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# News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Urges Marcos Not To Prolong Agony -- President Reagan has sent President Marcos an unmistakable message that the only solution to the chaos there is for him to step down in a peaceful transfer of power to a new government. (Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, Reuter, UPI)

Reagan Gives A Cool Welcome To Gorbachev Nuclear Arms Plan -- President Reagan has called for speedy action on cutting U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals but has given a cool welcome to Mikhail Gorbachev's plan to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2000. (Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, Reuter)

### NATIONAL NEWS

Governors Leave White House Empty-Handed -- President Reagan remained silent yesterday to pleas by the nation's governors that states be spared drastic slashes in federal funding that would be brought about by the Gramm-Rudman budget-cutting law. (Washington Post, Washington Times)

Extension Of Porn Study Urged -- Conservatives are pushing Attorney General Meese to extend the life of the Commission on Pornography so it can get more evidence linking pornography to antisocial behavior, sources said yesterday. (Washington Times)

### NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

**PHILIPPINES** -- President Reagan has now lifted his policy of quiet diplomacy, and called on Marcos to step aside.

**REAGAN ARMS PROPOSAL** -- Details were unveiled in Washington, as U.S. negotiators presented the plan to Soviet counterparts.

**CHALLENGER COMMISSION** -- The members met in Washington, on the eve of two days of public hearings.

WORDS	
The Lord's Prayer.....	56 words
Gettysburg Address.....	256 words
Ten Commandments.....	297 words
Declaration of Independence.....	300 words
A Government Order Regulating The Price Of Cabbage.....	29,911 words

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### IN REVERSAL OF POLICY, REAGAN URGES PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT TO RESIGN

President Reagan, reversing a strongly held position, issued a pre-dawn statement yesterday urging President Marcos to surrender power and saying that "attempts to prolong the life of the present regime by violence are futile."

Reagan authorized the change in policy after the Administration received word overnight of a possible attack by forces loyal to Marcos against the headquarters of breakaway forces headed by former defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile and former deputy chief of staff Fidel Ramos.

Officials said Reagan's message was conveyed to Marcos through U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth. A source familiar with the situation said Marcos refused to leave, but that additional discussions are being held in hopes of changing his mind.

(Don Oberdorfer & Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A1)

### U.S. Says Staying On Is "Futile" And Offers To Be "Of Assistance"

The White House called today for Ferdinand Marcos to surrender power and virtually offered a United States plane to take the Philippine President to safe haven in the United States.

As Administration officials met through the day in a crisis atmosphere, the White House said it would be "futile" for Mr. Marcos to prolong his rule through force. Late today, the State Department strengthened a previous advisory on travel by Americans to the Philippines, warning that because of "unsettled conditions," Americans were advised against traveling there.

(Bernard Weintraub, New York Times, A1)

### Attack Plan Led Reagan To Switch

When President Reagan and his top foreign policy advisers assembled Sunday afternoon in the White House, Ambassador Habib told them that President Marcos was losing control, with the economy a "mess," the church against him and military defections mounting.

Sunday afternoon, the officials had discussed a cautious approach to the end of the Marcos regime. But 12 hours later Reagan issued a blunt statement demanding that Marcos give up his 20-year rule.

What sparked the extraordinary demand was an intelligence report from the Philippines received here about 4 a.m. The report indicated that Gen. Ver was preparing an attack on two military leaders who had asked Marcos to resign, Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A12)

### Reagan Urges Marcos Not To Prolong Agony

President Reagan has sent President Marcos an unmistakable message that the only solution to the chaos there is for him to step down in a peaceful transfer of power to a new government. A new and hardened statement was issued shortly after 5 a.m. yesterday by Larry Speakes after new reports of possible conflict between divided factions of the Philippine military.

In its clearest message to Mr. Marcos, the White House statement said: "Attempts to prolong the life of the present regime by violence are futile. A solution to this crisis can only be achieved through a peaceful transition to a new government."

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

### U.S. Called For Abdication To Prevent A Blood Bath

President Marcos had already rejected President Reagan's appeal for abdication hours before the White House made the request public, U.S. and Filipino officials disclosed yesterday.

President Reagan decided early yesterday to announce his renunciation of Marcos as the best way of forestalling what analysts feared was an impending blood bath in Manila, U.S. officials said. The statement was directed at military elements still loyal to Mr. Marcos.

(Stephens Broening, Baltimore Sun, A1)

### Reagan/Philippines

President Reagan, seeking a non-violent resolution to the crisis in the Philippines, urged President Marcos to step aside Monday and sent troubleshooter Philip Habib back to the embattled nation. There was no official word on Habib's personal report to Reagan but the White House visibly stiffened its stand against the Marcos regime after the Ambassador returned to Washington.

In an early morning statement leaving no doubt that the White House was calling for Marcos to resign, spokesman Larry Speakes said, "Attempts to prolong the life of the present regime by violence are futile."

"The President has not personally asked him to step down, but we certainly relayed our feelings through diplomats," Speakes said. He said no offer of asylum has been made to Marcos and none was requested.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

### U.S. Extends Helping Hand To Marcos While Urging Him To Quit

The Reagan Administration, trying to pull the plug on Ferdinand Marcos' 20-year rule in the Philippines, says it wants to "be of assistance to an old friend and ally" helping him turn over his government to new leadership. Offers of transportation and asylum in the United States were floated by the White House Monday as Marcos struggled against increasingly long odds to remain in power.

However, an Administration official, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said the White House did not know Marcos' intentions. "He may hold on until it's more apparent to him. We just don't have a reading either way," the official said.

(Terence Hunt, AP)

### U.S. Declines To Declare Legitimate Philippines Government

The United States has refrained from recognizing either of the two opposing factions in the Philippines as the country's legitimate government, claiming it continues to maintain contacts with both sides. "We have contacts both with President Marcos and with all the other elements," a State Department spokesman said shortly after both contenders were sworn in.

Asked which government the United States recognized, Larry Speakes said: "We customarily recognized states, not governments and the latest example of that was Haiti." (Reuter)

### INTERMEDIATE MISSILE BAN ASKED

President Reagan yesterday called for the destruction of all U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear missiles "by the end of this decade." At the same time, however, he said Soviet leader Gorbachev's proposal to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the end of this century is "clearly not appropriate for consideration at this time."

Instead, Reagan linked "the total elimination of nuclear weapons" to a series of long-term goals including the reduction of Soviet conventional forces to bring them into balance with the West, "full compliance" by the Soviets with existing arms treaties, "peaceful resolution of regional conflicts," and "a demonstrated commitment by the Soviet Union to peaceful competition." (Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A5)

### Reagan Counters Soviet Missile Offer

The Reagan Administration yesterday proposed to speed up the elimination of U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear missiles based in Europe and Asia.

Larry Speakes said U.S. negotiators at the nuclear arms talks in Geneva were instructed yesterday to offer a proposal to phase out over a three-year period all Soviet SS-20s and American Pershing II intermediate-range ballistic missiles and U.S. ground-launched cruise missiles. (Walter Andrews, Washington Times, A3)

### Reagan Wants Medium-Range Missile Ban

President Reagan has dismissed Mikhail Gorbachev's ambitious nuclear disarmament plan but urged the Soviet leader to take the "first necessary steps" to curb the arms race by negotiating a ban on medium-range missiles in Europe and Asia and reducing long-range weapons by 50 percent.

A Soviet commentator immediately criticized Reagan's stand, while Paul Warnke, a former U.S. arms control negotiator, said it was "a step backward." Warnke said in an interview: "It demonstrates the anti-arms control group headed by Secretary Weinberger is still in charge of U.S. policy." The Carter administration official included senior Pentagon deputies Fred Ikle and Richard Perle in his condemnation.

(Barry Schweid, AP)

### Reagan Gives A Cool Welcome To Gorbachev Nuclear Arms Plan

President Reagan has called for speedy action on cutting U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals but has given a cool welcome to Mikhail Gorbachev's plan to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

Reagan gave his views in a letter to the Soviet leader as U.S. arms negotiators in Geneva presented a new proposal to scrap medium-range nuclear weapons over the next three years. In a statement released yesterday by the White House, Reagan called again for deep cuts in the superpowers' strategic nuclear arsenals and for an accord on intermediate nuclear force missiles.

(William Scally, Reuter)

### SANDINISTA DISINFORMATION PAPER REMAINS CLASSIFIED FOR TIME BEING

A secret document allegedly outlining an elaborate Sandinista disinformation campaign remained classified yesterday, despite the efforts of some Administration officials to make the report public. The State Department, which had planned to release the document the Administration says came from a source close to Nicaragua's Marxist regime, offered no explanation for the holdup.

Some Administration officials privately said the declassification process was still in motion but the paperwork had taken longer than expected. Others blamed the CIA for trying to withhold the information to protect sources.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A2)

### CIA Holds Up Release Of "Disinformation" Document

The Reagan Administration's release of a purported secret Nicaraguan government document outlining a major "disinformation" campaign in Washington is being held up by CIA objections.

The State Department was slated to release a declassified version of the document Monday. But officials requesting anonymity said the Department got bogged down in negotiations with the Intelligence Agency on how to conceal the "sources and methods" used to obtain it.

(Matthew Quinn, UPI)

### ANTI-SANDINISTA LEADER SEEKS SUPPORT

SAN FRANCISCO -- While Nicaraguan rebel leader Eden Pastora made a public appeal for help in his fight against the Sandinista government, police arrested 100 opponents of U.S. policy at several demonstrations in the city.

Pastora said his army has received no help from the U.S. government, "not one bullet, not one rifle, not one boot, not one uniform, not one helmet." Even though the United States has given millions of dollars in aid to the contras fighting in the north, he said he has not even received "humanitarian" supplies. "American aid is important," he said, "but will not be decisive. What will be decisive is the will of the people."

(Richard Harnett, UPI)

ORTEGA: MAKING PEACE WITH NICARAGUA IS POSSIBLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua -- President Ortega said an agreement with Costa Rica to renew a peace-keeping border commission was a sign to President Reagan that "making peace with Nicaragua" is possible.

The Monday accord was a major step toward repairing bilateral relations, ruptured in May after two Costa Rican guards were killed apparently by Nicaraguan troops pursuing U.S.-backed contra rebels in the border region. The signing coincided with an unannounced visit to Costa Rica by Harry Shlaudeman, President Reagan's special envoy to Central America who will meet today with Costa Rican President Monge, according to diplomatic sources. (Oswaldo Bonilla, UPI)

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## NATIONAL NEWS

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### GOVERNORS GET REAGAN SYMPATHY

The nation's governors came away from a meeting with President Reagan yesterday without assurances that the President intends to do anything to help ease cutbacks in domestic spending required in the budget balancing act.

"I just didn't get the sense that the President is going to do anything more than about what he has done," said Kansas Gov. John Carlin, a Democrat. "He is going to sit and wait."

Governors, gathered for their annual winter meeting, said Reagan gave them a sympathetic ear, but little else in their 40-minute discussion, which was described as less contentious than others in recent years.

(Bill Peterson & David Broder, Washington Post, A4)

### Governors Leave White House Empty-Handed

President Reagan remained silent yesterday to pleas by the nation's governors that states be spared drastic slashes in federal funding that would be brought about by the Gramm-Rudman budget-cutting law.

Mr. Reagan remained noncommittal to a tentative proposal by the governors that the federal government take on the entire cost of Medicaid program while the states, claiming all revenues from a 9-cent-a-gallon federal gasoline tax, would take over all highway funding except for the interstate program.

(Bill King, Washington Times, A4)

### WIDER SDI NUCLEAR ROLE SOUGHT

President Reagan, who has frequently described his SDI as a "non-nuclear" shield against nuclear missiles, wants to double spending on SDI nuclear weapons research and testing next year, according to budget documents.

The Energy Department is seeking \$603 million for nuclear power and nuclear weapons research related to SDI in fiscal 1987, up from \$288 million this fiscal year. The Energy Department's request comes on top of the Defense Department's \$4.8 billion request for SDI, an increase over this year's \$2.7 billion Pentagon level.

(Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A5)

### MEESE UPSETS POLICE WITH GUN LAW STAND

One year into his tenure as attorney general, Edwin Meese has come under fire for the first time from the police groups that have stood by him since he was a California prosecutor two decades ago.

Their target is Meese's position on legislation that would allow interstate sales of handguns and generally weaken the 1968 Gun Control Act. While Meese has privately expressed concerns about the bill, which is being pushed by the NRA, he has publicly endorsed it. And law-enforcement groups were stunned last week when Meese rejected their plea for a meeting and dispatched an aide instead.

(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A13)



#### EXTENSION OF PORN STUDY URGED

Conservatives are pushing Attorney General Meese to extend the life of the Commission on Pornography so it can get more evidence linking pornography to antisocial behavior, sources said yesterday. The sources said several top Justice Department officials have looked into the possibility of an extension and expressed "optimism" that one would be granted.

(John McCaslin, Washington Times, A3)

#### BENNETT TO GO HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH VOUCHER FOE

The Reagan Administration's battle with Congress over the government's role in education heats up tomorrow when Secretary Bennett goes before the hostile chairman of two powerful House education committees to defend the controversial proposal to allow certain pupils a choice between public and private schools.

Mr. Bennett wants to convert the \$3.6 billion federal compensatory education program into a voucher plan that would give parents of 5 million poor and educationally disadvantaged children the money to attend the public or private school they feel can best serve their needs. The remedial funds are now given to the local public school systems.

(Carol Innerst, Washington Times, A4)

#### SPEAKES MOVES TO CENTER STAGE AT WHITE HOUSE

For Larry Speakes, fast becoming President Reagan's point man in public diplomacy, it has been a heady month. One day he is prematurely announcing the demise of the Duvalier regime in Haiti. A few weeks later, he is trying to nudge embattled Philippine President Marcos toward the nearest exit. He does it all in the name of the White House with Reagan's approval.

As the Administration's chief spokesman in the Philippine crisis, Speakes, 46, a Mississippi native, has moved to center stage at the White House, displaying a new poise in his higher profile role.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

## **NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY**

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(Monday Evening, February 24, 1986)

### **MARCOS IN DECLINE**

CBS's Dan Rather: Collapse of the Marcos government now appears imminent; President Reagan, in a reversal, now is openly trying to make it happen. (ALL NETS LEAD)

CBS's David Jackson reports from Manila that Corazon Aquino's "People Power" is proving to match President Marcos's military might for now. Hundreds of thousands of supporters guarded rebel military leaders, as they proclaimed her the new president. Not all was peaceful. A helicopter gunship sprayed the airport and presidential palace, hitting several government helicopters. Opposition forces attacked a government TV station, and took it over -- in the name of the people. An elite corps of guards kept boisterous opposition supporters well away from the palace, which became an armed camp. The president vowed to hold out to the end. Later today, President Marcos will be officially sworn in to another six-year term. And Mrs. Aquino will be proclaimed president at a mass rally.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: At 5 a.m. this morning, on the advice of his foreign policy advisers, President Reagan lifted his policy of quiet diplomacy, and called on Marcos, his old friend, to step aside.

(Larry Speakes: "Attempts to prolong the life of the present regime by violence are futile. A solution to this crisis can only be achieved through a peaceful transition to a new government.")

Administration officials say the next few hours before the Marcos inauguration are the key time.

(We're trying to precipitate it as quickly as we can, and if it's prior to the inaugural, all the better.)

In Washington, still-loyal Philippine Minister of Labor Blas Ople was the first to tell Marcos of President Reagan's new position.

(Stahl: "Does President Marcos feel that President Reagan betrayed him?" Ople: "It is like getting a stab in the heart. I would not be surprised.") Ople says the pressure is having its effect. Special envoy Philip Habib is returning to the Philippines within hours. A congressional source says top U.S. officials says are now talking directly with Marcos, urging him to leave the Philippines without bloodshed. But despite the pressure, Marcos is resisting.

ABC's Ted Koppel reports that from all appearances, the Marcos government is on the verge of collapse. Certainly, President Marcos is beleaguered by a total erosion of support from the Reagan Administration and a string of defections, and a string of defections at home. What is apparently having an enormous impact on flow of events in the Philippines, is the fact that the Reagan Administration has, in effect, called on Marcos to step down.

ABC's Sheila Kast: President Reagan himself said nothing publicly about President Marcos, and left it to his spokesman to make the official U.S. statement that it's time for a new government in the Philippines.

(Speakes: "Attempts to prolong the life of the present regime by violence are futile. A solution to this crisis can only be achieved through a peaceful transition to a new government.")

Speakes all but invited Marcos to seek asylum in the U.S.

(Speakes: "President Reagan certainly values him as a friend and longtime ally, and would certainly do anything possible to help him achieve a peaceful resolution of the situation.")

Secretary Shultz and Presidential envoy Philip Habib went to Capitol Hill to brief Congressional leaders. Habib reportedly told the group that Marcos had been negotiating his departure from power with Habib and Aquino supporters before the rebel soldiers broke with him. The Aquino forces promised no reprisals if Marcos stepped down. And Habib said Marcos does not want sanctuary in the U.S. He wants to stay in the Philippines. Anti-Marcos sentiment in parts of the U.S. ran ahead of Mr. Reagan's latest statement; Aquino supporters demonstrating across from the White House said the President had not gone far enough.

(TV Coverage: Anti-Marcos Protesters in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Chicago.) U.S. officials say protests in the Philippines do not seem to endanger the 190,000 Americans there. The U.S. has been escalating its official rhetoric to build pressure on Marcos to leave. Tonight, President Reagan is sending his envoy, Philip Habib, back to the Philippines for intensified discussions, looking toward a post-Marcos government.

NBC's Tom Brokaw: President Reagan repeatedly called today for a peaceful transition of power, and White House sources say Marcos has been told directly by the U.S. ambassador that President Reagan wants him to resign. Tonight, President Reagan has sent special ambassador Philip Habib back to the Philippines. No one is quite sure what this new day will bring.

NBC's Chris Wallace: The sound you could hear at the White House today was of a plug being pulled. Faced with the opposition's rapid gain in power, the President gave up on an old friend.

(TV Coverage: NBC file film of President Reagan and Marcos engaged in friendly conversation from years back.)

After years of close ties and weeks of reluctant criticism, the Reagan Administration today broke with Marcos. Aides say the President authorized a tough statement to try to head off any more bloodshed.

(Speakes: "Attempts to prolong the life of the present regime by violence are futile. A solution to this crisis can only be achieved through a peaceful transition to a new government.")

Top officials say Marcos has been offered a plane out of the Philippines, and asylum in the U.S. While denying talks have gone that far, spokesman Larry Speakes acknowledged that the President wants to give Marcos an easy way out.

(Speakes: "There has been no request for asylum, and no offer of asylum, but, as I say, let me underscore again, we have expressed our willingness to be of assistance to an old friend and ally, should he make a decision in any fashion.")

Wallace continues:

But for all the nice words, U.S. officials are deeply troubled by Marcos's hard line in what they see as an impossible situation for him. Some suggest militant Gen. Fabian Ver may actually be running the government. Secretary Shultz and envoy Philip Habib, just back from the Philippines, briefed Congress on the situation. Afterward, officials emphasized, any granting of asylum depends on how Marcos leaves his country. Labor Minister Ople toured Congress, pleading for the U.S. to arrange a cease-fire, so Marcos can decide what to do with dignity. But the strong sense in Washington was that Marcos's time has run out. And, weather permitting, Philip Habib will head back to the Philippines tonight to try to work out a transfer of power. About a dozen transport planes were on loose stand-by at U.S. bases in the Philippines, and the U.S. aircraft carrier Enterprise has been ordered to remain in the area. All of this, if necessary to get Marcos out of the Philippines, or, if the situation turns bad, to try to evacuate Americans. But everything depends on Marcos, and at this point, he isn't budging.

Brokaw: Among the most outspoken critics of the President is Rep. Stephen Solarz of New York.

(Rep. Solarz: "I think that President Reagan must let Marcos know that unless he is prepared to relinquish power now, thereby avoiding the violence which would otherwise ensue, that invitation won't be open much longer.")

#### REAGAN ARMS PROPOSAL

ABC's Sam Donaldson reports that in Washington, D.C., details of

President Reagan's latest arms reduction proposal were revealed, even as U.S. negotiators formally presented the plan to their Soviet counterparts in Geneva. The President's proposal calls for the elimination of all intermediate-range nuclear weapons from Europe and Asia within three years. The Soviet news agency TASS called it a tough and non-constructive repetition of previous U.S. positions.

(ABC-4)

#### CHALLENGER COMMISSION

Rather: The shuttle calamity investigating team reportedly will hear in public tomorrow that NASA had ample evidence of potential problems from the coldest-ever launch weather, but that communications lapses may have kept any one decision-maker from seeing the overall threat. One investigator told CBS News today that NASA "went by the book; they didn't reach beyond their noses."

(CBS-3)

ABC's Sam Donaldson reports that the commission is preparing for the most explosive public testimony to date on the decision to launch the shuttle.

(ABC-6)

NBC's Brokaw: The commission members met privately today in Washington, on the eve of two days of public hearings.

(NBC-5)

FARMERS IN CRISIS NB

Rather: From the colonial past to the electronic present, the family farm has been an essential part of America. Now there is trouble in the land. Farm experts call 1986 the year of the foreclosure. A new CBS-News/New York Times poll out tonight indicates that more than half of all Americans are willing to pay higher taxes to help farmers. And, by a margin of more than two-to-one, those polls believe President Reagan's policies have hurt family farms.

CBS's Jane Bryant Quinn: More than 50,000 farmers went out of business in the past two years, and economists expect another 50,000 to disappear this year alone. But as one farmer told me, "For every loser, there's a winner. And farming, he said, "is better for it."

(CBS-5)

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## EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

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### ARMS CONTROL

Now, Reagan's Counteroffer -- "There is, of course, always the remote possibility that Mr. Gorbachev does indeed want a modus vivendi in nuclear arms. If that is case, he will receive a full hearing at the arms-control table. And it will soon be known just how serious he was in his zero-nukes ad in the Times." (Wall Street Journal, 2/24)

Playing The Soviet Union's INF Game -- "The U.S. could propose equal U.S.-Soviet INF levels above zero, applied globally, coupled with removal of Soviet short-range missiles and an understanding, based on statements of President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Thatcher, that the French and British would consider ceilings on their nuclear forces provided there were substantial U.S.-Soviet strategic reductions. Such a proposal would test whether Mr. Gorbachev is serious about arms control or merely playing millennial politics." (Christian Science Monitor, 2/24)

### SDI

Star Wars: Pie In Space... -- "Now is the time for Congress to at least thoroughly examine the possibility that Mr. Reagan's idealistic vision is hopelessly impractical.... Because there are many reasons to doubt that such a shield can be erected, SDI -- at least in the form of an all-out, top-priority military program -- should be scrapped. The further Star Wars goes, the greater the drain on our resources and the greater the risk to national security." (Hartford Courant, 2/23)

...And Holes In The Shield -- "The Strategic Defense Initiative is not just another weapons program. President Reagan is asking Americans to gamble a sizable portion of their national fortune, and perhaps their lives, in what the evidence indicates would be a futile attempt to end the threat of nuclear war. To make the gamble would be insane, and it's the responsibility of Congress to say so now." (Hartford Courant, 2/23)

### GORBACHEV

Waiting On The Real Gorbachev -- "Miracles cannot be wrought in any society in only 11 months -- and the Soviet Union is no exception. The absence of more substantive reforms is nevertheless conspicuous. It may be that Gorbachev is prudently waiting until he has more of his own men in place before inaugurating the sweeping changes that most western experts believe are required to correct the grave economic and social problems. Or, Gorbachev himself may be reluctant to undertake the necessary reforms lest they erode the party's monopoly of power. The party congress may not provide answers. But it almost certainly will give fresh indications of where Gorbachev is going." (Los Angeles Times, 2/23)

NASA

Why Did NASA Ignore Warnings From Experts? -- "The President's investigative commission is moving along admirably. Evidence gathered so far suggests that behind the physical malfunction lay a space agency more absorbed in meeting an ambitious schedule than in assuring safety. The commission must find out why as the first step toward assuring that such misjudgments won't be repeated." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 2/24)

GRENADA

Grenada '86 -- "Instead of celebrating a stale and unremarkable military victory, then, the Reagan Administration should be rethinking its much-ballyhooed Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), which has so far failed to live up to its grandiose promise.... Making the CBI work will require an effort every bit as bold as -- and far more expensive than -- the Grenada invasion. But in the long run, only sustained economic growth can secure democracy's future in the Caribbean." (Miami Herald, 2/20)

Gilding The Lily In Grenada -- "Grenada's economy has not improved. Unemployment is up. Two factories built with U.S. economic aid, and much publicity, have gone broke. Grenada's money problems are endemic in the Caribbean, the result of low commodity prices, declining tourism and a shortage of business investment. Unless the need for long-range economic development in the Caribbean is faced by the United States and other regional governments, new radical movements may one day try to exploit the area's problems for their own ends." (Los Angeles Times, 2/21)

BUDGET/DEFENSE SPENDING

Bring On Truth About Defense -- "President Reagan has vowed to defend the Pentagon against 'the constant drumbeat of propaganda about defense scandals.' Good luck, Mr. President.... Reagan can blame himself for part of the drumbeat. Throughout his campaigns and time in office he has railed against the waste, fraud and abuse inherent in big government. And defense is one of big government's biggest components.... By taking a personal interest, President Reagan can only make cost-cutting efforts more effective. Even without \$400 hammers, however, maintaining the nation's security cannot be done on the cheap. The more public awareness of the way the Defense Department works, the better." (Houston Chronicle, 2/18)

NICARAGUA

No Military Aid For Contras -- "The Administration has yet to demonstrate a sincere desire to negotiate with the Sandinistas in an effort to ease tensions in the region. Nor has it enthusiastically supported the Contadora peace process. In classic neo-colonial fashion, the Administration apparently has dismissed the idea that the Latin nations are entitled to work out a solution to a problem in their neighborhood. The White House says that won't happen because the Soviet Union is behind the ruckus. If the Administration knows that, then it knows the source of the trouble and should negotiate with Moscow as it does on other matters of mutual concern. That would be a far more credible and responsible approach than the one chosen by the Administration -- denying the principles of our democratic government by sponsoring an effort to violently overthrow a legitimate government." (Plain Dealer, 2/21) -more-

## FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

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### PHILIPPINES

Reagan Took The Most Decent Route -- "Reagan took the most decent route given the disgust of the U.S. political class. He has asked Marcos to go .... For Washington anything is better than a slow deterioration of the situation which could only help the communists."

(Radio France, France, 2/24)

Countries Moving Toward Democracy Under Reagan's Reign -- "Reagan may only be a cowboy, but it's under his reign that countries where the only alternative appeared to be fascism or Marxist-Leninism are moving toward democracy or toward a form of government closer to our conceptions...."

(Quotidien, France, 2/24)

U.S. Is Not Wrong To Follow Aquino -- "The Soviet Union is supporting the dictator. The Soviet Union likely made a mistake in gambling on an old horse and United States is not wrong to follow Aquino.... Washington made belated choices which contributed to the fall of the dictatorship."

(Le Matin, France, 2/24)

Washington's Errors -- "The dangerous stalemate in Manila ... can indeed be considered the latest 'masterpiece' of shortsightedness created by Washington's presumptuous and rough diplomacy. The United States has a long tradition of failures in foreign policy. But this time -- if Reagan's good luck does not come back soon -- America risks setting a record, with the breaking out of civil war in a country ... which has top strategic importance for the West."

(Il Mattino, Italy, 2/24)

Washington's Ghost Behind The Announcement -- "The pronouncement of Manila seems perfect: in the Philippines, this 'tropical Poland with palm trees,' Enrile and Ramos could be the democratic Jaruzelskis which help their country to get out of the impasse between an old discredited regime and chaos."

(La Repubblica, Italy, 2/24)

A Special Role For Habib -- "The Philippines is living virtually under the barrels of U.S. guns: the Pentagon sent the flagship of the seventh fleet, 'Blue Ridge,' and the aircraft carrier 'Midway' to the shores of this island country."

(TASS, Soviet Union, 2/24)

A Role For ASEAN -- "Could (ASEAN) perhaps perform a mediating role?...An ASEAN role, however modest, under the leadership of its most important member, Indonesia, is called for as a mediator to avert a full-scale civil war and thereby preserve the relevancy of that organization for the Philippines."

(Jakarta Post, Indonesia, 2/24)

President Reagan Cannot Stand by the Filipino Pretender -- "President Reagan cannot possibly stand by a Filipino pretender whose assumption of power would only confirm the thesis of the communist insurgents that western-style democracy is but a mask for privilege and oppression..."

(Jersalem Post, Israel, 2/24)