

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

---

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

---

**Collection:** News Summary Office, White House:  
News Summaries, 1981-1989

**Series:** II: WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY FINALS,  
1981-1989

**Folder Title:** 10/17/1985

**Box:** 384

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

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

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

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

# MORNING DIGEST

## Foreign Media Reaction

United States  
Information  
Agency

Thursday, October 17, 1985

### Summary

#### HIJACKING AFTERMATH

Media in several capitals closely followed developments in the wake of the Achille Lauro hijacking including the collapse of the Craxi Government, the recovery of Leon Klinghoffer's body, the current Peres visit to Washington and the fate of the Mideast peace process.....Page 2

#### U.S.-USSR RELATIONS

The "Kremlin letter" on a formal arms offer to Britain and "satisfaction" with Secretary Shultz's explanation at the Brussels NATO ministerial meeting of U.S. SDI promotion within a "narrower" interpretation of the ABM Treaty--all as leadup to the November Reagan-Gorbachev meeting--were the highlights of scattered media reporting.....Page 7

#### NICARAGUA

Media abroad expressed concern over Managua's renewed suspension of civil rights, with some observers judging that this action marked the unmasking of a "totalitarian" system and another blaming Washington's "efforts to destroy" the Sandinistas.....Page 10

#### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

West European media today headlined the Administration's proposal to challenge EEC agricultural subsidies. East Asian media continued to protest "U.S. protectionism.".....Page 12

#### BRIEFS

WEINBERGER ON WORLDNET.....Page 14

HIJACKING AFTERMATH--Media in several capitals closely followed developments in the wake of the Achille Lauro hijacking including the collapse of the Craxi Government, the recovery of Leon Klinghoffer's body, the current Peres visit to Washington and the fate of the Mid-east peace process.

BRITAIN: "Italian Government Fallen Victim to U.S. Action"

Today's independent Times carried a Rome correspondent's assertion that the Italian Government "has fallen victim to the action taken by its ally, the United States, in demanding the arrest and extradition of Mr. Abu Abbas..."

ITALY: "Craxi Government Resigns"

Today's press bannered "Craxi Government Resigns," noting that it was "the first Government crisis in the history of the Italian Republic caused by differences on foreign policy."

"White House Does Not Shed Tears"

Other headlines included "White House Does Not Shed Tears Over Rome's Political Storm" (Corriere della Sera), "White House Does Not Comment but Does Not Seem Displeased for Now" (La Stampa), "'You Should Have Held That Killer'...New Accusations to Italian Government From White House" (La Repubblica), "White House 'Throws Oil on the Fire'" (Il Messaggero) and "White House Does Not Comment but Is Now Happy" (Communist l'Unita).

"Washington's 'Coup de Grace'"

Gaetano Scardocchia, writing from New York in centrist Corriere della Sera, said of the Speakes press conference yesterday: "The White House clarification has inserted itself into Italy's political turmoil, and could therefore be interpreted as Washington's 'coup de grace' delivered to the Craxi Government.

"But Washington officials deny, of course, such an allegation and point out that the crisis of the five-party coalition 'is not a desired outcome.'..."

"White House Not Sorry"

Centrist La Stampa of Turin ran New York correspondent Ennio Caretto's assertion that "the only conclusion one can draw is that the White House...is not sorry about the...fall of the Craxi Government. Or at least, that Craxi himself or his successor will have to clarify Italy's 'midpolitik.'..."

"The Healing Process Has Already Begun"

Washington correspondent Vittorio Zucconi stated in leftist La Repubblica: "Washington does not show publicly any sign of regret, but the healing process has already begun to prevent the wound from becoming more serious..."

"However, there was no political willingness to help Craxi and Andreotti. Shultz, we have now learned, was under very strict and precise orders not to grant any certificate of 'good behavior' to the Italians..."

"In sum, Americans believe that Rome is paying for the unbearable ambiguity of its position, of its being always half-Mediterranean and half-Atlantic, half pro-South and half pro-North and a little bit of everything to everybody. It is the difficult exercise of an acrobat, who has come up against the Reagan cyclone."

FRANCE: "It Was Murder"

Among Paris headlines today were "Rambo Reagan Strikes in the Air" (VSD), "The Body Is That of Klinghoffer" (Figaro), "Irrefutable Evidence" (Quotiden), "It Was a Murder" (Le Matin) and "Anger in the Arab World" (Communist Humanite).

"Peres Plan Risks Being Heard Now"

Today's conservative Figaro ran Washington correspondent Denis Legras' statement that "unacceptable a few weeks ago, Peres' plan risks being heard with great interest in Washington by President Reagan and his advisers as well as by U.S. opinion which largely share Israel's views on the responsibilities for the Achille Lauro affair..."

"The State Department may not agree to the elimination of the PLO for fear that in excluding Arafat, Jordan--as Egypt after Camp David--might be rejected by the Arab world. It would be a serious handicap for U.S. diplomacy."

"Israel's Old Dream About to Be Realized"

Communist Humanite asserted today that "the death of a passenger has already been used as a pretext by America to decide that any negotiations with Arafat's PLO are impossible....

"As to Peres who arrived last night in Washington, his main objective is to eliminate the PLO forever from any sort of negotiations....The old dream of Israel--to decide the fate of the Palestinians without their participation--is about to be realized..."

SWITZERLAND: What Western Europe Should Do About PLO

A front-page editorial in yesterday's conservative Journal de Geneve said, "It is tempting to abandon the Palestinian cause after such despicable crimes as the murder of Klinghoffer...but that won't solve the Palestinian problem..."

"The only reasonable solution for Western Europe is to keep its lines open to the PLO, while avoiding any collusion with terrorism."

CANADA: "Americans Still Have to Learn a Fundamental Lesson"

Yesterday's independent Ottawa Citizen said in an editorial headed "Seizing Terrorists; Offending Allies" that "Washington's anger at the Italian Government for allowing Abu Abbas to leave Italy is understandable. It is not justified."

"Americans still have to learn a fundamental lesson about international relations: their views and desires cannot be forced on their allies, let alone other countries."

YUGOSLAVIA: "Dilemmas Abroad and Internally for U.S."

Belgrade's Politika yesterday front-paged New York correspondent Dusan Simic's assertion that "a lot of new details are coming to light which indicate that the interception of the Egyptian aircraft has caused dilemmas not only abroad, but also among the very highest levels of the U.S. Administration."

ISRAEL: Reagan-Peres Meeting Today

Today's independent Maariv bannered Washington correspondent Oded Granot's report that "the Reagan-Peres meeting today at the White House will be marked by differences over the U.S.-Jordanian arms deal and, on the other hand, a meeting of the minds on the need to step up and formalize antiterror co-operation.

"American sources said that the President will make an attempt to persuade Peres that the sale of sophisticated American arms to Jordan is not going to compromise Israel's security and that the deal will further help Hussein feel more at liberty to make independent moves and perhaps even to disassociate himself from the PLO."

"Peace Process Not Destroyed"

According to Washington correspondent Wolf Blitzer in today's independent Jerusalem Post, a senior Administration official indicated in a pre-visit briefing that "the most recent terrorist incidents have complicated the peace process but have not destroyed it...

"No dramatic developments are to be expected during the visit. However, the Prime Minister will have solid exchanges in Washington on a whole host of issues, particularly on the peace process..."

WEST BANK: Anti-U.S. Demonstrators in Sudan

All Arabic-language papers today gave prominent coverage to Arafat's address to anti-U.S. demonstrators in Sudan, and their insistence that he avenge the U.S. interception of the Achille Lauro hijackers.

EGYPT: "Is U.S. Seriously Committed to Peace in Mideast?"

Today's Government-affiliated al-Akhbar commented editorially on this week's decision by the British Government not to hold talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation: "It is strange that all these peace moves on the part of the PLO were called off as a result of heavy pressure by the Reagan Administration, which consistently declares that it is seriously committed to achieving peace in the Middle East.

"Can we trust such declarations? We do not think so, unless America gives tangible evidence as quickly as possible of its seriousness."

MOROCCO: "U.S. Decision to Confront PLO"

The Istiqlal Party paper l'Opinion today carried a front page editorial remarking that "the hijacking of the Egyptian plane was aimed above all at the Palestinians."

"This is the first time that American forces have intervened directly against Palestinians..."

"The United States has made the decision to confront, with all its political, military and diplomatic force, the PLO and its president..."

PAKISTAN: "U.S. Action Ruined Peace Efforts in Mideast"

Urdu-language Jang, in a media roundup today, concluded in an editorial, "The reaction by moderate Arab countries shows that the U.S. action (intercepting the Egyptian plane) has ruined efforts for peace in the Mideast."

INDONESIA: "An Invitation to Further Violence"

Jakarta's pro-Government Indonesia Times commented on a report that Washington might try a military raid to capture Mr. Abbas and warned today, "If the United States succumbs to this temptation, it will invite further violent reprisals and accelerate the tit-for-tat terrorism in the Middle East and other parts of the world."

AUSTRALIA: "Politics Gone Mad"

Today's Australian Financial Review said, "It is now claimed that the Americans have put the leaders of two close allies--Egypt and Italy--at risk."

"This is politics gone mad. Why should a U.S. Administration, grappling with the deepest problems of world economics and military security, be expected to worry about the piddling internalities of leftwing politics in Italy?"

"Reagan and Rambo Are Different"

Today's Sydney Morning Herald had the headline "Rambo and Reagan's Tactics Are Different" over a story by Washington correspondent Jenni Hewett that "the most remarkable aspect of Reagan's responses on terrorism so far has not been his gung-ho approach, but his restraint..."

SOUTH AFRICA: "No Arguments About Concessions to Terrorism"

The English-language Citizen yesterday, remarking on the disagreement among the United States, Italy and Egypt over how to handle the terrorists, argued, "There should have been no argument about not making any concessions to terrorists....The only good thing that has come out of it all is that the PLO has shown itself in its true colors and received a severe setback."

\* \* \* \* \*

U.S.-USSR RELATIONS--The "Kremlin letter" on a formal arms offer to Britain and "satisfaction" with Secretary Shultz's explanation at the Brussels NATO ministerial meeting of U.S. SDI promotion within a "narrower" interpretation of the ABM Treaty--all as leadup to the November Reagan-Gorbachev meeting--were the highlights of scattered media reporting.

BRITAIN: "Gorbachev Arms Plea to Britain"

A conservative Daily Telegraph diplomatic correspondent reported under the above headline: "The Soviet leader, Mr. Gorbachev, has formally invited Mrs. Thatcher to nuclear disarmament talks with Russia, it was disclosed last night...

"By sending a personal letter to Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Gorbachev is putting Britain in a delicate diplomatic situation barely a month before the Soviet leader's summit with President Reagan next month..."

More "Wedge Driving"

The paper added this editorial comment: "It is clear that Mr. Gorbachev is not disposed to take no for an answer and he feels the British will be a lot more reasonable, malleable even, than the French....If this is not wedge-driving, what is it?"

WEST GERMANY: "Washington's Course for Summit Clearer"

Headlines in the FRG this morning were "NATO Partners Have Fallen in Step in Brussels...Washington's Course for Geneva Summit Is Becoming Clearer" (General-Anzeiger) and "Bonn Very Satisfied With Washington's Assurances...NATO Allies Want to See ABM Treaty Guaranteed" (Frankfurter Rundschau).



Other headlines included "Bonn Welcomes Restrictive Interpretation of ABM Treaty, Sees Difficult Phase in U.S.-European Relations Overcome" (Sueddeutsche Zeitung) and "NATO Takes More Optimistic View of Summit Meeting" (Bonner Rundschau).

"Difficult Situation in Alliance Has Been Overcome"

A byliner in Bonn's independent General-Anzeiger commented, "Bonn sources say President Reagan's guidelines--in favor of a more restrictive interpretation of the ABM Treaty--provide for a successful summit meeting....As a result of the President's decision, a difficult situation in the Alliance has been overcome..."

"NATO unity has been restored by the firm American assurance that the SDI program will remain restricted to research unless something else is agreed upon within the Alliance and with the USSR. Thus, the special NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels was very important for establishing the course for the summit preparations..."

"New York 'Summit' Expected to Produce Understanding"

Conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine reported from Bonn, "The New York 'summit' is expected to produce understanding on how future U.S.-Soviet relations could develop..."

BELGIUM: "Little Ones Had Their Say"

Among headlines in Belgium today were "Shultz Pledges Strict Observance of ABM Treaty...NATO Countries Urge 'Creative' Response to Soviet Proposal" (liberal, Catholic De Standaard), "Little Ones Had Their Say" (conservative Het Laatste Nieuws), "U.S. Will Stick Strictly to ABM Treaty" (conservative, Catholic Gazet Van Antwerpen) and "NATO Recovers Its Cohesion Before Geneva Meeting" (labor, Catholic La Cite).

"Almost Unanimous Agreement on U.S. Positions"

Today's independent Le Soir of Brussels had this byliner's comment: "The 'small' members of the Alliance were informed of the U.S. positions on Mr. Gorbachev's recent offers....There was almost unanimous agreement on them..."

"The deployment of the U.S. Euromissiles is no longer questioned."

SOVIET UNION: "Star Wars Repackaged"

Moscow TASS international service in Russian last night commented under the above headline, "The head of the White House has stated--in Boise, Idaho--that 'certain forces' have distorted the essence of SDI....He asserted that his 'initiative'...is highly moral...and (contributes) to 'the cause of peace.'"

"In his words SDI should be called the Strategic Defense Shield or Strategic Space Shield.

"A legitimate question arises: is the essence of SDI altered even to the slightest degree as a result of (Reagan's) verbal rope-walking? The answer is clear: there is nothing defensive about SDI; an offensive system is being created..."

JAPAN: "NATO Meeting Called to Unite Western Views"

Liberal Tokyo Shimbun's Paris correspondent said, "The foreign ministers' meeting was called in order to unite Western views toward the November Reagan-Gorbachev summit...and was more important than expected..."

"U.S. Narrower Interpretation of ABM Treaty"

Tokyo's economic journal Nihon Keizai reported from the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels, "On the SDI problem, Shultz pointed out that the United States is taking a stand of a narrower (restrictive) interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

"This interpretation was made out of consideration for European concern that if SDI research progresses to the development and testing stage, it may be in violation of the ABM Treaty..."

NICARAGUA--Media abroad expressed concern over Managua's renewed suspension of civil rights, with some observers judging that this action marked the unmasking of a "totalitarian" system and another blaming Washington's "efforts to destroy" the Sandinistas.

FRANCE: "Sandinistas Limit Freedom"

These were typical headlines in Paris this morning "Sandinistas Limit Freedom to Disarm 'Inside Enemies'" (Le Monde), "Nicaragua at Wits' End...Path to Despair" (La Croix), "Nicaragua: The Truth Comes Out...Implacable Logic of a Totalitarian System...France-Nicaragua Honeymoon Dimming" (Quotidien) and "In Face of Aggression" (Communist Humanite).

"Commandantes Incapable of Renouncing Revolutionary Dreams"

A byliner wrote today for influential Le Monde's front page, "Apparently, Managua's commandantes are incapable of renouncing their revolutionary dreams and their 'plan' for a society similar to Cuba's..."

"They have given additional arguments to their adversaries, at home and abroad, who denounce the new step made toward a 'totalitarian system.'"

"Sandinista Failures Due to U.S. Efforts to Destroy Them"

Catholic La Croix's editorial read, "It is clear that if the Sandinistas were unable to restore the situation in a country whose capital is still a ruin and the economy a disaster, they owe it to the considerable and lasting efforts conducted by the United States to destroy them."

Jaruzelski Coup, Nicaraguan Style

The front-page editorial in right-of-center Quotidien pointed out, "There is no more freedom in Nicaragua. Ortega made the same kind of coup that Jaruzelski made....Now the masks have been removed."

"Reagan Can Be Satisfied...Sandinistas Are Weakening"

Pro-Socialist Le Matin commented editorially, "Reagan...is responsible for imposing the tension of a war which leads to limitation of civil rights. But it would be an oversimplification to blame U.S. policy alone..."

"Reagan can be satisfied. In suspending civil rights and in trying to regain strength, the Sandinista revolution is weakening."

"True Enemies: Opposition, Press and Church"

Left-of-center Liberation said in an editorial, "Democracy has never been the ideal of the Sandinistas....Military danger is only a pretext. The true enemies are the opposition party, the press and mainly the church."

WEST GERMANY: "Ortega's Strike Directed at the Church"

Today's headlines read "Ortega's Strike Directed Primarily at the Church" (Die Welt) and "Nicaragua Suspends Civil Rights for One Year...President Ortega Justifies Measure With Continuing Aggression by U.S. and Contras" (Frankfurter Rundschau).

"A New Round of Confrontation Between Church and Managua?"

A byliner remarked in Bonn's conservative Die Welt, "Diplomatic observers believe that this measure is directed particularly against the Catholic church and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo..."

"The church fears that there will be a new round of confrontation with the Sandinista system."

IRELAND: "Nicaragua at War, U.S. Is the Enemy"

The liberal Irish Times held this morning, "What these prohibitions seem to amount to is the operational recognition that Nicaragua is in a state of war, and the enemy is the United States."

NICARAGUA: "Rebel Offensive to Aid Reagan in Summit"

Managua's Radio Sandino claimed yesterday that the United States has ordered the rebels to launch a military offensive in the next few days "in order to give the United States a strong position at the summit meeting Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will hold in Geneva..."

HONDURAS: "Beginning of Nicaragua's Isolation?"

Commenting on Ecuador's recent breaking of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua, Tegucigalpa's moderate La Tribuna argued yesterday this action could be "the beginning of Nicaragua's isolation....(Ecuadoran President) Febres Cordero's reaction is that of a democracy facing a totalitarian system that outrages the dignity of man."

INTERNATIONAL TRADE--West European media today headlined the Administration's proposal to challenge EEC agricultural subsidies. East Asian media continued to protest "U.S. protectionism."

BRITAIN: "Reagan Starts GATT Action"

Among London headlines today were "Europe Food Subsidies Invoke Wrath of U.S." (Guardian) and "Reagan Starts GATT Action on EEC Wheat Subsidies" (Financial Times).

"Formal Proceedings Initiated in GATT"

Today's liberal Guardian ran Washington correspondent Michael White's report that "President Reagan last night stepped up his campaign against EEC food subsidies by initiating formal proceedings against Brussels under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva.

"The White House has recently introduced a number of aggressive moves against trading partners who in Washington's opinion 'cheat' and last night's initiative was accompanied by an investigation of South Korea's alleged abuse of United States 'intellectual copyright'...

"There are signs that the Reagan moves are already choking off protectionist fever on Capitol Hill..."

"Reagan on Offensive"

Financial Times Washington correspondent Nancy Dunne and a Brussels correspondent wrote: "President Ronald Reagan yesterday went on the offensive over trade problems facing the United States by announcing that he was to take complaints about European Community wheat subsidies to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade..."

"The move against the EEC seems certain to lead to a sharp deterioration in the already poor relations between the Community and the United States over agricultural trade..."

SOUTH KOREA: "Is There No Breach in Principle of Fairness?"

Liberal Donga Ilbo in an editorial today noted "the second recent 301 action against Korea" and judged that "the principle of fair trade being adhered to by the Reagan Administration can neither be criticized nor deplored.

"But...is the United States confident it can fairly apply its section 301 to all trade fields of all nations? Is there no hint of a breach in U.S. application of the principle of fairness in demanding the opening of the Korean market?"

"U.S. Utilizing Retaliation"

Independent Joongang Ilbo Washington correspondent Chang Doo-sung said, "The United States is now utilizing the retaliatory measure as an example.

"First the United States utilizes this measure as a signal to Congress to suspend Congressional efforts for protectionist legislation. Second, the United States adopts the measure as a means of threatening other nations by implying that if its trading partners do not open their markets immediately, they would become the target nation..."

"Korea Is Target of Protectionist Offensive"

Government-dominated Kyunghyang Shinmun Washington correspondent Song Tae-ho held that "it has become evident that Korea is a target of a collective U.S. protectionist offensive."

INDONESIA: "U.S. Should Find Other Fields to Boost Industry"

Independent Kompas today said, "To view the surge of protectionist sentiment in the United States as in the interest of the American people is within reason.

"However, this most modern industrial nation should, in fact, search for other fields to boost its industries..."

"Reagan Should Veto Jenkins Bill"

The Golkar Party's Suara Karya remarked, "It is reasonable for President Reagan to veto the Jenkins bill...(which) will affect only 12 developing nations and not developed countries, (and) is very discriminatory and, therefore, violates the multifibre arrangement and the GATT..."

## BRIEFS

## WEINBERGER WORLDNET

BRITAIN: "Washington Will Work Closely With Allies"

The independent Times Singapore correspondent today reported, "The United States is to strengthen its defensive network in the Pacific, despite difficulties with New Zealand and uncertainty over bases in the Philippines.

"The Defense Secretary, Mr. Caspar Weinberger, told regional journalists via a seven-nation satellite hookup that Washington would continue to work closely with its allies..."

SOVIET UNION: "Unrestrained Support for SDI"

TASS's international service yesterday cited the Secretary's statement on Pacific defenses in Worldnet and added that "in the course of the news conference, the Chief of the American military department unrestrainedly publicized the notorious American Strategic Defense Initiative, attempting to present it as a sort of panacea against the threat of nuclear war..."