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# News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

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

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Quiet Libyan Front Signals Apparent End To Battle -- U.S. planes defied threats by Moammar Khadafy and roamed unchallenged for more than 24 hours in the Gulf of Sidra, where lack of any Libyan military activity signaled an apparent end to the battle, Pentagon officials said.

(Washington Post, UPI)

Honduras: Reagan Sends \$20M To Help -- In Washington, Reagan freed \$20 million in emergency funds and ordered USA helicopters -- in Honduras on training -- to help repel "this and future Sandinista attacks."

(Washington Post, USA Today)

### NATIONAL NEWS

Inflation Deflated: Our Costs Dip 0.4% -- It's getting cheaper to live as prices of food, housing, clothing, energy and transportation tumble.

(Washington Post, USA Today)

Balanced Budget Move Fails In Senate By 1 Vote -- The Senate by a one-vote margin yesterday torpedoed a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget -- apparently killing the measure until after the 1986 elections.

(Washington Post, Washington Times)

### NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

**LIBYA** -- In the Gulf, U.S. Navy jets again have blasted Libyan ships and a missile radar base.

**HONDURAS** -- Administration officials wasted no time in exploiting the alleged Sandinista incursion of Honduras.

**CONSUMER PRICES** -- The CPI went down last month four-tenths of one percent, the biggest monthly drop since 1953.

#### AT THE GRIDIRON DINNER

"...people often ask me how Sam Donaldson can be so abrasive and overbearing. Well, tonight I can reveal for the first time -- Sam Donaldson is my son."

(Donald T. Regan, 3/22)

## ***INTERNATIONAL NEWS***

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### **IN LIBYA: FLEET READY TO SAIL OUT**

The USA-Libya confrontation inside Libya's "line of death" quieted down Tuesday and the Pentagon said it is ready to end maneuvers soon.

"The usual practice is to complete the exercise sometime short" of the established deadline, which is April 1, said Secretary Weinberger.

(Don Kirk & Karen DeWitt, Washington Post, A1)

### **Quiet Libyan Front Signals Apparent End To Battle**

U.S. planes defied threats by Moammar Khadafy and roamed unchallenged for more than 24 hours in the Gulf of Sidra, where lack of any Libyan military activity signaled an apparent end to the battle, Pentagon officials said.

As relative calm returned to disputed gulf waters, Secretary Weinberger and other Pentagon officials hinted that U.S. flight operations may be ended there sooner than the scheduled April 1.

(Richard Gross, UPI)

### **U.S. AGAIN STRIKES LIBYAN BOATS, RADAR; QADDAFI IS WARNED**

U.S. ships and warplanes in the Mediterranean struck Libyan patrol boats and radars in a second wave of attacks yesterday and Monday while Reagan Administration officials warned that any Libyan forces venturing more than 12 miles from shore may be attacked.

The Reagan Administration, operating under a secret plan code named "Praire Fire," is prepared to conduct more extensive strikes against Libya if U.S. servicemen are killed during the current maneuvers, officials said. The plan was adopted during a March 14 meeting at which senior Administration officials spoke of hitting hard at the Libyan military, according to informed sources.

(George Wilson & Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A1)

### **2 More Libyan Vessels Sunk And Base Hit Again, U.S. Says, Vowing To Keep Up Patrols**

United States naval forces launched additional attacks against a Libyan missile site and patrol vessels overnight and today, the Reagan Administration said today.

American officials said the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea had destroyed two Libyan patrol boats in the Gulf of Sidra in attacks Monday evening and this morning and had attacked a missile site on the Coast Monday evening.

(Bernard Weintraub, New York Times, A1)

### **Qaddafi Seeks Arab Backing For "Holy War"**

Col. Qaddafi moved rapidly yesterday to galvanize Arab opinion, putting calls through to friendly leaders, protesting to the United Nations and vowing, through his spokesmen, to destroy the United States.

(David Adamson, Washington Times, A1)

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### U.S. DECIDED TO GIVE LIBYA FIRM MESSAGE

In the middle of July last year, then-national security affairs adviser Robert McFarlane opened a meeting on Libya with President Reagan and top Administration foreign policy advisers by saying that Muammar Qaddafi threatened U.S. interests, that diplomatic pressure and economic sanctions had failed to curtail his terrorism, and that much stronger measures should be undertaken to thwart the Libyan leader.

After McFarlane's presentation, something happened that has been rare in the Reagan Administration on foreign policy issues. Everyone agreed. The door was considered open for new ideas on how to deal with Qaddafi. There was even serious consideration of a preemptive military strike against Libya in concert with U.S. allies in the Middle East, according to well-placed sources, but Reagan never agreed to such actions.  
(Bob Woodward, Washington Post, A1)

### FEAR OF ATTACK ON DIPLOMATS LED TO GULF ACTION, PAPER SAYS

President Reagan approved the military engagement with Libya after intelligence reports indicated Tripoli was trying to pinpoint American diplomats for terrorist attacks, the New York Times, reported today.

The paper quoted unnamed White House officials as saying possible terrorist activity was one of the reasons behind Reagan's giving the go-ahead for the U.S. Navy maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra. (Reuter)

### Reagan Based Mission Approval On Reports Of Danger To Envoys

The reports from intelligence sources in the Middle East and southern Europe were cited by key White House officials as a reason Mr. Reagan approved the American naval maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra.

The President took this action, officials said, because he and his top aides felt that Col. Qaddafi was not getting the message that the Reagan Administration would not tolerate terrorist attacks and that the only way he would was through a demonstration of toughness by Mr. Reagan.

(Gerald Boyd, New York Times, A1)

### QADDAFI TAKES MILITANT TONE ON CRISIS IN GULF OF SIDRA

TRIPOLI, Libya -- Muammar Qaddafi today spoke of his increasingly violent confrontation with the United States in the Gulf of Sidra as a matter of "war."

"If they [the United States] want to expand the struggle, we will carry it all over the world," Qaddafi warned. But the conditional language he used, putting the the burden of escalation onto the Reagan Administration, suggested that Qaddafi may still be holding back any precipitous action -- at least with conventional forces.

(Christopher Dickey, Washington Post, A1)

## TERRORIST REPRISALS BY LIBYANS LIKELIEST OVERSEAS, EXPERTS SAY

The Reagan Administration, anticipating possible Libyan reprisals fine-tuned security precautions at home and abroad yesterday. But U.S. officials and terrorism experts said any Libyan moves are not likely for two or three months and almost certainly would be directed against American targets overseas.

State Department officials said U.S. embassies and other outposts were warned last Friday that security threats could arise from the U.S.-Libyan confrontation in the Gulf of Sidra.

(John Goshko, Washington Post, A22)

### Americans Vulnerable To Libyan Terror, Expert Concedes

Americans probably can't prevent attacks directed by Libyan dictator Col. Qaddafi, who has promised to export terrorism to "the heart of America," security experts said yesterday.

(Mark Tapscott, Washington Times, A8)

### U.S. Threat Seeks To Shield Citizens

The State Department warned Libya yesterday that it would be held accountable if any harm came to Americans, and other officials stressed privately that host countries in the Arab world and elsewhere are responsible for the safety of their foreign residents.

(Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A8)

## LAWMAKERS SUPPORTIVE, BUT URGE CONSULTATIONS

President Reagan drew support yesterday for his tough military response to Qaddafi as lawmakers urged close consultations on the crisis but generally avoided pressing the White House to invoke the War Powers Resolution.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A23)

## U.S. OFFICIALS UNSURE ACTIONS WILL DETER TERRORISM

This week's U.S. military confrontation with Libya accomplished the limited goal of demonstrating that President Reagan will deal firmly with Qaddafi, Administration officials contended yesterday, but they expressed doubt about whether it will deter Qaddafi from sponsoring international terrorism.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A25)

## SOVIETS ACCUSE U.S. OF UNDERMINING "SPIRIT OF GENEVA" SUMMIT

MOSCOW -- The Soviet Union today strongly condemned the United States for deliberately provoking a military confrontation with Libya and said the actions of the U.S. 6th Sixth Fleet had helped "poison the atmosphere" created at the summit in Geneva last November.

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A23)

### POLL: 67% BACK REAGAN'S ACTION

We back the decision to retaliate against Libyan attacks in the Gulf of Sidra, but more than 76 percent of us think it will mean increased Libyan terrorism against USA citizens around the world, an overnight USA TODAY poll shows.

And 54 percent of us believe USA vessels were in the gulf on maneuvers, as the White House said, and were not there to provoke Libya.  
(Tony Casale & Amy Eisman, USA Today, A1)

### PRIDE AND WORRY EVIDENT IN AMERICANS' COMMENTS

Americans yesterday applauded President Reagan's decision to challenge Muammar Qaddafi's "line of death" in the Gulf of Sidra or worried about its consequences -- or both.

(James Munoz & Gail Randall, Washington Post, A23)

### U.S. ACTION DRAWS ARAB CRITICISM, EUROPEAN SUPPORT

Several Arab states yesterday condemned the United States in its military confrontation with Libya, and militant allies such as Syria and Iran expressed full solidarity with the regime of Col. Qaddafi.

Israel and other governments closely allied to the Reagan Administration, including Britain and West Germany, expressed support for the United States, but several other European countries responded cautiously, with some, such as Italy and Greece, criticizing Washington.

(Richard Homan, Washington Post, A23)

### Western Allies Back U.S. In Libya Showdown

West European nations backed President Reagan's use of naval power to assert the right of passage in international waters yesterday, the Arab world predictably sided with Libya, and the Soviet Union linked clashes in the Gulf of Sidra with American "designs" on Central America.

(Washington Times, A9)

### INCURSION CUTS OPPOSITION ON AID TO CONTRAS

Democratic congressmen, increasingly hawkish in the wake of growing global tensions, yesterday softened their opposition to aiding the Nicaraguan resistance and lauded swift retaliation against Libyan leader Col. Qaddafi.

The stern mood in Congress followed the news that Sandinista forces had invaded neighboring Honduras in pursuit of rebel forces, and as lawmakers' anger grew over Libyan attacks on U.S. fighter planes in the Gulf of Sidra.

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Post, A1)



## RUMORS AND BANNERS STIR ANTI-U.S. FERVOR

TRIPOLI, Libya -- The Libyan people were being whipped into a war fever yesterday with massive anti-American demonstrations in this capital city.  
(A.J. McIlroy, Washington Times, A9)

## \$20 MILLION U.S. AID GIVEN TO HONDURAS

President Reagan provided \$20 million in emergency military assistance to Honduras yesterday to help repel what Administration officials said were attacks across the border by 1,500 Nicaraguan troops aimed at destroying a training center for anti-Sandinista rebels.

The Sandinista attack was viewed by White House officials as bolstering political support for the aid request, which was rejected by the House last week but is expected to pass the Senate with some conditions attached. The attack was viewed with consternation and anger by House Democratic leaders who had opposed the aid request.

(Lou Cannon & Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

### Honduras: Reagan Sends \$20M To Help

Senate debate opens today on President Reagan's \$100 aid for Nicaraguan "contras" rebels, one day after the USA charged the Sandinistas with crossing into Honduras.

All day Tuesday, the USA, Honduras and Nicaragua accused each other of lying about the incident, reported as 1,500 Sandinistas chasing contras 9 miles into Honduras Sunday.

In Washington, Reagan freed \$20 million in emergency funds and ordered USA helicopters -- in Honduras on training -- to help repel "this and future Sandinista attacks."  
(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A1)

## HONDURAS BACKS U.S. REPORTS OF NICARAGUAN INCURSION

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- The Honduran government today backed up official U.S. reports that Nicaraguan troops had entered Honduran territory Saturday, but well-placed sources said fighting between the Nicaraguans and anti-Sandinista rebels was dying down.

Numerous questions remained unanswered regarding events on the border, and the Honduran government clearly was embarrassed by Washington's efforts to call attention to the reported incursion.

(Robert McCartney, Washington Post, A1)

## SANDINISTAS REMAIN IN HONDURAS UNDER FIRE

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- More than 1,500 Nicaraguan soldiers who pursued U.S.-backed Contra rebels into Honduras are trying to fight their way out again, but are meeting fierce rebel resistance, military intelligence sources said.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy told the Associated Press late Tuesday: "The anti-Sandinistas performed effeciently...and they continue doing so after killing in combat more than 100 soldiers of the regular Nicaraguan army, which is now receding."  
(Freddy Cuevas, AP)

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### U.S. TROOPS IN HONDURAS REPORTEDLY ORDERED TO STAY OUT OF FIRING

U.S. helicopters were ordered to help Honduran forces in the face of a reported Nicaraguan incursion but the 2,900 American troops in Honduras have been told to stay away from the firing line, Administration officials said.

"We have instructed U.S. commanders that U.S. personnel are not to be introduced into combat situations," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Tuesday. (Bryan Brumley, AP)

### SANDINISTAS TRYING TO RETREAT FROM HONDURAS

Fighting raged for a fourth day in Honduras yesterday with one invading Nicaraguan battalion trapped by anti-communist rebels and another retreating under an umbrella of helicopter gunships, rockets and artillery fire. (Roger Fontaine, Washington Times, A1)

### CONTRA AID PROPOSAL ADVANCES IN SENATE

Senate Republicans, bolstered by Administration reports of a Nicaraguan incursion into Honduras, moved closer yesterday to winning enough swing votes to claim a bipartisan mandate for President Reagan's request for \$100 million in U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan insurgents, or contras.

In both the Senate and the House, Democrats opposing aid to the contras and those advocating tighter congressional controls over any such assistance expressed anger with the reported invasion.

(Milton Coleman, Washington Post, A12)

### House Reassessing Contra Vote

Just days after House Majority Whip Thomas Foley helped Democrats house President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan resistance, his resolve appeared to change.

(Isaiah Poole, Washington Times, A10)

### IN POLL, PUBLIC APPROVES DENIAL OF CONTRA AID

By nearly 2 to 1, the American people support the vote in the House last week to deny \$100 million in military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News public opinion poll.

Interviews with 1,147 people through Monday night showed 60 percent approving of the House vote, 35 percent disapproving, and 5 percent offering no opinion. (Barry Sussman, Washington Post, A12)



### SOVIETS' STRENGTH ANALYZED

The Soviet Union, while continuing to develop more lethal nuclear missiles, has embarked on a massive program to protect its land-based arsenal while attaining parity with the United States in the development of cruise missiles, the Defense Department said yesterday.

Those and other conclusions were outlined in a new booklet, "Soviet Military Power," released by Secretary Weinberger.

(Norman Black, Washington Post, A6)

### Soviet Technology Speedup Detailed In Pentagon Report

U.S. intelligence projects that a Soviet speed up of nuclear modernization, which became apparent to the U.S. military in the last year, will result in replacement of most of the Soviet land-based ICBM force over the next decade, the Pentagon reported yesterday. Such a move may possibly violate arms control agreements, the report said.

(Walter Andrews, Washington Times, A3)

### SDI TESTING IS REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF TREATY TERMS

The Defense Department is reviewing the test program of the President's SDI to see what cost advantages and other benefits might result from a less restrictive reading of the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty, according to testimony before a Senate subcommittee yesterday.

President Reagan determined that the Defense Department view represented the legal situation but that the Administration would continue to follow the traditional, more restrictive interpretation pressed by the State Department.

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A6)

### Perle Urges SDI Before New Treaty

The United States should deploy an anti-missile system without renegotiating a treaty with the Soviet Union limiting such defenses, a Defense Department official told Congress yesterday.

The advice was given by Richard Perle to the Senate Armed Services Committee's strategic nuclear forces subcommittee.

(AP story, Washington Times, A5)

### ANGOLAN REBEL ATTACK DENIED AT U.S. OIL SITE

LISBON -- Angolan rebels said today they attacked key installations at a joint U.S.-Angolan oil complex, inflicting heavy damage on the main support of the country's war-shattered economy. But a U.S. oil company official in Angola denied the claim. (Peter Wise, Washington Post, A27)

### Rebels Claim Hits On Oil Base And Pipeline

Angolan rebels shelled a major U.S. oil company complex and dynamited portions of an oil pipeline, a guerrilla spokesman said yesterday. But a spokesman for the company denied the base camp was attacked. (Holger Jensen & James Morrison, Washington Times, A6)

## ***NATIONAL NEWS***

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### **CONSUMER PRICES FALL 0.4%, BIGGEST DROP IN 32 YEARS**

Consumer prices dropped 0.4 percent in February, the steepest monthly decline in 32 years, because of falling gasoline and food prices, the Labor Department reported yesterday.

Larry Speakes said that the CPI report, coupled with the 0.6 percent increase in Americans' personal income in February, "means that real income for the average American rose by a full percentage point last month. All of this can be translated into a very simple message: Americans are making more money, and with inflation virtually nonexistent, they can buy even more goods and services with it."

(Jane Seaberry, Washington Post, A1)

### **Inflation Deflated: Our Costs Dip 0.4%**

It's getting cheaper to live as prices of food, housing, clothing, energy and transportation tumble.

"Inflation has temporarily disappeared," said economist Nigel Gault at Data Resources Inc. in Lexington Mass.

(Constance Mitchell, USA Today, A1)

### **BALANCED-BUDGET AMENDMENT FAILS**

The Republican-controlled Senate, brushing aside last-minute appeals from President Reagan, reversed itself yesterday and refused by one vote to approve a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget.

Reagan, who has listed the amendment among his top legislative priorities, made a number of phone calls to wavering senators over the last few days, but there was disagreement among the amendment's supporters about the intensity and effectiveness of his effort.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A4)

### **Balanced Budget Move Fails In Senate By 1 Vote**

The Senate by a one-vote margin yesterday torpedoed a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget -- apparently killing the measure until after the 1986 elections.

(Willis Witter, Washington Times, A2)

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## NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

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### U.S./LIBYAN ALTERCATION

CBS's Dan Rather: U.S. forces are in action tonight on two widely separated fronts. In and around the Gulf of Sidra, U.S. Navy jets again have blasted Libyan ships and a missile radar base. In Central America, the U.S. Army has been ordered to ferry Honduran troops to fight what President Reagan's aides say is a major Sandinista armed thrust into Honduras. (ALL NETS LEAD)

CBS's David Martin reports that the U.S. Sixth Fleet was on battle alert today on the Coast of Libya, threatening to shoot down anything that crossed its path.

(McDonnell-Douglas/CBS file film of airplanes.)

Even the news plane which took these pictures was intercepted and told to turn back. At dawn, a Navy jet fired harpoon missiles at a Libyan patrol boat, which came too close to the fleet. It was the fourth Libyan naval vessel attack.

(Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims: "Liferafts were seen in Libyan helicopter rescue operations.")

Last night, another high-tech missile called the HARM was launched against the Libyan anti-aircraft site at Sirte, homing in on the radar signal emitted by the missile battery. It was the second attempt to silence the battery, which earlier had fired at least six missiles at U.S. aircraft.

(Secretary Weinberger: "It destroyed the radar; they'd obviously managed to replace the radar, and they obviously will continue to try to get that back up again.")

Pentagon officials say that to destroy the missiles themselves, the Navy pilots will have to drop cluster bombs, exposing themselves to greater danger than using the long-range missiles, which so far had kept the American casualty count at zero. Kaddafi has vowed to destroy the three aircraft carriers off his coast, but the real worry is that he will retaliate with terrorist attacks against Americans.

(Secretary Shultz: "The Libyan government has made so many statements of threats against the U.S., and we have to take steps to deal with it, which we are doing.")

Today, when Shultz left Turkey for Greece, Turkish jets escorted his plane, at the request of the American government. In Washington, bodyguards were assigned to top Navy officials, and in Europe, military bases were ordered to tighten security. The thought of war continues to surround many of the events in the Gulf of Sidra. There is confusion over exactly over how many missiles the Libyans have fired over American planes, and over how great a threat the Libyan patrol boats pose to the American fleet.

Rather: Libyans today called for a gihad, or Muslim holy war against the U.S. In Tripoli, Libyans are also calling for Americans in the Middle East to be executed.

CBS's Doug Tunnell reports from Tripoli that Kaddafi visited a trade fair in Tripoli and spoke with American reporters. Young Libyans demonstrating have been told that Libya fired only in self-defense.

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Tunnell continues:

(TV: Young Libyans chanting anti-American epithets.)

They believe Libya did not start the conflict, and they say it is far from over.

(Tunnell: "Will there be a war?")

Libyans: "Of course, of course! Yes! We shall fight!")

Libyan radio recorded today that the nation's missile batteries are operational and intact, despite the American attacks. The reports do not address the question of casualties. Kaddafi, too, stayed away from battlefield details. He has told his people that the great battle has begun. And tonight that seemed enough for them.

Rather: President Reagan knew what he wanted to achieve, and apparently succeeded.

CBS's Bill Plante: U.S. military power in the Gulf of Sidra has accomplished a key goal of the Reagan Administration: Retaliation against Kaddafi for what it believes is his part in the terrorist massacres carried out just after Christmas at the Rome and Vienna airports. Officials insist publicly there was no intent to provoke or punish. But many analysts believe otherwise.

(State Department spokesman Charles Redman: "Our military response resulted from the unjustified, hostile actions against our forces. Nothing more than that.")

(CBS Mideast analyst: "We knew that Kaddafi would respond; he has responded, and now we have punished him.")

Members of Congress, briefed on the operation today behind closed doors, were generally supportive.

(Sen. Dole: "We have been threatened and bullied and all kinds of Libyan threats and terrorism -- my view is we've reached the point where we needed some response.")

Some lawmakers believed they should've been notified under the War Powers Act, which says the President must tell Congress within 48 hours when U.S. troops are put in danger of hostile fire.

(Rep. Fascal: "The War Powers Act was simply designed to do its best to bring the Congress and President together in those situations where we might get in trouble.")

But the White House Chief of Staff signaled the Administration does not plan to comply.

(Mr. Regan: "We got fired on. We answered fire with fire. That is normal procedure; that has nothing to do with the War Powers Act.")

The Administration is taking the position that the War Powers Act specifically refers to U.S. troops in a foreign country, and their point is precisely that U.S. forces are in international forces and air space. "We've made our point," said one official. "The question now is what will Kaddafi do to save his manhood?"

Rather: Secretary Weinberger is with us live at the Pentagon. Mr. Secretary, let's say that tomorrow there are terrorist acts that we blame on Kaddafi. What lesson do you think that we will have taught Kaddafi today if that happens?

Weinberger: "I don't discuss hypothetical events or possibilities. I think what we have done was simply to do what we've said we would do all along. It was part of all the interpretations that various analysts and others are putting on it.

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Weinberger continues:

We have the right to be in international waters; we demonstrate that all over the world many times a year. We've done it in the Gulf of Sidra many times before, and we're doing it again. And we were fired upon; hostile acts were committed against us, and we've responded appropriately and in kind. And we are continuing to exercise our rights in the Gulf of Sidra, and we'll do so until the exercise is completed in the decision of the fleet commander. So it is a very simple situation, and if terrorist acts are committed, we will have to deal with those at an appropriate way when and if they're committed."

Rather: At this time tomorrow night, are we going to be talking about -- in your judgement on the basis of what you know -- more combat action, in and around the coast of Libya?

Weinberger: "I haven't any idea. We are going to continue to have the fleet exercise in those waters. And if we're fired on again, or if hostile acts are committed or hostile intent is demonstrated, then we will have to take action to preserve and protect the fleet, and the men in it. But we have every right to be there, and we're going to continue to exercise that right. And I hope there's no more challenge to it in the way that has been illegally and in an unprovoked manner, taken yesterday."

Rather: Exactly how many shots have been fired -- at whom; how many missiles have been fired at us -- and, what was the threat from those Libyan boats?

Weinberger: The shots that we know of and have confirmed are six of the missile shots from the SA-5s. Possibly one or two more from the SA-2s or 3s, but again, the reporting is a little confused -- understandably so. The gunboats -- the guided missile patrol craft, which are very fast, and have a long range -- were approaching the fleet, after other units of the Libyan government had fired at us. And when they're approaching the fleet after firing or you, we don't require that our men wait to be shot at or killed before we respond. And so we thought that hostile acts had been committed, and the hostile intent demonstrated, and in accordance with the instructions that he has, and operated under, the fleet commander took action, took very effective action, I'm happy to say."

Rather: Any indication that any Soviets have been hurt or killed in this action?

Weinberger: "No, we have none of that whatever." (CBS-Lead)

NBC's Fred Francis: The Sixth Fleet went on the attack today, tightening its control on the Gulf of Sidra, using high-tech missiles and a blanket of electronic jamming. Pentagon reports of more Libyan missile launches today were unfounded. None were fired. However, the cruiser Yorktown intercepted a Libyan patrol boat just after midnight. The Yorktown's captain believed the Libyan craft was headed for an aircraft carrier and destroyed it with two missiles.

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Francis continues:

American attack aircraft hit a Libyan missile site a second time. Another Libyan patrol boat, heavily armed with missiles, was intercepted just after daybreak by planes from the Coral Sea and the Saratoga.

(Pentagon's Robert Sims: "Damage to that was considerable. The boat was dead in the water and on fire.")

According to analyst Helmut Sonnenfeldt, the Soviets are holding Kaddafi back. But Soviet influence did not stop the commander of the Libyan air force from sending this Telex to the commander of the Sixth fleet Admiral Kelso:

TELEX: "Unless the aggressive acts are stopped, we are bound to destroy your carrier. In doing that, we will have the political and military support of the World states.

Best Regards,

Commander-In-Chief,

The Libyan Arab Air Force"

Late word from here tonight is that is a signal to Kaddafi is that if he acts responsibly, the fleet is ready to go home.

Brokaw: At the White House, the President's advisers are also feeling that they have the upper hand in this situation now.

NBC's Chris Wallace: The President stayed behind the scenes for the second day in a row. But some of the President's men were starting to declare victory. With no Libyan missiles fired on U.S. ships or planes for more than 24 hours, Administration officials began turning up the rhetoric.

(Vice President: "What the Sixth Fleet does is not going to be determined by Muommar Kaddafi.")

(Secretary Shultz: "The purpose is not to put Kaddafi in his box -- but that is where he belongs!")

Officials are now crowing about a long Administration effort to challenge Kaddafi. Saying that after the terrorist attacks last year in Rome and Vienna, the President approved a plan to get tough with Libya, and the plan is working. After talking to the Soviets, they are also confident that there won't be a Superpower conflict. Tonight, Soviet TV accused the U.S. of state terrorism, but played down the story. There is another reason for Administration smiles: the praise of long-time liberal critics.

(Rep. Mikulski: "This is not a time to second-guess the President or engage in armchair analysis.")

(Speaker O'Neill: "Our Administration is doing the right thing. When we're being shot at, we should respond.")

Almost the only criticism from Dante Fascall, head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who said that under the War Powers Act, the President should have warned Congress of a possible conflict. But the White House said it was an unprovoked attack in international water, and ruled out a formal report.

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Wallace continues:

(Regan: "We got fired on. We answered fire with fire. That is normal procedure; that has nothing to do with the War Powers Act.") For all the tough talk about Kaddafi, though, no one is letting down. Security for George Shultz on a trip to Turkey was extraordinary. When Shultz flew to Athens, his plane was protected by four jet fighters. And Navy Secretary Lehman and Chief of Naval Operations Watkins have now been assigned bodyguards. Those precautions indicate the special nature of this conflict. Because as well as this Mediterranean showdown has gone for the U.S., no one here thinks their troubles with Kaddafi are over.

Brokaw: In Libya tonight, it is also quiet, but today there were demonstrations of support for Kaddafi against the U.S.

NBC's Bonnie Anderson reports thousands of Libyans today hailed Kaddafi as a hero, a man brave enough to challenge the U.S. and to fight for his beliefs. Kaddafi said it is too late for negotiations with Washington.

(Kaddafi: "This is a time of war! A time of confrontation! We have decided that the Gulf of Sidra is ours; we've decided this by our sacrifices by blood!")

Reporter: What about the Americans who are living here in Libya?

(Kaddafi: "They are our guests. We are a civilized people.")

There are between 800 and 1,200 U.S. citizens still here, despite President Reagan's Executive Order last January that all Americans should leave. Speaking for Kaddafi, Libyan radio launched even stronger attacks today, calling on Arab revolutionaries to destroy all American embassies, institutions and bases in the region. The broadcast also urged Arab countries to execute U.S. citizens it claims are spies posing as consultants.

(TV: Young Libyans engaged in anti-American protest.)

More than 2,000 people vowed to join suicide squads to fight what they called the arrogant American government. (NBC-Lead)

ABC's Steve Sheperd reports that today the Pentagon announced that the surface Navy had joined the battle. Kaddafi is still making threats. In a Telex, the commander of the Libyan air force has warned the commander of the Sixth Fleet that unless the attacks are stopped, they are bound to destroy the American carriers.

ABC's Charles Glass reports Kaddafi has been milking this for domestic consumption as much as he possibly can. He is using it to whip up local support for him, at a time when his popularity might have been sagging. (ABC-Lead)

## FOREIGN REACTION

Rather: The Kremlin charged today that the Gulf of Sidra confrontation was just what Washington wanted. A spokesman charged that for months the U.S. "has been deliberately provoking Libya, in order to find a pretext for military conflict." Israel had prompt praise. Prime Minister Peres said, "I think it's an important act against international terror, and against the most irresponsible government today in the region."

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CBS's Steve Croft reports that while not all U.S. allies lined up in support, there was little booing from the sidelines, and some popular glee that Kaddafi's nose had finally been bloodied. In Britain's Parliament, opposition leader Neal Kinnock questioned U.S. judgement and called the move destabilizing. Prime Minister Thatcher came to President Reagan's defense. West Germany joined Great Britain in support. But the closer you move to the Mediterranean, the cooler the response. France, Spain, Greece and Italy all expressed grave concern for stability in the region, and appealed for moderation on both sides. Italy, the closest to Libya, was the most nervous. The Europeans have long considered the U.S.-Libyan confrontation inevitable. Now that it's finally taken place, they would like to see it over with as quickly as possible, with no further escalation. (CBS-2)

Brokaw reports that around the world today, there was very little praise, a lot of protest, and a warning of new terrorist attacks because of the American military stand in the Gulf of Sidra. Most of the condemnation came from the Arab block, which called for the protection of Libya's territorial integrity. The only real praise for the U.S. came from Israel, which called Libya the arrowhead of international terrorism. America's Western allies -- for the most part -- just expressed concern over any escalation. (NBC-2; ABC-3)

#### THE VIEW FROM HOME

Rather: It has been our history that when any U.S. President orders American military forces into action abroad, the American people close ranks and support him, at least in the short run.

CBS's Bob Faw reports many Americans seem to be saying today that Kaddafi had been getting away with murder, and we've been patient long enough. The sentiment swept across the country. (Lady: "I'm really proud of what our country is doing today. To me, this is long overdue.")

According to a recent Lou Harris poll says that while most Americans dislike Kaddafi ... nearly six in ten do not want war with Libya. Some Americans were complaining. So while there is pride over what happened, there is also concern. (CBS-7)

#### HONDURAS

Rather: U.S. forces are closer to action tonight, too, in Central America. U.S. military pilots reportedly have new orders to help ferry Honduran troops to the front. The officially stated reason: to repel an alleged large Nicaraguan force that crossed the border into Honduras. While Honduran officials publicly give the impression that they see the Sandinista action as not very much of a threat, it prompted President Reagan to give the Hondurans millions of new dollars in immediate military aid, plus ordering the U.S. Army ferrying service. In the backdrop of all this, President Reagan pushed the U.S. Congress to give millions more in direct aid to the contras, fighting Nicaragua's government.

CBS's Phil Jones reports Reagan Administration officials, embroiled in their own Capitol Hill battle for aid to the contras, wasted no time in exploiting the alleged Sandinista incursion of Honduras.

(Vice President Bush: "It certainly makes very clear what we have been saying about Daniel Ortega and the Sandinistas, and I think the whole world will see it much more clearly now.")

The Administration claims that the recent massing of Sandinistas along the Honduran border have turned into an all-out invasion by about 1,500 Sandinistas. This activity is allegedly occurring where contra training camps are located. And there were suggestions by the Administration that some Sandinistas may be trapped, and the another 3,000 Nicaraguans may soon launch a reinforcement attack. But in New York, the Nicaraguan ambassador claimed there had been no invasion.

(Nicaraguan U.N. Ambassador Nora Astorga: "Let me just deny it very strongly -- that we have had any type of aggression on the Honduran territory or that we are in the Honduran territory.")

The Honduran government asked the U.S. for \$20 million in emergency aid. It was given, and there was nothing but bipartisan congressional support of the President, and condemnation of Nicaragua's action.

(Rep. Foley: "It could backfire. Obviously, the Sandinista government is one that has become famous for its ability to turn public opinion in international opinion against it at critical moments.")

(Rep. Strang: "Ortega again came to our rescue. He invaded his neighbors!")

This has been a rare day for the Administration, with support for both its Nicaraguan and Libyan policies. However, a few senators are skeptical. They wonder if the showdown with Libya was planned to help get aid for the contras. But for now, there is no proof of this, and it would appear that this hard line will in fact help the Administration get what it wants.

Rather: CBS News reporter Richard Schlessinger, do the Hondurans believe that there's been a major military thrust into their territory or not?

Schlessinger: Publicly, the Hondurans say that this incursion is a serious threat to their sovereignty. But off the record, they tend to discount the severity of it.

Rather: Well, if the Honduran government doesn't think this is a big deal, do they go as far as to say the Reagan Administration is exaggerating the whole thing, in hopes of getting contra support?

Schlessinger: Off the record, they call it a propaganda ploy. Another source said that this was all part of President Reagan's attempt to sell the \$100 million contra aid package. (CBS-3)

NBC's Andrea Mitchell reports that American intelligence says 1,500 Nicaraguan troops attacked a contra training camp nine miles inside Honduras, trying to wipe out rebel bases and medical facilities. Administration officials say the contras fought back; that one battalion of Nicaraguans tried to retreat to the border and was trapped by contra forces.

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Mitchell continues:

(Redman: "The Sandinistas supplied their units inside Honduras with heavy artillery fire, volleys of rocket fire from Soviet-made BM-21 multiple rocket launchers, and MI-8 gunships.")

Against that firepower, the President is sending air defense weapons, ammunition for M-16 rifles, anti-tank weapons, artilleries, spare parts, American trainers, and a helicopter airlift piloted by Americans to move Honduran troops to the front. All this requested in phone calls by Honduran President Escona to National Security Adviser Poindexter last night. General John Galvin, American commander for Central America, has been sent to decide what else is needed, under orders to keep American soldiers out of combat zones. On the attack politically, the Administration seized on the fighting to make its case for military aid to the contras.

(Vice President: "It certainly makes very clear what we have been saying about Daniel Ortega and the Sandinistas.")

On aid to Honduras, House Democrats are supporting the President, saying it is not the same as aid to the contras.

(Rep. Wright: "This week, we're speaking of something entirely different.")

But Republicans are already blaming them for Nicaragua's attack.

(Rep. Gingrich: "Last week, this House sent a signal of uncertainty to Central America. The Nicaraguan communists are now sending a clear signal to the United States.")

Whatever the reasons for the fighting, Administration officials are crowing, claiming it helped them make their case against Nicaragua on Capitol Hill. (NBC-3)

ABC's Peter Collins reports that according to U.S. intelligence sources, the contras have been fighting the Sandinistas for four days, and are whipping them badly. The two units are reported trapped, and breaking up in panic. But Honduras apparently fears Nicaragua may send more troops across its border. U.S. analysts believe the Sandinistas made two tremendous mistakes: First, they apparently believed President Reagan would eventually win his battle in Congress to give the contras military aid. And so, they tried to destroy the contras before the help arrived. By not waiting until a crucial House vote next month, they have helped the President make his case. And second, they made the military mistake of not committing enough force to do the job against the contras. (ABC-4)

ABC's Sam Donaldson: For the second day in a row, Press Secretary Larry Speakes came to the White House briefing room to announce a U.S. response to aggression. President Reagan has notified Congress that he is making available up to \$20 million in emergency military assistance to Honduras. Vice President Bush explained the decision this way:

(Vice President: "The President of Honduras has made a request for certain support for his country. And we will give him that support.")

Honduras wants conventional battlefield arms to include air defense weapons, but in addition, U.S. helicopters -- already in the country -- will be used to airlift Honduran troops into the battle area. If U.S. pilots fly them, White House Chief of Staff Regan says they'll stay away from the actual fighting.

Donaldson continues:

(Regan: "Our equipment would be used. Our pilots would be used, but we would go nowhere near where the invasion of the Nicaraguan troops into Honduras has taken place.")

In the face of invasion charges by U.S. officials, Nicaraguan officials insist it isn't true.

(U.N. Rep. Astorga: "First of all, let me just deny it. Very strongly. This is a clear and transparent attempt on the part of the U.S. Administration to try to secure some funds.")

But on Capitol Hill, Democrats as well as Republicans supported aid to Honduras, and suggested Nicaragua's Ortega had overplayed his hand.

(Rep. Foley: "If Nicaragua persists in attacks on its neighbors, it may spill over into wholesale U.S. support for the contras.")

(Sen. Dole: "I imagine it will come up in the debate. It seems to me that the man shot himself in the foot.")

No one here is quite sure why Nicaragua's Ortega chose this moment to go after the contras. But everyone seems convinced it'll do him more harm than good. Last spring, Ortega's highly-publicized visit to Moscow helped keep the contra program alive. Now, his troops visit to Honduras may have the same effect. (ABC-4)

ABC NEWS POLL

Jennings: The latest ABC News/Washington Post poll, completed yesterday, shows the American people on the whole believe the House of Representatives did the right thing last week when it voted against the military aid for the contras.

POLL ON HOUSE VOTE:

Q: DID THE HOUSE DO THE CORRECT THING	YES: 60 %
IN REJECTING AID TO THE CONTRAS?	NO: 35 %

Margin of error: 3.5 %.

(ABC-5)

NEW PENTAGON REPORT

Jennings: A new warning from the Pentagon today about the growth of Soviet military power. Just one example: the Soviets have reportedly deployed more than 70 intercontinental missiles which are mobile, and can soon field a new one, which can be launched from a railroad car.

(ABC-7)

## PHILIPPINES

Rather: Philippine President Aquino, as expected today, abolished the still-Marcos-dominated National Assembly, and assumed powers almost as sweeping as Marcos had under martial law. Aquino said it was a temporary measure, until a new constitution can be written and ratified. She said that would take about a year.

(CBS-4; NBC-4; ABC-8)

## MARCOS

Jennings: The government of Switzerland has ordered Marcos' assets there to be frozen. The Swiss said they acted after receiving evidence that Marcos intended to pull his funds out of Swiss banks.

(ABC-6; NBC-5; CBS-4)

## CONSUMER PRICES

Rather: Consumer prices went down last month four-tenths of one percent, the biggest monthly drop in more than thirty years. Oil price was the key; gasoline was down six percent, and home heating oil a full ten percent cheaper in February. Food costs were also lower.

(CBS-5; NBC-6; ABC-9)

## COMMENTARY

NBC's John Chancellor: "What's been happening in the Gulf of Sidra is no accident. Both Libya and the U.S. have been moving toward this confrontation for the last few months.... Has any of this hurt Kaddafi? Not so far. Now that his country has been attacked by the U.S. -- and forget that he started it -- ... that makes Kaddafi a hero in a lot of places.... The U.S. has demonstrated its legal right to sail in these waters, but as far as hurting Kaddafi is concerned, it hasn't happened yet."

(NBC-9)

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## EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

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### THE GULF OF SIDRA

At The 'Line Of Death' -- "Going after Col. Qaddafi for a violation of naval innocent passage is like going after Al Capone for income tax evasion. In neither case is the indicated offense the true basis of the accused's menace to society, but the offense offers the forces of law a convenient if artificial method of cutting the offender down to size.... An American president cannot ignore considerations of America pride and global responsibility. Nor can an American president ignore considerations of local passion. What happened in the Gulf of Sidra was an event in a sequence whose next developments are particularly uncertain."

(Washington Post, 3/25)

Sudden U.S.-Libyan Clash Risks Widening Conflict -- "However, merely because national will can be asserted with decisive force may not justify risking hostilities of this kind, which have a nasty way of spinning out of control once initiated. The sudden outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Libya raises the danger of a broader conflict from which it may be difficult for either side to step back. But every effort must be made to avoid further shooting."

(Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/25)

Wilson's Strange Trip To Libya -- "If the administration can't bring itself to give the American people a full accounting of Mr. Wilson's dealings with the Libyans, the Senate or House Foreign Affairs committees should summon him to appear before them and explain his actions. If it is true that his mission was unauthorized, President Reagan should put friendship aside and fire him."

(Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/25)

The Missiles Of Sidra -- "Not all the facts are in, and the first imperative is for the U.S. to disclose them. The heavier burden is on President Reagan. Qaddafi may be a reckless promoter of violence and venom - but Libya is not a nuclear superpower. Both countries may be engaged equally in a test of wills, but Americans should expect the highest standard of responsibility from their Government.... For good reason, the Soviet Union has dealt warily with Qaddafi, resisting his overtures for a friendship pact. It has not supported his claims to the gulf, though it has assailed U.S. naval maneuvers. Nothing would better suit the colonel than to entangle his Russian patrons in his own quarrel with the U.S. At this point it should be the American purpose to keep this conflict within bounds."

(New York Times, 3/25)

Reasoning With Qaddafi -- "Col. Qaddafi is not to be reasoned with, not by Mr. Wilson any more than by the inventor of Billy Beer. Fortunately, Washington has taken the right approach - sending American ships to steam across the 'line of death' that Col. Qaddafi has drawn across international waters in the Gulf of Sidra. As yesterday's action demonstrated anew, Col. Qaddafi reasons a lot better when he's confronting, nor well-meaning ambassadors to Vatican City, but well-armed elements of the Sixth Fleet."

(Washington Times, 3/25)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

THE GULF OF SIDRA (continued)

Snake-handling -- "It is hard to avoid the conclusion that the real purpose was a retaliatory strike for Libyan terrorism.... If our purpose was to retaliate against Libya for terrorism, it served only to demonstrate the ineffectiveness of the military for such purposes. When you taunt a rattlesnake, you must be prepared to chop its head. All we did was to snip off a tiny piece of the tail." (Baltimore Evening Sun, 3/25)

The Point Is Made -- "In those elements of the conflict there appear to be broad issues of international law, of right and wrong, that give support in principle to what the U.S. was affirming and that discredit Khadafy's resort to violence.... The sudden escalation from confrontation to battle underscores the importance of action now to end the hostilities quickly, permanently, lest they spark a broader conflagration. The violence measures the volatility of the Libyan leader. The U.S. can demonstrate, in the way it restores peace, its respect of a world ruled by law." (Los Angeles Times, 3/25)

SAUDI ARMS SALE

New Saudi Arms Deal A Bad Idea -- "As arms sale proposals go, the Administration's plan to sell \$354 million in missiles to Saudi Arabia is not an outright menace. But it is an ill-conceived and potentially dangerous proposition that ought to be rejected by Congress or withdrawn." (Milwaukee Journal, 3/24)

ACID RAIN

Clouds Over Acid Rain -- "It is possible that Reagan's accommodations with Mulroney turned on a desire to be done with the highly politicized acid-rain issue. It is clear, though, that acid rain is no simple matter and that much more study needs to be done to fully understand this complex phenomenon. While the Reagan-Mulroney entente may raise hopes, developing new coal technologies or putting scrubbers on Midwestern power-plant stacks isn't likely to much change the environment in the Northeast and Canada." (Wall Street Journal, 3/25)

NUCLEAR TESTING

Nuclear Testing Continues -- "Give Mikhail S. Gorbachev credit for extracting all the propaganda advantage he can find. But give him credit, too, for doing the right thing in this instance, regardless of motivation.... The Soviets have driven the propaganda ball deeply into the U.S. court, and there's been no sign that we're going to return it. The Reagan Administration has steadfastly opposed the idea of a test ban.... Mr. Reagan does not have much time left in the White House to make a substantial contribution to arms control. His term expires in three years, and much needs to be done if he is to be remembered not only as the president who presided over the biggest arms spending program in peacetime, but also as the leader who brought sanity to the arms race." (Hartford Courant, 3/25)



## FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

### THE GULF OF SIDRA

"There was every sign last night that after years of enduring Libyan-supported terrorist acts the Reagan Administration had gone into the Gulf hoping to tempt a Libyan response, much as it did when it shot down two Libyan jets in 1981.... " (Guardian, Britain)

"The test of force is not only addressed to Qaddafi. The message is also for Nicaragua, even perhaps for Moscow." (Figaro, Italy)

"The SA-5 missiles launched by the Libyans toward the sea, which did not even touch the U.S. planes, were probably a sly move by Qaddafi to save face. By deliberately considering them an act of war, and by initiating a reprisal, the Sixth Fleet commander committed an act whose dangerousness we cannot predict." (Il Messaggero, Italy)

"There is some fear that the President could go too far. Therefore members of Congress ... say President Reagan should invoke the War Powers Act.... President Reagan thus can count on a majority in Congress for this rather aggressive policy, but most members of Congress would like to have a say in the matter." (Le Soir, Belgium)

"The need to put an end to the regimes which support terrorism should not lead to the frightening simplification that to fight against terrorism one must use the same unacceptable moral values which terrorism uses." (ABC, Spain)

"It was noted at once that Weinberger's 'line of argument' closely resembled that used by Washington for inventing the so-called 'Tonkin Incident' as a pretext for launching a dirty war against Vietnam." (Tass, Soviet Union)

"Dictator Qaddafi is playing into the hands of the American cowboy Ronald Reagan. The Americans are trying to provoke Qaddafi into action. The Reagan Administration searched for and came across an excuse to hit 'terror and missile bases' in Libya.... So far, the incident has not mushroomed into a general military confrontation, but things might get out of hand in no time. Qaddafi, in particular when irritated, is an unpredictable individual. The Americans have definitely managed to irritate him." (Hadashot, Israel)

"The attempt to frighten the Arab people will not give military glory to America, now sheltering behind its military and technological arrogance.... Today America will be surprised by complete Arab support for Libya. Why? The dignity of the Arab world is integral and cannot be divided...." (al-Ittihad, Israel)

"Thus, the United States has placed itself above the United Nations, international law and any other considerations that are dictated by international responsibility in order to defuse the situation and avoid a devastating world war.... " (Damascus Radio, Syria)

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# News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

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

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Quiet Libyan Front Signals Apparent End To Battle -- U.S. planes defied threats by Moammar Khadafy and roamed unchallenged for more than 24 hours in the Gulf of Sidra, where lack of any Libyan military activity signaled an apparent end to the battle, Pentagon officials said.

(Washington Post, UPI)

Honduras: Reagan Sends \$20M To Help -- In Washington, Reagan freed \$20 million in emergency funds and ordered USA helicopters -- in Honduras on training -- to help repel "this and future Sandinista attacks."

(Washington Post, USA Today)

### NATIONAL NEWS

Inflation Deflated: Our Costs Dip 0.4% -- It's getting cheaper to live as prices of food, housing, clothing, energy and transportation tumble.

(Washington Post, USA Today)

Balanced Budget Move Fails In Senate By 1 Vote -- The Senate by a one-vote margin yesterday torpedoed a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget -- apparently killing the measure until after the 1986 elections.

(Washington Post, Washington Times)

### NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

**LIBYA** -- In the Gulf, U.S. Navy jets again have blasted Libyan ships and a missile radar base.

**HONDURAS** -- Administration officials wasted no time in exploiting the alleged Sandinista incursion of Honduras.

**CONSUMER PRICES** -- The CPI went down last month four-tenths of one percent, the biggest monthly drop since 1953.

#### AT THE GRIDIRON DINNER

"...people often ask me how Sam Donaldson can be so abrasive and overbearing. Well, tonight I can reveal for the first time -- Sam Donaldson is my son."

(Donald T. Regan, 3/22)

## ***INTERNATIONAL NEWS***

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### **IN LIBYA: FLEET READY TO SAIL OUT**

The USA-Libya confrontation inside Libya's "line of death" quieted down Tuesday and the Pentagon said it is ready to end maneuvers soon.

"The usual practice is to complete the exercise sometime short" of the established deadline, which is April 1, said Secretary Weinberger.

(Don Kirk & Karen DeWitt, Washington Post, A1)

### **Quiet Libyan Front Signals Apparent End To Battle**

U.S. planes defied threats by Moammar Khadafy and roamed unchallenged for more than 24 hours in the Gulf of Sidra, where lack of any Libyan military activity signaled an apparent end to the battle, Pentagon officials said.

As relative calm returned to disputed gulf waters, Secretary Weinberger and other Pentagon officials hinted that U.S. flight operations may be ended there sooner than the scheduled April 1.

(Richard Gross, UPI)

### **U.S. AGAIN STRIKES LIBYAN BOATS, RADAR; QADDAFI IS WARNED**

U.S. ships and warplanes in the Mediterranean struck Libyan patrol boats and radars in a second wave of attacks yesterday and Monday while Reagan Administration officials warned that any Libyan forces venturing more than 12 miles from shore may be attacked.

The Reagan Administration, operating under a secret plan code named "Prairie Fire," is prepared to conduct more extensive strikes against Libya if U.S. servicemen are killed during the current maneuvers, officials said. The plan was adopted during a March 14 meeting at which senior Administration officials spoke of hitting hard at the Libyan military, according to informed sources.

(George Wilson & Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A1)

### **2 More Libyan Vessels Sunk And Base Hit Again, U.S. Says, Vowing To Keep Up Patrols**

United States naval forces launched additional attacks against a Libyan missile site and patrol vessels overnight and today, the Reagan Administration said today.

American officials said the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea had destroyed two Libyan patrol boats in the Gulf of Sidra in attacks Monday evening and this morning and had attacked a missile site on the Coast Monday evening.

(Bernard Weintraub, New York Times, A1)

### **Qaddafi Seeks Arab Backing For "Holy War"**

Col. Qaddafi moved rapidly yesterday to galvanize Arab opinion, putting calls through to friendly leaders, protesting to the United Nations and vowing, through his spokesmen, to destroy the United States.

(David Adamson, Washington Times, A1)

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## U.S. DECIDED TO GIVE LIBYA FIRM MESSAGE

In the middle of July last year, then-national security affairs adviser Robert McFarlane opened a meeting on Libya with President Reagan and top Administration foreign policy advisers by saying that Muammar Qaddafi threatened U.S. interests, that diplomatic pressure and economic sanctions had failed to curtail his terrorism, and that much stronger measures should be undertaken to thwart the Libyan leader.

After McFarlane's presentation, something happened that has been rare in the Reagan Administration on foreign policy issues. Everyone agreed. The door was considered open for new ideas on how to deal with Qaddafi. There was even serious consideration of a preemptive military strike against Libya in concert with U.S. allies in the Middle East, according to well-placed sources, but Reagan never agreed to such actions.

(Bob Woodward, Washington Post, A1)

## FEAR OF ATTACK ON DIPLOMATS LED TO GULF ACTION, PAPER SAYS

President Reagan approved the military engagement with Libya after intelligence reports indicated Tripoli was trying to pinpoint American diplomats for terrorist attacks, the New York Times, reported today.

The paper quoted unnamed White House officials as saying possible terrorist activity was one of the reasons behind Reagan's giving the go-ahead for the U.S. Navy maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra. (Reuter)

## Reagan Based Mission Approval On Reports Of Danger To Envoys

The reports from intelligence sources in the Middle East and southern Europe were cited by key White House officials as a reason Mr. Reagan approved the American naval maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra.

The President took this action, officials said, because he and his top aides felt that Col. Qaddafi was not getting the message that the Reagan Administration would not tolerate terrorist attacks and that the only way he would was through a demonstration of toughness by Mr. Reagan.

(Gerald Boyd, New York Times, A1)

## QADDAFI TAKES MILITANT TONE ON CRISIS IN GULF OF SIDRA

TRIPOLI, Libya -- Muammar Qaddafi today spoke of his increasingly violent confrontation with the United States in the Gulf of Sidra as a matter of "war."

"If they [the United States] want to expand the struggle, we will carry it all over the world," Qaddafi warned. But the conditional language he used, putting the the burden of escalation onto the Reagan Administration, suggested that Qaddafi may still be holding back any precipitous action -- at least with conventional forces.

(Christopher Dickey, Washington Post, A1)

## TERRORIST REPRISALS BY LIBYANS LIKELIEST OVERSEAS, EXPERTS SAY

The Reagan Administration, anticipating possible Libyan reprisals fine-tuned security precautions at home and abroad yesterday. But U.S. officials and terrorism experts said any Libyan moves are not likely for two or three months and almost certainly would be directed against American targets overseas.

State Department officials said U.S. embassies and other outposts were warned last Friday that security threats could arise from the U.S.-Libyan confrontation in the Gulf of Sidra.

(John Goshko, Washington Post, A22)

### Americans Vulnerable To Libyan Terror, Expert Concedes

Americans probably can't prevent attacks directed by Libyan dictator Col. Qaddafi, who has promised to export terrorism to "the heart of America," security experts said yesterday.

(Mark Tapscott, Washington Times, A8)

### U.S. Threat Seeks To Shield Citizens

The State Department warned Libya yesterday that it would be held accountable if any harm came to Americans, and other officials stressed privately that host countries in the Arab world and elsewhere are responsible for the safety of their foreign residents.

(Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A8)

## LAWMAKERS SUPPORTIVE, BUT URGE CONSULTATIONS

President Reagan drew support yesterday for his tough military response to Qaddafi as lawmakers urged close consultations on the crisis but generally avoided pressing the White House to invoke the War Powers Resolution.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A23)

## U.S. OFFICIALS UNSURE ACTIONS WILL DETER TERRORISM

This week's U.S. military confrontation with Libya accomplished the limited goal of demonstrating that President Reagan will deal firmly with Qaddafi, Administration officials contended yesterday, but they expressed doubt about whether it will deter Qaddafi from sponsoring international terrorism.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A25)

## SOVIETS ACCUSE U.S. OF UNDERMINING "SPIRIT OF GENEVA" SUMMIT

MOSCOW -- The Soviet Union today strongly condemned the United States for deliberately provoking a military confrontation with Libya and said the actions of the U.S. 6th Sixth Fleet had helped "poison the atmosphere" created at the summit in Geneva last November.

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A23)

### POLL: 67% BACK REAGAN'S ACTION

We back the decision to retaliate against Libyan attacks in the Gulf of Sidra, but more than 76 percent of us think it will mean increased Libyan terrorism against USA citizens around the world, an overnight USA TODAY poll shows.

And 54 percent of us believe USA vessels were in the gulf on maneuvers, as the White House said, and were not there to provoke Libya.  
(Tony Casale & Amy Eisman, USA Today, A1)

### PRIDE AND WORRY EVIDENT IN AMERICANS' COMMENTS

Americans yesterday applauded President Reagan's decision to challenge Muammar Qaddafi's "line of death" in the Gulf of Sidra or worried about its consequences -- or both.

(James Munoz & Gail Randall, Washington Post, A23)

### U.S. ACTION DRAWS ARAB CRITICISM, EUROPEAN SUPPORT

Several Arab states yesterday condemned the United States in its military confrontation with Libya, and militant allies such as Syria and Iran expressed full solidarity with the regime of Col. Qaddafi.

Israel and other governments closely allied to the Reagan Administration, including Britain and West Germany, expressed support for the United States, but several other European countries responded cautiously, with some, such as Italy and Greece, criticizing Washington.

(Richard Homan, Washington Post, A23)

### Western Allies Back U.S. In Libya Showdown

West European nations backed President Reagan's use of naval power to assert the right of passage in international waters yesterday, the Arab world predictably sided with Libya, and the Soviet Union linked clashes in the Gulf of Sidra with American "designs" on Central America.

(Washington Times, A9)

### INCURSION CUTS OPPOSITION ON AID TO CONTRAS

Democratic congressmen, increasingly hawkish in the wake of growing global tensions, yesterday softened their opposition to aiding the Nicaraguan resistance and lauded swift retaliation against Libyan leader Col. Qaddafi.

The stern mood in Congress followed the news that Sandinista forces had invaded neighboring Honduras in pursuit of rebel forces, and as lawmakers' anger grew over Libyan attacks on U.S. fighter planes in the Gulf of Sidra.  
(Christopher Simpson, Washington Post, A1)



## RUMORS AND BANNERS STIR ANTI-U.S. FERVOR

TRIPOLI, Libya -- The Libyan people were being whipped into a war fever yesterday with massive anti-American demonstrations in this capitol city.  
(A.J. McIlroy, Washington Times, A9)

## \$20 MILLION U.S. AID GIVEN TO HONDURAS

President Reagan provided \$20 million in emergency military assistance to Honduras yesterday to help repel what Administration officials said were attacks across the border by 1,500 Nicaraguan troops aimed at destroying a training center for anti-Sandinista rebels.

The Sandinista attack was viewed by White House officials as bolstering political support for the aid request, which was rejected by the House last week but is expected to pass the Senate with some conditions attached. The attack was viewed with consternation and anger by House Democratic leaders who had opposed the aid request.

(Lou Cannon & Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

### Honduras: Reagan Sends \$20M To Help

Senate debate opens today on President Reagan's \$100 aid for Nicaraguan "contras" rebels, one day after the USA charged the Sandinistas with crossing into Honduras.

All day Tuesday, the USA, Honduras and Nicaragua accused each other of lying about the incident, reported as 1,500 Sandinistas chasing contras 9 miles into Honduras Sunday.

In Washington, Reagan freed \$20 million in emergency funds and ordered USA helicopters -- in Honduras on training -- to help repel "this and future Sandinista attacks."  
(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A1)

## HONDURAS BACKS U.S. REPORTS OF NICARAGUAN INCURSION

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- The Honduran government today backed up official U.S. reports that Nicaraguan troops had entered Honduran territory Saturday, but well-placed sources said fighting between the Nicaraguans and anti-Sandinista rebels was dying down.

Numerous questions remained unanswered regarding events on the border, and the Honduran government clearly was embarrassed by Washington's efforts to call attention to the reported incursion.

(Robert McCartney, Washington Post, A1)

## SANDINISTAS REMAIN IN HONDURAS UNDER FIRE

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- More than 1,500 Nicaraguan soldiers who pursued U.S.-backed Contra rebels into Honduras are trying to fight their way out again, but are meeting fierce rebel resistance, military intelligence sources said.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy told the Associated Press late Tuesday: "The anti-Sandinistas performed effeciently...and they continue doing so after killing in combat more than 100 soldiers of the regular Nicaraguan army, which is now receding."  
(Freddy Cuevas, AP)

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### U.S. TROOPS IN HONDURAS REPORTEDLY ORDERED TO STAY OUT OF FIRING

U.S. helicopters were ordered to help Honduran forces in the face of a reported Nicaraguan incursion but the 2,900 American troops in Honduras have been told to stay away from the firing line, Administration officials said.

"We have instructed U.S. commanders that U.S. personnel are not to be introduced into combat situations," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Tuesday. (Bryan Brumley, AP)

### SANDINISTAS TRYING TO RETREAT FROM HONDURAS

Fighting raged for a fourth day in Honduras yesterday with one invading Nicaraguan battalion trapped by anti-communist rebels and another retreating under an umbrella of helicopter gunships, rockets and artillery fire. (Roger Fontaine, Washington Times, A1)

### CONTRA AID PROPOSAL ADVANCES IN SENATE

Senate Republicans, bolstered by Administration reports of a Nicaraguan incursion into Honduras, moved closer yesterday to winning enough swing votes to claim a bipartisan mandate for President Reagan's request for \$100 million in U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan insurgents, or contras.

In both the Senate and the House, Democrats opposing aid to the contras and those advocating tighter congressional controls over any such assistance expressed anger with the reported invasion.

(Milton Coleman, Washington Post, A12)

### House Reassessing Contra Vote

Just days after House Majority Whip Thomas Foley helped Democrats close President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan resistance, his resolve appeared to change.

(Isaiah Poole, Washington Times, A10)

### IN POLL, PUBLIC APPROVES DENIAL OF CONTRA AID

By nearly 2 to 1, the American people support the vote in the House last week to deny \$100 million in military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News public opinion poll.

Interviews with 1,147 people through Monday night showed 60 percent approving of the House vote, 35 percent disapproving, and 5 percent offering no opinion. (Barry Sussman, Washington Post, A12)

### SOVIETS' STRENGTH ANALYZED

The Soviet Union, while continuing to develop more lethal nuclear missiles, has embarked on a massive program to protect its land-based arsenal while attaining parity with the United States in the development of cruise missiles, the Defense Department said yesterday.

Those and other conclusions were outlined in a new booklet, "Soviet Military Power," released by Secretary Weinberger.

(Norman Black, Washington Post, A6)

### Soviet Technology Speedup Detailed In Pentagon Report

U.S. intelligence projects that a Soviet speed up of nuclear modernization, which became apparent to the U.S. military in the last year, will result in replacement of most of the Soviet land-based ICBM force over the next decade, the Pentagon reported yesterday. Such a move may possibly violate arms control agreements, the report said.

(Walter Andrews, Washington Times, A3)

### SDI TESTING IS REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF TREATY TERMS

The Defense Department is reviewing the test program of the President's SDI to see what cost advantages and other benefits might result from a less restrictive reading of the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty, according to testimony before a Senate subcommittee yesterday.

President Reagan determined that the Defense Department view represented the legal situation but that the Administration would continue to follow the traditional, more restrictive interpretation pressed by the State Department.

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A6)

### Perle Urges SDI Before New Treaty

The United States should deploy an anti-missile system without renegotiating a treaty with the Soviet Union limiting such defenses, a Defense Department official told Congress yesterday.

The advice was given by Richard Perle to the Senate Armed Services Committee's strategic nuclear forces subcommittee.

(AP story, Washington Times, A5)

### ANGOLAN REBEL ATTACK DENIED AT U.S. OIL SITE

LISBON -- Angolan rebels said today they attacked key installations at a joint U.S.-Angolan oil complex, inflicting heavy damage on the main support of the country's war-shattered economy. But a U.S. oil company official in Angola denied the claim. (Peter Wise, Washington Post, A27)

### Rebels Claim Hits On Oil Base And Pipeline

Angolan rebels shelled a major U.S. oil company complex and dynamited portions of an oil pipeline, a guerrilla spokesman said yesterday. But a spokesman for the company denied the base camp was attacked. (Holger Jensen & James Morrison, Washington Times, A6)

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

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### **CONSUMER PRICES FALL 0.4%, BIGGEST DROP IN 32 YEARS**

Consumer prices dropped 0.4 percent in February, the steepest monthly decline in 32 years, because of falling gasoline and food prices, the Labor Department reported yesterday.

Larry Speakes said that the CPI report, coupled with the 0.6 percent increase in Americans' personal income in February, "means that real income for the average American rose by a full percentage point last month. All of this can be translated into a very simple message: Americans are making more money, and with inflation virtually nonexistent, they can buy even more goods and services with it."

(Jane Seaberry, Washington Post, A1)

### Inflation Deflated: Our Costs Dip 0.4%

It's getting cheaper to live as prices of food, housing, clothing, energy and transportation tumble.

"Inflation has temporarily disappeared," said economist Nigel Gault at Data Resources Inc. in Lexington Mass.

(Constance Mitchell, USA Today, A1)

### **BALANCED-BUDGET AMENDMENT FAILS**

The Republican-controlled Senate, brushing aside last-minute appeals from President Reagan, reversed itself yesterday and refused by one vote to approve a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget.

Reagan, who has listed the amendment among his top legislative priorities, made a number of phone calls to wavering senators over the last few days, but there was disagreement among the amendment's supporters about the intensity and effectiveness of his effort.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A4)

### Balanced Budget Move Fails In Senate By 1 Vote

The Senate by a one-vote margin yesterday torpedoed a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget -- apparently killing the measure until after the 1986 elections.

(Willis Witter, Washington Times, A2)

-end of A-Section-

## *NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY*

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### U.S./LIBYAN ALTERCATION

CBS's Dan Rather: U.S. forces are in action tonight on two widely separated fronts. In and around the Gulf of Sidra, U.S. Navy jets again have blasted Libyan ships and a missile radar base. In Central America, the U.S. Army has been ordered to ferry Honduran troops to fight what President Reagan's aides say is a major Sandinista armed thrust into Honduras. (ALL NETS LEAD)

CBS's David Martin reports that the U.S. Sixth Fleet was on battle alert today on the Coast of Libya, threatening to shoot down anything that crossed its path.

(McDonnell-Douglas/CBS file film of airplanes.)

Even the news plane which took these pictures was intercepted and told to turn back. At dawn, a Navy jet fired harpoon missiles at a Libyan patrol boat, which came too close to the fleet. It was the fourth Libyan naval vessel attack.

(Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims: "Liferafts were seen in Libyan helicopter rescue operations.")

Last night, another high-tech missile called the HARM was launched against the Libyan anti-aircraft site at Sirte, homing in on the radar signal emitted by the missile battery. It was the second attempt to silence the battery, which earlier had fired at least six missiles at U.S. aircraft.

(Secretary Weinberger: "It destroyed the radar; they'd obviously managed to replace the radar, and they obviously will continue to try to get that back up again.")

Pentagon officials say that to destroy the missiles themselves, the Navy pilots will have to drop cluster bombs, exposing themselves to greater danger than using the long-range missiles, which so far had kept the American casualty count at zero. Kaddafi has vowed to destroy the three aircraft carriers off his coast, but the real worry is that he will retaliate with terrorist attacks against Americans.

(Secretary Shultz: "The Libyan government has made so many statements of threats against the U.S., and we have to take steps to deal with it, which we are doing.")

Today, when Shultz left Turkey for Greece, Turkish jets escorted his plane, at the request of the American government. In Washington, bodyguards were assigned to top Navy officials, and in Europe, military bases were ordered to tighten security. The thought of war continues to surround many of the events in the Gulf of Sidra. There is confusion over exactly over how many missiles the Libyans have fired over American planes, and over how great a threat the Libyan patrol boats pose to the American fleet.

Rather: Libyans today called for a gihad, or Muslim holy war against the U.S. In Tripoli, Libyans are also calling for Americans in the Middle East to be executed.

CBS's Doug Tunnell reports from Tripoli that Kaddafi visited a trade fair in Tripoli and spoke with American reporters. Young Libyans demonstrating have been told that Libya fired only in self-defense.

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Tunnell continues:

(TV: Young Libyans chanting anti-American epithets.)

They believe Libya did not start the conflict, and they say it is far from over.

(Tunnell: "Will there be a war?")

Libyans: "Of course, of course! Yes! We shall fight!")

Libyan radio recorded today that the nation's missile batteries are operational and intact, despite the American attacks. The reports do not address the question of casualties. Kaddafi, too, stayed away from battlefield details. He has told his people that the great battle has begun. And tonight that seemed enough for them.

Rather: President Reagan knew what he wanted to achieve, and apparently succeeded.

CBS's Bill Plante: U.S. military power in the Gulf of Sidra has accomplished a key goal of the Reagan Administration: Retaliation against Kaddafi for what it believes is his part in the terrorist massacres carried out just after Christmas at the Rome and Vienna airports. Officials insist publicly there was no intent to provoke or punish. But many analysts believe otherwise.

(State Department spokesman Charles Redman: "Our military response resulted from the unjustified, hostile actions against our forces. Nothing more than that.")

(CBS Mideast analyst: "We knew that Kaddafi would respond; he has responded, and now we have punished him.")

Members of Congress, briefed on the operation today behind closed doors, were generally supportive.

(Sen. Dole: "We have been threatened and bullied and all kinds of Libyan threats and terrorism -- my view is we've reached the point where we needed some response.")

Some lawmakers believed they should've been notified under the War Powers Act, which says the President must tell Congress within 48 hours when U.S. troops are put in danger of hostile fire.

(Rep. Fiascall: "The War Powers Act was simply designed to do its best to bring the Congress and President together in those situations where we might get in trouble.")

But the White House Chief of Staff signaled the Administration does not plan to comply.

(Mr. Regan: "We got fired on. We answered fire with fire. That is normal procedure; that has nothing to do with the War Powers Act.")

The Administration is taking the position that the War Powers Act specifically refers to U.S. troops in a foreign country, and their point is precisely that U.S. forces are in international forces and air space. "We've made our point," said one official. "The question now is what will Kaddafi do to save his manhood?"

Rather: Secretary Weinberger is with us live at the Pentagon. Mr. Secretary, let's say that tomorrow there are terrorist acts that we blame on Kaddafi. What lesson do you think that we will have taught Kaddafi today if that happens?

Weinberger: "I don't discuss hypothetical events or possibilities. I think what we have done was simply to do what we've said we would do all along. It was part of all the interpretations that various analysts and others are putting on it."

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Weinberger continues:

We have the right to be in international waters; we demonstrate that all over the world many times a year. We've done it in the Gulf of Sidra many times before, and we're doing it again. And we were fired upon; hostile acts were committed against us, and we've responded appropriately and in kind. And we are continuing to exercise our rights in the Gulf of Sidra, and we'll do so until the exercise is completed in the decision of the fleet commander. So it is a very simple situation, and if terrorist acts are committed, we will have to deal with those at an appropriate way when and if they're committed."

Rather: At this time tomorrow night, are we going to be talking about -- in your judgement on the basis of what you know -- more combat action, in and around the coast of Libya?

Weinberger: "I haven't any idea. We are going to continue to have the fleet exercise in those waters. And if we're fired on again, or if hostile acts are committed or hostile intent is demonstrated, then we will have to take action to preserve and protect the fleet, and the men in it. But we have every right to be there, and we're going to continue to exercise that right. And I hope there's no more challenge to it in the way that has been illegally and in an unprovoked manner, taken yesterday."

Rather: Exactly how many shots have been fired -- at whom; how many missiles have been fired at us -- and, what was the threat from those Libyan boats?

Weinberger: The shots that we know of and have confirmed are six of the missile shots from the SA-5s. Possibly one or two more from the SA-2s or 3s, but again, the reporting is a little confused -- understandably so. The gunboats -- the guided missile patrol craft, which are very fast, and have a long range -- were approaching the fleet, after other units of the Libyan government had fired at us. And when they're approaching the fleet after firing or you, we don't require that our men wait to be shot at or killed before we respond. And so we thought that hostile acts had been committed, and the hostile intent demonstrated, and in accordance with the instructions that he has, and operated under, the fleet commander took action, took very effective action, I'm happy to say."

Rather: Any indication that any Soviets have been hurt or killed in this action?

Weinberger: "No, we have none of that whatever." (CBS-Lead)

NBC's Fred Francis: The Sixth Fleet went on the attack today, tightening its control on the Gulf of Sidra, using high-tech missiles and a blanket of electronic jamming. Pentagon reports of more Libyan missile launches today were unfounded. None were fired. However, the cruiser Yorktown intercepted a Libyan patrol boat just after midnight. The Yorktown's captain believed the Libyan craft was headed for an aircraft carrier and destroyed it with two missiles.

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Francis continues:

American attack aircraft hit a Libyan missile site a second time. Another Libyan patrol boat, heavily armed with missiles, was intercepted just after daybreak by planes from the Coral Sea and the Saratoga.

(Pentagon's Robert Sims: "Damage to that was considerable. The boat was dead in the water and on fire.")

According to analyst Helmut Sonnenfeldt, the Soviets are holding Kaddafi back. But Soviet influence did not stop the commander of the Libyan air force from sending this Telex to the commander of the Sixth fleet Admiral Kelso:

TELEX: "Unless the aggressive acts are stopped, we are bound to destroy your carrier. In doing that, we will have the political and military support of the World states.

Best Regards,

Commander-In-Chief,

The Libyan Arab Air Force"

Late word from here tonight is that is a signal to Kaddafi is that if he acts responsibly, the fleet is ready to go home.

Brokaw: At the White House, the President's advisers are also feeling that they have the upper hand in this situation now.

NBC's Chris Wallace: The President stayed behind the scenes for the second day in a row. But some of the President's men were starting to declare victory. With no Libyan missiles fired on U.S. ships or planes for more than 24 hours, Administration officials began turning up the rhetoric.

(Vice President: "What the Sixth Fleet does is not going to be determined by Muommar Kaddafi.")

(Secretary Shultz: "The purpose is not to put Kaddafi in his box -- but that is where he belongs!")

Officials are now crowing about a long Administration effort to challenge Kaddafi. Saying that after the terrorist attacks last year in Rome and Vienna, the President approved a plan to get tough with Libya, and the plan is working. After talking to the Soviets, they are also confident that there won't be a Superpower conflict. Tonight, Soviet TV accused the U.S. of state terrorism, but played down the story. There is another reason for Administration smiles: the praise of long-time liberal critics.

(Rep. Mikulski: "This is not a time to second-guess the President or engage in armchair analysis.")

(Speaker O'Neill: "Our Administration is doing the right thing. When we're being shot at, we should respond.")

Almost the only criticism from Dante Fascall, head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who said that under the War Powers Act, the President should have warned Congress of a possible conflict. But the White House said it was an unprovoked attack in international water, and ruled out a formal report.

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Wallace continues:

(Regan: "We got fired on. We answered fire with fire. That is normal procedure; that has nothing to do with the War Powers Act.") For all the tough talk about Kaddafi, though, no one is letting down. Security for George Shultz on a trip to Turkey was extraordinary. When Shultz flew to Athens, his plane was protected by four jet fighters. And Navy Secretary Lehman and Chief of Naval Operations Watkins have now been assigned bodyguards. Those precautions indicate the special nature of this conflict. Because as well as this Mediterranean showdown has gone for the U.S., no one here thinks their troubles with Kaddafi are over.

Brokaw: In Libya tonight, it is also quiet, but today there were demonstrations of support for Kaddafi against the U.S.

NBC's Bonnie Anderson reports thousands of Libyans today hailed Kaddafi as a hero, a man brave enough to challenge the U.S. and to fight for his beliefs. Kaddafi said it is too late for negotiations with Washington.

(Kaddafi: "This is a time of war! A time of confrontation! We have decided that the Gulf of Sidra is ours; we've decided this by our sacrifices by blood!")

Reporter: What about the Americans who are living here in Libya?

(Kaddafi: "They are our guests. We are a civilized people.")

There are between 800 and 1,200 U.S. citizens still here, despite President Reagan's Executive Order last January that all Americans should leave. Speaking for Kaddafi, Libyan radio launched even stronger attacks today, calling on Arab revolutionaries to destroy all American embassies, institutions and bases in the region. The broadcast also urged Arab countries to execute U.S. citizens it claims are spies posing as consultants.

(TV: Young Libyans engaged in anti-American protest.)

More than 2,000 people vowed to join suicide squads to fight what they called the arrogant American government. (NBC-Lead)

ABC's Steve Sheperd reports that today the Pentagon announced that the surface Navy had joined the battle. Kaddafi is still making threats. In a Telex, the commander of the Libyan air force has warned the commander of the Sixth Fleet that unless the attacks are stopped, they are bound to destroy the American carriers.

ABC's Charles Glass reports Kaddafi has been milking this for domestic consumption as much as he possibly can. He is using it to whip up local support for him, at a time when his popularity might have been sagging. (ABC-Lead)

## FOREIGN REACTION

Rather: The Kremlin charged today that the Gulf of Sidra confrontation was just what Washington wanted. A spokesman charged that for months the U.S. "has been deliberately provoking Libya, in order to find a pretext for military conflict." Israel had prompt praise. Prime Minister Peres said, "I think it's an important act against international terror, and against the most irresponsible government today in the region."

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CBS's Steve Croft reports that while not all U.S. allies lined up in support, there was little booing from the sidelines, and some popular glee that Kaddafi's nose had finally been bloodied. In Britain's Parliament, opposition leader Neal Kinnock questioned U.S. judgement and called the move destabilizing. Prime Minister Thatcher came to President Reagan's defense. West Germany joined Great Britain in support. But the closer you move to the Mediterranean, the cooler the response. France, Spain, Greece and Italy all expressed grave concern for stability in the region, and appealed for moderation on both sides. Italy, the closest to Libya, was the most nervous. The Europeans have long considered the U.S.-Libyan confrontation inevitable. Now that it's finally taken place, they would like to see it over with as quickly as possible, with no further escalation. (CBS-2)

Brokaw reports that around the world today, there was very little praise, a lot of protest, and a warning of new terrorist attacks because of the American military stand in the Gulf of Sidra. Most of the condemnation came from the Arab block, which called for the protection of Libya's territorial integrity. The only real praise for the U.S. came from Israel, which called Libya the arrowhead of international terrorism. America's Western allies -- for the most part -- just expressed concern over any escalation. (NBC-2; ABC-3)

#### THE VIEW FROM HOME

Rather: It has been our history that when any U.S. President orders American military forces into action abroad, the American people close ranks and support him, at least in the short run.

CBS's Bob Faw reports many Americans seem to be saying today that Kaddafi had been getting away with murder, and we've been patient long enough. The sentiment swept across the country. (Lady: "I'm really proud of what our country is doing today. To me, this is long overdue.")

According to a recent Lou Harris poll says that while most Americans dislike Kaddafi ... nearly six in ten do not want war with Libya. Some Americans were complaining. So while there is pride over what happened, there is also concern. (CBS-7)

#### HONDURAS

Rather: U.S. forces are closer to action tonight, too, in Central America. U.S. military pilots reportedly have new orders to help ferry Honduran troops to the front. The officially stated reason: to repel an alleged large Nicaraguan force that crossed the border into Honduras. While Honduran officials publicly give the impression that they see the Sandinista action as not very much of a threat, it prompted President Reagan to give the Hondurans millions of new dollars in immediate military aid, plus ordering the U.S. Army ferrying service. In the backdrop of all this, President Reagan pushed the U.S. Congress to give millions more in direct aid to the contras, fighting Nicaragua's government.

CBS's Phil Jones reports Reagan Administration officials, embroiled in their own Capitol Hill battle for aid to the contras, wasted no time in exploiting the alleged Sandinista incursion of Honduras.

(Vice President Bush: "It certainly makes very clear what we have been saying about Daniel Ortega and the Sandinistas, and I think the whole world will see it much more clearly now.")

The Administration claims that the recent massing of Sandinistas along the Honduran border have turned into an all-out invasion by about 1,500 Sandinistas. This activity is allegedly occurring where contra training camps are located. And there were suggestions by the Administration that some Sandinistas may be trapped, and the another 3,000 Nicaraguans may soon launch a reinforcement attack. But in New York, the Nicaraguan ambassador claimed there had been no invasion.

(Nicaraguan U.N. Ambassador Nora Astorga: "Let me just deny it very strongly -- that we have had any type of aggression on the Honduran territory or that we are in the Honduran territory.")

The Honduran government asked the U.S. for \$20 million in emergency aid. It was given, and there was nothing but bipartisan congressional support of the President, and condemnation of Nicaragua's action.

(Rep. Foley: "It could backfire. Obviously, the Sandinista government is one that has become famous for its ability to turn public opinion in international opinion against it at critical moments.")

(Rep. Strang: "Ortega again came to our rescue. He invaded his neighbors!")

This has been a rare day for the Administration, with support for both its Nicaraguan and Libyan policies. However, a few senators are skeptical. They wonder if the showdown with Libya was planned to help get aid for the contras. But for now, there is no proof of this, and it would appear that this hard line will in fact help the Administration get what it wants.

Rather: CBS News reporter Richard Schlessinger, do the Hondurans believe that there's been a major military thrust into their territory or not?

Schlessinger: Publicly, the Hondurans say that this incursion is a serious threat to their sovereignty. But off the record, they tend to discount the severity of it.

Rather: Well, if the Honduran government doesn't think this is a big deal, do they go as far as to say the Reagan Administration is exaggerating the whole thing, in hopes of getting contra support?

Schlessinger: Off the record, they call it a propaganda ploy. Another source said that this was all part of President Reagan's attempt to sell the \$100 million contra aid package. (CBS-3)

NBC's Andrea Mitchell reports that American intelligence says 1,500 Nicaraguan troops attacked a contra training camp nine miles inside Honduras, trying to wipe out rebel bases and medical facilities. Administration officials say the contras fought back; that one battalion of Nicaraguans tried to retreat to the border and was trapped by contra forces.

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Mitchell continues:

(Redman: "The Sandinistas supplied their units inside Honduras with heavy artillery fire, volleys of rocket fire from Soviet-made BM-21 multiple rocket launchers, and MI-8 gunships.")

Against that firepower, the President is sending air defense weapons, ammunition for M-16 rifles, anti-tank weapons, artilleries, spare parts, American trainers, and a helicopter airlift piloted by Americans to move Honduran troops to the front. All this requested in phone calls by Honduran President Escona to National Security Adviser Poindexter last night. General John Galvin, American commander for Central America, has been sent to decide what else is needed, under orders to keep American soldiers out of combat zones. On the attack politically, the Administration seized on the fighting to make its case for military aid to the contras.

(Vice President: "It certainly makes very clear what we have been saying about Daniel Ortega and the Sandinistas.")

On aid to Honduras, House Democrats are supporting the President, saying it is not the same as aid to the contras.

(Rep. Wright: "This week, we're speaking of something entirely different.")

But Republicans are already blaming them for Nicaragua's attack.

(Rep. Gingrich: "Last week, this House sent a signal of uncertainty to Central America. The Nicaraguan communists are now sending a clear signal to the United States.")

Whatever the reasons for the fighting, Administration officials are crowing, claiming it helped them make their case against Nicaragua on Capitol Hill. (NBC-3)

ABC's Peter Collins reports that according to U.S. intelligence sources, the contras have been fighting the Sandinistas for four days, and are whipping them badly. The two units are reported trapped, and breaking up in panic. But Honduras apparently fears Nicaragua may send more troops across its border. U.S. analysts believe the Sandinistas made two tremendous mistakes: First, they apparently believed President Reagan would eventually win his battle in Congress to give the contras military aid. And so, they tried to destroy the contras before the help arrived. By not waiting until a crucial House vote next month, they have helped the President make his case. And second, they made the military mistake of not committing enough force to do the job against the contras. (ABC-4)

ABC's Sam Donaldson: For the second day in a row, Press Secretary Larry Speakes came to the White House briefing room to announce a U.S. response to aggression. President Reagan has notified Congress that he is making available up to \$20 million in emergency military assistance to Honduras. Vice President Bush explained the decision this way:

(Vice President: "The President of Honduras has made a request for certain support for his country. And we will give him that support.")

Honduras wants conventional battlefield arms to include air defense weapons, but in addition, U.S. helicopters -- already in the country -- will be used to airlift Honduran troops into the battle area. If U.S. pilots fly them, White House Chief of Staff Regan says they'll stay away from the actual fighting.

Donaldson continues:

(Regan: "Our equipment would be used. Our pilots would be used, but we would go nowhere near where the invasion of the Nicaraguan troops into Honduras has taken place.")

In the face of invasion charges by U.S. officials, Nicaraguan officials insist it isn't true.

(U.N. Rep. Astorga: "First of all, let me just deny it. Very strongly. This is a clear and transparent attempt on the part of the U.S. Administration to try to secure some funds.")

But on Capitol Hill, Democrats as well as Republicans supported aid to Honduras, and suggested Nicaragua's Ortega had overplayed his hand.

(Rep. Foley: "If Nicaragua persists in attacks on its neighbors, it may spill over into wholesale U.S. support for the contras.")

(Sen. Dole: "I imagine it will come up in the debate. It seems to me that the man shot himself in the foot.")

No one here is quite sure why Nicaragua's Ortega chose this moment to go after the contras. But everyone seems convinced it'll do him more harm than good. Last spring, Ortega's highly-publicized visit to Moscow helped keep the contra program alive. Now, his troops visit to Honduras may have the same effect. (ABC-4)

ABC NEWS POLL

Jennings: The latest ABC News/Washington Post poll, completed yesterday, shows the American people on the whole believe the House of Representatives did the right thing last week when it voted against the military aid for the contras.

POLL ON HOUSE VOTE:

Q: DID THE HOUSE DO THE CORRECT THING	YES: 60 %
IN REJECTING AID TO THE CONTRAS?	NO: 35 %

Margin of error: 3.5 %.

(ABC-5)

NEW PENTAGON REPORT

Jennings: A new warning from the Pentagon today about the growth of Soviet military power. Just one example: the Soviets have reportedly deployed more than 70 intercontinental missiles which are mobile, and can soon field a new one, which can be launched from a railroad car.

(ABC-7)

## PHILIPPINES

Rather: Philippine President Aquino, as expected today, abolished the still-Marcos-dominated National Assembly, and assumed powers almost as sweeping as Marcos had under martial law. Aquino said it was a temporary measure, until a new constitution can be written and ratified. She said that would take about a year.

(CBS-4; NBC-4; ABC-8)

## MARCOS

Jennings: The government of Switzerland has ordered Marcos' assets there to be frozen. The Swiss said they acted after receiving evidence that Marcos intended to pull his funds out of Swiss banks.

(ABC-6; NBC-5; CBS-4)

## CONSUMER PRICES

Rather: Consumer prices went down last month four-tenths of one percent, the biggest monthly drop in more than thirty years. Oil price was the key; gasoline was down six percent, and home heating oil a full ten percent cheaper in February. Food costs were also lower.

(CBS-5; NBC-6; ABC-9)

## COMMENTARY

NBC's John Chancellor: "What's been happening in the Gulf of Sidra is no accident. Both Libya and the U.S. have been moving toward this confrontation for the last few months.... Has any of this hurt Kaddafi? Not so far. Now that his country has been attacked by the U.S. -- and forget that he started it -- ... that makes Kaddafi a hero in a lot of places.... The U.S. has demonstrated its legal right to sail in these waters, but as far as hurting Kaddafi is concerned, it hasn't happened yet."

(NBC-9)

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## EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

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### THE GULF OF SIDRA

At The 'Line Of Death' -- "Going after Col. Qaddafi for a violation of naval innocent passage is like going after Al Capone for income tax evasion. In neither case is the indicated offense the true basis of the accused's menace to society, but the offense offers the forces of law a convenient if artificial method of cutting the offender down to size.... An American president cannot ignore considerations of America pride and global responsibility. Nor can an American president ignore considerations of local passion. What happened in the Gulf of Sidra was an event in a sequence whose next developments are particularly uncertain."

(Washington Post, 3/25)

Sudden U.S.-Libyan Clash Risks Widening Conflict -- "However, merely because national will can be asserted with decisive force may not justify risking hostilities of this kind, which have a nasty way of spinning out of control once initiated. The sudden outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Libya raises the danger of a broader conflict from which it may be difficult for either side to step back. But every effort must be made to avoid further shooting."

(Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/25)

Wilson's Strange Trip To Libya -- "If the administration can't bring itself to give the American people a full accounting of Mr. Wilson's dealings with the Libyans, the Senate or House Foreign Affairs committees should summon him to appear before them and explain his actions. If it is true that his mission was unauthorized, President Reagan should put friendship aside and fire him."

(Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/25)

The Missiles Of Sidra -- "Not all the facts are in, and the first imperative is for the U.S. to disclose them. The heavier burden is on President Reagan. Qaddafi may be a reckless promoter of violence and venom - but Libya is not a nuclear superpower. Both countries may be engaged equally in a test of wills, but Americans should expect the highest standard of responsibility from their Government.... For good reason, the Soviet Union has dealt warily with Qaddafi, resisting his overtures for a friendship pact. It has not supported his claims to the gulf, though it has assailed U.S. naval maneuvers. Nothing would better suit the colonel than to entangle his Russian patrons in his own quarrel with the U.S. At this point it should be the American purpose to keep this conflict within bounds."

(New York Times, 3/25)

Reasoning With Qaddafi -- "Col. Qaddafi is not to be reasoned with, not by Mr. Wilson any more than by the inventor of Billy Beer. Fortunately, Washington has taken the right approach - sending American ships to steam across the 'line of death' that Col. Qaddafi has drawn across international waters in the Gulf of Sidra. As yesterday's action demonstrated anew, Col. Qaddafi reasons a lot better when he's confronting, nor well-meaning ambassadors to Vatican City, but well-armed elements of the Sixth Fleet."

(Washington Times, 3/25)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

THE GULF OF SIDRA (continued)

Snake-handling -- "It is hard to avoid the conclusion that the real purpose was a retaliatory strike for Libyan terrorism.... If our purpose was to retaliate against Libya for terrorism, it served only to demonstrate the ineffectiveness of the military for such purposes. When you taunt a rattlesnake, you must be prepared to chop its head. All we did was to snip off a tiny piece of the tail." (Baltimore Evening Sun, 3/25)

The Point Is Made -- "In those elements of the conflict there appear to be broad issues of international law, of right and wrong, that give support in principle to what the U.S. was affirming and that discredit Khadafy's resort to violence.... The sudden escalation from confrontation to battle underscores the importance of action now to end the hostilities quickly, permanently, lest they spark a broader conflagration. The violence measures the volatility of the Libyan leader. The U.S. can demonstrate, in the way it restores peace, its respect of a world ruled by law."

(Los Angeles Times, 3/25)

SAUDI ARMS SALE

New Saudi Arms Deal A Bad Idea -- "As arms sale proposals go, the Administration's plan to sell \$354 million in missiles to Saudi Arabia is not an outright menace. But it is an ill-conceived and potentially dangerous proposition that ought to be rejected by Congress or withdrawn."

(Milwaukee Journal, 3/24)

ACID RAIN

Clouds Over Acid Rain -- "It is possible that Reagan's accommodations with Mulroney turned on a desire to be done with the highly politicized acid-rain issue. It is clear, though, that acid rain is no simple matter and that much more study needs to be done to fully understand this complex phenomenon. While the Reagan-Mulroney entente may raise hopes, developing new coal technologies or putting scrubbers on Midwestern power-plant stacks isn't likely to much change the environment in the Northeast and Canada."

(Wall Street Journal, 3/25)

NUCLEAR TESTING

Nuclear Testing Continues -- "Give Mikhail S. Gorbachev credit for extracting all the propaganda advantage he can find. But give him credit, too, for doing the right thing in this instance, regardless of motivation.... The Soviets have driven the propaganda ball deeply into the U.S. court, and there's been no sign that we're going to return it. The Reagan Administration has steadfastly opposed the idea of a test ban.... Mr. Reagan does not have much time left in the White House to make a substantial contribution to arms control. His term expires in three years, and much needs to be done if he is to be remembered not only as the president who presided over the biggest arms spending program in peacetime, but also as the leader who brought sanity to the arms race."

(Hartford Courant, 3/25)

## ***FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION***

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### THE GULF OF SIDRA

"There was every sign last night that after years of enduring Libyan-supported terrorist acts the Reagan Administration had gone into the Gulf hoping to tempt a Libyan response, much as it did when it shot down two Libyan jets in 1981.... " (Guardian, Britain)

"The test of force is not only addressed to Qaddafi. The message is also for Nicaragua, even perhaps for Moscow." (Figaro, Italy)

"The SA-5 missiles launched by the Libyans toward the sea, which did not even touch the U.S. planes, were probably a sly move by Qaddafi to save face. By deliberately considering them an act of war, and by initiating a reprisal, the Sixth Fleet commander committed an act whose dangerousness we cannot predict." (Il Messaggero, Italy)

"There is some fear that the President could go too far. Therefore members of Congress ... say President Reagan should invoke the War Powers Act.... President Reagan thus can count on a majority in Congress for this rather aggressive policy, but most members of Congress would like to have a say in the matter." (Le Soir, Belgium)

"The need to put an end to the regimes which support terrorism should not lead to the frightening simplification that to fight against terrorism one must use the same unacceptable moral values which terrorism uses." (ABC, Spain)

"It was noted at once that Weinberger's 'line of argument' closely resembled that used by Washington for inventing the so-called 'Tonkin Incident' as a pretext for launching a dirty war against Vietnam." (Tass, Soviet Union)

"Dictator Qaddafi is playing into the hands of the American cowboy Ronald Reagan. The Americans are trying to provoke Qaddafi into action. The Reagan Administration searched for and came across an excuse to hit 'terror and missile bases' in Libya.... So far, the incident has not mushroomed into a general military confrontation, but things might get out of hand in no time. Qaddafi, in particular when irritated, is an unpredictable individual. The Americans have definitely managed to irritate him." (Hada shot, Israel)

"The attempt to frighten the Arab people will not give military glory to America, now sheltering behind its military and technological arrogance.... Today America will be surprised by complete Arab support for Libya. Why? The dignity of the Arab world is integral and cannot be divided...." (al-Ittihad, Israel)

"Thus, the United States has placed itself above the United Nations, international law and any other considerations that are dictated by international responsibility in order to defuse the situation and avoid a devastating world war.... " (Damascus Radio, Syria)