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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

GENEVA MORNING EDITION

1 A.M. EST -- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1985 -- 7 A.M. GENEVA TIME

TODAY'S HEADLINES

TRIP NEWS

REAGAN TO PUSH JOINT STATEMENT ON ARMS -- President Reagan has decided to propose to Soviet leader Gorbachev in their meetings this week that they agree on a joint statement making a formal commitment to seek reductions in nuclear arsenals, it was learned today. (Washington Post)

NEW POSSIBILITIES SEEN FOR BARGAINING ON LIMITATION OF SDI -- The prospect of future summits between President Reagan and Gorbachev has revived the idea that the U.S. could negotiate limits on its Strategic Defense Initiative in return for major reductions in offensive nuclear weapons, Administration sources said today. (Washington Post)

THOUGH SKEPTICAL, AMERICANS SUPPORT SUMMIT MEETING, POLL SAYS -- Most Americans strongly support President Reagan's summit meeting with Gorbachev, although few are optimistic about its prospects, according to a poll published in this week's Time magazine. (AP, Reuter)

NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

GENEVA -- On his way to a final strategy session, President Reagan denied angrily that anyone tried to sabotage the summit by leaking the Weinberger letter.

American and Russian officials today raised the human rights issue and raised their voices about it.

A war of sorts has broken out between the superpowers to see which country can trot out more of its big-wigs for the press in an eight-hour day.

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TRIP NEWS

REAGAN TO PUSH JOINT STATEMENT ON ARMS

GENEVA -- President Reagan has decided to propose to Soviet leader Gorbachev in their meetings this week that they agree on a joint statement making a formal commitment to seek reductions in nuclear arsenals, it was learned today. Reagan intends to press Gorbachev to include reductions to specific levels in the statement, but the President would consider it an important achievement even if the levels are not specified, according to Administration sources. The Soviet reaction is uncertain, especially because Reagan, according to sources, does not intend to offer any limitation on his missile defense system.

(David Hoffman and Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

NEW POSSIBILITIES SEEN FOR BARGAINING ON LIMITATION OF SDI

GENEVA -- The prospect of future summits between President Reagan and Gorbachev has revived the idea that the U.S. could negotiate limits on its Strategic Defense Initiative in return for major reductions in offensive nuclear weapons, Administration sources said today. These sources said they did not expect such a tradeoff to occur at the summit but that the possibility now exists for a new round of talks in the future in which both superpowers would agree first to curb offensive nuclear weapons and then turn to discussions to limit both offensive and missile defense.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

LEAK PROBE

GENEVA -- President Reagan, inspecting the summit site Sunday as he prepared to meet his Soviet counterpart, sought to brush aside evidence of Administration discord on arms policy, but a key Kremlin official described the episode as an attempt to "torpedo the arms control process." Larry Speakes said, "We are not changing our views one whit" as a result of the leak of the "Weinberger letter." ...

National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, on NBC's "Meet the Press," sought to erase the picture of internal discord painted by the Weinberger letter, and said the Administration stands as one on the key issues.

(Michael Putzel, AP)

WASHINGTON -- A letter from Secretary Weinberger to President Reagan warning against limiting "Star Wars" research and ignoring purported Soviet arms control violations was leaked to discredit the Pentagon chief, Administration officials said Sunday.... The officials ruled out any possibility the leak came from the Pentagon.

(UPI)

WASHINGTON -- The Pentagon said Sunday it was investigating the leak of Secretary Weinberger's now-famous letter to his boss. Half-a-world away, President Reagan dismissed a suggestion the incident might cost Weinberger his job. "Hell, no" is the way Reagan put it.

(AP)

TRIP NEWS (continued)

NEWS ANALYSIS

GENEVA -- The idea that leaking Weinberger's letter about SALT II could de-rail the upcoming summit meeting is pure moonshine. Neither Gorbachev nor his experts can possibly be shocked -- or even mildly surprised -- to learn Weinberger believes SALT II is 1) being violated by them or 2) that the U.S. should stop observing it. The suggestion by Moscow's top expert on the U.S., Georgi Arbatov, that the Secretary's letter might "torpedo" the entire arms control framework, is pre-summit propaganda.

(Analysis by William Ringle, Gannett)

WEINBERGER URGES BUILDUP OVER SOVIET 'VIOLATIONS'

In the presummit report on Soviet violations of arms-control agreements that accompanied his now-controversial letter to President Reagan, Secretary Weinberger argued that the "key to improved U.S.-Soviet relations is a vigorous response by us to Soviet treaty violations."

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

GANNETT INTERVIEW

GENEVA -- Just before the President left Washington Saturday for Geneva and the history that awaited him at the first U.S.-Soviet summit in six years, Secretary Weinberger called on Chief of Staff Donald Regan....

"Cap came to my office to decry the whole thing and to say how badly he felt about this leaking, how reprehensible it was, and that he ordered an investigation," Regan relayed in an interview with Gannett News Service. Asked if the letter would torpedo the summit, Regan said, "No way. The President is not changing his mind at the last minute."

(Johanna Neuman, Gannett)

GENEVA -- President Reagan, saying "I'm going to save it all for Gorbachev," Sunday brushed aside questions about his upcoming meeting with Gorbachev, but Chief of Staff Donald Regan said the summit could be the "start of something good."

One thing the Administration is adamant about is that there will be no joint press conference Thursday. The White House, viewing the summit from the vantage point of pagentry, history and drama, wants the President to report directly to the European allies in Belgium and to the American public, and not to face questions from 10,000 reporters on every issue from the Gramm-Rudman amendment to U.S. policy in Nicaragua.

(Johanna Neuman, Gannett)

SDI EXPECTED TO REQUIRE CHANGES IN 1972 TREATY

President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative cannot be developed fully without abandoning or negotiating a change in the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty, the director of the program had told Congress. Reagan has said that this research and development program will not violate the provisions of the ABM Treaty, but Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee on October 30, "There clearly will come a time (in the 1990s) when we enter the development phase and ... require much more direct testing (of components of a defensive system) that we will have to have a modified (ABM) treaty in some way in order to proceed...."

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

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TRIP NEWS (continued)

SENIOR ADVISER REJECTS 'STAR WARS' COMPROMISE

GENEVA -- A senior scientific adviser to Gorbachev ruled out Sunday a summit compromise on Soviet demands for scrapping the SDI space defense program. "It's a complicated issue," said Dr. Roald Sagdeev, director of the Soviet Institute of Space Research, but "it would be very bad for all of us to compromise" on security matters. (John Callcott, UPI)

GENEVA -- Soviet officials, talking tough during a pre-summit briefing, said that the meetings would be a "trial-by-fire" test of President Reagan's commitment to arms control. They emphasized that Reagan's Star Wars program could inhibit any progress in Geneva....

In the midst of the session, a recent Soviet emigre, Irina Grivnina, rose, interrupted (Kremlin Spokesman Leonid) Zamyatin and demanded that the Soviet briefers discuss the plight of Russian citizens "condemned for anti-Soviet agitation." Zamyatin asked the women if she would be "so good as to wait" for a chance to pose her question, but Grivnina continued to hurl questions. She finally fell silent when Zamyatin, in exasperation, asked, "Do we have to call the militia to remove this lady?" (AP)

TV NETWORKS STILL PURSUE GORBACHEV

American network executives said yesterday they were told that Soviet leader Gorbachev decided against appearing on U.S. television before the summit because he had said enough publicly before his meeting with President Reagan. Several Soviets said that a Gorbachev interview on television broadcast to the American people would start a "new cycle" of Reagan-Gorbachev appearances, (a network) executive said, making it more difficult for the Soviets to turn down an attempt by Reagan to face interviewers on Soviet television. (Eleanor Randolph, Washington Post, A17)

BUSH SAID WEINBERGER LETTER WON'T BOTHER SOVIETS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. -- Vice President George Bush said Sunday the leak of a letter in which Secretary Weinberger urges a hard-line position on key arms control issues will have little effect on the U.S.-Soviet summit because the Soviets are "sophisticated America-watchers." Bush said at a news conference that American public opinion has more impact on Soviet behavior than such documents as the leaked letter. (UPI)

EAST BLOC ALLIES UNCERTAIN OVER GORBACHEV POLICY LINE

VIENNA -- Soviet leader Gorbachev is backed by a chorus of support for communist states in advance of his summit meeting with President Reagan this week, but the outward unity masks uncertainty about the future among Moscow's East Bloc allies.... Analysts in Vienna and in East Bloc capitals, looking beyond the summit, say signs of deep uncertainty about future bloc policies have emerged after eight months of Gorbachev's vigorous presence in the Kremlin. (David Storey, Reuter)

TRIP NEWS (continued)

THOUGH SKEPTICAL, AMERICANS SUPPORT SUMMIT MEETING, POLL SAYS

NEW YORK -- Most Americans strongly support President Reagan's summit meeting with Gorbachev, although few are optimistic about its prospects, according to a poll published in this week's Time magazine. While 82 percent of those questioned by the Yanklovich, Skelley and White polling organization thought this week's summit was a good idea, only seven percent expected "significant forward movement," Time said in an article. Sixty-six percent of the 1,020 registered voters polled between November 5 and 7 said they did not believe the Russians could be trusted to keep their word on any agreement reached, while only 28 percent said they thought the U.S. was also "unlikely to honor the fine print of a pact." (Reuter)

NEW YORK -- Nearly 75 percent of those surveyed in a Time magazine poll said they would be willing to see the U.S. trade away "Star Wars" for cuts in Soviet military power. Fifty-three percent described Reagan as more knowledgeable about world affairs than his Soviet counterpart Gorbachev. Twenty percent viewed Gorbachev as more knowledgeable, and Time did not give the opinion of the other 27 percent. (AP)

LOS ANGELES -- Most Americans believe President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will "become better acquainted" at the U.S.-Soviet summit conference, but doubt they will reach any specific agreements, a newspaper poll released this weekend shows. The Los Angeles Times' nationwide survey conducted by telephone Nov. 1 to Nov. 7 found that 49 percent predicted success in the talks, while 24 percent predicted failure, with the rest either unsure or doubting either result.

The results of the survey showed Americans have strong confidence in President Reagan, but unveiled "a deep-seated apprehension about dealing with the Soviet Union, and a lack of confidence that the Soviets will abide by arms control agreements," said I.A. Lewis, who directed the poll released Saturday. The poll also found that Americans continue to think highly of Reagan, with 71 percent of the respondents reporting a favorable impression and 24 percent unfavorable. (UPI)

JACKSON LEADS DELEGATION TO GENEVA

CHICAGO -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson and a delegation of "peace watchers" left for the Geneva summit Sunday armed with petitions they say bear more than 1 million signatures from Americans calling for a ban on nuclear weapons testing. Jackson said he and five representatives from the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign hope to meet with President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to present the petitions. "Reagan and Gorbachev represent only one eighth of the world's population," Jackson said at a rally before his departure. "The rest of the world has the right to be represented there.

"The summit meeting is not a photo opportunity for two antagonists, not just an occasion to get acquainted casually. Reagan and Gorbachev literally hold the destiny of the world and human race in their hands," Jackson said. (UPI)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRITISH ENVOY HAS TENTATIVE HOPES FOR U.S. IN LEBANON

LONDON -- Church of England envoy Terry Waite returned to Britain Sunday from a five-day mission to try to free four American hostages in Lebanon and said he had established "a measure of trust" with their kidnappers. He said the captives were safe. "There is absolutely no doubt at all that I have got through to the right people and a measure of trust has been established," he said before leaving Beirut. "During the past days I have had lengthy contacts."
(UPI)

LONDON -- Terry Waite, the Church of England official who is trying to secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon, returned to London tonight with tentative hopes for their eventual release. "I've got hope. A important step has been taken in the last few days," Waite told reporters when he arrived here from Beirut. Waite, who said he would be reporting to Archbishop and then to U.S. officials, said he had lengthy contacts with the kidnappers and established "a measure of trust," although the situation was still very difficult.
(Reuter)

ANGLICAN AIDE SAYS HE MET WITH KIDNAPERS

BEIRUT -- Waite would not say whether he had seen the American captives, but he said he was "satisfied" that the four who recently had written seeking Archbishop Runcie's intercession were all right.
(Washington Post, A1)

LIBYA BLASTS 'MAD' U.S. DESIRE

TRIPOLI -- A decision to ban imports of Libyan petroleum products reflects U.S. President Ronald Reagan's "mad desire to subjugate all Arabs to America," the official news agency JANA said Sunday. "The reasons lie in the bitter failure of various hostile measures Reagan took against Libya," asserted JANA, quoting an unnamed political editor who responded to Reagan's decision Friday. The JANA editor said the "humiliation" of the failed measures, which he did not specify, "forced Reagan to escalate further actions."
(AP)

JOINT EXCAVATION CONSIDERED A MILESTONE IN MIA SEARCH

HANOI, Vietnam -- Eleven U.S. Army specialists and 10 Vietnamese on Tuesday begin digging for the wreckage of a B-52 bomber in a project considered a milestone in the 10-search for the remains of America's war dead. The project is one of a series of developments indicating willingness by Hanoi to account for Americans missing in action in the Vietnam war.
(Peter Eng, AP)

FIVE TO GO TO TRIAL IN ACHILLE LAURO HIJACKING

GENOE, Italy -- The four men charged with hijacking the Italian luxury liner Achille Lauro and a man accused of being their accomplice go on trial Monday for illegal possession of arms and explosives. A second trial for kidnapping and murder is expected later but no date has been set. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (continued)

SHARON SEES HUSSEIN PEACE GESTURE

LOS ANGELES -- Israeli Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, who last week withdrew public criticism of Israeli peace moves, said today he believed King Hussein of Jordan would expel the Palestine Liberation Organization from Amman as a peace gesture. Activities against Israel were being conducted from the PLO headquarters in Amman, he said. "I believe King Hussein will expel the PLO as a move towards peace," he said. "The PLO cannot continue to operate from Amman." (Ronald Clarke, Reuter)

NEW ZEALAND COMPLETES NUCLEAR SHIP-BAN LAW DRAFT

WELLINGTON -- New Zealand completed drafting legislation permanently banning port calls by nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed warships, Prime Minister David Lange said today. (Reuter)

LON NOL/CAMBODIA

FULLERTON, Calif. -- Lon Nol, the prime minister of Cambodia when it fell to communist rebels in 1975, died Sunday in a hospital emergency room, officials said. He was 72. (UPI)

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NATIONAL NEWS

VICE PRESIDENT BUSH

DES MOINES -- Vice President George Bush, after hearing an appeal for federal help to ease agriculture's credit woes, toured an Iowa farm and met with three families Sunday.... The relaxed meeting contrasted with an intense 90-minute meeting Bush had with nearly 20 farm leaders Saturday. Farm officials left that meeting saying Bush's fence-mending effort in Iowa did not produce any solid evidence the Reagan Administration will help farmers through their agriculture crisis.

The Rev. David Ostendorf of Prairiefire, one of the farm leaders who met with Bush Saturday, said the session produced frank discussion but no assurances that the administration would present a plan to ease farmers' financial difficulties. (UPI)

DES MOINES -- Standing in the aisle of Air Force Two enroute here, Vice President Bush likened the meeting he soon would have with Iowa farm leaders to a bullfight, wondering if he could become a sacrificial bull. "Today I'm going to be the matador," he said, doing a quick step with an imaginary cape.

He was right, at least in the cast of Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, who has been one of the sharpest critics of the Reagan Administration's farm policies. "He convinced me that he cares," said Branstad, the beneficiary of two fundraisers where Bush appeared that raised some \$80,000.

(Norm Brewer, Gannett)

ROSTENKOWSKI DOUBTS TOP RATE WILL FALL TO 35%

WASHINGTON -- House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski, poised to push his panel through its toughest week of tax writing, conceded yesterday that his package probably will not cut the top personal tax rate to 35 percent as President Reagan wants. (Washington Post, A5)

WASHINGTON -- Chairman Dan Rostenkowski said Sunday he hopes the House will pass a tax reform measure by Christmas, but acknowledged his panel still faces "the real tough issues" in the package. Rostenkowski also said he hoped that, as the committee presses to finish its work this week, the measure will not run into delaying tactics by congressmen who do not want any bill passed. (UPI)

WASHINGTON -- "This is a high-enough priority on both the Administration's part and the Speaker's part that we are going to want to conclude deliberations on this before Christmas" in the House, he said. Democrats, who control the chamber, "view this as a golden opportunity to write legislation that we've been talking about a long time," Rostenkowski said. (AP)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17, 1985

NBC did not air a newscast.

GENEVA SUMMIT

CBS'S DAN RATHER: Quiet pre-summit time in a Swiss garden for President Reagan, masking a growing storm within his own ranks about arms control.

(TV Coverage: President and Mrs. Reagan stroll through garden.)

And here in Geneva, growing tension with the Russians on human rights. The whole world is watching. Two days to the summit and counting. Secretary Weinberger and Secretary Shultz are squabbling again, on the brink of the summit. Damage control in President Reagan's inner circle. The Russians making the most of a letter by Secretary Weinberger warning of the dangers of reaching arms accords with the Russians. The letter, incredibly, was leaked to the public. Secretary Shultz is furious. The White House calls it sabotage. The Russians call it a torpedo. The U.S. made the least of the Soviets letting a few people go to join relatives in the West. They called it a minimal effort on human rights. Bill Plante reports now on the major effort to take the Weinberger letter affair and make it a dead letter as soon as possible.

CBS'S BILL PLANTE: On his way to a final strategy session, President Reagan denied angrily that anyone tried to sabotage the summit by leaking the letter from the Secretary of Defense urging the President to make no arms deals with the Soviets. President Reagan had an even more emphatic response when asked if he intended to fire Secretary Weinberger.

(TV Coverage: President walking with senior staffers. Reporter asks if the President intends to fire Weinberger. President: "Hell no.")

Still annoyed minutes later as he posed for photos, the President questioned reports that an Administration official had called release of the letter sabotage and had implied it was done by hardliners in the Defense Department.

(President: "I'm wondering if that individual is not a figment of someone in the press' imagination.")

In fact, CBS News was present when the remark was made. The President, taking a walk with Mrs. Reagan for the benefit of photographers, would say no more about the incident. The Soviets, in their daily news briefings, seized on it as evidence the Reagan Administration doesn't want arms agreements.

(Georgi Arbatov, through translator: "Well if that's true, what he's saying, then this is a direct attempt to torpedo the whole arms limitation process.")

The President's men assumed their damage control stations, insisting the letter was nothing new and didn't really matter.

(McFarlane: "The Secretary's judgments are judgments that have been made before.")

(Regan: "The President doesn't surround himself with yes-men or people who just think along one line. He gets diverse opinions and then from those he chooses. He's made up his mind.")

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

PLANTE continues: (Speakes: "I'd be willing to put five bucks right here that General Secretary Gorbachev will not say a word about the Weinberger letter.")

White House officials think that the information was leaked, although indirectly, by a Defense Department hardliner, not Secretary Weinberger. They're annoyed about it, but they don't really think it will do anything to damage the summit.

RATHER discusses the Weinberger letter and the President's mood with Plante:

RATHER: Why would anybody in the Administration want to leak such a letter?

PLANTE: It's the public relations game. Nobody expects Ronald Reagan to make any kind of deal with the Russians for continued observance of SALT II, but they want to get the word out to the diplomats that the hardliners are there and that they're against arms control.

RATHER: Several White House people told me today that President Reagan, for Ronald Reagan, was in a reasonably grumpy mood today. They said it was jetlag. The President himself has said that he can't sleep on airplanes...and that one reason they came over early was to program in a day just such as this where he could hurrumph around a little bit.

PLANTE: He appeared to be a little bit grumpy and out of sorts when I saw him earlier today. But I just happen to have the official response to that right here. The White House spokesman said, "He's not grumpy. His mood is terrific. His mood is fine. I don't find him tense or nervous." Well, he was asked, why did the President purse his lips when he was on that walk? Said the spokesman, "I think his lips were pursed because of that cold walk."

RATHER: American and Russian officials today raised the human rights issue and raised their voices about it. On Face the Nation, the top American watcher for Gorbachev tried his best to deflect criticism on human rights violations by making charges of his own. The White House Chief of Staff said Soviet plans to let 10 people go to be reunited with loved ones in the U.S. was no big deal.

(Regan: "Where are the rest of the people? That's just a pittance and a mere pittance at that. Why don't they release all of the people? Why do they keep their borders closed?")

(Lesley Stahl: "Is this signaling a new policy on immigration? Will you now allow the Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union to leave?" Arbatov: "You know, we considered it to be our own business, like your, for instance, laws on immigration. You have to leave it to ourselves. And I think there really must be less hypocrisy on these things, you know.")

Human rights violations also came up today at the new, improved, here there and everywhere, and always available Soviet p.r. machine.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

CBS'S MARK PHILLIPS: Leonid Zamyatin, a known Kremlin hardliner, was today surrounded by school children, being given letters about peace. Here's Georgi Arbatov, an influential member of the Central Committee and a man difficult to get a hold of in Moscow. In Geneva he's being given interviews by the dozen. It's all part of an unprecedented media blitz by the Soviet delegation, a blitz completely out of character with the way they've behaved at previous summits, but one very much in keeping with the new Gorbachev approach to public relations. And they haven't been above taking the occasional personal swipe at President Reagan, referring to his study of videotape profiles of Gorbachev.

(Arbatov: "I can assure you that he doesn't need 10 minute video clips to fill up his attention span.")

Was the Soviet leader watching old Ronald Reagan movies in his preparations?

(Arbatov: "They are B-rated, anyway.")

The Soviets have correctly judged that the appetite for news in the run up to the summit will exceed the supply. But as they've come out into the open and adopted Western public relations techniques, the Russians have been taught a few lessons. Several times this week Soviet emigres have angrily interrupted the show, including this woman today.

(TV Coverage: Woman interrupts Soviet news conference.)

Leonid Zamyatin offered a dismissive reply.

(Zamyatin: "Do we have to call the militia to remove this lady?")

For the audience back home, the Russians are sending back a carefully-edited version of events here. The Soviet viewpoint is being conveyed to the world, they say. But while the Soviets are getting the message across, they are also finding out that managing the world press is not quite as simple as managing their own.

RATHER: The Soviets may have let a little news slip through at their news conference today. They admitted officially for the first time to doing some experimental laser beam defense research of their own. They claim they aren't using lasers to zap anything but just to, they claim, detect incoming enemy missiles. (CBS-Lead)

RATHER: Protest over Soviet human rights violations was busting out all over today. Here in Geneva, a group of Afghans in national costume left the St. Peter's Cathedral after an all-night demonstration to demand the withdrawal of Soviet troops from their country. In Washington, about 50 of several hundred demonstrators on behalf of Soviet Jews were arrested at the Soviet Embassy. Charges: marching too close to the embassy grounds.

CBS'S DERRICK BLAKELY reports from Israel on the push to help Soviet Jews seems to be moving beyond the marching stage: It was not so much a protest march as it was an urgent reminder, a poignant telegram to Geneva that much more is at stake in the superpower summit than cold wars and star wars.

(TV Coverage of marches. Man being interviewed: "We call to the President of the United States not to forget the Jews in Russia.") With street marches by day and rallies at night, Israeli activists are gently signaling their hopes that the summit may lead to a resumption of large-scale emigration by Soviet Jews. Israeli officials have received assurances from the White House that President Reagan will raise the issue of Soviet Jewry in his talks with Gorbachev.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

BLAKELY continues: And today, Prime Minister Peres revealed the Soviets are ready to discuss letting more Jews go under a family reunification program. In recent years the flood of Soviet Jews entering Israel has slowed to a trickle -- from 51,000 in 1979 to less than 1,000 last year. Israeli authorities estimate half a million Soviet Jews are still waiting long after they've applied to get out. There is no assurance the summit will produce a thaw. These Israelis can only hope that in all the arguments over military hardware, a captive people will not be forgotten.

RATHER: So far the basic Soviet response to charges of human rights violations has been, in effect: Mind your own business. For home consumption the Russians have a lot to say about human rights violations -- anybody's and everybody's but their own.

CBS'S WYATT ANDREWS reports that while most Americans do not know who American Indian Leonard Peltier is, he is front page news in the Soviet Union. Soviet children, in a newspaper appeal, are being asked to write protest letters to Ronald Reagan on Peltier's behalf. Peltier is a man in prison in Fort Leavenworth for the 1975 murder of two FBI agents. Yet in the Soviet press he is portrayed as a brave American Indian suffering under American oppression -- a symbol of unbending and lofty principles, press descriptions go. Peltier, in short, has been built up to be in the Soviet Union what Andrei Sakharov is to the West. There is a campaign going on in the Soviet press and it seeks to paint America as the world's worst violator of human rights. While not completely new, the campaign has intensified in the weeks leading to Geneva. At the end of October, Soviet broadcasting seemed to have a nightly feature on alleged American human rights violations, the Philadelphia police assault on MOVE headquarters being one. This theme, that America can be ruthless, was perfect for the story being told by alleged KGB defector Vitaly Yurchenko, who this week repeated his claim that he was drugged and kidnapped by the CIA. State terrorism, said a Soviet lawyer. Nazi-like experimentation, said a Soviet doctor. Part of the human rights campaign has been good news -- a visa for Yelena Bonner and 10 apparent visas for separated Soviet-American families. It reflects an effort to blunt human rights criticism and the Soviet belief that human rights should not dominate Geneva.

CBS'S BILL MOYERS -- Commentary: Summits are theater played on the world stage -- spectacle, farce and drama rolled into one. The President's own son, Ronald P. Reagan, is here to cover it for Playboy Magazine. And why not, asks the Sunday Times of London; an entertainment reporter is as qualified for the event as most. Secretary Shultz refers to summits as spectator sport. There's a meaning he may not have intended. The spectators to this rivalry of the superpowers are all potential victims. The Americans and the Soviets between them possess enough nuclear weapons to kill every person alive 12 times over....The knowledge of their great power and the world's stake in it is all Reagan and Gorbachev have in common. Each is as different as the societies that produce them, and neither is likely to convert the other. But they must know they are failing at arms control. Their military has more offensive weapons than needed and their economies will be burdened to build more. Yet they've found no clever way to stop or mutually scale down. That's what they'll be groping for here, no matter the stated agenda.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

MOYERS continues: A summit is not a negotiating session on nuclear weapons. It takes time and experts for that. But only the men at the top can tell their experts to keep working until you find a way to fix it. Even that's hard to do in two days with the whole world watching. Summits are risky -- a misspoken word, a gesture misinterpreted -- while success is at best a small step forward, that bigger ones might come later. For the spectators, the potential victims, it's like watching two elephants high on a wire without a net. You're impressed by the effort but pray they'll stick with the minuet and forego the aerobic dancing.

RATHER: A closing pre-summit note on the unusual, to say the least, eve of summit position President Reagan finds himself in -- having to say hell no, he doesn't have plans to fire his own Defense Secretary over the leak of a letter warning about the dangers of dealing with the Russians. By contrast, a confident, though clumsy, attempt to hold news conferences Western style but filled only with Eastern-style rhetoric. Theirs is a system that allows a Gorbachev to come here well organized and unembarrassed. But democracy sometimes means disarray even at most inconvenient times. In any case, the Weinberger-Shultz fight right on the eve of the summit is a moment of reality in a heavily pre-packaged event.

(CBS-7)

ABC's TOM JARRIEL: President Reagan and his aides have spent the day battling the impression that the U.S. side is still divided over summit strategy. The Russians, whose leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrives in Geneva tomorrow, spent the day fanning the flames of U.S. discomfort. It all began when someone leaked to the press a letter to the President from Secretary Weinberger, a letter in which Weinberger urged Mr. Reagan to resist any Soviet effort to win an agreement on extending the provisions of the SALT II treaty past this year's end.

ABC's SHEILAH KAST: Heading toward a meeting with some of his advisors, President Reagan seemed irritated but not at his Defense Secretary.

(TV coverage: The President walking with Shultz, Regan and McFarlane. Reporter: "Are you going to fire Weinberger?" The President: "Do you want a two word answer or one?" Reporter: "Two." The President: "Hell no.")

He was irritated at reports that someone on his team had called the leak of Weinberger's letter an attempt to sabotage the summit.

(TV coverage: The President sitting with Shultz, Regan and McFarlane. "I'm wondering if that individual is not the figment of someone in the press' imagination.")

No, the statement came from a senior official aboard Air Force One. But from the President on down, the U.S. government stance today was that the leak of Weinberger's letter would not affect the President's meetings Tuesday and Wednesday with Soviet leader Gorbachev.

(Larry Speakes: "I'd be willing to put five bucks right here that General Secretary Gorbachev will not say a word about the Weinberger letter.")

Speakes said Weinberger has argued the same point to the President before publicly and privately, that the President should not bind the U.S. to weapons limits of the unratified SALT II treaty. And Weinberger's argument may prevail through this summit. Speakes said the President will study the whole issue after he returns to Washington.

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

KAST continues: But on "This Week With David Brinkley," Secretary Shultz said it's too early to rule out a Reagan-Gorbachev agreement to extend the SALT II limits through 1986.

(TV coverage: Secretary Shultz on "This Week." Secretary Shultz: "The President will decide what he is going to decide, I'm not foreclosing it but I think it is not very likely.")

The President and First Lady took a quick tour of the country estate where he will meet Gorbachev Tuesday, and Mr. Reagan's advisors don't seem worried about his performance at that meeting.

(Donald Reagan on CBS's "Face The Nation": "We haven't given him a script, let me get that one straight at the start. The man knows what he is talking about. If there is an occasional slip, anyone can slip on a fact or two, that can be corrected rather easy. It's the principles, he'll never slip on principle.")

And Mr. Reagan didn't seem worried either.

(TV coverage: The President walking with Mrs. Reagan. Reporter: "What's the first priority?" The President: "Peace.")

Whether or not Weinberger's last minute letter had any influence on the President, there is no doubt it added tension and the appearance of disarray to final U.S. preparations for the summit.

ABC's WALTER RODGERS: The Soviet response to Secretary Weinberger's letter was swift and it was a combination of propaganda and Russian paranoia.

(Georgi Arbatov: "This is a direct attempt to torpedo the whole arms limitation process.")

The Soviets then lectured and scolded the United States, accusing Washington of responding negatively to all their arms control proposals. General Nikolai Shervov warned that without an American compromise on Star Wars here in Geneva, there will be no agreement at the summit on limiting strategic nuclear weapons.

(General Shervov: "First strike weapons in space must be banned at every stage of their creation.")

It was clear from what this Soviet delegation said today that from the Kremlin prospective both sides hold widely divergent views on nearly all major arms control negotiating points. But it was also apparent the Russians don't want to be seen as being too negative either.

(Arbatov: "We would like to believe, we'd like to take President Reagan at his word.")

The Soviet mission in Geneva is where Gorbachev will be staying when he arrives tomorrow and where the second day of summit talks will be held. The Russians say Gorbachev will not come here empty handed, hinting they may offer yet another arms control proposal at the summit itself. And clearly the Soviets want at least the appearance of a successful summit, one which they say will mark a turning point in superpower relations.

ABC's SAM DONALDSON: This maneuvering over the Weinberger letter and other matters is taking place on a playing field built with typewriters, microphones and cameras. The play is to the press and both sides are fielding impressive teams.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

ABC's JOHN MCWETHY: Still more than a day away from the actual summit and a war of sorts has broken out between the superpowers to see which country can trot out more of its big-wigs for the press in an eight hour day. White House spokesman Larry Speakes led the charge and at the same time the Soviets offered a whole panel of experts for questions to a thousand or so reporters across town. The Soviets are everywhere.

(Marshall Goldman: "In January you couldn't find them, now it's hard to walk out in the street without tripping over them.")

The press conference business is still new to the Soviets however, and when a dissident just out of the Soviet Union showed up to heckle, one Kremlin official forgot he was not in Moscow when he suggested how to deal with her.

(Kremlin official: "Do we have to call the militia to remove this lady?")

A different kind of heckler, a Soviet reporter showed up for still another briefing by National Security Advisor McFarlane.

(Soviet reporter: "So maybe it's your possibility to change aggressive policy of the United States.")

And for those who didn't get enough at the briefings, there were the Sunday morning talk shows, chock full of Russians and every high ranking American official in Geneva, except Ronald Reagan. 3,500 accredited reporters to cover all of this, speaking all languages, using the latest technologies. The well known, and the relatives of the well known, like the President's son Ron, former ballet dancer who's covering the summit for Playboy. Critics of this summit charge that it is little more than a public relations battle, that winners and losers will be determined more by images going out over the air waves than by actual progress at the bargaining table. True or not, a fierce battle for image has already begun.

DONALDSON: One other event that took place here today out of sight of the press, President and Mrs. Reagan drove to the villa Fleur d'Eau, site of the first day of summit talks, and Mr. Reagan tried out the chair he will use to conduct his get acquainted one-on-one with Mr. Gorbachev. According to an aide, Mrs. Reagan sat down the chair reserved for the Soviet leader, and the President said: Well, you're much prettier than I expected. It's that personal chemistry that could make this summit a success.

(ABC-Lead)

WAITE

SCHIEFFER: Terry Waite returned home to London convinced, he said, that he had made contact with the right people. Most of what he revealed about his mission came at a brief Beirut news conference.

CBS's DON MCNEILL reports from Beirut that Waite, looking tired and somewhat dejected, left this battered city on his way, he said, to Washington, or to some other city to meet with a member of the American Administration. Waite said he thought he had established a measure of trust with the kidnappers. It's believed here that Waite could travel to Geneva this week after meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury. In Geneva it's possible he could then meet with high-level U.S. Administration officials.

(CBS-2)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continue)

DONALDSON: Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal envoy, is back home in London tonight after saying he found the American hostage situation in Lebanon both hopeful and dangerous. Secretary Shultz conferred here in Geneva today with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew on the hostage situation. Shultz told ABC News that Bartholomew reported there seems to be more pressure on the situation right now, pressure it would appear to resolve the matter from Syrian President Assad. (ABC-3)

SHIITE KIDNAPPERS

SCHIEFFER: A Shiite group calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed said it's responsible for the March kidnapping of four Lebanese Jews and said they will be held until Israel releases 300 Shiite which the group claims Israel is holding in South Lebanon. (CBS-3)

ACHILLE LAURO

SCHIEFFER: The four accused hijackers of the Achille Lauro and an accused accomplice go on trial tomorrow in Genoa, Italy for illegal possession of arms and explosives. There will be a later trial on the murder and kidnap charges. (CBS-4)

COLOMBIA

ABC's PETER COLLINS reports this man was pulled from the mud by a U.S. Army Medivac helicopter. He was one of a hand-ful saved by an American rescue effort costing at least \$200,000 a day, but the U.S. is not putting a price tag on good will.

(Charles Gillespie: "Oh I don't think you measure these things in terms of political benefit. There was a job that needed to be done, peoples lives were very much at risk and we did, what I think we are all, we Americans are proud we are able to do, and that is help.")

When word reached the U.S. that the devastation was this bad, it reacted quickly. Twelve Army helicopters arrived from Panama within 24 hours. The Medivac choppers went right to work, and big transport helicopters started hauling people and supplies.... The worst is over now. The United States will be remembered here for being generous. (ABC-2)



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

GENEVA AFTERNOON EDITION

6 A.M. EST -- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1985 -- NOON GENEVA TIME

TODAY'S HEADLINES

TRIP NEWS

A LETTER SIGNED 'CAP' TOUCHES OFF A FUROR -- The Pentagon says neither Secretary Weinberger nor anyone else in the Defense Department is the leaker of the letter. (AP, UPI, New York Times, Baltimore Sun)

SOVIET-STYLE BRIEFING BACKFIRES IN GENEVA -- "I want to talk about human rights! a tiny Jewish woman yelled in Russian. A Soviet spokesman stiffened and his face went red. (Washington Times)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

HELMS SAYS CIA REPEATEDLY UNDERESTIMATES SOVIET POWER -- Sen. Helms charged the agency with misreading Soviet intentions and underestimating Soviet capabilities. (Washington Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

ROSTENKOWSKI PREDICTS TAX REFORM WORK COMPLETED BY CHRISTMAS -- "Those who have been betting against the committee will soon have to pay off," he told reporters Sunday. (AP, New York Times, Baltimore Sun)

NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

GENEVA -- President Reagan denied angrily that anyone tried to sabotage the summit by leaking the Weinberger letter.

American and Russian officials raised the human rights issue and raised their voices about it.

A war of sorts has broken out between the superpowers to see which country can trot out more of its big-wigs for the press.

TRIP NEWS.....A2

INTERNATIONAL NEWS....A-5

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-6

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY..B-1

TRIP NEWS

A LETTER SIGNED 'CAP' TOUCHES OFF A FUROR

WASHINGTON -- The Pentagon says neither Caspar Weinberger nor anyone else in the Defense Department is the leaker of the letter signed "Cap" that caused a furor as President Reagan flew to Geneva for the summit conference.

And, says Robert Sims, the Defense Secretary's chief spokesman, the Pentagon is conducting an investigation into who did pass the letter on to the New York Times and the Washington Post. (AP)

WEINBERGER NOTE SEEN AS OPPOSING SOFTNESS AT TALKS

Senior Administration officials said Mr. Weinberger, who wrote a letter to President Reagan urging that no accords be reached on two key issues, was apparently worried that officials less hawkish than he might be able to sway the President's thinking in a way he would strongly oppose.

(R.W. Apple, Jr. New York Times, A1)

SOVIETS ACCUSE WEINBERGER OF TALKS 'SABOTAGE'

Soviet officials in pre-summit maneuvering Sunday zeroed in on Secretary Weinberger, accusing him of trying to "torpedo" the arms control process, as senior Administration aides moved to dampen speculation that President Reagan might agree here to formally extend the unratified SALT II treaty.

(Robert Timberg, Baltimore Sun, A1)

PROBE TO DETERMINE SOURCE OF LETTER LEAK

The development added a new twist to the conflict between hard-line sentiments, as voiced by Weinberger, and the more conciliatory views espoused by Reagan's top foreign policy advisers, Secretary Shultz and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane. (UPI)

LETTER AND SOVIET RESPONSE SUMMIT SETBACK

Geneva -- It hadn't seemed likely that the leaders of the world's two superpowers would make major progress on arms control anyway, but a leaked letter from Secretary Weinberger to President Reagan dims what fading hope still existed.

Georgy Arbatov, a chief Kremlin adviser on American affairs, said of the Weinberger letter, "if it is true what he is saying, it is a direct attempt to torpedo the arms control process." (AP)

TRIP NEWS (continued)

SOVIET-STYLE BRIEFING BACKFIRES IN GENEVA

GENEVA -- In the months leading up to the summit, Moscow has been the font of an unending stream of threats, entreaties and cajolery aimed at President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative and seeking to discredit the United States. But the Soviets, unaccustomed to press conferences -- since Soviet newspapers are content to print the news as the government hands it out -- got a taste of the hectic give-and-take of a Western press conference when their effort backfired Sunday.

In the midst of the session, Mrs. Irinia Grivnina rose and interrupted Mr. Leonid Zamyatin as he attempted to answer a question on arms control. "I want to talk about human rights!" she yelled in Russian. She demanded that the Soviet briefers discuss the plight of Soviet citizens "condemned for anti-Soviet agitation."

Mr. Zamyatin stiffened and his face went red. In the end, the militia was not called, but Mrs. Grivnina did not get an answer to her question, either.
(Michael Bonafield, Washington Times, A1)

PENTAGON CLAIMS 23 SOVIET VIOLATIONS

A secret Pentagon report delivered to the White House last week lists 23 Soviet violations of existing arms control treaties, according to a usually well-informed source.

The report details several new violations, the source said, including of a mobile anti-ballistic missile system to defend new SS-25 intercontinental ballistic missiles -- reported last week in the Washington Times -- and cheating on conversion of Soviet Yankee class nuclear missile submarines to carry cruise missiles.
(Tom Diaz, Washington Times, A7)

GIVEN AN AUDIENCE, THE SOVIETS BECOME ALMOST CHATTY

The Soviets made hay while waiting for Mikhail Gorbachev's arrival today in Geneva. With unusual informality, they mingled and chatted with all the world's press, and with their customary terminology charged that "American policies are very strongly influenced by very conservative circles."
(AP)

PROFESSOR: 'STAR WARS' TECHNOLOGY NOT FORBIDDEN BY INTERNATIONAL TREATY

SPACE CENTER, Houston -- No international agreements forbid the U.S. from developing the "Star Wars" defense system that will be debated at this week's summit talks in Geneva, a law professor says.

"The most treaty we have bars deploying weapons of mass destruction in space," said Howard Taubenfeld, a space law expert at Southern Methodist University. But he added that the American Strategic Strategic Defense initiative, nicknamed "Star Wars," would not be considered a weapon system of "mass destruction."
(AP)

TRIP NEWS (continued)

CURTAIN RISES ON U.S.-SOVIET SUMMIT IN GENEVA

The Kremlin has radically scaled down its expectations of what the superpower summit beginning here is likely to produce. Anatoly Dobrynin, Soviet ambassador to the U.S., said this summer that Moscow expects "big things" from this week's meeting.

But, more recently, one Soviet official summed up what Moscow now expects: nothing substantial."

And the reason, from Moscow's viewpoint, is summed up in two words: "star wars." Moscow has failed to secure a halt to the Reagan Administration's plans for a space-based defense system, formally known as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

(Gary Thatcher, Christian Science Monitor, 1)

EAST-WEST CHURCH LEADERS PRAY TOGETHER

GENEVA -- For nearly 30 years, the churches of the United States and the Soviet Union have been trying to attain the coexistence that politicians talk about and rarely achieve. But Monday, churchmen from America and Russia join in prayer on the eve of what could be the most critical summit in the tangled history of superpower relations. (UPI)

ARMS CONTROL IS CENTRAL SUMMIT ISSUE

WASHINGTON -- Even though some U.S. officials would like to play it down, nuclear arms control is the key issue of the superpower summit in Geneva. Although the nuclear arms buildup has been the motivating factor for all modern summit meetings, Reagan and his aides have sought to re-direct attention to the other issues that have led to an almost cold-war-like atmosphere in U.S.-Soviet relations. The President has blamed this "distrust" for the arms competition, and dismisses nuclear arsenals as the cause of the distrust. (UPI)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

HELMS SAYS CIA REPEATEDLY UNDERESTIMATES SOVIET POWER

The recent Congressional barrage against the CIA and its director, William Casey, has refueled criticism that the agency had consistently underestimated Soviet intentions and capabilities.

But some of the most surprising charges, expressed in a letter to President Reagan last month, have been leveled by Sen. Jesse Helms, (R-N.C.).

Mr. Helms' letter, a five-page assessment of recent and past CIA analyses, charged the agency with misreading Soviet intentions and underestimating Soviet capabilities.

(News Analysis by Bill Gertz, Washington Times, A1)

POLICE FIRE ON DEMONSTRATORS, KILL TEEN-AGER

ATHENS, Greece -- More than 100,000 people marched to the U.S. Embassy Sunday to mark the 1973 rebellion against the former dictatorship. Protesters later threw bombs at them, killing a teen-ager, police said.

(AP)

BRITISH ENVOY HAS TENTATIVE HOPES FOR U.S. HOSTAGES IN LEBANON

LONDON -- Terry Waite, the church of England official who is trying to secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon, has returned to London with tentative hopes for their eventual release. The special envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury urged the families of the hostages to maintain hope.

(Reuter)

ARCHBISHOP'S ENVOY CONFERRING WITH U.S. OFFICIALS

In Geneva, spokesman Larry Speakes said the Administration hoped Waite's initiative will resolve the crisis. Speakes stressed that Washington will "not negotiate concessions" with the kidnappers.

(AP)

FORMER CAMBODIAN PREMIER DIES

FULLERTON, Calif. -- Lon Nol, the U.S.-backed general who overthrew Cambodian Prince Sihanouk in 1970 and was ousted five years later by the communist khmer rouge, died in exile Sunday. He was 72. (Reuter, UPI, AP)

PHILIPPINE OFFICIAL SEES MARCOS ELECTION WIN

Raul Manglapus, a former Philippine Senator and Foreign Secretary, predicts President Marcos will be re-elected because he still "retains all absolute power" controlling the military and "all significant funds, public and private."

(UPI)

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NATIONAL NEWS

ROSTENKOWSKI PREDICTS TAX REFORM WORK COMPLETED BY CHRISTMAS

Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, says any of a handful of major unresolved issues could destroy the panel's efforts to write the biggest tax-overhaul plan in history.

But for the moment, Rostenkowski is predicting the committee will wrap up work this week on "a bill that's a significant improvement over today's tax law" on a schedule that would allow the House to consider it this year. (AP)

ROSTENKOWSKI SAYS TOP TAX RATE WILL BE ABOVE 35% REAGAN GOAL

"I wouldn't want, and I'm sure the President and Jim Baker wouldn't want, us to lose the opportunity to write history in as large a document as this over one or two percentage points," he added.

(David Rosenbaum, New York Times, A1)

REAGAN URGED TO ACCEPT 'REALISTIC' TOP TAX RATE

In the midst of a weekend of drafting the bill, Rostenkowski said there was "a positive attitude," at least among the panel's Democratic majority, that the draft bill was approaching completion.

(Stephen Nordlinger, Baltimore Sun, A1)

REAGAN PROPOSAL WOULD EXEMPT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM FINANCIAL LAWS

NEW YORK -- The Reagan Administration may ask Congress to exempt state and local governments from many of the laws and rules that are a condition of getting federal funds, according to a published report.

The proposal, which is not finalized, would represent a significant change in federal policy and is part of the Administration's longstanding effort to reduce what it says is interference in local government decisions. (AP)

SUMMIT POLL

NEW YORK -- Nearly 75 percent of those surveyed in a Time magazine poll said they would be willing to see the U.S. trade away "Star Wars" for cuts in Soviet military power. Fifty-three percent described Reagan as more knowledgeable about world affairs than his Soviet counterpart, Mikhail Gorbachev. Twenty percent viewed Gorbachev as more knowledgeable, and Time did not give the opinion of the other 27 percent. (AP)

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NATIONAL NEWS (continued)

REAGAN SELECTS JUSTICE NOMINEE

President Reagan will name New York attorney Arnold Burns associate attorney general -- the no. 3 Justice Department post that civic rights chief William Bradford Reynolds didn't get.

The appointment of Mr. Burns, 55, a partner in a Manhattan law firm since 1960, was announced Friday by the White House.

(UPI story, Washington Times, A2)

FARM LEGISLATION AT TOP OF AGENDA IN CONGRESS THIS WEEK

The nation's future farm policy dominates Congress' agenda this week as the Senate, divided mostly along partisan lines, tries to freeze or cut the record cost of agriculture subsidies. (AP)

-End of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17, 1985

NBC did not air a newscast.

GENEVA SUMMIT

CBS'S DAN RATHER: Quiet pre-summit time in a Swiss garden for President Reagan, masking a growing storm within his own ranks about arms control.

(TV Coverage: President and Mrs. Reagan stroll through garden.)

And here in Geneva, growing tension with the Russians on human rights. The whole world is watching. Two days to the summit and counting. Secretary Weinberger and Secretary Shultz are squabbling again, on the brink of the summit. Damage control in President Reagan's inner circle. The Russians making the most of a letter by Secretary Weinberger warning of the dangers of reaching arms accords with the Russians. The letter, incredibly, was leaked to the public. Secretary Shultz is furious. The White House calls it sabotage. The Russians call it a torpedo. The U.S. made the least of the Soviets letting a few people go to join relatives in the West. They called it a minimal effort on human rights. Bill Plante reports now on the major effort to take the Weinberger letter affair and make it a dead letter as soon as possible.

CBS'S BILL PLANTE: On his way to a final strategy session, President Reagan denied angrily that anyone tried to sabotage the summit by leaking the letter from the Secretary of Defense urging the President to make no arms deals with the Soviets. President Reagan had an even more emphatic response when asked if he intended to fire Secretary Weinberger.

(TV Coverage: President walking with senior staffers. Reporter asks if the President intends to fire Weinberger. President: "Hell no.")

Still annoyed minutes later as he posed for photos, the President questioned reports that an Administration official had called release of the letter sabotage and had implied it was done by hardliners in the Defense Department.

(President: "I'm wondering if that individual is not a figment of someone in the press' imagination.")

In fact, CBS News was present when the remark was made. The President, taking a walk with Mrs. Reagan for the benefit of photographers, would say no more about the incident. The Soviets, in their daily news briefings, seized on it as evidence the Reagan Administration doesn't want arms agreements.

(Georgi Arbatov, through translator: "Well if that's true, what he's saying, then this is a direct attempt to torpedo the whole arms limitation process.")

The President's men assumed their damage control stations, insisting the letter was nothing new and didn't really matter.

(McFarlane: "The Secretary's judgments are judgments that have been made before.")

(Regan: "The President doesn't surround himself with yes-men or people who just think along one line. He gets diverse opinions and then from those he chooses. He's made up his mind.")

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

PLANTE continues: (Speakes: "I'd be willing to put five bucks right here that General Secretary Gorbachev will not say a word about the Weinberger letter.")

White House officials think that the information was leaked, although indirectly, by a Defense Department hardliner, not Secretary Weinberger. They're annoyed about it, but they don't really think it will do anything to damage the summit.

RATHER discusses the Weinberger letter and the President's mood with Plante:

RATHER: Why would anybody in the Administration want to leak such a letter?

PLANTE: It's the public relations game. Nobody expects Ronald Reagan to make any kind of deal with the Russians for continued observance of SALT II, but they want to get the word out to the diplomats that the hardliners are there and that they're against arms control.

RATHER: Several White House people told me today that President Reagan, for Ronald Reagan, was in a reasonably grumpy mood today. They said it was jetlag. The President himself has said that he can't sleep on airplanes...and that one reason they came over early was to program in a day just such as this where he could hurrumph around a little bit.

PLANTE: He appeared to be a little bit grumpy and out of sorts when I saw him earlier today. But I just happen to have the official response to that right here. The White House spokesman said, "He's not grumpy. His mood is terrific. His mood is fine. I don't find him tense or nervous." Well, he was asked, why did the President purse his lips when he was on that walk? Said the spokesman, "I think his lips were pursed because of that cold walk."

RATHER: American and Russian officials today raised the human rights issue and raised their voices about it. On Face the Nation, the top American watcher for Gorbachev tried his best to deflect criticism on human rights violations by making charges of his own. The White House Chief of Staff said Soviet plans to let 10 people go to be reunited with loved ones in the U.S. was no big deal.

(Regan: "Where are the rest of the people? That's just a pittance and a mere pittance at that. Why don't they release all of the people? Why do they keep their borders closed?")

(Lesley Stahl: "Is this signaling a new policy on immigration? Will you now allow the Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union to leave?" Arbatov: "You know, we considered it to be our own business, like your, for instance, laws on immigration. You have to leave it to ourselves. And I think there really must be less hypocrisy on these things, you know.")

Human rights violations also came up today at the new, improved, here there and everywhere, and always available Soviet p.r. machine.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

CBS'S MARK PHILLIPS: Leonid Zamyatin, a known Kremlin hardliner, was today surrounded by school children, being given letters about peace. Here's Georgi Arbatov, an influential member of the Central Committee and a man difficult to get a hold of in Moscow. In Geneva he's being given interviews by the dozen. It's all part of an unprecedented media blitz by the Soviet delegation, a blitz completely out of character with the way they've behaved at previous summits, but one very much in keeping with the new Gorbachev approach to public relations. And they haven't been above taking the occasional personal swipe at President Reagan, referring to his study of videotape profiles of Gorbachev.

(Arbatov: "I can assure you that he doesn't need 10 minute video clips to fill up his attention span.")

Was the Soviet leader watching old Ronald Reagan movies in his preparations?

(Arbatov: "They are B-rated, anyway.")

The Soviets have correctly judged that the appetite for news in the run up to the summit will exceed the supply. But as they've come out into the open and adopted Western public relations techniques, the Russians have been taught a few lessons. Several times this week Soviet emigreés have angrily interrupted the show, including this woman today.

(TV Coverage: Woman interrupts Soviet news conference.)

Leonid Zamyatin offered a dismissive reply.

(Zamyatin: "Do we have to call the militia to remove this lady?")

For the audience back home, the Russians are sending back a carefully-edited version of events here. The Soviet viewpoint is being conveyed to the world, they say. But while the Soviets are getting the message across, they are also finding out that managing the world press is not quite as simple as managing their own.

RATHER: The Soviets may have let a little news slip through at their news conference today. They admitted officially for the first time to doing some experimental laser beam defense research of their own. They claim they aren't using lasers to zap anything but just to, they claim, detect incoming enemy missiles. (CBS-Lead)

RATHER: Protest over Soviet human rights violations was busting out all over today. Here in Geneva, a group of Afghans in national costume left the St. Peter's Cathedral after an all-night demonstration to demand the withdrawal of Soviet troops from their country. In Washington, about 50 of several hundred demonstrators on behalf of Soviet Jews were arrested at the Soviet Embassy. Charges: marching too close to the embassy grounds.

CBS'S DERRICK BLAKELY reports from Israel on the push to help Soviet Jews seems to be moving beyond the marching stage: It was not so much a protest march as it was an urgent reminder, a poignant telegram to Geneva that much more is at stake in the superpower summit than cold wars and star wars.

(TV Coverage of marches. Man being interviewed: "We call to the President of the United States not to forget the Jews in Russia.") With street marches by day and rallies at night, Israeli activists are gently signaling their hopes that the summit may lead to a resumption of large-scale emigration by Soviet Jews. Israeli officials have received assurances from the White House that President Reagan will raise the issue of Soviet Jewry in his talks with Gorbachev.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

BLAKELY continues: And today, Prime Minister Peres revealed the Soviets are ready to discuss letting more Jews go under a family reunification program. In recent years the flood of Soviet Jews entering Israel has slowed to a trickle -- from 51,000 in 1979 to less than 1,000 last year. Israeli authorities estimate half a million Soviet Jews are still waiting long after they've applied to get out. There is no assurance the summit will produce a thaw. These Israelis can only hope that in all the arguments over military hardware, a captive people will not be forgotten.

RATHER: So far the basic Soviet response to charges of human rights violations has been, in effect: Mind your own business. For home consumption the Russians have a lot to say about human rights violations -- anybody's and everybody's but their own.

CBS'S WYATT ANDREWS reports that while most Americans do not know who American Indian Leonard Peltier is, he is front page news in the Soviet Union. Soviet children, in a newspaper appeal, are being asked to write protest letters to Ronald Reagan on Peltier's behalf. Peltier is a man in prison in Fort Leavenworth for the 1975 murder of two FBI agents. Yet in the Soviet press he is portrayed as a brave American Indian suffering under American oppression -- a symbol of unbending and lofty principles, press descriptions go. Peltier, in short, has been built up to be in the Soviet Union what Andrei Sakharov is to the West. There is a campaign going on in the Soviet press and it seeks to paint America as the world's worst violator of human rights. While not completely new, the campaign has intensified in the weeks leading to Geneva. At the end of October, Soviet broadcasting seemed to have a nightly feature on alleged American human rights violations, the Philadelphia police assault on MOVE headquarters being one. This theme, that America can be ruthless, was perfect for the story being told by alleged KGB defector Vitaly Yurchenko, who this week repeated his claim that he was drugged and kidnapped by the CIA. State terrorism, said a Soviet lawyer. Nazi-like experimentation, said a Soviet doctor. Part of the human rights campaign has been good news -- a visa for Yelena Bonner and 10 apparent visas for separated Soviet-American families. It reflects an effort to blunt human rights criticism and the Soviet belief that human rights should not dominate Geneva.

CBS'S BILL MOYERS -- Commentary: Summits are theater played on the world stage -- spectacle, farce and drama rolled into one. The President's own son, Ronald P. Reagan, is here to cover it for Playboy Magazine. And why not, asks the Sunday Times of London; an entertainment reporter is as qualified for the event as most. Secretary Shultz refers to summits as spectator sport. There's a meaning he may not have intended. The spectators to this rivalry of the superpowers are all potential victims. The Americans and the Soviets between them possess enough nuclear weapons to kill every person alive 12 times over....The knowledge of their great power and the world's stake in it is all Reagan and Gorbachev have in common. Each is as different as the societies that produce them, and neither is likely to convert the other. But they must know they are failing at arms control. Their military has more offensive weapons than needed and their economies will be burdened to build more. Yet they've found no clever way to stop or mutually scale down. That's what they'll be groping for here, no matter the stated agenda.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

MOYERS continues: A summit is not a negotiating session on nuclear weapons. It takes time and experts for that. But only the men at the top can tell their experts to keep working until you find a way to fix it. Even that's hard to do in two days with the whole world watching. Summits are risky -- a misspoken word, a gesture misinterpreted -- while success is at best a small step forward, that bigger ones might come later. For the spectators, the potential victims, it's like watching two elephants high on a wire without a net. You're impressed by the effort but pray they'll stick with the minuet and forego the aerobic dancing.

RATHER: A closing pre-summit note on the unusual, to say the least, eve of summit position President Reagan finds himself in -- having to say hell no, he doesn't have plans to fire his own Defense Secretary over the leak of a letter warning about the dangers of dealing with the Russians. By contrast, a confident, though clumsy, attempt to hold news conferences Western style but filled only with Eastern-style rhetoric. Theirs is a system that allows a Gorbachev to come here well organized and unembarrassed. But democracy sometimes means disarray even at most inconvenient times. In any case, the Weinberger-Shultz fight right on the eve of the summit is a moment of reality in a heavily pre-packaged event.

(CBS-7)

ABC's TOM JARRIEL: President Reagan and his aides have spent the day battling the impression that the U.S. side is still divided over summit strategy. The Russians, whose leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrives in Geneva tomorrow, spent the day fanning the flames of U.S. discomfort. It all began when someone leaked to the press a letter to the President from Secretary Weinberger, a letter in which Weinberger urged Mr. Reagan to resist any Soviet effort to win an agreement on extending the provisions of the SALT II treaty past this year's end.

ABC's SHEILAH KAST: Heading toward a meeting with some of his advisors, President Reagan seemed irritated but not at his Defense Secretary.

(TV coverage: The President walking with Shultz, Regan and McFarlane. Reporter: "Are you going to fire Weinberger?" The President: "Do you want a two word answer or one?" Reporter: "Two." The President: "Hell no.")

He was irritated at reports that someone on his team had called the leak of Weinberger's letter an attempt to sabotage the summit.

(TV coverage: The President sitting with Shultz, Regan and McFarlane. "I'm wondering if that individual is not the figment of someone in the press' imagination.")

No, the statement came from a senior official aboard Air Force One. But from the President on down, the U.S. government stance today was that the leak of Weinberger's letter would not affect the President's meetings Tuesday and Wednesday with Soviet leader Gorbachev.

(Larry Speakes: "I'd be willing to put five bucks right here that General Secretary Gorbachev will not say a word about the Weinberger letter.")

Speakes said Weinberger has argued the same point to the President before publicly and privately, that the President should not bind the U.S. to weapons limits of the unratified SALT II treaty. And Weinberger's argument may prevail through this summit. Speakes said the President will study the whole issue after he returns to Washington.

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

KAST continues: But on "This Week With David Brinkley," Secretary Shultz said it's too early to rule out a Reagan-Gorbachev agreement to extend the SALT II limits through 1986.

(TV coverage: Secretary Shultz on "This Week." Secretary Shultz: "The President will decide what he is going to decide, I'm not foreclosing it but I think it is not very likely.")

The President and First Lady took a quick tour of the country estate where he will meet Gorbachev Tuesday, and Mr. Reagan's advisors don't seem worried about his performance at that meeting.

(Donald Reagan on CBS's "Face The Nation": "We haven't given him a script, let me get that one straight at the start. The man knows what he is talking about. If there is an occasional slip, anyone can slip on a fact or two, that can be corrected rather easy. It's the principles, he'll never slip on principle.")

And Mr. Reagan didn't seem worried either.

(TV coverage: The President walking with Mrs. Reagan. Reporter: "What's the first priority?" The President: "Peace.")

Whether or not Weinberger's last minute letter had any influence on the President, there is no doubt it added tension and the appearance of disarray to final U.S. preparations for the summit.

ABC's WALTER RODGERS: The Soviet response to Secretary Weinberger's letter was swift and it was a combination of propaganda and Russian paranoia.

(Georgi Arbatov: "This is a direct attempt to torpedo the whole arms limitation process.")

The Soviets then lectured and scolded the United States, accusing Washington of responding negatively to all their arms control proposals. General Nikolai Shervov warned that without an American compromise on Star Wars here in Geneva, there will be no agreement at the summit on limiting strategic nuclear weapons.

(General Shervov: "First strike weapons in space must be banned at every stage of their creation.")

It was clear from what this Soviet delegation said today that from the Kremlin prospective both sides hold widely divergent views on nearly all major arms control negotiating points. But it was also apparent the Russians don't want to be seen as being too negative either.

(Arbatov: "We would like to believe, we'd like to take President Reagan at his word.")

The Soviet mission in Geneva is where Gorbachev will be staying when he arrives tomorrow and where the second day of summit talks will be held. The Russians say Gorbachev will not come here empty handed, hinting they may offer yet another arms control proposal at the summit itself. And clearly the Soviets want at least the appearance of a successful summit, one which they say will mark a turning point in superpower relations.

ABC's SAM DONALDSON: This maneuvering over the Weinberger letter and other matters is taking place on a playing field built with typewriters, microphones and cameras. The play is to the press and both sides are fielding impressive teams.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continued)

ABC's JOHN MCWETHY: Still more than a day away from the actual summit and a war of sorts has broken out between the superpowers to see which country can trot out more of its big-wigs for the press in an eight hour day. White House spokesman Larry Speakes led the charge and at the same time the Soviets offered a whole panel of experts for questions to a thousand or so reporters across town. The Soviets are everywhere.

(Marshall Goldman: "In January you couldn't find them, now it's hard to walk out in the street without tripping over them.")

The press conference business is still new to the Soviets however, and when a dissident just out of the Soviet Union showed up to heckle, one Kremlin official forgot he was not in Moscow when he suggested how to deal with her.

(Kremlin official: "Do we have to call the militia to remove this lady?")

A different kind of heckler, a Soviet reporter showed up for still another briefing by National Security Advisor McFarlane.

(Soviet reporter: "So maybe it's your possibility to change aggressive policy of the United States.")

And for those who didn't get enough at the briefings, there were the Sunday morning talk shows, chock full of Russians and every high ranking American official in Geneva, except Ronald Reagan. 3,500 accredited reporters to cover all of this, speaking all languages, using the latest technologies. The well known, and the relatives of the well known, like the President's son Ron, former ballet dancer who's covering the summit for Playboy. Critics of this summit charge that it is little more than a public relations battle, that winners and losers will be determined more by images going out over the air waves than by actual progress at the bargaining table. True or not, a fierce battle for image has already begun.

DONALDSON: One other event that took place here today out of sight of the press, President and Mrs. Reagan drove to the villa Fleur d'Eau, site of the first day of summit talks, and Mr. Reagan tried out the chair he will use to conduct his get acquainted one-on-one with Mr. Gorbachev. According to an aide, Mrs. Reagan sat down the chair reserved for the Soviet leader, and the President said: Well, you're much prettier than I expected. It's that personal chemistry that could make this summit a success.

(ABC-Lead)

WAITE

SCHIEFFER: Terry Waite returned home to London convinced, he said, that he had made contact with the right people. Most of what he revealed about his mission came at a brief Beirut news conference.

CBS's DON MCNEILL reports from Beirut that Waite, looking tired and somewhat dejected, left this battered city on his way, he said, to Washington, or to some other city to meet with a member of the American Administration. Waite said he thought he had established a measure of trust with the kidnappers. It's believed here that Waite could travel to Geneva this week after meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury. In Geneva it's possible he could then meet with high-level U.S. Administration officials.

(CBS-2)

White House News Summary - Monday, November 18, 1985 - B-8

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, November 17 (continue)

DONALDSON: Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal envoy, is back home in London tonight after saying he found the American hostage situation in Lebanon both hopeful and dangerous. Secretary Shultz conferred here in Geneva today with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew on the hostage situation. Shultz told ABC News that Bartholomew reported there seems to be more pressure on the situation right now, pressure it would appear to resolve the matter from Syrian President Assad. (ABC-3)

SHIITE KIDNAPPERS

SCHIEFFER: A Shiite group calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed said it's responsible for the March kidnapping of four Lebanese Jews and said they will be held until Israel releases 300 Shiite which the group claims Israel is holding in South Lebanon. (CBS-3)

ACHILLE LAURO

SCHIEFFER: The four accused hijackers of the Achille Lauro and an accused accomplice go on trial tomorrow in Genoa, Italy for illegal possession of arms and explosives. There will be a later trial on the murder and kidnap charges. (CBS-4)

COLOMBIA

ABC's PETER COLLINS reports this man was pulled from the mud by a U.S. Army Medivac helicopter. He was one of a hand-ful saved by an American rescue effort costing at least \$200,000 a day, but the U.S. is not putting a price tag on good will.

(Charles Gillespie: "Oh I don't think you measure these things in terms of political benefit. There was a job that needed to be done, peoples lives were very much at risk and we did, what I think we are all, we Americans are proud we are able to do, and that is help.")

When word reached the U.S. that the devastation was this bad, it reacted quickly. Twelve Army helicopters arrived from Panama within 24 hours. The Medivac choppers went right to work, and big transport helicopters started hauling people and supplies.... The worst is over now. The United States will be remembered here for being generous. (ABC-2)