan was very unhappy with Mrs. Heckler....So finally in this very degrading, almost tasteless way, they finally brought it to a head....There's another side of this that sort of bothers me. The President isn't really very good at handling personnel....

Rowan: Not only was it shameful, this public hanging of Mrs. Heckler, but how would you like to be an official in Ireland? I mean the Irish press is saying not only has this man who claims to love Ireland decided to use us as a dumping ground, but he thinks we are dumb enough to believe him when he says this is a promotion. It was bad domestic policy, it was bad taste, and it was destructive of our relationship with Ireland.

Kilpatrick: This is all inside the beltway stuff; I don't think out abroad in the land people give a hoorah about Mrs. Heckler, Cabinet secretaries or ambassadors, any of them....

Talbott: But they do care about the character of the President of the United States and he was clearly trying to use this whole episode to show that he's a nice guy.

AGRONSKY & COMPANY (continued)

On the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget amendment:

Talbott: I think this is the classic inside-the-Beltway Washington gimmick so that all parties to it can say they have an answer to the budget deficit.

Drew: ...What this is about is members of Congress, faced with having to raise that debt limit to \$2 trillion, want to appear to do something about the deficit. Not having done enough substantive about it, they have come up with procedures....Most of these people are voting on this thing without any clear picture of how it would work, what it does to the balance of power between the President and the Congress. It may not be a bad idea to enact a version of this proposal, but they really should stop and look at it and think about it.

Rowan: It is so easy to sit up there when you're under some pressure from back home...to talk about what you're going to do in 1991....David Stockman told them the truth the other day when he said you've got to raise taxes by \$100M.

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THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP

Moderator: John McLaughlin

Panelists: Richard Cohen, Washington Post, Morton Kondracke, Robert Novak, Jack Germond.

On Gorbachev and Arms Reduction:

McLaughlin: Gorbachev proposed a 50 percent cut in strategic nuclear weapons by the U.S. and U.S.S.R., plus a total ban on "Star Wars." What are the merits of the Gorbachev proposal?

Cohen: I think there is substance underneath the "French Dressing" that you talked about. In the first place you have a proposed 50 percent cut, but behind that substance is a greater substance -- an admission, it seems to me, by the Russian leader saying that they don't need all these nuclear weapons, that they don't feel terribly threatened by a reduction of 40 percent, even if it turns out to be something less than that.

Novak: What that is is a cutback only to their positions of pre-Kissinger-1972 where they want us to remove our forward basing systems from the continent of Europe. It's 50 percent of nothing. It's a bad deal, even if we didn't have to give up SDI.

Germond: I think this whole episode is bizarre, the whole idea of this whole thing being conducted in public.... The way we're going to find out about this is when we actually get down to negotiations in a smaller group and at the Summit. This whole public thing that Gorbachev has done, and the response of this country, means that the Summit can never meet the expectations for that Summit now.

Kondracke: This was a shockingly one-side proposal on behalf of the Soviets. If Ronald Reagan had introduced a proposal like this, people would be screaming bloody murder that he was presenting a proposal that was not negotiable. They want to keep their SS-24's and 25's, which they've tested. They want us to give up the Midgetman, the D-5 missile, and the Stealth bomber, and "Star Wars." They want the whole thing.

Cohen: My feeling is that you go in and negotiate. I'm not saying accept it for what it is. What I think is notable about it is the admission within all this talk, that they can cut back on the number...

Novak: No such admission is made. What they are saying is that after they finish all this -- we're taking out our forward-basing systems, their commensurate weapons stay in place -- there is absolutely no change. They are in a stronger position than they started in.

Kondracke: Let us not take this 50 percent offer at meaning what it sounds like, that their going to eliminate 50 percent of all missiles. They still will be left with a first-strike capability against America's land-based missiles.

MCLAUGHLIN GROUP (continued)

Do the Russians want to negotiate in Geneva?

Cohen: Yes. Novak: I believe Gorbachev when he says he doesn't like the arms race. He doesn't like us running; he likes us like we were with Jimmy Carter when they did the running and we didn't. They want a one-side deal or nothing. Germond: I think both sides want to negotiate. Kondracke: I think they want us to give up SDI under pressure from public opinion, and they will give up the minimum necessary. I think he would like to have a respite on his terms, if he can get the West to give up SDI.

On the Israeli bombing of PLO Headquarters in Tunisia:

McLaughlin: President Reagan said that Israel has the right to retaliate against terrorists "as long as you pick out the people responsible." The State Department then said the act was "deplorable," leaving the Administration's position confused. On Friday, Moslem terrorists announced that they had executed U.S. Embassy official William Buckley to avenge Israel's PLO raid in Tunisia. Was the Israeli air attack justified?

Cohen: If you are talking about was it wise, I think it was not. I don't think it had anything to do with the PLO in Tunis. I think it had everything to do with the West Bank, teaching a lesson to both Syria and Jordan that Israel will not tolerate any PLO presence in Jordan and will not tolerate any kind of military buildup on...

Novak: I think there's something more to it than that. I think you've got to remember there's been lots of incidents and this is the first time since 1981 that Israeli warplanes have crossed the border to bomb an Arab city....I don't think there's any doubt that the Israelis were trying to disrupt and confuse the peace negotiations, the peace process put forward by King Hussein and trying, very successfully, to get the United States off balance...

Germond: There is no justification for this thing....The rationale the Israelis use in this kind of an attack is that it will deter further attacks. The history of this thing in the Middle East is that is not true. What we do is we keep escalating attacks...

Kondracke: The killing of innocent civilian people is...unjustified. The bombing was badly done....This is a wartime situation. I'm not defending the Israelis for killing Tunisians. What I am saying though is this is a war between the PLO and the Israelis....The Israelis want to strike back, they don't want to strike back at Jordan. The PLO is responsible for some of the raids...

Novak: ...Speakes puts out this incredible statement (in favor of the raid) which cuts off the moderate in charge in Tunisia. It makes the friendship of the United States look horrible. Even George Shultz, who is hardly pro-Arab, calls from New York and says what the hell is going on? What a way for an Administration to run a policy.

McLaughlin: The Administration is in chaos on this issue.

MCLAUGHLIN GROUP (continued)

Germond: ...My Lord, you'd hope the President would have enough judgment himself not to say something that stupid...

On the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction plan:

Novak: This is going to go right through the Senate....There are two guns pointed at people's heads on this. One at the defense spending; the question is, is this going to be a threat to defense spending. And the other, and this is why the White House is behind it, on the Great Society. And the question is, can Tip O'Neill go along with this, take the risk, or can he take the even bigger risk of blocking it.

Germond: This is the biggest piece of political garbage I have seen in a long time. What it tells you is that the Republicans in the Senate, and rightfully so, are worried to death about the deficit issue. They come up with this gimmick -- which by the way has all sorts of loopholes in it. It does not get away from the basic question of whether you still have to face defense spending levels, revenue levels and entitlement levels....

Kondracke: ...Only in cases of war and recession is there a loophole out of this and it really could work for a change.

Cohen: If this becomes enacted, you will still have another half-a-trillion dollars of debt.

McLaughlin: Don't you think that Ronald Reagan was a little bit cowardly, as were the authors of the amendment, in omitting Social Security from it?

Will this be passed by the Congress?

Cohen: No. Novak: It will be because they don't have the guts to block it in the House. Germond: I think not, probably. It will cool off. Kondracke: I think it will pass. McLaughlin: I think it will pass...

On the Margaret Heckler incident:

Germond: It has no political significance because Margaret Heckler has no constituency....The only political significance is another example of the President able to go out and bare-facedly say that black is white and get away with it.

Kondracke: I thought I noticed Ronald Reagan's nose grow four inches...

McLaughlin: If she does well in Ireland, will she get another promotion and go to Somatra?

Novak: The significance is that everybody knows that Peggy Heckler should never have been named to that job in the first place. She was a ridiculous appointment. She had no support. And yet everybody was upset in the Congress because they didn't like the way Don Regan treated her. Don Regan has a problem; he does the right thing in the wrong way and that's a long-term problem.

Cohen: Absolutely. That's the political significance. This is one of the more clumsy firings we've seen in a long time....

4:30 P.M. NEWS UPDATE

PARSIPPANY, N.J. (AP) -- President Reagan carried his "Star Wars" campaign into a partisan setting Friday, telling New Jersey Republicans that the GOP, "with the help of many Democrats," has stood up for the space-based missile defense plan in the face of demands for its abandonment.

ARMS CONTROL (AP) -- Senior Reagan administration arms control experts charged Friday that the Soviet Union wants the United States to abandon its "Star Wars" program so Moscow can go ahead with its own clandestine space defense projects. The Soviets could be ready to deploy advanced space-based defense systems by the end of this century, said Paul H. Nitze, President Reagan's special arms control adviser.

Richard Perle, the assistant secretary for defense, said the Soviets "had the field to themselves" during the dozen years before Reagan announced his Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly known as Star Wars, in March of 1983.

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A State Department official said Friday all the American hostages in Lebanon are presumed alive despite reports that U.S. Embassy official William Buckley has been executed. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said the United States has no confirmation of Buckley's execution and, he said, "we are urgently seeking information." He said the United States continues to operate on the assumption that all six of the American hostages in Lebanon are alive.

BAKER (Reuter/Anchorage) -- Secretary Baker said today he plans to unveil a comprehensive initiative for dealing with the global debt crisis during the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings next week. In an interview with a small group of reporters as he travelled to Seoul, South Korea, for the meetings, Baker said the initiative would build on the so-called "case by case" approach to the debt crisis that has been the mainstay of the Western strategy on the issue until now.

MONUMENT THREAT (UPI) -- A bomb threat forced the closing of the Washington Monument Friday, but no explosives were found, the National Park Service said. A person who identified himself as a member of "Americans for America" called a local newspaper and television station at 10 a.m. EDT, park service spokesman Earl Kittelman said. The caller to television station WJLA said the monument would be destroyed at 4 p.m., and the caller to the newspaper, The Washington Times, indicated the monument would be blown up later in the evening, the call said. Police bomb squads evacuated and searched the monument for three hours but found nothing.

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (UPI) -- A Syrian-arranged cease-fire between warring Moslem gunmen took effect Friday in Tripoli, where more than 500 people died in a 20-day battle for control of the northern port city. Moslem fundamentalists who kidnapped four Soviet Embassy officials in Beirut Monday had demanded an end to the fighting as a condition for releasing their Russian hostages. One of the Soviets was executed, but the fate of the others could not be immediately determined.

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) -- Islamic Jihad terrorists Friday announced the "execution" of U.S. Embassy official William Buckley, but President Reagan said the report could not be confirmed. The Soviet Union evacuated most of its embassy staff following the murder of a kidnapped Soviet official.

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4:30 P.M. NEWS UPDATE (continued)

BUDGET (UPI) -- A congressional plan to balance the budget by fiscal 1991, endorsed by President Reagan, ran into a snag today when some senators balked at attaching the measure to the bill needed to raise the debt ceiling. Senate Republican leader Robert Dole earlier predicted the balanced budget amendment would "sail through" the Senate and it appeared to be picking up steam. But later in the day some Republicans refused to go along and Democrats, who could not agree on an alternative strategy, also rebelled. Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd urged Dole to pass a small increase in the debt ceiling temporarily to give senators time to look at the plan. Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., argued against the plan, saying Congress already has the power to balance the budget with taxes or spending cuts. "This is a legislative substitute for the guts we do not have to do what needs to be done," he said. Senate Democrats were working on an alternative proposal that would reduce the deficit to zero by 1990, a year earlier than Gramm-Rudman, and call for specific budget cuts.

NOBEL PRIZE (UPI) -- President Reagan, Jewish holocaust author Elie Wiesel and David Lange, the anti-nuclear Prime Minister of New Zealand, are among the record 99 nominees for this week's Nobel Peace Prize.

CAPTIVE (UPI) -- An American working on a book in Lebanon is reportedly being held "against his will" in Beirut by a Christian rightist group, but not as a political hostage, the State Department said Friday. The man was identified as Steve Donahue of Hollywood, Fla., who had been in Lebanon working on a book with a British writer about drug smuggling there. "The State Department was advised in August that he was being held against his will," said spokesman Bernard Kalb.

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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1985 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Aide Faults Soviet Arms Plan -- Robert McFarlane says that the Soviet proposal for a 50 percent cut in nuclear warheads would increase Moscow's ability to launch a "first strike."

(Washington Post, Washington Times, AP)

U.S. Plan On Global Debt Attracts Cautious Approval And Skepticism -- SEOUL -- There were indications that the U.S. may encounter serious opposition on some aspects of its plan.

(Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

Budget Debate Ties Up Senate -- The Senate failed Sunday to choke off debate on legislation to balance the federal budget by 1991.

(Washington Post, Washington Times, Wall Street Journal, AP, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

ARMS CONTROL -- McFarlane said that the new Soviet arms proposals are both advantageous to the USSR and unfair to the United States.

WORLD ECONOMY -- The IMF expressed concern over the Third World's ability to pay its foreign debt.

FEDERAL BUDGET -- The Senate rejected pleas from President Reagan to kill a Democratic-led filibuster blocking action on a balanced budget amendment.

INDEX

International News A-2

National News A-6

Network News B-1

TV Talk Shows B-6

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN AIDE FAULTS SOVIET ARMS PLAN

National security affairs adviser Robert McFarlane said Sunday that the Soviet proposal for a 50 percent cut in nuclear warheads would increase Moscow's ability to launch a "first strike" against the United States but that the plan also offers a "constructive beginning" for superpower negotiations.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," McFarlane appeared to be trying to steer a middle course between those welcoming the Soviet proposal and those saying it would put the United States at a disadvantage. Both points of view are represented in the Reagan Administration. (Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

Reagan Won't Bargain Away 'Star Wars,' McFarlane Says

Robert McFarlane sought yesterday to dispel suggestions that President Reagan was ready to bargain away his Strategic Defense Initiative despite his assistance to the contrary.

"There's a lot of uninformed comment coming out of the White House," Mr. McFarlane said of reports quoting unnamed White House officials. (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

McFarlane Says Soviets Angling For First-Strike Capability

Robert McFarlane says Gorbachev has launched a "constructive beginning" for arms reduction talks, although his proposal to halve strategic missile forces would improve Moscow's capability for a "first strike" attack. (AP)

U.S. PLAN ON GLOBAL DEBT ATTRACTS CAUTIOUS APPROVAL AND SKEPTICISM

SEOUL -- The U.S. isn't slated to unveil the formal outlines of the plan until Tuesday at the joint annual meeting here of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and the details aren't expected to be worked out for several weeks. (Art Pine, Wall Street Journal, 27)

Aid Plan For Africa Withdrawn

SEOUL -- The United States here withdrew its plan to create a new \$5.4 billion lending fund within the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to help the least developed nations, mostly in Africa.

Secretary James Baker's decision to introduce the new measures -- including the one pulled back Sunday -- indicated a recognition that the current method of dealing with the debt crisis, particularly in Latin America, has not been working and that a new approach is needed.

(Hobart Rowen, Washington Post, A1)

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Industrial Nations Rule Day At IMF Meeting

Industrial nations Monday defused calls from poor countries for an overhaul of the world financial system, leaving developing world hopes resting with a new U.S. initiative to tackle the debt crisis.

Financial sources said poor nations must now pin their hopes on a much touted U.S. plan to boost the role of the World Bank. U.S. Treasury Secretary Baker has promised to outline the plan tomorrow after the official opening of this year's conference.

(Stephen Jukes, Reuter)

POLICY-MAKERS STUDY EFFECT OF CUTBACKS

After years of calling for the Soviet Union to accept deep cuts in strategic nuclear weapons, the Reagan Administration suddenly had its wish fulfilled last Monday in Geneva. Now Washington policy-makers are trying to decide what to do about it.

The central questions under consideration in the Reagan administration are whether and how to build on the positive aspects of the Soviet proposal while rejecting or negotiating changes in the negative ones. No definite course of action has been agreed upon in the Administration, sources said.

(News Analysis, Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

FRENCH PAN 'GORBASHOW'

PARIS -- They are calling it "Le Gorbashow," the four days of whirlwind press conferences, meetings with top French officials, state dinners, and dramatic pronouncements in which the Soviet leader brought his well-oiled media blitz to the West.

The reviews are in, and while Gorbachev committed no major faux pas in Paris, his reception was less than enthusiastic.

(Michael J. Bonafield, Washington Times, A1)

U.S. WOULD CONSIDER A PHILLIPINE PULLOUT

ANDERSON AFB, GUAM -- The United States is prepared, if necessary, to withdraw its huge military bases from the Philippines at a moment's notice and spread them throughout the Pacific, several interviews with military officials indicate.

From Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean to Guam in the Western Pacific, the U.S. is quietly preparing a contingency plan in the event the situation in the Philippines explodes.

(Tom Breen, Washington Times, A1)

FAILURE TO BACK TRADE ROUND WILL BOOST PROTECTIONISM

SEOUL -- Secretary Baker told developing nations Monday that if they failed to pay back a new trade round, protectionist trends in America may increase.

"The failure to launch a (new trade) round could increase the likelihood of protectionist legislation," Baker said. "I therefore urge all of you to lend your active support to the new round." (Reuter)

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SECURITY ADVISER PREDICTS PROGRESS IN MIDEAST

Robert McFarlane said Sunday that "milestones of progress" could be expected in the Middle East peace process within "a month." "Behind the scenes, we think there's a real possibility of making some headway before long," he said.

The commitment of Jordan's King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Peres to the peace process could yield positive results, he added.

President Reagan is "committed to that," he said.

(Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A6)

CALLER VOWS SOVIETS WILL BE HELD UNTIL WAR ENDS

BEIRUT -- A caller saying he represented the extremist group holding three Soviet embassy personnel as hostages said Sunday they would not be freed until the Soviet Union and America end Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war.

(AP story, Washington Times, A6)

U.S. ABSTAINED ON U.N. VOTE TO PROTECT TUNISIA, PAPER SAYS

NEW YORK -- The United States abstained on a U.N. vote condemning Israel's Tunisian raid to protect the pro-Western Tunis government from possible overthrow by Libyan-backed mobs, the New York Times said Monday. A White House aide said there was overwhelming information suggesting a United States veto would provide Libya with an emotional issue with which to unleash leftist students and other groups into the streets, the Times reported.

(Reuters)

WICK ASKS GORBACHEV FOR INTERVIEWS

Charles Wick, director of the U.S. Information Agency, Sunday invited Soviet leader Gorbachev to be interviewed by U.S. journalists on a worldwide broadcast.

"I would like now to invite ... Gorbachev to go on Worldnet and be interviewed by American journalists who would broadcast worldwide and hope in turn, reciprocally, he would allow us to have Russian journalists interview our policy people."

Worldnet is a USIA television program that allows journalists in other countries to interview U.S. officials by satellite.

(UPI story, Washington Post, A5)

KGB PAID FORMER CIA AGENT, FBI SAYS

Fugitive ex-CIA agent Edward Howard met in Austria a year ago with Soviet KGB officials who paid him money for U.S. intelligence secrets, the FBI says. Meanwhile, sources in Washington said FBI agents are also watching and investigating a second former U.S. intelligence officer suspecting of spying for the Soviets.

(AP, Washington Times, A5)

TOTAL TEST-BAN URGED

A number of high-ranking officials in the Kennedy Administration, led by W. Averell Harriman, called on the Reagan Administration Sunday to join the nuclear weapons testing moratorium announced by the Soviet Union July 30. (Washington Post, A6)

GOP SENATORS URGE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION

The United States "does not back its words with actions" and should establish "linkage" between U.S. dealings with Moscow and their human rights record, four Republican senators have charged.

Sen. D'Amato (R.-NY), along with Sens. Humphrey (R.-NH), Heinz (R.-PA) and Wallop, (R.-WY) urged that American economic, cultural, technical and other dealings with the Soviets be linked to improvements in their human rights record. (Dave Doubrava, Washington Times, A6)

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NATIONAL NEWS

BUDGET DEBATE TIES UP SENATE

The Senate, meeting in an extraordinary Sunday session, failed Sunday to choke off debate on legislation to balance the federal budget by 1991, although the proposal won enough support to pass if further procedural hurdles can be scaled.

In a statement from his retreat at Camp David, President Reagan reiterated his call for prompt action on the measure.

"Zero hour is approaching," he said, adding, "The American people have grown weary of delays, excuses and inaction."

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A1)

Senate Filibuster Delays Plan To Balance Budget

A Democratic-led filibuster in the Senate Sunday again delayed a proposed sweeping balanced budget plan, forcing Sen. Dole to seek a meeting between Senate, House and White House leaders to find a compromise.

(Thomas Brandt, Washington Times, A1)

Little Hope Congress Will Act Quickly On Debt Bill

The government, according to President Reagan and Secretary Baker, runs out of money today. There is virtually no hope Congress can act quickly enough to keep checks from bouncing.

(Steve Gerstel, UPI)

Government Running Short Of Cash As Senate Runs Long On Words

The government opened for business today with its line of credit gone and Congress unable to approve new borrowing because of a Senate tangle over a budget-balancing amendment.

White House spokesman Albert Brashear said Sunday he could not say what specific problems would be caused by failure to enact the debt limit measure. The President's chief congressional liaison, Max Friedersdorf, said the Administration would not ask for any short-term extension of the debt-ceiling -- an indication the White House, too, would keep the pressure on the lawmakers.

(Steven Komarow, AP)

Senate Remains Deadlocked On Debt Ceiling

On a 57-38 roll call, the GOP leadership fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to restrict debate. While the vote demonstrated strong support for the amendment, it did little to resolve the parliamentary maneuvering that consumed an unusual weekend session.

(David Rogers/David Shribman, Wall Street Journal, 3)

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PLIGHT OF BLACKS TERMED 'URGENT'

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund ... blames the Reagan Administration for creating a climate that "is almost universally perceived to be unfavorable to the advancement of civil rights law and to meeting urgent needs of blacks."

Attorney General Meese has said he is proud of his department's civil rights enforcement record.

(AP story, Washington Times, A5)

REYNOLDS GETS A JOB WITHOUT THE TITLE THE SENATE DENIED

When the Senate Judiciary Committee soundly rejected William Bradford Reynolds' nomination for associate attorney general June 27, his critics on Capitol Hill and in the civil rights community cheered.

President Reagan -- secure in his second term -- quickly came to Reynolds' defense, and the Attorney General gave his 43-year-old assistant a much larger role to play.

(John McCaslin, Washington Times, A1)

COURT CONFRONTS REAGAN AGENDA

The Supreme Court opens its 1985 term today confronting a recharged, revamped and newly aggressive Justice Department effort to translate the Reagan Administration's views on race, religion and abortion into the law of the land.

The Administration will go full-tilt against civil rights organizations over the issues of affirmative action, voting rights and racial discrimination in the criminal justice process.

(Al Kamen, Washington Post, A1)

Oldest High Court Confronts Potpourri Of Divisive Issues

Bruce Fein, Supreme Court analyst for the American Enterprise Institute, said the upcoming term will be crucial to some of the Reagan Administration's main objectives.

"Congress will not be able to act on school prayer, abortion or voting rights," Mr. Fein said. "The only channel for obtaining the President's goals in the civil rights area is in the Supreme Court," he said.

(David Sellers, Washington Times, A4)

LURCHING TOWARD OBLIVION?

Publicly, White House officials pretend that the public is clamoring for tax reform. Privately, they acknowledge that even presidential polls put tax reform far down the list of issues about which Americans are most concerned.

Reagan receives near-saturation media coverage on his tax trips, but much of it is of the "President is coming to town" variety. In fact, as even some White House officials acknowledge, the speeches have been duds.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

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CRIME DROPS TO 4.1 PERCENT, LOWEST IN 12 YEARS

Crime fell 4.1 percent in 1984, the lowest level in the 12-year history of the National Crime Survey of randomly selected American households, the Justice Department reported Sunday. The number of violent crimes excluding murder, however, rose 0.9 percent from 5,903,000 in 1983 to 5,954,000 in 1984. These incidents include assault, armed robbery and rape.
(Merrill Hartson, AP, Washington Post, A14)

Crime Dips To Lowest In At Least 12 Years

There were 1.5 million fewer crimes last year than in 1983, the Justice Department said. The overall total is about 14 percent below the 41.5 million crimes estimated for the peak year of 1982.
(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A4)

Crime 'Victimizations' Down 4.1 Percent in '84, Report Says

"Because the aging of the population can account for only a small fraction of the drop, much of the decline is most likely the result of increased citizen involvement in crime prevention activities as well as the greater success of law enforcement authorities in apprehending, convicting and incarcerating repeat criminal offenders," said FBI Uniform Crime Report Bureau director Steven Schlessinger.
(Merrill Hartson, AP)

CANDIDATES ABOUND FOR 'MINORITY' SEAT

The Federal Communications Commission is buzzing over several people who wouldn't mind filling what has been described as the commission's "minority seat."

A rainbow coalition of people has been in to see various commissioners, including FCC Chairman Mark Fowler, about the job, which must go to a Democrat or an independent.
(Washington Post, A11)

ASPIN SEES ONLY SMALL GAINS IN U.S. READINESS

President Reagan's historic \$1 trillion buildup can claim only tiny improvements in U.S. security, a key congressman asserted Sunday.

"The results are discomfoting and disconcerting, to say the least, for they indicate miniscule improvements -- outside of the personnel area -- despite immense budgetary increases," Rep. Les Aspin (D.-WI) said.
(Reuter story, Washington Times, A4)

Reagan Defense Buildup Seen Improving Only Personnel Area

"Is Ronald Reagan doing with defense what he accused the previous administration of doing with social welfare -- just throwing billions at the problem, and then the statistics show that poverty remains rampant?" said Aspin.
(Eliot Brenner, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985 -- NOTE: NBC did not air a broadcast.)

FEDERAL BUDGET

CBS's Bill Redeker: The federal government has once again moved to the brink of a financial crisis. Late today, the Senate rejected pleas from President Reagan and refused to kill a Democratic-led filibuster blocking action on a balanced budget amendment and an emergency boost in the national debt limit.

CBS's Ike Pappas: President Reagan issued a statement saying that the choice before the Senate was clear -- to meet its responsibilities, said Mr. Reagan, to bring the deficit down, or to resort to a temporary quick fix that will only delay the day of reckoning. Mr. Reagan was referring to a move by Democrats to extend the present borrowing law another two weeks to permit them to study the controversial amendment which would mandate a balanced budget by 1991. Sen. Dole wants to deny the Democrats the time and force an early vote on the amendment, but first he has to get the Senate to approve a motion to cut off debate. He tried and failed by only seven votes. Predictions are that by tomorrow cash available will run out and the government will grind to a halt because it will be unable to pay bills. (Sen. Rudman: "The American people are staggered by reading in the newspapers and watching on their television sets that we're about to raise the debt to \$2 trillion. That's a riveting kind of an event. And it is because of that event that we had this window of opportunity that today on a Sunday you have the entire United States Senate sitting there, paying close attention, involved.") (CBS-Lead)

ABC's Ann Compton: The vote to break a filibuster was certain to flush out support for a five-year plan to force the deficit to zero, allowing the President to make cuts when Congress failed. Hours before the vote, President Reagan himself issued a challenge to senators to seize this moment to opportunity. The President warned that opponents of the concept who want delay would only resort to a temporary quick fix that will only postpone the day of reckoning and raise the price all of us must pay. The vote was 57-38 in favor of the budget language but that was seven votes short of the margin needed to break this filibuster. Republican leaders now hope to keep the pressure on by refusing to extend even for a few days the government's borrowing power. Today's vote was important but it doesn't tell the whole story. No cause has become dearer to Congress's heart than bringing down the deficit. Even opponents say they're convinced the time has come; a balanced budget law will be passed sometime before the year is out. (ABC-Lead)

ARMS CONTROL

Donaldson: NSC Adviser McFarlane today continued the delicate public relations task of pointing out the flaws in the new Soviet arms control proposal while still not rejecting it as a basis for negotiation. As presented it would nail down a first-strike capability for the Soviets, said McFarlane.

(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985)

ABC's Steve Shepard: McFarlane said bluntly that the new Soviet arms proposals are both advantageous to the USSR and unfair to the United States.

(McFarlane: "The proposals that they have put on the table is pretty transparently self-serving. The central measure of equity in an arms control proposal is measured by the extent to which a first-strike capability, which the Soviets have today, improves or declines. Now under this proposal it would clearly improve.")

But if Gorbachev's arms control proposals don't impress McFarlane, they clearly scored propaganda points in Europe at the expense of President Reagan. U.S. officials insist, however, that Gorbachev's public relations achievement will be short-lived. On ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," USIA Director Charles Wick said that as the Reagan Administration's views become known, they will counter much of what Gorbachev had to say.

(Wick: "This so-called war of words or war of ideas really revolves around this resolution as to what's the truth. We have great confidence that President Reagan does tell the truth.")

But Lord Carrington, now General Secretary of NATO, warned that Gorbachev's public relations expertise could cause problems for the West in arms control negotiations.

(Carrington: "What matters is the substance of the negotiations. What we have to be careful about is that public opinion is not beguiled by a change of style and by a smile.")

It is now clear that Gorbachev has a knack for effective propaganda and that President Reagan, the Great Communicator, has some serious competition. (ABC-2)

WORLD ECONOMY

Redeker: The IMF reported a softening in the world's economy. The report came as the IMF and World Bank prepared for their annual meeting in Seoul Tuesday. The report said world industrial output would be less this year than predicted. And a confidential memo expressed concern over the Third World's ability to repay its foreign debt. (CBS-2)

BISHOPS/ECONOMY

Donaldson: U.S. Roman Catholic bishops issued a second draft of their pastoral letter on the economy today and it gave nothing back to conservatives who had wanted it toned down. The bishops called poverty in America amid the country's riches a "social and moral scandal." The final letter will be completed a year from now. (ABC-3)

LEBANON/SOVIET HOSTAGES

Donaldson: A caller in Beirut claiming to represent the terrorists who hold three kidnapped Soviets said the three will not be freed until the Soviet Union and the United States end Lebanon's civil war. (ABC-6)

(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985)

ISRAEL

Redeker: The latest cycle of Middle East vengeance is threatening the already-fragile relations between Egypt and Israel. A divisive debate erupted over the killing of seven Israeli tourists in the Sinai Peninsula by an Egyptian who reportedly went berserk. Israel has demanded that Cairo explain why its soldiers failed to give first aid and also charged Egypt may have violated the peace accord by posting soldiers in the area. Egypt said the men at the site were police, not soldiers.

The raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis is believed to be the motive behind the killing of three Israelis last week.

CBS's Bruno Wassertheil reports on the funeral services which marked the end of 11 days of violence and retribution. The most recent killings were carried out just after Israeli warplanes devastated PLO headquarters outside Tunis.

(Defense Minister Rabin: "We'll try to minimize the damage and to increase the damage that we are going to inflict on them.")

And Rabin did not expect the Tunis air strike would mean an end to attacks on Israelis.

(Rabin: "The struggle against terrorism is a prolonged one. No one in Israel assumes that you can achieve it by one war or by one act.")

(CBS-5)

Donaldson: NSC Adviser McFarlane predicted that progress toward direct Israeli-Jordanian peace negotiations could be achieved within a month's time. He did not elaborate.

ABC's Bob Zelnick reports from Israel: Doctors who examined the bodies of the Israelis shot by a supposedly deranged Egyptian officer said several could have been saved had Israeli medical students been permitted to treat them. But eyewitnesses said Egyptian soldiers were merely trying to prevent others from getting into the line of fire.

Friday's Security Council resolution condemning Israel's bombing of the PLO base near Tunis and the failure of the U.S. to veto the resolution troubled Israeli leaders, who are under domestic pressure to step up their campaign against terrorism.

(Prime Minister Peres: "We shall fight terror unconditionally and we shall continue to work for peace...")

Every incident which costs Israeli lives makes Israeli leaders less willing to trade tangible assets like land for intangible assets like Arab good will. It also could mean trouble for the peace process so much desired by the U.S. The Israelis say if this means relaxing the war against terrorism, count them out.

(ABC-5)

SOUTH AFRICA

Redeker: Archbishop Tutu offered a fresh warning to his country's white government. Tutu said he remained opposed to all forms of violence, but he told TV interviewers in London that it may be too late to stop it.

(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985)

Redeker continues: (Tutu: "...there may come a time, and we are very, very close, perhaps, to that time when we have to say that the lesser of two evils is to overthrow this unjust system.")

CBS's Steve Croft: It was no coincidence that Bishop Tutu and South African guerrilla leader Oliver Khambo were both in London lobbying for economic sanctions and putting some political heat on Margaret Thatcher. Mrs. Thatcher says she's against sanctions because they would hurt blacks in South Africa the most.

(Tutu: "We're not going to remain un-free forever. And it's not a threat when we say we will remember who helped us. And I hope I'm around to do the reminding.")

As Bishop Tutu told the British this week, it's now a matter of backing the right horse. (ABC-7, CBS-7)

SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

CBS's Eric Engburg reports that a Unitarian congregation just north of the White House today defied the government by agreeing to help a Salvadoran man live in the U.S. illegally. Renee, the Salvadoran, says he was tortured by troops in his homeland and is afraid to go back. The sanctuary movement says only a few Salvadorans, 328 last year, win asylum because the Reagan Administration wants to hide persecution in El Salvador.

(Sanctuary movement lawyer: "No nationality should be discriminatorily denied any immigration benefits under U.S. law, and that is in fact what's happened to the Salvadorans.")

U.S. officials argue most Salvadorans are not here fleeing persecution.

(State Department spokeswoman: "Generalized conditions of poverty and civil unrest are not grounds for granting of asylum. If this were the test, probably half the 100 million people who live between the Rio Grande and Panama could simply move to the United States and stay here.")

The Unitarians who took in Renee say they are prepared to face arrest. So far the government has not wanted to raid churches, out of concern for creating publicity and martyrs for this new cause.

(CBS-9)

ASPIN/DEFENSE SPENDING

Redeker: Rep. Aspin is sharply critical of President Reagan's huge defense buildup, saying the U.S. is not getting its money's worth. Aspin says that despite hundreds of billions of dollars spent on defense, weapons inventories have only grown minimally. And, he says, the U.S. lags behind in research and development. Aspin says the only improvements have come in the quality and number of military personnel. The Pentagon's response: military strength has improved but more remains to be done. (CBS-10)

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(Sunday Evening, October 6, 1985)

GERRYMANDERING

Redeker: Tomorrow, the Supreme Court begins reviewing a case that is potentially a political bombshell. At issue is how much power parties in power should have to change the shape of political districts.

CBS's Bruce Morton reports from Indiana: Out here in the Indiana heartland a storm is brewing that could shatter one of America's oldest political institutions -- the Gerrymander. Recently in Indiana the Republicans drew the lines so that in voting for state legislators last year the Democrats got 52% of the votes but only 43% of the seats. The Democrats sued and a lower court ruling supported them, saying discrimination against political parties was unconstitutional. But nationally, the Democrats control a lot more state legislatures than the Republicans, so the Republican National Committee filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the Indiana Democrats. It even included a map showing how redrawing the district lines around Indianapolis could cost the Republicans eight seats without changing the original vote count. The Indiana GOP is angry. But Chairmen Frank Fahrenkopf says busting gerrymanders is the only way the GOP will ever control the House of Representatives.

(Fahrenkopf: "Tip O'Neill is the Speaker of the House of Representatives today not because of the will of the American people as represented by their votes but because of the skill of Democratic draftsmen in 1981.")

He means in places like California where, he says, Republicans got 51% of the votes for Congress but Democrats won the most seats, 27-18. California Democrats have filed a brief supporting Indiana Republicans.

(Rep. Berman, D-Cal: "Do we want the U.S. Supreme Court telling each state and each state's legislature just what standard it considers to be fair this particular week?")

So the lineup looks this way: Yes, we want the Supreme Court to say gerrymandering is illegal: Indiana Democrats, National Republicans, and the NAACP. No, leave it up to the politicians the way it is now: Indiana Republicans, California Democrats and the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund. Politics really does make for strange bedfellows.

(CBS-11)

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ABC -- THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY

Moderator: David Brinkley. Panelists: Sam Donaldson and George Will.

Guests: Thierry de Montbrial, Director of the French Institute for International Relations, followed by Lord Carrington, NATO Secretary General; USIA Director Charles Wick.

Brinkley: Mr. Montbrial, you are in Paris, roughly halfway between the two debating, competing, arguing superpowers soon to have a summit meeting. How does it look to you from your vantage point?

Montbrial: I think there are two ways to read this trip of Mr. Gorbachev in Paris. One is to see it as a formidable piece of propaganda and a very efficient one, I would say. But there is also another reading that after all, Mr. Gorbachev and the Soviets might have something serious to propose, and they might be willing to seriously negotiate with the United States. So I think there are two possible interpretations and it is probably too early to know what is the right one.

Will: I'd like to ask you two questions about the effect on the French public of this so-called "charm offensive." The first is this. How did the French public react when Mr. Gorbachev said the Jews in the Soviet Union are really rather tickled to be there, and they're in, if anything, almost a privileged position?

Montbrial: More generally I would say that the French public reacted relatively coolly to the charm offensive, and in particular this is very clear from the press. However, I think that there is recognition of the fact that Mr. Gorbachev and the Soviets are now on their way to master Western communication techniques and many people think that over the long run this could have an impact....

Will: What is the feeling in France as to why Mr. Gorbachev made a proposal to the French and, indirectly to the British, for separate negotiations on their separate deterrents that was bound to be, and indeed was, promptly rejected? What was the thinking in France about what was on Gorbachev's mind when he did this?

Montbrial: ...I think this is a test, and what they certainly want is to try to create a problem to drive a wedge among us, but they did it relatively softly, and I think this is the beginning of a process that will probably last a long time. Of course, the reaction of Mr. Mitterrand was expected, and I think that any French or British government will remain strongly opposed to direct negotiations with the Soviets in this matter. But again, over the months or the years it could create some problems.

Donaldson: In the style campaign between Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, which will culminate I guess in the short run in November in Geneva, how do the French see both leaders?...

Montbrial: I think that the image is not clear yet. Ronald Reagan, as you know, is extremely popular in France. The question is that now you have the young man...Mr. Gorbachev...and Mr. Reagan is getting old.

THIS WEEK (continued)

Montbrial continues: But for the time being I think the French would certainly choose, if I can say so, from the public opinion, from the image viewpoint, Mr. Reagan, but I would not be surprised if this stand changed in the next few weeks or months. Essentially I think it depends on how Mr. Reagan will behave in November. I think it is extremely important that the French, and more generally the Europeans, have the impression that the United States is ready to negotiate seriously...

Guest: NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington.

Carrington: I think you've got to differentiate between style and substance (regarding the Soviets). I don't think we've seen all that much difference in substance so far....One's got to look very carefully at these (arms) proposals, but I think it's a good thing that they've been put on the table...

Will: One of the items in this proposal is that a "strategic arm" will be considered any weapon that can strike the homeland of the other. Which means that none of their theater systems would be counted against the strategic totals and all of ours would be. Can that be negotiated?

Carrington: You obviously can't leave it like that. And incidentally there's an illogicality in the idea that you deal with the British and French nuclear deterrents on a basis quite different from the others, because the British and the French nuclear deterrents cannot reach the Soviet homeland....

Will: Do you think the Dutch will go ahead (with missile deployment) and does NATO accept the United States' as opposed to the Soviet Union's estimate of how many SS-20s there are there?

Carrington: To the last question, yes, everybody in Europe I think accepts the United States' figure. I think what Mr. Gorbachev said the other day has to be looked at rather carefully. I mean, what does it mean, "missiles on a standby alert" and what's happened to all the others?...

Will: Given that the superpowers seem to be going...to mobile missiles, does this not mean that arms control may be over? You can't count them, you can't verify them.

Carrington: It makes it much more difficult, of course. And I don't think, perhaps, that you can get the total verification that you would like....But whatever the difficulties of these problems, I think we really have to try to get some agreement....

Donaldson asks what will come out of the Geneva summit meeting:

Carrington: The substance of Geneva is going to be what the negotiators do after this meeting is over. I think what the two can do is to give it an impetus. They can push it forward....

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THIS WEEK (continued)

Guest: USIA Director Charles Wick.

Brinkley: How are we making out in this (propaganda) contest?

Wick: I think we're making out rather well....Just in the last four years, nine countries in Latin America have gone toward democracy. There are many people that are benefiting by reading our books that we distribute through libraries. We bring through Worldnet our top policy leaders who face the attrition of radio, print and television journalists in different nations....

Will: I'd like to know, for example, how you in your job are responding to what Gorbachev did in Paris. He told some extravagant, lurid lies in Paris about the treatment of Jews, about there not being political prisoners in the Soviet Union and all that stuff. What are you doing in response and second, how can you do it, because everything you do is met by a violation of the Helsinki Accords on the Soviet Union's part? They jam you and they block you out...

Wick: It's really an ongoing process. We don't react to every single statement he makes....As to Soviet Jewry, we have Voice of American editorials as to what happens with Scharansky and Sakharov....(Wick plays tape of USIA broadcasts before and after jamming. Jamming makes broadcast unintelligible.)

Donaldson: The Washington Monthly this month has a piece in it this month which says, is anybody out there watching Charlie Wick's latest flop? The claim is there is that you are spending \$15M a year on Worldnet but you don't have an audience. Do you have an audience?

Wick: We do. Yes we are getting through....We've done 116 Worldnets and the estimate based upon various extrapolations we get from the field is that over two billion people have watched Worldnets.

Donaldson: Have you heard anything more on your proposal that President Reagan be granted access to the Soviet airways so that he can deliver messages to the Russian people directly?

Wick: ...I wrote on behalf of our government to Leonid Zamyatin, who is head of the International Information Department of the Communist Party on January 25th in response to a tirade he had about our piracy of the airwaves, which we don't own. I would like to now invite, on behalf of our country, General Secretary Gorbachev to go on Worldnet and be interviewed by American journalists, which we would broadcast worldwide, and hope, reciprocity, he would allow us to have Russian journalists interview our policy people.

FREE-FOR-ALL DISCUSSION -- Hodding Carter joins panel.

On the Israeli bombing of the PLO base in Tunisia:

Will: The United States, by abstaining (on a U.N. resolution condemning Israel for the bombing) has crippled itself in its future right to do what George Shultz says it may have to do.

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THIS WEEK (continued)

Will continues: He said this in a December speech. That is, both attack pre-emptively or responsively and make attacks that might include casualties on non-terrorists.

Donaldson: Ronald Reagan's visceral instinct is to side with Israel.... People like George Shultz say, hold on, we're trying to help the peace process in the Middle East that we are not just in Israel's back pocket as a lot of people think. And so he backs off. Now George, the killing of innocent people, I give you another quotation. Who was it that said, no, I'm not going to just strike in a general sense because "the result would be a terrorist attack in itself and the killing and victimizing of innocent people." That man's name was Ronald Reagan.

Carter: On that point alone, George, I think you'd have to accept some other consequences.... New Zealand, I assume, has a perfect right to bomb Paris and I assume that if the Sandinistas could, they would have a perfect right to bomb at least training areas around Miami if not Washington....

On raising the debt ceiling and the balanced budget plan in the Senate:

Carter: It is another way of announcing that they do not really have a handle on getting the budget deficit under control and getting the national debt under control. If you think passing a resolution in 1985 is in fact going to deal with the behavior of the Congress or the President of the United States in 1986-88 or that anybody really knows what they're voting on in that resolution, I would say that you believe in the tooth fairy.

Donaldson: This resolution actually would tell them in a broad sense how to cut the budget. Next year for instance it would require another \$20B out of the Defense Department. But since you're not talking about defense contracts...you're talking about that very narrow area of manpower, of salaries, of ammunition. And you can't get \$20B out of that.

Will: There is something wrong. It's an abdication of the basic moral duty of a legislator to say, "I can't help it, we're going to take 15% out of Amtrak and 15% out of programs for spina bifida babies." Now that's crazy, that's morally repulsive, and it's an abdication of what it means to be a legislator.

On the Margaret Heckler affair:

Donaldson: Even Ronald Reagan, when he came out to tell us how wonderful it was that she'd accepted (appointment as ambassador) didn't try to sell us on the idea that she'd been promoted.

Carter: It's not the first time that a former Cabinet officer or high-ranking appointee who has been an embarrassment has gone into a "file 13," labeled "another nation." And other nations know it and the Irish, I would assume, are as unhappy about this as others have been.

Brinkley: The Irish have said they're unhappy. They have said they weren't asked. Courtesy requires that a country be asked.

THIS WEEK (continued)

Will: We have been a republic now under a constitution for nearly 200 years and have not figured out the art of resignation. Everyone appointed at that level serves at the pleasure of the President. If the President isn't pleased, he can call them in and say, "I'm no longer pleased, go home." And they should go home. Instead we have this internecine warfare conducted in the Washington press leading finally to a humiliation of the person, an embarrassment to the country to which the person is promoted. And then we have the President himself, I think, really injured by this because Ronald Reagan's strength derives from the fact that he's nice and not disingenuous and he looked neither in this case.

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CBS -- FACE THE NATION

Moderator: Lesley Stahl. Guests: Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Defense Minister, followed by Morton Kondracke of Newsweek; Robert Kupperman of the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies; Barry Rubin of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Stahl: We spoke with Rabin this morning about the Israeli raid of last week into Tunisia and recent murders of three Israelis by terrorists. I asked him if Israel would not retaliate for those murders.

Rabin: We are not going to react to one -- it's a prolonged war which we are going to use all kind of means, at first preventive means; second punishing means. We are not going to tell what we are going to do. We know it's a long war. We are ready to fight.

Stahl: But let me ask you again what you think you accomplished if you bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunisia and within a week three more Israelis are gunned down within Israel itself.

Rabin: I believe that by attacking the headquarters of the PLO terror organizations in Tunisia we didn't attack Tunisia....It doesn't mean that terror will be stopped. But no doubt terror organizations are going to pay much more heavily for their intention and for their action to continue with terror against us.

Stahl: You know there are people in this country who are thoroughly convinced that the main motive for the raid in Tunisia was Israel's desire to assassinate Yasser Arafat.

Rabin: Total nonsense. Since I am responsible to present the idea before the Cabinet, I did it before knowing even that Mr. Arafat will be there....

Stahl: Twelve Tunisians died in the raid.

Rabin: ...They were employees of the PLO and guardians of the PLO headquarters. There is no one Tunisian who was hit, injured and no doubt died, outside of the PLO compound....Therefore all countries in the area will be aware, whoever gives a refuge to terrorists will pay for keeping them there.

Stahl: Jordan as well?

Rabin: I would advise the Jordanian government to refrain from allowing it to be done and to restore the policy that was kept by Jordan for almost 15 years, a policy which practically prevented any terror acts to be originated or to be carried out from Jordan. (Policy not elaborated.)

Stahl: When you went to make the decision about the raid, knowing that King Hussein was in Washington meeting with the President at the time, did you take into consideration that this raid might embarrass Ronald Reagan and the United States Government?

FACE THE NATION (continued)

Rabin: I believe that we calculated the timing in a way that on the one hand it will be done in some sort of time relationship to the murder in Larnaca. At the same time, we waited until President Mubarak left the United States, that King Hussein delivered his speech in the United Nations and finished his meeting with President Reagan. Only then, we acted. And for the time being I don't see any change in the position of Jordan as a result of the raid...

Stahl: But Mr. Arafat is making claims that not only did the United States help Israel refuel the planes for this raid but also that President Reagan helped you plan the raid....

Rabin: Look, Israel is an independent country. We took our decision by ourselves. No one was notified whatsoever...

Stahl: Let me...ask you what your reaction has been to the sort of back and forth or changing of positions of the Reagan Administration on the raid, first seeming to condone it or endorse it and then softening its position and then finally refusing Israel's request to veto the resolution at the U.N. condemning the raid.

Rabin: I appreciate very much what was said by the President immediately after the raid. When it comes to the resolution by the United Nations Security Council, first I believe it's a shame that a so-called international organization can come with such a resolution. I'm sorry that the United States did not veto the resolution. I understand that there were other considerations. But the main blame is on the United Nations which pretends to be a peaceful organization and does nothing against international terrorism.

Guests: Robert Kupperman, Barry Rubin and Morton Kondracke.

Stahl: Bob Kupperman...if (William Buckley) is dead, do you think that the execution was carried out because of the Israeli raid into Tunisia?

Kupperman: No, I don't believe that at all. I think they're just taking kind of a double media shot. First of all they are cypcatting the Sunni operation to some extent -- that is the one that kidnapped the Soviets. But I think that they are trying to place more and more pressure on us to put back-channel means to push the Kuwaitis into releasing the various terrorists that they are holding.

Stahl: Barry Rubin, the Soviets find themselves in the same position that we have been in many times in the past. Do you think they're handling it any better than we have?

Rubin: They're certainly handling it differently, in four ways. First of all, no hostage families, no terrorists on televisions taking control of publicity. Secondly, no public implication or statement any way leading to the idea that they are negotiating with terrorists. Thirdly, behind the scenes, they put pressure on the terrorists through Soviet allies who have strong antiterrorist connections. And finally, after this is over they will probably retaliate secretly and try to assassinate terrorists whom they consider responsible for this attack.

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FACE THE NATION (continued)

Stahl: Mort Kondracke...I read a column the other day in The New York Times that suggested that the reason the Soviets have never had this happen to them before but it's happening now is because of Mr. Gorbachev's PR campaign, that terrorists don't take actions like this against countries that don't care about public opinion.

Kondracke: I thought there was a lot of sense to that column. They are pretending to be nice guys for the moment....But what both Barry and Bob have said is that we don't know what's going to happen....

Stahl: ...Why is it that we can't carry out any kind of a raid over there where you suggest the Soviets can, using surrogates or whatever, and the Israelis can by daring, bold moves? Why can't we do that?

Kupperman: There are a whole bunch of reasons. Number one is we don't necessarily have the intelligence, that is the specific knowledge as to where the given terrorists are. Number two is that we are absolutely open in what we do. That is, we have no covert capacity. Number three, we have a media that, if we go in with F-18s somewhere bombing someplace, the media is going to be in there filming charred babies. We are in deep trouble when it comes to that.

Kondracke: I think that's right....There is a concern in this country that we not kill innocent civilians....

Rubin: I think the way that the media and the Administration is handling the current issue in the Israeli raid is making it harder for the U.S. to retaliate because this was a raid in Tunisia which was aimed at the terrorist planning center of the PLO, after long provocation, dozens of attacks that the PLO had claimed, and if we portray this as something bad...then it's going to make it that much more difficult for the United States to do something in the future.

Stahl: Mort, I want to ask you if you can shed some light on what's been happening within the Reagan Administration concerning the whole Middle East, particularly the Israeli raid...

Kondracke: The Administration policy toward terrorism is schizophrenic. On the one hand, George Shultz himself has come out saying that we have got to be prepared to retaliate against terrorist organizations, to conduct preemptive raids regardless of whether innocent people get killed, right? And so that policy was the first out of the box, out of the White House from Press Secretary Larry Speakes and the President himself. It's the "Rambo" solution; we will attack terrorists. Then the second thoughts come along. This was a raid conducted in the country of an ally, Tunisia, which is under pressure from another enemy -- Libya, heavy pressure. So we have a double kind of policy....

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NBC -- MEET THE PRESS

Moderator: Marvin Kalb.

Panelists: Robert Kaiser of The Washington Post; Robert Novak.

Guest: National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

Kalb: Do you feel...that there is in these (Soviet) proposals an acceptable basis for getting an arms control agreement, perhaps even a framework for one at the summit?

McFarlane: I think that any serious observer acknowledges that it is a starting point. I doubt that even the Soviet Union pretends that this is an equitable basis for an outcome. They seem to have two motives: to terminate the United States' strategic defense program while their own continues, and secondly, to drive wedges between ourselves and our European allies....We hope, President Reagan hopes, that we can establish a framework that will lead us to an equitable, fair, verifiable outcome.

Kalb: A question that I've heard asked this week by a number of people is, why should the United States not accept a 50% cutback in long-range offensive missiles...in exchange for what is, by your definition, only a research program, the strategic defense?

McFarlane: First of all, the proposal is not 50% of offensive, strategic missiles. It is 50%...of not only strategic but of medium-range systems, of aircraft, of carrier-based aircraft, and of systems that don't have any relevance to the strategic equation. In addition, it excludes, on the Soviet side, a thousand, or actually, over 1,300 warheads on SS-20s that threaten our allies. In so many words, it says that it's all right for the Soviet Union to threaten Europe but it isn't all right for Europe to defend itself. In a nutshell, it requires the United States to choose whether we will defend our allies or we will defend ourselves, for in the limits they propose you couldn't do both....

Novak: Quite apart from their demand to junk the Strategic Defense Initiative, just if they were offering the so-called 50% proposition by itself, would that mean that we would be stronger in relation to the Soviets or weaker?...

McFarlane: It would be much weaker and the situation would be much less stable. In a nutshell, whether an outcome is better or worse is measured by whether the Soviet Union is more or less able to execute a first strike against the United States or not....

Kalb: Do you believe -- is it the U.S. Government's view that the Soviet Union right now, with all of the buildups of the past 15 years, has been putting itself in a position to go for a "first strike" against the United States?

McFarlane: I think surely that they have gone for the first-strike capability. That is different from saying that they intend to execute a first strike....

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Kaiser: How do you have a first-strike capability against a country which maintains so many nuclear weapons on invulnerable submarines at sea? I don't understand this and we keep hearing about it. We could always strike back; we could always destroy the Soviet Union....

McFarlane: Basically, if they are able in their first attack to leave you with options that are infeasible or unlikely, then they will have succeeded.

Novak: The President says that the Strategic Defense Initiative...is not a bargaining chip....And yet, in this morning's Washington Post we have White House officials saying that he has left running room on this issue, and there is an implication that many of these White House officials, including you, really do consider this a bargaining chip. What's the truth on this?

McFarlane: First of all, it ought to be clear that this past week I have insisted that my staff in no sense, on any occasion, talk to any reporter about this issue, and they haven't. So there's a lot of uninformed comment coming out of the White House.

Novak: You're not saying that Lou Cannon, the respected White House correspondent for the Washington Post, has made up these quotes by White House officials, are you?

McFarlane: I'm saying that it is one thing to speak about what is the President's policy. I'm sure Lou didn't talk to the President, for the President's made it very clear publicly that his objective here is to provide for a safer world, both for us and the Soviet Union and our allies and all of mankind. He is posing the question, is it feasible for us to move away from exclusive reliance on non-nuclear defensive systems. And he intends to pursue that through a vigorous research testing program, which is clearly consistent with the ABM treaty.

Kalb: The President is saying that in terms of research he is also talking about research and testing. The Russians consider that testing is part of development. Now is there not in there some area for potential compromise if in fact both sides are seeking an agreement that embraces SDI?

McFarlane: I think that the President is guided by the ABM Treaty and the terms of that treaty are very explicit....They make clear that on research involving new physical concepts that that activity, as well as testing, as well as development indeed, are approved and authorized by the treaty. Only deployment is foreclosed, except in accordance with Articles XIII and XIV....

Novak: Quoted in this story is Michael K. Deaver...and it says, and I have heard this previously, that he has been brought into the White House to advise on the PR on the summit. Is he advising you on what positions to take at the summit? Is that his role?

McFarlane: I think first of all that I would welcome Mike's counsel on how this meeting can best fulfill the President's goals for it. He knows the President quite well....

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Kaiser: ...Why aren't you applauding the fact that the Russians have finally seen it your way, have agreed on the need for 50% reductions, and why aren't you taking them up on this in an aggressive way? It seems to me that you won. Why can't you declare a victory?

McFarlane: I do applaud the commitment to reductions, and I don't mean to be frivolous about that. There are elements in that proposal that we find a very constructive beginning, but not an end...

Novak: We have been talking about arms control in this program. That's all anybody is talking about. There is no conversation about the Soviet outrages in Afghanistan, Soviet violation of human rights, Soviet meddling in Central America. You people are quiet about that. Haven't they won the propaganda war leading up to the summit?

McFarlane: Not at all, and I'm glad you raised this issue because if indeed as President Reagan wants, we're going to establish a stable basis for U.S.-Soviet relations in the 21st Century, it's got to deal with this kind of issue -- regional disagreements, human rights issues, and other bilateral issues which probably transcend in importance the arms control issue.

Kalb: Has the Israeli raid against the PLO headquarters in Tunisia badly hurt America's interests in the Middle East?

McFarlane: I think that's not accurate. I think that what we have seen is terrorism escalated through a cycle of action and reaction to an intolerable state. It is understandable and I expect that it is sobering, and that sobering effect will be perhaps some retrenchment by all parties. But I think that the commitment to peace that is evidenced by King Hussein, by Prime Minister Peres, will be renewed and can achieve some milestones of progress within a month's time. President Reagan's committed to that.

Novak: How do you think President Bourguiba and his government in Tunisia felt after having been asked by the United States to give sanctuary to the PLO after being brought into the Western setup, they are attacked by Israeli warplanes and the White House spokesman says that's okay?

McFarlane: I think President Reagan's support for, friendship for President Bourguiba and Tunisia and clearly his knowledge of the threats that they face from neighbors is firm and enduring. Now as a separate matter, there is a terrorist headquarters in Tunisia and recently the PLO has fomented violence against Israel...and it led Israel to respond.

Kalb: You were talking about something developing possibly in the Middle East, within a month. Are you making reference there, indirectly, to the United States sitting down with a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation and in that way advancing the peace process?

McFarlane: No, but I wouldn't describe on this show exactly what we have in mind. It'll involve cooperation with both Jordan and Israel. It has to.

AGRONSKY & COMPANY

Moderator: Martin Agronsky.

Panelists: Elizabeth Drew, Jack Kilpatrick, Carl Rowan, Hugh Sidey.

On arms control:

Agronsky: Are Gorbachev and Reagan moving closer to an arms control agreement?

Talbott: Yes they are. And the Soviets have made some significant movement just in the past week. But this proposal that they have made to the United States for the arms control agreement, they have put on the table some positions...that are clearly unacceptable to the United States, but there are some other aspects to it that are negotiable and still some that are really quite positive. I think that on the basis of this negotiation now there will be an agreement, not in time for the summit meeting in November but before the end of Reagan's second term.

Drew: You have to assume that what the Soviets have put forward...is not its final position....It contains the outlines of a package that many people have thought if there is an agreement would have to contain and that is in exchange for deep reductions in offensive weapons the United States would have to limit its proceeding with star wars....I've also noticed out of our Administration some suggestions that maybe they would limit star wars.

Rowan: After some stumbles down a very rocky road and some heavy bumps between the United States and the Soviet Union and some serious strains in the Western Alliance, we will get an arms control agreement.

Kilpatrick: I'm in the minority as usual. I don't think any significant agreement is going to come out of this. You look at Gorbachev's proposals, as much as we know about them, and they all fall apart like a blueberry muffin. I don't think there's much to them and I'm not sure that Gorbachev wants an agreement.

Agronsky: I'm with the majority in being optimistic...

Talbott: ...The leaking out of this Administration has come, I'm convinced, from the conservatives, the hardliners who want to see the thing discredited....It's interesting that President Reagan's own comments have been somewhat more favorable than those of some of his Cabinet officers....I think that's because, among other things, he wants to keep his options open. He doesn't want to give the Soviets an excuse to say the Americans aren't taking this seriously.

Rowan: I think the number two player (the President being number one) is Mrs. Reagan. And I am just as convinced as I can be that she wants her husband to reach an arms agreement. And I don't think he is locked in concrete in some of these things. Nor can Gorbachev be...

AGRONSKY & COMPANY (continued)

On Israel's bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunisia:

Kilpatrick: I loved it. I love the Israelis; I admire them excessively. They do something. We don't. We stand around fumbling, twittling our fingers....It's too bad they missed Arafat but this was a good thing.

Rowan: Doing something is not necessarily wise....I said right from this chair when they went into Lebanon that Israel and the United States would pay dearly for that invasion. The records show that I was right. This they will pay dearly for also in another cycle of violence in the Middle East. Tunisia did not export the killings in Lacarna. We asked the Tunisians to take the PLO. Shultz admitted that in an interview with The New York Times editors just the day before yesterday....

Talbott: Over the years, the Israelis have tended to get away with these kind of lightening strikes of retaliation, and they have not paid a big price for that. I think it's false to compare that to their invasion of Lebanon.

Agronsky: Entebbe brought no violent reaction, the Israeli strike against the nuclear reactor in Baghdad brought no violent reaction.

Drew: ...I think the more significant thing though was the confusion within our own government. The President made a statement, the Secretary of State didn't know it. The Secretary of Defense disagreed. It's a strange way to make policy.

On the Margaret Heckler affair:

Drew: It wasn't a very pretty picture and obviously what they did was fire her....But it's really rather appalling how the whole thing was handled....The President has every right to get rid of whomever he wants for whatever reason. But for months now it was leaking out of the White House, and it wasn't very hard to figure out what part of the White House it was coming from, that Mr. Regan was very unhappy with Mrs. Heckler....So finally in this very degrading, almost tasteless way, they finally brought it to a head....There's another side of this that sort of bothers me. The President isn't really very good at handling personnel....

Rowan: Not only was it shameful, this public hanging of Mrs. Heckler, but how would you like to be an official in Ireland? I mean the Irish press is saying not only has this man who claims to love Ireland decided to use us as a dumping ground, but he thinks we are dumb enough to believe him when he says this is a promotion. It was bad domestic policy, it was bad taste, and it was destructive of our relationship with Ireland.

Kilpatrick: This is all inside the beltway stuff; I don't think out abroad in the land people give a hoorah about Mrs. Heckler, Cabinet secretaries or ambassadors, any of them....

Talbott: But they do care about the character of the President of the United States and he was clearly trying to use this whole episode to show that he's a nice guy.

AGRONSKY & COMPANY (continued)

On the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget amendment:

Talbott: I think this is the classic inside-the-Beltway Washington gimmick so that all parties to it can say they have an answer to the budget deficit.

Drew: ...What this is about is members of Congress, faced with having to raise that debt limit to \$2 trillion, want to appear to do something about the deficit. Not having done enough substantive about it, they have come up with procedures....Most of these people are voting on this thing without any clear picture of how it would work, what it does to the balance of power between the President and the Congress. It may not be a bad idea to enact a version of this proposal, but they really should stop and look at it and think about it.

Rowan: It is so easy to sit up there when you're under some pressure from back home...to talk about what you're going to do in 1991....David Stockman told them the truth the other day when he said you've got to raise taxes by \$100M.

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THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP

Moderator: John McLaughlin

Panelists: Richard Cohen, Washington Post, Morton Kondracke, Robert Novak, Jack Germond.

On Gorbachev and Arms Reduction:

McLaughlin: Gorbachev proposed a 50 percent cut in strategic nuclear weapons by the U.S. and U.S.S.R., plus a total ban on "Star Wars." What are the merits of the Gorbachev proposal?

Cohen: I think there is substance underneath the "French Dressing" that you talked about. In the first place you have a proposed 50 percent cut, but behind that substance is a greater substance -- an admission, it seems to me, by the Russian leader saying that they don't need all these nuclear weapons, that they don't feel terribly threatened by a reduction of 40 percent, even if it turns out to be something less than that.

Novak: What that is is a cutback only to their positions of pre-Kissinger-1972 where they want us to remove our forward basing systems from the continent of Europe. It's 50 percent of nothing. It's a bad deal, even if we didn't have to give up SDI.

Germond: I think this whole episode is bizarre, the whole idea of this whole thing being conducted in public.... The way we're going to find out about this is when we actually get down to negotiations in a smaller group and at the Summit. This whole public thing that Gorbachev has done, and the response of this country, means that the Summit can never meet the expectations for that Summit now.

Kondracke: This was a shockingly one-side proposal on behalf of the Soviets. If Ronald Reagan had introduced a proposal like this, people would be screaming bloody murder that he was presenting a proposal that was not negotiable. They want to keep their SS-24's and 25's, which they've tested. They want us to give up the Midgetman, the D-5 missile, and the Stealth bomber, and "Star Wars." They want the whole thing.

Cohen: My feeling is that you go in and negotiate. I'm not saying accept it for what it is. What I think is notable about it is the admission within all this talk, that they can cut back on the number...

Novak: No such admission is made. What they are saying is that after they finish all this -- we're taking out our forward-basing systems, their commensurate weapons stay in place -- there is absolutely no change. They are in a stronger position than they started in.

Kondracke: Let us not take this 50 percent offer at meaning what it sounds like, that they're going to eliminate 50 percent of all missiles. They still will be left with a first-strike capability against America's land-based missiles.

MCLAUGHLIN GROUP (continued)

Do the Russians want to negotiate in Geneva?

Cohen: Yes. Novak: I believe Gorbachev when he says he doesn't like the arms race. He doesn't like us running; he likes us like we were with Jimmy Carter when they did the running and we didn't. They want a one-side deal or nothing. Germond: I think both sides want to negotiate. Kondracke: I think they want us to give up SDI under pressure from public opinion, and they will give up the minimum necessary. I think he would like to have a respite on his terms, if he can get the West to give up SDI.

On the Israeli bombing of PLO Headquarters in Tunisia:

McLaughlin: President Reagan said that Israel has the right to retaliate against terrorists "as long as you pick out the people responsible." The State Department then said the act was "deplorable," leaving the Administration's position confused. On Friday, Moslem terrorists announced that they had executed U.S. Embassy official William Buckley to avenge Israel's PLO raid in Tunisia. Was the Israeli air attack justified?

Cohen: If you are talking about was it wise, I think it was not. I don't think it had anything to do with the PLO in Tunis. I think it had everything to do with the West Bank, teaching a lesson to both Syria and Jordan that Israel will not tolerate any PLO presence in Jordan and will not tolerate any kind of military buildup on...

Novak: I think there's something more to it than that. I think you've got to remember there's been lots of incidents and this is the first time since 1981 that Israeli warplanes have crossed the border to bomb an Arab city....I don't think there's any doubt that the Israelis were trying to disrupt and confuse the peace negotiations, the peace process put forward by King Hussein and trying, very successfully, to get the United States off balance...

Germond: There is no justification for this thing....The rationale the Israelis use in this kind of an attack is that it will deter further attacks. The history of this thing in the Middle East is that is not true. What we do is we keep escalating attacks...

Kondracke: The killing of innocent civilian people is...unjustified. The bombing was badly done....This is a wartime situation. I'm not defending the Israelis for killing Tunisians. What I am saying though is this is a war between the PLO and the Israelis....The Israelis want to strike back, they don't want to strike back at Jordan. The PLO is responsible for some of the raids...

Novak: ...Speakes puts out this incredible statement (in favor of the raid) which cuts off the moderate in charge in Tunisia. It makes the friendship of the United States look horrible. Even George Shultz, who is hardly pro-Arab, calls from New York and says what the hell is going on? What a way for an Administration to run a policy.

McLaughlin: The Administration is in chaos on this issue.

MCLAUGHLIN GROUP (continued)

Germond: ...My Lord, you'd hope the President would have enough judgment himself not to say something that stupid...

On the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction plan:

Novak: This is going to go right through the Senate....There are two guns pointed at people's heads on this. One at the defense spending; the question is, is this going to be a threat to defense spending. And the other, and this is why the White House is behind it, on the Great Society. And the question is, can Tip O'Neill go along with this, take the risk, or can he take the even bigger risk of blocking it.

Germond: This is the biggest piece of political garbage I have seen in a long time. What it tells you is that the Republicans in the Senate, and rightfully so, are worried to death about the deficit issue. They come up with this gimmick -- which by the way has all sorts of loopholes in it. It does not get away from the basic question of whether you still have to face defense spending levels, revenue levels and entitlement levels....

Kondracke: ...Only in cases of war and recession is there a loophole out of this and it really could work for a change.

Cohen: If this becomes enacted, you will still have another half-a-trillion dollars of debt.

McLaughlin: Don't you think that Ronald Reagan was a little bit cowardly, as were the authors of the amendment, in omitting Social Security from it?

Will this be passed by the Congress?

Cohen: No. Novak: It will be because they don't have the guts to block it in the House. Germond: I think not, probably. It will cool off. Kondracke: I think it will pass. McLaughlin: I think it will pass...

On the Margaret Heckler incident:

Germond: It has no political significance because Margaret Heckler has no constituency....The only political significance is another example of the President able to go out and bare-facedly say that black is white and get away with it.

Kondracke: I thought I noticed Ronald Reagan's nose grow four inches...

McLaughlin: If she does well in Ireland, will she get another promotion and go to Somatra?

Novak: The significance is that everybody knows that Peggy Heckler should never have been named to that job in the first place. She was a ridiculous appointment. She had no support. And yet everybody was upset in the Congress because they didn't like the way Don Regan treated her. Don Regan has a problem; he does the right thing in the wrong way and that's a long-term problem.

Cohen: Absolutely. That's the political significance. This is one of the more clumsy firings we've seen in a long time....

4:30 P.M. NEWS UPDATE

PARSIPPANY, N.J. (AP) -- President Reagan carried his "Star Wars" campaign into a partisan setting Friday, telling New Jersey Republicans that the GOP, "with the help of many Democrats," has stood up for the space-based missile defense plan in the face of demands for its abandonment.

ARMS CONTROL (AP) -- Senior Reagan administration arms control experts charged Friday that the Soviet Union wants the United States to abandon its "Star Wars" program so Moscow can go ahead with its own clandestine space defense projects. The Soviets could be ready to deploy advanced space-based defense systems by the end of this century, said Paul H. Nitze, President Reagan's special arms control adviser.

Richard Perle, the assistant secretary for defense, said the Soviets "had the field to themselves" during the dozen years before Reagan announced his Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly known as Star Wars, in March of 1983.

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A State Department official said Friday all the American hostages in Lebanon are presumed alive despite reports that U.S. Embassy official William Buckley has been executed. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said the United States has no confirmation of Buckley's execution and, he said, "we are urgently seeking information." He said the United States continues to operate on the assumption that all six of the American hostages in Lebanon are alive.

BAKER (Reuter/Anchorage) -- Secretary Baker said today he plans to unveil a comprehensive initiative for dealing with the global debt crisis during the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings next week. In an interview with a small group of reporters as he travelled to Seoul, South Korea, for the meetings, Baker said the initiative would build on the so-called "case by case" approach to the debt crisis that has been the mainstay of the Western strategy on the issue until now.

MONUMENT THREAT (UPI) -- A bomb threat forced the closing of the Washington Monument Friday, but no explosives were found, the National Park Service said. A person who identified himself as a member of "Americans for America" called a local newspaper and television station at 10 a.m. EDT, park service spokesman Earl Kittelman said. The caller to television station WJLA said the monument would be destroyed at 4 p.m., and the caller to the newspaper, The Washington Times, indicated the monument would be blown up later in the evening, the call said. Police bomb squads evacuated and searched the monument for three hours but found nothing.

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (UPI) -- A Syrian-arranged cease-fire between warring Moslem gunmen took effect Friday in Tripoli, where more than 500 people died in a 20-day battle for control of the northern port city. Moslem fundamentalists who kidnapped four Soviet Embassy officials in Beirut Monday had demanded an end to the fighting as a condition for releasing their Russian hostages. One of the Soviets was executed, but the fate of the others could not be immediately determined.

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) -- Islamic Jihad terrorists Friday announced the "execution" of U.S. Embassy official William Buckley, but President Reagan said the report could not be confirmed. The Soviet Union evacuated most of its embassy staff following the murder of a kidnapped Soviet official.

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4:30 P.M. NEWS UPDATE (continued)

BUDGET (UPI) -- A congressional plan to balance the budget by fiscal 1991, endorsed by President Reagan, ran into a snag today when some senators balked at attaching the measure to the bill needed to raise the debt ceiling. Senate Republican leader Robert Dole earlier predicted the balanced budget amendment would "sail through" the Senate and it appeared to be picking up steam. But later in the day some Republicans refused to go along and Democrats, who could not agree on an alternative strategy, also rebelled. Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd urged Dole to pass a small increase in the debt ceiling temporarily to give senators time to look at the plan. Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., argued against the plan, saying Congress already has the power to balance the budget with taxes or spending cuts. "This is a legislative substitute for the guts we do not have to do what needs to be done," he said. Senate Democrats were working on an alternative proposal that would reduce the deficit to zero by 1990, a year earlier than Gramm-Rudman, and call for specific budget cuts.

NOBEL PRIZE (UPI) -- President Reagan, Jewish holocaust author Elie Wiesel and David Lange, the anti-nuclear Prime Minister of New Zealand, are among the record 99 nominees for this week's Nobel Peace Prize.

CAPTIVE (UPI) -- An American working on a book in Lebanon is reportedly being held "against his will" in Beirut by a Christian rightist group, but not as a political hostage, the State Department said Friday. The man was identified as Steve Donahue of Hollywood, Fla., who had been in Lebanon working on a book with a British writer about drug smuggling there. "The State Department was advised in August that he was being held against his will," said spokesman Bernard Kalb.

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