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# News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### NATIONAL NEWS

Shuttle Search -- CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Searchers have found remains of Challenger's astronauts in the debris of the shuttle's crew compartment 100 feet down on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean NASA announced Sunday (Washington Post, Washington Times, Gannett, AP, UPI)

Economic Debate Reshaped By Signs Of Lower Deficits -- Government and business economists are beginning to take account of widespread signs that \$200 billion budget deficits are a thing of the past. (New York Times)

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan: Compromise Possible On Contra Aid -- President Reagan, in his zealous pursuit for aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, says he may be willing to compromise to salvage the proposed \$100 million package because "the alternative is unthinkable."

(Washington Post, Washington Times, UPI)

Weinberger: Second Summit Up To Soviets -- With prospects for another superpower summit clouded by a dispute over dates, Secretary Weinberger suggests the Soviets "are either afraid to have one or don't want to have one." (UPI)

### NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

CONTRA AID -- The President hinted Sunday he may be willing to compromise with Congress on aid to the contras.

CHALLENGER -- NASA announced that divers have found the remains of the Challenger astronauts.

PRO-ABORTION PROTEST -- 50,000 demonstrators more than matched the anti-abortion march of this January.

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **DIVERS FIND BODIES OF SHUTTLE'S CREW**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Navy divers have located wreckage of the crew compartment of the space shuttle Challenger lying on the ocean bottom in 100 feet of water and confirmed that it contains remains of the astronauts killed nearly six weeks ago, NASA said today.

The families of the seven crew members were notified of the discovery over the weekend. In deference to the families, the agency said it will release no further details until the recovery is completed and the bodies are recovered. (Michael Isikoff, Washington Post, A1)

#### **Shuttle**

Divers try today to figure the best way to recover the remains of Challenger crewmembers, after finding the shuttle's crew compartment Friday in about 100 feet of water on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.

"We were all sort of hoping they wouldn't find anything," said Tony Smith, brother of shuttle pilot Michael Smith. "It can't be any worse than the first part. We got through the first part. We'll get through this part." (Tim Weller, Gannett)

#### **Shuttle**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Wreckage of the shuttle Challenger's crew compartment has been found on the debris-littered seabed off the coast of Florida with "crew remains" still on board, the space agency announced Sunday.

NASA spokesman Hugh Harris, who stressed that he did not know how many of the shuttle's seven astronauts may be inside the wreckage, said the remains of the cabin were found Friday by sonar at a depth of about 100 feet. (William Harwood, UPI)

#### **Shuttle Search**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Searchers have found remains of Challenger's astronauts in the debris of the shuttle's crew compartment 100 feet down on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean NASA announced Sunday.

Mark Weinberg, a spokesman for the presidential commission investigating the shuttle explosion, said he could not comment on the significance of the find to the commission's probe. "I would not want to characterize its importance. That's to be determined. Clearly all pieces of evidence are important," he said. (Howard Benedict, AP)

#### **Challenger Cabin Found On Ocean Floor**

A senior NASA official who requested anonymity said recovery of the crew compartment is unlikely to aid investigators seeking the cause of the Jan. 28 explosion.

"What happened, happened completely outside of that compartment, so I don't think that it will help determine what caused the accident," the official said in an interview. "All the instruments in the compartment were telemetered back to the ground, so it won't provide any new data."

(Mark Tapscott, Washington Times, A1)

## ECONOMIC DEBATE RESHAPED BY SIGNS OF LOWER DEFICITS

Government and business economists are beginning to take account of widespread signs that \$200 billion budget deficits are a thing of the past.

Such prospects, they say, will bring about important changes in the debate over economic policies. Some see smaller deficits leading to a healthier economy. They found confirmation for such optimism Friday when the Federal Reserve Board cut its basic lending rate. The expected ripple effect on rates through the economy means the government would pay less to finance the national debt, now nearly \$2 trillion.

(Peter Kilborn, New York Times, A1)

## ABRAHAM SOFAER, STATE'S LEGAL ADVISER DEALS WITH POLICY, THEN THE LAW

Last June, Abraham Sofaer took off the robes of a federal district judge in New York City, rolled up his sleeves and moved into the sixth-floor office of the legal adviser at the State Department. Nine months later, packing boxes are still piled on the office floor and the ebullient Sofaer is deeply engaged in making policy as well as law for U.S. diplomacy.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A13)

## BELL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HERE TO STAY

Striking back at his critics, former Education Secretary Bell, who did not carry out a presidential directive to dismantle the Education Department, says the department is "here to stay."

Writing in the March issue of Phi Delta Kappa, the magazine of the professional education fraternity, Mr. Bell chronicles four years as an embattled misfit in the Reagan Administration -- years he says he spent fighting "right-wing extremists." (Carol Innerst, Washington Times, A2)

## TESTING FOR DRUGS NOW MATTER OF HOW

Mandatory drug tests for all federal workers, an idea President Reagan is seriously considering, is a growing practice that all sides say is the wave of the future. The critical question is: How to do it?

(UPI story, Washington Times, A3)

## CHECKS URGED ON THOSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The Attorney General's Advisory Board on Missing Children has called on state governments to mandate police checks for anyone working with children to guard against employing those with convictions for child-abuse crimes.

(John McCaslin, Washington Times, A3)

WHITE HOUSE PLAN ON MEDICARE PAYMENTS  
TO HOSPITALS SEEN BLOCKED BY CONGRESS

Congress appears likely to block changes the Reagan Administration has proposed in Medicare reimbursements for hospitals so that it can write its own rules.

The bipartisan leadership of the key House and Senate subcommittees in charge of Medicare say an Administration plan for changes in hospital reimbursements for capital cost is so stringent it could reduce care for the indigent and force some hospitals to default. They said the White House shouldn't try to impose the new regulations without congressional approval.

(Joe Davidson, Wall Street Journal, A42)

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## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **REAGAN REJECTS PROPOSAL TO DELAY CONTRA ARMS**

President Reagan yesterday rejected a proposal to delay military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels for six months to allow time to negotiate with the Sandinista government.

But he hinted that he would be willing to seek some type of compromise on his proposed \$100 million aid package for the counterrevolutionaries, or contras, if it is defeated in a House vote March 19.

The President is waging an uphill lobbying campaign to push his \$100 million package, which includes \$70 million for arms, through the House. "The alternative is unthinkable," he said yesterday after returning from Camp David.

(Spencer Rich, Washington Post, A16)

### **Reagan: Compromise Possible On Contra Aid**

President Reagan, in his zealous pursuit for aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, says he may be willing to compromise to salvage the proposed \$100 million package because "the alternative is unthinkable."

Plunging into a week of concerted effort to drum up popular support his aides acknowledge he lacks, Reagan indicated Sunday he is open to compromise on his aid request -- but only after a pivotal March 19 vote in the House.

Any negotiations before that vote would not "be productive at all," he said. When asked what he might accept in the way of compromise, Reagan replied, "I would have to wait and see what someone offers."

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

### **Administration Tries To Defuse Furor In Contra Issue**

Administration officials, pushing President Reagan's plan to aid the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, found themselves trying to defuse the furor over some remarks that questioned opponents' patriotism.

At the same time, a hard line emerged in response to suggestions Reagan might accept a compromise on the \$100 million package -- such as placing the funds in escrow to see if fruitful peace negotiations take place.

"The President is not looking for compromise at this time. He's looking for 218 votes in the House," said Elliott Abrams.

(Sean McCormally, UPI)

### **Republicans Take Contra Aid Battle To The Trenches**

President Reagan will take the high ground while House Republicans wage a low-key campaign over the next eight days to help him win \$100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan resistance fighters.

After meeting with members of Congress at the White House each day this week, Mr. Reagan will try to persuade the public in a televised speech Sunday that aid for the Nicaraguan resistance is crucial to national security. (Mary Belcher & Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

## BUCHANAN SHOWS PUNCH FOR PRESIDENT ON "CONTRAS"

Like a bear ending a long hibernation, Patrick Buchanan has emerged from his windowless White House office to take the lead in President Reagan's public campaign to win congressional approval of a \$100 million aid package for the Nicaraguan guerrillas.

"This is one of the reasons I came in here, to help the President in this conflict in Central America, where we need support, where there is public misunderstanding," said Mr. Buchanan, the White House communications director who, with a few notable exceptions, has maintained an uncharacteristically low profile since joining the Reagan Administration a year ago.

(Robert Timberg, Baltimore Sun, A1)

## STRENGTH OF NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE LESSENING, ABRAMS SAYS

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- The U.S.-backed Nicaraguan resistance forces based in Honduras have almost completely abandoned the battlefield and pose little threat to the Sandinista government, according to Western diplomats and Honduran government officials.

(Washington Times, A10)

## CONTRA AID "WRONG," COLOMBIAN DECLARES

BOGOTA, Colombia -- President Betancur, a leading opponent of military intervention in Central America, says the Reagan Administration's request for \$100 million in aid to anti-Sandinista Nicaraguan rebels is "wrong" and "will not produce good results."

In an interview, the Colombian leader said "all of Latin America doesn't like the Reagan proposal" and urged the U.S. president to talk with, not fight the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

(Bradley Graham, Washington Post, A17)

## RISKS OF A SCARE CAMPAIGN

A disinformation and scare campaign is going on in Washington these days as President Reagan struggles to win approval of his \$100 million aid proposal for the Nicaraguan rebels, and the Sandinistas are not the principle culprits.

In its fever to arm dwindling rebels forces before they are overwhelmed by the Sandinista troops equipped with Soviet gunships, the Administration has raised arguments rarely heard since the divisive days when opposition to the Vietnam war was equated with lack of patriotism.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

## THE REAGAN DOCTRINE

The month of February, in the year 1986, was a rare time in the history of U.S. involvement in the affairs of the world. In a span of scarcely more than two weeks, two dictators fell from power, departures that were promoted and partly provoked by the U.S. government. This may be the most dramatic revision of U.S. policy since the early days of the Cold War.

(Don Mcleod, Washington Times, A1)

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#### WEINBERGER: SECOND SUMMIT UP TO SOVIETS

With prospects for another superpower summit clouded by a dispute over dates, Secretary Weinberger suggests the Soviets "are either afraid to have one or don't want to have one."

Weinberger indicated Sunday, in echo of President Reagan, that it is up to Moscow to see that the agreement to hold a follow-up summit in the United States is carried out. Reagan said last week that Soviet intransigence could scuttle plans for his second meeting with Soviet leader Gorbachev. (Norman Sandler, UPI)

#### U.S. ORDERS SOVIET U.N. STAFF CUT

Charging that members of the Soviet mission to the United Nations routinely engage in espionage and other improprieties, the United States has ordered a 38 percent reduction in their staff.

(Warren Strobel, Washington Times, A3)

#### MEDVID "COACHED" TO DEFECT, AGENT SAYS

The border patrol agent who ordered Miroslav Medvid's return to a Soviet grain freighter last October said he believed an interpreter had coached the seaman to ask for political asylum so he would not have to go back to his ship.

U.S. Border Patrol officer Ernest Spurlock told The Washington Times Friday he thought interpreter Irene Padoch had done "a little coaching" in the hourlong telephone conversation with Mr. Medvid after the Ukrainian seaman first responded that he just didn't want to return to his ship.

(Rita McWilliams, Washington Times, A1)

#### NUMBER OF CUBANS DETAINED IS RISING

ATLANTA -- The increasing number of Cubans imprisoned indefinitely by United States immigration officials to await deportation is exacting a growing toll on the Government and on the prisoners.

At the Federal penitentiary in Atlanta, where 1,860 of these Cubans are held, overcrowding and violence are so severe that a Congressman who oversees Federal prisons said that the Cubans were being kept "like animals in cages."

(William Schmidt, New York Times, A1)

#### WHITE HOUSE PROMISED NOTHING, STEERS CLEAR OF MARCOS WEALTH ISSUE

The Reagan Administration never discussed former president Marcos' wealth during 11th hour efforts to get him out of the country and prevent a civil war, and it's staying at arms' length from the issue now.

"We will abide by three jurisdictions: international law, American law and Filipino law," a senior Administration official said. "If he owns it, he can keep it. If not, well..." (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A2)



#### SALE OF ARMS INFORMATION LETS ALLIES COPY WEAPONS

Weak Pentagon controls on military technology have allowed seven U.S. allies, most of them in Asia, to manufacture copies of small American weapons and equipment for export, Pentagon investigators have found.

(Neil Roland, Washington Times, A2)

#### ADMINISTRATION LOCKED IN DISPUTE OVER MISSILES FOR ANGOLAN RESISTANCE

The CIA, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and State Department are locked in a dispute with the Defense Department over whether to send advanced anti-aircraft missiles to Jonas Savimbi's rebels in Angola, according to congressional sources here.

(James Morrison, Washington Times, A8)

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## **NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY**

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(Sunday Evening, March 9, 1986)

NOTE: CBS did not air a broadcast.)

### **CONTRA AID**

Wallace: President Reagan hinted today he may be willing to compromise with Congress on aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua. Faced with growing opposition, Mr. Reagan indicated he may be willing to accept some aid, because giving no aid at all to the rebels, he says, would be unthinkable.

NBC's Richard Valeriani: After a week of intensive lobbying for aid for the anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua, President Reagan returned to the White House from Camp David today and told reporters:

(President: "We're going to talk, and find out how we can get some practical aid to them. I would have to wait to see what someone offers.")

The President's remarks were the first public hint that the Administration is willing to explore a compromise on its aid proposal in the face of strong opposition to it in the Democratically-controlled House of Representatives. The Administration is exhorting Congress to provide \$70 million in military aid, and \$30 million in non-lethal assistance to the American-backed forces, the contras, fighting against the left-wing government of Nicaragua. Earlier, on NBC's 'Meet The Press,' a top Administration official was still spouting the hard line.

(Assistant Secretary of State Abrams: "The President is not looking for compromise at this point. The President is looking for 218 votes in the House.")

But two key House Democrats, Rep. Barnes and Rep. Gephardt, say the President does not have the votes.

(Rep. Gephardt: "The request of the President will be defeated in the House on the 19th, and then I think there will probably be some kind of negotiation between the Administration and members of both parties in both Houses.")

(Rep. Barnes: "What you have now is the U.S. totally isolated in the entire world, really. It's hard to find anybody in the world who supports our policy.")

Despite the talk of compromise, the President is continuing his all-out lobbying campaign for contra aid. He's scheduled several private meetings with members of Congress this coming week, and he plans to deliver a televised speech on the subject next Sunday, three days before the House vote. (NBC-4)

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The political pressure fire intensified this Sunday in Washington's latest policy showdown. Military aid to the contra rebels fighting against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. But even as the President insisted that \$100 million of aid, \$70 million of it military, is necessary, his Congressional opponents argued against it, and the suggestion of future compromise emerged.

ABC's Ken Walker: The President returned from Camp David still determined to fight for his request for aid for Nicaraguan guerrillas. (President: "I'm going to do my best to convince the House that we should have this. The alternative is unthinkable.") While taking stock of the poor chances in the House, the President held out more hope than before for a compromise. (President: "If I'm gonna have to negotiate something, don't ask me to negotiate out here in advance. I would have to see wait to see what -- what -- someone offers, who would then obviously be sharing our concern about getting a democratic solution.") While the President appeared more flexible, other Administration officials continued to fight for all \$100 million of Mr. Reagan's request. (Secretary Weinberger: "It will keep them alive; it will keep them going. They did remarkably well a couple of years ago, with very little aid at all. Now, in effect, they've been cut off and starved, and not allowed to make the kind of effort that they want to make, and that they can make.") Despite Administration claims, or hope for a negotiated settlement, some members of Congress remain skeptical. (Senator Dodd: "This Administration wants to overthrow the Sandinista government. We're being told that this money is to only pressure the Sandinistas to the negotiating table. No one believes that.") For their part, contra leaders say they'll settle for a peaceful outcome, but will press if they must for a Sandinista downfall. (Adolfo Calero: "It's either one or the other; the negotiating table or the collapse -- the finalization of the government.") Facing almost certain defeat in the House vote ten days from now, the Administration hopes to salvage some of its aid request. While the President won't get all that he wants, officials are confident that he won't come out empty handed. (ABC-2)

## NICARAGUAN REACTION

Wallace: In Nicaragua, there's an uncharacteristic silence, as debate rages in Washington about whether to support war against Daniel Ortega's government. He and his colleagues are avoiding reporters, where in the past, they sought to sway American opinion.

NBC's Jamie Gangel reports that stories about President Reagan's request for \$100 million are printed every day. But as far as the Nicaraguan government is concerned, Mr. Reagan's fight is in Washington, and it can stay there. The question is why are the Sandinistas keeping so quiet, when in the past, the topic of U.S. aid has provoked long speeches on Yankee Imperialism.

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Gangel continues:

(TV Coverage: Clergymen and others protesting President Reagan's contra policy on Capitol Hill.)

Publicly, the Sandinistas say it's because there is nothing they can do; that this is between the White House and Congress. But privately, Nicaraguan officials acknowledge that they are using others, religious groups and American sympathizers, to lobby for them. Said one Western diplomat, "the Sandinistas think they'll do better if they just pretend to sit this one out." (NBC-5)

**CHALLENGER REMAINS**

NBC's Chris Wallace: NASA announced this afternoon that divers have found the remains of the Challenger astronauts, in the debris of the space shuttle's crew compartment, 25 miles off the coast of Florida. Family members were notified Friday, when the wreckage was found by SONAR in 100 feet of water. Yesterday, divers confirmed that they have located the Challenger's cabin -- and its crew.

(NBC; ABC -- Lead)

NBC's Dan Molina reports that there is no indication, as yet, as to how much of the crew compartment may be intact. The debris brought up so far has been laid out, and members of the Presidential Commission have also seen it. It has been NASA policy not to comment on what may be remains of crew members found so far. There is no indication -- as yet -- as to how much of the crew compartment is intact, and what exact remains there may be in it.

ABC's Lynn Sherr reports that NASA will not comment again on the salvage operation until it is totally recovered, and identifications are complete.

**PRO-ABORTION PROTEST**

Wallace: There was a familiar scene in Washington today: a mass rally backing a woman's right to have an abortion. It showed once again that 13 years after the Supreme Court legalized abortion, it is still one of this country's most emotional issues.

NBC's Carl Stern reports that the 50,000 demonstrators, the "pro-choice forces" more than matched the "anti-abortion" march of January. The line stretched from the Washington monument, past the White House, to the steps of the Capitol. (NBC-2)

ABC's Karen Stone: Coordinators for the National Organization for Women wanted to outdo a pro-abortion\* march here in January. And that they did, with a crowd more than twice as big. They displayed that show of strength as they paraded past the White House, where an anti-abortionist was arrested, after he thrust an unidentified fetus in front of the demonstrators. Conscious of Ronald Reagan's active support of anti-abortionists, organizers of today's demonstration found a new offensive: to secure access to birth control and abortion, and to put this issue behind them once and for all. (ABC-4)

\* Editor assumes that correspondent meant pro-life rally in January.

## WEINBERGER/SPIES

Donaldson: Secretary Weinberger responded today to the Soviet Union's complaint that it is an unfriendly act to require them to withdraw 40 percent of their personnel in the United Nations mission. "It's not an unfriendly act to get rid of some spies," said Weinberger, who made it clear that even if U.N. legal experts should oppose the move, the President's order to the Soviets will stand. (ABC-3)

## MARCOS

Wallace: In Manila, a commission whose job it is to recover Marcos' hidden wealth, said it is considering putting the exiled leader on trial in absentia -- on corruption charges. (NBC-7; ABC-9)

## PORTUGAL

Wallace: For the first time in 60 years, the people of Portugal have a civilian president. Mario Soares was sworn in today, in a ceremony attended by Vice President George Bush. Soares is a socialist and a former prime minister. (TV Coverage: Vice President at inaugural ceremony.) (NBC-10)

Donaldson: The U.S. was represented at today's ceremonies by Vice President George Bush. (ABC-8)

## YURCHENKO

Wallace: There were new reports that Vitaly Yurchenko, the Soviet official who apparently defected to the U.S. last year, and then changed his mind, was executed after he returned to the Soviet Union in November. A West German newspaper and news agency say Yurchenko was killed by a firing squad. And that his family had to pay for the bullets used to shoot him. (NBC-12)

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## ABC -- THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY

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Moderator: Sam Donaldson (substituting for David Brinkley.)

Panel: Sam Donaldson, George Will, Charles Gibson.

Guests: Contra leader Alfonso Robelo, Secretary Weinberger, Rep. Gephardt (D-Mo.), former Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Derian.

Gibson: The President's request is for \$70,000,000 in military aid for the contras. As you know, that request is very much uncertain because of what Congress may do.... What are you going to buy with the \$70,000,000?

Robelo: The first thing we have to get is anti-aircraft weapons, like shoulder-fire missiles.... We have to have also anti-aircraft guns in positions, we have to have light anti-tank weapons to fight off the Soviet P-55, we have to have artillery --

Donaldson: Rep. Gephardt, the President says that if we don't aid the contras now there may be a sea of red lapping at our very borders. I take it either you don't believe him, or you think his policy is wrong in holding back the communist tide. Which is it?

Gephardt: I think we have to look at the President's goals and what, as a country, we're trying to achieve in Nicaragua.... The Sandinistas have said they'll agree not to run arms to other countries in the region, they say they'll agree to verification procedures....

Donaldson: Haven't they said that for some time, and if they were going to do it why haven't they done it?

Gephardt: Because we haven't had a negotiation with them, either bilaterally or with other countries. We seem to have a different goal, and that's what worries members of Congress. They're concerned about the intent of the Administration. A lot of people feel the intent is to simply to get rid of the Sandinistas, which ultimately may be the goal of the U.S., but it seems to me the first clump of issues we've got to address is the security of the United States and the countries in the region and whether or not that goal can be served by negotiation rather than a military option.

Will: Congressman, you have written that we ought to negotiate an agreement with the Sandinistas with real penalties.... How do you negotiate with them when you have first removed all military pressure through the contras? That is, aren't you taking away their incentive to negotiate?

Gephardt: The Congress has approved contra aid for the last three years on the assumption that it was a bargaining chip, pressure that the Administration could use to reach an agreement, and the goal as stated by the President was to reach an agreement with the Sandinistas. Yet, there hasn't been any negotiations between us and the Nicaraguans for the last year. The contadora process, which was another way to negotiate, hasn't been used either. So you begin to doubt the intent, the belief of the Administration, and what their goal actually is.

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Will: The premise of the President's position, as I understand, is that you can't sever the two questions, and a totalitarian internally organized country is inherently a dynamic threat to its neighbors.

Gephardt: The issue I think we have to address is whether or not we can stop them from being a security risk to the U.S. or the region....

Gibson: Yet the Administration argument is that Nicaragua is a Cuba in the making. Not there yet, but in the making. What is so wrong with the Administration argument that it is only with military pressure that you can force them to negotiate?

Gephardt: I don't think it's legitimate for the U.S. to send in military aid or to introduce troops every time we don't approve of a government. It doesn't work.

Gibson: The House votes on March 19th, the press treats this as climactic. Is it, or will the process then continue in the Senate?

Gephardt: I think the request of the Congress will be defeated in the House on the 19th, and then I think there will probably be some kind of negotiation between the Administration and members of both parties in both Houses in order to try to reach a different approach.

Donaldson: Pat Buchanan says that if you, the Democratic Party, vote against the President you will have been siding with the communists. What's your response to that?

Gephardt: Calling into question people's patriotism because we have a legitimate disagreement on the means toward a common goal I think is wrong headed, and will work against the Administration's efforts in the long run.

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Donaldson: Secretary Weinberger, both you and the President this week suggested ... if Congress votes down this money for the contras you may have to send in U.S. troops.... Is that the case?

Weinberger: I said that there could be a situation in which we would find ourselves required to take very much more difficult, much more expensive in terms of both blood and dollars, action than we could do now. Now we can take care of the situation by helping some very patriotic people who want to fight for their own country. Our only policy is to help people help themselves.

Will: You have said if ... the regime stays it is a threat to the neighboring states.

Weinberger: Without any question.



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Gibson: The President raised the issue of a sea of red in Central America, and you talked about if we allow Nicaragua to establish himself, perhaps they move into Costa Rica and Honduras and up through Mexico --

Weinberger: Well, they may be, yes.

Gibson: At what point would the Administration send troops? Would they send troops to defend Central America if they felt it ... threatened?

Weinberger: I'm not going to deal with any hypothetical questions or anything of the kind. What we have to face is that we can avoid all of these things. We can avoid any involvement of American forces....

Gibson: An Administration spokesman this week wrote this vote in the House, and these votes in the Congress are going to show whether the Democratic Party stands with Ronald Reagan and the resistance or Daniel Ortega and the communists. Do you agree with that?

Weinberger: It's really a red herring to drag this across like -- the President has never questioned anybody's motives.... What he's saying is that if this aid is not supported by both Republicans and Democrats we can have a very serious situation, an unnecessarily serious danger to the United States, and he wants to avoid that....

Donaldson: Why did Pat Buchanan raise it?....

Weinberger: I don't sit in judgement on anybody....

Will: Given Soviet behavior, and as you read the signals coming in from Moscow, do you think there will be a June summit?

Weinberger: If there isn't a summit it will simply be because the Soviets are either afraid to have one or don't want to have one, and we hope very much there will be one. But I wouldn't guess about it.

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#### FREE FOR ALL DISCUSSION

Participants: Sam Donaldson, George Will, Charles Gibson and Morton Kondracke.

On tax amnesty:

Donaldson: Do you like the idea?

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Will: It's marvelous the ingenuity the political class will show in this town about how to finance a great state without raising taxes! The danger is that this might send a signal that might make the American people's remarkable voluntary compliance more questionable in the future.

Kondracke: If this amnesty were kind of a beginning of a new tax system where rates were lower and loopholes were closed, etc., you could see amnesty as a kind of signal to a new beginning. It's not a permanent solution to the deficit.

On the Marcos wealth:

Donaldson: Should we cooperate with the Philippines to return that money to them? Or did the U.S. sort of make a deal with Marcos: if you'll leave quietly, we won't make a stink about the money?

Will: It's just not the most important thing at this point.... The most important thing is the future of the Philippines and the future of U.S. dealings with future dictators.

Gibson: It's a question of fairness; the American people's sense of fairness is severely violated.

Kondracke: There is something monstrous about the extent of corruption you've got here.... if the U.S. is perceived as standing in the way of way of the recovery of those assets, it doesn't do us any good in the long run.

## CBS -- FACE THE NATION

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Moderator: Lesley Stahl.

Guests: Senator Kennedy, Elizabeth Drew.

Stahl: They ... say that if they don't -- if you don't give this military aid to the contras, that that whole part of Central America will turn communist. You don't buy that all or --

Kennedy: If we think back to the time of the Vietnam War, those of us who opposed the Vietnam War were accused of being unpatriotic.... I support American policy that is in favor of basic and fundamental human rights....

Stahl: Do you have hope that we can reach an arms control agreement quickly?.... Do you think it makes sense to have a summit if there's no agreement?

Kennedy: I think that it is important that there is a continuing dialogue between President Reagan and Gorbachev.

Stahl: It strikes me that you like President Reagan very much.

Kennedy: Well, he's been extremely generous to my family over the period of his presidency. He gave the award to Robert Kennedy. He was gracious in receiving my mother. He was responsive to John and Caroline's request in support for the Kennedy library, and he's been gracious to -- to all the members of my family since he's been president, and that hasn't really separated the fact that we have differences in public policy, and I think that this is a mark of civility, which is extremely important in a democracy....

## *NBC -- MEET THE PRESS*

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Moderator: Marvin Kalb.

Panel: Andrea Mitchell, Fred Barnes.

Guests: Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, Rep. Barnes (D-Md.), Sen. Dodd (D-Ct.), and Alfonso Robelo, director of the United Nicaraguan Opposition.

Kalb: Why do you think so many of the countries in major countries in Central America as well as in South America think it is a bad idea for the U.S. to give military assistance to the contras?

Robelo: I don't think that's true.

Kalb: The President has gotten the Administration's point of view across, and yet the majority of the American people oppose military aid to your forces. Why do you really think that's the case?

Robelo: They probably don't exactly know how close Nicaragua is to the United States. They don't know exactly that in Nicaragua we have a communist regime....

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Kalb: How do you think the President's going to do on this one?

Dodd: I noticed today that there's already some talk about some compromise, and what I've found in the last five years is that President Reagan will try and win his position, but if he can't get exactly what he wants, he's willing to back off a bit and try and work something else out....

Fred Barnes: Would you vote for military aid if those negotiations got nowhere and other governments suggested that maybe now is the time for military aid?

Rep. Barnes: I think you'd have a very different situation if the Latin American nations themselves were coming to Washington and saying you've got to do this.... I frankly don't envision that.

Mitchell: Senator, in the past year or so they've cracked down on the church, they've rejected all attempts at negotiations, the 60-day cease fire that President Reagan suggested a year ago, and there has been an extraordinary build-up since Congress did stop the military aid. That's the Administration's case. What do you think of it?

Dodd: ....Of course they're going to be building up militarily, and it seems as though they're enjoying the support of most countries around the world in that particular effort.

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Fred Barnes: Rep. Barnes, you've criticized Pat Buchanan, the White House aide, for making inflammatory statements in favor of military aid to the contras. I remember a few days ago when Speaker O'Neill said that any contra aid would be followed by an American invasion of Central America. Wasn't that equally inflammatory?

Rep. Barnes: First of all, the Speaker's absolutely right.... Pat Buchanan has been leading this effort ... basically saying you either support the President or you support communism. That is absolute nonsense, obviously.

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Kalb: Mr. Abrams, what kind of compromise is possible on the \$100 million in aid to the contras?

Abrams: The President is not looking for compromise at this point. The President is looking for 218 votes in the House....

Mitchell: Do you agree with Pat Buchanan?....

Abrams: No one is questioning anyone's motives.... The question is the results of policies.... What Pat Buchanan wrote is that a fateful choice is at hand.... That's a very important question that's now before the Congress.

Kalb: Are you not deep down, seriously seeking -- as Senator Dodd said earlier on this program -- the overthrow of the Sandinista regime?

Abrams: No. What we are seeking is a democratic outcome....

Mitchell: The President said yesterday this is of supreme importance to the United States. As one of the Congressmen who helped you with the compromise last year, a Democrat, said: "If this is so important, what are we messing around with \$100 million and a rag-tag peasant force? Why don't we send American troops?"

Abrams: We don't do it because it is something we don't need to do and no Nicaraguan wants us to do. These are Nicaraguans who want to fight for their own freedom and all they want is a little bit of support to match the support that the Soviets and the Cubans are giving to that communist government in Nicaragua.

## AGRONSKY & COMPANY

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Moderator: Martin Agronsky.

Panel: Strobe Talbott, Carl Rowan, Elizabeth Drew and Hugh Sidey.

On aid to the contras:

Agronsky: Will congress go along?

Rowan: These scare attacks ... will cost them support in Congress.

Drew: No. I think they'll have to compromise eventually.

Sidey: The level of understanding of what makes the world run in the Congress is at an all-time low level.

Talbott: The danger comes if we follow Administration policy; namely, all-out backing for the contras.

On Pat Buchanan's article:

Sidey: At any time that you disagree with these people are you attacking their patriotism? This to me says, look -- you're wrong. That if you do this, you're going to indeed create problems down there. It doesn't say they aren't patriotic; it says they're wrong.

Rowan: You would have to have your eyeballs on backwards and your brain turned off to read that article and not see that he is saying the Democratic Party is ... they gonna let the commies in San Diego and Seattle.

Drew: There's quite a bit of division within the Administration over whether this tactic is wise.... It has not worked at all....

Rowan: One of the problems inherent in all of this is a job of misleading the American people. They try to make Americans believe that we've got a simplistic situation where the Sandinistas are the bad guys, and the contras are the good guys, and it's just not true....

Agronsky: What's the significance of Habib's being named as his new special presidential envoy to Central America?

Talbott: His last assignment was the Philippines ... and they're hoping that some of the magic ... can now be transferred over to Nicaragua policy.

On the rejection of the President's 1987 budget:

Agronsky: What's it mean?

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Drew: It was a pro forma vote ... a formal burial of something that was ~~not~~ acceptable to either party on Capitol Hill. The President's budget had been dead....

Rowan: I think it's very interesting the number of Republicans who say out loud that we have got to have some more revenue....

Sidey: I think this was inevitable from the start ... that there's going to have be increased revenues....

On the Presidential Crime Commission's recommending drug testing:

Agronsky: Can you conceive that that will ever be passed?

Rowan: I would doubt it very much, although we do face a grave problem.

Talbott: I think there's a big question about whether it's constitutional.

Drew: I really don't see how it is an invasion of privacy or people's rights. I don't think it will happen....

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## THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP

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Moderator: John McLaughlin.

Panel: Jack Germond, Morton Kondracke, Robert Novak and Tom Bethell.

On aid to the contras:

McLaughlin: On a scale of zero to one hundred, one hundred being yes, zero being no, what's the probability of Ronald Reagan getting his \$100 million aid package for the contras in this session of Congress?

Bethell: He won't get this aid package through, but there will be a smaller amount that will be passed.

Novak: I agree with Tom. They will get some military aid. It's going to be a long battle, and the Democrats are going to have egg on their face when it's over.

Germond: There's a 20 percent chance that he'll get something substantial in military aid.

Kondracke: He will get some military aid; there will be a lot of conditions on it; escrow accounts and that sort of thing.

McLaughlin I am in agreement with the four members of the group.

On the proposed summits in '86 and '87:

McLaughlin: Has the spirit of the "fireside summit" begun to curdle?

Kondracke: There was no substantive progress on any front at that summit. What the President was trying to do is shove the Russians along and try to get them to bargain.

Novak: The real problem is that the Soviets want an unequal arms agreement. Reagan won't give one to them, and therefore they're in trouble on the summit.

Germond: This is a straw man issue, because the Soviets really don't want to stop this process. It's in their interest to do it. There will be a summit this year and in 1987.

McLaughlin: Our allies in Western Europe don't want a summit, because intermediate-range missiles will be the focus, and there could be an agreement. And if those are cancelled out, that means they're going to have to put big bucks into improving their conventional weaponry, and they don't want to do that.

McLaughlin: Will there be a summit in 1986?

Kondracke, McLaughlin, Novak and Germond: Yes.

Bethell: No.

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On the tax amnesty proposal/oil import fee:

Novak: An amnesty is very bad tax policy. It's a sign of the people who have this budget deficit mania who don't realize that economic growth is bringing down the deficit, but who are afraid to buck Reagan on the tax increase question.

Germond: I agree with Novak on the amnesty question.

Bethell. I'm against tax amnesty and an oil import tax.

On a Reagan 1988 GOP endorsement:

McLaughlin: President Reagan declared that he would not endorse any G.O.P. candidate in the 1988 primaries, including George Bush. What do you think of that?

Germond: He's giving the Vice President a de facto endorsement.

On aid to Ireland:

McLaughlin: Prime Minister Fitzgerald of Ireland will have lunch with Ronald Reagan a week from Monday, on St. Patrick's Day. Is he going to get his \$250 million in aid?

Bethell: Yes.

McLaughlin: Do you think there's any the President will hold hostage this aid until Tip O'Neill gives ground on contra aid?

Novak, Germond, Kondracke Bethell: No.

Predictions:

Bethell: Bill Brock will be appointed president of the World Bank.

Novak: There's a very good chance Paul Volcker will not serve out his term as chairman. If he does quit, the replacement will be the vice chairman, Preston Martin.

Kondracke: The 1988 Republican National Convention will be a farewell to Reagan extravaganza in Los Angeles, and the Democrat's convention will be held in Atlanta.

Germond: The Administration will be forced to do something about the oil price drop, especially with three Texas banks going under.

McLaughlin: The drop in oil prices will do for the Republican Party -- on the positive side -- what the Great Depression did for the Republicans on the negative side.



# News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### NATIONAL NEWS

Shuttle Search -- CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Searchers have found remains of Challenger's astronauts in the debris of the shuttle's crew compartment 100 feet down on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean NASA announced Sunday (Washington Post, Washington Times, Gannett, AP, UPI)

Economic Debate Reshaped By Signs Of Lower Deficits -- Government and business economists are beginning to take account of widespread signs that \$200 billion budget deficits are a thing of the past. (New York Times)

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan: Compromise Possible On Contra Aid -- President Reagan, in his zealous pursuit for aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, says he may be willing to compromise to salvage the proposed \$100 million package because "the alternative is unthinkable."

(Washington Post, Washington Times, UPI)

Weinberger: Second Summit Up To Soviets -- With prospects for another superpower summit clouded by a dispute over dates, Secretary Weinberger suggests the Soviets "are either afraid to have one or don't want to have one." (UPI)

### NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

CONTRA AID -- The President hinted Sunday he may be willing to compromise with Congress on aid to the contras.

CHALLENGER -- NASA announced that divers have found the remains of the Challenger astronauts.

PRO-ABORTION PROTEST -- 50,000 demonstrators more than matched the anti-abortion march of this January.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS...A-5

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

TALK SHOWS.....B-5

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

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### **DIVERS FIND BODIES OF SHUTTLE'S CREW**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Navy divers have located wreckage of the crew compartment of the space shuttle Challenger lying on the ocean bottom in 100 feet of water and confirmed that it contains remains of the astronauts killed nearly six weeks ago, NASA said today.

The families of the seven crew members were notified of the discovery over the weekend. In deference to the families, the agency said it will release no further details until the recovery is completed and the bodies are recovered.  
(Michael Isikoff, Washington Post, A1)

#### **Shuttle**

Divers try today to figure the best way to recover the remains of Challenger crewmembers, after finding the shuttle's crew compartment Friday in about 100 feet of water on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.

"We were all sort of hoping they wouldn't find anything," said Tony Smith, brother of shuttle pilot Michael Smith. "It can't be any worse than the first part. We got through the first part. We'll get through this part."  
(Tim Weller, Gannett)

#### **Shuttle**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Wreckage of the shuttle Challenger's crew compartment has been found on the debris-littered seabed off the coast of Florida with "crew remains" still on board, the space agency announced Sunday.

NASA spokesman Hugh Harris, who stressed that he did not know how many of the shuttle's seven astronauts may be inside the wreckage, said the remains of the cabin were found Friday by sonar at a depth of about 100 feet.  
(William Harwood, UPI)

#### **Shuttle Search**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Searchers have found remains of Challenger's astronauts in the debris of the shuttle's crew compartment 100 feet down on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean NASA announced Sunday.

Mark Weinberg, a spokesman for the presidential commission investigating the shuttle explosion, said he could not comment on the significance of the find to the commission's probe. "I would not want to characterize its importance. That's to be determined. Clearly all pieces of evidence are important," he said.  
(Howard Benedict, AP)

#### **Challenger Cabin Found On Ocean Floor**

A senior NASA official who requested anonymity said recovery of the crew compartment is unlikely to aid investigators seeking the cause of the Jan. 28 explosion.

"What happened, happened completely outside of that compartment, so I don't think that it will help determine what caused the accident," the official said in an interview. "All the instruments in the compartment were telemetried back to the ground, so it won't provide any new data."

(Mark Tapscott, Washington Times, A1)

## ECONOMIC DEBATE RESHAPED BY SIGNS OF LOWER DEFICITS

Government and business economists are beginning to take account of widespread signs that \$200 billion budget deficits are a thing of the past.

Such prospects, they say, will bring about important changes in the debate over economic policies. Some see smaller deficits leading to a healthier economy. They found confirmation for such optimism Friday when the Federal Reserve Board cut its basic lending rate. The expected ripple effect on rates through the economy means the government would pay less to finance the national debt, now nearly \$2 trillion.

(Peter Kilborn, New York Times, A1)

## ABRAHAM SOFAER, STATE'S LEGAL ADVISER DEALS WITH POLICY, THEN THE LAW

Last June, Abraham Sofaer took off the robes of a federal district judge in New York City, rolled up his sleeves and moved into the sixth-floor office of the legal adviser at the State Department. Nine months later, packing boxes are still piled on the office floor and the ebullient Sofaer is deeply engaged in making policy as well as law for U.S. diplomacy.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A13)

## BELL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HERE TO STAY

Striking back at his critics, former Education Secretary Bell, who did not carry out a presidential directive to dismantle the Education Department, says the department is "here to stay."

Writing in the March issue of Phi Delta Kappa, the magazine of the professional education fraternity, Mr. Bell chronicles four years as an embattled misfit in the Reagan Administration -- years he says he spent fighting "right-wing extremists." (Carol Innerst, Washington Times, A2)

## TESTING FOR DRUGS NOW MATTER OF HOW

Mandatory drug tests for all federal workers, an idea President Reagan is seriously considering, is a growing practice that all sides say is the wave of the future. The critical question is: How to do it?

(UPI story, Washington Times, A3)

## CHECKS URGED ON THOSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The Attorney General's Advisory Board on Missing Children has called on state governments to mandate police checks for anyone working with children to guard against employing those with convictions for child-abuse crimes.

(John McCaslin, Washington Times, A3)

WHITE HOUSE PLAN ON MEDICARE PAYMENTS  
TO HOSPITALS SEEN BLOCKED BY CONGRESS

Congress appears likely to block changes the Reagan Administration has proposed in Medicare reimbursements for hospitals so that it can write its own rules.

The bipartisan leadership of the key House and Senate subcommittees in charge of Medicare say an Administration plan for changes in hospital reimbursements for capital cost is so stringent it could reduce care for the indigent and force some hospitals to default. They said the White House shouldn't try to impose the new regulations without congressional approval.

(Joe Davidson, Wall Street Journal, A42)

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## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **REAGAN REJECTS PROPOSAL TO DELAY CONTRA ARMS**

President Reagan yesterday rejected a proposal to delay military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels for six months to allow time to negotiate with the Sandinista government.

But he hinted that he would be willing to seek some type of compromise on his proposed \$100 million aid package for the counterrevolutionaries, or contras, if it is defeated in a House vote March 19.

The President is waging an uphill lobbying campaign to push his \$100 million package, which includes \$70 million for arms, through the House. "The alternative is unthinkable," he said yesterday after returning from Camp David. (Spencer Rich, Washington Post, A16)

### **Reagan: Compromise Possible On Contra Aid**

President Reagan, in his zealous pursuit for aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, says he may be willing to compromise to salvage the proposed \$100 million package because "the alternative is unthinkable."

Plunging into a week of concerted effort to drum up popular support his aides acknowledge he lacks, Reagan indicated Sunday he is open to compromise on his aid request -- but only after a pivotal March 19 vote in the House.

Any negotiations before that vote would not "be productive at all," he said. When asked what he might accept in the way of compromise, Reagan replied, "I would have to wait and see what someone offers."

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

### **Administration Tries To Defuse Furor In Contra Issue**

Administration officials, pushing President Reagan's plan to aid the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, found themselves trying to defuse the furor over some remarks that questioned opponents' patriotism.

At the same time, a hard line emerged in response to suggestions Reagan might accept a compromise on the \$100 million package -- such as placing the funds in escrow to see if fruitful peace negotiations take place.

"The President is not looking for compromise at this time. He's looking for 218 votes in the House," said Elliott Abrams.

(Sean McCormally, UPI)

### **Republicans Take Contra Aid Battle To The Trenches**

President Reagan will take the high ground while House Republicans wage a low-key campaign over the next eight days to help him win \$100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan resistance fighters.

After meeting with members of Congress at the White House each day this week, Mr. Reagan will try to persuade the public in a televised speech Sunday that aid for the Nicaraguan resistance is crucial to national security. (Mary Belcher & Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)



### BUCHANAN SHOWS PUNCH FOR PRESIDENT ON "CONTRAS"

Like a bear ending a long hibernation, Patrick Buchanan has emerged from his windowless White House office to take the lead in President Reagan's public campaign to win congressional approval of a \$100 million aid package for the Nicaraguan guerrillas.

"This is one of the reasons I came in here, to help the President in this conflict in Central America, where we need support, where there is public misunderstanding," said Mr. Buchanan, the White House communications director who, with a few notable exceptions, has maintained an uncharacteristically low profile since joining the Reagan Administration a year ago.

(Robert Timberg, Baltimore Sun, A1)

### STRENGTH OF NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE LESSENING, ABRAMS SAYS

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- The U.S.-backed Nicaraguan resistance forces based in Honduras have almost completely abandoned the battlefield and pose little threat to the Sandinista government, according to Western diplomats and Honduran government officials.

(Washington Times, A10)

### CONTRA AID "WRONG," COLOMBIAN DECLARES

BOGOTA, Colombia -- President Betancur, a leading opponent of military intervention in Central America, says the Reagan Administration's request for \$100 million in aid to anti-Sandinista Nicaraguan rebels is "wrong" and "will not produce good results."

In an interview, the Colombian leader said "all of Latin America doesn't like the Reagan proposal" and urged the U.S. president to talk with, not fight the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

(Bradley Graham, Washington Post, A17)

### RISKS OF A SCARE CAMPAIGN

A disinformation and scare campaign is going on in Washington these days as President Reagan struggles to win approval of his \$100 million aid proposal for the Nicaraguan rebels, and the Sandinistas are not the principle culprits.

In its fever to arm dwindling rebels forces before they are overwhelmed by the Sandinista troops equipped with Soviet gunships, the Administration has raised arguments rarely heard since the divisive days when opposition to the Vietnam war was equated with lack of patriotism.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

### THE REAGAN DOCTRINE

The month of February, in the year 1986, was a rare time in the history of U.S. involvement in the affairs of the world. In a span of scarcely more than two weeks, two dictators fell from power, departures that were promoted and partly provoked by the U.S. government. This may be the most dramatic revision of U.S. policy since the early days of the Cold War.

(Don Mcleod, Washington Times, A1)

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#### WEINBERGER: SECOND SUMMIT UP TO SOVIETS

With prospects for another superpower summit clouded by a dispute over dates, Secretary Weinberger suggests the Soviets "are either afraid to have one or don't want to have one."

Weinberger indicated Sunday, in echo of President Reagan, that it is up to Moscow to see that the agreement to hold a follow-up summit in the United States is carried out. Reagan said last week that Soviet intransigence could scuttle plans for his second meeting with Soviet leader Gorbachev.

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

#### U.S. ORDERS SOVIET U.N. STAFF CUT

Charging that members of the Soviet mission to the United Nations routinely engage in espionage and other improprieties, the United States has ordered a 38 percent reduction in their staff.

(Warren Strobel, Washington Times, A3)

#### MEDVID "COACHED" TO DEFECT, AGENT SAYS

The border patrol agent who ordered Miroslav Medvid's return to a Soviet grain freighter last October said he believed an interpreter had coached the seaman to ask for political asylum so he would not have to go back to his ship.

U.S. Border Patrol officer Ernest Spurlock told The Washington Times Friday he thought interpreter Irene Padoch had done "a little coaching" in the hourlong telephone conversation with Mr. Medvid after the Ukrainian seaman first responded that he just didn't want to return to his ship.

(Rita McWilliams, Washington Times, A1)

#### NUMBER OF CUBANS DETAINED IS RISING

ATLANTA -- The increasing number of Cubans imprisoned indefinitely by United States immigration officials to await deportation is exacting a growing toll on the Government and on the prisoners.

At the Federal penitentiary in Atlanta, where 1,860 of these Cubans are held, overcrowding and violence are so severe that a Congressman who oversees Federal prisons said that the Cubans were being kept "like animals in cages."

(William Schmidt, New York Times, A1)

#### WHITE HOUSE PROMISED NOTHING, STEERS CLEAR OF MARCOS WEALTH ISSUE

The Reagan Administration never discussed former president Marcos' wealth during 11th hour efforts to get him out of the country and prevent a civil war, and it's staying at arms' length from the issue now.

"We will abide by three jurisdictions: international law, American law and Filipino law," a senior Administration official said. "If he owns it, he can keep it. If not, well..." (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A2)

SALE OF ARMS INFORMATION LETS ALLIES COPY WEAPONS

Weak Pentagon controls on military technology have allowed seven U.S. allies, most of them in Asia, to manufacture copies of small American weapons and equipment for export, Pentagon investigators have found.

(Neil Roland, Washington Times, A2)

ADMINISTRATION LOCKED IN DISPUTE  
OVER MISSILES FOR ANGOLAN RESISTANCE

The CIA, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and State Department are locked in a dispute with the Defense Department over whether to send advanced anti-aircraft missiles to Jonas Savimbi's rebels in Angola, according to congressional sources here.

(James Morrison, Washington Times, A8)

-end of A-Section-

## **NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY**

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(Sunday Evening, March 9, 1986)

NOTE: CBS did not air a broadcast.)

### **CONTRA AID**

Wallace: President Reagan hinted today he may be willing to compromise with Congress on aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua. Faced with growing opposition, Mr. Reagan indicated he may be willing to accept some aid, because giving no aid at all to the rebels, he says, would be unthinkable.

NBC's Richard Valeriani: After a week of intensive lobbying for aid for the anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua, President Reagan returned to the White House from Camp David today and told reporters:

(President: "We're going to talk, and find out how we can get some practical aid to them. I would have to wait to see what someone offers.")

The President's remarks were the first public hint that the Administration is willing to explore a compromise on its aid proposal in the face of strong opposition to it in the Democratically-controlled House of Representatives. The Administration is exhorting Congress to provide \$70 million in military aid, and \$30 million in non-lethal assistance to the American-backed forces, the contras, fighting against the left-wing government of Nicaragua. Earlier, on NBC's 'Meet The Press,' a top Administration official was still spouting the hard line.

(Assistant Secretary of State Abrams: "The President is not looking for compromise at this point. The President is looking for 218 votes in the House.")

But two key House Democrats, Rep. Barnes and Rep. Gephardt, say the President does not have the votes.

(Rep. Gephardt: "The request of the President will be defeated in the House on the 19th, and then I think there will probably be some kind of negotiation between the Administration and members of both parties in both Houses.")

(Rep. Barnes: "What you have now is the U.S. totally isolated in the entire world, really. It's hard to find anybody in the world who supports our policy.")

Despite the talk of compromise, the President is continuing his all-out lobbying campaign for contra aid. He's scheduled several private meetings with members of Congress this coming week, and he plans to deliver a televised speech on the subject next Sunday, three days before the House vote.

(NBC-4)

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The political pressure fire intensified this Sunday in Washington's latest policy showdown. Military aid to the contra rebels fighting against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. But even as the President insisted that \$100 million of aid, \$70 million of it military, is necessary, his Congressional opponents argued against it, and the suggestion of future compromise emerged.

ABC's Ken Walker: The President returned from Camp David still determined to fight for his request for aid for Nicaraguan guerrillas. (President: "I'm going to do my best to convince the House that we should have this. The alternative is unthinkable.") While taking stock of the poor chances in the House, the President held out more hope than before for a compromise. (President: "If I'm gonna have to negotiate something, don't ask me to negotiate out here in advance. I would have to see wait to see what -- what -- someone offers, who would then obviously be sharing our concern about getting a democratic solution.") While the President appeared more flexible, other Administration officials continued to fight for all \$100 million of Mr. Reagan's request. (Secretary Weinberger: "It will keep them alive; it will keep them going. They did remarkably well a couple of years ago, with very little aid at all. Now, in effect, they've been cut off and starved, and not allowed to make the kind of effort that they want to make, and that they can make.") Despite Administration claims, or hope for a negotiated settlement, some members of Congress remain skeptical. (Senator Dodd: "This Administration wants to overthrow the Sandinista government. We're being told that this money is to only pressure the Sandinistas to the negotiating table. No one believes that.") For their part, contra leaders say they'll settle for a peaceful outcome, but will press if they must for a Sandinista downfall. (Adolfo Calero: "It's either one or the other; the negotiating table or the collapse -- the finalization of the government.") Facing almost certain defeat in the House vote ten days from now, the Administration hopes to salvage some of its aid request. While the President won't get all that he wants, officials are confident that he won't come out empty handed. (ABC-2)

## NICARAGUAN REACTION

Wallace: In Nicaragua, there's an uncharacteristic silence, as debate rages in Washington about whether to support war against Daniel Ortega's government. He and his colleagues are avoiding reporters, where in the past, they sought to sway American opinion.

NBC's Jamie Gangel reports that stories about President Reagan's request for \$100 million are printed every day. But as far as the Nicaraguan government is concerned, Mr. Reagan's fight is in Washington, and it can stay there. The question is why are the Sandinistas keeping so quiet, when in the past, the topic of U.S. aid has provoked long speeches on Yankee Imperialism.

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Gangel continues:

(TV Coverage: Clergymen and others protesting President Reagan's contra policy on Capitol Hill.)

Publicly, the Sandinistas say it's because there is nothing they can do; that this is between the White House and Congress. But privately, Nicaraguan officials acknowledge that they are using others, religious groups and American sympathizers, to lobby for them. Said one Western diplomat, "the Sandinistas think they'll do better if they just pretend to sit this one out." (NBC-5)

CHALLENGER REMAINS

NBC's Chris Wallace: NASA announced this afternoon that divers have found the remains of the Challenger astronauts, in the debris of the space shuttle's crew compartment, 25 miles off the coast of Florida. Family members were notified Friday, when the wreckage was found by SONAR in 100 feet of water. Yesterday, divers confirmed that they have located the Challenger's cabin -- and its crew.

(NBC; ABC -- Lead)

NBC's Dan Molina reports that there is no indication, as yet, as to how much of the crew compartment may be intact. The debris brought up so far has been laid out, and members of the Presidential Commission have also seen it. It has been NASA policy not to comment on what may be remains of crew members found so far. There is no indication -- as yet -- as to how much of the crew compartment is intact, and what exact remains there may be in it.

ABC's Lynn Sherr reports that NASA will not comment again on the salvage operation until it is totally recovered, and identifications are complete.

PRO-ABORTION PROTEST

Wallace: There was a familiar scene in Washington today: a mass rally backing a woman's right to have an abortion. It showed once again that 13 years after the Supreme Court legalized abortion, it is still one of this country's most emotional issues.

NBC's Carl Stern reports that the 50,000 demonstrators, the "pro-choice forces" more than matched the "anti-abortion" march of January. The line stretched from the Washington monument, past the White House, to the steps of the Capitol. (NBC-2)

ABC's Karen Stone: Coordinators for the National Organization for Women wanted to outdo a pro-abortion\* march here in January. And that they did, with a crowd more than twice as big. They displayed that show of strength as they paraded past the White House, where an anti-abortionist was arrested, after he thrust an unidentified fetus in front of the demonstrators. Conscious of Ronald Reagan's active support of anti-abortionists, organizers of today's demonstration found a new offensive: to secure access to birth control and abortion, and to put this issue behind them once and for all. (ABC-4)

\* Editor assumes that correspondent meant pro-life rally in January.

## WEINBERGER/SPIES

Donaldson: Secretary Weinberger responded today to the Soviet Union's complaint that it is an unfriendly act to require them to withdraw 40 percent of their personnel in the United Nations mission. "It's not an unfriendly act to get rid of some spies," said Weinberger, who made it clear that even if U.N. legal experts should oppose the move, the President's order to the Soviets will stand. (ABC-3)

## MARCOS

Wallace: In Manila, a commission whose job it is to recover Marcos' hidden wealth, said it is considering putting the exiled leader on trial in absentia -- on corruption charges. (NBC-7; ABC-9)

## PORTUGAL

Wallace: For the first time in 60 years, the people of Portugal have a civilian president. Mario Soares was sworn in today, in a ceremony attended by Vice President George Bush. Soares is a socialist and a former prime minister.  
(TV Coverage: Vice President at inaugural ceremony.) (NBC-10)

Donaldson: The U.S. was represented at today's ceremonies by Vice President George Bush. (ABC-8)

## YURCHENKO

Wallace: There were new reports that Vitaly Yurchenko, the Soviet official who apparently defected to the U.S. last year, and then changed his mind, was executed after he returned to the Soviet Union in November. A West German newspaper and news agency say Yurchenko was killed by a firing squad. And that his family had to pay for the bullets used to shoot him. (NBC-12)

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## ABC -- THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY

Moderator: Sam Donaldson (substituting for David Brinkley.)

Panel: Sam Donaldson, George Will, Charles Gibson.

Guests: Contra leader Alfonso Robelo, Secretary Weinberger, Rep. Gephardt (D-Mo.), former Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Derian.

Gibson: The President's request is for \$70,000,000 in military aid for the contras. As you know, that request is very much uncertain because of what Congress may do.... What are you going to buy with the \$70,000,000?

Robelo: The first thing we have to get is anti-aircraft weapons, like shoulder-fire missiles.... We have to have also anti-aircraft guns in positions, we have to have light anti-tank weapons to fight off the Soviet P-55, we have to have artillery --

Donaldson: Rep. Gephardt, the President says that if we don't aid the contras now there may be a sea of red lapping at our very borders. I take it either you don't believe him, or you think his policy is wrong in holding back the communist tide. Which is it?

Gephardt: I think we have to look at the President's goals and what, as a country, we're trying to achieve in Nicaragua.... The Sandinistas have said they'll agree not to run arms to other countries in the region, they say they'll agree to verification procedures....

Donaldson: Haven't they said that for some time, and if they were going to do it why haven't they done it?

Gephardt: Because we haven't had a negotiation with them, either bilaterally or with other countries. We seem to have a different goal, and that's what worries members of Congress. They're concerned about the intent of the Administration. A lot of people feel the intent is to simply to get rid of the Sandinistas, which ultimately may be the goal of the U.S., but it seems to me the first clump of issues we've got to address is the security of the United States and the countries in the region and whether or not that goal can be served by negotiation rather than a military option.

Will: Congressman, you have written that we ought to negotiate an agreement with the Sandinistas with real penalties.... How do you negotiate with them when you have first removed all military pressure through the contras? That is, aren't you taking away their incentive to negotiate?

Gephardt: The Congress has approved contra aid for the last three years on the assumption that it was a bargaining chip, pressure that the Administration could use to reach an agreement, and the goal as stated by the President was to reach an agreement with the Sandinistas. Yet, there hasn't been any negotiations between us and the Nicaraguans for the last year. The contadora process, which was another way to negotiate, hasn't been used either. So you begin to doubt the intent, the belief of the Administration, and what their goal actually is.

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Will: The premise of the President's position, as I understand, is that you can't sever the two questions, and a totalitarian internally organized country is inherently a dynamic threat to its neighbors.

Gephardt: The issue I think we have to address is whether or not we can stop them from being a security risk to the U.S. or the region....

Gibson: Yet the Administration argument is that Nicaragua is a Cuba in the making. Not there yet, but in the making. What is so wrong with the Administration argument that it is only with military pressure that you can force them to negotiate?

Gephardt: I don't think it's legitimate for the U.S. to send in military aid or to introduce troops every time we don't approve of a government. It doesn't work.

Gibson: The House votes on March 19th, the press treats this as climactic. Is it, or will the process then continue in the Senate?

Gephardt: I think the request of the Congress will be defeated in the House on the 19th, and then I think there will probably be some kind of negotiation between the Administration and members of both parties in both Houses in order to try to reach a different approach.

Donaldson: Pat Buchanan says that if you, the Democratic Party, vote against the President you will have been siding with the communists. What's your response to that?

Gephardt: Calling into question people's patriotism because we have a legitimate disagreement on the means toward a common goal I think is wrong headed, and will work against the Administration's efforts in the long run.

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Donaldson: Secretary Weinberger, both you and the President this week suggested ... if Congress votes down this money for the contras you may have to send in U.S. troops.... Is that the case?

Weinberger: I said that there could be a situation in which we would find ourselves required to take very much more difficult, much more expensive in terms of both blood and dollars, action than we could do now. Now we can take care of the situation by helping some very patriotic people who want to fight for their own country. Our only policy is to help people help themselves.

Will: You have said if ... the regime stays it is a threat to the neighboring states.

Weinberger: Without any question.

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Gibson: The President raised the issue of a sea of red in Central America, and you talked about if we allow Nicaragua to establish himself, perhaps they move into Costa Rica and Honduras and up through Mexico --

Weinberger: Well, they may be, yes.

Gibson: At what point would the Administration send troops? Would they send troops to defend Central America if they felt it ... threatened?

Weinberger: I'm not going to deal with any hypothetical questions or anything of the kind. What we have to face is that we can avoid all of these things. We can avoid any involvement of American forces....

Gibson: An Administration spokesman this week wrote this vote in the House, and these votes in the Congress are going to show whether the Democratic Party stands with Ronald Reagan and the resistance or Daniel Ortega and the communists. Do you agree with that?

Weinberger: It's really a red herring to drag this across like -- the President has never questioned anybody's motives.... What he's saying is that if this aid is not supported by both Republicans and Democrats we can have a very serious situation, an unnecessarily serious danger to the United States, and he wants to avoid that....

Donaldson: Why did Pat Buchanan raise it?....

Weinberger: I don't sit in judgement on anybody....

Will: Given Soviet behavior, and as you read the signals coming in from Moscow, do you think there will be a June summit?

Weinberger: If there isn't a summit it will simply be because the Soviets are either afraid to have one or don't want to have one, and we hope very much there will be one. But I wouldn't guess about it.

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#### FREE FOR ALL DISCUSSION

Participants: Sam Donaldson, George Will, Charles Gibson and Morton Kondracke.

On tax amnesty:

Donaldson: Do you like the idea?

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Will: It's marvelous the ingenuity the political class will show in this town about how to finance a great state without raising taxes! The danger is that this might send a signal that might make the American people's remarkable voluntary compliance more questionable in the future.

Kondracke: If this amnesty were kind of a beginning of a new tax system where rates were lower and loopholes were closed, etc., you could see amnesty as a kind of signal to a new beginning. It's not a permanent solution to the deficit.

On the Marcos wealth:

Donaldson: Should we cooperate with the Philippines to return that money to them? Or did the U.S. sort of make a deal with Marcos: if you'll leave quietly, we won't make a stink about the money?

Will: It's just not the most important thing at this point.... The most important thing is the future of the Philippines and the future of U.S. dealings with future dictators.

Gibson: It's a question of fairness; the American people's sense of fairness is severely violated.

Kondracke: There is something monstrous about the extent of corruption you've got here.... if the U.S. is perceived as standing in the way of way of the recovery of those assets, it doesn't do us any good in the long run.

## *CBS -- FACE THE NATION*

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Moderator: Lesley Stahl.

Guests: Senator Kennedy, Elizabeth Drew.

Stahl: They ... say that if they don't -- if you don't give this military aid to the contras, that that whole part of Central America will turn communist. You don't buy that all or --

Kennedy: If we think back to the time of the Vietnam War, those of us who opposed the Vietnam War were accused of being unpatriotic.... I support American policy that is in favor of basic and fundamental human rights....

Stahl: Do you have hope that we can reach an arms control agreement quickly?.... Do you think it makes sense to have a summit if there's no agreement?

Kennedy: I think that it is important that there is a continuing dialogue between President Reagan and Gorbachev.

Stahl: It strikes me that you like President Reagan very much.

Kennedy: Well, he's been extremely generous to my family over the period of his presidency. He gave the award to Robert Kennedy. He was gracious in receiving my mother. He was responsive to John and Caroline's request in support for the Kennedy library, and he's been gracious to -- to all the members of my family since he's been president, and that hasn't really separated the fact that we have differences in public policy, and I think that this is a mark of civility, which is extremely important in a democracy....

## NBC -- MEET THE PRESS

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Moderator: Marvin Kalb.

Panel: Andrea Mitchell, Fred Barnes.

Guests: Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, Rep. Barnes (D-Md.), Sen. Dodd (D-Ct.), and Alfonso Robelo, director of the United Nicaraguan Opposition.

Kalb: Why do you think so many of the countries in major countries in Central America as well as in South America think it is a bad idea for the U.S. to give military assistance to the contras?

Robelo: I don't think that's true.

Kalb: The President has gotten the Administration's point of view across, and yet the majority of the American people oppose military aid to your forces. Why do you really think that's the case?

Robelo: They probably don't exactly know how close Nicaragua is to the United States. They don't know exactly that in Nicaragua we have a communist regime....

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Kalb: How do you think the President's going to do on this one?

Dodd: I noticed today that there's already some talk about some compromise, and what I've found in the last five years is that President Reagan will try and win his position, but if he can't get exactly what he wants, he's willing to back off a bit and try and work something else out....

Fred Barnes: Would you vote for military aid if those negotiations got nowhere and other governments suggested that maybe now is the time for military aid?

Rep. Barnes: I think you'd have a very different situation if the Latin American nations themselves were coming to Washington and saying you've got to do this.... I frankly don't envision that.

Mitchell: Senator, in the past year or so they've cracked down on the church, they've rejected all attempts at negotiations, the 60-day cease fire that President Reagan suggested a year ago, and there has been an extraordinary build-up since Congress did stop the military aid. That's the Administration's case. What do you think of it?

Dodd: ....Of course they're going to be building up militarily, and it seems as though they're enjoying the support of most countries around the world in that particular effort.

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Fred Barnes: Rep. Barnes, you've criticized Pat Buchanan, the White House aide, for making inflammatory statements in favor of military aid to the contras. I remember a few days ago when Speaker O'Neill said that any contra aid would be followed by an American invasion of Central America. Wasn't that equally inflammatory?

Rep. Barnes: First of all, the Speaker's absolutely right.... Pat Buchanan has been leading this effort ... basically saying you either support the President or you support communism. That is absolute nonsense, obviously.

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Kalb: Mr. Abrams, what kind of compromise is possible on the \$100 million in aid to the contras?

Abrams: The President is not looking for compromise at this point. The President is looking for 218 votes in the House....

Mitchell: Do you agree with Pat Buchanan?....

Abrams: No one is questioning anyone's motives.... The question is the results of policies.... What Pat Buchanan wrote is that a fateful choice is at hand.... That's a very important question that's now before the Congress.

Kalb: Are you not deep down, seriously seeking -- as Senator Dodd said earlier on this program -- the overthrow of the Sandinista regime?

Abrams: No. What we are seeking is a democratic outcome....

Mitchell: The President said yesterday this is of supreme importance to the United States. As one of the Congressmen who helped you with the compromise last year, a Democrat, said: "If this is so important, what are we messing around with \$100 million and a rag-tag peasant force? Why don't we send American troops?"

Abrams: We don't do it because it is something we don't need to do and no Nicaraguan wants us to do. These are Nicaraguans who want to fight for their own freedom and all they want is a little bit of support to match the support that the Soviets and the Cubans are giving to that communist government in Nicaragua.

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## AGRONSKY & COMPANY

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Moderator: Martin Agronsky.

Panel: Strobe Talbott, Carl Rowan, Elizabeth Drew and Hugh Sidey.

On aid to the contras:

Agronsky: Will congress go along?

Rowan: These scare attacks ... will cost them support in Congress.

Drew: No. I think they'll have to compromise eventually.

Sidey: The level of understanding of what makes the world run in the Congress is at an all-time low level.

Talbott: The danger comes if we follow Administration policy; namely, all-out backing for the contras.

On Pat Buchanan's article:

Sidey: At any time that you disagree with these people are you attacking their patriotism? This to me says, look -- you're wrong. That if you do this, you're going to indeed create problems down there. It doesn't say they aren't patriotic; it says they're wrong.

Rowan: You would have to have your eyeballs on backwards and your brain turned off to read that article and not see that he is saying the Democratic Party is ... they gonna let the commies in San Diego and Seattle.

Drew: There's quite a bit of division within the Administration over whether this tactic is wise.... It has not worked at all....

Rowan: One of the problems inherent in all of this is a job of misleading the American people. They try to make Americans believe that we've got a simplistic situation where the Sandinistas are the bad guys, and the contras are the good guys, and it's just not true....

Agronsky: What's the significance of Habib's being named as his new special presidential envoy to Central America?

Talbott: His last assignment was the Philippines ... and they're hoping that some of the magic ... can now be transferred over to Nicaragua policy.

On the rejection of the President's 1987 budget:

Agronsky: What's it mean?



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Drew: It was a pro forma vote ... a formal burial of something that was ~~not~~ acceptable to either party on Capitol Hill. The President's budget had been dead....

Rowan: I think it's very interesting the number of Republicans who say out loud that we have got to have some more revenue....

Sidey: I think this was inevitable from the start ... that there's going to have be increased revenues....

On the Presidential Crime Commission's recommending drug testing:

Agronsky: Can you conceive that that will ever be passed?

Rowan: I would doubt it very much, although we do face a grave problem.

Talbott: I think there's a big question about whether it's constitutional.

Drew: I really don't see how it is an invasion of privacy or people's rights. I don't think it will happen....

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## THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP

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Moderator: John McLaughlin.

Panel: Jack Germond, Morton Kondracke, Robert Novak and Tom Bethell.

On aid to the contras:

McLaughlin: On a scale of zero to one hundred, one hundred being yes, zero being no, what's the probability of Ronald Reagan getting his \$100 million aid package for the contras in this session of Congress?

Bethell: He won't get this aid package through, but there will be a smaller amount that will be passed.

Novak: I agree with Tom. They will get some military aid. It's going to be a long battle, and the Democrats are going to have egg on their face when it's over.

Germond: There's a 20 percent chance that he'll get something substantial in military aid.

Kondracke: He will get some military aid; there will be a lot of conditions on it; escrow accounts and that sort of thing.

McLaughlin I am in agreement with the four members of the group.

On the proposed summits in '86 and '87:

McLaughlin: Has the spirit of the "fireside summit" begun to curdle?

Kondracke: There was no substantive progress on any front at that summit. What the President was trying to do is shove the Russians along and try to get them to bargain.

Novak: The real problem is that the Soviets want an unequal arms agreement. Reagan won't give one to them, and therefore they're in trouble on the summit.

Germond: This is a straw man issue, because the Soviets really don't want to stop this process. It's in their interest to do it. There will be a summit this year and in 1987.

McLaughlin: Our allies in Western Europe don't want a summit, because intermediate-range missiles will be the focus, and there could be an agreement. And if those are cancelled out, that means they're going to have to put big bucks into improving their conventional weaponry, and they don't want to do that.

McLaughlin: Will there be a summit in 1986?

Kondracke, McLaughlin, Novak and Germond: Yes.

Bethell: No.

On the tax amnesty proposal/oil import fee:

Novak: An amnesty is very bad tax policy. It's a sign of the people who have this budget deficit mania who don't realize that economic growth is bringing down the deficit, but who are afraid to buck Reagan on the tax increase question.

Germond: I agree with Novak on the amnesty question.

Bethell. I'm against tax amnesty and an oil import tax.

On a Reagan 1988 GOP endorsement:

McLaughlin: President Reagan declared that he would not endorse any G.O.P. candidate in the 1988 primaries, including George Bush. What do you think of that?

Germond: He's giving the Vice President a de facto endorsement.

On aid to Ireland:

McLaughlin: Prime Minister Fitzgerald of Ireland will have lunch with Ronald Reagan a week from Monday, on St. Patrick's Day. Is he going to get his \$250 million in aid?

Bethell: Yes.

McLaughlin: Do you think there's any the President will hold hostage this aid until Tip O'Neill gives ground on contra aid?

Novak, Germond, Kondracke Bethell: No.

Predictions:

Bethell: Bill Brock will be appointed president of the World Bank.

Novak: There's a very good chance Paul Volcker will not serve out his term as chairman. If he does quit, the replacement will be the vice chairman, Preston Martin.

Kondracke: The 1988 Republican National Convention will be a farewell to Reagan extravaganza in Los Angeles, and the Democrat's convention will be held in Atlanta.

Germond: The Administration will be forced to do something about the oil price drop, especially with three Texas banks going under.

McLaughlin: The drop in oil prices will do for the Republican Party -- on the positive side -- what the Great Depression did for the Republicans on the negative side.



# News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### NATIONAL NEWS

Shuttle Search -- CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Searchers have found remains of Challenger's astronauts in the debris of the shuttle's crew compartment 100 feet down on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean NASA announced Sunday (Washington Post, Washington Times, Gannett, AP, UPI)

Economic Debate Reshaped By Signs Of Lower Deficits -- Government and business economists are beginning to take account of widespread signs that \$200 billion budget deficits are a thing of the past. (New York Times)

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan: Compromise Possible On Contra Aid -- President Reagan, in his zealous pursuit for aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, says he may be willing to compromise to salvage the proposed \$100 million package because "the alternative is unthinkable."

(Washington Post, Washington Times, UPI)

Weinberger: Second Summit Up To Soviets -- With prospects for another superpower summit clouded by a dispute over dates, Secretary Weinberger suggests the Soviets "are either afraid to have one or don't want to have one." (UPI)

### NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

CONTRA AID -- The President hinted Sunday he may be willing to compromise with Congress on aid to the contras.

CHALLENGER -- NASA announced that divers have found the remains of the Challenger astronauts.

PRO-ABORTION PROTEST -- 50,000 demonstrators more than matched the anti-abortion march of this January.

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-2

INTERNATIONAL NEWS...A-5

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

TALK SHOWS.....B-5

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

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### **DIVERS FIND BODIES OF SHUTTLE'S CREW**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Navy divers have located wreckage of the crew compartment of the space shuttle Challenger lying on the ocean bottom in 100 feet of water and confirmed that it contains remains of the astronauts killed nearly six weeks ago, NASA said today.

The families of the seven crew members were notified of the discovery over the weekend. In deference to the families, the agency said it will release no further details until the recovery is completed and the bodies are recovered.  
(Michael Isikoff, Washington Post, A1)

#### **Shuttle**

Divers try today to figure the best way to recover the remains of Challenger crewmembers, after finding the shuttle's crew compartment Friday in about 100 feet of water on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.

"We were all sort of hoping they wouldn't find anything," said Tony Smith, brother of shuttle pilot Michael Smith. "It can't be any worse than the first part. We got through the first part. We'll get through this part."  
(Tim Weller, Gannett)

#### **Shuttle**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Wreckage of the shuttle Challenger's crew compartment has been found on the debris-littered seabed off the coast of Florida with "crew remains" still on board, the space agency announced Sunday.

NASA spokesman Hugh Harris, who stressed that he did not know how many of the shuttle's seven astronauts may be inside the wreckage, said the remains of the cabin were found Friday by sonar at a depth of about 100 feet.  
(William Harwood, UPI)

#### **Shuttle Search**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Searchers have found remains of Challenger's astronauts in the debris of the shuttle's crew compartment 100 feet down on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean NASA announced Sunday.

Mark Weinberg, a spokesman for the presidential commission investigating the shuttle explosion, said he could not comment on the significance of the find to the commission's probe. "I would not want to characterize its importance. That's to be determined. Clearly all pieces of evidence are important," he said.  
(Howard Benedict, AP)

#### **Challenger Cabin Found On Ocean Floor**

A senior NASA official who requested anonymity said recovery of the crew compartment is unlikely to aid investigators seeking the cause of the Jan. 28 explosion.

"What happened, happened completely outside of that compartment, so I don't think that it will help determine what caused the accident," the official said in an interview. "All the instruments in the compartment were telemetried back to the ground, so it won't provide any new data."

(Mark Tapscott, Washington Times, A1)

### ECONOMIC DEBATE RESHAPED BY SIGNS OF LOWER DEFICITS

Government and business economists are beginning to take account of widespread signs that \$200 billion budget deficits are a thing of the past.

Such prospects, they say, will bring about important changes in the debate over economic policies. Some see smaller deficits leading to a healthier economy. They found confirmation for such optimism Friday when the Federal Reserve Board cut its basic lending rate. The expected ripple effect on rates through the economy means the government would pay less to finance the national debt, now nearly \$2 trillion.

(Peter Kilborn, New York Times, A1)

### ABRAHAM SOFAER, STATE'S LEGAL ADVISER DEALS WITH POLICY, THEN THE LAW

Last June, Abraham Sofaer took off the robes of a federal district judge in New York City, rolled up his sleeves and moved into the sixth-floor office of the legal adviser at the State Department. Nine months later, packing boxes are still piled on the office floor and the ebullient Sofaer is deeply engaged in making policy as well as law for U.S. diplomacy.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A13)

### BELL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HERE TO STAY

Striking back at his critics, former Education Secretary Bell, who did not carry out a presidential directive to dismantle the Education Department, says the department is "here to stay."

Writing in the March issue of Phi Delta Kappa, the magazine of the professional education fraternity, Mr. Bell chronicles four years as an embattled misfit in the Reagan Administration -- years he says he spent fighting "right-wing extremists." (Carol Innerst, Washington Times, A2)

### TESTING FOR DRUGS NOW MATTER OF HOW

Mandatory drug tests for all federal workers, an idea President Reagan is seriously considering, is a growing practice that all sides say is the wave of the future. The critical question is: How to do it?

(UPI story, Washington Times, A3)

### CHECKS URGED ON THOSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The Attorney General's Advisory Board on Missing Children has called on state governments to mandate police checks for anyone working with children to guard against employing those with convictions for child-abuse crimes.

(John McCaslin, Washington Times, A3)

WHITE HOUSE PLAN ON MEDICARE PAYMENTS  
TO HOSPITALS SEEN BLOCKED BY CONGRESS

Congress appears likely to block changes the Reagan Administration has proposed in Medicare reimbursements for hospitals so that it can write its own rules.

The bipartisan leadership of the key House and Senate subcommittees in charge of Medicare say an Administration plan for changes in hospital reimbursements for capital cost is so stringent it could reduce care for the indigent and force some hospitals to default. They said the White House shouldn't try to impose the new regulations without congressional approval.

(Joe Davidson, Wall Street Journal, A42)

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### REAGAN REJECTS PROPOSAL TO DELAY CONTRA ARMS

President Reagan yesterday rejected a proposal to delay military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels for six months to allow time to negotiate with the Sandinista government.

But he hinted that he would be willing to seek some type of compromise on his proposed \$100 million aid package for the counterrevolutionaries, or contras, if it is defeated in a House vote March 19.

The President is waging an uphill lobbying campaign to push his \$100 million package, which includes \$70 million for arms, through the House. "The alternative is unthinkable," he said yesterday after returning from Camp David. (Spencer Rich, Washington Post, A16)

### Reagan: Compromise Possible On Contra Aid

President Reagan, in his zealous pursuit for aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, says he may be willing to compromise to salvage the proposed \$100 million package because "the alternative is unthinkable."

Plunging into a week of concerted effort to drum up popular support his aides acknowledge he lacks, Reagan indicated Sunday he is open to compromise on his aid request -- but only after a pivotal March 19 vote in the House.

Any negotiations before that vote would not "be productive at all," he said. When asked what he might accept in the way of compromise, Reagan replied, "I would have to wait and see what someone offers."

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

### Administration Tries To Defuse Furor In Contra Issue

Administration officials, pushing President Reagan's plan to aid the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, found themselves trying to defuse the furor over some remarks that questioned opponents' patriotism.

At the same time, a hard line emerged in response to suggestions Reagan might accept a compromise on the \$100 million package -- such as placing the funds in escrow to see if fruitful peace negotiations take place.

"The President is not looking for compromise at this time. He's looking for 218 votes in the House," said Elliott Abrams.

(Sean McCormally, UPI)

### Republicans Take Contra Aid Battle To The Trenches

President Reagan will take the high ground while House Republicans wage a low-key campaign over the next eight days to help him win \$100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan resistance fighters.

After meeting with members of Congress at the White House each day this week, Mr. Reagan will try to persuade the public in a televised speech Sunday that aid for the Nicaraguan resistance is crucial to national security. (Mary Belcher & Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)



### BUCHANAN SHOWS PUNCH FOR PRESIDENT ON "CONTRAS"

Like a bear ending a long hibernation, Patrick Buchanan has emerged from his windowless White House office to take the lead in President Reagan's public campaign to win congressional approval of a \$100 million aid package for the Nicaraguan guerrillas.

"This is one of the reasons I came in here, to help the President in this conflict in Central America, where we need support, where there is public misunderstanding," said Mr. Buchanan, the White House communications director who, with a few notable exceptions, has maintained an uncharacteristically low profile since joining the Reagan Administration a year ago.

(Robert Timberg, Baltimore Sun, A1)

### STRENGTH OF NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE LESSENING, ABRAMS SAYS

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- The U.S.-backed Nicaraguan resistance forces based in Honduras have almost completely abandoned the battlefield and pose little threat to the Sandinista government, according to Western diplomats and Honduran government officials.

(Washington Times, A10)

### CONTRA AID "WRONG," COLOMBIAN DECLARES

BOGOTA, Colombia -- President Betancur, a leading opponent of military intervention in Central America, says the Reagan Administration's request for \$100 million in aid to anti-Sandinista Nicaraguan rebels is "wrong" and "will not produce good results."

In an interview, the Colombian leader said "all of Latin America doesn't like the Reagan proposal" and urged the U.S. president to talk with, not fight the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

(Bradley Graham, Washington Post, A17)

### RISKS OF A SCARE CAMPAIGN

A disinformation and scare campaign is going on in Washington these days as President Reagan struggles to win approval of his \$100 million aid proposal for the Nicaraguan rebels, and the Sandinistas are not the principle culprits.

In its fever to arm dwindling rebels forces before they are overwhelmed by the Sandinista troops equipped with Soviet gunships, the Administration has raised arguments rarely heard since the divisive days when opposition to the Vietnam war was equated with lack of patriotism.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

### THE REAGAN DOCTRINE

The month of February, in the year 1986, was a rare time in the history of U.S. involvement in the affairs of the world. In a span of scarcely more than two weeks, two dictators fell from power, departures that were promoted and partly provoked by the U.S. government. This may be the most dramatic revision of U.S. policy since the early days of the Cold War.

(Don Mcleod, Washington Times, A1)

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### WEINBERGER: SECOND SUMMIT UP TO SOVIETS

With prospects for another superpower summit clouded by a dispute over dates, Secretary Weinberger suggests the Soviets "are either afraid to have one or don't want to have one."

Weinberger indicated Sunday, in echo of President Reagan, that it is up to Moscow to see that the agreement to hold a follow-up summit in the United States is carried out. Reagan said last week that Soviet intransigence could scuttle plans for his second meeting with Soviet leader Gorbachev.  
(Norman Sandler, UPI)

### U.S. ORDERS SOVIET U.N. STAFF CUT

Charging that members of the Soviet mission to the United Nations routinely engage in espionage and other improprieties, the United States has ordered a 38 percent reduction in their staff.

(Warren Strobel, Washington Times, A3)

### MEDVID "COACHED" TO DEFECT, AGENT SAYS

The border patrol agent who ordered Miroslav Medvid's return to a Soviet grain freighter last October said he believed an interpreter had coached the seaman to ask for political asylum so he would not have to go back to his ship.

U.S. Border Patrol officer Ernest Spurlock told The Washington Times Friday he thought interpreter Irene Padoch had done "a little coaching" in the hourlong telephone conversation with Mr. Medvid after the Ukrainian seaman first responded that he just didn't want to return to his ship.

(Rita McWilliams, Washington Times, A1)

### NUMBER OF CUBANS DETAINED IS RISING

ATLANTA -- The increasing number of Cubans imprisoned indefinitely by United States immigration officials to await deportation is exacting a growing toll on the Government and on the prisoners.

At the Federal penitentiary in Atlanta, where 1,860 of these Cubans are held, overcrowding and violence are so severe that a Congressman who oversees Federal prisons said that the Cubans were being kept "like animals in cages."

(William Schmidt, New York Times, A1)

### WHITE HOUSE PROMISED NOTHING, STEERS CLEAR OF MARCOS WEALTH ISSUE

The Reagan Administration never discussed former president Marcos' wealth during 11th hour efforts to get him out of the country and prevent a civil war, and it's staying at arms' length from the issue now.

"We will abide by three jurisdictions: international law, American law and Filipino law," a senior Administration official said. "If he owns it, he can keep it. If not, well..." (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A2)

#### SALE OF ARMS INFORMATION LETS ALLIES COPY WEAPONS

Weak Pentagon controls on military technology have allowed seven U.S. allies, most of them in Asia, to manufacture copies of small American weapons and equipment for export, Pentagon investigators have found.

(Neil Roland, Washington Times, A2)

#### ADMINISTRATION LOCKED IN DISPUTE OVER MISSILES FOR ANGOLAN RESISTANCE

The CIA, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and State Department are locked in a dispute with the Defense Department over whether to send advanced anti-aircraft missiles to Jonas Savimbi's rebels in Angola, according to congressional sources here.

(James Morrison, Washington Times, A8)

-end of A-Section-

## NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

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(Sunday Evening, March 9, 1986)

NOTE: CBS did not air a broadcast.)

### CONTRA AID

Wallace: President Reagan hinted today he may be willing to compromise with Congress on aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua. Faced with growing opposition, Mr. Reagan indicated he may be willing to accept some aid, because giving no aid at all to the rebels, he says, would be unthinkable.

NBC's Richard Valeriani: After a week of intensive lobbying for aid for the anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua, President Reagan returned to the White House from Camp David today and told reporters:

(President: "We're going to talk, and find out how we can get some practical aid to them. I would have to wait to see what someone offers.")

The President's remarks were the first public hint that the Administration is willing to explore a compromise on its aid proposal in the face of strong opposition to it in the Democratically-controlled House of Representatives. The Administration is exhorting Congress to provide \$70 million in military aid, and \$30 million in non-lethal assistance to the American-backed forces, the contras, fighting against the left-wing government of Nicaragua. Earlier, on NBC's 'Meet The Press,' a top Administration official was still spouting the hard line.

(Assistant Secretary of State Abrams: "The President is not looking for compromise at this point. The President is looking for 218 votes in the House.")

But two key House Democrats, Rep. Barnes and Rep. Gephardt, say the President does not have the votes.

(Rep. Gephardt: "The request of the President will be defeated in the House on the 19th, and then I think there will probably be some kind of negotiation between the Administration and members of both parties in both Houses.")

(Rep. Barnes: "What you have now is the U.S. totally isolated in the entire world, really. It's hard to find anybody in the world who supports our policy.")

Despite the talk of compromise, the President is continuing his all-out lobbying campaign for contra aid. He's scheduled several private meetings with members of Congress this coming week, and he plans to deliver a televised speech on the subject next Sunday, three days before the House vote.

(NBC-4)

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The political pressure fire intensified this Sunday in Washington's latest policy showdown. Military aid to the contra rebels fighting against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. But even as the President insisted that \$100 million of aid, \$70 million of it military, is necessary, his Congressional opponents argued against it, and the suggestion of future compromise emerged.

ABC's Ken Walker: The President returned from Camp David still determined to fight for his request for aid for Nicaraguan guerrillas. (President: "I'm going to do my best to convince the House that we should have this. The alternative is unthinkable.") While taking stock of the poor chances in the House, the President held out more hope than before for a compromise. (President: "If I'm gonna have to negotiate something, don't ask me to negotiate out here in advance. I would have to see wait to see what -- what -- someone offers, who would then obviously be sharing our concern about getting a democratic solution.") While the President appeared more flexible, other Administration officials continued to fight for all \$100 million of Mr. Reagan's request. (Secretary Weinberger: "It will keep them alive; it will keep them going. They did remarkably well a couple of years ago, with very little aid at all. Now, in effect, they've been cut off and starved, and not allowed to make the kind of effort that they want to make, and that they can make.") Despite Administration claims, or hope for a negotiated settlement, some members of Congress remain skeptical. (Senator Dodd: "This Administration wants to overthrow the Sandinista government. We're being told that this money is to only pressure the Sandinistas to the negotiating table. No one believes that.") For their part, contra leaders say they'll settle for a peaceful outcome, but will press if they must for a Sandinista downfall. (Adolfo Calero: "It's either one or the other; the negotiating table or the collapse -- the finalization of the government.") Facing almost certain defeat in the House vote ten days from now, the Administration hopes to salvage some of its aid request. While the President won't get all that he wants, officials are confident that he won't come out empty handed. (ABC-2)

## NICARAGUAN REACTION

Wallace: In Nicaragua, there's an uncharacteristic silence, as debate rages in Washington about whether to support war against Daniel Ortega's government. He and his colleagues are avoiding reporters, where in the past, they sought to sway American opinion.

NBC's Jamie Gangel reports that stories about President Reagan's request for \$100 million are printed every day. But as far as the Nicaraguan government is concerned, Mr. Reagan's fight is in Washington, and it can stay there. The question is why are the Sandinistas keeping so quiet, when in the past, the topic of U.S. aid has provoked long speeches on Yankee Imperialism.

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Gangel continues:

(TV Coverage: Clergymen and others protesting President Reagan's contra policy on Capitol Hill.)

Publicly, the Sandinistas say it's because there is nothing they can do; that this is between the White House and Congress. But privately, Nicaraguan officials acknowledge that they are using others, religious groups and American sympathizers, to lobby for them. Said one Western diplomat, "the Sandinistas think they'll do better if they just pretend to sit this one out." (NBC-5)

CHALLENGER REMAINS

NBC's Chris Wallace: NASA announced this afternoon that divers have found the remains of the Challenger astronauts, in the debris of the space shuttle's crew compartment, 25 miles off the coast of Florida. Family members were notified Friday, when the wreckage was found by SONAR in 100 feet of water. Yesterday, divers confirmed that they have located the Challenger's cabin -- and its crew.

(NBC; ABC -- Lead)

NBC's Dan Molina reports that there is no indication, as yet, as to how much of the crew compartment may be intact. The debris brought up so far has been laid out, and members of the Presidential Commission have also seen it. It has been NASA policy not to comment on what may be remains of crew members found so far. There is no indication -- as yet -- as to how much of the crew compartment is intact, and what exact remains there may be in it.

ABC's Lynn Sherr reports that NASA will not comment again on the salvage operation until it is totally recovered, and identifications are complete.

PRO-ABORTION PROTEST

Wallace: There was a familiar scene in Washington today: a mass rally backing a woman's right to have an abortion. It showed once again that 13 years after the Supreme Court legalized abortion, it is still one of this country's most emotional issues.

NBC's Carl Stern reports that the 50,000 demonstrators, the "pro-choice forces" more than matched the "anti-abortion" march of January. The line stretched from the Washington monument, past the White House, to the steps of the Capitol. (NBC-2)

ABC's Karen Stone: Coordinators for the National Organization for Women wanted to outdo a pro-abortion\* march here in January. And that they did, with a crowd more than twice as big. They displayed that show of strength as they paraded past the White House, where an anti-abortionist was arrested, after he thrust an unidentified fetus in front of the demonstrators. Conscious of Ronald Reagan's active support of anti-abortionists, organizers of today's demonstration found a new offensive: to secure access to birth control and abortion, and to put this issue behind them once and for all. (ABC-4)

\* Editor assumes that correspondent meant pro-life rally in January.

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#### WEINBERGER/SPIES

Donaldson: Secretary Weinberger responded today to the Soviet Union's complaint that it is an unfriendly act to require them to withdraw 40 percent of their personnel in the United Nations mission. "It's not an unfriendly act to get rid of some spies," said Weinberger, who made it clear that even if U.N. legal experts should oppose the move, the President's order to the Soviets will stand. (ABC-3)

#### MARCOS

Wallace: In Manila, a commission whose job it is to recover Marcos' hidden wealth, said it is considering putting the exiled leader on trial in absentia -- on corruption charges. (NBC-7; ABC-9)

#### PORTUGAL

Wallace: For the first time in 60 years, the people of Portugal have a civilian president. Mario Soares was sworn in today, in a ceremony attended by Vice President George Bush. Soares is a socialist and a former prime minister. (TV Coverage: Vice President at inaugural ceremony.) (NBC-10)

Donaldson: The U.S. was represented at today's ceremonies by Vice President George Bush. (ABC-8)

#### YURCHENKO

Wallace: There were new reports that Vitaly Yurchenko, the Soviet official who apparently defected to the U.S. last year, and then changed his mind, was executed after he returned to the Soviet Union in November. A West German newspaper and news agency say Yurchenko was killed by a firing squad. And that his family had to pay for the bullets used to shoot him. (NBC-12)

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## *ABC -- THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY*

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Moderator: Sam Donaldson (substituting for David Brinkley.)

Panel: Sam Donaldson, George Will, Charles Gibson.

Guests: Contra leader Alfonso Robelo, Secretary Weinberger, Rep. Gephardt (D-Mo.), former Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Derian.

Gibson: The President's request is for \$70,000,000 in military aid for the contras. As you know, that request is very much uncertain because of what Congress may do.... What are you going to buy with the \$70,000,000?

Robelo: The first thing we have to get is anti-aircraft weapons, like shoulder-fire missiles.... We have to have also anti-aircraft guns in positions, we have to have light anti-tank weapons to fight off the Soviet P-55, we have to have artillery --

Donaldson: Rep. Gephardt, the President says that if we don't aid the contras now there may be a sea of red lapping at our very borders. I take it either you don't believe him, or you think his policy is wrong in holding back the communist tide. Which is it?

Gephardt: I think we have to look at the President's goals and what, as a country, we're trying to achieve in Nicaragua.... The Sandinistas have said they'll agree not to run arms to other countries in the region, they say they'll agree to verification procedures....

Donaldson: Haven't they said that for some time, and if they were going to do it why haven't they done it?

Gephardt: Because we haven't had a negotiation with them, either bilaterally or with other countries. We seem to have a different goal, and that's what worries members of Congress. They're concerned about the intent of the Administration. A lot of people feel the intent is to simply to get rid of the Sandinistas, which ultimately may be the goal of the U.S., but it seems to me the first clump of issues we've got to address is the security of the United States and the countries in the region and whether or not that goal can be served by negotiation rather than a military option.

Will: Congressman, you have written that we ought to negotiate an agreement with the Sandinistas with real penalties.... How do you negotiate with them when you have first removed all military pressure through the contras? That is, aren't you taking away their incentive to negotiate?

Gephardt: The Congress has approved contra aid for the last three years on the assumption that it was a bargaining chip, pressure that the Administration could use to reach an agreement, and the goal as stated by the President was to reach an agreement with the Sandinistas. Yet, there hasn't been any negotiations between us and the Nicaraguans for the last year. The contadora process, which was another way to negotiate, hasn't been used either. So you begin to doubt the intent, the belief of the Administration, and what their goal actually is.

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Will: The premise of the President's position, as I understand, is that you can't sever the two questions, and a totalitarian internally organized country is inherently a dynamic threat to its neighbors.

Gephardt: The issue I think we have to address is whether or not we can stop them from being a security risk to the U.S. or the region....

Gibson: Yet the Administration argument is that Nicaragua is a Cuba in the making. Not there yet, but in the making. What is so wrong with the Administration argument that it is only with military pressure that you can force them to negotiate?

Gephardt: I don't think it's legitimate for the U.S. to send in military aid or to introduce troops every time we don't approve of a government. It doesn't work.

Gibson: The House votes on March 19th, the press treats this as climactic. Is it, or will the process then continue in the Senate?

Gephardt: I think the request of the Congress will be defeated in the House on the 19th, and then I think there will probably be some kind of negotiation between the Administration and members of both parties in both Houses in order to try to reach a different approach.

Donaldson: Pat Buchanan says that if you, the Democratic Party, vote against the President you will have been siding with the communists. What's your response to that?

Gephardt: Calling into question people's patriotism because we have a legitimate disagreement on the means toward a common goal I think is wrong headed, and will work against the Administration's efforts in the long run.

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Donaldson: Secretary Weinberger, both you and the President this week suggested ... if Congress votes down this money for the contras you may have to send in U.S. troops.... Is that the case?

Weinberger: I said that there could be a situation in which we would find ourselves required to take very much more difficult, much more expensive in terms of both blood and dollars, action than we could do now. Now we can take care of the situation by helping some very patriotic people who want to fight for their own country. Our only policy is to help people help themselves.

Will: You have said if ... the regime stays it is a threat to the neighboring states.

Weinberger: Without any question.

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Gibson: The President raised the issue of a sea of red in Central America, and you talked about if we allow Nicaragua to establish himself, perhaps they move into Costa Rica and Honduras and up through Mexico --

Weinberger: Well, they may be, yes.

Gibson: At what point would the Administration send troops? Would they send troops to defend Central America if they felt it ... threatened?

Weinberger: I'm not going to deal with any hypothetical questions or anything of the kind. What we have to face is that we can avoid all of these things. We can avoid any involvement of American forces....

Gibson: An Administration spokesman this week wrote this vote in the House, and these votes in the Congress are going to show whether the Democratic Party stands with Ronald Reagan and the resistance or Daniel Ortega and the communists. Do you agree with that?

Weinberger: It's really a red herring to drag this across like -- the President has never questioned anybody's motives.... What he's saying is that if this aid is not supported by both Republicans and Democrats we can have a very serious situation, an unnecessarily serious danger to the United States, and he wants to avoid that....

Donaldson: Why did Pat Buchanan raise it?....

Weinberger: I don't sit in judgement on anybody....

Will: Given Soviet behavior, and as you read the signals coming in from Moscow, do you think there will be a June summit?

Weinberger: If there isn't a summit it will simply be because the Soviets are either afraid to have one or don't want to have one, and we hope very much there will be one. But I wouldn't guess about it.

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#### FREE FOR ALL DISCUSSION

Participants: Sam Donaldson, George Will, Charles Gibson and Morton Kondracke.

On tax amnesty:

Donaldson: Do you like the idea?

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Will: It's marvelous the ingenuity the political class will show in this town about how to finance a great state without raising taxes! The danger is that this might send a signal that might make the American people's remarkable voluntary compliance more questionable in the future.

Kondracke: If this amnesty were kind of a beginning of a new tax system where rates were lower and loopholes were closed, etc., you could see amnesty as a kind of signal to a new beginning. It's not a permanent solution to the deficit.

On the Marcos wealth:

Donaldson: Should we cooperate with the Philippines to return that money to them? Or did the U.S. sort of make a deal with Marcos: if you'll leave quietly, we won't make a stink about the money?

Will: It's just not the most important thing at this point.... The most important thing is the future of the Philippines and the future of U.S. dealings with future dictators.

Gibson: It's a question of fairness; the American people's sense of fairness is severely violated.

Kondracke: There is something monstrous about the extent of corruption you've got here.... if the U.S. is perceived as standing in the way of way of the recovery of those assets, it doesn't do us any good in the long run.

## CBS -- FACE THE NATION

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Moderator: Lesley Stahl.

Guests: Senator Kennedy, Elizabeth Drew.

Stahl: They ... say that if they don't -- if you don't give this military aid to the contras, that that whole part of Central America will turn communist. You don't buy that all or --

Kennedy: If we think back to the time of the Vietnam War, those of us who opposed the Vietnam War were accused of being unpatriotic.... I support American policy that is in favor of basic and fundamental human rights.....

Stahl: Do you have hope that we can reach an arms control agreement quickly?.... Do you think it makes sense to have a summit if there's no agreement?

Kennedy: I think that it is important that there is a continuing dialogue between President Reagan and Gorbachev.

Stahl: It strikes me that you like President Reagan very much.

Kennedy: Well, he's been extremely generous to my family over the period of his presidency. He gave the award to Robert Kennedy. He was gracious in receiving my mother. He was responsive to John and Caroline's request in support for the Kennedy library, and he's been gracious to -- to all the members of my family since he's been president, and that hasn't really separated the fact that we have differences in public policy, and I think that this is a mark of civility, which is extremely important in a democracy....

## *NBC -- MEET THE PRESS*

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Moderator: Marvin Kalb.

Panel: Andrea Mitchell, Fred Barnes.

Guests: Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, Rep. Barnes (D-Md.), Sen. Dodd (D-Ct.), and Alfonso Robelo, director of the United Nicaraguan Opposition.

Kalb: Why do you think so many of the countries in major countries in Central America as well as in South America think it is a bad idea for the U.S. to give military assistance to the contras?

Robelo: I don't think that's true.

Kalb: The President has gotten the Administration's point of view across, and yet the majority of the American people oppose military aid to your forces. Why do you really think that's the case?

Robelo: They probably don't exactly know how close Nicaragua is to the United States. They don't know exactly that in Nicaragua we have a communist regime....

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Kalb: How do you think the President's going to do on this one?

Dodd: I noticed today that there's already some talk about some compromise, and what I've found in the last five years is that President Reagan will try and win his position, but if he can't get exactly what he wants, he's willing to back off a bit and try and work something else out....

Fred Barnes: Would you vote for military aid if those negotiations got nowhere and other governments suggested that maybe now is the time for military aid?

Rep. Barnes: I think you'd have a very different situation if the Latin American nations themselves were coming to Washington and saying you've got to do this.... I frankly don't envision that.

Mitchell: Senator, in the past year or so they've cracked down on the church, they've rejected all attempts at negotiations, the 60-day cease fire that President Reagan suggested a year ago, and there has been an extraordinary build-up since Congress did stop the military aid. That's the Administration's case. What do you think of it?

Dodd: ....Of course they're going to be building up militarily, and it seems as though they're enjoying the support of most countries around the world in that particular effort.

Fred Barnes: Rep. Barnes, you've criticized Pat Buchanan, the White House aide, for making inflammatory statements in favor of military aid to the contras. I remember a few days ago when Speaker O'Neill said that any contra aid would be followed by an American invasion of Central America. Wasn't that equally inflammatory?

Rep. Barnes: First of all, the Speaker's absolutely right.... Pat Buchanan has been leading this effort ... basically saying you either support the President or you support communism. That is absolute nonsense, obviously.

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Kalb: Mr. Abrams, what kind of compromise is possible on the \$100 million in aid to the contras?

Abrams: The President is not looking for compromise at this point. The President is looking for 218 votes in the House....

Mitchell: Do you agree with Pat Buchanan?....

Abrams: No one is questioning anyone's motives.... The question is the results of policies.... What Pat Buchanan wrote is that a fateful choice is at hand.... That's a very important question that's now before the Congress.

Kalb: Are you not deep down, seriously seeking -- as Senator Dodd said earlier on this program -- the overthrow of the Sandinista regime?

Abrams: No. What we are seeking is a democratic outcome....

Mitchell: The President said yesterday this is of supreme importance to the United States. As one of the Congressmen who helped you with the compromise last year, a Democrat, said: "If this is so important, what are we messing around with \$100 million and a rag-tag peasant force? Why don't we send American troops?"

Abrams: We don't do it because it is something we don't need to do and no Nicaraguan wants us to do. These are Nicaraguans who want to fight for their own freedom and all they want is a little bit of support to match the support that the Soviets and the Cubans are giving to that communist government in Nicaragua.

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## AGRONSKY & COMPANY

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Moderator: Martin Agronsky.

Panel: Srobe Talbott, Carl Rowan, Elizabeth Drew and Hugh Sidey.

On aid to the contras:

Agronsky: Will congress go along?

Rowan: These scare attacks ... will cost them support in Congress.

Drew: No. I think they'll have to compromise eventually.

Sidey: The level of understanding of what makes the world run in the Congress is at an all-time low level.

Talbott: The danger comes if we follow Administration policy; namely, all-out backing for the contras.

On Pat Buchanan's article:

Sidey: At any time that you disagree with these people are you attacking their patriotism? This to me says, look -- you're wrong. That if you do this, you're going to indeed create problems down there. It doesn't say they aren't patriotic; it says they're wrong.

Rowan: You would have to have your eyeballs on backwards and your brain turned off to read that article and not see that he is saying the Democratic Party is ... they gonna let the commies in San Diego and Seattle.

Drew: There's quite a bit of division within the Administration over whether this tactic is wise.... It has not worked at all....

Rowan: One of the problems inherent in all of this is a job of misleading the American people. They try to make Americans believe that we've got a simplistic situation where the Sandinistas are the bad guys, and the contras are the good guys, and it's just not true....

Agronsky: What's the significance of Habib's being named as his new special presidential envoy to Central America?

Talbott: His last assignment was the Philippines ... and they're hoping that some of the magic ... can now be transferred over to Nicaragua policy.

On the rejection of the President's 1987 budget:

Agronsky: What's it mean?

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Drew: It was a pro forma vote ... a formal burial of something that was ~~not~~ acceptable to either party on Capitol Hill. The President's budget had been dead....

Rowan: I think it's very interesting the number of Republicans who say out loud that we have got to have some more revenue....

Sidey: I think this was inevitable from the start ... that there's going to have be increased revenues....

On the Presidential Crime Commission's recommending drug testing:

Agronsky: Can you conceive that that will ever be passed?

Rowan: I would doubt it very much, although we do face a grave problem.

Talbott: I think there's a big question about whether it's constitutional.

Drew: I really don't see how it is an invasion of privacy or people's rights. I don't think it will happen....

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## THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP

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Moderator: John McLaughlin.

Panel: Jack Germond, Morton Kondracke, Robert Novak and Tom Bethell.

On aid to the contras:

McLaughlin: On a scale of zero to one hundred, one hundred being yes, zero being no, what's the probability of Ronald Reagan getting his \$100 million aid package for the contras in this session of Congress?

Bethell: He won't get this aid package through, but there will be a smaller amount that will be passed.

Novak: I agree with Tom. They will get some military aid. It's going to be a long battle, and the Democrats are going to have egg on their face when it's over.

Germond: There's a 20 percent chance that he'll get something substantial in military aid.

Kondracke: He will get some military aid; there will be a lot of conditions on it; escrow accounts and that sort of thing.

McLaughlin I am in agreement with the four members of the group.

On the proposed summits in '86 and '87:

McLaughlin: Has the spirit of the "fireside summit" begun to curdle?

Kondracke: There was no substantive progress on any front at that summit. What the President was trying to do is shove the Russians along and try to get them to bargain.

Novak: The real problem is that the Soviets want an unequal arms agreement. Reagan won't give one to them, and therefore they're in trouble on the summit.

Germond: This is a straw man issue, because the Soviets really don't want to stop this process. It's in their interest to do it. There will be a summit this year and in 1987.

McLaughlin: Our allies in Western Europe don't want a summit, because intermediate-range missiles will be the focus, and there could be an agreement. And if those are cancelled out, that means they're going to have to put big bucks into improving their conventional weaponry, and they don't want to do that.

McLaughlin: Will there be a summit in 1986?

Kondracke, McLaughlin, Novak and Germond: Yes.

Bethell: No.

On the tax amnesty proposal/oil import fee:

Novak: An amnesty is very bad tax policy. It's a sign of the people who have this budget deficit mania who don't realize that economic growth is bringing down the deficit, but who are afraid to buck Reagan on the tax increase question.

Germond: I agree with Novak on the amnesty question.

Bethell. I'm against tax amnesty and an oil import tax.

On a Reagan 1988 GOP endorsement:

McLaughlin: President Reagan declared that he would not endorse any G.O.P. candidate in the 1988 primaries, including George Bush. What do you think of that?

Germond: He's giving the Vice President a de facto endorsement.

On aid to Ireland:

McLaughlin: Prime Minister Fitzgerald of Ireland will have lunch with Ronald Reagan a week from Monday, on St. Patrick's Day. Is he going to get his \$250 million in aid?

Bethell: Yes.

McLaughlin: Do you think there's any the President will hold hostage this aid until Tip O'Neill gives ground on contra aid?

Novak, Germond, Kondracke Bethell: No.

Predictions:

Bethell: Bill Brock will be appointed president of the World Bank.

Novak: There's a very good chance Paul Volcker will not serve out his term as chairman. If he does quit, the replacement will be the vice chairman, Preston Martin.

Kondracke: The 1988 Republican National Convention will be a farewell to Reagan extravaganza in Los Angeles, and the Democrat's convention will be held in Atlanta.

Germond: The Administration will be forced to do something about the oil price drop, especially with three Texas banks going under.

McLaughlin: The drop in oil prices will do for the Republican Party -- on the positive side -- what the Great Depression did for the Republicans on the negative side.