

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

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

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

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

Folder Title: 01/30/1986

Box: 386

To see more digitized collections visit:

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

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

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

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

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

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



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan to go to Comfort Challenger Families -- President Reagan, again becoming the nation's comforter, will go to the Johnson Space Center in Houston Friday to pay tribute to the seven astronauts who died in the inferno of the shuttle Challenger, aides say.

(New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, UPI)

Lyng Should Receive Okay For Top Agriculture Job -- Richard Lyng, a veteran agribusinessman and farm policymaker with strong Washington connections, should have no trouble winning Senate confirmation as President Reagan's new agriculture secretary, say lawmakers of both parties.

(Washington Post, AP, UPI)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan to Meet Angolan Guerrilla Chieftain -- Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi appears to be receiving support from the State Department in his efforts to bring attention to U.S. business investments in the West African nation.

(Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, AP)

Reagan Accused of Ignoring Central American Abuses -- The Reagan Administration continued to ignore reports of atrocities by pro-U.S. forces in Central America last year, but its overall record on handling human rights issues improved, four private groups reported today.

(AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Wednesday Evening)

CHALLENGER/CAUSE -- The shock is wearing off, but the big question remains unanswered: What did happen?

REAGAN CONDOLENCES -- President Reagan telephoned the families of the victims to offer his sympathy.

LYNG -- Richard Lyng was named by his old friend, President Reagan, to be the next Secretary of Agriculture.



NATIONAL NEWS

NASA OPENS SHUTTLE PROBE

HOUSTON -- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration set in motion today a long, slow and extraordinarily complex search for the cause of the catastrophic explosion that killed seven astronauts and destroyed the space shuttle Challenger in the worst disaster in space-flight history.

The White House announced that President Reagan, who spent much of the day consoling families over the telephone, will fly to the Johnson Space Center on Friday to lead the national tribute to crew members Dick Scobee, Michael Smith, Christa McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis, Ellison S. Onizuka, Ronald McNair, and Judith A. Resnik.

(Thomas O'Toole, Washington Post, A1)

Reagan to go to Comfort Challenger Families

President Reagan, again becoming the nation's comforter, will go to the Johnson Space Center in Houston Friday to pay tribute to the seven astronauts who died in the inferno of the shuttle Challenger, aides say.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

NASA Vows to Continue Space Shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- NASA officials yesterday refused to speculate on the cause of the space shuttle explosion Tuesday, but they vowed to continue the shuttle program as soon as answers are found. "The loss will not stop America from exploring the frontiers of science and the frontiers of space," NASA spokesman Hugh Harris said yesterday. "We're dedicated to press on."

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

Shuttle Debris Contains no Trace Of Crew

PORT CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Bits of debris from the shuttle Challenger keep turning up but a small armada of searchers has yet to find the first trace of the \$1.2 billion spacecraft's seven-member crew. The first load of debris, about 600 pounds, arrived at Port Canaveral Wednesday. The material plucked from the ocean contained no personal effects of the five men and two women aboard the Challenger.

(Strat Douthat, AP)

Pentagon Payloads on Shuttle in Jeopardy

The Pentagon had reserved the cargo bay on the space shuttle Challenger for a secret payload in December, but the fiery loss of the orbiter put the future of other such classified projects in doubt today. Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims said Wednesday that the Challenger's destruction in a fireball will have a serious impact on future Pentagon launches of secret military payloads and experimental packages into earth's orbit.

(Richard Gross, UPI)

Space Agency Starts Inquiry on the Challenger Explosion

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- A full-scale, broad-based inquiry began on three fronts today in an effort to determine the cause of the explosion of the shuttle Challenger, history's worst space disaster.

Ships, planes and helicopters searching a 50-by-100 mile rectangle of the Atlantic Ocean east of Cape Canaveral recovered hundreds of pounds of debris that may hold clues to the accident Tuesday in which five men and two women were killed. A heavy, cone-shaped object was discovered by the search team, but NASA declined to identify it immediately.

(William Broad, New York Times, A1)

PRESIDENT WILL NOMINATE LYNNG TO SUCCEED BLOCK AT AGRICULTURE

President Reagan announced yesterday that he will nominate fellow Californian Richard Lyng, a long-time Republican ally and policy adviser, to succeed John Block as secretary of agriculture.

Lyng, who resigned as deputy secretary a year ago to set up a consulting firm, is expected to win easy confirmation in the Senate, where he is well-regarded.

(Ward Sinclair, Washington Post, A5)

Huge Task Faces Agriculture Nominee

Supporters of President Reagan's choice for Agriculture Secretary say Richard Lyng can deal with the worst farm crisis since the Great Depression, but farm groups are concerned the task may be too great for him. After the long-expected announcement, most agricultural leaders expressed confidence in Lyng's ability to live up to his task. But some farm groups said he would make little difference to debt-strapped farmers.

(Sonja Hillgren, UPI)

Lyng Should Receive Okay For Top Agriculture Job

Richard Lyng, a veteran agribusinessman and farm policymaker with strong Washington connections, should have no trouble winning Senate confirmation as President Reagan's new agriculture secretary, say lawmakers of both parties.

"He's bringing with him a solid agriculture background and years of front-line action at the Agriculture Depart," Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., said Wednesday. "I don't foresee any problems with his confirmation."

(Jim Drinkard, AP)

AGRICULTURE ALLEGED TO PLAY DOWN FOOD STUDY

The Agriculture Department deliberately deemphasized and all but suppressed a major research report showing that the special food-supplement program for low-income pregnant women and children substantially improves their health, Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) said yesterday. The study says the Women, Infants and Children program significantly cuts premature births and fetal and early-infancy deaths and improves infant birth weight.

(Spencer Rich, Washington Post, A10)

PACKARD REPORT ON DEFENSE PROCUREMENT COULD BE BITTER PILL FOR REAGAN

Senior White House officials are eagerly awaiting the report of a presidential commission that, ironically, could have some embarrassing things to say about the Reagan Administration.

The Packard Commission, as it is known, was created last summer by President Reagan to investigate a defense procurement system whose abuses were showing up as ordinary pliers that cost taxpayers hundreds of dollars, kennel costs for industry executives' dogs that were being boarded at public expense and -- worse of all -- billions of dollars wasted on weapons that didn't work. (Michael Putzel, AP)

MOB STABLE OF LAWYERS DESCRIBED

A former New York prosecutor who became a mob lawyer testified yesterday that the Mafia keeps a nationwide stable of "trusted" attorneys who regularly produce perjured testimony, arrange payoffs and even turn against their own clients if they show signs of cooperating with the government.

Heavily guarded by federal marshals, Martin Light leveled the charges in an appearance before the President's Commission on Organized Crime that officials said was the first direct account from "a lawyer gone bad" with the mob. (George Lardner, Washington Post, A3)

EPA'S SUPERFUND PROGRAM IS RUNNING OUT OF MONEY

The EPA is fast running out of money to clear up toxic waste dumps and will begin to shut down the Superfund program in two weeks unless additional funds are made available, EPA Administrator Lee Thomas said yesterday.

The House and Senate passed bills last year to expand Superfund and renew it for five years, but efforts to reconcile their versions have been blocked by an acrimonious battle over the size of the fund and how to raise the money. Lobbying has been intense on both sides, and the White House has threatened to veto both financing schemes.

(Cass Peterson, Washington Post, A7)

ADMINISTRATION TO CUT OFF FUNDS FOR CONSERVATIVE YOUTH COUNCIL

Despite its concern over the battle for young minds abroad, the Reagan Administration is poised to strip funds of the major international political youth program -- although the program is controlled by conservatives for the first time in years. The U.S. Youth Council, slated to lose its federal funds Feb. 1, is the victim not so much of the Gramm-Rudman balanced-budget legislation, but the mismanagement of its former leaders, according to council officials.

(Warren Strobe, Washington Times, A4)

OFFICIALS REPORT FERRARO APPEARS CLEAR IN INQUIRY

The Justice Department is completing a lengthy investigation into Geraldine Ferraro's finances and currently has no plans to prosecute her, Federal law-enforcement officials said yesterday.

Mrs. Ferraro, who was interviewed earlier this month by the department, has said that the outcome of the investigation would not alter her decision to pass up a race for the United States Senate.

(Philip Shenon, New York Times, A1)

ADMINISTRATION WINNING IN CONRAIL BATTLE

The Reagan Administration's \$1.2 billion plan to sell Conrail, the government-owned freight railroad, is winning easy victories in early Senate skirmishing. Administration forces in the Senate swept aside 68-31 Wednesday a budgetary roadblock to approval of the sale to Norfolk Southern Corp. and then beat back a move to switch buyers.

(Mike Robinson, AP)

LEADING INDICATORS

From all accounts, the U.S. economy enjoyed a sharp upturn in December, but analysts are divided over whether the rebound is temporary or a sign of faster growth in coming months. The Reagan Administration and some private analysts are forecasting markedly higher growth as the economy is rejuvenated by falling interest rates.

However, other analysts are looking for little revival, at least through the first half of the year, contending that U.S. manufacturers will continue to be held back by soaring trade deficits.

(Martin Crutsinger, AP)

###

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DON'T MAKE A DEAL FOR COVERT AID, CONSERVATIVES TELL UNITA LEADER

American conservatives have warned Jonas Savimbi not accept any secret deals offered by the Reagan Administration to ward off congressional debate in exchange for covert military aid to his Angolan rebels.

The warning was telephoned to a Savimbi aide and conveyed directly to Savimbi as the resistance leader met with Secretary Shultz yesterday. "We told him to avoid making any promises and making any deals," a source said. (James Morrison, Washington Times, A5)

Reagan to Meet Angolan Guerrilla Chieftain

Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, visiting government officials here, appears to be receiving support from the State Department in his efforts to bring attention to U.S. business investments in the West African nation.

Savimbi, here seeking American backing for his struggle against the Cuban-backed government in Luanda, has long been troubled by the benefits the Marxist authorities have received from Angolan-based U.S. firms. He was to discuss the matter with President Reagan today.

(George Gedda, AP)

Reagan to Help Angolan Rebels, Sources Assert

The Reagan Administration has secretly notified Congress that it intends to proceed with covert military assistance to anti-government guerrillas in Angola, according to intelligence sources.

A formal finding giving notice to House and Senate intelligence committees was submitted last month, sources said, and this action allows the Administration to tap existing reserves available to the Central Intelligence Agency.

(David Rogers, Wall Street Journal, A2)

TACTICS OF U.S. OIL FIRMS IN LIBYA SAID TO UNDERCUT EMBARGO

TRIPOLI, Libya -- Four major American oil companies operating here have stopped shipping Libyan crude, but in effect have undercut President Reagan's embargo by "lending" or selling their production to oil companies of other nations, diplomats and industry sources said today.

Libyan, West German, Italian and other oil companies have taken over the roughly 20 percent share of Libya's production involving American firms, according to the sources, who requested anonymity. They said this allowed Libya to maintain its output of 1.2 million barrels per day.

(Jonathan Randal, Washington Post, A1)

SOVIETS BUY U.S. TECHNOLOGY FOR DEFENSE, OFFICIAL CHARGES

The Soviet Union is secretly buying key American computer components for use in its own version of a "star wars" space-based nuclear missile defense system, a senior defense official has told the Washington Times. "There's a real push on by the Soviets to get 300-megabyte disc drives," said Stephen Bryen, deputy undersecretary of defense for trade security policy.

The official said there is speculation in the Pentagon about why the Soviets are illegally purchasing the computer memory components at inflated prices. U.S. law prohibits their sale to the Soviet bloc because of their potential military value. (Walter Andrews, Washington Times, A5)

SEN. LUGAR WARNS WHITE HOUSE ABOUT SEEKING FOREIGN AID RISE

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) warned the Reagan Administration yesterday that it will be inviting "catastrophe" for the entire foreign aid program if it seeks across-the-board aid increases for fiscal 1987.

Lugar's warning to William Schneider came in the wake of published reports that the Administration is planning to request a substantial increase in foreign aid for the next fiscal year despite spending cuts required under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-balancing legislation.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A9)

Budget/Foreign

President Reagan plans to seek a one-third increase in military assistance programs worldwide in his 1987 budget and give some strategic allies major boosts in foreign aid despite a new deficit-reduction law, according to an internal document.

The document, circulated on Capitol Hill this week, proposes a \$1.3 billion boost in 1987 foreign aid, including a 25 percent increase to Central American allies, a 46 percent hike to Jordan in the Middle East, and a 45 percent jump for Sudan, an African nation that borders Libya.

(Robert Parry, AP)

Administration May Ask More For Foreign Aid

The Reagan Administration has drafted a plan for a more than \$1 billion increase in foreign aid in the budget it will propose next week, but a key Senate Republican warned yesterday that such a request could be "courting catastrophe" in light of the need to cut federal spending.

The draft budget request, a copy of which was obtained from congressional sources, shows that the Administration is also contemplating nearly doubling U.S. military aid to the Philippines, from \$54 million now to \$102 million.

(Nancy Schwerzler, Baltimore Sun, A1)

U.S. HITS HAITI ON RIGHTS

Human rights abuses in Haiti have become so flagrant that the State Department is withholding the annual certification required for government-to-government U.S. aid, department officials said yesterday.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A6)

QADDAFI THREATENING U.S. PLANES

Muammar Qaddafi now has a few Soviet SA5 anti-aircraft missiles at his disposal and is threatening to use them if U.S. Navy planes venture over the Gulf of Sidra, Administration officials said yesterday. The SA5s, which have a range of about 150 miles but are ineffective against low-flying planes, are located on the Libyan coast of Sirte, officials said.

(George Wilson, Washington Post, A33)

CIA PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE OF CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMY

At a time when the Reagan Administration is mounting a major campaign to get over a billion dollars for its Central American clients, a pessimistic CIA assessment concludes that the region's economic difficulties "are unlikely to ease significantly any time soon."

That judgement assumes U.S. assistance -- virtually the region's only source of foreign financing -- will continue at present rates for the foreseeable future.

(Roger Fontaine, Washington Times, A1)

REAGAN EXPECTED TO GET CONTRA MILITARY AID, BUT WITH QUESTIONS

Congress appears resigned to giving President Reagan military aid for the Contra guerrillas in Nicaragua this year, but without being convinced the five-year-old insurgency is achieving its goals.

Reagan is expected to request \$100 million, with as much as half that amount going for arms. But before getting the aid, the President and his advisers will face intense questioning about what the U.S.-backed Contras are up to.

(Gregory Nokes, AP)

REAGAN ACCUSED OF IGNORING CENTRAL AMERICAN ABUSES

The Reagan Administration continued to ignore reports of atrocities by pro-U.S. forces in Central America last year, but its overall record on handling human rights issues improved, four private groups reported today.

The groups -- Americas Watch, Asia Watch, Helsinki Watch and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights -- said the Administration took a stronger stand against abuses in Chile, Haiti, South Korea, Liberia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

(Robert Parry, AP)

TRADE DEFICIT COULD BEGIN SHRINKING, ECONOMISTS SAY

The U.S. trade deficit, expected to top a record \$140 billion for 1985, may have peaked and could soon start inching down as imported goods gradually become more expensive, many economists say.

The Commerce Department was to release its figures on the 1985 trade deficit today. Government and private analysts predicted a figure of around \$144 billion -- sharply up from the record \$123.3 billion deficit of 1984. The nation in 1985 imported an average \$12 billion more each month than it exported.

(Tom Raum, AP)

REAGAN WANTS MASSIVE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR DIPLOMATS

President Reagan intends to ask Congress for an additional \$700 million for this year to upgrade security at American diplomatic outposts around the world, congressional sources say. The request would launch a comprehensive new effort to protect American diplomats and property with an ultimate cost of several billion dollars. It would come just as many federal programs are being cut because of the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law.

(David Espo, AP)

-end-of-A-section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Wednesday Evening, January 29)

CHALLENGER -- SPECULATION ON THE CAUSE

NBC's Tom Brokaw: The shock now is wearing off, but the grief goes on and the big question remains unanswered: what did happen? As this nation entered a period of mourning, debris from the shattered spacecraft continue to wash ashore.

NBC's Robert Bazell reports from Cape Canaveral that today NASA announced the beginning of the investigation to try to find the cause of yesterday's disaster. Panels of experts will examine the explosion from many different perspectives. Examination of the debris will be one crucial phase of the investigation.

(NASA spokesman: "We need every piece of that, because we don't know where the clue might be.")

NASA officials said today that up to the instant of the explosion, there were no indications that anything was wrong. To try and learn what caused the explosion, scientists and engineers will carefully examine photographs of the launch. The officials will also look at the data records from hundreds of sensors on board the spacecraft. The officials also revealed today that 30 seconds after the explosion, the Air Force Range Safety officer destroyed the two solid rocket boosters. This was done by activating explosives attached to the rockets. It was necessary because they might have flown into nearby populated areas.

NBC's Dan Molina reports from Houston, Texas that there are a number of theories that some people share. Much of the conjecture about what went wrong centers on the shuttle's huge external fuel tank.

(ALL NETS LEAD)

ABC's John Quinones: The military is racing against curiosity seekers already combing the beaches for the remnants of Challenger. NASA and the military are combing 5,500 square miles surrounding the accident.

ABC's Lynn Sherr: At the Johnson Space Center in Houston today, NASA began examining the flight data. But the flight director said his team had no indication of problems.

Clearly, the hard questions about what happened must be addressed to the companies who make the shuttle and its components. Challenge to Rockwell International: Was Challenger still flight-worthy?

CBS's Bruce Hall: Coast Guard boats are combing the Atlantic, searching for clues. The first boat returned this afternoon with almost 600 pounds of wreckage, but no vital parts. Many of the important pieces have already sunk to the bottom. With so little evidence remaining, NASA is faced with a frightening array of questions.

A NATION IN MOURNING

Brokaw: President Reagan telephoned the families to offer sympathy. On Friday, the President and Mrs. Reagan will travel to Houston for memorial services at the Johnson Space Center.

NBC's Tom Pettit: America wore its heart and its flag at half-staff today. From the Atlantic, to the Pacific....

(Man in the street: "It's like when Kennedy died and Martin Luther King died. You always feel inside like a part of you is gone, too.")

CBS's Dan Rather: President and Mrs. Reagan will fly to the Johnson Space Center near Houston Friday to attend midday memorial services for the seven who died.

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan has managed to be in contact with all seven families of those members of Challenger who were lost. And on Friday, President Reagan will represent the nation at a memorial service for the astronauts at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

ABC's John Martin: Late this afternoon, NASA released photos of shock and surprise on the faces of mission controllers in the moments after the explosion. At a press conference today, the man in the picture, Flight Director Jay Greene, fought back tears.

(Greene: "There was nothing anybody could've done for this one; it just stopped.")

ABC's Bill Blakemore: By television and radio, still involved in unifying our shock, relaying the feelings of the President:

(President Reagan: "They're still much as they were yesterday. I think all of us have escaped the numbness of the shock that we all felt.")

The President later called relatives of those killed.

CHRISTA McAULIFFE

Brokaw: A teacher in space. A letter from President Reagan is being sent to the students at her high school there. It will be read tomorrow at an assembly.

NBC's Fred Briggs reports from Concord, New Hampshire that it isn't just children who are caught in the collective vacuum of this uncertainty. The high school will reopen tomorrow on a reduced schedule because the teachers -- Christa McAuliffe's co-workers -- needed to collect themselves today.

CBS's Charles Osgood: There was a special church service today for 240 children from kindergarten through eighth grade in Concord, New Hampshire.

FUTURE OF SPACE PROGRAM

NBC's Robert Hager: The full extent of delays to the space program will depend on how long it takes to find out what went wrong with the shuttle, and how long it takes to overcome those problems. But a lot of plans are in trouble. In danger: military projects, intelligence-gathering satellites.

As for long-range projects, set back, some say, 'Star Wars.' A big part of the shuttle's mission is to develop technology for putting the military in space. Some suggested today the emphasis could now shift back to unmanned flights. As for civilians in space, like journalists and teachers, Sen. John Glenn said today that he thinks that would be a mistake now, for the near future.

Jennings: There was no lack of debate yesterday about whether future missions in space should continue to be manned. Those objections we heard were raised primarily by politicians, and we wanted to know what other people around the country thought. So ABC News conducted an overnight poll of more than 500 people, and the response was overwhelming that the shuttle program should continue. As to whether teachers or other civilians should be included, the response again was overwhelmingly in favor of it.

ABC NEWS POLL:

Continue Shuttle Program

YES -- 72%

NO -- 22%

NO OPINION -- 6%

Include Civilians:

YES -- 79%

NO -- 16%

NO OPINION -- 5%

ABC's Steve Shepherd: The Defense Department relies heavily on the shuttle to launch spy satellites and to conduct experiments on America's Strategic Defense Initiative. Defense officials conceded today that the loss of Challenger will have a serious impact on America's military space program. But it could have been worse. With what now appears to have been exceptional foresight, the Air Force persuaded Congress last year to fund the construction of 10 new unmanned Titan 34 D-7 missiles. In two years they will provide the heavy lift capability the shuttle now offers. The Air Force wanted those rockets specifically because of its fears that the space shuttle program was falling behind and technically troubled. The Air Force has also begun converting de-commissioned Titan ICBMs into satellite launchers.

CBS's David Martin: Informed sources told CBS News that a Pentagon contingency plan prepared last year called for building a new orbiter in the event of a catastrophe in the shuttle program. That would take five years and cost \$2 billion. A Pentagon spokesman said today that the Challenger tragedy will have a "serious impact" on the military space program.

CBS's Jerry Bowen: In jeopardy, and facing at least a year's delay is the joint American-European satellite survey of the sun's poles, to have been carried aloft May 15 by the now-destroyed Challenger.

CBS's Bob Schieffer:

(Sen. Glenn: "Every one of those seats should go to someone in training to make sure that we get the maximum experience on every flight.") The accident has revived old doubts and raised new ones. After the 1967 fire that took three astronauts' lives, it was almost two years before America was able to put another person in space. Whatever the current investigation finds, it now seems certain that the entire space effort is about to undergo its toughest scrutiny yet, from both scientists and Congress.

MOON-NAMING PROPOSAL

Brokaw: You'll remember that the unmanned Voyager II's close encounter with Uranus resulted in the discovery of ten new moons around that planet. There was a suggestion today that seven of them be named for the astronauts killed aboard Challenger. That suggestion came from Rep. Bill Nelson of Florida, a crew member aboard the shuttle Columbia earlier this month.

Jennings: Congressman Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), who has flown on the shuttle, suggested that seven of the new moons discovered around Uranus this month be named after the seven members of the Challenger.

WORLD SORROW

Brokaw: Mikhail Gorbachev wired President Reagan, saying, "we partake of your grief," and he sent his sympathies to the American people and the families of the shuttle victims. Pope John Paul called the astronauts "courageous pioneers of peace," and said he has offered a special prayer for their souls. And from Great Britain, Prime Minister Thatcher said "new knowledge sometimes demands sacrifice of the bravest and the best." She said the spirit of the Challenger crew was the spirit of America and its people.

NBC's Jim Bitterman: In Tokyo, in Frankfurt, in Paris, and in Cairo, mankind had shared the step-by-step success of America's space program, and today, mankind shared its loss. As Americans lowered their flags at diplomatic outposts around the world, there was an outpouring of sympathy. In Warsaw, though, there was a sour note. Commentators for the Polish state press used the crash to further their criticism of America's space defense plan. But that kind of reaction was rare. European rocket makers, who compete directly with the shuttle for satellite launch business, did not gloat over its failure. People everywhere identify with those who are in mourning.

Jennings: One Soviet official did say today that this should be a warning about the instability about the SDI, or 'Star Wars' program, but on a very broad scale in the Soviet Union, from Mikhail Gorbachev to the man in the street, the reaction was much more personal.

ABC's Walter Rodgers reports from Moscow that a Soviet television announcer read the telegram that General Secretary Gorbachev sent to President Reagan and the American people.

(Gorbachev's telegram: "We partake of your grief at the tragic death of the crew of the space shuttle Challenger.")

Today the Soviet people appeared deeply moved by newspaper accounts of the five men and two women killed under the headline, 'Tragedy At Cape Canaveral.' It's estimated 180 million Russians watched the fiery end of Challenger on the Soviet newscasts last night, but today the Russians had nothing but praise for the American technology that produced the shuttle, despite yesterday's mishap. What happened yesterday has clear implications for the Soviet space program as well. The Russians will study closely the American tragedy, because they're in the process of developing a fledgling shuttle program of their own.

Rather: People the world over saw and heard and read about the spaceship tragedy today. They discussed it with their friends and they shared in our sorrow. "The world feels deep pain," said the Pope. He adds, "I offer a fervent prayer to God to accept the spirits of these courageous pioneers."

KHADAFY OFFER

Brokaw: The White House brushed aside an offer by Khadafy to urge an end to terrorist attacks in Europe if the United States would promise not to attack Libya. Meanwhile, Italian and West German officials said that in recent years, they have been able to prevent some terrorist attacks because of tips by Libyan agents. (NBC-2)

LYNG

Brokaw: In Washington, Richard Lyng of California was named by an old friend, President Reagan, to be the next Secretary of Agriculture. In the past, Lyng has been a spokesman for America's meat packers, and he has come under attack by consumer groups. (NBC-3)

HOUSE VOTE ON POLLS

Rather: The House voted to close all polls on presidential election day at 9:00 p.m. Eastern time in the 48 continental states. The Senate has yet to act. (CBS-2)

ISRAELI JETS

Rather: Israeli jets struck Palestinian bases in southern Lebanon, killing at least five people. (CBS-3)

PASSIVE SMOKING

Brokaw: There is a new warning tonight about the health dangers of so-called passive smoking. That's second-hand cigarette smoke inhaled from the air by non-smokers. A top official of the EPA cited evidence linking it to disease. He called for strong steps to protect non-smokers from such exposure. (NBC-4)

###

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER

The Death Of A School Teacher -- "'It's all part of the process of exploration and discovery. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons,' President Reagan explained to school children yesterday. He had offered the right solace, not despair and not withdrawal, but more missions, even one day more school teachers in space. In this moment, the country mourns; in the next, the task will be to honor the dead by again turning tragedy into triumph." (New York Times, 1/29)

Disbelief and Gratitude -- "They fought the good fight, Mrs. McAuliffe and her fellow crewmen, and they kept the faith. As we mourn for their families, let us not neglect their courage and the purpose for which they died, and let us give thanks that, when the goal is distant and the prize obscured, we sent heroes such as these." (Washington Times, 1/29)

It's No Time To Doubt Manned Space Flight -- "Manned flight must go on. As we have learned many times, humans can do things in space that machines cannot. Time and time again, human ingenuity has improved experiments, fixed satellites, and saved missions.... Scobee was right. Were he alive today, he would side with the poet Robert Browning, who wrote: 'Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's heaven for?'" (USA Today, 1/29)

Space -- "Others will follow these seven brave men and women. Mr. Reagan put it just right in his brief remarks yesterday afternoon: 'Nothing ends here.'" (Wall Street Journal, 1/29)

Lesson From Space -- "Jolting as the experience was for the nation, it had to be even more traumatic for the children. One of the purposes of this 25th shuttle mission was to introduce youngsters to the manned space program. Instead they were introduced to unthinkable tragedy, and their reaction -- after an initial response of stunned denial -- had to be to question the worth of the program.... Christa McAuliffe helped many children grasp an essential of the maturing process: Death is the inevitable end of the life cycle, and few know when they will meet it. Mrs. McAuliffe's mission was not a failure. Its lesson simply changed." (Chicago Sun-Times, 1/29)

Great Quest Has Its Terrible Risks -- "But meanwhile we pause. We have had a death, seven deaths, in the family. Two women, an Afro-American, a Japanese-American. Resnik, Smith, McNair, Scobee, Onizuka, Jarvis, McAuliffe -- so very American the lot of them. Smart, brave, personable, skillful. So very American a loss. We mourn. We assess. But we will resume. We will return. Class dismissed, Mrs. McAuliffe? No. It is just coming to order." (Atlanta Constitution, 1/29)

A Day of Tragedy -- "Yet the lesson should also include this: The astronauts take the risk gladly because of the very human and noble urge to explore, to push to the limits, to reach out, to dare, to learn and to enrich mankind in the process." (Dallas Morning News, 1/29)

A Heavy Price for Pioneering in Space -- "There is a poignantly ironic aspect to the Challenger disaster: It occurred as America was celebrating the successes of the unmanned Voyager 2 space probe. That remarkable explorer of distant space, launched eight years ago, arrived in the vicinity of the planet Uranus last week after traveling 2 billion miles. It reached its destination just one minute and nine seconds ahead of schedule."
(Newsday, 1/29)

We Are Reduced to Silence -- "The tragedy of the shuttle explosion, and the death of the Challenger crew, remind us that human life remains our real national treasure. Technology advances, limitations diminish, but life -- its potential, quality, surely its loss -- remains the rule by which change evolves and achievement is measured.... The drama of space exploration has produced its first tragedy. It has taken the pain of human loss to drive home an essential lesson in courage."
(Hartford Courant, 1/29)

The Anguish of Sacrifice for the Conquest of Space -- "Ever since May 5, 1961, when Alan B. Shepard Jr. thundered into sub-orbit aboard a primitive Mercury-Redstone 3 rocket, Americans gradually had come to take these bold leaps into the cosmic darkness almost for granted.... Their deaths are grievous tragedy, but that spirit, which self-evidently animated them all, is the legacy they leave. Nothing less enabled Americans to conquer the frontiers of the past, nothing less will permit conquest of the vast and mysterious frontier of space. Their loss reminds us of the epic grandeur no less than the danger of this historic enterprise."
(Philadelphia Inquirer, 1/29)

Seven Brave Explorers -- "The tragedy was a demonstration of this simple fact: Breaching the Earth's sheltering atmosphere and violating its gravitational pull are not ordinary matters. These are acts of extraordinary national power and will, and more important, acts of individual courage of the highest order."
(Chicago Tribune, 1/29)

Terrible Truth -- "And in that moment the truth that had become half-buried by a long and almost routine run of American space successes was stunningly and agonizingly recalled. That truth is this: In the technology of space exploration the potential for disaster is inherent and unavoidable.... The seven Challenger astronauts who died as they sped toward the silence and weightlessness of outer space accepted danger because they delighted in what they were doing. Others will set out in time to complete the journey that was left unfinished, and many journeys after. The nation should understand that the risks they face will be no less than those that confronted the crew of the Challenger."
(Los Angeles Times, 1/29)

Stunned Silence -- "The space program first was born in the perceived necessity of beating the Soviet Union to the moon. Now, knowledge itself has become a necessity, as the space program has revolutionized life on earth, stimulating new technology in computers, fiber optics, meteorology, medicine, and other areas. The history of technology always has been thus. Nations that mastered new technologies also were able to expand the liberties and wealth of their citizens. Those that didn't, became enslaved."
(Detroit News, 1/29)

MEDIA REACTION AS COMPILED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"One question that must be reviewed is whether the shuttle program should, for a while at least, be left to the professionals, people who choose careers in the space program. There will be scores of questions. Mostly there will be national grief. The loss of a space ship is costly; the loss of seven lives is beyond price. America now has to deal with the inevitability of disaster as the frontiers of space are pushed back."

(Gary, Ind. Post-Tribune, 1/29)

"And some are saying the shuttle program must continue, but that civilians such as Mrs. McAuliffe should be excluded from it: The risks must be left to the professionals. But this is a denial of America's democratic heritage and NASA's special civilian status. If the space program is truly carried out for all of us, then those Americans wanting someday to travel in space must remain in contention for those precious shuttle seats."

(Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 1/29)

"Safety was rarely mentioned as missions became seemingly routine. The American public -- and indeed the whole world -- had come to expect perfect launches and landings, whatever minor setbacks might be encountered while the shuttle was in orbit. For NASA the most urgent task now is to find out what triggered the blast so future missions aren't similarly endangered.... But the tragic end of the 25th shuttle mission mustn't be allowed to discourage continued U.S. manned space flights."

(Louisville Courier-Journal, 1/29)

"It is a devastating setback for NASA and the manned space program. It will probably be forced to revise its ambitious flight program. It will certainly have to review its entire range of procedures and backup systems. And those involved in the space program will feel even more keenly than most Americans the grief of losing seven brave members of the Challenger flight."

(Nashville Tennessean, 1/29)

"The president has rightly decided that there should be no more manned space flights until the cause of the tragedy is determined.... This setback does not, however, mean that space exploration should be limited to unmanned probes, such as the spectacular investigation of the planet Uranus by Voyager 2. There is a place for both kinds of investigation as mankind reaches toward the stars."

(Buffalo News, 1/29)

"We have taken this most dangerous of missions for granted -- until now. Now seven human beings have perished and the horror of that moment will live with us forever.... We grieve for the families who have suffered the most direct loss of all. And this morning we now feel, amid the wonder of man's technological triumphs, the fragility of our own humanity."

(Boston Herald, 1/29)

"The free world, which had begun to take space flight for granted, was reminded with a shock that this is still a dangerous challenge and the men and women who venture beyond the space frontier are indeed made of the right stuff."

(Tulsa, Okla., World, 1/29)

"Did we rush to embrace the circus and forget the substance of the space program? Did our preoccupation with national pride make us slide over evident problems in the series of space probes? Did public relations gimmicks triumph over good sense with the participation of non-professionals in the program? Are such accidents an inevitable risk of any attempt at technological breakthrough, to be simply understood and accepted as part of life?"
(Detroit Free Press, 1/29)

EDITORIALS AS COMPILED BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

"The Challenger shuttle tragedy is a reminder that space travel is one of the most dangerous things mankind has ever attempted. It requires men and women of courage and character.... These seven people deserve to be remembered as heroes, but not because they died in a fiery explosion. They deserve to be called heroes because they dared to participate. Because of the people like them, the space program and many other human endeavors have succeeded instead of failing."

(Omaha World Herald, 1/29)

"One does not turn back from exploring the universe because of equipment failures. Only a failure of will is cause for quitting.... Those Americans who had flown into space had will, and courage, in abundance. So do those now training to follow them, and so shall those yet to come."

(Miami Herald, 1/29)

"The national sense of loss we feel must not become an excuse for paralysis of the space program.... Our grief for the lost shuttle crew should not impede or prevent the continuance of manned space flight once the cause of this accident has been determined. The program must be continued energetically as the best possible memorial to the Challenger crew."

(San Francisco Chronicle, 1/29)

"Throughout history, the risk-takers have been at the cutting edge of progress. Like the early explorers of centuries past, like those who first attempted flight in flimsy aircraft, America's astronauts brave dangers in an attempt to open up new frontiers of knowledge that will benefit mankind.... On Tuesday, America paid a precious price for that knowledge."

(Jackson, Miss. Clarion-Ledger, 1/29)

"What (Christa McAuliffe) was so obviously elated and prepared to do should never be forgotten.... Mrs. McAuliffe's intention was to convey, through the public education process, a wealth of personally acquired knowledge, an even better understanding that space, its exploration, pioneering and peaceful use belongs ultimately to the young people of the world. She will not now be able to do that.... Nonetheless, Mrs. McAuliffe's goal in space, her enthusiasm for it, the special quality with which she managed to invest her purpose there, surely did not die with her."

(Salt Lake City Tribune, 1/29)