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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Filipinos, Not U.S., Forced Marcos Out, Shultz Says -- Secretary Shultz said the United States had "a great deal of interaction" in the transfer to power in the Philippines but he added that in the end it was the Filipino people who forced out President Marcos.

(Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, Reuter, UPI)

Soviet Leader Rebuffs Reagan Arms Proposal -- Soviet leader Gorbachev rejected President Reagan's reply to his nuclear arms reduction proposal as not being serious and suggested Moscow wanted assurance of concrete arms agreements before settling on a date for a second summit.

(Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post)

NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court Hears Arguments On Affirmative Action Cases -- The Supreme Court is again the battleground for affirmative action in the American workplace, with the Reagan Administration warring against civil rights groups and others over the future of on-the-job racial preferences.

(Washington Post, AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

MARCOS EXODUS -- Ferdinand Marcos was taken from his palace Tuesday morning by American helicopters. President Reagan's Administration wasted no time in recognizing Marcos' successor, and offering her full U.S. cooperation.

GORBACHEV BLAST -- The Soviet leader was blunt, even aggressive, in his response to the latest arms proposal from President Reagan.

LIFE, LIBERTY, and the PURSUIT of HAPPINESS

"That, to secure these Rights,
Governments are instituted among Men,
deriving their just Powers from the Consent
of the Governed; that, whenever any Form
of Government becomes destructive of these
Ends, it is the Right of the People to
alter or to abolish it, and to institute
new Government..."

(Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MARCOS OUT; U.S. RECOGNIZES AQUINO

Ally Offered Assistance

The Reagan Administration quickly transferred its hopes and official recognition yesterday from Ferdinand Marcos to Corazon Aquino, declaring that her new Philippine government "has been produced by one of the most stirring and courageous examples of the democratic process in modern history."

A White House statement, read by Secretary Shultz several hours after Marcos was lifted away from his palace by U.S. helicopters, set the celebratory tone of the transition in official Washington, which had played a key role in the tumultuous events of the recent weeks.

Shultz said the United States stands ready to aid Aquino in tackling the immense economic and security problems of an important U.S. ally in Asia. Other State and Defense department officials seemed to promote increased U.S. assistance on grounds that the Aquino government could use it with greater effectiveness than Marcos' regime could.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

Filipinos, Not U.S., Forced Marcos Out, Shultz Says

Secretary Shultz said the United States had "a great deal of interaction" in the transfer to power in the Philippines but he added that in the end it was the Filipino people who forced out President Marcos.

That both those factors -- U.S. leverage and the power of public pressure -- combined to avert a civil war gave Administration officials reason to breathe a sigh of relief. At least at this early stage, they could be optimistic about the future of democracy in the Philippines.

(Donald Rothberg, AP)

Shultz Praises "Peaceful Transition" In Philippines

The Reagan Administration moved quickly today to recognize the new government of Corazon Aquino. At the same time, the Administration praised the peaceful manner in which Marcos had relinquished his 20-year rule as President of the Philippines.

Larry Speakes said the Administration welcomed Mrs. Aquino's call for "reconciliation and nonviolence" and looked forward to working with the new Government on changes in political, military and economic areas. He said Philip Habib was en route to Manila to discuss with the Aquino administration ways in which the United States could help.

(Gerald Boyd, New York Times, A1)

U.S. Calls Philippine Policy A Success

The Reagan Administration congratulated itself yesterday on a successful Philippine policy -- one that began by promoting reform and evolved into a drive for the ouster of President Marcos.

"This was a classic example of a policy which set goals and then...dealt successfully with a series of evolving circumstances, and in the end achieved what we set out to achieve," said Larry Speakes.

(Stephens Broening, Baltimore Sun, A1)

In Crucial Call, Laxalt Told Marcos: "Cut Cleanly"

The moment of truth for President Marcos came in a desperate telephone conversation with Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev) Monday at the White House. In the end, a defeated Marcos got the bad news that his 20-year rule could not continue from the senator who had brought him warnings from President Reagan four months earlier and who, he knew, spoke with presidential authority.

Laxalt's message to Marcos was the climax of an extraordinary chapter of diplomacy in Reagan's presidency, one that began with the United States trying to steer Marcos toward military and economic reforms, then push him to hold a free and fair election, and finally to ease him out of office.

(David Hoffman & Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

Marcos Leaves Contradictory Legacy

The contradictory nature of the Marcos era was vividly captured in its final moments yesterday. As the former president fled his palace in Manila in fear of his life and openly repudiated by an angry civilian populace, Secretary Shultz mounted a podium in Washington to praise Marcos as "a staunch friend of the United States" whose rule was "characterized by dignity and strength."

(Jim Hoagland, Washington Post, News Analysis, A12)

Events In Manila Set Timetable For Reagan

President Reagan's decision to end support for Ferdinand Marcos appeared to be late and reluctant, but Administration sources said yesterday that events in that country dictated the pace of the decision making process here.

It was no sudden or dramatic change of heart by the American President, according to these sources. "Mr. Reagan didn't desert Marcos, the Filipino people did," one White House source told the Washington Times yesterday.

(Roger Fontaine, Washington Times, A5)

Now Filipino Placards To Say "Thank You"

Signs prepared for a Lafayette Square demonstration to protest the presidency of Ferdinand Marcos will be scratched out -- and replaced with thank-you placards for President Reagan, a Filipino-American said yesterday.

"We will go ahead with our plans to demonstrate again in front of the White House, but the message will be different," David Valderrama said yesterday. "It will be a celebration of democracy and reconciliation."

(Carrie Dowling, Washington Times, A6)

U.S. Ambassador Calls The Revolt "Extension Of The Vote Counting Process"

MANILA -- "The last four days have...been simply an extension of the counting process, and they now feel they have got the count right," U.S. Ambassador Bosworth told ABC News.

White House officials said they did not know how long Marcos would stay on Guam or what his final destination would be. Secretary Shultz said Marcos could find "safe haven" in the United States.

(Fernando Del Mundo, UPI)

Aquino Wins Recognition; Marcos Is Offered Haven

The United States yesterday extended recognition to the new Filipino government headed by Corazon Aquino and offered the fleeing deposed ruler, Ferdinand Marcos, and his family a safe haven.

The action, announced at the White House by Secretary Shultz, came as a tense standoff ended in the Philippines where Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Aquino had faced one another in a hotly contested and highly suspected Feb. 7 election.

"The President is pleased with the peaceful transition to a new government of the Philippines," Mr. Shultz said. "We pay special tribute to her [Mrs. Aquino] for her commitment to non-violence, which has earned her the respect of all Americans.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Marcos Flees To Guam, First Stop Of His Exile

AGANA, Guam -- Deposed President Marcos arrived in a rainstorm for a brief stay on this Pacific outpost of the United States today after fleeing from the Philippines into a life of exile.

Marcos was expected to fly to Hawaii later today. Marcos walked unaided from the C-9 hospital aircraft, although he was carried onto the plane on a stretcher at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. U.S. officials said the stretcher was used at Clark because Marcos seemed tired and frail after his strenuous final days at his Malacanang Palace. (Reuter)

AQUINO HAS CALLED BASES LIABILITY FOR PHILIPPINES

One of the key policy decisions that Corazon Aquino will have to make as president is what to do about Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, two of the largest U.S. military installations abroad.

Aquino has said she does not want foreign bases on Philippine soil but would respect the current agreement until it expires in 1991. She has remained deliberately vague, however, about what she would do after the agreement expires, leaving room for maneuver on the issue.

(Lena Sun, Washington Post, A16)

Subic, Clark Important To U.S. Due To Unique Strategic Location

The United States relies on two bases in the Philippines to extend its military umbrella into the western Pacific and Asia because their spot on the globe makes them uniquely qualified to accomplish U.S. strategic goals.

The relationship overall has been a rather comfortable one for the United States as well as the Philippines. More than eight decades of growth at the installations has turned Clark Air Base and the Subic Bay Naval Base into the largest U.S. military complex outside the country and made them key contributors to the Philippine economy.

(Norman Black, Washington Times, A6)

GORBACHEV OPENS CONGRESS, ATTACKS U.S. ARMS RESPONSE

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today attacked President Reagan's response to his recent proposal for worldwide disarmament as he convened the 27th congress of the Soviet Communist Party, his first since he came to power a year ago.

Gorbachev defended the Soviet Union's proposal on Jan. 15 for a three-stage elimination of nuclear arms by the year 2000. He said Reagan's response on Sunday was "swamped in various reservations, 'linkages' and 'conditions' which in fact block the solution of radical problems of disarmament." (Gary Lee, Washington Post, A1)

Gorbachev Says U.S. Arms Note Is Not Adequate

MOSCOW -- Addressing a landmark meeting of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev today criticized President Reagan's response on arms reduction and said the timing of the next summit meeting could hinge on progress in arms control.

He said that Mr. Reagan's proposal "seems to contain some reassuring opinions and theses," but that these "are swamped in various reservations, 'linkages' and 'conditions.'"

"To put it in a nut shell," Mr. Gorbachev said, "it is hard to detect in the letter we have just received any serious readiness of the United States Administration to get down to solving the cardinal problems involved in eliminating the nuclear threat."

(Serge Schmemmann, New York Times, A1)

Soviet Leader Rebuffs Reagan Arms Proposal

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Gorbachev rejected President Reagan's reply to his nuclear arms reduction proposal as not being serious and suggested Moscow wanted assurance of concrete arms agreements before settling on a date for a second summit.

Of the specific Reagan proposals, Mr. Gorbachev said, "positive pronouncements are swamped in various reservations, linkages and conditions which in fact block the solution of radical problems of disarmament." (Fredericke Kempe, Wall Street Journal, A29)

Gorbachev May Link Summit To Gains On Arms Issues

MOSCOW -- Kremlin chief Gorbachev hinted yesterday that he may cancel next summer's planned summit conference with President Reagan unless the United States agrees to a Soviet disarmament proposal.

"There is no sense in holding empty talks," the Kremlin chief told delegates to the Communist Party Congress in a daylong opening report, which also promised to introduce wide-ranging economic reforms in the Soviet Union. (Antero Pietila, Baltimore Sun, A1)

REAGAN REQUESTS \$100 MILLION IN AID FOR NICARAGUAN REBELS

President Reagan asked Congress yesterday for \$100 million in aid to rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua, launching what is expected to be another bitter battle over U.S. policy in Central America. Critics and backers of the rebels have started mobilizing nationwide campaigns to promote their views of the program.

It would give the counterrevolutionaries \$30 million in humanitarian aid and give President Reagan control of another \$70 million to use "for any kind of assistance he deems appropriate," according to an official fact sheet.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A20)

Reagan: Contra Aid Crucial To Diplomacy

President Reagan yesterday asked Congress for \$100 million to aid Nicaragua's anti-Sandinista rebels, insisting that only a show of force would bring Sandinista leaders to the negotiating table.

"Without power, diplomacy lacks leverage," Mr. Reagan told Congress in his written request for rebel aid. The Marxist Sandinista regime, the President said, "will never embrace open, democratic norms unless confronted with undeniable demands from steadily growing numbers of Nicaraguans prepared to fight for liberty and for their right to participate in their country's political life."

(Mary Belcher & Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

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NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN'S SOCIAL PROGRAM CUTS WOULD PUT 39 STATES INTO RED

President Reagan's proposed \$21.7 billion in cuts for social programs next year would push the budgets of 39 state governments into the red if they do not raise taxes to maintain current services, according to a private study.

The analysis, released today, said only seven states have surpluses large enough to cover the proposed \$16.2 billion in cuts for grants to state and local governments, plus reductions of another \$5.5 billion in direct aid to individuals. (Matt Yancey, AP)

GOVERNORS CONCEDE NEED FOR FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS, BUT CHALLENGE SPECIFICS

The nation's governors, winding up a policy making meeting, are conceding the need for federal budget cuts, but chiding President Reagan for the ways he has chosen to reduce government spending.

The chief executives, closing the winter meeting of the National Governors' Association on Tuesday, estimated that the under current economic conditions and the requirements of the budget-balancing Gramm-Rudman Act, states stand to lose nearly \$10 billion in direct grants in the new federal budget year beginning Oct. 1. (AP)

BREAKING SILENCE, MEESE SAYS GUN BILL "COULD BE IMPROVED"

Attorney General Meese, under pressure from law enforcement groups to oppose legislation that would weaken the 1968 Gun Control Act, broke his silence yesterday and said that the bill "could be improved."

Meese's comments at the National Press Club followed his refusal to testify about the McClure-Volkmer bill at a House Judiciary subcommittee hearing last week. Justice Department officials say that Meese will again decline to appear at a subcommittee hearing Thursday on the grounds that the Treasury Department speaks for the Administration on the issue.

(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A3)

BENNETT DEFENDS SCHOOL VOUCHER PLANS BEFORE CONGRESS

Secretary Bennett's plan to give school vouchers to poor families is "a deception for parents and a disaster for public policy," according to a staff report of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Bennett was scheduled to appear before that committee today to defend the Reagan Administration's voucher proposal, which would give parents of poor children chits worth an average of \$630 that they could spend to enroll their children in private schools or public schools outside their home districts or to buy extra services in their current public schools. (Christopher Connell, AP)

COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds urged the Supreme Court yesterday to rule that remedies for past racial discrimination may benefit only actual victims of prejudicial policies, arguing that broad affirmative action plans simply substitute "one discriminatory selection process for another."

(Ruth Marcus, Washington Post, A4)

Supreme Court Hears Arguments On Affirmative Action Cases

The Supreme Court is again the battleground for affirmative action in the American workplace, with the Reagan Administration warring against civil rights groups and others over the future of on-the-job racial preferences. The justices, expected to announce decisions by July in three key cases, heard two hours of arguments Tuesday.

(James Rubin, AP)

PENTAGON EX-DEFENDER TURNS CRITIC

One year ago, Lawrence Korb was one of the Reagan Administration's most visible point men in the debate over military spending, an assistant secretary of defense who appeared before dozens of congressional committees to urge support for Secretary Weinberger's arms buildup.

Yesterday, Korb was back on Capitol Hill -- this time to oppose the Administration's military budget request and appeal for a reordering of priorities.

(Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A17)

RODINO ACCUSES MEESE OF DELAYING EPA PROBE

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino (D-NJ) said yesterday that Attorney General Meese may be flouting the law and ignoring "obvious conflicts of interest" by not conducting an investigation requested by the committee last December.

Rodino had asked Meese to seek an independent counsel after the Judiciary Committee issued a report that accused present and former Reagan Administration officials of improper conduct in withholding from Congress documents detailing wrongdoing at the EPA in 1982 and 1983.

(Mary Thornton & Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, D1)

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, February 25, 1986)

MARCOS EXODUS

CBS's Dan Rather: Former President Marcos was taken from his palace this morning aboard American helicopters. He slept in a nearby U.S. Air Base, then was flown on with his family to Guam. CBS News has been told that he was taken aboard the plane to Guam on a stretcher; Marcos is said to be very ill. A civilian government, headed by Corazon Aquino, and backed by influential military men, is taking over in Manila. (ALL NETS LEAD)

CBS's Bob Simon reports that a nation took to the streets tonight to celebrate its victory over the dictator who had fallen. If you've ever wanted to know what a revolution looks like, feast your eyes on Manila tonight. For awhile this morning, Filipinos had two presidents. The swearing-in of Mrs. Aquino was broadcast on TV several times, but when Marcos took the oath, someone pulled the plug on the airwaves. There was pandemonium as word spread that the dictator was gone; there was bloodshed, but very little bloodshed. The day that started with two presidents and two sides, ended with the coming together of a rare patriotism -- the Virgin Mary was everywhere. What is remarkable is how little violence there has been. We Americans like to think that we taught democracy to the Filipinos; tonight, they're teaching the world. No bullets, no harm, to the man they hate.

Rather: Near the end, President Reagan played a role in helping to force Ferdinand Marcos over the brink, out of office, and into exile. President Reagan's Administration wasted no time in recognizing Marcos' successor, and offering her full U.S. cooperation.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: The Reagan Administration moved quickly to cement relations with the new power structure, praising Mrs. Aquino for choosing centrists for her new government, and for coming to office without violence.

(Secretary Shultz: "The President is pleased with the peaceful transition to a new government of the Philippines. The United States extends recognition to this new government, headed by President Aquino. This has not been something that the United States has done; this is something that the people of the Philippines have done.")

In fact, this was done with the help of a key Reagan friend, Paul Laxalt, someone Marcos trusts, whom Marcos telephoned yesterday afternoon. It was 3 a.m. in Manila. Marcos said he was afraid the palace would be stormed. He told Laxalt he didn't want to come to the U.S., and instead asked if he could share power with Aquino.

(Laxalt: "He was hanging on. He was looking for a life preserver. I sensed that he was a desperate man, clutching at straws, trying to work out something that would keep him somewhere in the power structure.")

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Stahl continues:

Laxalt rushed to a White House meeting with President Reagan, who said power sharing would be undignified, but that we would like to guarantee to Marcos his peace, safety, and dignity. Laxalt called Marcos back with that message. But even after Marcos agreed to leave the palace, he was still asking to remain in the Philippines, to die in his own country. But officials say the Aquino people did not want him to stay. President Reagan was applauded for his delicate handling of the crisis.

(Sen. Kennedy: "His leadership has been important, it has been significant, and it has been skillful -- and deserves credit for it.") U.S. officials say Marcos has had difficulty grasping the reality and gravity of his situation. They say he is very sick, and once he lands in Guam, will most likely check in to the U.S. military hospital there.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The news that Marcos had stepped down produced relief and satisfaction all over Washington. But perhaps nowhere more so than at the White House.

ABC's Sheilah Kast: Secretary Shultz had praise for everyone: for the Filipino people, their new leader, and their old one.

(Shultz: "We praise the decision of President Marcos. Reason and compassion have prevailed in ways that best serve the Filipino nation and people.")

The relatively peaceful transition in the Philippines put President Reagan in such a good humor, he vented enthusiasm in the wet, Washington snow.

(TV Coverage: President throwing snowball.)

On Capitol Hill, even legislators who had been critical of the Reagan Administration today had nothing but praise.

(Rep. Solarz: "It's a time for all of us, as Americans, to rejoice in the triumph of democracy in the Philippines, and to give credit to our own government for the role it played in helping to bring this about.")

(Sen. Kennedy: "I don't believe that this day could have been achieved if it hadn't been for the extraordinarily skilled leadership of Cory Aquino and the President Reagan.")

The U.S. offered Marcos and his supporters safe haven in the U.S.

(Shultz: "As he continues on in his life, we wish him to have a life of dignity and honor.")

But Marcos' future is uncertain. His first stop is in Guam, for a medical check-up. U.S. officials say they don't know where he'll go next. He wanted to stay in the Philippines. But officials say conditions there are too volatile for that.

NBC's Tom Brokaw: When Corazon Aquino announced on Philippine TV today "the long agony is over," they could have been the words written at the White House.

NBC's Chris Wallace: For weeks, officials here denied that the White House was doing anything to force Marcos out of office. But today, those same officials said the President played a key role in helping democracy win. Marcos was at Clark Air Base just over an hour when the Administration announced this country's long relationship with him was over.

Wallace continues:

(Shultz: "The President is pleased with the peaceful transition to a new government of the Philippines. The United States extends recognition to this new government, headed by President Aquino.")

Top officials called it a Reagan victory, and a buoyant President posed for cameras this morning throwing a snowball.

(TV Coverage: President throwing snowball.)

Officials said the offer of a safe haven for Marcos was instrumental in getting him to step down. But to avoid bloodshed in the Philippines, they would welcome Marcos and his associates to the U.S.

(Shultz: "We want to see them continue on in dignity and honor, and will do everything that we can to see that that comes about.")

But while members of Congress applauded Marcos' fall from power, some said they will try to take away his fortune invested in this country.

(Rep. Solarz: "I certainly think it would be appropriate to permit foreign governments, and certainly the Philippines, to attach the ill-gotten assets of the Marcoses over here.")

The turning point may have come when Marcos called Sen. Paul Laxalt yesterday, to ask if President Reagan really wanted him to leave. After meeting with Mr. Reagan, Laxalt told Marcos that the President wanted him out, but would guarantee his safety. Marcos then asked, what do you (Laxalt) think?

(Laxalt: "And I said, Mr. President, I'm not bound by diplomatic restraints, and I'm talking only for myself, but I think you should cut, and cut cleanly.")

After a long pause, Marcos said he was very, very disappointed. As for the new leader, U.S. officials were praising her today, saying initial fears Mrs. Aquino would be weak, and run by the left had been wiped out by her savvy performance. They said she was forming a centrist government, with a strong military. Officials here think that Mrs. Aquino will do much better than Marcos did in reforming the Philippines. But officials here also acknowledge that after a strong man falls, no one can be certain of what happens next.

RATHER/LAXALT INTERVIEW

Rather: I asked Sen. Laxalt about his role for President Reagan in the apparently decisive phone conversations yesterday with Marcos.

(Laxalt: "He asked me whether or not it was the President's wish that he step down. I indicated that I could not speak for the President, but the President certainly would not intervene in Filipino affairs, and request that he step down. Then he asked me the \$64,000 question: he says, 'I understand that, but how do you feel about it?,' and that came literally as a bombshell, because it was a gut question. And I indicated then, Mr. President, I hate to tell you this, because as far as I'm concerned, I think that you should cut, make it a clean cut, and move on. Then there was the strangest thing. There was this tremendous pause, for what for me was almost an interminable length of time. Probably a minute or so! And I finally said, Mr. President, can you hear me? And he finally responded weakly and said, 'Yes, Senator, I do hear you, I am so very, very disappointed.' And it was really a sad time. I sensed then that he was finally accepting reality, and while I had no solid assurance that he would leave, I felt at that point that he was at least considering it."

(Editor's Note: NBC and ABC also interviewed Sen. Laxalt.)

CHALLENGER COMMISSION

CBS's Eric Engberg reports the Rogers Commission heard evidence that NASA deviated from a long-standing safety-first policy, and launched Challenger over strong objections from engineers who feared a catastrophe. When Morton Thiokol company engineers outlined their objections, one NASA official said he was appalled. Suggestions they wait for temperatures above fifty, known to be safe, brought a rejoinder from NASA executive Larry Malloy. Commission members, especially those with backgrounds in space, seemed incredulous NASA had not called a halt in the countdown. When the NASA witnesses begin testifying tomorrow, the big question they will likely confront is: Why the rush? (CBS-3)

ABC's Lynne Sherr reports that the working engineers at Morton Thiokol publicly pointed their fingers at their own management and at NASA today, telling the Presidential Commission that based on data they saw from their headquarters in Utah, they were unanimous in not wanting Challenger to fly January 28. (ABC-2)

NBC's Robert Hager reports that Thiokol employees testified they felt pressured, and engineers testified they were overruled by their own management. (NBC-2)

BEGGS RESIGNATION

Rather: James Beggs, the NASA chief on leave while under a fraud indictment unrelated to the shuttle disaster, tonight officially resigned. This will allow President Reagan to name a new top man for the space agency. (CBS-2; ABC-3)

GORBACHEV BLASTS REAGAN PROPOSAL

Rather: Soviet leader Gorbachev threatened to put off his planned second summit with President Reagan. The threat was mentioned as Gorbachev opened the First Communist Party Congress, of what he calls the new Kremlin generation. He also attacked the old Kremlin generation of Leonid Brezhnev, and he blasted President Reagan's new arms-control offer.

CBS's Wyatt Andrews reports that Gorbachev was blunt, even aggressive, in his response to the latest arms proposal from President Reagan. Saying Mr. Reagan's call for the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe was swamped with conditions. He criticized the U.S. for continuing nuclear testing, and questioned Mr. Reagan's commitment to disarmament.

(Gorbachev: "To put it in a nutshell, it is hard to detect in the letter we have just received any serious preparedness of the U.S. Administration to get down to solving the cardinal problems involved in eliminating the nuclear threat.")

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Andrews continues:

With that said, Gorbachev repeated his willingness to reach agreement on nuclear missile, the same area President Reagan had emphasized in his letter. But this was the opening of the once-in-five-year Communist Party Congress, and Gorbachev saved his harshest criticism for the Soviet economy. He lashed out at petty bureaucrats, and repeatedly railed against worthless props. Gorbachev's domestic promise is that if he can achieve disarmament abroad, and a shake-up of the lazy at home, then he will give the Soviet people a better material life. (CBS-6)

ABC's Walter Rodgers reports that Gorbachev was supremely confident as he addressed the party elite about the Soviet Union's future as a superpower. But foreign policy was a different matter. There, he expressed disappointment, and mild anger, that it took President Reagan so long to respond to his call for total elimination of nuclear weapons. And Gorbachev appeared to reject Mr. Reagan's offer to phase out all medium-range missiles over the next three years. The Soviet leader also cast doubts on a second summit with President Reagan, absent a prior agreement on two other matters: the cessation of nuclear tests, and the abolition of U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range missiles in the European zone. He was very tough on the U.S., calling it the "locomotive of world militarism; an exploiter of the masses." But he was also critical of Soviet failures, especially during the Brezhnev years. (ABC-4)

NBC's Steve Hearst reports that Gorbachev sees no point to another summit with President Reagan, unless they have an arms-control agreement to sign. The Soviet leader said President Reagan was not sincere in his response to Gorbachev's bid to rid the world of nuclear weapons in 15 years. But it wasn't just Mr. Reagan who came in for criticism. His own workers -- they all received stern warnings to shape up or lose their jobs. He promised them all a better life, and soon. But he said they must work harder, drink less, be honest -- in short, boost Soviet production by 150 percent by the end of the century. (NBC-3)

U.S. CRUISE MISSILE CRASH

Rather: A U.S. Cruise Missile on a test run over northwestern Canada crashed into the sea, moments after launch today, cause unknown, the second unsuccessful Cruise Missile test in a row. (CBS-4; NBC-4)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Rather: Another month of low inflation in January. The government said today that consumer prices rose just three-tenths of one percent last month. That's the smallest monthly increase since last September. And the inflation picture for February is expected to be even better, since the recent big drop in gasoline prices is not yet reflected in the consumer price figures. (CBS-8)

SUPREME COURT RULINGS

Rather: The U.S. Supreme Court today gave the nation's communities wide powers to curtail adult movie houses; either scattering X-rated theatres around the fringes of a city, or lumping them together in so-called "combat-zones." Also today, the Justices reduced citizen protection and gave police wider powers to search cars without a warrant, and to seize evidence they find inside. (CBS-7)

Editor's Note: CBS aired the third of a six-part series Tuesday evening on the nation's "farm crisis." It dealt with the foreclosure warnings being received by farmers with federal loans from banks and government. (CBS-10)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

DEMOCRACY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Marcos Going... -- "What the world is witnessing today in the Philippines is one of the most astounding and remarkable chapters in the struggle for freedom, not merely in our own time but of all time.... What we are witnessing, in short, is the victory of moral power over military power. Whatever may come in the perilous times that lie ahead in the Philippines, this will be a thrilling moment for all the world to remember, for many years to come."
(Baltimore Evening Sun, 2/24)

...And Marcos Coming -- "Marcos must also pay the price, and that price should be the ill-gotten gains of his corrupt reign. If he comes to the U.S., it should be only on the condition that he ultimately return the hundreds of millions of dollars which, according to congressional testimony, he has sent to the U.S. for his retirement. That fortune must be returned to those from whom it was stolen -- the impoverished Filipino people."
(Baltimore Evening Sun, 2/24)

He Lost His Power In Crooked Election -- "So the stage was set for Marcos to leave and for Aquino to take power. The whole world hoped that would happen peacefully. The world hoped it would be recorded in history as a victory for a brave widow; a victory for the courageous military leaders who stood up to Marcos; a victory for the Catholic church that opposed the dictator; a victory for our own cautious, thoughtful foreign policy. Most of all, we hoped it would be a victory for the will of the people over the will of the dictator."
(USA Today, 2/25)

Marcos: Going, Going... -- "In such disturbing circumstances, we are relieved Reagan has at last aligned himself with a vast host of Americans calling for Marcos' ouster. The President's earlier equivocations -- his obvious reluctance to break with an ally who has preserved U.S. military bases in Philippines -- serve to make his new stand even more dramatic. At no time did President Carter break with the shah of Iran as decisively. For a politician who once criticized Carter for turning his back on the shah, Reagan has come a long way."
(Baltimore Sun, 2/25)

World Policeman -- "It would be a plus for American foreign policy if after all the failures we could could a success at this difficult task, if we could finally emerge from the Philippine crisis with a better government there.... If American influence succeeds in helping to bring democracy to the post-Marcos Philippines, we can only hope Marcos's American critics will join in an effort to confer the same benefit on post-Somoza Nicaragua."
(Wall Street Journal, 2/25)

Marco's Legacy -- "The demands of the majority have been heard. The Philippines has a democratic heritage to inspire it, and an abundance of talent to call on. And, as it moves away from authoritarianism to reclaim its heritage, it has the right to expect that well-wishers throughout the world will stand ready to offer support."
(Los Angeles Times, 2/25)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

Good To The Last Drop -- "The Philippine Islands are not primarily the responsibility of the Reagan Administration or high-minded members of Congress, even as Americans are under no moral imperative to certify other people's elections or to do like the conscientious Rep. Stephen Solarz and hold preelection hearings in hopes of influencing the results. Replacing the Marcos regime, in short, is a job for Filipinos. In the light of Washington's accomplishments elsewhere -- in Vietnam, say, and Iran -- they can be forgiven if they do not relish our 'help'."

(Washington Times, 2/25)

The Revolt Of The Filipinos -- "The Reagan Administration appears to have handled the tactical situation brilliantly -- quietly cutting the ground from under President Marcos, who was becoming a distinct liability to U.S. foreign policy interests, but not making this a U.S. fight. Twice within a month -- first in the case of 'Baby Doc' Duvalier of Haiti -- the Administration has served as a facilitator of change when the leader of a friendly country overstayed his welcome.... The United States need not feel ashamed that four successive presidents supported Ferdinand Marcos, or that this country didn't take the leadership in deposing him. When the right moment came, the United States stood where it has always stood, on the side of freedom."

(Detroit News, 2/25)

Bum's Rush -- "The popular uprising against Marcos is, from every perspective save his own, the ideal solution to the Marcos problem. When governments are to be changed, it is best that the people most concerned do the changing. If the Filipinos want Marcos out, that should be just fine with Americans.... Mrs. Aquino, as we have previously observed, is untested as a national leader, but there seems no doubt that the Filipinos want her."

(Dallas Morning News, 2/25)

Television and Democracy -- "American network television, so reviled across the political spectrum of this democracy, has helped preserve democracy in the Philippines. The American viewing public saw events so vividly that no one in official Washington could say anything other than 'fraud' about the presidential election there. When Corazon Aquino talks about 'people power,' part of it was supplied by Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings and Ted Koppel....

In his famous letter to Edward Carrington in 1787, Thomas Jefferson said, 'Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.'

He knew the dissemination of the news was as critical as the truth it contained. Thomas Jefferson would have been proud of television's role in democracy today."

(Boston Globe, 2/25)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

"The Soviet Union ... yesterday suggested that the beleaguered Philippines leader had been the victim of a coup engineered in part by the United States.... The Soviet attitude to the unfolding crisis in the Philippines has puzzled analysts. While refraining from overt support for the regime during the election campaign, Moscow also kept its distance from the opposition." (Guardian, Great Britain, 2/25)

"The Reagan Administration seems willing to clean up its backyard and no one is spared in its zone of influence. Reagan, the conservative, the cowboy, the defender of the U.S. empire, is getting rid of his dictators one after the other and replacing them with democratic regimes.... In a way, Reagan is succeeding in the policy prepared by his predecessor, Jimmy Carter.... But what Carter failed to do was restore America's confidence both economically and militarily. Reagan succeeded. This is why he can now conduct Carter's policies without Carter." (Liberation, France, 2/25)

"Once more, Reagan acted intelligently and showed that he was able to adapt himself to the situation and get the best out of it for his country.... Reagan will appear as the man without whom a transition would not have been possible in Manila. He succeeded thanks to his reputation as a strong and firm leader.... Filipinos will be thankful to America, and even Cory Aquino cannot ignore what Reagan has done for her and what he could do against her if she failed to remember. Reagan clearly comes out strengthened from the crisis." (Quotidien, France, 2/25)

"The Americans must be congratulated for understanding that Marcos' departure was unavoidable.... Seen from Washington, the scene was similar to the one at the time of Baby Doc's fall. It was again Larry Speakes, Reagan's spokesman now in charge of funeral announcements, who indicated to both leaders that the time had come for them to quit.... " (Le Matin, France, 2/25)

"On Monday, Ronald Reagan abandoned the practice of saying nice diplomatic things. Speaking for the President, Larry Speakes announced Marcos' political death. The question now is whether Mrs. Aquino will be more than a figurehead and whether the military will support the democratic cause." (Sueddeutsche Zeitung, West Germany, 2/25)

"In Manila, Washington for the first time displayed political wisdom and moral strength in distancing itself from Marcos if not in time, at least before the fall. It seems incredible that it took President Reagan, after so many progressive presidents, to revolutionize American strategies, to discover that America's ideals can be more effective than its weapons." (La Stampa, Italy, 2/25)

"Only under the pressure of events, the United States now realizes that a democratic way is not only possible, but much more in the interest of the United States and of the West (than Rightist authoritarian regimes.)" (Profil, Austria, 2/25)

Foreign Media Reaction (continued)

"What will matter most, however, is the recovery of the economy, and this will be impossible without foreign aid. Thus it is the turn of the United States to take action."
(Neue Az, Austria, 2/25)

"If we want the country to become really democratic, we will have to help it to prosper. Instead of just crying 'down with Marcos,' we should allow duty-free imports of Philippine industrial products into our Western markets."
(La Suisse, Switzerland, 2/25)

"Ramos is actually supported by the United States.... Such political changes ... resemble the 'palace tragedy' of South Vietnam's dictator Ngo Dinh Diem ... the similarity being that both were produced by the United States. From this we can see that America is making use of its big-country power to 'interfere' in a small country...."
(Rin Tin Daily, Hong Kong, 2/25)

"When the final chapter in this drama is played out, questions are going to be asked about the strength of U.S. commitments to its allies and the extent of clandestine contacts U.S. officials had with Philippine opposition and military leaders prior to the rebellion...."
(Post, Thailand, 2/25)

"If the events follow the course indicated by our hopes, it will be possible to recognize the success of American diplomacy in conciliating the defense of the strategic interests of the United States and of the West and diplomatic principles, even in the choice of its alliances...."
(O Estado de Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2/25)

"Yesterday the Pentagon ordered all planes in the Clark Air Force Base moved to Okinawa. It was a revealing act in that it showed that the bases in the Philippines are far from being essential to the United States...."
(Folha de Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2/25)

"The push against Marcos, seconded by other international forces ... confirms that, as in Haiti, Washington is ready to lift its anchor and leave its former ally alone.... Pinochet and Stroessner could be next...."
(El Dia, Mexico, 2/25)

"It seems that Washington is now looking for a democratic face to be the new puppet in the Philippines.... The puppets of the United States and the big powers will always be the bane of the Third World...."
(Sawt ash-Shab, Jordan, 2/25)

-End of B-Section-



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Filipinos, Not U.S., Forced Marcos Out, Shultz Says -- Secretary Shultz said the United States had "a great deal of interaction" in the transfer to power in the Philippines but he added that in the end it was the Filipino people who forced out President Marcos.

(Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, Reuter, UPI)

Soviet Leader Rebuffs Reagan Arms Proposal -- Soviet leader Gorbachev rejected President Reagan's reply to his nuclear arms reduction proposal as not being serious and suggested Moscow wanted assurance of concrete arms agreements before settling on a date for a second summit.

(Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post)

NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court Hears Arguments On Affirmative Action Cases -- The Supreme Court is again the battleground for affirmative action in the American workplace, with the Reagan Administration warring against civil rights groups and others over the future of on-the-job racial preferences.

(Washington Post, AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

MARCOS EXODUS -- Ferdinand Marcos was taken from his palace Tuesday morning by American helicopters. President Reagan's Administration wasted no time in recognizing Marcos' successor, and offering her full U.S. cooperation.

GORBACHEV BLAST -- The Soviet leader was blunt, even aggressive, in his response to the latest arms proposal from President Reagan.

LIFE, LIBERTY, and the PURSUIT of HAPPINESS

"That, to secure these Rights,
Governments are instituted among Men,
deriving their just Powers from the Consent
of the Governed; that, whenever any Form
of Government becomes destructive of these
Ends, it is the Right of the People to
alter or to abolish it, and to institute
new Government..."

(Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MARCOS OUT; U.S. RECOGNIZES AQUINO

Ally Offered Assistance

The Reagan Administration quickly transferred its hopes and official recognition yesterday from Ferdinand Marcos to Corazon Aquino, declaring that her new Philippine government "has been produced by one of the most stirring and courageous examples of the democratic process in modern history."

A White House statement, read by Secretary Shultz several hours after Marcos was lifted away from his palace by U.S. helicopters, set the celebratory tone of the transition in official Washington, which had played a key role in the tumultuous events of the recent weeks.

Shultz said the United States stands ready to aid Aquino in tackling the immense economic and security problems of an important U.S. ally in Asia. Other State and Defense department officials seemed to promote increased U.S. assistance on grounds that the Aquino government could use it with greater effectiveness than Marcos' regime could.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

Filipinos, Not U.S., Forced Marcos Out, Shultz Says

Secretary Shultz said the United States had "a great deal of interaction" in the transfer to power in the Philippines but he added that in the end it was the Filipino people who forced out President Marcos.

That both those factors -- U.S. leverage and the power of public pressure -- combined to avert a civil war gave Administration officials reason to breathe a sigh of relief. At least at this early stage, they could be optimistic about the future of democracy in the Philippines.

(Donald Rothberg, AP)

Shultz Praises "Peaceful Transition" In Philippines

The Reagan Administration moved quickly today to recognize the new government of Corazon Aquino. At the same time, the Administration praised the peaceful manner in which Marcos had relinquished his 20-year rule as President of the Philippines.

Larry Speakes said the Administration welcomed Mrs. Aquino's call for "reconciliation and nonviolence" and looked forward to working with the new Government on changes in political, military and economic areas. He said Philip Habib was en route to Manila to discuss with the Aquino administration ways in which the United States could help.

(Gerald Boyd, New York Times, A1)

U.S. Calls Philippine Policy A Success

The Reagan Administration congratulated itself yesterday on a successful Philippine policy -- one that began by promoting reform and evolved into a drive for the ouster of President Marcos.

"This was a classic example of a policy which set goals and then...dealt successfully with a series of evolving circumstances, and in the end achieved what we set out to achieve," said Larry Speakes.

(Stephens Broening, Baltimore Sun, A1)

In Crucial Call, Laxalt Told Marcos: "Cut Cleanly"

The moment of truth for President Marcos came in a desperate telephone conversation with Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev) Monday at the White House. In the end, a defeated Marcos got the bad news that his 20-year rule could not continue from the senator who had brought him warnings from President Reagan four months earlier and who, he knew, spoke with presidential authority.

Laxalt's message to Marcos was the climax of an extraordinary chapter of diplomacy in Reagan's presidency, one that began with the United States trying to steer Marcos toward military and economic reforms, then push him to hold a free and fair election, and finally to ease him out of office.

(David Hoffman & Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

Marcos Leaves Contradictory Legacy

The contradictory nature of the Marcos era was vividly captured in its final moments yesterday. As the former president fled his palace in Manila in fear of his life and openly repudiated by an angry civilian populace, Secretary Shultz mounted a podium in Washington to praise Marcos as "a staunch friend of the United States" whose rule was "characterized by dignity and strength."

(Jim Hoagland, Washington Post, News Analysis, A12)

Events In Manila Set Timetable For Reagan

President Reagan's decision to end support for Ferdinand Marcos appeared to be late and reluctant, but Administration sources said yesterday that events in that country dictated the pace of the decision making process here.

It was no sudden or dramatic change of heart by the American President, according to these sources. "Mr. Reagan didn't desert Marcos, the Filipino people did," one White House source told the Washington Times yesterday.

(Roger Fontaine, Washington Times, A5)

Now Filipino Placards To Say "Thank You"

Signs prepared for a Lafayette Square demonstration to protest the presidency of Ferdinand Marcos will be scratched out -- and replaced with thank-you placards for President Reagan, a Filipino-American said yesterday.

"We will go ahead with our plans to demonstrate again in front of the White House, but the message will be different," David Valderrama said yesterday. "It will be a celebration of democracy and reconciliation."

(Carrie Dowling, Washington Times, A6)

U.S. Ambassador Calls The Revolt "Extension Of The Vote Counting Process"

MANILA -- "The last four days have...been simply an extension of the counting process, and they now feel they have got the count right," U.S. Ambassador Bosworth told ABC News.

White House officials said they did not know how long Marcos would stay on Guam or what his final destination would be. Secretary Shultz said Marcos could find "safe haven" in the United States.

(Fernando Del Mundo, UPI)

Aquino Wins Recognition; Marcos Is Offered Haven

The United States yesterday extended recognition to the new Filipino government headed by Corazon Aquino and offered the fleeing deposed ruler, Ferdinand Marcos, and his family a safe haven.

The action, announced at the White House by Secretary Shultz, came as a tense standoff ended in the Philippines where Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Aquino had faced one another in a hotly contested and highly suspected Feb. 7 election.

"The President is pleased with the peaceful transition to a new government of the Philippines," Mr. Shultz said. "We pay special tribute to her [Mrs. Aquino] for her commitment to non-violence, which has earned her the respect of all Americans.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Marcos Flees To Guam, First Stop Of His Exile

AGANA, Guam -- Deposed President Marcos arrived in a rainstorm for a brief stay on this Pacific outpost of the United States today after fleeing from the Philippines into a life of exile.

Marcos was expected to fly to Hawaii later today. Marcos walked unaided from the C-9 hospital aircraft, although he was carried onto the plane on a stretcher at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. U.S. officials said the stretcher was used at Clark because Marcos seemed tired and frail after his strenuous final days at his Malacanang Palace. (Reuter)

AQUINO HAS CALLED BASES LIABILITY FOR PHILIPPINES

One of the key policy decisions that Corazon Aquino will have to make as president is what to do about Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, two of the largest U.S. military installations abroad.

Aquino has said she does not want foreign bases on Philippine soil but would respect the current agreement until it expires in 1991. She has remained deliberately vague, however, about what she would do after the agreement expires, leaving room for maneuver on the issue.

(Lena Sun, Washington Post, A16)

Subic, Clark Important To U.S. Due To Unique Strategic Location

The United States relies on two bases in the Philippines to extend its military umbrella into the western Pacific and Asia because their spot on the globe makes them uniquely qualified to accomplish U.S. strategic goals.

The relationship overall has been a rather comfortable one for the United States as well as the Philippines. More than eight decades of growth at the installations has turned Clark Air Base and the Subic Bay Naval Base into the largest U.S. military complex outside the country and made them key contributors to the Philippine economy.

(Norman Black, Washington Times, A6)

GORBACHEV OPENS CONGRESS, ATTACKS U.S. ARMS RESPONSE

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today attacked President Reagan's response to his recent proposal for worldwide disarmament as he convened the 27th congress of the Soviet Communist Party, his first since he came to power a year ago.

Gorbachev defended the Soviet Union's proposal on Jan. 15 for a three-stage elimination of nuclear arms by the year 2000. He said Reagan's response on Sunday was "swamped in various reservations, 'linkages' and 'conditions' which in fact block the solution of radical problems of disarmament."

(Gary Lee, Washington Post, A1)

Gorbachev Says U.S. Arms Note Is Not Adequate

MOSCOW -- Addressing a landmark meeting of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev today criticized President Reagan's response on arms reduction and said the timing of the next summit meeting could hinge on progress in arms control.

He said that Mr. Reagan's proposal "seems to contain some reassuring opinions and theses," but that these "are swamped in various reservations, 'linkages' and 'conditions.'"

"To put it in a nut shell," Mr. Gorbachev said, "it is hard to detect in the letter we have just received any serious readiness of the United States Administration to get down to solving the cardinal problems involved in eliminating the nuclear threat."

(Serge Schmemmann, New York Times, A1)

Soviet Leader Rebuffs Reagan Arms Proposal

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Gorbachev rejected President Reagan's reply to his nuclear arms reduction proposal as not being serious and suggested Moscow wanted assurance of concrete arms agreements before settling on a date for a second summit.

Of the specific Reagan proposals, Mr. Gorbachev said, "positive pronouncements are swamped in various reservations, linkages and conditions which in fact block the solution of radical problems of disarmament."

(Fredericke Kempe, Wall Street Journal, A29)

Gorbachev May Link Summit To Gains On Arms Issues

MOSCOW -- Kremlin chief Gorbachev hinted yesterday that he may cancel next summer's planned summit conference with President Reagan unless the United States agrees to a Soviet disarmament proposal.

"There is no sense in holding empty talks," the Kremlin chief told delegates to the Communist Party Congress in a daylong opening report, which also promised to introduce wide-ranging economic reforms in the Soviet Union.

(Antero Pietila, Baltimore Sun, A1)

REAGAN REQUESTS \$100 MILLION IN AID FOR NICARAGUAN REBELS

President Reagan asked Congress yesterday for \$100 million in aid to rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua, launching what is expected to be another bitter battle over U.S. policy in Central America. Critics and backers of the rebels have started mobilizing nationwide campaigns to promote their views of the program.

It would give the counterrevolutionaries \$30 million in humanitarian aid and give President Reagan control of another \$70 million to use "for any kind of assistance he deems appropriate," according to an official fact sheet.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A20)

Reagan: Contra Aid Crucial To Diplomacy

President Reagan yesterday asked Congress for \$100 million to aid Nicaragua's anti-Sandinista rebels, insisting that only a show of force would bring Sandinista leaders to the negotiating table.

"Without power, diplomacy lacks leverage," Mr. Reagan told Congress in his written request for rebel aid. The Marxist Sandinista regime, the President said, "will never embrace open, democratic norms unless confronted with undeniable demands from steadily growing numbers of Nicaraguans prepared to fight for liberty and for their right to participate in their country's political life."

(Mary Belcher & Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

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NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN'S SOCIAL PROGRAM CUTS WOULD PUT 39 STATES INTO RED

President Reagan's proposed \$21.7 billion in cuts for social programs next year would push the budgets of 39 state governments into the red if they do not raise taxes to maintain current services, according to a private study.

The analysis, released today, said only seven states have surpluses large enough to cover the proposed \$16.2 billion in cuts for grants to state and local governments, plus reductions of another \$5.5 billion in direct aid to individuals. (Matt Yancey, AP)

GOVERNORS CONCEDE NEED FOR FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS, BUT CHALLENGE SPECIFICS

The nation's governors, winding up a policy making meeting, are conceding the need for federal budget cuts, but chiding President Reagan for the ways he has chosen to reduce government spending.

The chief executives, closing the winter meeting of the National Governors' Association on Tuesday, estimated that the under current economic conditions and the requirements of the budget-balancing Gramm-Rudman Act, states stand to lose nearly \$10 billion in direct grants in the new federal budget year beginning Oct. 1. (AP)

BREAKING SILENCE, MEESE SAYS GUN BILL "COULD BE IMPROVED"

Attorney General Meese, under pressure from law enforcement groups to oppose legislation that would weaken the 1968 Gun Control Act, broke his silence yesterday and said that the bill "could be improved."

Meese's comments at the National Press Club followed his refusal to testify about the McClure-Volkmer bill at a House Judiciary subcommittee hearing last week. Justice Department officials say that Meese will again decline to appear at a subcommittee hearing Thursday on the grounds that the Treasury Department speaks for the Administration on the issue.

(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A3)

BENNETT DEFENDS SCHOOL VOUCHER PLANS BEFORE CONGRESS

Secretary Bennett's plan to give school vouchers to poor families is "a deception for parents and a disaster for public policy," according to a staff report of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Bennett was scheduled to appear before that committee today to defend the Reagan Administration's voucher proposal, which would give parents of poor children chits worth an average of \$630 that they could spend to enroll their children in private schools or public schools outside their home districts or to buy extra services in their current public schools. (Christopher Connell, AP)

COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds urged the Supreme Court yesterday to rule that remedies for past racial discrimination may benefit only actual victims of prejudicial policies, arguing that broad affirmative action plans simply substitute "one discriminatory selection process for another."

(Ruth Marcus, Washington Post, A4)

Supreme Court Hears Arguments On Affirmative Action Cases

The Supreme Court is again the battleground for affirmative action in the American workplace, with the Reagan Administration warring against civil rights groups and others over the future of on-the-job racial preferences. The justices, expected to announce decisions by July in three key cases, heard two hours of arguments Tuesday.

(James Rubin, AP)

PENTAGON EX-DEFENDER TURNS CRITIC

One year ago, Lawrence Korb was one of the Reagan Administration's most visible point men in the debate over military spending, an assistant secretary of defense who appeared before dozens of congressional committees to urge support for Secretary Weinberger's arms buildup.

Yesterday, Korb was back on Capitol Hill -- this time to oppose the Administration's military budget request and appeal for a reordering of priorities.

(Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A17)

RODINO ACCUSES MEESE OF DELAYING EPA PROBE

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino (D-NJ) said yesterday that Attorney General Meese may be flouting the law and ignoring "obvious conflicts of interest" by not conducting an investigation requested by the committee last December.

Rodino had asked Meese to seek an independent counsel after the Judiciary Committee issued a report that accused present and former Reagan Administration officials of improper conduct in withholding from Congress documents detailing wrongdoing at the EPA in 1982 and 1983.

(Mary Thornton & Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, D1)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, February 25, 1986)

MARCOS EXODUS

CBS's Dan Rather: Former President Marcos was taken from his palace this morning aboard American helicopters. He slept in a nearby U.S. Air Base, then was flown on with his family to Guam. CBS News has been told that he was taken aboard the plane to Guam on a stretcher; Marcos is said to be very ill. A civilian government, headed by Corazon Aquino, and backed by influential military men, is taking over in Manila. (ALL NETS LEAD)

CBS's Bob Simon reports that a nation took to the streets tonight to celebrate its victory over the dictator who had fallen. If you've ever wanted to know what a revolution looks like, feast your eyes on Manila tonight. For awhile this morning, Filipinos had two presidents. The swearing-in of Mrs. Aquino was broadcast on TV several times, but when Marcos took the oath, someone pulled the plug on the airwaves. There was pandemonium as word spread that the dictator was gone; there was bloodshed, but very little bloodshed. The day that started with two presidents and two sides, ended with the coming together of a rare patriotism -- the Virgin Mary was everywhere. What is remarkable is how little violence there has been. We Americans like to think that we taught democracy to the Filipinos; tonight, they're teaching the world. No bullets, no harm, to the man they hate.

Rather: Near the end, President Reagan played a role in helping to force Ferdinand Marcos over the brink, out of office, and into exile. President Reagan's Administration wasted no time in recognizing Marcos' successor, and offering her full U.S. cooperation.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: The Reagan Administration moved quickly to cement relations with the new power structure, praising Mrs. Aquino for choosing centrists for her new government, and for coming to office without violence.

(Secretary Shultz: "The President is pleased with the peaceful transition to a new government of the Philippines. The United States extends recognition to this new government, headed by President Aquino. This has not been something that the United States has done; this is something that the people of the Philippines have done.")

In fact, this was done with the help of a key Reagan friend, Paul Laxalt, someone Marcos trusts, whom Marcos telephoned yesterday afternoon. It was 3 a.m. in Manila. Marcos said he was afraid the palace would be stormed. He told Laxalt he didn't want to come to the U.S., and instead asked if he could share power with Aquino.

(Laxalt: "He was hanging on. He was looking for a life preserver. I sensed that he was a desperate man, clutching at straws, trying to work out something that would keep him somewhere in the power structure.")

-more-

Stahl continues:

Laxalt rushed to a White House meeting with President Reagan, who said power sharing would be undignified, but that we would like to guarantee to Marcos his peace, safety, and dignity. Laxalt called Marcos back with that message. But even after Marcos agreed to leave the palace, he was still asking to remain in the Philippines, to die in his own country. But officials say the Aquino people did not want him to stay. President Reagan was applauded for his delicate handling of the crisis.

(Sen. Kennedy: "His leadership has been important, it has been significant, and it has been skillful -- and deserves credit for it.") U.S. officials say Marcos has had difficulty grasping the reality and gravity of his situation. They say he is very sick, and once he lands in Guam, will most likely check in to the U.S. military hospital there.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The news that Marcos had stepped down produced relief and satisfaction all over Washington. But perhaps nowhere more so than at the White House.

ABC's Sheilah Kast: Secretary Shultz had praise for everyone: for the Filipino people, their new leader, and their old one.

(Shultz: "We praise the decision of President Marcos. Reason and compassion have prevailed in ways that best serve the Filipino nation and people.")

The relatively peaceful transition in the Philippines put President Reagan in such a good humor, he vented enthusiasm in the wet, Washington snow.

(TV Coverage: President throwing snowball.)

On Capitol Hill, even legislators who had been critical of the Reagan Administration today had nothing but praise.

(Rep. Solarz: "It's a time for all of us, as Americans, to rejoice in the triumph of democracy in the Philippines, and to give credit to our own government for the role it played in helping to bring this about.")

(Sen. Kennedy: "I don't believe that this day could have been achieved if it hadn't been for the extraordinarily skilled leadership of Cory Aquino and the President Reagan.")

The U.S. offered Marcos and his supporters safe haven in the U.S.

(Shultz: "As he continues on in his life, we wish him to have a life of dignity and honor.")

But Marcos' future is uncertain. His first stop is in Guam, for a medical check-up. U.S. officials say they don't know where he'll go next. He wanted to stay in the Philippines. But officials say conditions there are too volatile for that.

NBC's Tom Brokaw: When Corazon Aquino announced on Philippine TV today "the long agony is over," they could have been the words written at the White House.

NBC's Chris Wallace: For weeks, officials here denied that the White House was doing anything to force Marcos out of office. But today, those same officials said the President played a key role in helping democracy win. Marcos was at Clark Air Base just over an hour when the Administration announced this country's long relationship with him was over.

Wallace continues:

(Shultz: "The President is pleased with the peaceful transition to a new government of the Philippines. The United States extends recognition to this new government, headed by President Aquino.")

Top officials called it a Reagan victory, and a buoyant President posed for cameras this morning throwing a snowball.

(TV Coverage: President throwing snowball.)

Officials said the offer of a safe haven for Marcos was instrumental in getting him to step down. But to avoid bloodshed in the Philippines, they would welcome Marcos and his associates to the U.S.

(Shultz: "We want to see them continue on in dignity and honor, and will do everything that we can to see that that comes about.")

But while members of Congress applauded Marcos' fall from power, some said they will try to take away his fortune invested in this country.

(Rep. Solarz: "I certainly think it would be appropriate to permit foreign governments, and certainly the Philippines, to attach the ill-gotten assets of the Marcoses over here.")

The turning point may have come when Marcos called Sen. Paul Laxalt yesterday, to ask if President Reagan really wanted him to leave. After meeting with Mr. Reagan, Laxalt told Marcos that the President wanted him out, but would guarantee his safety. Marcos then asked, what do you (Laxalt) think?

(Laxalt: "And I said, Mr. President, I'm not bound by diplomatic restraints, and I'm talking only for myself, but I think you should cut, and cut cleanly.")

After a long pause, Marcos said he was very, very disappointed. As for the new leader, U.S. officials were praising her today, saying initial fears Mrs. Aquino would be weak, and run by the left had been wiped out by her savvy performance. They said she was forming a centrist government, with a strong military. Officials here think that Mrs. Aquino will do much better than Marcos did in reforming the Philippines. But officials here also acknowledge that after a strong man falls, no one can be certain of what happens next.

RATHER/LAXALT INTERVIEW

Rather: I asked Sen. Laxalt about his role for President Reagan in the apparently decisive phone conversations yesterday with Marcos.

(Laxalt: "He asked me whether or not it was the President's wish that he step down. I indicated that I could not speak for the President, but the President certainly would not intervene in Filipino affairs, and request that he step down. Then he asked me the \$64,000 question: he says, 'I understand that, but how do you feel about it?,' and that came literally as a bombshell, because it was a gut question. And I indicated then, Mr. President, I hate to tell you this, because as far as I'm concerned, I think that you should cut, make it a clean cut, and move on. Then there was the strangest thing. There was this tremendous pause, for what for me was almost an interminable length of time. Probably a minute or so! And I finally said, Mr. President, can you hear me? And he finally responded weakly and said, 'Yes, Senator, I do hear you, I am so very, very disappointed.' And it was really a sad time. I sensed then that he was finally accepting reality, and while I had no solid assurance that he would leave, I felt at that point that he was at least considering it."

(Editor's Note: NBC and ABC also interviewed Sen. Laxalt.)

CHALLENGER COMMISSION

CBS's Eric Engberg reports the Rogers Commission heard evidence that NASA deviated from a long-standing safety-first policy, and launched Challenger over strong objections from engineers who feared a catastrophe. When Morton Thiokol company engineers outlined their objections, one NASA official said he was appalled. Suggestions they wait for temperatures above fifty, known to be safe, brought a rejoinder from NASA executive Larry Malloy. Commission members, especially those with backgrounds in space, seemed incredulous NASA had not called a halt in the countdown. When the NASA witnesses begin testifying tomorrow, the big question they will likely confront is: Why the rush? (CBS-3)

ABC's Lynne Sherr reports that the working engineers at Morton Thiokol publicly pointed their fingers at their own management and at NASA today, telling the Presidential Commission that based on data they saw from their headquarters in Utah, they were unanimous in not wanting Challenger to fly January 28. (ABC-2)

NBC's Robert Hager reports that Thiokol employees testified they felt pressured, and engineers testified they were overruled by their own management. (NBC-2)

BEGGS RESIGNATION

Rather: James Beggs, the NASA chief on leave while under a fraud indictment unrelated to the shuttle disaster, tonight officially resigned. This will allow President Reagan to name a new top man for the space agency. (CBS-2; ABC-3)

GORBACHEV BLASTS REAGAN PROPOSAL

Rather: Soviet leader Gorbachev threatened to put off his planned second summit with President Reagan. The threat was mentioned as Gorbachev opened the First Communist Party Congress, of what he calls the new Kremlin generation. He also attacked the old Kremlin generation of Leonid Brezhnev, and he blasted President Reagan's new arms-control offer.

CBS's Wyatt Andrews reports that Gorbachev was blunt, even aggressive, in his response to the latest arms proposal from President Reagan. Saying Mr. Reagan's call for the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe was swamped with conditions. He criticized the U.S. for continuing nuclear testing, and questioned Mr. Reagan's commitment to disarmament.

(Gorbachev: "To put it in a nutshell, it is hard to detect in the letter we have just received any serious preparedness of the U.S. Administration to get down to solving the cardinal problems involved in eliminating the nuclear threat.")

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Andrews continues:

With that said, Gorbachev repeated his willingness to reach agreement on nuclear missile, the same area President Reagan had emphasized in his letter. But this was the opening of the once-in-five-year Communist Party Congress, and Gorbachev saved his harshest criticism for the Soviet economy. He lashed out at petty bureaucrats, and repeatedly railed against worthless props. Gorbachev's domestic promise is that if he can achieve disarmament abroad, and a shake-up of the lazy at home, then he will give the Soviet people a better material life. (CBS-6)

ABC's Walter Rodgers reports that Gorbachev was supremely confident as he addressed the party elite about the Soviet Union's future as a superpower. But foreign policy was a different matter. There, he expressed disappointment, and mild anger, that it took President Reagan so long to respond to his call for total elimination of nuclear weapons. And Gorbachev appeared to reject Mr. Reagan's offer to phase out all medium-range missiles over the next three years. The Soviet leader also cast doubts on a second summit with President Reagan, absent a prior agreement on two other matters: the cessation of nuclear tests, and the abolition of U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range missiles in the European zone. He was very tough on the U.S., calling it the "locomotive of world militarism; an exploiter of the masses." But he was also critical of Soviet failures, especially during the Brezhnev years. (ABC-4)

NBC's Steve Hearst reports that Gorbachev sees no point to another summit with President Reagan, unless they have an arms-control agreement to sign. The Soviet leader said President Reagan was not sincere in his response to Gorbachev's bid to rid the world of nuclear weapons in 15 years. But it wasn't just Mr. Reagan who came in for criticism. His own workers -- they all received stern warnings to shape up or lose their jobs. He promised them all a better life, and soon. But he said they must work harder, drink less, be honest -- in short, boost Soviet production by 150 percent by the end of the century. (NBC-3)

U.S. CRUISE MISSILE CRASH

Rather: A U.S. Cruise Missile on a test run over northwestern Canada crashed into the sea, moments after launch today, cause unknown, the second unsuccessful Cruise Missile test in a row. (CBS-4; NBC-4)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Rather: Another month of low inflation in January. The government said today that consumer prices rose just three-tenths of one percent last month. That's the smallest monthly increase since last September. And the inflation picture for February is expected to be even better, since the recent big drop in gasoline prices is not yet reflected in the consumer price figures. (CBS-8)

SUPREME COURT RULINGS

Rather: The U.S. Supreme Court today gave the nation's communities wide powers to curtail adult movie houses; either scattering X-rated theatres around the fringes of a city, or lumping them together in so-called "combat-zones." Also today, the Justices reduced citizen protection and gave police wider powers to search cars without a warrant, and to seize evidence they find inside. (CBS-7)

Editor's Note: CBS aired the third of a six-part series Tuesday evening on the nation's "farm crisis." It dealt with the foreclosure warnings being received by farmers with federal loans from banks and government. (CBS-10)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

DEMOCRACY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Marcos Going... -- "What the world is witnessing today in the Philippines is one of the most astounding and remarkable chapters in the struggle for freedom, not merely in our own time but of all time.... What we are witnessing, in short, is the victory of moral power over military power. Whatever may come in the perilous times that lie ahead in the Philippines, this will be a thrilling moment for all the world to remember, for many years to come."
(Baltimore Evening Sun, 2/24)

...And Marcos Coming -- "Marcos must also pay the price, and that price should be the ill-gotten gains of his corrupt reign. If he comes to the U.S., it should be only on the condition that he ultimately return the hundreds of millions of dollars which, according to congressional testimony, he has sent to the U.S. for his retirement. That fortune must be returned to those from whom it was stolen -- the impoverished Filipino people."
(Baltimore Evening Sun, 2/24)

He Lost His Power In Crooked Election -- "So the stage was set for Marcos to leave and for Aquino to take power. The whole world hoped that would happen peacefully. The world hoped it would be recorded in history as a victory for a brave widow; a victory for the courageous military leaders who stood up to Marcos; a victory for the Catholic church that opposed the dictator; a victory for our own cautious, thoughtful foreign policy. Most of all, we hoped it would be a victory for the will of the people over the will of the dictator."
(USA Today, 2/25)

Marcos: Going, Going... -- "In such disturbing circumstances, we are relieved Reagan has at last aligned himself with a vast host of Americans calling for Marcos' ouster. The President's earlier equivocations -- his obvious reluctance to break with an ally who has preserved U.S. military bases in Philippines -- serve to make his new stand even more dramatic. At no time did President Carter break with the shah of Iran as decisively. For a politician who once criticized Carter for turning his back on the shah, Reagan has come a long way."
(Baltimore Sun, 2/25)

World Policeman -- "It would be a plus for American foreign policy if after all the failures we could could a success at this difficult task, if we could finally emerge from the Philippine crisis with a better government there.... If American influence succeeds in helping to bring democracy to the post-Marcos Philippines, we can only hope Marcos's American critics will join in an effort to confer the same benefit on post-Somoza Nicaragua."
(Wall Street Journal, 2/25)

Marco's Legacy -- "The demands of the majority have been heard. The Philippines has a democratic heritage to inspire it, and an abundance of talent to call on. And, as it moves away from authoritarianism to reclaim its heritage, it has the right to expect that well-wishers throughout the world will stand ready to offer support."
(Los Angeles Times, 2/25)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

Good To The Last Drop -- "The Philippine Islands are not primarily the responsibility of the Reagan Administration or high-minded members of Congress, even as Americans are under no moral imperative to certify other people's elections or to do like the conscientious Rep. Stephen Solarz and hold preelection hearings in hopes of influencing the results. Replacing the Marcos regime, in short, is a job for Filipinos. In the light of Washington's accomplishments elsewhere -- in Vietnam, say, and Iran -- they can be forgiven if they do not relish our 'help'."

(Washington Times, 2/25)

The Revolt Of The Filipinos -- "The Reagan Administration appears to have handled the tactical situation brilliantly -- quietly cutting the ground from under President Marcos, who was becoming a distinct liability to U.S. foreign policy interests, but not making this a U.S. fight. Twice within a month -- first in the case of 'Baby Doc' Duvalier of Haiti -- the Administration has served as a facilitator of change when the leader of a friendly country overstayed his welcome.... The United States need not feel ashamed that four successive presidents supported Ferdinand Marcos, or that this country didn't take the leadership in deposing him. When the right moment came, the United States stood where it has always stood, on the side of freedom."

(Detroit News, 2/25)

Bum's Rush -- "The popular uprising against Marcos is, from every perspective save his own, the ideal solution to the Marcos problem. When governments are to be changed, it is best that the people most concerned do the changing. If the Filipinos want Marcos out, that should be just fine with Americans.... Mrs. Aquino, as we have previously observed, is untested as a national leader, but there seems no doubt that the Filipinos want her."

(Dallas Morning News, 2/25)

Television and Democracy -- "American network television, so reviled across the political spectrum of this democracy, has helped preserve democracy in the Philippines. The American viewing public saw events so vividly that no one in official Washington could say anything other than 'fraud' about the presidential election there. When Corazon Aquino talks about 'people power,' part of it was supplied by Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings and Ted Koppel....

In his famous letter to Edward Carrington in 1787, Thomas Jefferson said, 'Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.'

He knew the dissemination of the news was as critical as the truth it contained. Thomas Jefferson would have been proud of television's role in democracy today."

(Boston Globe, 2/25)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

"The Soviet Union ... yesterday suggested that the beleaguered Philippines leader had been the victim of a coup engineered in part by the United States.... The Soviet attitude to the unfolding crisis in the Philippines has puzzled analysts. While refraining from overt support for the regime during the election campaign, Moscow also kept its distance from the opposition." (Guardian, Great Britain, 2/25)

"The Reagan Administration seems willing to clean up its backyard and no one is spared in its zone of influence. Reagan, the conservative, the cowboy, the defender of the U.S. empire, is getting rid of his dictators one after the other and replacing them with democratic regimes.... In a way, Reagan is succeeding in the policy prepared by his predecessor, Jimmy Carter.... But what Carter failed to do was restore America's confidence both economically and militarily. Reagan succeeded. This is why he can now conduct Carter's policies without Carter." (Liberation, France, 2/25)

"Once more, Reagan acted intelligently and showed that he was able to adapt himself to the situation and get the best out of it for his country.... Reagan will appear as the man without whom a transition would not have been possible in Manila. He succeeded thanks to his reputation as a strong and firm leader.... Filipinos will be thankful to America, and even Cory Aquino cannot ignore what Reagan has done for her and what he could do against her if she failed to remember. Reagan clearly comes out strengthened from the crisis." (Quotidien, France, 2/25)

"The Americans must be congratulated for understanding that Marcos' departure was unavoidable.... Seen from Washington, the scene was similar to the one at the time of Baby Doc's fall. It was again Larry Speakes, Reagan's spokesman now in charge of funeral announcements, who indicated to both leaders that the time had come for them to quit.... " (Le Matin, France, 2/25)

"On Monday, Ronald Reagan abandoned the practice of saying nice diplomatic things. Speaking for the President, Larry Speakes announced Marcos' political death. The question now is whether Mrs. Aquino will be more than a figurehead and whether the military will support the democratic cause." (Sueddeutsche Zeitung, West Germany, 2/25)

"In Manila, Washington for the first time displayed political wisdom and moral strength in distancing itself from Marcos if not in time, at least before the fall. It seems incredible that it took President Reagan, after so many progressive presidents, to revolutionize American strategies, to discover that America's ideals can be more effective than its weapons." (La Stampa, Italy, 2/25)

"Only under the pressure of events, the United States now realizes that a democratic way is not only possible, but much more in the interest of the United States and of the West (than Rightist authoritarian regimes.)" (Profil, Austria, 2/25)

Foreign Media Reaction (continued)

"What will matter most, however, is the recovery of the economy, and this will be impossible without foreign aid. Thus it is the turn of the United States to take action."
(Neue Az, Austria, 2/25)

"If we want the country to become really democratic, we will have to help it to prosper. Instead of just crying 'down with Marcos,' we should allow duty-free imports of Philippine industrial products into our Western markets."
(La Suisse, Switzerland, 2/25)

"Ramos is actually supported by the United States.... Such political changes ... resemble the 'palace tragedy' of South Vietnam's dictator Ngo Dinh Diem ... the similarity being that both were produced by the United States. From this we can see that America is making use of its big-country power to 'interfere' in a small country...."
(Rin Tin Daily, Hong Kong, 2/25)

"When the final chapter in this drama is played out, questions are going to be asked about the strength of U.S. commitments to its allies and the extent of clandestine contacts U.S. officials had with Philippine opposition and military leaders prior to the rebellion...."
(Post, Thailand, 2/25)

"If the events follow the course indicated by our hopes, it will be possible to recognize the success of American diplomacy in conciliating the defense of the strategic interests of the United States and of the West and diplomatic principles, even in the choice of its alliances...."
(O Estado de Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2/25)

"Yesterday the Pentagon ordered all planes in the Clark Air Force Base moved to Okinawa. It was a revealing act in that it showed that the bases in the Philippines are far from being essential to the United States...."
(Folha de Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2/25)

"The push against Marcos, seconded by other international forces ... confirms that, as in Haiti, Washington is ready to lift its anchor and leave its former ally alone.... Pinochet and Stroessner could be next...."
(El Dia, Mexico, 2/25)

"It seems that Washington is now looking for a democratic face to be the new puppet in the Philippines.... The puppets of the United States and the big powers will always be the bane of the Third World...."
(Sawt ash-Shab, Jordan, 2/25)

-End of B-Section-



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Filipinos, Not U.S., Forced Marcos Out, Shultz Says -- Secretary Shultz said the United States had "a great deal of interaction" in the transfer to power in the Philippines but he added that in the end it was the Filipino people who forced out President Marcos.

(Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, Reuter, UPI)

Soviet Leader Rebuffs Reagan Arms Proposal -- Soviet leader Gorbachev rejected President Reagan's reply to his nuclear arms reduction proposal as not being serious and suggested Moscow wanted assurance of concrete arms agreements before settling on a date for a second summit.

(Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post)

NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court Hears Arguments On Affirmative Action Cases -- The Supreme Court is again the battleground for affirmative action in the American workplace, with the Reagan Administration warring against civil rights groups and others over the future of on-the-job racial preferences.

(Washington Post, AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

MARCOS EXODUS -- Ferdinand Marcos was taken from his palace Tuesday morning by American helicopters. President Reagan's Administration wasted no time in recognizing Marcos' successor, and offering her full U.S. cooperation.

GORBACHEV BLAST -- The Soviet leader was blunt, even aggressive, in his response to the latest arms proposal from President Reagan.

LIFE, LIBERTY, and the PURSUIT of HAPPINESS

"That, to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed; that, whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government..."

(Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MARCOS OUT; U.S. RECOGNIZES AQUINO

Ally Offered Assistance

The Reagan Administration quickly transferred its hopes and official recognition yesterday from Ferdinand Marcos to Corazon Aquino, declaring that her new Philippine government "has been produced by one of the most stirring and courageous examples of the democratic process in modern history."

A White House statement, read by Secretary Shultz several hours after Marcos was lifted away from his palace by U.S. helicopters, set the celebratory tone of the transition in official Washington, which had played a key role in the tumultuous events of the recent weeks.

Shultz said the United States stands ready to aid Aquino in tackling the immense economic and security problems of an important U.S. ally in Asia. Other State and Defense department officials seemed to promote increased U.S. assistance on grounds that the Aquino government could use it with greater effectiveness than Marcos' regime could.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

Filipinos, Not U.S., Forced Marcos Out, Shultz Says

Secretary Shultz said the United States had "a great deal of interaction" in the transfer to power in the Philippines but he added that in the end it was the Filipino people who forced out President Marcos.

That both those factors -- U.S. leverage and the power of public pressure -- combined to avert a civil war gave Administration officials reason to breathe a sigh of relief. At least at this early stage, they could be optimistic about the future of democracy in the Philippines.

(Donald Rothberg, AP)

Shultz Praises "Peaceful Transition" In Philippines

The Reagan Administration moved quickly today to recognize the new government of Corazon Aquino. At the same time, the Administration praised the peaceful manner in which Marcos had relinquished his 20-year rule as President of the Philippines.

Larry Speakes said the Administration welcomed Mrs. Aquino's call for "reconciliation and nonviolence" and looked forward to working with the new Government on changes in political, military and economic areas. He said Philip Habib was en route to Manila to discuss with the Aquino administration ways in which the United States could help.

(Gerald Boyd, New York Times, A1)

U.S. Calls Philippine Policy A Success

The Reagan Administration congratulated itself yesterday on a successful Philippine policy -- one that began by promoting reform and evolved into a drive for the ouster of President Marcos.

"This was a classic example of a policy which set goals and then...dealt successfully with a series of evolving circumstances, and in the end achieved what we set out to achieve," said Larry Speakes.

(Stephens Broening, Baltimore Sun, A1)

In Crucial Call, Laxalt Told Marcos: "Cut Cleanly"

The moment of truth for President Marcos came in a desperate telephone conversation with Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev) Monday at the White House. In the end, a defeated Marcos got the bad news that his 20-year rule could not continue from the senator who had brought him warnings from President Reagan four months earlier and who, he knew, spoke with presidential authority.

Laxalt's message to Marcos was the climax of an extraordinary chapter of diplomacy in Reagan's presidency, one that began with the United States trying to steer Marcos toward military and economic reforms, then push him to hold a free and fair election, and finally to ease him out of office.

(David Hoffman & Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

Marcos Leaves Contradictory Legacy

The contradictory nature of the Marcos era was vividly captured in its final moments yesterday. As the former president fled his palace in Manila in fear of his life and openly repudiated by an angry civilian populace, Secretary Shultz mounted a podium in Washington to praise Marcos as "a staunch friend of the United States" whose rule was "characterized by dignity and strength."

(Jim Hoagland, Washington Post, News Analysis, A12)

Events In Manila Set Timetable For Reagan

President Reagan's decision to end support for Ferdinand Marcos appeared to be late and reluctant, but Administration sources said yesterday that events in that country dictated the pace of the decision making process here.

It was no sudden or dramatic change of heart by the American President, according to these sources. "Mr. Reagan didn't desert Marcos, the Filipino people did," one White House source told the Washington Times yesterday.

(Roger Fontaine, Washington Times, A5)

Now Filipino Placards To Say "Thank You"

Signs prepared for a Lafayette Square demonstration to protest the presidency of Ferdinand Marcos will be scratched out -- and replaced with thank-you placards for President Reagan, a Filipino-American said yesterday.

"We will go ahead with our plans to demonstrate again in front of the White House, but the message will be different," David Valderrama said yesterday. "It will be a celebration of democracy and reconciliation."

(Carrie Dowling, Washington Times, A6)

U.S. Ambassador Calls The Revolt "Extension Of The Vote Counting Process"

MANILA -- "The last four days have...been simply an extension of the counting process, and they now feel they have got the count right," U.S. Ambassador Bosworth told ABC News.

White House officials said they did not know how long Marcos would stay on Guam or what his final destination would be. Secretary Shultz said Marcos could find "safe haven" in the United States.

(Fernando Del Mundo, UPI)

Aquino Wins Recognition; Marcos Is Offered Haven

The United States yesterday extended recognition to the new Filipino government headed by Corazon Aquino and offered the fleeing deposed ruler, Ferdinand Marcos, and his family a safe haven.

The action, announced at the White House by Secretary Shultz, came as a tense standoff ended in the Philippines where Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Aquino had faced one another in a hotly contested and highly suspected Feb. 7 election.

"The President is pleased with the peaceful transition to a new government of the Philippines," Mr. Shultz said. "We pay special tribute to her [Mrs. Aquino] for her commitment to non-violence, which has earned her the respect of all Americans.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Marcos Flees To Guam, First Stop Of His Exile

AGANA, Guam -- Deposed President Marcos arrived in a rainstorm for a brief stay on this Pacific outpost of the United States today after fleeing from the Philippines into a life of exile.

Marcos was expected to fly to Hawaii later today. Marcos walked unaided from the C-9 hospital aircraft, although he was carried onto the plane on a stretcher at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. U.S. officials said the stretcher was used at Clark because Marcos seemed tired and frail after his strenuous final days at his Malacanang Palace. (Reuter)

AQUINO HAS CALLED BASES LIABILITY FOR PHILIPPINES

One of the key policy decisions that Corazon Aquino will have to make as president is what to do about Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, two of the largest U.S. military installations abroad.

Aquino has said she does not want foreign bases on Philippine soil but would respect the current agreement until it expires in 1991. She has remained deliberately vague, however, about what she would do after the agreement expires, leaving room for maneuver on the issue.

(Lena Sun, Washington Post, A16)

Subic, Clark Important To U.S. Due To Unique Strategic Location

The United States relies on two bases in the Philippines to extend its military umbrella into the western Pacific and Asia because their spot on the globe makes them uniquely qualified to accomplish U.S. strategic goals.

The relationship overall has been a rather comfortable one for the United States as well as the Philippines. More than eight decades of growth at the installations has turned Clark Air Base and the Subic Bay Naval Base into the largest U.S. military complex outside the country and made them key contributors to the Philippine economy.

(Norman Black, Washington Times, A6)

GORBACHEV OPENS CONGRESS, ATTACKS U.S. ARMS RESPONSE

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today attacked President Reagan's response to his recent proposal for worldwide disarmament as he convened the 27th congress of the Soviet Communist Party, his first since he came to power a year ago.

Gorbachev defended the Soviet Union's proposal on Jan. 15 for a three-stage elimination of nuclear arms by the year 2000. He said Reagan's response on Sunday was "swamped in various reservations, 'linkages' and 'conditions' which in fact block the solution of radical problems of disarmament."

(Gary Lee, Washington Post, A1)

Gorbachev Says U.S. Arms Note Is Not Adequate

MOSCOW -- Addressing a landmark meeting of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev today criticized President Reagan's response on arms reduction and said the timing of the next summit meeting could hinge on progress in arms control.

He said that Mr. Reagan's proposal "seems to contain some reassuring opinions and theses," but that these "are swamped in various reservations, 'linkages' and 'conditions.'"

"To put it in a nut shell," Mr. Gorbachev said, "it is hard to detect in the letter we have just received any serious readiness of the United States Administration to get down to solving the cardinal problems involved in eliminating the nuclear threat."

(Serge Schmemmann, New York Times, A1)

Soviet Leader Rebuffs Reagan Arms Proposal

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Gorbachev rejected President Reagan's reply to his nuclear arms reduction proposal as not being serious and suggested Moscow wanted assurance of concrete arms agreements before settling on a date for a second summit.

Of the specific Reagan proposals, Mr. Gorbachev said, "positive pronouncements are swamped in various reservations, linkages and conditions which in fact block the solution of radical problems of disarmament."

(Fredericke Kempe, Wall Street Journal, A29)

Gorbachev May Link Summit To Gains On Arms Issues

MOSCOW -- Kremlin chief Gorbachev hinted yesterday that he may cancel next summer's planned summit conference with President Reagan unless the United States agrees to a Soviet disarmament proposal.

"There is no sense in holding empty talks," the Kremlin chief told delegates to the Communist Party Congress in a daylong opening report, which also promised to introduce wide-ranging economic reforms in the Soviet Union.

(Antero Pietila, Baltimore Sun, A1)

REAGAN REQUESTS \$100 MILLION IN AID FOR NICARAGUAN REBELS

President Reagan asked Congress yesterday for \$100 million in aid to rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua, launching what is expected to be another bitter battle over U.S. policy in Central America. Critics and backers of the rebels have started mobilizing nationwide campaigns to promote their views of the program.

It would give the counterrevolutionaries \$30 million in humanitarian aid and give President Reagan control of another \$70 million to use "for any kind of assistance he deems appropriate," according to an official fact sheet.
(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A20)

Reagan: Contra Aid Crucial To Diplomacy

President Reagan yesterday asked Congress for \$100 million to aid Nicaragua's anti-Sandinista rebels, insisting that only a show of force would bring Sandinista leaders to the negotiating table.

"Without power, diplomacy lacks leverage," Mr. Reagan told Congress in his written request for rebel aid. The Marxist Sandinista regime, the President said, "will never embrace open, democratic norms unless confronted with undeniable demands from steadily growing numbers of Nicaraguans prepared to fight for liberty and for their right to participate in their country's political life."

(Mary Belcher & Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

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NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN'S SOCIAL PROGRAM CUTS WOULD PUT 39 STATES INTO RED

President Reagan's proposed \$21.7 billion in cuts for social programs next year would push the budgets of 39 state governments into the red if they do not raise taxes to maintain current services, according to a private study.

The analysis, released today, said only seven states have surpluses large enough to cover the proposed \$16.2 billion in cuts for grants to state and local governments, plus reductions of another \$5.5 billion in direct aid to individuals. (Matt Yancey, AP)

GOVERNORS CONCEDE NEED FOR FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS, BUT CHALLENGE SPECIFICS

The nation's governors, winding up a policy making meeting, are conceding the need for federal budget cuts, but chiding President Reagan for the ways he has chosen to reduce government spending.

The chief executives, closing the winter meeting of the National Governors' Association on Tuesday, estimated that the under current economic conditions and the requirements of the budget-balancing Gramm-Rudman Act, states stand to lose nearly \$10 billion in direct grants in the new federal budget year beginning Oct. 1. (AP)

BREAKING SILENCE, MEESE SAYS GUN BILL "COULD BE IMPROVED"

Attorney General Meese, under pressure from law enforcement groups to oppose legislation that would weaken the 1968 Gun Control Act, broke his silence yesterday and said that the bill "could be improved."

Meese's comments at the National Press Club followed his refusal to testify about the McClure-Volkmer bill at a House Judiciary subcommittee hearing last week. Justice Department officials say that Meese will again decline to appear at a subcommittee hearing Thursday on the grounds that the Treasury Department speaks for the Administration on the issue.

(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A3)

BENNETT DEFENDS SCHOOL VOUCHER PLANS BEFORE CONGRESS

Secretary Bennett's plan to give school vouchers to poor families is "a deception for parents and a disaster for public policy," according to a staff report of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Bennett was scheduled to appear before that committee today to defend the Reagan Administration's voucher proposal, which would give parents of poor children chits worth an average of \$630 that they could spend to enroll their children in private schools or public schools outside their home districts or to buy extra services in their current public schools. (Christopher Connell, AP)

COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds urged the Supreme Court yesterday to rule that remedies for past racial discrimination may benefit only actual victims of prejudicial policies, arguing that broad affirmative action plans simply substitute "one discriminatory selection process for another."

(Ruth Marcus, Washington Post, A4)

Supreme Court Hears Arguments On Affirmative Action Cases

The Supreme Court is again the battleground for affirmative action in the American workplace, with the Reagan Administration warring against civil rights groups and others over the future of on-the-job racial preferences. The justices, expected to announce decisions by July in three key cases, heard two hours of arguments Tuesday.

(James Rubin, AP)

PENTAGON EX-DEFENDER TURNS CRITIC

One year ago, Lawrence Korb was one of the Reagan Administration's most visible point men in the debate over military spending, an assistant secretary of defense who appeared before dozens of congressional committees to urge support for Secretary Weinberger's arms buildup.

Yesterday, Korb was back on Capitol Hill -- this time to oppose the Administration's military budget request and appeal for a reordering of priorities.

(Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A17)

RODINO ACCUSES MEESE OF DELAYING EPA PROBE

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino (D-NJ) said yesterday that Attorney General Meese may be flouting the law and ignoring "obvious conflicts of interest" by not conducting an investigation requested by the committee last December.

Rodino had asked Meese to seek an independent counsel after the Judiciary Committee issued a report that accused present and former Reagan Administration officials of improper conduct in withholding from Congress documents detailing wrongdoing at the EPA in 1982 and 1983.

(Mary Thornton & Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, D1)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, February 25, 1986)

MARCOS EXODUS

CBS's Dan Rather: Former President Marcos was taken from his palace this morning aboard American helicopters. He slept in a nearby U.S. Air Base, then was flown on with his family to Guam. CBS News has been told that he was taken aboard the plane to Guam on a stretcher; Marcos is said to be very ill. A civilian government, headed by Corazon Aquino, and backed by influential military men, is taking over in Manila. (ALL NETS LEAD)

CBS's Bob Simon reports that a nation took to the streets tonight to celebrate its victory over the dictator who had fallen. If you've ever wanted to know what a revolution looks like, feast your eyes on Manila tonight. For awhile this morning, Filipinos had two presidents. The swearing-in of Mrs. Aquino was broadcast on TV several times, but when Marcos took the oath, someone pulled the plug on the airwaves. There was pandemonium as word spread that the dictator was gone; there was bloodshed, but very little bloodshed. The day that started with two presidents and two sides, ended with the coming together of a rare patriotism -- the Virgin Mary was everywhere. What is remarkable is how little violence there has been. We Americans like to think that we taught democracy to the Filipinos; tonight, they're teaching the world. No bullets, no harm, to the man they hate.

Rather: Near the end, President Reagan played a role in helping to force Ferdinand Marcos over the brink, out of office, and into exile. President Reagan's Administration wasted no time in recognizing Marcos' successor, and offering her full U.S. cooperation.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: The Reagan Administration moved quickly to cement relations with the new power structure, praising Mrs. Aquino for choosing centrists for her new government, and for coming to office without violence.

(Secretary Shultz: "The President is pleased with the peaceful transition to a new government of the Philippines. The United States extends recognition to this new government, headed by President Aquino. This has not been something that the United States has done; this is something that the people of the Philippines have done.")

In fact, this was done with the help of a key Reagan friend, Paul Laxalt, someone Marcos trusts, whom Marcos telephoned yesterday afternoon. It was 3 a.m. in Manila. Marcos said he was afraid the palace would be stormed. He told Laxalt he didn't want to come to the U.S., and instead asked if he could share power with Aquino.

(Laxalt: "He was hanging on. He was looking for a life preserver. I sensed that he was a desperate man, clutching at straws, trying to work out something that would keep him somewhere in the power structure.")

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Stahl continues:

Laxalt rushed to a White House meeting with President Reagan, who said power sharing would be undignified, but that we would like to guarantee to Marcos his peace, safety, and dignity. Laxalt called Marcos back with that message. But even after Marcos agreed to leave the palace, he was still asking to remain in the Philippines, to die in his own country. But officials say the Aquino people did not want him to stay. President Reagan was applauded for his delicate handling of the crisis.

(Sen. Kennedy: "His leadership has been important, it has been significant, and it has been skillful -- and deserves credit for it.") U.S. officials say Marcos has had difficulty grasping the reality and gravity of his situation. They say he is very sick, and once he lands in Guam, will most likely check in to the U.S. military hospital there.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The news that Marcos had stepped down produced relief and satisfaction all over Washington. But perhaps nowhere more so than at the White House.

ABC's Sheilah Kast: Secretary Shultz had praise for everyone: for the Filipino people, their new leader, and their old one.

(Shultz: "We praise the decision of President Marcos. Reason and compassion have prevailed in ways that best serve the Filipino nation and people.")

The relatively peaceful transition in the Philippines put President Reagan in such a good humor, he vented enthusiasm in the wet, Washington snow.

(TV Coverage: President throwing snowball.)

On Capitol Hill, even legislators who had been critical of the Reagan Administration today had nothing but praise.

(Rep. Solarz: "It's a time for all of us, as Americans, to rejoice in the triumph of democracy in the Philippines, and to give credit to our own government for the role it played in helping to bring this about.")

(Sen. Kennedy: "I don't believe that this day could have been achieved if it hadn't been for the extraordinarily skilled leadership of Cory Aquino and the President Reagan.")

The U.S. offered Marcos and his supporters safe haven in the U.S.

(Shultz: "As he continues on in his life, we wish him to have a life of dignity and honor.")

But Marcos' future is uncertain. His first stop is in Guam, for a medical check-up. U.S. officials say they don't know where he'll go next. He wanted to stay in the Philippines. But officials say conditions there are too volatile for that.

NBC's Tom Brokaw: When Corazon Aquino announced on Philippine TV today "the long agony is over," they could have been the words written at the White House.

NBC's Chris Wallace: For weeks, officials here denied that the White House was doing anything to force Marcos out of office. But today, those same officials said the President played a key role in helping democracy win. Marcos was at Clark Air Base just over an hour when the Administration announced this country's long relationship with him was over.

Wallace continues:

(Shultz: "The President is pleased with the peaceful transition to a new government of the Philippines. The United States extends recognition to this new government, headed by President Aquino.")

Top officials called it a Reagan victory, and a buoyant President posed for cameras this morning throwing a snowball.

(TV Coverage: President throwing snowball.)

Officials said the offer of a safe haven for Marcos was instrumental in getting him to step down. But to avoid bloodshed in the Philippines, they would welcome Marcos and his associates to the U.S.

(Shultz: "We want to see them continue on in dignity and honor, and will do everything that we can to see that that comes about.")

But while members of Congress applauded Marcos' fall from power, some said they will try to take away his fortune invested in this country.

(Rep. Solarz: "I certainly think it would be appropriate to permit foreign governments, and certainly the Philippines, to attach the ill-gotten assets of the Marcoses over here.")

The turning point may have come when Marcos called Sen. Paul Laxalt yesterday, to ask if President Reagan really wanted him to leave. After meeting with Mr. Reagan, Laxalt told Marcos that the President wanted him out, but would guarantee his safety. Marcos then asked, what do you (Laxalt) think?

(Laxalt: "And I said, Mr. President, I'm not bound by diplomatic restraints, and I'm talking only for myself, but I think you should cut, and cut cleanly.")

After a long pause, Marcos said he was very, very disappointed. As for the new leader, U.S. officials were praising her today, saying initial fears Mrs. Aquino would be weak, and run by the left had been wiped out by her savvy performance. They said she was forming a centrist government, with a strong military. Officials here think that Mrs. Aquino will do much better than Marcos did in reforming the Philippines. But officials here also acknowledge that after a strong man falls, no one can be certain of what happens next.

RATHER/LAXALT INTERVIEW

Rather: I asked Sen. Laxalt about his role for President Reagan in the apparently decisive phone conversations yesterday with Marcos.

(Laxalt: "He asked me whether or not it was the President's wish that he step down. I indicated that I could not speak for the President, but the President certainly would not intervene in Filipino affairs, and request that he step down. Then he asked me the \$64,000 question: he says, 'I understand that, but how do you feel about it?,' and that came literally as a bombshell, because it was a gut question. And I indicated then, Mr. President, I hate to tell you this, because as far as I'm concerned, I think that you should cut, make it a clean cut, and move on. Then there was the strangest thing. There was this tremendous pause, for what for me was almost an interminable length of time. Probably a minute or so! And I finally said, Mr. President, can you hear me? And he finally responded weakly and said, 'Yes, Senator, I do hear you, I am so very, very disappointed.' And it was really a sad time. I sensed then that he was finally accepting reality, and while I had no solid assurance that he would leave, I felt at that point that he was at least considering it."

(Editor's Note: NBC and ABC also interviewed Sen. Laxalt.)

CHALLENGER COMMISSION

CBS's Eric Engberg reports the Rogers Commission heard evidence that NASA deviated from a long-standing safety-first policy, and launched Challenger over strong objections from engineers who feared a catastrophe. When Morton Thiokol company engineers outlined their objections, one NASA official said he was appalled. Suggestions they wait for temperatures above fifty, known to be safe, brought a rejoinder from NASA executive Larry Malloy. Commission members, especially those with backgrounds in space, seemed incredulous NASA had not called a halt in the countdown. When the NASA witnesses begin testifying tomorrow, the big question they will likely confront is: Why the rush? (CBS-3)

ABC's Lynne Sherr reports that the working engineers at Morton Thiokol publicly pointed their fingers at their own management and at NASA today, telling the Presidential Commission that based on data they saw from their headquarters in Utah, they were unanimous in not wanting Challenger to fly January 28. (ABC-2)

NBC's Robert Hager reports that Thiokol employees testified they felt pressured, and engineers testified they were overruled by their own management. (NBC-2)

BEGGS RESIGNATION

Rather: James Beggs, the NASA chief on leave while under a fraud indictment unrelated to the shuttle disaster, tonight officially resigned. This will allow President Reagan to name a new top man for the space agency. (CBS-2; ABC-3)

GORBACHEV BLASTS REAGAN PROPOSAL

Rather: Soviet leader Gorbachev threatened to put off his planned second summit with President Reagan. The threat was mentioned as Gorbachev opened the First Communist Party Congress, of what he calls the new Kremlin generation. He also attacked the old Kremlin generation of Leonid Brezhnev, and he blasted President Reagan's new arms-control offer.

CBS's Wyatt Andrews reports that Gorbachev was blunt, even aggressive, in his response to the latest arms proposal from President Reagan. Saying Mr. Reagan's call for the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe was swamped with conditions. He criticized the U.S. for continuing nuclear testing, and questioned Mr. Reagan's commitment to disarmament.

(Gorbachev: "To put it in a nutshell, it is hard to detect in the letter we have just received any serious preparedness of the U.S. Administration to get down to solving the cardinal problems involved in eliminating the nuclear threat.")

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Andrews continues:

With that said, Gorbachev repeated his willingness to reach agreement on nuclear missile, the same area President Reagan had emphasized in his letter. But this was the opening of the once-in-five-year Communist Party Congress, and Gorbachev saved his harshest criticism for the Soviet economy. He lashed out at petty bureaucrats, and repeatedly railed against worthless props. Gorbachev's domestic promise is that if he can achieve disarmament abroad, and a shake-up of the lazy at home, then he will give the Soviet people a better material life. (CBS-6)

ABC's Walter Rodgers reports that Gorbachev was supremely confident as he addressed the party elite about the Soviet Union's future as a superpower. But foreign policy was a different matter. There, he expressed disappointment, and mild anger, that it took President Reagan so long to respond to his call for total elimination of nuclear weapons. And Gorbachev appeared to reject Mr. Reagan's offer to phase out all medium-range missiles over the next three years. The Soviet leader also cast doubts on a second summit with President Reagan, absent a prior agreement on two other matters: the cessation of nuclear tests, and the abolition of U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range missiles in the European zone. He was very tough on the U.S., calling it the "locomotive of world militarism; an exploiter of the masses." But he was also critical of Soviet failures, especially during the Brezhnev years. (ABC-4)

NBC's Steve Hearst reports that Gorbachev sees no point to another summit with President Reagan, unless they have an arms-control agreement to sign. The Soviet leader said President Reagan was not sincere in his response to Gorbachev's bid to rid the world of nuclear weapons in 15 years. But it wasn't just Mr. Reagan who came in for criticism. His own workers -- they all received stern warnings to shape up or lose their jobs. He promised them all a better life, and soon. But he said they must work harder, drink less, be honest -- in short, boost Soviet production by 150 percent by the end of the century. (NBC-3)

U.S. CRUISE MISSILE CRASH

Rather: A U.S. Cruise Missile on a test run over northwestern Canada crashed into the sea, moments after launch today, cause unknown, the second unsuccessful Cruise Missile test in a row. (CBS-4; NBC-4)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Rather: Another month of low inflation in January. The government said today that consumer prices rose just three-tenths of one percent last month. That's the smallest monthly increase since last September. And the inflation picture for February is expected to be even better, since the recent big drop in gasoline prices is not yet reflected in the consumer price figures. (CBS-8)

SUPREME COURT RULINGS

Rather: The U.S. Supreme Court today gave the nation's communities wide powers to curtail adult movie houses; either scattering X-rated theatres around the fringes of a city, or lumping them together in so-called "combat-zones." Also today, the Justices reduced citizen protection and gave police wider powers to search cars without a warrant, and to seize evidence they find inside. (CBS-7)

Editor's Note: CBS aired the third of a six-part series Tuesday evening on the nation's "farm crisis." It dealt with the foreclosure warnings being received by farmers with federal loans from banks and government. (CBS-10)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

DEMOCRACY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Marcos Going... -- "What the world is witnessing today in the Philippines is one of the most astounding and remarkable chapters in the struggle for freedom, not merely in our own time but of all time.... What we are witnessing, in short, is the victory of moral power over military power. Whatever may come in the perilous times that lie ahead in the Philippines, this will be a thrilling moment for all the world to remember, for many years to come."
(Baltimore Evening Sun, 2/24)

...And Marcos Coming -- "Marcos must also pay the price, and that price should be the ill-gotten gains of his corrupt reign. If he comes to the U.S., it should be only on the condition that he ultimately return the hundreds of millions of dollars which, according to congressional testimony, he has sent to the U.S. for his retirement. That fortune must be returned to those from whom it was stolen -- the impoverished Filipino people."
(Baltimore Evening Sun, 2/24)

He Lost His Power In Crooked Election -- "So the stage was set for Marcos to leave and for Aquino to take power. The whole world hoped that would happen peacefully. The world hoped it would be recorded in history as a victory for a brave widow; a victory for the courageous military leaders who stood up to Marcos; a victory for the Catholic church that opposed the dictator; a victory for our own cautious, thoughtful foreign policy. Most of all, we hoped it would be a victory for the will of the people over the will of the dictator."
(USA Today, 2/25)

Marcos: Going, Going... -- "In such disturbing circumstances, we are relieved Reagan has at last aligned himself with a vast host of Americans calling for Marcos' ouster. The President's earlier equivocations -- his obvious reluctance to break with an ally who has preserved U.S. military bases in Philippines -- serve to make his new stand even more dramatic. At no time did President Carter break with the shah of Iran as decisively. For a politician who once criticized Carter for turning his back on the shah, Reagan has come a long way."
(Baltimore Sun, 2/25)

World Policeman -- "It would be a plus for American foreign policy if after all the failures we could could a success at this difficult task, if we could finally emerge from the Philippine crisis with a better government there.... If American influence succeeds in helping to bring democracy to the post-Marcos Philippines, we can only hope Marcos's American critics will join in an effort to confer the same benefit on post-Somoza Nicaragua."
(Wall Street Journal, 2/25)

Marco's Legacy -- "The demands of the majority have been heard. The Philippines has a democratic heritage to inspire it, and an abundance of talent to call on. And, as it moves away from authoritarianism to reclaim its heritage, it has the right to expect that well-wishers throughout the world will stand ready to offer support."
(Los Angeles Times, 2/25)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

Good To The Last Drop -- "The Philippine Islands are not primarily the responsibility of the Reagan Administration or high-minded members of Congress, even as Americans are under no moral imperative to certify other people's elections or to do like the conscientious Rep. Stephen Solarz and hold preelection hearings in hopes of influencing the results. Replacing the Marcos regime, in short, is a job for Filipinos. In the light of Washington's accomplishments elsewhere -- in Vietnam, say, and Iran -- they can be forgiven if they do not relish our 'help'."

(Washington Times, 2/25)

The Revolt Of The Filipinos -- "The Reagan Administration appears to have handled the tactical situation brilliantly -- quietly cutting the ground from under President Marcos, who was becoming a distinct liability to U.S. foreign policy interests, but not making this a U.S. fight. Twice within a month -- first in the case of 'Baby Doc' Duvalier of Haiti -- the Administration has served as a facilitator of change when the leader of a friendly country overstayed his welcome.... The United States need not feel ashamed that four successive presidents supported Ferdinand Marcos, or that this country didn't take the leadership in deposing him. When the right moment came, the United States stood where it has always stood, on the side of freedom."

(Detroit News, 2/25)

Bum's Rush -- "The popular uprising against Marcos is, from every perspective save his own, the ideal solution to the Marcos problem. When governments are to be changed, it is best that the people most concerned do the changing. If the Filipinos want Marcos out, that should be just fine with Americans.... Mrs. Aquino, as we have previously observed, is untested as a national leader, but there seems no doubt that the Filipinos want her."

(Dallas Morning News, 2/25)

Television and Democracy -- "American network television, so reviled across the political spectrum of this democracy, has helped preserve democracy in the Philippines. The American viewing public saw events so vividly that no one in official Washington could say anything other than 'fraud' about the presidential election there. When Corazon Aquino talks about 'people power,' part of it was supplied by Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings and Ted Koppel....

In his famous letter to Edward Carrington in 1787, Thomas Jefferson said, 'Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.'

He knew the dissemination of the news was as critical as the truth it contained. Thomas Jefferson would have been proud of television's role in democracy today."

(Boston Globe, 2/25)

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FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

"The Soviet Union ... yesterday suggested that the beleaguered Philippines leader had been the victim of a coup engineered in part by the United States.... The Soviet attitude to the unfolding crisis in the Philippines has puzzled analysts. While refraining from overt support for the regime during the election campaign, Moscow also kept its distance from the opposition."
(Guardian, Great Britain, 2/25)

"The Reagan Administration seems willing to clean up its backyard and no one is spared in its zone of influence. Reagan, the conservative, the cowboy, the defender of the U.S. empire, is getting rid of his dictators one after the other and replacing them with democratic regimes.... In a way, Reagan is succeeding in the policy prepared by his predecessor, Jimmy Carter.... But what Carter failed to do was restore America's confidence both economically and militarily. Reagan succeeded. This is why he can now conduct Carter's policies without Carter."
(Liberation, France, 2/25)

"Once more, Reagan acted intelligently and showed that he was able to adapt himself to the situation and get the best out of it for his country.... Reagan will appear as the man without whom a transition would not have been possible in Manila. He succeeded thanks to his reputation as a strong and firm leader.... Filipinos will be thankful to America, and even Cory Aquino cannot ignore what Reagan has done for her and what he could do against her if she failed to remember. Reagan clearly comes out strengthened from the crisis."
(Quotidien, France, 2/25)

"The Americans must be congratulated for understanding that Marcos' departure was unavoidable.... Seen from Washington, the scene was similar to the one at the time of Baby Doc's fall. It was again Larry Speakes, Reagan's spokesman now in charge of funeral announcements, who indicated to both leaders that the time had come for them to quit.... "
(Le Matin, France, 2/25)

"On Monday, Ronald Reagan abandoned the practice of saying nice diplomatic things. Speaking for the President, Larry Speakes announced Marcos' political death. The question now is whether Mrs. Aquino will be more than a figurehead and whether the military will support the democratic cause."
(Sueddeutsche Zeitung, West Germany, 2/25)

"In Manila, Washington for the first time displayed political wisdom and moral strength in distancing itself from Marcos if not in time, at least before the fall. It seems incredible that it took President Reagan, after so many progressive presidents, to revolutionize American strategies, to discover that America's ideals can be more effective than its weapons."
(La Stampa, Italy, 2/25)

"Only under the pressure of events, the United States now realizes that a democratic way is not only possible, but much more in the interest of the United States and of the West (than Rightist authoritarian regimes.)"
(Profil, Austria, 2/25)

Foreign Media Reaction (continued)

"What will matter most, however, is the recovery of the economy, and this will be impossible without foreign aid. Thus it is the turn of the United States to take action."
(Neue Az, Austria, 2/25)

"If we want the country to become really democratic, we will have to help it to prosper. Instead of just crying 'down with Marcos,' we should allow duty-free imports of Philippine industrial products into our Western markets."
(La Suisse, Switzerland, 2/25)

"Ramos is actually supported by the United States.... Such political changes ... resemble the 'palace tragedy' of South Vietnam's dictator Ngo Dinh Diem ... the similarity being that both were produced by the United States. From this we can see that America is making use of its big-country power to 'interfere' in a small country...."
(Rin Tin Daily, Hong Kong, 2/25)

"When the final chapter in this drama is played out, questions are going to be asked about the strength of U.S. commitments to its allies and the extent of clandestine contacts U.S. officials had with Philippine opposition and military leaders prior to the rebellion...."
(Post, Thailand, 2/25)

"If the events follow the course indicated by our hopes, it will be possible to recognize the success of American diplomacy in conciliating the defense of the strategic interests of the United States and of the West and diplomatic principles, even in the choice of its alliances...."
(O Estado de Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2/25)

"Yesterday the Pentagon ordered all planes in the Clark Air Force Base moved to Okinawa. It was a revealing act in that it showed that the bases in the Philippines are far from being essential to the United States...."
(Folha de Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2/25)

"The push against Marcos, seconded by other international forces ... confirms that, as in Haiti, Washington is ready to lift its anchor and leave its former ally alone.... Pinochet and Stroessner could be next...."
(El Dia, Mexico, 2/25)

"It seems that Washington is now looking for a democratic face to be the new puppet in the Philippines.... The puppets of the United States and the big powers will always be the bane of the Third World...."
(Sawt ash-Shab, Jordan, 2/25)

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