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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1985 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MALTA OPENS HEARING IN EGYPTAIR HIJACKING: MUBARAK WARNS LIBYA -- A Maltese Magistrate began an investigation into the hijacking of an EgyptAir jetliner as passengers identified the leader of the terrorists.
(Washington Post, New York Times)

EGYPTIANS UNRESPONSIVE TO MUBARAK -- President Mubarak's rising threats to take strong action against Libya have failed to create public support.
(Washington Post, Washington Times)

U.S. OFFICIALS FIND IMMENSE DAMAGE IN ESPIONAGE CASES -- Senior intelligence officials say the U.S. has been immensely damaged by the series of espionage cases disclosed in the last week. (New York Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

PRESIDENT VACILLATES ON TAX BILL -- President Reagan decided to endorse the Ways and Means Committee's tax overhaul legislation, but then withdrew the endorsement.
(Washington Post, New York Times, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

HIJACKING -- A breakaway Palestinian terror group backed by Libya said it was responsible for the hijacking.

BUSH/WAITE -- Vice President Bush met Tuesday with Terry Waite at the White House

PRESIDENT/LUCKY -- President Reagan took his dog Lucky to the ranch to stay from now on.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MALTA OPENS HEARING IN EGYPTAIR HIJACKING

VALLETTA, Malta -- A Maltese magistrate Tuesday began an investigation into the hijacking of the EgyptAir jetliner as surviving passengers reportedly identified a man wounded in the Egyptian rescue assault as the leader of the terrorists who seized the plane.

As hearings opened into the bloody events surrounding the hijacking, which ended here with 59 people dead, the Greek government protested to Malta for authorizing Egyptian commandos to storm the plane, and Egyptian President Mubarak stepped up his accusations of Libyan involvement and openly discussed with reporters the possibility of going to war with Libya.
(Washington Post, A1)

MALTA SAYS CHIEF OF THE HIJACKERS IS BEING DETAINED

A Maltese Government spokesman said Tuesday that a 20-year-old man hospitalized for wounds after the storming of the EgyptAir jet here Sunday night had been identified by several people as the "chief of the hijackers." The man was being detained by the Maltese authorities and was listed in satisfactory condition here. He has not been charged with any crimes. The Maltese spokesman, Paul Mifsud, said the man had given his name as Omar Marzouki and claimed to be Tunisian.

(E.J. Dionne, Jr., New York Times, A1)

EGYPTIANS UNRESPONSIVE TO MUBARAK

CAIRO -- President Hosni Mubarak's rising threats to take strong action against neighboring Libya to avenge the hijacking and destruction of an EgyptAir passenger jet in Malta on Sunday have failed thus far to create the kind of public support that would encourage a large-scale retaliation, analysts here asserted Tuesday.
(Washington Post, A1)

MUBARAK KEEPS OPTIONS OPEN AGAINST LIBYA

CAIRO, Egypt -- President Mubarak said Tuesday there was a "clear" link between Libya and the hijackers of an EgyptAir flight and indicated he would retaliate against those responsible.
(Washington Times, A1)

MUBARAK

Mubarak said, "I cannot comment on a military option, because we are not warmongers but the champions of peace. But if we resort to war, it will not be for the sake of peace."
(UPI)

U.S. OFFICIALS FIND IMMENSE DAMAGE IN ESPIONAGE CASES

When added to the harm caused by other major spy cases in the last six months, one senior Administration official said, "This has been an extraordinarily bad year for us -- it's going to cost us millions to recoup, if we can." Another Administration official adds, "There are more of these cases coming. Don't think it's over yet."

(Joel Brinkley, New York Times, A1)

NAVY PICKS TWO MISSILE SUBS FOR POSSIBLE '86 DISMANTLING

The Navy has identified two missile-launching submarines, the USS Nathan Hale and USS Andrew Jackson, for dismantling next year if President Reagan continues his policy of not undercutting the unratified SALT II agreement limits, congressional sources said Tuesday.

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

RETIREE KEPT CLOSE CIA TIES

A former CIA analyst of spying for China for more than 30 years as a consultant for the CIA until his arrest last week and maintained close ties with his ex-colleagues at the agency, according to an indictment returned Tuesday.

(Washington Post, A1)

ACCUSED SPY HAD YEARS OF POVERTY

Ronald William Pelton, arrested, arrested this week in Annapolis on espionage charges, struggled financially for years before he allegedly decided to spy for the Soviets. In the months just before the FBI says Pelton made contact with a Soviet agent, matters went from bad to worse.

(Washington Post, A1)

U.S. CONCERN UNABATED IN SPY CASE, ISRAEL SAYS

TEL AVIV -- Cabinet Minister Moshe Arens returned from the United States Tuesday, saying he apparently failed to erase American concern over charges that a U.S. intelligence analyst passed military secrets to Israel. "It will take time for the smoke to clear. I don't think we have succeeded in calming the situation," Arens told reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport.

(AP story, Washington Post, A10)

Israeli Diplomat Reportedly Recalled From Washington

TEL AVIV -- Israel Radio said Wednesday a senior Israeli diplomat has been recalled from Washington after the FBI identified him as the contact of the U.S. intelligence analyst accused of passing military secrets to Israel.

(AP)

FRIENDS OF ACCUSED SPY FOR ISRAEL REMEMBER
'BRILLIANT' COCAINE USER

Close friends of Jonathan Pollard, a Naval Investigative Service analyst arrested last week on espionage charges, say they saw Pollard and his wife "freebase" cocaine on several occasions. Freebasing requires greater quantities of cocaine, and thus is more expensive than "snorting" the drug.
(Washington Times, A2)

GHANA EXPELS 8 IN TRADE OF SPY SUSPECTS

Ghana announced Tuesday it had expelled eight nationals as part of an exchange of spies that freed Ghanaian Michael A. Soussoudis from a 20-year prison sentence imposed by a federal judge in Alexandria. The U.S. had originally sought the release of 14 people, according to an official familiar with the case.
(Washington Post, A10)

STAR WARS RESEARCH FOCUSING ON
GROUND LASERS, GENERAL SAYS SAYS

Congressional budget cuts have forced the Pentagon's "Star Wars" research program to focus its efforts on earth-based lasers, rather than the space-based weapons that gave the program its nickname, according to the program's leader. Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, in a briefing Tuesday, said his organization has decided to focus research on so-called free electron lasers that could be based on the ground.
(AP)

OFFICER WHO PHOTOGRAPHED MEDVID DISCIPLINED

A Navy officer who snapped some pictures of a Soviet sailor who jumped ship last month near New Orleans has received a letter of reprimand for refusing to turn the photos over to his superior officer.

Lt. James Geltz, a public affairs officer attached to the Naval Support Activity in New Orleans, was charged Nov. 15 with failure to obey a direct order from his superior, Capt. Claude L. Fare.

(AP story, Washington Post, A9)

SHULTZ TO VISIT COLUMBIA, ADDRESS OAS OFFICIALS

Secretary Shultz plans to visit Cartagena, Columbia, next week, to address foreign ministers of the Organization of American States, according to the State Department. He is also scheduled to meet informally with ministers of the Contadora nations -- Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Columbia -- to discuss their central American peace effort.

(Washington Post, A10)

GATT NATIONS SHOW NO SIGN OF RESOLVING SERVICES ROW

GENEVA -- Member nations of the world trade body GATT headed into the second full day of their annual meeting today with no sign of resolving a row that has prevented the start of new talks aimed at halting the spread of protectionism. U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Mike Smith indicated in his speech that he may force a vote on the issue, breaking with GATT's long-standing tradition of decisions by consensus.

(Reuter)

WAITE CONFERS WITH BUSH ON HOSTAGES IN LEBANON

Terry Waite, the Anglican church envoy who has been seeking freedom for the American hostages in Lebanon, met with Vice President Bush Tuesday, but said later that he had made "no special request" for the Administration to change its policy of refusing to negotiate with terrorists.

(John Goshko, Washington Post, A12)

MANILA ASSEMBLY SETS FEBRUARY VOTE

MANILA -- President Ferdinand Marcos' proposal for a special presidential election in the Philippines passed another hurdle Tuesday night when the National Assembly approved a bill setting the vote for Feb. 7.

(Washington Post, A12)

HOLD FAIR ELECTIONS, SENATORS TELL MARCOS

Four key members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have told Philippine President Marcos in a letter that failure to hold fair elections next year could lead to increased violence with "fateful consequences" for his nation and the United States.

The letter was signed by committee chairman Richard Lugar and Sens. Pell, Murkowski and Cranston.

(AP story, Washington Post, A12)

SOVIETS SEEK TO EXPAND INFLUENCE BY PLAYING ALL SIDES IN PHILIPPINES

The Soviet Union appears to have placed itself in an excellent position to increase its influence in the Philippines at the expense of the U.S., regardless of the outcome of a three-cornered struggle involving the government of Ferdinand Marcos, his moderate opposition and a communist insurgency. This conclusion emerges from talks with Reagan Administration officials and private analysts of the situation in the strategic South China Sea archipelago.

(Washington Times, A1)

GROUP OF WESTERN BANKS TO LEND SOVIETS \$400 MILLION

NEW YORK -- A group mostly of American banks and led by First National Bank of Chicago has agreed to lend the Soviet Union \$400 million at low interest rates to buy U.S. and Canadian agricultural products.

(Washington Post, D3)

POLICE BUS STRUCK BY BOMB, ONE POLICEMAN DEAD, 14 INJURED

ATHENS, Greece -- Premier Andreas Papandreaou said Wednesday a car bomb that ripped into a passing police bus, killing one officer and injuring 14 others, showed "destabilizing forces are threatening peace and democracy."
(AP)

FRANCE EXPLODES LARGE NUCLEAR DEVICE IN SOUTH PACIFIC

WELLINGTON -- France exploded a large nuclear device, estimated at 50 kilotons, at its Mururoa Atoll test site in the South Pacific, New Zealand scientists said Wednesday.
(Reuter)

LIBYAN SEEN INFLAMING FOLLOWERS

While there is no proof of Libyan involvement in the latest bloody hijacking, Egyptian and U.S. officials have indicated strong suspicion that Libyan leader Muammar Quaddafi was the mastermind.
(News analysis by David Ottaway, Washington Post, A13)

ARMENIAN RESOLUTION TRIGGERS IRE OF TURKS

Turkish Ambassador Sukra Elekdag says relations between that strategic NATO country and the U.S. could be "seriously and irreparably damaged" if a resolution now working its way through Congress were adopted. The resolution, introduced in March by Rep. Tony Coelho (D-Ca.), calls for April 24, 1986 to be declared as a "national day of remembrance" for the 1.5 million Armenians said to have been massacred under the Ottoman Empire in Turkey some 70 years ago. It tentatively is scheduled for debate on the House floor next Tuesday.
(Washington Times, A1)

NATIONAL NEWS

PRESIDENT VACILLATED ON TAX BILL

President Reagan formally decided last Friday to endorse the House Ways and Means Committee's tax overhaul legislation, but then withdrew the endorsement after senior White House officials had second thoughts, Administration officials said Tuesday.

Secretary Baker is pushing hard for mild presidential support of the bill, arguing that the endorsement can be withdrawn later as the legislation moves toward enactment. Chief of Staff Donald Regan, his top aide, Dennis Thomas, and others, are counseling caution.

(Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Warns Against Tax Bill

Washington -- The tax overhaul bill drafted by the House Ways and Means Committee would slow the economy while raising the deficit and unemployment, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce charges. Primarily, the organization complained about the 22 percent Capital Gains tax rate included in the bill.

(UPI)

The Favors Of Rostenkowski: Tax Revision's Quid Pro Quo

Special favors in tax bills are commonplace, but experts said Mr. Rostenkowski may have gone further this year than his predecessors who headed the House tax-writing committee. But from Rostenkowski's point of view it was a small price to pay to win approval of the most sweeping tax legislation since World War II, a bill that would otherwise end hundreds of tax advantages paid by every taxpayer in America.

(David Rosenbaum, New York Times, A1)

SHIPBUILDER DEFAULTING ON LOANS

A New Jersey company that built two incinerator ships to burn toxic wastes at sea with the help of the Maritime Administration has defaulted on its federally backed loans, costing the taxpayers \$64 million. At Sea, Inc., the New Jersey company that owns the incinerator ships, defaulted on its payments last week, in part because it failed to obtain the necessary permits from the EPA, and thus was unable to use the ships.

(Washington Post, A1)

ON THE FARM FRONT

A strong effort to shut down the farmer-owned Grain Reserve has failed with Senate passage of an amendment to retain the controversial farm policy tool. Retaining the reserve primarily for world food security was strongly lobbied for by 'Bread for the World,' a christian citizens' group involved in food issues. Several farm, church, consumer and activist groups lent their support.

(UPI)

EPA ALLOWS TEST-BURNING OF TOXIC WASTES OFF COAST

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Tuesday that, as an experiment, it will permit the burning of more than 700,000 gallons of toxic chemical waste off the Atlantic Coast next year.

(Cass Peterson, Washington Post, A4)

EMBATTLED CORNELIUS HANGS ON

The White House's unsuccessful efforts to oust Loretta Cornelius as deputy director of the Office of Personnel Management have raised doubts within the Administration about the resolve of Donald Regan, President Reagan's chief of staff, and Alfred Kington, the Cabinet secretary, to confront the issue, according to government sources.

(George Archibald, Washington Post, A4)

REAGAN CALLS HIS RANCH 'DOG HEAVEN'

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. -- President Reagan began a Thanksgiving vacation at his California ranch Tuesday and introduced his sheep dog, Lucky, to her new home at his 688-acre spread in the Santa Ynez mountains. As he approached reporters flying with him to California, with the dog at his side, Reagan joked, "I get good reviews, or I turn her loose!"

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A6)

Reagan At California Ranch For Thanksgiving Vacation

Most of Mr. Reagan's time at the ranch is expected to be spent in rest and recreation. Sunday night he and Mrs. Reagan will go to Los Angeles for a celebrity tribute to the President. Mr. Reagan will travel to Seattle on Monday for two fundraising events for Sen. Slade Gorton, a Washington Republican. (Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A4)

REPUBLICANS WOO CHAVEZ TO RUN FOR MATHIAS' SEAT

Linda Chavez, director of the White House public liaison office, is being wooed by senior Republicans and conservative activists to run for the U.S. Senate seat of retiring Maryland Republican Sen. Charles Mc. Mathias, a ranking White House official said Tuesday.

Mrs. Chavez declined to comment on the report.

(Warren Strobel, Washington Times, A1)

ELECTION PANEL ENDORSES PARTY-SPONSORED DEBATES

A bipartisan commission Tuesday recommended that the two major political parties assume sponsorship of presidential campaign debates. The commission also called for a national voter registration day at least 30 days before each presidential election to promote a larger voter turnout and strengthen the political parties.

(Washington Post, A8)

REAGAN BIO BOUGHT FOR \$3 MILLION

"Well, we bought it!" proclaimed Robert Bernstein, president and chairman of Random House, triumphant Tuesday at the conclusion of the bidding for Edmund Morris' planned biography of Ronald Reagan. According to several sources, Morris will be paid about \$3 million for the project. (Sidney Blumenthal, Washington Post, E1)

Random House Buys Reagan Book

President Reagan has already shown Mr. Morris a volume of the diary he has kept since he became President. "The diary entries were somewhat slim at first, but they have been filled out in recent years," Morris said. (Edwin McDowell, New York Times, C1)

FIRST LADY WINS PRO STARS' PRAISE FOR ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Nancy Reagan won praise from some of the nation's top professional athletes as "America's most valuable player" in the battle against narcotics.

The First Lady told 1,200 people attending a \$125-a-plate fundraising dinner Tuesday night that "Pros for Kids," a drug prevention and treatment program for youngsters in the San Francisco Bay area, was "a crucial one and a logical one because kids always look up to famous people for an example to emulate." (UPI)

FAUST RESIGNS AFTER 5 YEARS AT NOTRE DAME

Gerry Faust, a high school coaching legend with a reputation as a nice guy and passion for Notre Dame, resigned Tuesday from the only job he ever wanted, ending five years with more losses than any coach in Fighting Irish history. (Washington Post, C1)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, November 26, 1985)

HIJACKING

CBS's DAN RATHER reports a breakaway Palestinian terror group backed by Libya said today that it was responsible for the weekend hijacking of that Egyptian airliner flying from Athens to Cairo. Fifty-nine people were killed -- all but one during the attempted commando rescue.

CBS's STEVE CROFT reports the Greek government maintains the weapons had to have come on board the plane in Cairo. The United States government is now trying to resolve that exact issue. It has dispatched federal investigators to both cities to check the airports and decide whether Americans should be warned away from traveling through either one.
(NBC-Lead, CBS-Lead, ABC-Lead)

NBC's TOM BROKAW reports the possibility that Libya may be connected to this hijacking raises still more questions about that country's controversial leader Khadafy.

NBC's GARRICK UTLEY asks how does he get away with it and survive? ...Americans remember the heavy security measures around the White House in 1981 when it was feared that terrorists backed by Khadafy had entered the country. The United States did take action. We stopped buying Libyan oil and expelled Libyan diplomats. This fall the Reagan Administration authorized covert operations to undermine Khadafy, but the rest of the world hasn't followed.
(NBC-2)

BUSH/WAITE

RATHER reports Terry Waite met today at the White House with George Bush.

(TV coverage: Vice President Bush and Waite talking.)

Waite said he is still hopeful he can win freedom for the remaining American captives in Lebanon but he said he has no special requests to make of U.S. officials. Bush said he wanted to thank a man who: "Is going the extra mile."
(CBS-2)

ABC's JOHN McWETHY reports ABC News has learned that the U.S. government felt sufficiently encouraged by Waite's most recent trip to Beirut that a number of Government specialists were dispatched to Europe to receive the American hostages should they suddenly be freed. U.S. officials say those American specialists have now been called home and the outlook for release of the hostages any time soon is again thought to be remote.
(ABC-2)

STAR WARS

RATHER reports a federal judge in Washington ruled today that the makers of "Star Wars" -- the movie -- cannot stop public talk of Star Wars the space-based missile defense system that is officially called the Strategic Defense Initiative.
(NBC-8, CBS-10)

-more-

White House News Summary -- Wednesday, November 27, 1985 -- B-2

(Tuesday Evening, November 26, 1985)

RATHER reports not far from today's court proceedings, Pentagon officials today invited reporters to what even they call a briefing on Star Wars 101.

CBS's DAVID MARTIN reports these pictures of another successful Star Wars test were released today by the Pentagon. The general in charge of the program is ecstatic.

(General James Abrahamson: "We are seeing invention and innovation coming along at just an incredible pace.")

The Pentagon will need all the salesmanship it can muster if it hopes to overcome the Soviet propaganda blitz against Star Wars and the Congressional search for cuts in the defense budget.

(CBS-11, ABC-3, NBC-9)

ESPIONAGE ARRESTS

ABC's JOHN MARTIN reports the head of FBI counterintelligence said today the current surge of espionage arrests comes from greater Soviet aggressiveness and greater American vigilance.

(James Geer: "There has been an increased aggressiveness as far as their attempts to collect sensitive U.S. information particularly in the area of science and technology.")

Mr. Geer said the decision to publicly prosecute is aimed at creating a hostile environment for spies and potential traitors. (ABC-4)

PRESIDENT/LUCKY

RATHER reports yesterday it was the national turkey, today it was an Air Force One photo opportunity with his White House dog Lucky. It could be Lucky's last photo opportunity. President Reagan today took his dog to his California ranch to stay from now on, but the President is going there for a post-summit Thanksgiving vacation.

(TV coverage: The President boarding Air Force One with Lucky.)

(ABC-11, CBS-12, ABC-13)

CBS COMMENTARY

RATHER: For his commentary tonight, Bill Moyers looks back on the summit one week later and finds the mountain has receded in more ways than one.

CBS's BILL MOYERS comments this week we getting those little leaks that put rouge on the cheeks of the formal portrait in Geneva. We are told the talk was lively, frank and contradictory as it should have been if they were to address the real differences that become even more dangerous for being papered over. ...The Soviets I talked to privately in Geneva still sound as if they regard capitalist America as the leading imperialist power attempting to choke the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. We regard them, of course, as the unrelenting enemy of Democracy, and powerful forces in this country would welcome a showdown short of nuclear war. Some of those people gathered in Washington this weekend for a conference.

(Tuesday Evening, November 26, 1985)

MOYERS continues: They said aloud that if we keep the arms race going and inflict some defeat on the Russians in the third world, the Soviet Union will roll up the ideological red carpet and call it quits. Mr. Reagan seemed to oblige them in his radio talk on Saturday. Five years ago he said we needed to spend a trillion dollars to negotiate with Moscow from strength. Having spent it, he called on Saturday for spending more to convince the Soviets we really mean it. So from a distance this summit begins to appear a mole hill. (CBS-14)

NBC COMMENTARY

BROKAW: John Chancellor's commentary is about the effect of Star Wars on relations between this country and the Soviet Union.

NBC's JOHN CHANCELLOR comments most Americans believe that the Star Wars program is a purely defensive plan. Whether they believe it can work or not, Americans do not think of it as an offensive weapons system. But the Russians are now saying it is an offensive system. Donald Regan said he learned at the summit conference in Geneva that the Russians, in his words, honestly believe that what we are trying to accomplish is not what we are saying, that we are not trying to find a defense against ballistic missiles, we are trying to find a weapon we can put in space, he said, under this guise: That will become another form of offensive weapon that will not only shoot down missiles but buildings as well. The President has reported the same Soviet fear based on what Gorbachev told him in Geneva, and that may signal a change in the Soviet position. Gorbachev had been calling Star Wars an anti-missile system. So the White House is now saying that the Soviets regard the Strategic Defense Initiative as a sham, a trick designed to install a new generation of offensive weapons in space above the Soviet Union. It has been generally believed that the Soviets didn't want Star Wars because they didn't want to spend a lot of money on a defensive system, but if they honestly believe as the White House says, that Star Wars is only a smoke screen for offensive weapons in space, that's important. If the Soviets do believe that, that it's all a plot, logic might compel them to produce their own offensive weapons in space. Maybe this is just a bargaining position, but if it isn't, the gulf is very wide. The President seems to see Star Wars as a religion, the Soviets as a con job. That's a big difference and it could make arms control much harder to achieve. (NBC-10)

WALL STREET

ABC's PETER JENNINGS reports it was a quiet day on Wall Street. The Dow closed up just slightly and the trading was moderate. (ABC-12)