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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Summer Summit Hopes Rekindled -- President Reagan yesterday received a personal message from Soviet leader Gorbachev, delivered by Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, as Administration officials insisted that a new superpower summit could take place in the United States as early as June or July. (Washington Post, Washington Times, New York Times, AP)

Bush Remarks On Oil Prices Cause His Advisers Concern -- Vice President Bush has produced concern among his advisers and provided ammunition to his political foes by his persistent defense of the U.S. oil industry on a trip to Arab nations that was supposed to focus on regional security issues, Administration and Republican leaders said yesterday. (Washington Post, New York Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

Winds, Not Protesters, Stop Planned U.S. Nuclear Test -- A nuclear weapons test the Administration planned despite protests from the Soviet Union, members of Congress and hordes of demonstrators was postponed yesterday because of the weather, according to government sources. (Washington Post, Washington Times, AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

U.S./U.S.S.R. -- The Soviets said today they do want another summit this year in Washington.

U.S./CHINA -- President Reagan agreed to sell more than a half billion dollars worth of U.S. military electronics to China.

U.S./LIBYA -- Another heavier and more dangerous reprisal attack on Libya is getting more serious consideration and study.

Berry's World



"Sir, we're just going to audit your tax return, not question your PATRIOTISM!"

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SUMMIT PLANS GAIN AFTER LENGTHY DELAY

After months of delay, plans for the next superpower summit appeared to be moving forward yesterday as departing Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin told President Reagan that Moscow is ready to schedule a high-level preparatory meeting next month and assured him the Soviets are not setting conditions for the summit.

Secretary Shultz announced afterward that he would meet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in mid-May to begin what he called "a major push" toward the summit, although a date has not been set.

Reagan's planned 15-minute farewell to Dobrynin stretched into a 75-minute session that Shultz said touched on "all the issues of substance" between Washington and Moscow. Administration officials said the President, while discussing "flashpoints" around the globe, brought up U.S. concern about Libyan sponsorship of terrorism and Soviet military support for the regime of Col. Qaddafi.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

Gorbachev Favors A Summit If Geneva Spirit Is "Revived"

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Gorbachev declared tonight that he wanted to make it "absolutely clear" he favored another summit meeting with President Reagan, and make "no preconditions for it," but he struck a stern note as he laid out the prospects for improving U.S.-Soviet relations.

"To make the matter absolutely clear, I will repeat anew: I stand for holding such a meeting. We make no preconditions for it," Gorbachev said. "But we want to pass it in accordance with what the President and I agreed on, namely, it should step forward, that is, produce practical results toward ending the arms race."

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A19)

Summer Summit Hopes Rekindled

President Reagan yesterday received a personal message from Soviet leader Gorbachev, delivered by Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, as Administration officials insisted that a new superpower summit could take place in the United States as early as June or July.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A1)

President Meets With Soviet Envoy On Summit Plans

President Reagan and Anatoly Dobrynin agreed today to lay the groundwork for a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting in the U.S. this year.

At the same time, Mikhail Gorbachev, in a private letter to President Reagan, expressed strong interest in "proceeding ahead with a dialogue" that could lead to substantive results in arms reduction, according to a ranking Administration official.

(Bernard Weintraub, New York Times, A1)

Despite Hostility, Superpowers Ready To Plan For Summit

The U.S. and the Soviet Union are ready to start planning for a second summit even though the high hopes engendered by the first such meeting have given way to an extended period of mutual recrimination.

(George Gedda, AP)

BUSH REMARKS ON OIL PRICES CAUSE HIS ADVISERS CONCERN

Vice President Bush has produced concern among his advisers and provided ammunition to his political foes by his persistent defense of the U.S. oil industry on a trip to Arab nations that was supposed to focus on regional security issues, Administration and Republican leaders said yesterday.

Bush said he didn't "see any political fallout one way or the other" from his remarks. However, in Michigan yesterday -- site of the first Republican caucus in the nation in 1988 -- an editorial in the Detroit News was headlined "Bush to Michigan: Drop Dead." It called the Vice President "J.R. Bush" and accused him of going on a foreign mission to plead the interests of the domestic oil industry.

(Lou Cannon & Paul Taylor, Washington Post, A1)

Congress Splits Over Remarks By Bush On Oil

Some Republicans in the Senate say Vice President Bush's handling of the issue of oil pricing has created doubts about the Reagan Administration's policy and may have also done some damage to his standing as a Presidential aspirant.

Other members of Congress divided along lines dictated by the interests of their constituents in responding to the weeklong confusion set off by Mr. Bush's appeal for "stability" in oil prices.

(Jonathan Fuerbringer, New York Times, A1)

BUSH SHOWCASES U.S. MILITARY MUSCLE IN GULF REGION

MANAMA, Bahrain -- Vice President Bush planned to dramatise U.S. military commitment to allied Arab oil states today by visiting a U.S. aircraft carrier patrolling nearby Indian Ocean sea lanes.

Bush's first scheduled move after arrival in Oman was a helicopter flight to the 90,000-ton carrier USS Enterprise, the world's largest warship, which has been symbolically flexing U.S. muscle on station in the Indian Ocean near Oman.

(Gene Gibbons, Reuter)

CONTADORA PROCESS HOLDS HOPE, U.S. SAYS

The State Department said yesterday that the collapse of the Contadora talks proves "Nicaragua is the obstacle to achieving a comprehensive regional accord" in Central America.

Spokesman Charles Redman said that the Reagan Administration still supports the Contadora process. Asked if the process is effectively over, he said, "I'm not willing, at least at this point, to bury it."

(Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A9)

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FIGHT OVER AIDING NICARAGUAN REBELS RESUMES IN HOUSE

The Reagan Administration's chief defender of aid to Nicaraguan rebels and House Democrats' chief critics of that policy renewed their disagreements at top volume yesterday as the House began preparing for another vote on the issue.

Elliot Abrams defended the controversial U.S. account of the early hours of the incursion by Nicaraguan troops into Honduras March 22. He said the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua "simply lied about what it had done," while U.S. accounts that 2,400 soldiers had invaded were accurate. (Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A15)

Contra Aid Battle Enters Round Three

The Reagan Administration yesterday blamed the Nicaraguan government for scuttling efforts to reach a negotiated settlement in Central America as round three opened on the President's request for \$100 million in aid to the anti-Sandinista forces.

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

BOMB BLAST FORCES SHIFT OF WEINBERGER BANQUET

BANGKOK -- A time bomb filled with nails exploded today about 20 feet from where Secretary Weinberger was to pass on his way to attend a state banquet, police said. Three Thais were injured in the blast.

Weinberger was in his hotel about a mile away from the scene. No Americans were near the site, the U.S. Embassy said. Security was increased and the banquet, scheduled to begin 90 minutes after the blast, was moved to the Hilton Hotel, where Weinberger was staying.

(UPI story, Washington Post, A18)

Bomb Spoils Weinberger Plans

BANKOK, Thailand -- Secretary Weinberger, who drew cheers on a border tour and protesters in the capital yesterday, had his dinner plans changed by a bomb explosion in a hotel parking lot.

(AP story, Washington Times, A6)

U.S.: BONN GIVEN DATA TO JUSTIFY LIBYAN CURBS

Reagan Administration officials said yesterday that the West German government has been supplied with sufficient information about Libyan involvement in last Sunday's West Berlin discotheque bombing to justify political and economic measures against Libya.

The officials, who asked not to be quoted by name, made the comments following news reports from Bonn that the West German government was unlikely to expel Libyan diplomats or take action against Libya on the basis of information that has been supplied so far.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A18)

U.S. Presses Bonn And Other Allies To Expel Libyans

The U.S. has urged West Germany and some other key allies to expel all or most of Libya's diplomats from their capitals because of evidence linking Libya to the bombing last weekend of a discotheque in West Berlin, Administration officials said today.

They said Washington was supplying Bonn and other European capitals with what one official called "absolutely convincing evidence" linking Libya to the West Berlin bombing, in an effort to produce a concerted European set of moves against Libya. The U.S. is trying to "internationalize" the problem so that it is not seen as a purely Libyan-American confrontation.

(Bernard Gwertzman, New York Times, A1)

LIBYAN DIPLOMAT SUSPECTED IN BOMB ATTACK

BERLIN -- A Libyan diplomat based in this divided city's communist zone is suspected of directing the weekend bomb attack that wrecked a crowded nightclub popular with American soldiers, a West Berlin official said yesterday.

"This report is correct," said the official of the West Berlin Interior Ministry who is close to the investigation. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

(Mark Heinrich, Washington Times, A6)

U.S. INTELLIGENCE SAYS QADDAFI URGING MORE TERRORISM

Col. Qaddafi is quietly encouraging his embassies around the world to guide new terrorist attacks, U.S. intelligence has learned, a senior Reagan Administration official says.

The same official said Tuesday that President Reagan and his top aides, following the latest attacks on Americans in Europe, have agreed that there must be retaliation against Libyans, although the target and timing has yet to be determined.

(Dale Nelson, AP)

STATE DEPARTMENT MOSTLY MUM ON BURT

The State Department has told Congress it does not disagree with the claim of the U.S. ambassador to West Germany that Libya was linked to the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that killed an American GI.

But Rozanna Ridgway declined further comment in testimony Tuesday before a House panel on Ambassador Burt's statement that U.S. intelligence agencies have "very clear indications that there was Libyan involvement" in the bombing.

(Leon Daniel, UPI)

56 LIBYANS REPORTED DEAD IN GULF OF SIDRA FIGHTING

CAIRO -- The commander-in-chief of the Libyan armed forces told an Egyptian party leader that 56 Libyans were killed in last month's clashes with the U.S. 6th Fleet, the Egyptian weekly newspaper Al Shaab reported today.

(Reuter story, Washington Post, A18)

U.S. AMBASSADOR RAPS EUROPEAN ALLIES

NEW YORK -- Ambassador Burt says U.S. allies in Europe are being "overly parochial" on countering terrorism, and that the lack of a common approach on security poses a greater danger.

In a speech Tuesday night, Burt said the West Germans and other U.S. allies "have to do more to provide for their defense" and must resist a tendency to portray the U.S. as "reckless and irresponsible" in dealing with the Soviet Union and its allies on nuclear arms control.

(Barry Schweid, AP)

U.S. TAKING AIM AT BOSSES OF TERROR

Attorney General Meese said yesterday the Administration's highest priority is "going after those who actually control terrorist organizations," as reports continued to circulate that the U.S. would soon strike at Libya.

President Reagan and his advisers were said to unanimously favor retaliation for the latest terror and disagree only on a time and a place to strike back, one senior Administration official told the AP.

(Rita Williams & Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

GRATIFIED BY REAGAN POLICY, ISRAEL LOBBY TO SOFTEN STANCE

Leaders of a pro-Israel lobby say that a less confrontational policy toward the Reagan Administration is in order because of the President's "revolutionary" policy of building support for the Jewish state throughout the U.S. bureaucracy.

"Times have changed, and we must change with them," said Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

(George Archibald, Washington Times, A2)

ARGENTINA, U.S. TO CONDUCT FIRST NAVAL EXERCISES SINCE '82

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina -- The U.S. and Argentina will conduct joint naval exercises later this year -- for the first time since the 1982 Falklands War -- reliable sources told the Washington Post.

Argentina suspended joint exercises for the past four years because of ill feelings aroused by American logistical and material support for Britain during the 74-day war. (Timothy O'Leary, Washington Times, A9)

ISRAELI DIPLOMAT CHIDES HOSTAGES FAMILIES

Israeli U.N. Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu chided families of American hostages in Lebanon, saying their pleas that the White House negotiate the hostages' release was a "breach of civic duty."

"The war against terrorism takes courage. If we want to win, we must be prepared to endure sacrifice, even if we suffer the loss of loved ones," Netanyahu told an American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference Tuesday.

Netanyahu's brother was killed in the 1976 Israeli raid on Entebbe Airport in Uganda when airborne Israeli commandos stormed the airport, killed seven Palestinian hijackers and rescued 103 hostages. His brother led the commando raid.

(Nancie Katz, UPI)

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NATIONAL NEWS

NUCLEAR TEST POSTPONED BY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

A controversial U.S. underground nuclear weapons test scheduled for yesterday was delayed because of technical problems, according to Administration and congressional sources. Department of Energy officials say they expect that the nuclear test will take place today, sources said.

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A19)

Winds, Not Protesters, Stop Planned U.S. Nuclear Test

A nuclear weapons test the Administration planned despite protests from the Soviet Union, members of Congress and hordes of demonstrators was postponed yesterday because of the weather, according to government sources.

(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A3)

89 Arrests In Nevada Demonstrations; Test Delayed

LAS VEGAS, Nev. -- The U.S. delayed a controversial underground nuclear weapons test Tuesday and sources said the postponement was due to technical problems, not to discussions with the Soviets, the weather or protests near the site in which 89 people were arrested. The Department of Energy in Las Vegas refused even to confirm that a test had been scheduled.

(Robert Macy, AP)

FATAL FLAWS IN SHUTTLE PINPOINTED

CAPE CANAVERAL -- For years, NASA officials were "walking right to the edge of a cliff" because they failed to correct flaws in solid-rocket booster joints that led to the fatal space-shuttle explosion Jan. 28, the agency's chief investigator into the disaster said today.

James Thompson, vice chairman of the NASA internal task force formed to investigate the accident, said the group has identified four problems involving the joints and that these combined to trigger the explosion in which seven astronauts were killed.

(Michael Isikoff, Washington Post, A1)

EXCISE-TAX TREATMENT IMPERILS PACKWOOD PLAN

Sen. Packwood's path to lower income taxes, resting largely on an effective increase in excise taxes on just about everything from gasoline to bows and arrows, appears to be leading the Senate's chief tax writer back into the thicket.

More than half the Senate, including some prominent proponents of tax overhaul, have signed letters raising concern that excise tax changes would hurt those least able to pay. Some business and citizens groups that led the fight for tax overhaul in the House are threatening to defect.

(Dale Russakoff & Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A6)

DOLE THREATENS "GO-IT-ALONE" BUDGET

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole warned bluntly yesterday that Congress will "go it alone" in developing a fiscal 1987 budget unless the White House joins in pursuit of a budget compromise.

The White House has condemned the committee proposal and ruled out negotiations on an alternative. Dole, faced with sharp divisions among GOP senators on key budget issues, has been pushing to draw the Administration into talks that might produce a compromise.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A6)

NAVY, WHITE HOUSE ON COLLISION COURSE

The Navy has just launched a recruiting drive touting the "New GI Bill" -- the package of education benefits for servicemen that President Reagan has asked Congress to kill.

"The services have been disloyal on this one," said a White House official, admitting the military has failed to fall in line on the bill.

(George Wilson, Washington Post, A21)

12-DAY AIR FORCE SPREE NETS \$1 BILLION IN PARTS

Air Force buyers, ordered to spend as much money as possible at the end of 1985, bought more than \$1 billion worth of spare parts during the last 12 days of December, according to a congressional investigation. The purchases represented more than a tenfold increase in the normal buying pace.

(Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A21)

REAGAN DOESN'T FACE THE PRESS UNREHEARSED

When President Reagan walks into the elegantly appointed East Room for his 35th press conference tonight, tens of millions of Americans will witness what appears to be a spontaneous performance.

But Mr. Reagan does not approach the podium unprepared for the 30-minute grilling on live TV by 200 reporters. "He doesn't go up there and simply say what comes into his mind," one senior Administration official who helps the President prepare for the evening press conferences.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A2)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Closeness To Reagan Paying Off For Deaver" by George Archibald & Lucy Keyser appears on page A1 of the Washington Times.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, April 8, 1986)

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

CBS's Dan Rather: The United States abruptly postponed an underground nuclear weapons test. It was a test the Russians had threatened might prompt them to resume nuclear testing too. No official reason was given. Unofficially, the Reagan Administration blamed it on the weather. The White House specifically denied that it had anything to do with the fact that President Reagan was in a meeting today trying to improve the climate for a Soviet-U.S. summit.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: To the great relief of the White House and after months of wavering, the Soviets said today they do want another summit this year in Washington. The first steps were taken when the outgoing Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin paid a courtesy call on President Reagan that turned into a miny summit of its own, lasting 75 minutes, an hour more than scheduled. Serious summit planning with no pre-conditions will get under way in mid-May with a visit here by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

(Photo of the President and Dobrynin.)

(Secretary Shultz: "Mr. Dobrynin was at some pains to say we're not setting any pre-conditions, that's a misinterpretation. But both want to see significant results from a meeting. Both want to see it carefully prepared.")

(TV coverage of Shultz in the briefing room.)

A remaining disagreement, the date. The Soviets prefer November, the U.S. July. Soviet leader Gorbachev on television today said he wants to meet Reagan. He said exchanges of handshakes are not enough.

(Georgi Arbatov, Soviet expert on U.S. affairs: "...smiles, etcetera. They part and everything goes as it went. Gorbachev doesn't want such to happen.")

But privately, Soviet officials say a summit without substantive agreements would still allow them to score propaganda points.

(Dimitri Simes, CBS News consultant: "I think that the next summit will provide many new opportunities, but my impression is that the Soviets pretty much have reconciled themselves to the notion that no big things will be accomplished during the next summit.")

White House officials are concerned the Soviets will try to win concessions before agreeing to the President's preference for a summer summit, such as ratification of the nuclear test ban treaty. But overall, officials expressed joy that the high level dialogue with the Soviets has resumed.

CBS's David Martin: Protesters against nuclear testing got their way today, at least temporarily, when an underground nuclear explosion beneath the Nevada desert was postponed. With Washington and Moscow talking summit, today's postponement seemed diplomatically convenient. The White House denied any connection. Conditions appeared calm, but Administration sources said the test was delayed because of bad winds, not because of the protest.... Today, 25 Nobel scientists sent a letter to President Reagan, calling on him to go along with the Soviet moratorium.

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U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

(Glenn Seaborg, nuclear physicist: "We simply must do something towards the cutback of weapons in arms limitation and a comprehensive test ban is the simplest and most effective first step.") But Reagan Administration officials are adamant about the need for more testing.

(Sylvester Foley, retired admiral: "I guess I'm unwilling, in terms of national deterrence, to accept a comprehensive test ban right now with the kind of confidence level that I have in the Soviets. As long you have nuclear weapons, you ought to test.")

Administration officials say the test could take place as soon as tomorrow, weather permitting. At least one other underground explosion is scheduled for this month and arms control experts in and out of the government believe that will give the Soviets an excuse to resume their own testing program and blame it on the U.S.

(CBS-LEAD)

ABC's Peter Jennings: The prospect for a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev got brighter today. After 24 years of service in this country's capital, the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, Anatoly Dobrynin, went to the White House to say good-bye. He went with some encouraging news.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin came to the White House not just to say good-bye, but to get the planning for another U.S.-Soviet summit back on track. In a meeting with President Reagan which went over its 15 minute schedule by a full hour, the major aspects of the superpower relationship were touched on. Dobrynin gave Mr. Reagan a letter from Soviet leader Gorbachev. (Photo of the President and Dobrynin.)

White House officials described the meeting as cordial. Said it advanced things and seemed genuinely pleased by the spirit Dobrynin conveyed. A spirit Secretary Shultz suggested, made summit prospects brighter.... Shultz said he'll meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Washington in mid-May to continue summit planning. He wouldn't disclose what Gorbachev had said on the subject in his letter to the President. Gorbachev himself, while greeting Soviet factory workers, was being publicly cagey. Yes he wants a summit in 1986, but it would be necessary that there be some kind of advance to agree on and not just exchange cordialities he said. And when will the summit be held? President Reagan reiterated to Dobrynin today the U.S. preference for June or July. Sources say Mr. Reagan did not throw in the towel to the Russians who wanted it later. With time running out, not only for making preparations, but for reaching some substantive agreements to be announced, it's looking more and more like a summit this fall - probably November.

ABC's John McWethy reports the Reagan Administration is pushing harder to the Soviets that a proposal for the superpowers to deal with world hot-spots, like Central America.

(TV coverage of the President and Gorbachev.)

In the next two months, an intensive round of U.S.-Soviet expert talks will take place. Reviewing confrontation zones such as the Middle East, Nicaragua, Angola, Vietnam/Cambodia and Afghanistan.

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

U.S. officials say there will be a major push to make them real negotiations to find some common ground for Reagan and Gorbachev to claim as progress when they meet at the next summit. The Trident submarine is creating another issue that could well become a major bone of contention at a summit. There is great pressure from conservatives to junk the Salt II Treaty altogether because of alleged Soviet cheating. Another issue with the Soviets is terrorism.

(Attorney General Edwin Meese: "We know the Soviets among other countries directly and through their Cuban and Libyan proxies - arm, train and plan the work of terrorists.")

State Department officials say increasingly the Soviets are willing to talk about terrorism and that in itself, represents a small bit of progress. What the Kremlin is not willing to do officials claim, is to actually do something about the problem.

Jennings reports the nuclear test in the Nevada desert was cancelled according to the Reagan Administration because of the weather.

ABC's Rick Inderfurth reports that over 200 anti-nuclear demonstrators were on hand at the Nevada nuclear test site to protest today's scheduled test. Over 70 were arrested. Administration officials say the postponement of today's explosion was due to high winds. Those winds were caused by the weather and not superpower politics.

(Charles Redman, State Department spokesman: "Our testing program is established and conducted according to technical considerations. The tests may be delayed due to weather conditions or a variety of technical problems.")

(Sen. Edward Kennedy: "Mr. President, instead of testing more weapons let us test Soviet good faith by resuming negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.")

Administration officials say the U.S. testing program will continue. The Soviet leader is persistent. Today he offered to consider U.S. proposals for onsite inspections of nuclear tests, if President Reagan would agree to begin negotiations to stop all testing. Despite that offer, U.S. officials say today's postponed test may take place as early as tomorrow and will be followed by as many as 14 additional tests this year. (ABC-5)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: ...First, the prospects for a superpower summit meeting. There have been signs that it might not come this summer, but tonight chances that it will seem to be considerably greater. Next, nuclear tests.... A test scheduled by the Reagan Administration today was postponed, but apparently not for political reasons. Winds were too high. That test has been rescheduled for tomorrow....

NBC's Chris Wallace: Dobrynin came to the White House for a farewell session after 24 years in Washington. Once again, he was trying to break the U.S.-Soviet log-jam. In a 75 minute session he delivered a letter from Mikhail Gorbachev, calling for an improvement in relations. Dobrynin took a step in that direction, agreeing to a meeting between Secretary Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Washington next month to prepare for a summit. (Photo of the President and Dobrynin.)

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U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

Shultz said later there is much to prepare with a summit date still undecided.

(Shultz: "Both agree there should be a next meeting. It will be in the United States, having something significant connected with it. Both parties agree on that. Beyond that, there are no particular pre-conditions.")

At a car plant east of Moscow, Gorbachev was not so friendly. He told workers he does want a summit, but there must be progress on arms control. Later, in a speech to the nation, he blasted the Reagan Administration for nuclear testing, attacking Libya and 'Star Wars.' U.S. officials insist the private Soviet tone is much more positive. Still, Administration officials don't know whether they are any closer to a summit.

(Shultz: "We have not set any date, so it's impossible to know whether we are closer or not closer.")

The President is still pushing for June or July. But all of Gorbachev's talk about agreements indicates he still wants to meet in September or even later. Meanwhile, the nuclear test in Nevada was postponed. U.S. officials emphasize the reason was high winds, not the delicacy of U.S.-Soviet relations. In fact, officials say with the Soviets demanding the U.S. stop testing; they wanted to go ahead with today's explosion despite the Dobrynin meeting. A top official tells NBC News the Soviets won't have to wait long. The nuclear test has been rescheduled for tomorrow.

NBC's Richard Valeriani reports in Washington there were verbal protests on Capitol Hill.

(Sen. Howard Metzenbaum: "On this issue the American people truly want a ratification of a nuclear test ban.")

There were also signs of congressional support for nuclear testing.

(Sen. John Warner: "It's in the best interest of the United States strategic program at this time to continue the testing program.")

Knowledgeable critics such as the former director of the Arms Control Agency says that is just a pretext.

(Gerard Smith, former director of the Arms Control Agency: "I think they have an urge to improve weapons, to develop new ones and not least, to develop weapons for the Strategic Defense Initiative.")

(Kenneth Aldeman, director of the Arms Control Agency: "Our view on arms control is that we need deep reductions in nuclear weapons. We need it in such ways to reduce the risk of war. Our idea is that first things come first. That's the first priority.")

The Reagan Administration is the first since the Eisenhower administration not to try to negotiate a ban on nuclear testing. There are no signs that policy will change. (NBC-LEAD)

U.S.-CHINA

Rather reports President Reagan agreed to sell more than half a billion dollars worth of U.S. military electronics to China. It's by far the largest direct government to government U.S.-China deal ever. Congress has 30 days to say no or this deal goes through automatically. (NBC-4, CBS-2)

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TWA FLIGHT 840

Rather reports the woman suspect was aboard the plane on an earlier hop. She was interviewed today by CBS News.

CBS's Doug Tunnell reports from Athens that her choice of the TWA flight from Cairo to Athens was a casual one. Airline employes in Cairo and executives in London dispute that claim. American officials concluded that the bomb was not planted after Mansur got off.

(CBS-3)

U.S.-LIBYA

Rather reports that another heavier and more dangerous reprisaled attack on Libya is getting serious consideration and study.

CBS's Bill Plante: 48 hours after the bombing in West Berlin the Reagan Administration had reached a consensus for military retaliation against Libya. But officials are still trying to decide exactly what to do and when. Sources tell CBS News that the evidence, most of it from communications intercepts, seems to implicate Libya beyond much doubt.

(Attorney General Edwin Meese: "We know who the terrorist organizations are and other governments know who they are. There must be no refuge and no sanctuary for terrorists.")

What are the options? The easy targets are on the coast - the Libyan missile battery already hit by the operation in the Gulf of Sidra, a submarine base, and other port facilities and artillery positions. More risky - terrorist training camps. Military planners say daylight actions inland would probably mean the loss of some pilots and aircraft. The White House believes there is public support as do many in Congress.

(Sen. Robert Dole: "If Khadafy is going to spawn terrorism, tolerate it and export it. Then we should deal with it. The sooner the better.")

The Israeli ambassador to the U.N. urged the U.S. to strike back and pay the price.

(Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli ambassador: "A successful war on terrorism will involve a succession of blows and counter blows.... They must know that we in the West will not sit back and take it.")

Intelligence sources tell CBS News the Libyans are urging their European embassies to undertake new terrorist actions. The White House would rather retaliate against Libyan at a time of its own choosing. Sources say there is a lot of pressure to act soon. To strike while the consensus is hot.

CBS's Anthony Mason reports a number of U.S. flights around the nation have been delayed because of possible bombs over the last week.

(CBS-4)

Jennings: A Libyan diplomat stationed in East Berlin is now suspected of directing the weekend bomb attack on a West Berlin discotheque. American and West Berlin authorities are still investigating the damage. Security has been tightened on all U.S. military facilities overseas....

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U.S.-LIBYA (continued)

ABC's Hal Walker reports from Frankfurt investigators say they still have no direct evidence to identify the bomber. Although they suspect the work of foreign terrorists. A West Berlin official has confirmed reports that a diplomat in Libya's East Germany Embassy is suspected of being behind the attack. Elamin Abdullah Elamin is the man in question. U.S. officials have given West German authorities documents reported to prove Libya's involvement. Authorities in Bonn say they those documents are inconclusive. American military is taking precaution. Old wire fences are becoming concrete walls as Americans try to reduce their vulnerability to terrorism. (ABC-LEAD)

Brokaw reports there are increasing indications of a Libyan connection to the West Berlin bombing. The trigger of that attack appears to have been the U.S. Sixth Fleet showdown with Libya last month.

NBC's Fred Francis reports a Pentagon official said today when the Sixth Fleet sailed away from the gulf Khadafy gave everyone a green light, terrorists he controls and those he influences. The official added, that's what we think we know about Khadafy's involvement in these latest acts. The Administration has more specific evidence. It points to the Libyan Embassy in East Berlin. Decoded radio messages from Libya to this mission in the hours after the bombing which acknowledge some sort of heroic act.

(Attorney General Edwin Meese: "The policy of the Department of Justice and of President Reagan is to put the highest priority on those who actually control the terrorist organizations and who pay to send their henchmen on the various terrorist missions.") (NBC-6)

WEINBERGER/BOMB

Rather reports only 90 minutes before a scheduled banquet for Secretary Weinberger a bomb exploded in the parking lot of a Bangkok hotel. No one claimed responsibility. Three people were injured in the explosion. The bomb was hidden in a trash can a few yards away where Weinberger would have passed.

(NBC-8, ABC-2, CBS-6)

GUN CONTROL

Rather: The House is geared up for debating and voting on the much lobbied about gun control bills. Including an attempt to roll back current federal restrictions on the sale of handguns.

CBS's Phil Jones reports tomorrow a political shootout over gun control occurs on the House floor.

(TV coverage of Jim Brady.)

Sarah Brady has added to the emotion of the anti-handgun campaign.

(Sarah Brady: "I am committed to doing all I can to ensure that no family has to go through what the Brady family has endured.")

The gun lobby is one of the strongest in the nation and supporters of easing restrictions even claim wide support from law enforcement.

(Rep. Tommy Robinson: "The majority of my constituents think and rightfully so that they have a constitutional right to bear arms and I'm going to support them.")

If the House joins the Senate this week, the gun lobby will have succeeded in weakening the 1968 gun law. (CBS-7)

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Rather: President Reagan's appointees to the U.S. Civil Rights

Commission are seriously considering recommending cancellation of a so called set-aside program designed to encourage businesses run by women and minorities.

CBS's Bruce Morton reports that a report by the staff of the Civil Rights Commission says they (set-asides) are unfair, don't work and should be suspended for a year while the government looks for a better approach. The commission will vote on its staff's report this Friday. Actually junking set-asides would require action from the President and Congress. Sources close to both say that's unlikely.

(CBS-12)

MISKITO INDIANS

Brokaw reports there is an exodus in northeastern Nicaraguan tonight.

The Miskito Indians apparently have been caught in renewed fighting between the Sandinista army and U.S.-backed contra rebels. In the last two weeks thousands of Miskitos have crossed into the border and into Honduras. There are conflicting reports on the role of the Miskitos.

(NBC-11)

CHALLENGER

Rather reports J. R. Thompson, a top NASA investigator, said today it

was a faulty O-ring joint on the space shuttle's right solid rocket booster that caused the destruction of Challenger. (NBC-13, CBS-9)

AUSTRALIA/SDI

Brokaw reports the government of Australia announced today that it has

turned down an American proposal to do some of the research work for 'Star Wars.'

(NBC-3)

WALDHEIM

Rather reports Justice Department sources tell CBS News correspondent

Rita Braver that the U.S. will formally ask the U.N. to show American officials its war crimes file on Waldheim.

(CBS-11)

PRIME LENDING RATE

Rather reports the Southwest Bank of St. Louis said it will cut its prime

lending rate a quarter of a point to 8.75% effective tomorrow. The last time the key interest rate was that low was in the spring of 1978.

(CBS-13)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

NICARAGUA

Contra Victories -- "The conventional wisdom in Washington is that the contras cannot win. Perhaps not, although it should be noted that even successful insurgencies take years to mature. What this week demonstrates is that, in any event, it is far, far too early to count the contras out. For the contras and their cause, this week may indeed have marked the end of the beginning." (San Diego Union, 3/29)

An Embarrassment Of Glitches -- "Little wonder that the President confronts a balky Congress and a skeptical public, the majority of which is reluctant to buy into his dubious version of Central American current events. His administration is managing the contest against the Sandinistas no better than the contras are fighting it." (Atlanta Constitution, 4/7)

Don't Push Honduras -- "In its efforts to oppose the Nicaraguan government, the Reagan Administration needs to be careful that it does not draw Honduras into an unwanted war with the Sandinistas. It is one thing to come to a country's defense in the event of a legitimate threat to its security; it is quite another to force an ally into a confrontation it does not want and is trying hard to avoid." (Dallas Times Herald, 4/6)

ARMS CONTROL

Doomsday Games -- "Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev seems to have a flair for splashy offers to end nuclear testing or dismantle missiles or some such dramatic proposal. He often puts Mr. Reagan in the position of responding like some carping nitpicker. Often, the two just ignore each other's most recent proposal, in order to get a headline with their own. Instead of a dialogue, we have two competing monologues." (New Jersey Record, 4/2)

Those Gorbachev Reruns Again -- "Secretary of State George Shultz was right when he complained that the Soviets' approach to arms control has been to make propaganda proposals in public and do nothing to advance negotiations in private. But President Reagan doesn't seem to know how to say anything but no in public, and it isn't as if he has been burning up the hotline with constructive proposals of his own." (Chicago Tribune, 4/1)

BUDGET

'86: 'Budget-surplus Year' -- "The new projections shouldn't lessen the resolve of Congress to confront the deficits; they should reinforce it. They make it possible to meet the 1991 balanced-budget goal by combining continued spending restraint with a relatively modest increase in revenue, and without gutting a lot of programs that people want." (Des Moines Register, 4/2)

OIL PRICES

President Says, 'Stop Me From Running Up This Debt' -- "The White House wants Saudi Arabia and the oil cartel to fix it so the prices don't drop any more and maybe rise again. In other words, the White House wants the oil cartel, not the debt-ridden U.S. federal government, to get Americans' dollars. One of these days, when you feel really up to it, figure that one out." (Dayton Daily News, 4/3)

TAX REFORM

The 'Ides' Of April - Time For Tax Reform, Too -- "It is to the Senate's credit that increasing numbers of lawmakers are beginning to speak out against the Finance Committee measure. They should. Senators contemplating tax reform at this time of year should look across the aisles to the measure passed by the House as a more workable - and fairer - model." (Christian Science Monitor, 4/8)

OIL TAX

Oil Tax Hike Folly -- "Rumors of a push for a new oil tax keep spouting from the White House, despite President Reagan's valiant attempts to cap the gusher. Administration tax raisers should heed their President's pledge not to increase taxes. But there's another reason it's a bad idea: a new oil tax actually may cut revenues. No matter how you look at it, an oil tax rise is the height of economic and political folly." (Washington Times, 4/7)

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Push To Reform Liability Law -- "The Reagan Administration's support for insurance liability and tort law reform, although not yet specifically defined, is welcome news. We trust that the reform of insurance law and of tort law will be sought with vigor. These matters are among the most pressing on the domestic political, economic and social agenda." (San Francisco Chronicle, 4/1)

GUN CONTROL

The Gun Debate And Public Safety -- "McClure-Volkmer supporters say the 1968 act, passed after the Kennedy and King assassinations, hasn't worked. It didn't stop John Hinckley Jr. from buying a pistol and shooting the President. Opponents say that's an argument to strengthen the law, not repeal it. They have weakened their case by supporting a bill to legalize selling rifles and shotguns across state lines, and to reduce controls on buying and owning handguns. The House will vote tomorrow. The national interest is the defeat of both bills - and a strengthening of the 1968 act. It won't happen, so the best to hope for is the compromise bill, which at least keeps some limits on handguns." (Daily News, 4/8)

House: Keep Gun Control; Don't Cower Before NRA -- "Handgun control is a life and death issue. Some day politicians with guts will confront the NRA head on and build a reform campaign to stem the carnage in America's streets by controlling the murder weapons. For now though, voting for the Judiciary compromise is the least that responsible politicians should do. A Congress that cowers before the NRA is a Congress of cowards. America deserves better." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 4/8)



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Summer Summit Hopes Rekindled -- President Reagan yesterday received a personal message from Soviet leader Gorbachev, delivered by Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, as Administration officials insisted that a new superpower summit could take place in the United States as early as June or July. (Washington Post, Washington Times, New York Times, AP)

Bush Remarks On Oil Prices Cause His Advisers Concern -- Vice President Bush has produced concern among his advisers and provided ammunition to his political foes by his persistent defense of the U.S. oil industry on a trip to Arab nations that was supposed to focus on regional security issues, Administration and Republican leaders said yesterday. (Washington Post, New York Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

Winds, Not Protesters, Stop Planned U.S. Nuclear Test -- A nuclear weapons test the Administration planned despite protests from the Soviet Union, members of Congress and hordes of demonstrators was postponed yesterday because of the weather, according to government sources. (Washington Post, Washington Times, AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

U.S./U.S.S.R. -- The Soviets said today they do want another summit this year in Washington.

U.S./CHINA -- President Reagan agreed to sell more than a half billion dollars worth of U.S. military electronics to China.

U.S./LIBYA -- Another heavier and more dangerous reprisal attack on Libya is getting more serious consideration and study.

Berry's World



Gene Berry
"Sir, we're just going to audit your tax return, not question your PATRIOTISM!"

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SUMMIT PLANS GAIN AFTER LENGTHY DELAY

After months of delay, plans for the next superpower summit appeared to be moving forward yesterday as departing Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin told President Reagan that Moscow is ready to schedule a high-level preparatory meeting next month and assured him the Soviets are not setting conditions for the summit.

Secretary Shultz announced afterward that he would meet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in mid-May to begin what he called "a major push" toward the summit, although a date has not been set.

Reagan's planned 15-minute farewell to Dobrynin stretched into a 75-minute session that Shultz said touched on "all the issues of substance" between Washington and Moscow. Administration officials said the President, while discussing "flashpoints" around the globe, brought up U.S. concern about Libyan sponsorship of terrorism and Soviet military support for the regime of Col. Qaddafi.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

Gorbachev Favors A Summit If Geneva Spirit Is "Revived"

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Gorbachev declared tonight that he wanted to make it "absolutely clear" he favored another summit meeting with President Reagan, and make "no preconditions for it," but he struck a stern note as he laid out the prospects for improving U.S.-Soviet relations.

"To make the matter absolutely clear, I will repeat anew: I stand for holding such a meeting. We make no preconditions for it," Gorbachev said. "But we want to pass it in accordance with what the President and I agreed on, namely, it should step forward, that is, produce practical results toward ending the arms race."

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A19)

Summer Summit Hopes Rekindled

President Reagan yesterday received a personal message from Soviet leader Gorbachev, delivered by Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, as Administration officials insisted that a new superpower summit could take place in the United States as early as June or July.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A1)

President Meets With Soviet Envoy On Summit Plans

President Reagan and Anatoly Dobrynin agreed today to lay the groundwork for a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting in the U.S. this year.

At the same time, Mikhail Gorbachev, in a private letter to President Reagan, expressed strong interest in "proceeding ahead with a dialogue" that could lead to substantive results in arms reduction, according to a ranking Administration official.

(Bernard Weintraub, New York Times, A1)

Despite Hostility, Superpowers Ready To Plan For Summit

The U.S. and the Soviet Union are ready to start planning for a second summit even though the high hopes engendered by the first such meeting have given way to an extended period of mutual recrimination.

(George Gedda, AP)

BUSH REMARKS ON OIL PRICES CAUSE HIS ADVISERS CONCERN

Vice President Bush has produced concern among his advisers and provided ammunition to his political foes by his persistent defense of the U.S. oil industry on a trip to Arab nations that was supposed to focus on regional security issues, Administration and Republican leaders said yesterday.

Bush said he didn't "see any political fallout one way or the other" from his remarks. However, in Michigan yesterday -- site of the first Republican caucus in the nation in 1988 -- an editorial in the Detroit News was headlined "Bush to Michigan: Drop Dead." It called the Vice President "J.R. Bush" and accused him of going on a foreign mission to plead the interests of the domestic oil industry.

(Lou Cannon & Paul Taylor, Washington Post, A1)

Congress Splits Over Remarks By Bush On Oil

Some Republicans in the Senate say Vice President Bush's handling of the issue of oil pricing has created doubts about the Reagan Administration's policy and may have also done some damage to his standing as a Presidential aspirant.

Other members of Congress divided along lines dictated by the interests of their constituents in responding to the weeklong confusion set off by Mr. Bush's appeal for "stability" in oil prices.

(Jonathan Fuerbringer, New York Times, A1)

BUSH SHOWCASES U.S. MILITARY MUSCLE IN GULF REGION

MANAMA, Bahrain -- Vice President Bush planned to dramatise U.S. military commitment to allied Arab oil states today by visiting a U.S. aircraft carrier patrolling nearby Indian Ocean sea lanes.

Bush's first scheduled move after arrival in Oman was a helicopter flight to the 90,000-ton carrier USS Enterprise, the world's largest warship, which has been symbolically flexing U.S. muscle on station in the Indian Ocean near Oman.

(Gene Gibbons, Reuter)

CONTADORA PROCESS HOLDS HOPE, U.S. SAYS

The State Department said yesterday that the collapse of the Contadora talks proves "Nicaragua is the obstacle to achieving a comprehensive regional accord" in Central America.

Spokesman Charles Redman said that the Reagan Administration still supports the Contadora process. Asked if the process is effectively over, he said, "I'm not willing, at least at this point, to bury it."

(Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A9)

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FIGHT OVER AIDING NICARAGUAN REBELS RESUMES IN HOUSE

The Reagan Administration's chief defender of aid to Nicaraguan rebels and House Democrats' chief critics of that policy renewed their disagreements at top volume yesterday as the House began preparing for another vote on the issue.

Elliot Abrams defended the controversial U.S. account of the early hours of the incursion by Nicaraguan troops into Honduras March 22. He said the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua "simply lied about what it had done," while U.S. accounts that 2,400 soldiers had invaded were accurate. (Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A15)

Contra Aid Battle Enters Round Three

The Reagan Administration yesterday blamed the Nicaraguan government for scuttling efforts to reach a negotiated settlement in Central America as round three opened on the President's request for \$100 million in aid to the anti-Sandinista forces.

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

BOMB BLAST FORCES SHIFT OF WEINBERGER BANQUET

BANGKOK -- A time bomb filled with nails exploded today about 20 feet from where Secretary Weinberger was to pass on his way to attend a state banquet, police said. Three Thais were injured in the blast.

Weinberger was in his hotel about a mile away from the scene. No Americans were near the site, the U.S. Embassy said. Security was increased and the banquet, scheduled to begin 90 minutes after the blast, was moved to the Hilton Hotel, where Weinberger was staying.

(UPI story, Washington Post, A18)

Bomb Spoils Weinberger Plans

BANKOK, Thailand -- Secretary Weinberger, who drew cheers on a border tour and protesters in the capital yesterday, had his dinner plans changed by a bomb explosion in a hotel parking lot.

(AP story, Washington Times, A6)

U.S.: BONN GIVEN DATA TO JUSTIFY LIBYAN CURBS

Reagan Administration officials said yesterday that the West German government has been supplied with sufficient information about Libyan involvement in last Sunday's West Berlin discotheque bombing to justify political and economic measures against Libya.

The officials, who asked not to be quoted by name, made the comments following news reports from Bonn that the West German government was unlikely to expel Libyan diplomats or take action against Libya on the basis of information that has been supplied so far.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A18)

U.S. Presses Bonn And Other Allies To Expel Libyans

The U.S. has urged West Germany and some other key allies to expel all or most of Libya's diplomats from their capitals because of evidence linking Libya to the bombing last weekend of a discotheque in West Berlin, Administration officials said today.

They said Washington was supplying Bonn and other European capitals with what one official called "absolutely convincing evidence" linking Libya to the West Berlin bombing, in an effort to produce a concerted European set of moves against Libya. The U.S. is trying to "internationalize" the problem so that it is not seen as a purely Libyan-American confrontation.

(Bernard Gwertzman, New York Times, A1)

LIBYAN DIPLOMAT SUSPECTED IN BOMB ATTACK

BERLIN -- A Libyan diplomat based in this divided city's communist zone is suspected of directing the weekend bomb attack that wrecked a crowded nightclub popular with American soldiers, a West Berlin official said yesterday.

"This report is correct," said the official of the West Berlin Interior Ministry who is close to the investigation. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

(Mark Heinrich, Washington Times, A6)

U.S. INTELLIGENCE SAYS QADDAFI URGING MORE TERRORISM

Col. Qaddafi is quietly encouraging his embassies around the world to guide new terrorist attacks, U.S. intelligence has learned, a senior Reagan Administration official says.

The same official said Tuesday that President Reagan and his top aides, following the latest attacks on Americans in Europe, have agreed that there must be retaliation against Libyans, although the target and timing has yet to be determined.

(Dale Nelson, AP)

STATE DEPARTMENT MOSTLY MUM ON BURT

The State Department has told Congress it does not disagree with the claim of the U.S. ambassador to West Germany that Libya was linked to the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that killed an American GI.

But Rozanna Ridgway declined further comment in testimony Tuesday before a House panel on Ambassador Burt's statement that U.S. intelligence agencies have "very clear indications that there was Libyan involvement" in the bombing.

(Leon Daniel, UPI)

56 LIBYANS REPORTED DEAD IN GULF OF SIDRA FIGHTING

CAIRO -- The commander-in-chief of the Libyan armed forces told an Egyptian party leader that 56 Libyans were killed in last month's clashes with the U.S. 6th Fleet, the Egyptian weekly newspaper Al Shaab reported today.

(Reuter story, Washington Post, A18)

U.S. AMBASSADOR RAPS EUROPEAN ALLIES

NEW YORK -- Ambassador Burt says U.S. allies in Europe are being "overly parochial" on countering terrorism, and that the lack of a common approach on security poses a greater danger.

In a speech Tuesday night, Burt said the West Germans and other U.S. allies "have to do more to provide for their defense" and must resist a tendency to portray the U.S. as "reckless and irresponsible" in dealing with the Soviet Union and its allies on nuclear arms control.

(Barry Schweid, AP)

U.S. TAKING AIM AT BOSSES OF TERROR

Attorney General Meese said yesterday the Administration's highest priority is "going after those who actually control terrorist organizations," as reports continued to circulate that the U.S. would soon strike at Libya.

President Reagan and his advisers were said to unanimously favor retaliation for the latest terror and disagree only on a time and a place to strike back, one senior Administration official told the AP.

(Rita Williams & Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

GRATIFIED BY REAGAN POLICY, ISRAEL LOBBY TO SOFTEN STANCE

Leaders of a pro-Israel lobby say that a less confrontational policy toward the Reagan Administration is in order because of the President's "revolutionary" policy of building support for the Jewish state throughout the U.S. bureaucracy.

"Times have changed, and we must change with them," said Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

(George Archibald, Washington Times, A2)

ARGENTINA, U.S. TO CONDUCT FIRST NAVAL EXERCISES SINCE '82

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina -- The U.S. and Argentina will conduct joint naval exercises later this year -- for the first time since the 1982 Falklands War -- reliable sources told the Washington Post.

Argentina suspended joint exercises for the past four years because of ill feelings aroused by American logistical and material support for Britain during the 74-day war. (Timothy O'Leary, Washington Times, A9)

ISRAELI DIPLOMAT CHIDES HOSTAGES FAMILIES

Israeli U.N. Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu chided families of American hostages in Lebanon, saying their pleas that the White House negotiate the hostages' release was a "breach of civic duty."

"The war against terrorism takes courage. If we want to win, we must be prepared to endure sacrifice, even if we suffer the loss of loved ones," Netanyahu told an American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference Tuesday.

Netanyahu's brother was killed in the 1976 Israeli raid on Entebbe Airport in Uganda when airborne Israeli commandos stormed the airport, killed seven Palestinian hijackers and rescued 103 hostages. His brother led the commando raid.

(Nancie Katz, UPI)

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NATIONAL NEWS

NUCLEAR TEST POSTPONED BY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

A controversial U.S. underground nuclear weapons test scheduled for yesterday was delayed because of technical problems, according to Administration and congressional sources. Department of Energy officials say they expect that the nuclear test will take place today, sources said.

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A19)

Winds, Not Protesters, Stop Planned U.S. Nuclear Test

A nuclear weapons test the Administration planned despite protests from the Soviet Union, members of Congress and hordes of demonstrators was postponed yesterday because of the weather, according to government sources.

(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A3)

89 Arrests In Nevada Demonstrations; Test Delayed

LAS VEGAS, Nev. -- The U.S. delayed a controversial underground nuclear weapons test Tuesday and sources said the postponement was due to technical problems, not to discussions with the Soviets, the weather or protests near the site in which 89 people were arrested. The Department of Energy in Las Vegas refused even to confirm that a test had been scheduled.

(Robert Macy, AP)

FATAL FLAWS IN SHUTTLE PINPOINTED

CAPE CANAVERAL -- For years, NASA officials were "walking right to the edge of a cliff" because they failed to correct flaws in solid-rocket booster joints that led to the fatal space-shuttle explosion Jan. 28, the agency's chief investigator into the disaster said today.

James Thompson, vice chairman of the NASA internal task force formed to investigate the accident, said the group has identified four problems involving the joints and that these combined to trigger the explosion in which seven astronauts were killed.

(Michael Isikoff, Washington Post, A1)

EXCISE-TAX TREATMENT IMPERILS PACKWOOD PLAN

Sen. Packwood's path to lower income taxes, resting largely on an effective increase in excise taxes on just about everything from gasoline to bows and arrows, appears to be leading the Senate's chief tax writer back into the thicket.

More than half the Senate, including some prominent proponents of tax overhaul, have signed letters raising concern that excise tax changes would hurt those least able to pay. Some business and citizens groups that led the fight for tax overhaul in the House are threatening to defect.

(Dale Russakoff & Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A6)

DOLE THREATENS "GO-IT-ALONE" BUDGET

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole warned bluntly yesterday that Congress will "go it alone" in developing a fiscal 1987 budget unless the White House joins in pursuit of a budget compromise.

The White House has condemned the committee proposal and ruled out negotiations on an alternative. Dole, faced with sharp divisions among GOP senators on key budget issues, has been pushing to draw the Administration into talks that might produce a compromise.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A6)

NAVY, WHITE HOUSE ON COLLISION COURSE

The Navy has just launched a recruiting drive touting the "New GI Bill" -- the package of education benefits for servicemen that President Reagan has asked Congress to kill.

"The services have been disloyal on this one," said a White House official, admitting the military has failed to fall in line on the bill.

(George Wilson, Washington Post, A21)

12-DAY AIR FORCE SPREE NETS \$1 BILLION IN PARTS

Air Force buyers, ordered to spend as much money as possible at the end of 1985, bought more than \$1 billion worth of spare parts during the last 12 days of December, according to a congressional investigation. The purchases represented more than a tenfold increase in the normal buying pace.

(Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A21)

REAGAN DOESN'T FACE THE PRESS UNREHEARSED

When President Reagan walks into the elegantly appointed East Room for his 35th press conference tonight, tens of millions of Americans will witness what appears to be a spontaneous performance.

But Mr. Reagan does not approach the podium unprepared for the 30-minute grilling on live TV by 200 reporters. "He doesn't go up there and simply say what comes into his mind," one senior Administration official who helps the President prepare for the evening press conferences.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A2)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Closeness To Reagan Paying Off For Deaver" by George Archibald & Lucy Keyser appears on page A1 of the Washington Times.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, April 8, 1986)

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

CBS's Dan Rather: The United States abruptly postponed an underground nuclear weapons test. It was a test the Russians had threatened might prompt them to resume nuclear testing too. No official reason was given. Unofficially, the Reagan Administration blamed it on the weather. The White House specifically denied that it had anything to do with the fact that President Reagan was in a meeting today trying to improve the climate for a Soviet-U.S. summit.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: To the great relief of the White House and after months of wavering, the Soviets said today they do want another summit this year in Washington. The first steps were taken when the outgoing Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin paid a courtesy call on President Reagan that turned into a miny summit of its own, lasting 75 minutes, an hour more than scheduled. Serious summit planning with no pre-conditions will get under way in mid-May with a visit here by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

(Photo of the President and Dobrynin.)

(Secretary Shultz: "Mr. Dobrynin was at some pains to say we're not setting any pre-conditions, that's a misinterpretation. But both want to see significant results from a meeting. Both want to see it carefully prepared.")

(TV coverage of Shultz in the briefing room.)

A remaining disagreement, the date. The Soviets prefer November, the U.S. July. Soviet leader Gorbachev on television today said he wants to meet Reagan. He said exchanges of handshakes are not enough.

(Georgi Arbatov, Soviet expert on U.S. affairs: "...smiles, etcetera. They part and everything goes as it went. Gorbachev doesn't want such to happen.")

But privately, Soviet officials say a summit without substantive agreements would still allow them to score propaganda points.

(Dimitri Simes, CBS News consultant: "I think that the next summit will provide many new opportunities, but my impression is that the Soviets pretty much have reconciled themselves to the notion that no big things will be accomplished during the next summit.")

White House officials are concerned the Soviets will try to win concessions before agreeing to the President's preference for a summer summit, such as ratification of the nuclear test ban treaty. But overall, officials expressed joy that the high level dialogue with the Soviets has resumed.

CBS's David Martin: Protesters against nuclear testing got their way today, at least temporarily, when an underground nuclear explosion beneath the Nevada desert was postponed. With Washington and Moscow talking summit, today's postponement seemed diplomatically convenient. The White House denied any connection. Conditions appeared calm, but Administration sources said the test was delayed because of bad winds, not because of the protest.... Today, 25 Nobel scientists sent a letter to President Reagan, calling on him to go along with the Soviet moratorium.

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U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

(Glenn Seaborg, nuclear physicist: "We simply must do something towards the cutback of weapons in arms limitation and a comprehensive test ban is the simplest and most effective first step.") But Reagan Administration officials are adamant about the need for more testing.

(Sylvester Foley, retired admiral: "I guess I'm unwilling, in terms of national deterrence, to accept a comprehensive test ban right now with the kind of confidence level that I have in the Soviets. As long you have nuclear weapons, you ought to test.")

Administration officials say the test could take place as soon as tomorrow, weather permitting. At least one other underground explosion is scheduled for this month and arms control experts in and out of the government believe that will give the Soviets an excuse to resume their own testing program and blame it on the U.S.

(CBS-LEAD)

ABC's Peter Jennings: The prospect for a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev got brighter today. After 24 years of service in this country's capital, the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, Anatoly Dobrynin, went to the White House to say good-bye. He went with some encouraging news.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin came to the White House not just to say good-bye, but to get the planning for another U.S.-Soviet summit back on track. In a meeting with President Reagan which went over its 15 minute schedule by a full hour, the major aspects of the superpower relationship were touched on. Dobrynin gave Mr. Reagan a letter from Soviet leader Gorbachev. (Photo of the President and Dobrynin.)

White House officials described the meeting as cordial. Said it advanced things and seemed genuinely pleased by the spirit Dobrynin conveyed. A spirit Secretary Shultz suggested, made summit prospects brighter.... Shultz said he'll meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Washington in mid-May to continue summit planning. He wouldn't disclose what Gorbachev had said on the subject in his letter to the President. Gorbachev himself, while greeting Soviet factory workers, was being publicly cagey. Yes he wants a summit in 1986, but it would be necessary that there be some kind of advance to agree on and not just exchange cordialities he said. And when will the summit be held? President Reagan reiterated to Dobrynin today the U.S. preference for June or July. Sources say Mr. Reagan did not throw in the towel to the Russians who wanted it later. With time running out, not only for making preparations, but for reaching some substantive agreements to be announced, it's looking more and more like a summit this fall - probably November.

ABC's John McWethy reports the Reagan Administration is pushing harder to the Soviets that a proposal for the superpowers to deal with world hot-spots, like Central America.

(TV coverage of the President and Gorbachev.)

In the next two months, an intensive round of U.S.-Soviet expert talks will take place. Reviewing confrontation zones such as the Middle East, Nicaragua, Angola, Vietnam/Cambodia and Afghanistan.

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

U.S. officials say there will be a major push to make them real negotiations to find some common ground for Reagan and Gorbachev to claim as progress when they meet at the next summit. The Trident submarine is creating another issue that could well become a major bone of contention at a summit. There is great pressure from conservatives to junk the Salt II Treaty altogether because of alleged Soviet cheating. Another issue with the Soviets is terrorism.

(Attorney General Edwin Meese: "We know the Soviets among other countries directly and through their Cuban and Libyan proxies - arm, train and plan the work of terrorists.")

State Department officials say increasingly the Soviets are willing to talk about terrorism and that in itself, represents a small bit of progress. What the Kremlin is not willing to do officials claim, is to actually do something about the problem.

Jennings reports the nuclear test in the Nevada desert was cancelled according to the Reagan Administration because of the weather.

ABC's Rick Inderfurth reports that over 200 anti-nuclear demonstrators were on hand at the Nevada nuclear test site to protest today's scheduled test. Over 70 were arrested. Administration officials say the postponement of today's explosion was due to high winds. Those winds were caused by the weather and not superpower politics.

(Charles Redman, State Department spokesman: "Our testing program is established and conducted according to technical considerations. The tests may be delayed due to weather conditions or a variety of technical problems.")

(Sen. Edward Kennedy: "Mr. President, instead of testing more weapons let us test Soviet good faith by resuming negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.")

Administration officials say the U.S. testing program will continue. The Soviet leader is persistent. Today he offered to consider U.S. proposals for onsite inspections of nuclear tests, if President Reagan would agree to begin negotiations to stop all testing. Despite that offer, U.S. officials say today's postponed test may take place as early as tomorrow and will be followed by as many as 14 additional tests this year. (ABC-5)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: ...First, the prospects for a superpower summit meeting. There have been signs that it might not come this summer, but tonight chances that it will seem to be considerably greater. Next, nuclear tests.... A test scheduled by the Reagan Administration today was postponed, but apparently not for political reasons. Winds were too high. That test has been rescheduled for tomorrow....

NBC's Chris Wallace: Dobrynin came to the White House for a farewell session after 24 years in Washington. Once again, he was trying to break the U.S.-Soviet log-jam. In a 75 minute session he delivered a letter from Mikhail Gorbachev, calling for an improvement in relations. Dobrynin took a step in that direction, agreeing to a meeting between Secretary Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Washington next month to prepare for a summit. (Photo of the President and Dobrynin.)

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U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

Shultz said later there is much to prepare with a summit date still undecided.

(Shultz: "Both agree there should be a next meeting. It will be in the United States, having something significant connected with it. Both parties agree on that. Beyond that, there are no particular pre-conditions.")

At a car plant east of Moscow, Gorbachev was not so friendly. He told workers he does want a summit, but there must be progress on arms control. Later, in a speech to the nation, he blasted the Reagan Administration for nuclear testing, attacking Libya and 'Star Wars.' U.S. officials insist the private Soviet tone is much more positive. Still, Administration officials don't know whether they are any closer to a summit.

(Shultz: "We have not set any date, so it's impossible to know whether we are closer or not closer.")

The President is still pushing for June or July. But all of Gorbachev's talk about agreements indicates he still wants to meet in September or even later. Meanwhile, the nuclear test in Nevada was postponed. U.S. officials emphasize the reason was high winds, not the delicacy of U.S.-Soviet relations. In fact, officials say with the Soviets demanding the U.S. stop testing; they wanted to go ahead with today's explosion despite the Dobrynin meeting. A top official tells NBC News the Soviets won't have to wait long. The nuclear test has been rescheduled for tomorrow.

NBC's Richard Valeriani reports in Washington there were verbal protests on Capitol Hill.

(Sen. Howard Metzenbaum: "On this issue the American people truly want a ratification of a nuclear test ban.")

There were also signs of congressional support for nuclear testing.

(Sen. John Warner: "It's in the best interest of the United States strategic program at this time to continue the testing program.")

Knowledgeable critics such as the former director of the Arms Control Agency says that is just a pretext.

(Gerard Smith, former director of the Arms Control Agency: "I think they have an urge to improve weapons, to develop new ones and not least, to develop weapons for the Strategic Defense Initiative.")

(Kenneth Aldeman, director of the Arms Control Agency: "Our view on arms control is that we need deep reductions in nuclear weapons. We need it in such ways to reduce the risk of war. Our idea is that first things come first. That's the first priority.")

The Reagan Administration is the first since the Eisenhower administration not to try to negotiate a ban on nuclear testing. There are no signs that policy will change. (NBC-LEAD)

U.S.-CHINA

Rather reports President Reagan agreed to sell more than half a billion dollars worth of U.S. military electronics to China. It's by far the largest direct government to government U.S.-China deal ever. Congress has 30 days to say no or this deal goes through automatically. (NBC-4, CBS-2)

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TWA FLIGHT 840

Rather reports the woman suspect was aboard the plane on an earlier hop. She was interviewed today by CBS News.

CBS's Doug Tunnell reports from Athens that her choice of the TWA flight from Cairo to Athens was a casual one. Airline employes in Cairo and executives in London dispute that claim. American officials concluded that the bomb was not planted after Mansur got off.

(CBS-3)

U.S.-LIBYA

Rather reports that another heavier and more dangerous reprisaled attack on Libya is getting serious consideration and study.

CBS's Bill Plante: 48 hours after the bombing in West Berlin the Reagan Administration had reached a consensus for military retaliation against Libya. But officials are still trying to decide exactly what to do and when. Sources tell CBS News that the evidence, most of it from communications intercepts, seems to implicate Libya beyond much doubt.

(Attorney General Edwin Meese: "We know who the terrorist organizations are and other governments know who they are. There must be no refuge and no sanctuary for terrorists.")

What are the options? The easy targets are on the coast - the Libyan missile battery already hit by the operation in the Gulf of Sidra, a submarine base, and other port facilities and artillery positions. More risky - terrorist training camps. Military planners say daylight actions inland would probably mean the loss of some pilots and aircraft. The White House believes there is public support as do many in Congress.

(Sen. Robert Dole: "If Khadafy is going to spawn terrorism, tolerate it and export it. Then we should deal with it. The sooner the better.")

The Israeli ambassador to the U.N. urged the U.S. to strike back and pay the price.

(Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli ambassador: "A successful war on terrorism will involve a succession of blows and counter blows.... They must know that we in the West will not sit back and take it.")

Intelligence sources tell CBS News the Libyans are urging their European embassies to undertake new terrorist actions. The White House would rather retaliate against Libyan at a time of its own choosing. Sources say there is a lot of pressure to act soon. To strike while the consensus is hot.

CBS's Anthony Mason reports a number of U.S. flights around the nation have been delayed because of possible bombs over the last week.

(CBS-4)

Jennings: A Libyan diplomat stationed in East Berlin is now suspected of directing the weekend bomb attack on a West Berlin discotheque. American and West Berlin authorities are still investigating the damage. Security has been tightened on all U.S. military facilities overseas....

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U.S.-LIBYA (continued)

ABC's Hal Walker reports from Frankfurt investigators say they still have no direct evidence to identify the bomber. Although they suspect the work of foreign terrorists. A West Berlin official has confirmed reports that a diplomat in Libya's East Germany Embassy is suspected of being behind the attack. Elamin Abdullah Elamin is the man in question. U.S. officials have given West German authorities documents reported to prove Libya's involvement. Authorities in Bonn say they those documents are inconclusive. American military is taking precaution. Old wire fences are becoming concrete walls as Americans try to reduce their vulnerability to terrorism. (ABC-LEAD)

Brokaw reports there are increasing indications of a Libyan connection to the West Berlin bombing. The trigger of that attack appears to have been the U.S. Sixth Fleet showdown with Libya last month.

NBC's Fred Francis reports a Pentagon official said today when the Sixth Fleet sailed away from the gulf Khadafy gave everyone a green light, terrorists he controls and those he influences. The official added, that's what we think we know about Khadafy's involvement in these latest acts. The Administration has more specific evidence. It points to the Libyan Embassy in East Berlin. Decoded radio messages from Libya to this mission in the hours after the bombing which acknowledge some sort of heroic act.

(Attorney General Edwin Meese: "The policy of the Department of Justice and of President Reagan is to put the highest priority on those who actually control the terrorist organizations and who pay to send their henchmen on the various terrorist missions.") (NBC-6)

WEINBERGER/BOMB

Rather reports only 90 minutes before a scheduled banquet for Secretary Weinberger a bomb exploded in the parking lot of a Bangkok hotel. No one claimed responsibility. Three people were injured in the explosion. The bomb was hidden in a trash can a few yards away where Weinberger would have passed.

(NBC-8, ABC-2, CBS-6)

GUN CONTROL

Rather: The House is geared up for debating and voting on the much lobbied about gun control bills. Including an attempt to roll back current federal restrictions on the sale of handguns.

CBS's Phil Jones reports tomorrow a political shootout over gun control occurs on the House floor.

(TV coverage of Jim Brady.)

Sarah Brady has added to the emotion of the anti-handgun campaign.

(Sarah Brady: "I am committed to doing all I can to ensure that no family has to go through what the Brady family has endured.")

The gun lobby is one of the strongest in the nation and supporters of easing restrictions even claim wide support from law enforcement.

(Rep. Tommy Robinson: "The majority of my constituents think and rightfully so that they have a constitutional right to bear arms and I'm going to support them.")

If the House joins the Senate this week, the gun lobby will have succeeded in weakening the 1968 gun law. (CBS-7)

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Rather: President Reagan's appointees to the U.S. Civil Rights

Commission are seriously considering recommending cancellation of a so called set-aside program designed to encourage businesses run by women and minorities.

CBS's Bruce Morton reports that a report by the staff of the Civil Rights Commission says they (set-asides) are unfair, don't work and should be suspended for a year while the government looks for a better approach. The commission will vote on its staff's report this Friday. Actually junking set-asides would require action from the President and Congress. Sources close to both say that's unlikely.

(CBS-12)

MISKITO INDIANS

Brokaw reports there is an exodus in northeastern Nicaraguan tonight.

The Miskito Indians apparently have been caught in renewed fighting between the Sandinista army and U.S.-backed contra rebels. In the last two weeks thousands of Miskitos have crossed into the border and into Honduras. There are conflicting reports on the role of the Miskitos.

(NBC-11)

CHALLENGER

Rather reports J. R. Thompson, a top NASA investigator, said today it

was a faulty O-ring joint on the space shuttle's right solid rocket booster that caused the destruction of Challenger. (NBC-13, CBS-9)

AUSTRALIA/SDI

Brokaw reports the government of Australia announced today that it has

turned down an American proposal to do some of the research work for 'Star Wars.'

(NBC-3)

WALDHEIM

Rather reports Justice Department sources tell CBS News correspondent

Rita Braver that the U.S. will formally ask the U.N. to show American officials its war crimes file on Waldheim.

(CBS-11)

PRIME LENDING RATE

Rather reports the Southwest Bank of St. Louis said it will cut its prime

lending rate a quarter of a point to 8.75% effective tomorrow. The last time the key interest rate was that low was in the spring of 1978.

(CBS-13)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

NICARAGUA

Contra Victories -- "The conventional wisdom in Washington is that the contras cannot win. Perhaps not, although it should be noted that even successful insurgencies take years to mature. What this week demonstrates is that, in any event, it is far, far too early to count the contras out. For the contras and their cause, this week may indeed have marked the end of the beginning." (San Diego Union, 3/29)

An Embarrassment Of Glitches -- "Little wonder that the President confronts a balky Congress and a skeptical public, the majority of which is reluctant to buy into his dubious version of Central American current events. His administration is managing the contest against the Sandinistas no better than the contras are fighting it." (Atlanta Constitution, 4/7)

Don't Push Honduras -- "In its efforts to oppose the Nicaraguan government, the Reagan Administration needs to be careful that it does not draw Honduras into an unwanted war with the Sandinistas. It is one thing to come to a country's defense in the event of a legitimate threat to its security; it is quite another to force an ally into a confrontation it does not want and is trying hard to avoid." (Dallas Times Herald, 4/6)

ARMS CONTROL

Doomsday Games -- "Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev seems to have a flair for splashy offers to end nuclear testing or dismantle missiles or some such dramatic proposal. He often puts Mr. Reagan in the position of responding like some carping nitpicker. Often, the two just ignore each other's most recent proposal, in order to get a headline with their own. Instead of a dialogue, we have two competing monologues." (New Jersey Record, 4/2)

Those Gorbachev Reruns Again -- "Secretary of State George Shultz was right when he complained that the Soviets' approach to arms control has been to make propaganda proposals in public and do nothing to advance negotiations in private. But President Reagan doesn't seem to know how to say anything but no in public, and it isn't as if he has been burning up the hotline with constructive proposals of his own." (Chicago Tribune, 4/1)

BUDGET

'86: 'Budget-surplus Year' -- "The new projections shouldn't lessen the resolve of Congress to confront the deficits; they should reinforce it. They make it possible to meet the 1991 balanced-budget goal by combining continued spending restraint with a relatively modest increase in revenue, and without gutting a lot of programs that people want." (Des Moines Register, 4/2)

OIL PRICES

President Says, 'Stop Me From Running Up This Debt' -- "The White House wants Saudi Arabia and the oil cartel to fix it so the prices don't drop any more and maybe rise again. In other words, the White House wants the oil cartel, not the debt-ridden U.S. federal government, to get Americans' dollars. One of these days, when you feel really up to it, figure that one out." (Dayton Daily News, 4/3)

TAX REFORM

The 'Ides' Of April - Time For Tax Reform, Too -- "It is to the Senate's credit that increasing numbers of lawmakers are beginning to speak out against the Finance Committee measure. They should. Senators contemplating tax reform at this time of year should look across the aisles to the measure passed by the House as a more workable - and fairer - model." (Christian Science Monitor, 4/8)

OIL TAX

Oil Tax Hike Folly -- "Rumors of a push for a new oil tax keep spouting from the White House, despite President Reagan's valiant attempts to cap the gusher. Administration tax raisers should heed their President's pledge not to increase taxes. But there's another reason it's a bad idea: a new oil tax actually may cut revenues. No matter how you look at it, an oil tax rise is the height of economic and political folly." (Washington Times, 4/7)

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Push To Reform Liability Law -- "The Reagan Administration's support for insurance liability and tort law reform, although not yet specifically defined, is welcome news. We trust that the reform of insurance law and of tort law will be sought with vigor. These matters are among the most pressing on the domestic political, economic and social agenda." (San Francisco Chronicle, 4/1)

GUN CONTROL

The Gun Debate And Public Safety -- "McClure-Volkmer supporters say the 1968 act, passed after the Kennedy and King assassinations, hasn't worked. It didn't stop John Hinckley Jr. from buying a pistol and shooting the President. Opponents say that's an argument to strengthen the law, not repeal it. They have weakened their case by supporting a bill to legalize selling rifles and shotguns across state lines, and to reduce controls on buying and owning handguns. The House will vote tomorrow. The national interest is the defeat of both bills - and a strengthening of the 1968 act. It won't happen, so the best to hope for is the compromise bill, which at least keeps some limits on handguns." (Daily News, 4/8)

House: Keep Gun Control; Don't Cower Before NRA -- "Handgun control is a life and death issue. Some day politicians with guts will confront the NRA head on and build a reform campaign to stem the carnage in America's streets by controlling the murder weapons. For now though, voting for the Judiciary compromise is the least that responsible politicians should do. A Congress that cowers before the NRA is a Congress of cowards. America deserves better." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 4/8)



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Summer Summit Hopes Rekindled -- President Reagan yesterday received a personal message from Soviet leader Gorbachev, delivered by Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, as Administration officials insisted that a new superpower summit could take place in the United States as early as June or July. (Washington Post, Washington Times, New York Times, AP)

Bush Remarks On Oil Prices Cause His Advisers Concern -- Vice President Bush has produced concern among his advisers and provided ammunition to his political foes by his persistent defense of the U.S. oil industry on a trip to Arab nations that was supposed to focus on regional security issues, Administration and Republican leaders said yesterday. (Washington Post, New York Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

Winds, Not Protesters, Stop Planned U.S. Nuclear Test -- A nuclear weapons test the Administration planned despite protests from the Soviet Union, members of Congress and hordes of demonstrators was postponed yesterday because of the weather, according to government sources. (Washington Post, Washington Times, AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

U.S./U.S.S.R. -- The Soviets said today they do want another summit this year in Washington.

U.S./CHINA -- President Reagan agreed to sell more than a half billion dollars worth of U.S. military electronics to China.

U.S./LIBYA -- Another heavier and more dangerous reprisal attack on Libya is getting more serious consideration and study.

Berry's World



Jim Berry
"Sir, we're just going to audit your tax return, not question your PATRIOTISM!"

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SUMMIT PLANS GAIN AFTER LENGTHY DELAY

After months of delay, plans for the next superpower summit appeared to be moving forward yesterday as departing Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin told President Reagan that Moscow is ready to schedule a high-level preparatory meeting next month and assured him the Soviets are not setting conditions for the summit.

Secretary Shultz announced afterward that he would meet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in mid-May to begin what he called "a major push" toward the summit, although a date has not been set.

Reagan's planned 15-minute farewell to Dobrynin stretched into a 75-minute session that Shultz said touched on "all the issues of substance" between Washington and Moscow. Administration officials said the President, while discussing "flashpoints" around the globe, brought up U.S. concern about Libyan sponsorship of terrorism and Soviet military support for the regime of Col. Qaddafi.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

Gorbachev Favors A Summit If Geneva Spirit Is "Revived"

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Gorbachev declared tonight that he wanted to make it "absolutely clear" he favored another summit meeting with President Reagan, and make "no preconditions for it," but he struck a stern note as he laid out the prospects for improving U.S.-Soviet relations.

"To make the matter absolutely clear, I will repeat anew: I stand for holding such a meeting. We make no preconditions for it," Gorbachev said. "But we want to pass it in accordance with what the President and I agreed on, namely, it should step forward, that is, produce practical results toward ending the arms race."

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A19)

Summer Summit Hopes Rekindled

President Reagan yesterday received a personal message from Soviet leader Gorbachev, delivered by Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, as Administration officials insisted that a new superpower summit could take place in the United States as early as June or July.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A1)

President Meets With Soviet Envoy On Summit Plans

President Reagan and Anatoly Dobrynin agreed today to lay the groundwork for a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting in the U.S. this year.

At the same time, Mikhail Gorbachev, in a private letter to President Reagan, expressed strong interest in "proceeding ahead with a dialogue" that could lead to substantive results in arms reduction, according to a ranking Administration official.

(Bernard Weintraub, New York Times, A1)

Despite Hostility, Superpowers Ready To Plan For Summit

The U.S. and the Soviet Union are ready to start planning for a second summit even though the high hopes engendered by the first such meeting have given way to an extended period of mutual recrimination.

(George Gedda, AP)

BUSH REMARKS ON OIL PRICES CAUSE HIS ADVISERS CONCERN

Vice President Bush has produced concern among his advisers and provided ammunition to his political foes by his persistent defense of the U.S. oil industry on a trip to Arab nations that was supposed to focus on regional security issues, Administration and Republican leaders said yesterday.

Bush said he didn't "see any political fallout one way or the other" from his remarks. However, in Michigan yesterday -- site of the first Republican caucus in the nation in 1988 -- an editorial in the Detroit News was headlined "Bush to Michigan: Drop Dead." It called the Vice President "J.R. Bush" and accused him of going on a foreign mission to plead the interests of the domestic oil industry.

(Lou Cannon & Paul Taylor, Washington Post, A1)

Congress Splits Over Remarks By Bush On Oil

Some Republicans in the Senate say Vice President Bush's handling of the issue of oil pricing has created doubts about the Reagan Administration's policy and may have also done some damage to his standing as a Presidential aspirant.

Other members of Congress divided along lines dictated by the interests of their constituents in responding to the weeklong confusion set off by Mr. Bush's appeal for "stability" in oil prices.

(Jonathan Fuerbringer, New York Times, A1)

BUSH SHOWCASES U.S. MILITARY MUSCLE IN GULF REGION

MANAMA, Bahrain -- Vice President Bush planned to dramatize U.S. military commitment to allied Arab oil states today by visiting a U.S. aircraft carrier patrolling nearby Indian Ocean sea lanes.

Bush's first scheduled move after arrival in Oman was a helicopter flight to the 90,000-ton carrier USS Enterprise, the world's largest warship, which has been symbolically flexing U.S. muscle on station in the Indian Ocean near Oman.

(Gene Gibbons, Reuter)

CONTADORA PROCESS HOLDS HOPE, U.S. SAYS

The State Department said yesterday that the collapse of the Contadora talks proves "Nicaragua is the obstacle to achieving a comprehensive regional accord" in Central America.

Spokesman Charles Redman said that the Reagan Administration still supports the Contadora process. Asked if the process is effectively over, he said, "I'm not willing, at least at this point, to bury it."

(Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A9)

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FIGHT OVER AIDING NICARAGUAN REBELS RESUMES IN HOUSE

The Reagan Administration's chief defender of aid to Nicaraguan rebels and House Democrats' chief critics of that policy renewed their disagreements at top volume yesterday as the House began preparing for another vote on the issue.

Elliot Abrams defended the controversial U.S. account of the early hours of the incursion by Nicaraguan troops into Honduras March 22. He said the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua "simply lied about what it had done," while U.S. accounts that 2,400 soldiers had invaded were accurate. (Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A15)

Contra Aid Battle Enters Round Three

The Reagan Administration yesterday blamed the Nicaraguan government for scuttling efforts to reach a negotiated settlement in Central America as round three opened on the President's request for \$100 million in aid to the anti-Sandinista forces.

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

BOMB BLAST FORCES SHIFT OF WEINBERGER BANQUET

BANGKOK -- A time bomb filled with nails exploded today about 20 feet from where Secretary Weinberger was to pass on his way to attend a state banquet, police said. Three Thais were injured in the blast.

Weinberger was in his hotel about a mile away from the scene. No Americans were near the site, the U.S. Embassy said. Security was increased and the banquet, scheduled to begin 90 minutes after the blast, was moved to the Hilton Hotel, where Weinberger was staying.

(UPI story, Washington Post, A18)

Bomb Spoils Weinberger Plans

BANKOK, Thailand -- Secretary Weinberger, who drew cheers on a border tour and protesters in the capital yesterday, had his dinner plans changed by a bomb explosion in a hotel parking lot.

(AP story, Washington Times, A6)

U.S.: BONN GIVEN DATA TO JUSTIFY LIBYAN CURBS

Reagan Administration officials said yesterday that the West German government has been supplied with sufficient information about Libyan involvement in last Sunday's West Berlin discotheque bombing to justify political and economic measures against Libya.

The officials, who asked not to be quoted by name, made the comments following news reports from Bonn that the West German government was unlikely to expel Libyan diplomats or take action against Libya on the basis of information that has been supplied so far.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A18)

U.S. Presses Bonn And Other Allies To Expel Libyans

The U.S. has urged West Germany and some other key allies to expel all or most of Libya's diplomats from their capitals because of evidence linking Libya to the bombing last weekend of a discotheque in West Berlin, Administration officials said today.

They said Washington was supplying Bonn and other European capitals with what one official called "absolutely convincing evidence" linking Libya to the West Berlin bombing, in an effort to produce a concerted European set of moves against Libya. The U.S. is trying to "internationalize" the problem so that it is not seen as a purely Libyan-American confrontation.

(Bernard Gwertzman, New York Times, A1)

LIBYAN DIPLOMAT SUSPECTED IN BOMB ATTACK

BERLIN -- A Libyan diplomat based in this divided city's communist zone is suspected of directing the weekend bomb attack that wrecked a crowded nightclub popular with American soldiers, a West Berlin official said yesterday.

"This report is correct," said the official of the West Berlin Interior Ministry who is close to the investigation. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

(Mark Heinrich, Washington Times, A6)

U.S. INTELLIGENCE SAYS QADDAFI URGING MORE TERRORISM

Col. Qaddafi is quietly encouraging his embassies around the world to guide new terrorist attacks, U.S. intelligence has learned, a senior Reagan Administration official says.

The same official said Tuesday that President Reagan and his top aides, following the latest attacks on Americans in Europe, have agreed that there must be retaliation against Libyans, although the target and timing has yet to be determined.

(Dale Nelson, AP)

STATE DEPARTMENT MOSTLY MUM ON BURT

The State Department has told Congress it does not disagree with the claim of the U.S. ambassador to West Germany that Libya was linked to the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that killed an American GI.

But Rozanna Ridgway declined further comment in testimony Tuesday before a House panel on Ambassador Burt's statement that U.S. intelligence agencies have "very clear indications that there was Libyan involvement" in the bombing.

(Leon Daniel, UPI)

56 LIBYANS REPORTED DEAD IN GULF OF SIDRA FIGHTING

CAIRO -- The commander-in-chief of the Libyan armed forces told an Egyptian party leader that 56 Libyans were killed in last month's clashes with the U.S. 6th Fleet, the Egyptian weekly newspaper Al Shaab reported today.

(Reuter story, Washington Post, A18)

U.S. AMBASSADOR RAPS EUROPEAN ALLIES

NEW YORK -- Ambassador Burt says U.S. allies in Europe are being "overly parochial" on countering terrorism, and that the lack of a common approach on security poses a greater danger.

In a speech Tuesday night, Burt said the West Germans and other U.S. allies "have to do more to provide for their defense" and must resist a tendency to portray the U.S. as "reckless and irresponsible" in dealing with the Soviet Union and its allies on nuclear arms control.

(Barry Schweid, AP)

U.S. TAKING AIM AT BOSSES OF TERROR

Attorney General Meese said yesterday the Administration's highest priority is "going after those who actually control terrorist organizations," as reports continued to circulate that the U.S. would soon strike at Libya.

President Reagan and his advisers were said to unanimously favor retaliation for the latest terror and disagree only on a time and a place to strike back, one senior Administration official told the AP.

(Rita Williams & Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

GRATIFIED BY REAGAN POLICY, ISRAEL LOBBY TO SOFTEN STANCE

Leaders of a pro-Israel lobby say that a less confrontational policy toward the Reagan Administration is in order because of the President's "revolutionary" policy of building support for the Jewish state throughout the U.S. bureaucracy.

"Times have changed, and we must change with them," said Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

(George Archibald, Washington Times, A2)

ARGENTINA, U.S. TO CONDUCT FIRST NAVAL EXERCISES SINCE '82

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina -- The U.S. and Argentina will conduct joint naval exercises later this year -- for the first time since the 1982 Falklands War -- reliable sources told the Washington Post.

Argentina suspended joint exercises for the past four years because of ill feelings aroused by American logistical and material support for Britain during the 74-day war. (Timothy O'Leary, Washington Times, A9)

ISRAELI DIPLOMAT CHIDES HOSTAGES FAMILIES

Israeli U.N. Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu chided families of American hostages in Lebanon, saying their pleas that the White House negotiate the hostages' release was a "breach of civic duty."

"The war against terrorism takes courage. If we want to win, we must be prepared to endure sacrifice, even if we suffer the loss of loved ones," Netanyahu told an American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference Tuesday.

Netanyahu's brother was killed in the 1976 Israeli raid on Entebbe Airport in Uganda when airborne Israeli commandos stormed the airport, killed seven Palestinian hijackers and rescued 103 hostages. His brother led the commando raid.

(Nancie Katz, UPI)

NATIONAL NEWS

NUCLEAR TEST POSTPONED BY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

A controversial U.S. underground nuclear weapons test scheduled for yesterday was delayed because of technical problems, according to Administration and congressional sources. Department of Energy officials say they expect that the nuclear test will take place today, sources said.

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A19)

Winds, Not Protesters, Stop Planned U.S. Nuclear Test

A nuclear weapons test the Administration planned despite protests from the Soviet Union, members of Congress and hordes of demonstrators was postponed yesterday because of the weather, according to government sources.

(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A3)

89 Arrests In Nevada Demonstrations; Test Delayed

LAS VEGAS, Nev. -- The U.S. delayed a controversial underground nuclear weapons test Tuesday and sources said the postponement was due to technical problems, not to discussions with the Soviets, the weather or protests near the site in which 89 people were arrested. The Department of Energy in Las Vegas refused even to confirm that a test had been scheduled.

(Robert Macy, AP)

FATAL FLAWS IN SHUTTLE PINPOINTED

CAPE CANAVERAL -- For years, NASA officials were "walking right to the edge of a cliff" because they failed to correct flaws in solid-rocket booster joints that led to the fatal space-shuttle explosion Jan. 28, the agency's chief investigator into the disaster said today.

James Thompson, vice chairman of the NASA internal task force formed to investigate the accident, said the group has identified four problems involving the joints and that these combined to trigger the explosion in which seven astronauts were killed.

(Michael Isikoff, Washington Post, A1)

EXCISE-TAX TREATMENT IMPERILS PACKWOOD PLAN

Sen. Packwood's path to lower income taxes, resting largely on an effective increase in excise taxes on just about everything from gasoline to bows and arrows, appears to be leading the Senate's chief tax writer back into the thicket.

More than half the Senate, including some prominent proponents of tax overhaul, have signed letters raising concern that excise tax changes would hurt those least able to pay. Some business and citizens groups that led the fight for tax overhaul in the House are threatening to defect.

(Dale Russakoff & Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A6)

DOLE THREATENS "GO-IT-ALONE" BUDGET

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole warned bluntly yesterday that Congress will "go it alone" in developing a fiscal 1987 budget unless the White House joins in pursuit of a budget compromise.

The White House has condemned the committee proposal and ruled out negotiations on an alternative. Dole, faced with sharp divisions among GOP senators on key budget issues, has been pushing to draw the Administration into talks that might produce a compromise.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A6)

NAVY, WHITE HOUSE ON COLLISION COURSE

The Navy has just launched a recruiting drive touting the "New GI Bill" -- the package of education benefits for servicemen that President Reagan has asked Congress to kill.

"The services have been disloyal on this one," said a White House official, admitting the military has failed to fall in line on the bill.

(George Wilson, Washington Post, A21)

12-DAY AIR FORCE SPREE NETS \$1 BILLION IN PARTS

Air Force buyers, ordered to spend as much money as possible at the end of 1985, bought more than \$1 billion worth of spare parts during the last 12 days of December, according to a congressional investigation. The purchases represented more than a tenfold increase in the normal buying pace.

(Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A21)

REAGAN DOESN'T FACE THE PRESS UNREHEARSED

When President Reagan walks into the elegantly appointed East Room for his 35th press conference tonight, tens of millions of Americans will witness what appears to be a spontaneous performance.

But Mr. Reagan does not approach the podium unprepared for the 30-minute grilling on live TV by 200 reporters. "He doesn't go up there and simply say what comes into his mind," one senior Administration official who helps the President prepare for the evening press conferences.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A2)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Closeness To Reagan Paying Off For Deaver" by George Archibald & Lucy Keyser appears on page A1 of the Washington Times.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, April 8, 1986)

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

CBS's Dan Rather: The United States abruptly postponed an underground nuclear weapons test. It was a test the Russians had threatened might prompt them to resume nuclear testing too. No official reason was given. Unofficially, the Reagan Administration blamed it on the weather. The White House specifically denied that it had anything to do with the fact that President Reagan was in a meeting today trying to improve the climate for a Soviet-U.S. summit.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: To the great relief of the White House and after months of wavering, the Soviets said today they do want another summit this year in Washington. The first steps were taken when the outgoing Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin paid a courtesy call on President Reagan that turned into a miny summit of its own, lasting 75 minutes, an hour more than scheduled. Serious summit planning with no pre-conditions will get under way in mid-May with a visit here by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

(Photo of the President and Dobrynin.)

(Secretary Shultz: "Mr. Dobrynin was at some pains to say we're not setting any pre-conditions, that's a misinterpretation. But both want to see significant results from a meeting. Both want to see it carefully prepared.")

(TV coverage of Shultz in the briefing room.)

A remaining disagreement, the date. The Soviets prefer November, the U.S. July. Soviet leader Gorbachev on television today said he wants to meet Reagan. He said exchanges of handshakes are not enough.

(Georgi Arbatov, Soviet expert on U.S. affairs: "...smiles, etcetera. They part and everything goes as it went. Gorbachev doesn't want such to happen.")

But privately, Soviet officials say a summit without substantive agreements would still allow them to score propaganda points.

(Dimitri Simes, CBS News consultant: "I think that the next summit will provide many new opportunities, but my impression is that the Soviets pretty much have reconciled themselves to the notion that no big things will be accomplished during the next summit.")

White House officials are concerned the Soviets will try to win concessions before agreeing to the President's preference for a summer summit, such as ratification of the nuclear test ban treaty. But overall, officials expressed joy that the high level dialogue with the Soviets has resumed.

CBS's David Martin: Protesters against nuclear testing got their way today, at least temporarily, when an underground nuclear explosion beneath the Nevada desert was postponed. With Washington and Moscow talking summit, today's postponement seemed diplomatically convenient. The White House denied any connection. Conditions appeared calm, but Administration sources said the test was delayed because of bad winds, not because of the protest.... Today, 25 Nobel scientists sent a letter to President Reagan, calling on him to go along with the Soviet moratorium.

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U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

(Glenn Seaborg, nuclear physicist: "We simply must do something towards the cutback of weapons in arms limitation and a comprehensive test ban is the simplest and most effective first step.") But Reagan Administration officials are adamant about the need for more testing.

(Sylvester Foley, retired admiral: "I guess I'm unwilling, in terms of national deterrence, to accept a comprehensive test ban right now with the kind of confidence level that I have in the Soviets. As long you have nuclear weapons, you ought to test.")

Administration officials say the test could take place as soon as tomorrow, weather permitting. At least one other underground explosion is scheduled for this month and arms control experts in and out of the government believe that will give the Soviets an excuse to resume their own testing program and blame it on the U.S.

(CBS-LEAD)

ABC's Peter Jennings: The prospect for a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev got brighter today. After 24 years of service in this country's capital, the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, Anatoly Dobrynin, went to the White House to say good-bye. He went with some encouraging news.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin came to the White House not just to say good-bye, but to get the planning for another U.S.-Soviet summit back on track. In a meeting with President Reagan which went over its 15 minute schedule by a full hour, the major aspects of the superpower relationship were touched on. Dobrynin gave Mr. Reagan a letter from Soviet leader Gorbachev. (Photo of the President and Dobrynin.)

White House officials described the meeting as cordial. Said it advanced things and seemed genuinely pleased by the spirit Dobrynin conveyed. A spirit Secretary Shultz suggested, made summit prospects brighter.... Shultz said he'll meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Washington in mid-May to continue summit planning. He wouldn't disclose what Gorbachev had said on the subject in his letter to the President. Gorbachev himself, while greeting Soviet factory workers, was being publicly cagey. Yes he wants a summit in 1986, but it would be necessary that there be some kind of advance to agree on and not just exchange cordialities he said. And when will the summit be held? President Reagan reiterated to Dobrynin today the U.S. preference for June or July. Sources say Mr. Reagan did not throw in the towel to the Russians who wanted it later. With time running out, not only for making preparations, but for reaching some substantive agreements to be announced, it's looking more and more like a summit this fall - probably November.

ABC's John McWethy reports the Reagan Administration is pushing harder to the Soviets that a proposal for the superpowers to deal with world hot-spots, like Central America.

(TV coverage of the President and Gorbachev.)

In the next two months, an intensive round of U.S.-Soviet expert talks will take place. Reviewing confrontation zones such as the Middle East, Nicaragua, Angola, Vietnam/Cambodia and Afghanistan.

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

U.S. officials say there will be a major push to make them real negotiations to find some common ground for Reagan and Gorbachev to claim as progress when they meet at the next summit. The Trident submarine is creating another issue that could well become a major bone of contention at a summit. There is great pressure from conservatives to junk the Salt II Treaty altogether because of alleged Soviet cheating. Another issue with the Soviets is terrorism.

(Attorney General Edwin Meese: "We know the Soviets among other countries directly and through their Cuban and Libyan proxies - arm, train and plan the work of terrorists.")

State Department officials say increasingly the Soviets are willing to talk about terrorism and that in itself, represents a small bit of progress. What the Kremlin is not willing to do officials claim, is to actually do something about the problem.

Jennings reports the nuclear test in the Nevada desert was cancelled according to the Reagan Administration because of the weather.

ABC's Rick Inderfurth reports that over 200 anti-nuclear demonstrators were on hand at the Nevada nuclear test site to protest today's scheduled test. Over 70 were arrested. Administration officials say the postponement of today's explosion was due to high winds. Those winds were caused by the weather and not superpower politics.

(Charles Redman, State Department spokesman: "Our testing program is established and conducted according to technical considerations. The tests may be delayed due to weather conditions or a variety of technical problems.")

(Sen. Edward Kennedy: "Mr. President, instead of testing more weapons let us test Soviet good faith by resuming negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.")

Administration officials say the U.S. testing program will continue. The Soviet leader is persistent. Today he offered to consider U.S. proposals for onsite inspections of nuclear tests, if President Reagan would agree to begin negotiations to stop all testing. Despite that offer, U.S. officials say today's postponed test may take place as early as tomorrow and will be followed by as many as 14 additional tests this year. (ABC-5)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: ...First, the prospects for a superpower summit meeting. There have been signs that it might not come this summer, but tonight chances that it will seem to be considerably greater. Next, nuclear tests.... A test scheduled by the Reagan Administration today was postponed, but apparently not for political reasons. Winds were too high. That test has been rescheduled for tomorrow....

NBC's Chris Wallace: Dobrynin came to the White House for a farewell session after 24 years in Washington. Once again, he was trying to break the U.S.-Soviet log-jam. In a 75 minute session he delivered a letter from Mikhail Gorbachev, calling for an improvement in relations. Dobrynin took a step in that direction, agreeing to a meeting between Secretary Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Washington next month to prepare for a summit. (Photo of the President and Dobrynin.)

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U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

Shultz said later there is much to prepare with a summit date still undecided.

(Shultz: "Both agree there should be a next meeting. It will be in the United States, having something significant connected with it. Both parties agree on that. Beyond that, there are no particular pre-conditions.")

At a car plant east of Moscow, Gorbachev was not so friendly. He told workers he does want a summit, but there must be progress on arms control. Later, in a speech to the nation, he blasted the Reagan Administration for nuclear testing, attacking Libya and 'Star Wars.' U.S. officials insist the private Soviet tone is much more positive. Still, Administration officials don't know whether they are any closer to a summit.

(Shultz: "We have not set any date, so it's impossible to know whether we are closer or not closer.")

The President is still pushing for June or July. But all of Gorbachev's talk about agreements indicates he still wants to meet in September or even later. Meanwhile, the nuclear test in Nevada was postponed. U.S. officials emphasize the reason was high winds, not the delicacy of U.S.-Soviet relations. In fact, officials say with the Soviets demanding the U.S. stop testing; they wanted to go ahead with today's explosion despite the Dobrynin meeting. A top official tells NBC News the Soviets won't have to wait long. The nuclear test has been rescheduled for tomorrow.

NBC's Richard Valeriani reports in Washington there were verbal protests on Capitol Hill.

(Sen. Howard Metzenbaum: "On this issue the American people truly want a ratification of a nuclear test ban.")

There were also signs of congressional support for nuclear testing.

(Sen. John Warner: "It's in the best interest of the United States strategic program at this time to continue the testing program.")

Knowledgeable critics such as the former director of the Arms Control Agency says that is just a pretext.

(Gerard Smith, former director of the Arms Control Agency: "I think they have an urge to improve weapons, to develop new ones and not least, to develop weapons for the Strategic Defense Initiative.")

(Kenneth Aldeman, director of the Arms Control Agency: "Our view on arms control is that we need deep reductions in nuclear weapons. We need it in such ways to reduce the risk of war. Our idea is that first things come first. That's the first priority.")

The Reagan Administration is the first since the Eisenhower administration not to try to negotiate a ban on nuclear testing. There are no signs that policy will change. (NBC-LEAD)

U.S.-CHINA

Rather reports President Reagan agreed to sell more than half a billion dollars worth of U.S. military electronics to China. It's by far the largest direct government to government U.S.-China deal ever. Congress has 30 days to say no or this deal goes through automatically. (NBC-4, CBS-2)

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TWA FLIGHT 840

Rather reports the woman suspect was aboard the plane on an earlier hop. She was interviewed today by CBS News.

CBS's Doug Tunnell reports from Athens that her choice of the TWA flight from Cairo to Athens was a casual one. Airline employes in Cairo and executives in London dispute that claim. American officials concluded that the bomb was not planted after Mansur got off.

(CBS-3)

U.S.-LIBYA

Rather reports that another heavier and more dangerous reprisaled attack on Libya is getting serious consideration and study.

CBS's Bill Plante: 48 hours after the bombing in West Berlin the Reagan Administration had reached a consensus for military retaliation against Libya. But officials are still trying to decide exactly what to do and when. Sources tell CBS News that the evidence, most of it from communications intercepts, seems to implicate Libya beyond much doubt.

(Attorney General Edwin Meese: "We know who the terrorist organizations are and other governments know who they are. There must be no refuge and no sanctuary for terrorists.")

What are the options? The easy targets are on the coast - the Libyan missile battery already hit by the operation in the Gulf of Sidra, a submarine base, and other port facilities and artillery positions. More risky - terrorist training camps. Military planners say daylight actions inland would probably mean the loss of some pilots and aircraft. The White House believes there is public support as do many in Congress.

(Sen. Robert Dole: "If Khadafy is going to spawn terrorism, tolerate it and export it. Then we should deal with it. The sooner the better.")

The Israeli ambassador to the U.N. urged the U.S. to strike back and pay the price.

(Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli ambassador: "A successful war on terrorism will involve a succession of blows and counter blows.... They must know that we in the West will not sit back and take it.")

Intelligence sources tell CBS News the Libyans are urging their European embassies to undertake new terrorist actions. The White House would rather retaliate against Libyan at a time of its own choosing. Sources say there is a lot of pressure to act soon. To strike while the consensus is hot.

CBS's Anthony Mason reports a number of U.S. flights around the nation have been delayed because of possible bombs over the last week.

(CBS-4)

Jennings: A Libyan diplomat stationed in East Berlin is now suspected of directing the weekend bomb attack on a West Berlin discotheque. American and West Berlin authorities are still investigating the damage. Security has been tightened on all U.S. military facilities overseas....

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U.S.-LIBYA (continued)

ABC's Hal Walker reports from Frankfurt investigators say they still have no direct evidence to identify the bomber. Although they suspect the work of foreign terrorists. A West Berlin official has confirmed reports that a diplomat in Libya's East Germany Embassy is suspected of being behind the attack. Elamin Abdullah Elamin is the man in question. U.S. officials have given West German authorities documents reported to prove Libya's involvement. Authorities in Bonn say they those documents are inconclusive. American military is taking precaution. Old wire fences are becoming concrete walls as Americans try to reduce their vulnerability to terrorism. (ABC-LEAD)

Brokaw reports there are increasing indications of a Libyan connection to the West Berlin bombing. The trigger of that attack appears to have been the U.S. Sixth Fleet showdown with Libya last month.

NBC's Fred Francis reports a Pentagon official said today when the Sixth Fleet sailed away from the gulf Khadafy gave everyone a green light, terrorists he controls and those he influences. The official added, that's what we think we know about Khadafy's involvement in these latest acts. The Administration has more specific evidence. It points to the Libyan Embassy in East Berlin. Decoded radio messages from Libya to this mission in the hours after the bombing which acknowledge some sort of heroic act.

(Attorney General Edwin Meese: "The policy of the Department of Justice and of President Reagan is to put the highest priority on those who actually control the terrorist organizations and who pay to send their henchmen on the various terrorist missions.") (NBC-6)

WEINBERGER/BOMB

Rather reports only 90 minutes before a scheduled banquet for Secretary Weinberger a bomb exploded in the parking lot of a Bangkok hotel. No one claimed responsibility. Three people were injured in the explosion. The bomb was hidden in a trash can a few yards away where Weinberger would have passed.

(NBC-8, ABC-2, CBS-6)

GUN CONTROL

Rather: The House is geared up for debating and voting on the much lobbied about gun control bills. Including an attempt to roll back current federal restrictions on the sale of handguns.

CBS's Phil Jones reports tomorrow a political shootout over gun control occurs on the House floor.

(TV coverage of Jim Brady.)

Sarah Brady has added to the emotion of the anti-handgun campaign.

(Sarah Brady: "I am committed to doing all I can to ensure that no family has to go through what the Brady family has endured.")

The gun lobby is one of the strongest in the nation and supporters of easing restrictions even claim wide support from law enforcement.

(Rep. Tommy Robinson: "The majority of my constituents think and rightfully so that they have a constitutional right to bear arms and I'm going to support them.")

If the House joins the Senate this week, the gun lobby will have succeeded in weakening the 1968 gun law. (CBS-7)

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CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Rather: President Reagan's appointees to the U.S. Civil Rights

Commission are seriously considering recommending cancellation of a so called set-aside program designed to encourage businesses run by women and minorities.

CBS's Bruce Morton reports that a report by the staff of the Civil Rights Commission says they (set-asides) are unfair, don't work and should be suspended for a year while the government looks for a better approach. The commission will vote on its staff's report this Friday. Actually junking set-asides would require action from the President and Congress. Sources close to both say that's unlikely.

(CBS-12)

MISKITO INDIANS

Brokaw reports there is an exodus in northeastern Nicaraguan tonight.

The Miskito Indians apparently have been caught in renewed fighting between the Sandinista army and U.S.-backed contra rebels. In the last two weeks thousands of Miskitos have crossed into the border and into Honduras. There are conflicting reports on the role of the Miskitos.

(NBC-11)

CHALLENGER

Rather reports J. R. Thompson, a top NASA investigator, said today it

was a faulty O-ring joint on the space shuttle's right solid rocket booster that caused the destruction of Challenger. (NBC-13, CBS-9)

AUSTRALIA/SDI

Brokaw reports the government of Australia announced today that it has

turned down an American proposal to do some of the research work for 'Star Wars.'

(NBC-3)

WALDHEIM

Rather reports Justice Department sources tell CBS News correspondent

Rita Braver that the U.S. will formally ask the U.N. to show American officials its war crimes file on Waldheim.

(CBS-11)

PRIME LENDING RATE

Rather reports the Southwest Bank of St. Louis said it will cut its prime

lending rate a quarter of a point to 8.75% effective tomorrow. The last time the key interest rate was that low was in the spring of 1978.

(CBS-13)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

NICARAGUA

Contra Victories -- "The conventional wisdom in Washington is that the contras cannot win. Perhaps not, although it should be noted that even successful insurgencies take years to mature. What this week demonstrates is that, in any event, it is far, far too early to count the contras out. For the contras and their cause, this week may indeed have marked the end of the beginning." (San Diego Union, 3/29)

An Embarrassment Of Glitches -- "Little wonder that the President confronts a balky Congress and a skeptical public, the majority of which is reluctant to buy into his dubious version of Central American current events. His administration is managing the contest against the Sandinistas no better than the contras are fighting it." (Atlanta Constitution, 4/7)

Don't Push Honduras -- "In its efforts to oppose the Nicaraguan government, the Reagan Administration needs to be careful that it does not draw Honduras into an unwanted war with the Sandinistas. It is one thing to come to a country's defense in the event of a legitimate threat to its security; it is quite another to force an ally into a confrontation it does not want and is trying hard to avoid." (Dallas Times Herald, 4/6)

ARMS CONTROL

Doomsday Games -- "Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev seems to have a flair for splashy offers to end nuclear testing or dismantle missiles or some such dramatic proposal. He often puts Mr. Reagan in the position of responding like some carping nitpicker. Often, the two just ignore each other's most recent proposal, in order to get a headline with their own. Instead of a dialogue, we have two competing monologues." (New Jersey Record, 4/2)

Those Gorbachev Reruns Again -- "Secretary of State George Shultz was right when he complained that the Soviets' approach to arms control has been to make propaganda proposals in public and do nothing to advance negotiations in private. But President Reagan doesn't seem to know how to say anything but no in public, and it isn't as if he has been burning up the hotline with constructive proposals of his own." (Chicago Tribune, 4/1)

BUDGET

'86: 'Budget-surplus Year' -- "The new projections shouldn't lessen the resolve of Congress to confront the deficits; they should reinforce it. They make it possible to meet the 1991 balanced-budget goal by combining continued spending restraint with a relatively modest increase in revenue, and without gutting a lot of programs that people want." (Des Moines Register, 4/2)

OIL PRICES

President Says, 'Stop Me From Running Up This Debt' -- "The White House wants Saudi Arabia and the oil cartel to fix it so the prices don't drop any more and maybe rise again. In other words, the White House wants the oil cartel, not the debt-ridden U.S. federal government, to get Americans' dollars. One of these days, when you feel really up to it, figure that one out." (Dayton Daily News, 4/3)

TAX REFORM

The 'Ides' Of April - Time For Tax Reform, Too -- "It is to the Senate's credit that increasing numbers of lawmakers are beginning to speak out against the Finance Committee measure. They should. Senators contemplating tax reform at this time of year should look across the aisles to the measure passed by the House as a more workable - and fairer - model." (Christian Science Monitor, 4/8)

OIL TAX

Oil Tax Hike Folly -- "Rumors of a push for a new oil tax keep spouting from the White House, despite President Reagan's valiant attempts to cap the gusher. Administration tax raisers should heed their President's pledge not to increase taxes. But there's another reason it's a bad idea: a new oil tax actually may cut revenues. No matter how you look at it, an oil tax rise is the height of economic and political folly." (Washington Times, 4/7)

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Push To Reform Liability Law -- "The Reagan Administration's support for insurance liability and tort law reform, although not yet specifically defined, is welcome news. We trust that the reform of insurance law and of tort law will be sought with vigor. These matters are among the most pressing on the domestic political, economic and social agenda." (San Francisco Chronicle, 4/1)

GUN CONTROL

The Gun Debate And Public Safety -- "McClure-Volkmer supporters say the 1968 act, passed after the Kennedy and King assassinations, hasn't worked. It didn't stop John Hinckley Jr. from buying a pistol and shooting the President. Opponents say that's an argument to strengthen the law, not repeal it. They have weakened their case by supporting a bill to legalize selling rifles and shotguns across state lines, and to reduce controls on buying and owning handguns. The House will vote tomorrow. The national interest is the defeat of both bills - and a strengthening of the 1968 act. It won't happen, so the best to hope for is the compromise bill, which at least keeps some limits on handguns." (Daily News, 4/8)

House: Keep Gun Control; Don't Cower Before NRA -- "Handgun control is a life and death issue. Some day politicians with guts will confront the NRA head on and build a reform campaign to stem the carnage in America's streets by controlling the murder weapons. For now though, voting for the Judiciary compromise is the least that responsible politicians should do. A Congress that cowers before the NRA is a Congress of cowards. America deserves better." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 4/8)