

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: News Summary Office, White House:
News Summaries, 1981-1989

Series: II: WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY FINALS,
1981-1989

Folder Title: 04/15/1986

Box: 387

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

AMERICAN BOMBERS STRIKE BASES IN LIBYA (New York Times)

REAGAN: 'IF NECESSARY, WE WILL DO IT AGAIN' (Denver Post)

U.S. BOMBS BASES IN LIBYA, KHADAFY 'REIGN OF TERROR,'
REAGAN SAYS (Kansas City Times)

U.S. RAIDS TRIPOLI, BENGHAZI AREAS; WEINBERGER SAYS ONE
PLANE MISSING (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

DIRECT EVIDENCE OF DISCO ATTACK, SAYS PRESIDENT (Boston Globe)

BOMBERS STRIKE FIVE TERRORIST TARGETS (Detroit News)

KHADAFY'S HEADQUARTERS AMONG TARGETS BLASTED IN PRE-DAWN
RAID: REAGAN SAYS MILITARY STRIKE IS IN SELF DEFENSE
(Raleigh News-Observer)

U.S. WARPLANES ATTACK LIBYA: TERRORIST TARGETS HIT IN NIGHT
RAID; EVIDENCE CITED OF KHADAFY PLANS (Des Moines Register)

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

LIBYA -- There is a sharp increase in American military activity in the Mediterranean tonight and also in Europe.

NICARAGUA -- Both sides on the contra aid battle escalated their attacks today to influence this week's vote in the House.

NAKASONE -- Prime Minister Nakasone left the White House today with a rosy prediction.

...IT IS OUR DUTY

"When our citizens are abused or attacked, anywhere in the world, on the direct orders of a hostile regime, we will respond so long as I'm in this Oval Office. Self-defense is not only our right, it is our duty."

(President Reagan's
Address to the Nation, 4/14)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. JETS RAID LIBYA

Dozens of American warplanes made lightening raids on terrorist training camps, airfields and government command posts in Libya to retaliate for terrorist attacks, and President Reagan vowed Monday night to halt Moammar Khadafy's "reign of terror." (Miami Herald, A1)

Reagan: 'If Necessary, We Will Do It Again'

President Reagan told the nation Monday night that he had absolute proof that Libya was behind the bombing of the disco in West Berlin last month. (Denver Post, A1)

U.S. Bombs Bases In Libya Khadafy 'Reign Of Terror,' Reagan Says

The U.S. conducted a series of air strikes in the middle of the night against "terrorist centers" in Libya, the White House announced Monday night. (Kansas City Times, A1)

U.S. Raids Tripoli, Benghazi Areas; Weinberger Says One Plane Missing

The U.S., acting to "preempt and discourage" terrorism, carried out a series of air strikes against Libya, the White House announced last night. (Richmond Times Dispatch, A1)

U.S. Planes Bomb Targets In Libya; Reagan Cites Khadafy's Terrorism Direct Evidence Of Disco Attack, Says President

U.S. fighter bombers last night struck major military targets in Libya in retaliation for Libyan terrorist attacks and to preempt future attacks by Libya against Americans, President Reagan said. The strike was carried out by dozens of U.S. aircraft, including Air Force 111s from Great Britain and Navy jets from aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean Sea, that roared over Tripoli, the Libyan capital, and Benghazi, the country's second-largest city, at about 7:00 p.m. EST yesterday (2:00 a.m. today Libyan time). (Boston Globe, A1)

U.S. Jets Attack Libya To Curb Reign Of 'Evil' Missile Site, Tripoli, Benghazi Are Targets

The United States, acting to "preempt and discourage" Libyan terrorism, carried out a series of middle-of-the-night air strikes against Libya, the White House announced Monday night. "We have done what we had to do," President Reagan declared, vowing to strike again if Libyan terrorism continues. (Arizona Republic, A1)

-more-

U.S. Jets Bomb Five Libyan Sites To 'Preempt' Khadafy Terrorism
One Jet Reported Missing In Raid

U.S. warplanes attacked "the headquarters and terrorist facilities" of Libya's Moammar Khadafy, President Reagan said Monday night. Initial reports were that the middle-of-the-night air strike succeeded. He said, adding: "If necessary, we will do it again."

(Minneapolis Star & Tribune, A1)

U.S. Attacks Libya
Bombers Strike Five Terrorist Targets

U.S. warplanes bombed five "terrorist-related targets" in Libya's two major cities in an attack the White House said was designed to "preempt and discourage Libyan terrorism." Administration officials said targets of the attacks at 7:00 p.m. Detroit time yesterday were in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, and in Benghazi, a port city across the Gulf of Sidra from Tripoli and the site of a newly-completed anti-missile site. (Detroit News, A1)

U.S. Jets Attack Libyan Targets
Reagan Says Action Was 'Self Defense'

The United States, acting to "preempt and discourage" Libyan terrorism, carried out a series of middle-of-the-night air strikes against Libya, the White House announced Monday night. U.S. Air Force fighter bombers joined other planes launched by two aircraft carriers Monday evening in attacking carefully selected sites inside Libya, a Pentagon spokesman said. (Cincinnati Enquirer, A1)

U.S. Jets Hit Libyan Targets
Khadafy's Headquarters Among Targets Blasted
In Pre-Dawn Raid; Reagan Says Military Strike Is In Self-Defense

In an unmistakable and personal warning to Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy, the President declared "If necessary, we will do it again."

(Raleigh News-Observer, A1)

U.S. Warplanes Attack Libya: Terrorist Targets Hit In Night Raid;
Evidence Cited Of Khadafy Plans

U.S. warplanes attacked the "headquarters and terrorist facilities" of Libya's Moammar Khadafy, President Reagan said Monday night. The President said that the United States had a "duty" to respond to the attacks that he said intelligence sources disclosed were the "irrefutable" work of the Libyan strongman. (Des Moines Register, A1)

U.S. Jets Hit 'Terrorist Centers' In Libya; Reagan Warns Of New Attacks
If Needed; One Plane Missing In Raids On Five Targets

The United States conducted a series of air strikes tonight against what the White House called "terrorist centers" and military bases in Libya. President Reagan, in a nationally broadcast speech, said the American forces had succeeded in their mission of retaliating against Libya for what he termed the "reign of terror" waged by Col. Khadafy.

(Portland Oregonian, A1)

U.S. Warplanes Bomb Targets In Libya In Attempt To Deter Qaddafi Terrorism

American warplanes bombed Libyan terrorist training camps, airfields and government command posts in Tripoli and Benghazi last night to "preempt and discourage" terrorism the White House announced.

Larry Speakes said, "This effort on our part is an effort to prevent Qaddafi from making future attacks on us. It is a self defense move." Speakes declined to cite specific targets but said they were part of Qaddafi's "terrorist infrastructure" as well as some military targets to suppress anti-aircraft fire.

(George Wilson & David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

Tripoli Echos To Sound Of Raids

TRIPOLI -- The streets of Tripoli began to echo with the thunder of bombs a few seconds before 2 a.m. this morning as American attack jets struck, realizing in a few minutes the worst fears of people here, including both Libyans and foreign workers, who had grown increasingly apprehensive in the past 24 hours that just such an attack would come.

Tripoli had waited nervously for this moment all day. And all week there had been signs that Libya hoped to back away from what now seems to have been the inevitable and violent confrontation of early this morning.

In the hours preceding the attack, Libya had bolstered its defenses and once again sought to distance itself from the terrorist actions that had precipitated the current crisis.

(Christopher Dickey, Washington Post, A1)

Attack Was Preceded By Flurry Of Diplomacy

Last night's U.S. attack on Libya followed a flurry of diplomatic activity including a last-minute message to the Soviet Union that the attack was under way and earlier, but only partially successful consultations with the West European allies.

In attacking Libya, the U.S. was taking military action against a nation that has close military relations with the Soviet Union and as many as 6,000 Soviet advisers on its soil. However, Soviet spokesmen in recent days have distanced themselves somewhat from Col. Qaddafi.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

American Bombers Hit Libya

"Today we did what we had to do," Mr. Reagan said in a 10-minute televised address. "If necessary, we will do it again."

One U.S. plane was unaccounted for when Secretary Weinberger briefed reporters after the President's address. Official Libyan sources claimed three U.S. jets were downed.

The President warned Col. Qaddafi that the U.S. would continue to respond to terrorism. "Despite repeated warnings, Qaddafi counted on Americans to be passive," said Mr. Reagan. "He counted wrong. We will respond as long as I remain in the Oval Office."

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

American Bombers Strike Bases In Libya

The U.S. conducted a series of air strikes tonight against what the White House called "terrorist centers" in Libya.

President Reagan said American forces had "succeeded" in their mission of retaliation against Libya for the "reign of terror" he said had been launched by Col. Qaddafi against the U.S.

(Bernard Weintraub, New York Times, A1)

U.S. Aircraft Attack Libyan Targets In Bid To Preempt Terrorism

President Reagan unleashed a series of air strikes against military and "terrorism-related" targets in Libya.

The move boldly underscored the President's conviction that state-sponsored international terrorism, such as represented by Col. Qaddafi, amounts to acts of war that warrant responses in kind. "Today we have done what we had to do," the President declared in a televised address last night. "And if necessary we shall do it again."

(Wall Street Journal, A1)

U.S. Warplanes Hit Libya -- One Jet Unaccounted For

U.S. warplanes blasted targets in Libya's two main cities, including a headquarters used by Col. Qaddafi, in response for what President Reagan called the Libyan leader's "reign of terror."

Secretary Weinberger said tonight one long-range U.S. bomber from a base in Britain was unaccounted for after the attacks on the capital of Tripoli and the second city of Benghazi.

Weinberger stressed the plane, an F-111, could not be counted as lost. He said it might only have a faulty radio.

(Patricia Wilson, Reuter)

Reagan Says U.S. Hit Libya Because Of Berlin Bombing

Despite reports of intense disagreement within the Administration over an appropriate response to Qaddafi for the Berlin bombing, the White House Monday night orchestrated a show of unity.

Moments after Mr. Reagan's speech, Secretary Shultz, who reportedly urged a strike, and Secretary Weinberger, who reportedly had reservations, appeared jointly to brief reporters at the White House.

(Benjamin Shore, Copley News Service)

Tass Says U.S. Committed State Terrorism With Libya Raid

LONDON -- Tass said the U.S. committed "state terrorism" with its air strikes against Libya but it was too soon to speak of the consequences.

The news agency, monitored in London, said: "American imperialism has perpetrated a new bloody crime: from words -- rude and inadmissible verbal attacks against Libya and its leadership -- from military demonstrations and provocations against that sovereign and freedom-loving country, Washington has moved to naked aggression." (Reuter)

Libya/Soviets

MOSCOW -- A Soviet commentator on Tuesday called the U.S. attack on Libya a "new bloody crime" aimed at intimidating the North African country.

The commentary of political news analyst Vladimir Goncharov was carried by the official Soviet news agency, Tass, and said the U.S. "has started speaking in its true tongue -- the tongue of bombs, flames and death." (AP)

Soviets Condemn U.S. Attack On Libya

MOSCOW -- There was no indication of what action, if any, the Soviet Union would take. Moscow had confined its support to words during the clash between Libyan and U.S. forces last month.

Tass carried thorough reports of the attacks as reported by both sides, calling the American attack a "heinous act of state terrorism against Libya." Tass linked the bombing of Libya to U.S. support for anti-communist forces in Afghanistan and Nicaragua and past military action in Grenada and Vietnam. (Jack Redden, UPI)

U.S. Jets Hit Libya, Radio Says Qaddafi Kin, Foreigners Hit

TRIPOLI, Libya -- "A number of civilians, most of them foreign nationals, have fallen," the radio said. It later called on Arab neighbors to strike back against American civilian and military targets.

Ground gunners returned volleys of anti-aircraft fire when U.S. warplanes struck the western port district at 2 a.m. Libyan radio later said three planes had been shot down and their pilots killed by citizens.

(Philip Shehadi, Reuter)

U.S./Libya

A broadcast by Libya radio, monitored by the BBC, said "...the savage American invaders carried out a treacherous and barbaric air strike...against the residence of the brother leader of the revolution (Qaddafi). A number of members of the family of the brother leader were injured as a result of this raid."

In Tripoli, Qaddafi's information director, Ibrahim Seger, said Tuesday that Qaddafi had survived the raid. "He's OK, he's OK," Seger told AP. (Michael Putzel, AP)

U.S. OUTPOSTS WORLDWIDE BRACE FOR POSSIBLE LIBYAN REPRISAL

Security forces at U.S. embassies around the world kept a close watch early Tuesday for Libyan reprisals that Secretary Shultz said could strike as many as 30 missions following the American air attack on Libya. American embassies around the world were on a security alert, Shultz said. (UPI)

Iran Warns Of Reprisals, Thailand Pulling 30,000 Workers From Libya

Iran warned today of attacks against Americans in retaliation for the U.S. air raid on Libya, China condemned the strike by American warplanes, and Thailand said it was ordering 30,000 workers out of Libya.

Many U.S. allies had no immediate comment on the raid that occurred early today. Britain's foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said today the U.S. raid, launched partly from bases in Britain, was "essential."

(Terrence Petty, AP)

LIBYAN RADIO ISSUES CALL TO ARMS

LONDON -- Libyan radio issued a call to arms Tuesday to its citizens and the entire Arab world to strike out everywhere at Americans in retaliation for the U.S. attack on Libya, warning that those who do not heed will be "cursed forever."

"To arms, O sons of our Arab nation, to dive on all the targets which belong to terrorist America, everywhere in our great Arab homeland," Libya's Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland radio said in a broadcast monitored in London.

(UPI)

PRESIDENT BASED HIS DECISION ON "INCONTROVERTIBLE" EVIDENCE

President Reagan ordered military operations against Libya after being told of "incontrovertible" evidence the Col. Qaddafi was responsible for the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque and being warned that Administration credibility would suffer if he failed to act, officials said yesterday.

(Larry) Speakes declined to provide details of the decision-making process, but sources said that a formal national security decision directive was signed last Wednesday in which Reagan approved an attack on Libya "in principle." These sources said that the President approved the specifics of the operation yesterday upon the strong recommendation of Secretary Shultz, who has advocated military action against terrorism.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. HAD WORD OF MORE PLOTS

U.S. officials said yesterday that before the military strike against Libya, they had uncovered evidence not only of Libya's involvement in the April 5 attack on a West Berlin discotheque but of Libyan planning for a grenade and a handgun attack against visa applicants at the U.S. consulate in Paris, the kidnaping of an American ambassador in Africa, and the bombing of schools attended by the children of U.S. diplomats.

The attacks were averted after being discovered by U.S. intelligence officials and local police, the officials said.

(Keith Richburg, Washington Post, A1)

NO WORD WHETHER QADDAFI HARMED

TRIPOLI, Libya -- State radio said Col. Qaddafi's home and headquarters were hit by the American warplanes that struck this Mediterranean seaside capital in an early-morning lightning raid today. There was no immediate word whether the Libyan leader was harmed.

Relatives of Col. Qaddafi and some foreigners were injured in U.S. air attacks, which struck a military airport in Tripoli, Col. Qaddafi's barracks headquarters and his house, the local radio reported.

(Washington Times, A1)

JAPAN CONCERNS OVER LIBYA ESCALATION, FEARS FOR CITIZENS

TOKYO -- Japan today expressed grave concern over U.S. air strikes against Libya and reported that its embassy in Tripoli had been damaged in the raid.

(A Foreign Ministry spokesman) quoted Foreign Minister Abe in Washington as saying: "The United States would have its own reason for the attack. But we will watch developments with grave concern. We hope the situation will not escalate further."

(Reuters)

WALTERS CONCLUDES TOUR WITH TALKS IN ROME

ROME -- U.S. special envoy Vernon Walters met here tonight with Italian Prime Minister Craxi, concluding a tour of key European capitals intended to rally allied support for U.S. sanctions against Libya.

A brief statement by Craxi later seemed to indicate there had been little agreement on U.S. demands for a much stronger European stance against Col. Qaddafi than the steps taken earlier in the day by Common Market foreign ministers meeting in The Hague.

(Loren Jenkins, Washington Post, A20)

EUROPEANS AGREE, BEFORE RAIDS, TO RESTRICT LIBYAN DIPLOMATS

THE HAGUE -- European Community foreign ministers "knew nothing at all" about the pending U.S. military attack against Libya when they met here yesterday to discuss joint European action in response to Libyan involvement in terrorism, a spokesman for the government of the Netherlands said earlier today.

In a statement released here last night following a five-hour emergency meeting, the EC foreign ministers declared that Libya was "clearly implicated in supporting terrorism" and they agreed to reduce and restrict Libyan diplomatic missions in their countries.

(Karen DeYoung, Washington Post, A22)

ALGERIA ACTS TO "CONTAIN" QADDAFI

ALGIERS -- Overshadowed by the Reagan Administration's confrontation with Libya, Algeria has launched a major diplomatic initiative to "contain" Col. Qaddafi and stabilize turbulent North African politics.

Algerian officials stressed that the plans hinge on tying the volatile Libyan leader into a web of specific economic cooperation deals that range from natural gas to electronics and are aimed at dissuading him from further regional troublemaking. (Jonathan Randal, Washington Post, A23)

MOSCOW SAYS IT URGED AGAINST U.S. "AGGRESSION"

MOSCOW -- A Foreign Ministry official, speaking at a press conference several hours before the U.S. raids, said today that the Soviet Union was doing "everything possible" to stop what he called U.S. aggression against Libya.

"Our commitment is not to allow aggression," he said. "That position has prevailed in our contacts with the United States."

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A23)

U.S. PROTESTS ALLEGED ISRAELI TORTURE CASE

The U.S. has protested to Israel the alleged torture of an Arab American who contends he was brutally mistreated during five weeks in an Israeli-supervised detention center after he was arrested in early February in south Lebanon.

The Israeli Embassy last night said (Ghazi) Dabaja's allegations that an Israeli officer was involved in his torture were "totally baseless."

(David Ottaway, Washington Post, A1)

LIBYA ON ALERT, QUIET AND TENSE

TRIPOLI, Libya -- Libya had been braced quietly but apprehensively all day today for the widely expected U.S. attack. It had bolstered its defenses and sought to distance itself from the terrorist actions that precipitated the current crisis.

(Christopher Dickey, Washington Post, A1)

JUSTICE PROBING FARRAKHAN'S TRIP TO LIBYA

The Justice Department is deciding whether Louis Farrakhan should be prosecuted for attending what the Reagan Administration has billed a "terrorist convention" in Libya last month, a senior agency official said yesterday.

"The question is did he [Farrakhan] spend any money while he was there? That's what we're looking into now," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

(John McCaslin, Washington Times, A2)

PRESIDENT ASSAILS HOUSE DEMOCRATS ON CONTRA AID TACTICS

President Reagan complained yesterday that House Democrats are trying to sidetrack for months his proposed \$100 million package of aid for Nicaraguan rebels and warned that such delays could result in defeat of the rebels and "a verdict of shame on us all" in the history books.

His comments were directed at the House Democratic leadership decision to include such aid in a \$1.7 billion supplemental appropriations bill that Reagan has vowed to veto.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A7)

President Rips Deals In Contra Aid Fight

President Reagan yesterday warned that Nicaraguan lives will be lost and American foreign policy damaged if House "subterfuge or backroom deals" scuttle his \$100 million aid request for the anti-Sandinista forces.

(Christopher Simpson & Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Coalition Targets Foes Of Contra Aid

A coalition of 30 major conservative organizations has asked Vice President Bush and other potential 1988 Republican presidential candidates to withhold support for any House member who does not support President Reagan's aid package for the Nicaraguan resistance.

David Keene, chairman of the American Conservative Union, a leader of the coalition, yesterday said the group would "go after those members of Congress who with full knowledge of the facts, vote against their own country's interests to curry favor with a Marxist thug who poses a threat to our hemisphere."

(David Sellars, Washington Times, A5)

Nationwide Protests Oppose Contra Aid

Fifty-seven people were arrested yesterday in the Capitol Rotunda while dozens more protested on steps outside against a Reagan Administration proposal to send \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan resistance.

(Jim Clardy, Washington Times, A5)

Battle Expected In Congress Over Linking Contra Aid To Spending

President Reagan and supporters of his plan to aid the Nicaraguan rebels are trying to defeat a move by Democratic opponents that would tie the \$100 million aid package to an related spending bill that may be vetoed by the President.

Reagan denounced the move on Monday as "subterfuge and backroom deals" and Republican leaders in the Democratic-controlled House said they would try to separate the two issues.

(Tim Ahern, AP)

LATIN-AID VOTES LIKELY TO LIFT LIMITS ON CIA

All restrictions on CIA participation in the rebel effort against Nicaragua would be lifted under any of the likely outcomes of this week's congressional votes on the issue.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, News Analysis, A7)

NAKASONE EXPECTS DROP IN U.S. TRADE DEFICIT

Prime Minister Nakasone, ending two days of meetings with President Reagan, said yesterday that Japan's towering trade imbalance with the U.S. should begin to decline this fall.

Nakasone's two-day visit, which included an intimate luncheon and meeting with Reagan at Camp David Sunday and a brief meeting with him at the White House yesterday morning, was notable for the relatively relaxed atmosphere on both sides about the persistent trade problem and other issues. (Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A13)

Trade Deficit With Japan Will Ease, Nakasone Says

Prime Minister Nakasone ended talks with President Reagan yesterday with a prediction that his country's economic reforms should begin to ease the U.S.-Japan trade imbalance this fall.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Nakasone agreed that Japan should make some fundamental changes to whittle down the \$50 billion trade imbalance between their countries and to promote international economic harmony.

(Washington Times, A2)

SIX NATIONS' LEADERS DEPLORE NUCLEAR TEST

Six prominent leaders in Europe and the developing world told President Reagan in a letter released yesterday that they are "deeply disappointed" by the recent U.S. underground nuclear test that brought an end to the Soviet Union's self-imposed testing moratorium.

The six leaders also told Reagan and Gorbachev that continued development of nuclear weapons by states possessing them "would be detrimental to the efforts to prevent any further proliferation of nuclear arms to other countries." (Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A13)

U.S. STILL SEES HOPES OF RETAINING TWO MILITARY BASES IN PHILIPPINES

Administration officials remain publicly upbeat about the chances for the U.S. keeping its two large military bases in the Philippines. The Reagan Administration has been careful to avoid suggesting that a move from the Philippines might be considered. Pentagon officials are unwilling to discuss the possibility publicly. (Iris Portny, Washington Times, A3)

--NATIONAL NEWS--

FARM AGENCY CHIEF THREATENS TO CUT FUNDS TO STATES

The head of FmHA, "greatly disturbed" that some farmers have received spring planting loans in violation of strict new rules, has threatened to cut off loan money to states that ignore the new federal policy.

In a message sent last week to all state FmHA directors, administrator Vance Clark ordered them to "cease and desist" from authorizing operating loans for farmers who cannot meet the agency's tighter loan guidelines. (Ward Sinclair, Washington Post, A3)

-end of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Monday Evening, April 14, 1986)

LIBYA

ABC's Peter Jennings: Two aircraft carriers, part of the Sixth Fleet, we are now told, have moved from their position near Sicily towards Libya, also staying in the Mediterranean, and we are now hearing reports from ABC Radio's Liz Coulton in Tripoli tonight, who says she can hear bombs in the distance. Whatever is going on at the moment, or is about to go on, it all comes about after a weekend of very intense debate.

ABC's John McWethy reports a debate at the highest level of the Reagan Administration raged right through the weekend about how best to deal with Khadaffy. Officials say arguments were so intense that the President late last week was unwilling to order a military strike until differences among his top advisors could be narrowed. They now have, officials say, and plans have been set into motion to order a military strike. One major reservation, expressed late last week, was the need to more fully consult with America's allies. Over the last two days, U.N. Ambassador Walters has done that consulting. A man with a long history of conducting sensitive missions on behalf of a president. There were other concerns about not having enough military muscle on the scene. Another concern was the lack of secrecy. Today, Secretary Weinberger issued a tough new order for no one to talk about details of ship or plane movements. Other reservations -- many of them said to be raised by Weinberger -- include concern that civilian casualties, Libyan, European, and American, be minimized. And that American pilots be exposed to the lowest possible risk. Though differences among high-level advisers still exist, officials say once the President signed off on the plan for action, the debate stopped. Now all attention is focused on making sure that the plan for retaliation works.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: President Reagan was playing his cards on Libya close to his vest.

(Donaldson shouts: "Mr. President, are you going to do anything about Kaddafi?"

President: "Just wait.")

In fact, top officials met at the White House this morning to thrash out a decision, even appearing to continue the discussion in public, as the President was saying goodbye to Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone. Late this afternoon, key members of Congress were summoned to a National Security Council secure briefing room in the EOB, across the street from the White House for a briefing attended by the President, the National Security Advisor, the Secretary of State and other Administration officials. Everyone was sworn to secrecy. But it was significant that earlier in the day, in a speech in Kansas, Secretary Shultz continued a very hard line about how to deal with terrorism.

(Shultz: "The sternest test for all free nations is to summon the will to eradicate this terrorist plague. If we do not hesitate to defend ourselves, democracy will prevail.")

-more-

Donaldson continues: When the meeting broke up at the White House this evening, the senators were tight-lipped.

(Sen. Thurmond: "Can't say anything. Let the news speak for itself a little later.")

There is a sense here now that the next news will be of a U.S. military strike. And that the President may deliver it himself. Senators on Capitol Hill, including Sen. Byrd are saying tonight that the President will make a statement at 9:00 p.m. this evening. There has been no confirmation of that from the White House. And if there is a military strike, what happens next? Many officials believe that Khadafy will strike back, and then the President will be faced with a new decision on what to do next.

Jennings reports that Liz Coulton in Tripoli can hear bombing in the distance. We're also hearing reports that there may be aircraft -- we're not sure if they're American -- flying over Tripoli itself. Did the White House give you any indication?

Donaldson: No one here is talking, Peter. They're trying to put a clamp of secrecy on all of this, and that's very understandable. When we tried to check reports from John McWethy and others, they won't say that they aren't true, but they will simply say "no comment." We understand that Larry Speakes, the President's spokesman, will be in the briefing room with a statement in about 10 or 15 minutes. Perhaps he can shed some light on what is going to happen.

ABC's Liz Coulton reports from Tripoli that for now it's quiet, but for the past four minutes we had planes overhead, anti-aircraft going off, flares in the sky, explosions. Bombs that had shaken the whole hotel.

Jennings reports that there is no indication that Kaddafi of the Libyan military has moved American or other Western personnel into any military areas, where they might have acted as some kind of a deterrent to an American attack on Libya. (ABC-Lead)

ABC's Charles Glass reports that what appears to be a second raid is beginning right now, about four minutes after that first. It's too soon to confirm any targets.

Jennings: Have you talked to any Americans today as to how they feel about this, and whether or not they feel safe and secure?

Glass: So far, right now, Americans, Canadians, Britons, West Germans, other Westerners are very worried not so much about a Libyan reaction, but actually about being hurt in any American attack because so many of them are involved in working here in radar communications, in the oil industry, and almost any potential American targets. (ABC-6)

ABC ends its broadcast with coverage of Larry Speakes' briefing.

NBC's Tom Brokaw: There is a sharp increase in American military activity in the Mediterranean tonight and also in Europe. And now White House sources are saying that President Reagan will go on television at 9 o'clock eastern time, but that has not been officially confirmed by White House spokesmen. Libya has warned that if there is an American attack, it will retaliate. And once again, it raised the specter of suicide squads in the U.S. We begin tonight with an update on the military situation from NBC's Fred Francis, who is at the Pentagon.

NBC's Fred Francis reports there is no confirmation from Pentagon officials or others in the Administration that two battle groups are to form up as one armada and strike Libya.

NBC's Steve Delaney reports from Tripoli that city is under attack.

Brokaw: At the White House right now, where it has been a day of some confusion and not much public discussion about what may be happening, is Chris Wallace. Chris, what about this report that the President will address the nation tonight at 9 eastern time?

Wallace: We've gotten no official confirmation from that. But White House sources told us about half an hour ago that it is true. The President does plan to address the nation from the Oval Office at 9 p.m. tonight and it's clear he'll be announcing that military action against Libya. We've just learned that Larry Speakes will be appearing in the briefing room on camera about 7:20 tonight and it is expected that that will be the time when he will announce the President's plan.

Brokaw: What was the indication there today in terms of the determination of the President to engage in some kind of military retaliation? Since about last Thursday now there has been this kind of on-again, off-again idea that we may or may not strike the Libyans. What is your feeling politically?

Wallace: Today the feeling was that it was definitely on again and there were two key points: One was that the allies came out with some sanctions against Libya and the White House quickly said that that wasn't enough, that it wouldn't be nearly enough to get Khadafy's attention, which was an indication that they weren't looking for a way out. And then, in addition, there was a clear sense that they were not going to be stopped by Khadafy's threat to move foreigners, including Americans, to those key places like military bases or oil areas. They said that any foreigner who is still in Libya has been fairly warned to get out and so it was clear once again, or there were clear hints, that they were intending to go after Khadafy.

Brokaw reports the Reagan Administration was continuing its efforts to get the allies to take a harder line against Libya. The American U.N. ambassador is in Europe tonight and, as NBC's John Cochran reports, the European foreign ministers did take some action, but not as much as the Reagan Administration had wanted.

NBC's John Cochran reports Ambassador Walters continued his job as President Reagan's special prosecutor, trying to convince European leaders that Libya is guilty of masterminding terrorism and deserves stiff punishment. At an emergency meeting of European foreign ministers in The Hague, Britain's Sir Geoffrey Howe urged Europeans to show President Reagan they can punish Libya without military action. The Europeans agreed to reduce the number of European diplomats and to make it tougher for other Libyans to visit Europe. The British, though disappointed, said those steps were a beginning. The Europeans ended their meeting hoping they had gone far enough to persuade President Reagan not to attack Libya. (NBC-Lead)

NBC ends its coverage with Larry Speakes' briefing. (NBC-4)

CBS's Dan Rather: America's allies in Europe have refused to approve an economic crackdown against Libya. The U.S. naval armada in the Mediterranean apparently has moved -- its whereabouts and intentions unknown.

CBS's Tom Fenton reports from The Hague the European foreign ministers today and gave the Administration a clear statement that Libya is implicated in terrorism.

(Geoffrey Howe, British Foreign Exchange: "We have no doubt that the Libyan authorities have been directly involved in promoting a terrorist campaign against Western interests. That includes the recent Berlin bombing where there is solid evidence of Libyan complicity.")

The only action they could agree on was to restrict freedom of movement of Libyan diplomats, reduce the staffs of Libyan embassies and impose tighter visa requirements on Libyans. Ambassador Vernon Walters found opposition to stronger measures, such as economic sanctions, as he continued a tour of European capitals. The British are reluctant to allow the U.S. to use against Libya the American warplanes based in Britain. They have not publicly ruled that out.

(Phil Williams, international terrorist expert: "The objection is that this is not the best way we can deal with the problem. It may actually make it much worse.")

There is one further reason why the Europeans failed to take stronger measures today -- that's the widely held feeling here that if President Reagan decides to strike Libya, he'll do so no matter what his allies say or do.

David Martin reports President Reagan told reporters asking about military action against Libya to be patient. There were high level meetings at the White House and late in the day the President and his aides left the White House to brief members of Congress about his policy toward Libya. State Department officials said the action taken today by European foreign ministers against Libyan diplomats do not go far enough -- leaving only the military shoe left to drop. There was no sign of unusual activity at the naval airfield in Sicily.

(TV coverage: The President and Donald Regan.)

Syrian pilots are reported to have flown into Libya last night. U.S. officials say they cannot confirm that Khadafy had made good on his threat to place foreign oil workers on his military bases.

Martin continues: An informed Pentagon source said messages between Tripoli and the Libyan Peoples Bureau in East Berlin spoke of making arrangements for a wedding. On the night of the bomb blast, a message said to read the newspapers tomorrow morning for news of a great success. U.S. officials have said publicly they would back off if Khadafy ceases his support for terrorists attacks against Americans. Privately, the same officials say they see no evidence Khadafy is ceasing his terrorist campaign.

Rather reports there are reports on Capitol Hill that President will sometime this evening is expected to make a statement concerning Libya.

CBS's Alan Pizzey reports from Tripoli a demonstration to defy the might of America. The Green March claimed Libya will single out U.S. nuclear bases in Europe if the U.S. attacks Libya. Also, suicide squads will pursue Americans one by one and deal them the mightiest blows. A Libyan official said today even a scratch on an American aircraft carrier would be seen as a victory for his country.

(CBS-LEAD)

Rather: There are new developments and confirmations tonight about the Libyan situation. A high congressional source now has told CBS News that President Reagan will make a broadcast statement of some kind -- concerning Libya -- at 9:00 P.M. EST tonight. We know no other details about that. Pentagon sources have now told the Associated Press that two U.S. carriers in the Mediterranean are moving closer tonight to the Libyan coast. Their intentions are still unknown.

(CBS-9)

NICARAGUA

CBS's Phil Jones reports both sides on the contra aid battle escalated their attacks today to influence this week's vote in the House. In New York, more than 100 protesters were arrested. In Manhattan, Kansas, the Secretary Shultz spoke out.

(Shultz: "Nicaragua is the odd man out. Nicaragua is a cancer and we must cut it out.")

In Chicago, 500 demonstrated against aid to the contras. At the White House, the President weighed in.

(President Reagan: "The Sandinista government is not a duly elected chosen government. It's a gang that took over by force.")

Aid to the contras does not have widespread public support according to a new CBS News-New York Times poll conducted last week. Do you think the U.S. government should give \$100 million in military and other aid to the contras trying to overthrow the government, the overwhelming response from the 1,601 interviewed was no.

(TV coverage: Graphic of the poll.)

CBS NEWS-NEW YORK TIMES POLL

OPPOSED 62%

FAVORED 25%

Jones continues: The poll has a sampling error of plus or minus 3%. The main reasons for opposing aid -- money could be better spent at home and the feeling that the U.S. should stay out of Nicaragua internal affairs. Strong opposition came from majorities of both parties from every region and every age group.

OPPOSITION

REPUBLICANS 51%

DEMOCRATS 74%

Even with the President's personal effort, only 38% knew which side the U.S. is supporting. Both sides in the House are saying now that the second vote is too close to call.

(TV coverage: Graphic of the poll.)

(CBS-3)

NAKASONE

Rather reports Prime Minister Nakasone left the White House today with a rosy prediction. He told President Reagan he expects a huge U.S. trade deficit with Japan to start falling later this year. Nakasone hopes to implement radical economic changes designed to encourage spending by Japanese consumers. This presumably would boost demand for U.S.-made products.

(TV coverage: The President and Prime Minister Nakasone.)(CBS-6)

MEESE/MEXICO

Rather reports Attorney General Edwin Meese met with Mexico's attorney general today to discuss the widespread corruption that keeps the flood of illegal drugs flowing from Mexico into the U.S.

CBS's Michael Conner reports Attorney General Meese met with Mexican officials to review their efforts at reducing the flow of drugs.

(Meese: "Their law enforcement officials are both inept and corrupt. A combination of those factors results in nothing being done.")

The problem is getting worse because largely of corruption in the Mexican government.

(CBS-5)

MARCOS

Brokaw reports he interviewed Ferdinand Marcos via satellite from Hawaii on Sunday. He blames his loss of power on the Americans who flew him out of the country, and he now claims the new government has taken over even his personal property.

(Marcos: "If I had not left Malacanang, and been brought to the United States against my will, we would still be in control. I had superior forces, dedicated men, when I was taken out of Malacanang. But that's neither here nor there. It doesn't matter any more.")

(NBC-3)

CHALLENGER

Rather reports salvage crews have recovered a crucial piece of an O-ring joint from Challenger's right hand solid rocket booster. One investigator told CBS News it's the key piece of evidence everybody has been looking for. (NBC-2, ABC-3, CBS-2)

INTEREST RATES

Jennings: Another sign of falling interest rates. Today the government auctioned six-month T-Bills for 5.93 percent. That is the first time T-Bills have dropped under 6 percent since 1977. (ABC-4)

STOCKS

Jennings reports the Dow climbed back over the 1800 mark, closing up 15 points in light trading. (ABC-5)

VOTERS

Rather reports 51% of young Americans under age 30 identify themselves as Republicans or say they lean toward the Republican party. Americans under 30 are also the least likely to be registered to vote.

CBS's Bruce Morton reports from San Diego the most Republican voters in the country in poll after poll are the youngest voters -- those under 30. They are President Reagan's strongest supporters. (TV coverage: Graphic of the poll, which shows: Voters under age 30: Republicans 51%; Democrats 41%; Independents 8%.)

These young voters are strongly Republican, but they're not down the line conservatives -- very conservative on economic policy, believers in a strong defense, but apt to differ on environmental and social issues.

(Robert Teeter, Republican pollster: "The party is now a coalition and what we've got to do is to learn to live with it and kind of manage that coalition -- keep them all in the bigger tent.") (CBS-7)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Coverage includes the 7 p.m. newscasts of ABC and NBC, and the 6:30 p.m. broadcast by CBS.

###

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

U.S.-LIBYA

Confronting A Mad Dog -- "One cannot imagine anything more loathsome than the terrorist acts that killed five innocent Americans last week. If Washington is able to gather irrefutable evidence of Libyan complicity in the dastardly deeds, it will have no other realistic alternative than to take whatever steps are necessary to discourage Col. Khadafy and his fellow thugs from carrying out further terrorist activities against Americans. The Reagan Administration would not be seeking vengeance; it merely would be fulfilling one of government's principal obligations; to protect the lives of its citizens." (Dallas Times Herald, 4/11)

The Best 'Surgery' -- "If we have evidence of Khadafy's involvement, then we should invoke the Shultz Doctrine. We shouldn't employ 'surgical' strikes that could only make things worse, however. If America's to get involved, it should apply the only surgery that will work: complete removal of the irritant that's causing at least some of the cancer of terrorism." (Detroit News, 4/11)

Dealing With The 'Mad Dog' -- "The intent of any U.S. military move against Col. Khadafy ought to have a clear and enduring strategic objective. There is no point in giving him a bloody nose only for the sake of making ourselves feel better. The difficult question for the White House now is not whether to use force, but how to use it effectively. But given such purpose, when and if Mr. Reagan does strike at Col. Khadafy he will have - and should have - the support of the American people and our too-often too-reluctant allies in the war on terror." (Chicago Tribune, 4/11)

Khadafy's Vulnerability -- "If the Administration wants Khadafy toppled, it should work tenaciously and patiently on many fronts, applying relentless economic and diplomatic pressures. Economically and politically, Khadafy is more vulnerable than he has ever been. Missile strikes may be the one measure that would help him more than hurt him." (Boston Globe, 4/12)

Khadafy In New Trouble? -- "If Libyans want to make points with Uncle Sam (and some must wish to; our people built up their airfields, their oilfields and various other facilities), giving him the final bum's rush out of Tripoli would be a fine way to do it. Not only Americans would appreciate it. So would all the more immediate neighbors." (Sarasota Herald Tribune, 4/9)

Ron And The Hood -- "One credulous member of the White House press corps asked the President Wednesday if 'major retaliation' wouldn't kill 'a lot of innocent people.' What a pity the real question wasn't asked: Mightn't the failure to retaliate meaningfully against Khadafy endanger the whole civilized world? The obvious answer: Count on it." (Dallas Morning News, 4/11)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

Striking Back -- "If there is evidence linking Libya directly with the cowardly assault on a TWA airliner over Greece which killed four Americans, including a babe in arms, and the disco blast that took the life of an American Army sergeant, let us make it known to the world community. If our case can be made with a high degree of certainty, let us follow with an appropriately devastating response against the forces in Libya responsible." (Birmingham News, 4/9)

Back To The Libyan Brink -- "It is possible this brink is being stage-managed for European benefit. The allies have been, at best, grudgingly willing to act in concert against terror. The Sixth Fleet is already concentrating European minds more powerfully on the need for economic sanctions and a diplomatic boycott of Libya. These would constitute the most desirable outcome. But if Europeans hold back, and Mr. Reagan is determined to punish Libya, then his decision will require solid public support - and that requires solid evidence." (New York Times, 4/12)

Responding To Terrorism -- "The Free World has no choice in the war against terrorists. It must be prepared to retaliate when conditions warrant. And it must be willing to confront and isolate terrorists wherever possible. Europe is beginning to see that there is a terrible price to be paid for appeasing the Muammar Kadafis of this world." (Baltimore Sun, 4/14)

Allies Must Cooperate In Anti-Terrorism Fight -- "The ultimate answer to curbing terrorism, however, may have been voiced by former national security adviser Robert McFarlane. McFarlane said that a covert anti-terrorism force should be developed to infiltrate terrorist operations and make pre-emptive strikes against terrorist training camps. But this, too, must be a cooperative venture of some sort. The U.S. cannot fight a world war against terrorism by itself." (Milwaukee Sentinel, 4/9)

NEWS CONFERENCE

Mr. Reagan's 3 Valid Points -- "The President deserves the support of the American people on tax reform without tax increases, on aid to the anti-Communist Nicaraguans and on punishment of terrorist murderers." (Chattanooga News-Free Press, 4/10)

NICARAGUA

Only Congress Can Do It -- "Subtleties cannot be discussed as long as Reagan's crusade against the Sandinistas diverts the nation's attention and energy. U.S. aid to the rebels must be ended, and only Congress can do it. The House of Representatives must again refuse to approve aid for the contras when it votes on Reagan's proposal this week." (Los Angeles Times, 4/14)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

Covert Aid: Effective Weapon For Combating Communists -- "Faced with this, the Reagan Administration uses the 'covert' label in order to give the Congress as little opportunity as it can to block aid to anticommunist rebels. Sending Stingers to Afghanistan and Angola at least gives the rebels in those places some chance of shooting down the jets and helicopters flown by their people's oppressors. Whatever that kind of assistance is called, it's a good idea." (Providence Journal, 4/10)

Aid To Contras -- "Again, Ortega and his Soviet and Cuban sponsors will never negotiate until they are forced to the negotiating table. The House thus should go ahead and approve the Senate-passed aid package and give Ortega and his henchmen 90 days to negotiate the crisis. If they again ignore negotiations, then the only immediate alternative left is to assist the Nicaraguan rebels." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 4/9)

Contadora Failure Suggests U.S. Must Not Pin All Hopes On Talks -- "There exists the real possibility that nothing will come of negotiations. All the Nicaraguan talk about talking may be just so much talk. That government, in considering its options, might well decide that it shouldn't give up anything. If there are only two ways of containing the Nicaraguans -- supporting the contras and negotiating -- then the first of the two seems more promising." (Dayton Daily News, 4/9)

Contadora Pressure Valuable -- "The peace talks that ended Monday were billed as the last hope of the Contadora process. That must not prove to be the case. Growing Latin American pressure for changes in Nicaragua provides a needed backdrop to the assistance Congress is now very likely to approve for the Nicaraguan rebels." (Houston Chronicle, 4/9)

Contadora Collapse -- "Nicaragua claims it cannot go along with Contadora unless the U.S. specifically agrees not to support the Contras. But the truth of the matter is that Nicaragua is playing the spiteful prima donna in kicking back against the peace efforts of its neighbors." (San Francisco Chronicle, 4/9)

ARMS CONTROL

Cancel One Arms-Race Pause -- "In breaking the underground test moratorium, the Administration has squandered a rare public relations and diplomatic opportunity. If it yields to hardliners pushing to break the SALT limits, it will not only poison arms talks in Geneva, but preside over a weakened U.S. defense. It should listen to the Senate." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 4/13)

SUMMIT

Summit Back On Track -- "The visit, like last November's summit, may not bring any specific results but it is important for each superpower leader to know the other and the nature of the other's country. In the nuclear age, we cannot afford misunderstandings based on ignorance." (Buffalo News, 4/11)

Tuesday, April 15, 1986 -- C-1

NETWORK COMMENTARY FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

ABC

Peter Jennings: President Reagan speaking live from the Oval Office tonight...in a forceful justification of today's attack on Libya. The President saying we have done what we had to do, and we shall do it again if necessary. And comparing Col. Khadafy today virtually with Adolf Hitler during World War II. The President does not give us many details of today's attack. We hope to have those for you in the next few minutes. But before we go on to analyze today's attack, to bring you some more details of it, to raise some of the questions about the ramifications of this very large -- huge, the attack was described to us -- a slight sense for you of what it was like as heard by ABC correspondents in their hotel in the capitol in Tripoli. First, ABC's Liz Colton, looking and listening out her window.

ABC's Liz Colton reports on the explosions going off earlier in Tripoli.

Jennings: East of Tripoli and in many other parts of the country, as best we can tell tonight. And as I said, as we go along, we'll try to pinpoint some of those targets for you. The President referred to them both as terrorist targets and military assets. ABC's Charles Glass is in that same hotel in downtown Tripoli on the edge of the harbor. He simply stuck his microphone out the window and here is what he heard. (TV Coverage: Sounds of gunfire.) ABC's Charles Glass. What you hear out that window sounds very much to our ear like small arms fire and may simply have been an expression, ineffective, by people on the ground in the capitol itself firing at American aircraft which Liz Colton and Charles Glass told us made at least a couple of passes over the airport. As we said, the President raised a great many questions tonight. Let us go now to our national security correspondent, John McWethy, who is standing by at the State Department in Washington. John, let me if I may try to pick up quickly on what, something the President said. He said we want to thank our friends and allies in Europe who cooperated today. What does he mean?

ABC's John McWethy: I think he's talking about the British, Peter. The United States used not only carrier-based aircraft tonight, but they also used F-111 aircraft, which are based in Great Britain. The United States has had a very touchy sort of relationship over the idea of using bases in Britain to attack other countries. The British apparently bowed in this particular instance and said, okay, you can use our bases, and the U.S. in fact did.

Jennings: John, just before we go on with you, please stand by for one second. I want to tell people a couple things. The Libyans, by the way, have said, according to the BBC monitoring service...in Britain that the Libyans are claiming that three American aircraft were shot down. Every indication we have so far, both from the President, from Larry Speakes, his press spokesman, earlier, and from briefings at the Pentagon and the State Department, is that from an American point of view there were no casualties and no damage.

-more-

NETWORK COMMENTARY (continued)

Jennings continues: This is our map, which will give you at least some sense, as we wait to hear from Secretary of State George Shultz and the Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger on more of the details. (Jennings points out the geography involved in the attack.) As John McWethy said, part of the attack came from the Sixth Fleet and part of it came from land. John, do you have any sense at all of the targets at this point?

McWethy: Well, it's a little early to tell too much about the targets. It's quite obvious they hit several around Tripoli. One of them was apparently the Azia Barracks, which Col. Khadafy's elite corps is believed to be housed in, and sometimes Khadafy himself spending nights in that particular area. There was the military side of the airfield at Tripoli, the military side of the airport, that was apparently also hit. In each location, what the United States was apparently trying to do was to suppress fire and to keep any interceptors that might get off the ground from leaving by hitting the military part of the facility and then also going after barracks. There were also barracks attacked in Benghazi, and several military targets there designed again to suppress fire at American aircraft.

Jennings: So this attack, which occurred about 3:30, as I recall, no 3 o'clock in the morning Libyan time does not appear to have met much opposition.

McWethy: It does not appear that way. U.S. intelligence sources say they were somewhat puzzled by the lack of Libyan readiness and awareness. The United States over the last few weeks has continually been talking about the possibility of an attack and apparently the Libyans just got tired of being at alert all the time and they just decided not to pay very much attention to all the things that were coming out of Washington.

Jennings: ...Sam Donaldson is standing by at the White House and we are waiting for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to give us more details. But the French Foreign Ministry has already told us, despite what we have been told so far about surgical attacks, that the French Embassy in Tripoli was hit this evening. Sam, as the Administration went into this operation today, what do you think concerned them most?

Donaldson: Well, I think the concern, certainly first of all, of a military attack was whether our planes could get in and out safely. Peter, the preliminary estimate here is that no American aircraft was hit. An official who told me that stressed that that is a preliminary estimate. They want to see all planes back safely, but that was the word from the attack. Secondly, of course, they were concerned about not only the secrecy, but teaching Khadafy the lesson that they hope to have taught him with this particular attack, the one that the President referred to.

Jennings: Sam, the President did say again that he was trying to provide an incentive for the Colonel not to do this again. Even before this attack was mounted today, is there anybody in the Administration believing you can stop Col. Khadafy with an attack such as this?

NETWORK COMMENTARY (continued)

Donaldson: Well, I don't know. Many officials here believe Col. Khadafy is an incorrigible, the mad dog of the Mediterranean, as the President called him, and that they're not going to deter him. But you saw the President rather skillfully tried to separate Khadafy from the Libyan people. It is an appeal that he was making tonight to the Libyan people in effect to overthrow Khadafy, by saying we have always been friends, we don't hold you responsible; it is the mad man who is at your helm.

Jennings: ...It was quite interesting to a great many political observers in this country, and I'm sure abroad, that the Administration went on the air so quickly after the attack occurred. And perhaps one of the reasons was that American reporters were there in Tripoli listening to it. The Soviets, by the way, have had a very mild reaction so far. You may have heard earlier in the week reports from John McWethy and others that the Soviets had essentially moved, at least here in Tripoli, had moved those particular Soviet ships which they had on a port visit to Tripoli -- the Soviet-Libyan military relationship being a very close one -- out to sea and if Col. Khadafy, as John McWethy said, was getting tired of keeping his people on alert, the Soviets perhaps anticipated something was going to happen and moved their ships, all of them, as to the best of our knowledge, out to sea where they would not be even accidental targets during an attack such as today.

ABC continues with coverage of the briefing by Secretary Shultz and Secretary Weinberger.

CBS

CBS's Dan Rather: President Ronald Reagan explaining to the American people and reporting to the American people on tonight's strikes against the Libyan government of Moammar Khadafy. Recapping briefly, the President outlined the reasons why he ordered tonight's U.S. military strikes against Libya -- what he called and I quote him, "Direct, precise and irreputable evidence" of Libya's hand in terror attacks. The President made a point of mentioning attacks already carried out and attacks being planned -- that according to U.S. intelligence. President Reagan said that first indications were that the U.S. strikes on Libya were successful. The President gave very little hard information on what targets were hit. He had nothing to say about the possibility of any U.S. casualties. He did say everything had been done to try to minimize casualties to Libyans not involved in terrorism.

Earlier this evening we had information from Pentagon sources and also sources from Capitol Hill that among the targets were five in Libya -- three in and around Tripoli, two in and around Benghazi, which is on the other side of the Gulf of Sidra. Barracks in Tripoli and Benghazi, that is where the command control and training facilities for terrorism are believed to be at those barracks. A port facility at Sidi Bilal, a port facility. Keep in mind, we do not know if any of these targets were hit, much less destroyed -- we do not know that.

-more-

NETWORK COMMENTARY (continued)

Rather continues: These were among the targets listed. The port facility at Sidi Bilal is believed to be a place where Libyans move people and equipment overseas for terrorist activities. Perhaps, all pumping facilities there as well. The military side of the Tripoli airport was one of the targets. The Benina military airfield where at least one time Soviet manufactured Mig-25s had been based. Whether there were any Mig-25s there during this strike, if indeed the target was hit, we simply do not know. It's not clear whether any or all of these were actually hit or destroyed. F-111 fighter bombers taking off from Britain were involved in the raid, as were carrier based planes.

We're going to go Allen Pizzey who is in Tripoli. There have been no strikes over the last hour to hour and a half as I understand it. Have there been any strikes since roughly 7:25 U.S. EST? Allen Pizzey reports from Tripoli: "Since that one and only strike ended there has nothing else. The city has been virtually blacked out. The port lights have been turned off. We can see the glow of what we think is the soccer stadium, but far from that it's very, very quiet. There is no traffic to speak of. There was a lot right after the raid. Now, there is just not much going on at all. It's very quiet. There has been no other signs of activity. We are locked into the city's main hotel where the foreign press is housed and we cannot get out into the streets. We cannot tell you anymore than what we see out the hotels."

NBC

NBC's Tom Brokaw: President Reagan, with a very brief speech tonight from the White House, explaining his orders earlier this evening to send American warplanes against what he called terrorist facilities and military assets in Libya, to strike back at Libyan leader Col. Khadafy. He said that the evidence now is what he described as direct, precise and irrefutable. That Libya had a direct role in a bombing of a West Berlin discotheque on April 5 in which an American soldier was killed. Today the President said we did what we had to do, and if necessary, we shall do it again. The President concluded tonight that what he has done is within the boundaries of the law, under the U.N. article #51 of the U.N. charter, and he made it clear that he does not expect that this will end the reign of terror, as he describes it, that Colonel Khadafy has been conducting, but that he felt it was necessary to strike back. We have standing by, in Tripoli, Libya, tonight, in the Capitol, NBC's Steve Delaney. He was there when the attack began.

NBC's Steve Delaney reports that the lights are still off in most parts of the city. There is still a little bit of traffic on the streets.

Brokaw: We have a report here that Libyan Radio is reporting that a number of Colonel Khadafy's relatives were injured, were casualties, in this attack. Are you hearing anymore about that?

Delaney: That was filed by a Reuters reporter, the European News Service, which is based here, and it originates from a report on Libyan Radio; we don't know the specifics of that. That would be consistent with what was apparently an effort to strike at his main HQ, which Libyan Radio had reported earlier had been hit, and had sustained some damage.

-more-

NETWORK COMMENTARY (continued)

Delaney continues: The obvious question is was Khadafy there, and if so, was he injured, or more? We simply don't know.

Brokaw: We're also hearing tonight from Libyan Radio that the "savagely and barbaric American invaders" -- that's the language of the Libyan Radio -- carried out a treacherous and barbaric air strike against the residence of Khadafy. A number of the members of his family were injured, and they say, a number of civilians -- most of them foreign nationals -- were also hurt. Are you hearing anything more than that on Libyan Radio?

Delaney: No, but I would point out that foreign nationals could be almost anybody. There are a vast number of basically Third World nationals, who are in here on a contract labor basis to do most of this country's manual labor. Libyans hire that stuff out as a matter of course. There are thousands of them here.

Brokaw In Washington, at this hour is an influential member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, a Democrat from Georgia, the Honorable Senator Sam Nunn. Senator, what's going to be the Congressional reaction to this military strike that the President has described as against terrorist facilities and military assets in Libya.

Senator Sam Nunn: "I think once the members of Congress are fully acquainted with the Intelligence reports that we received this afternoon from the White House, and those that we'd received previously about Libya's involvement, they will be supportive of the President's actions. No one likes to have to take military action. I would've preferred an economic embargo, but our allies have simply not made that possible, because it can only be effective if we all join together. So I think the President was justified, and I think the intelligence clearly points at Libya as a terroristic state."

NBC continues interviewing Sen. Nunn.

###



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

AMERICAN BOMBERS STRIKE BASES IN LIBYA (New York Times)

REAGAN: 'IF NECESSARY, WE WILL DO IT AGAIN' (Denver Post)

U.S. BOMBS BASES IN LIBYA, KHADAFY 'REIGN OF TERROR,'
REAGAN SAYS (Kansas City Times)

U.S. RAIDS TRIPOLI, BENGHAZI AREAS; WEINBERGER SAYS ONE
PLANE MISSING (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

DIRECT EVIDENCE OF DISCO ATTACK, SAYS PRESIDENT (Boston Globe)

BOMBERS STRIKE FIVE TERRORIST TARGETS (Detroit News)

KHADAFY'S HEADQUARTERS AMONG TARGETS BLASTED IN PRE-DAWN
RAID: REAGAN SAYS MILITARY STRIKE IS IN SELF DEFENSE
(Raleigh News-Observer)

U.S. WARPLANES ATTACK LIBYA: TERRORIST TARGETS HIT IN NIGHT
RAID; EVIDENCE CITED OF KHADAFY PLANS (Des Moines Register)

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

LIBYA -- There is a sharp increase in American military activity in the Mediterranean tonight and also in Europe.

NICARAGUA -- Both sides on the contra aid battle escalated their attacks today to influence this week's vote in the House.

NAKASONE -- Prime Minister Nakasone left the White House today with a rosy prediction.

...IT IS OUR DUTY

"When our citizens are abused or attacked, anywhere in the world, on the direct orders of a hostile regime, we will respond so long as I'm in this Oval Office. Self-defense is not only our right, it is our duty."

(President Reagan's
Address to the Nation, 4/14)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. JETS RAID LIBYA

Dozens of American warplanes made lightening raids on terrorist training camps, airfields and government command posts in Libya to retaliate for terrorist attacks, and President Reagan vowed Monday night to halt Moammar Khadafy's "reign of terror." (Miami Herald, A1)

Reagan: 'If Necessary, We Will Do It Again'

President Reagan told the nation Monday night that he had absolute proof that Libya was behind the bombing of the disco in West Berlin last month. (Denver Post, A1)

U.S. Bombs Bases In Libya Khadafy 'Reign Of Terror,' Reagan Says

The U.S. conducted a series of air strikes in the middle of the night against "terrorist centers" in Libya, the White House announced Monday night. (Kansas City Times, A1)

U.S. Raids Tripoli, Benghazi Areas; Weinberger Says One Plane Missing

The U.S., acting to "preempt and discourage" terrorism, carried out a series of air strikes against Libya, the White House announced last night. (Richmond Times Dispatch, A1)

U.S. Planes Bomb Targets In Libya; Reagan Cites Khadafy's Terrorism Direct Evidence Of Disco Attack, Says President

U.S. fighter bombers last night struck major military targets in Libya in retaliation for Libyan terrorist attacks and to preempt future attacks by Libya against Americans, President Reagan said. The strike was carried out by dozens of U.S. aircraft, including Air Force 111s from Great Britain and Navy jets from aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean Sea, that roared over Tripoli, the Libyan capital, and Benghazi, the country's second-largest city, at about 7:00 p.m. EST yesterday (2:00 a.m. today Libyan time). (Boston Globe, A1)

U.S. Jets Attack Libya To Curb Reign Of 'Evil' Missile Site, Tripoli, Benghazi Are Targets

The United States, acting to "preempt and discourage" Libyan terrorism, carried out a series of middle-of-the-night air strikes against Libya, the White House announced Monday night. "We have done what we had to do," President Reagan declared, vowing to strike again if Libyan terrorism continues. (Arizona Republic, A1)

-more-

U.S. Jets Bomb Five Libyan Sites To 'Preempt' Khadafy Terrorism
One Jet Reported Missing In Raid

U.S. warplanes attacked "the headquarters and terrorist facilities" of Libya's Moammar Khadafy, President Reagan said Monday night. Initial reports were that the middle-of-the-night air strike succeeded. He said, adding: "If necessary, we will do it again."

(Minneapolis Star & Tribune, A1)

U.S. Attacks Libya
Bombers Strike Five Terrorist Targets

U.S. warplanes bombed five "terrorist-related targets" in Libya's two major cities in an attack the White House said was designed to "preempt and discourage Libyan terrorism." Administration officials said targets of the attacks at 7:00 p.m. Detroit time yesterday were in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, and in Benghazi, a port city across the Gulf of Sidra from Tripoli and the site of a newly-completed anti-missile site. (Detroit News, A1)

U.S. Jets Attack Libyan Targets
Reagan Says Action Was 'Self Defense'

The United States, acting to "preempt and discourage" Libyan terrorism, carried out a series of middle-of-the-night air strikes against Libya, the White House announced Monday night. U.S. Air Force fighter bombers joined other planes launched by two aircraft carriers Monday evening in attacking carefully selected sites inside Libya, a Pentagon spokesman said. (Cincinnati Enquirer, A1)

U.S. Jets Hit Libyan Targets
Khadafy's Headquarters Among Targets Blasted
In Pre-Dawn Raid; Reagan Says Military Strike Is In Self-Defense

In an unmistakable and personal warning to Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy, the President declared "If necessary, we will do it again."

(Raleigh News-Observer, A1)

U.S. Warplanes Attack Libya: Terrorist Targets Hit In Night Raid;
Evidence Cited Of Khadafy Plans

U.S. warplanes attacked the "headquarters and terrorist facilities" of Libya's Moammar Khadafy, President Reagan said Monday night. The President said that the United States had a "duty" to respond to the attacks that he said intelligence sources disclosed were the "irrefutable" work of the Libyan strongman. (Des Moines Register, A1)

U.S. Jets Hit 'Terrorist Centers' In Libya; Reagan Warns Of New Attacks
If Needed; One Plane Missing In Raids On Five Targets

The United States conducted a series of air strikes tonight against what the White House called "terrorist centers" and military bases in Libya. President Reagan, in a nationally broadcast speech, said the American forces had succeeded in their mission of retaliating against Libya for what he termed the "reign of terror" waged by Col. Khadafy.

(Portland Oregonian, A1)

U.S. Warplanes Bomb Targets In Libya In Attempt To Deter Qaddafi Terrorism

American warplanes bombed Libyan terrorist training camps, airfields and government command posts in Tripoli and Benghazi last night to "preempt and discourage" terrorism the White House announced.

Larry Speakes said, "This effort on our part is an effort to prevent Qaddafi from making future attacks on us. It is a self defense move." Speakes declined to cite specific targets but said they were part of Qaddafi's "terrorist infrastructure" as well as some military targets to suppress antiaircraft fire.

(George Wilson & David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

Tripoli Echos To Sound Of Raids

TRIPOLI -- The streets of Tripoli began to echo with the thunder of bombs a few seconds before 2 a.m. this morning as American attack jets struck, realizing in a few minutes the worst fears of people here, including both Libyans and foreign workers, who had grown increasingly apprehensive in the past 24 hours that just such an attack would come.

Tripoli had waited nervously for this moment all day. And all week there had been signs that Libya hoped to back away from what now seems to have been the inevitable and violent confrontation of early this morning.

In the hours preceding the attack, Libya had bolstered its defenses and once again sought to distance itself from the terrorist actions that had precipitated the current crisis.

(Christopher Dickey, Washington Post, A1)

Attack Was Preceded By Flurry Of Diplomacy

Last night's U.S. attack on Libya followed a flurry of diplomatic activity including a last-minute message to the Soviet Union that the attack was under way and earlier, but only partially successful consultations with the West European allies.

In attacking Libya, the U.S. was taking military action against a nation that has close military relations with the Soviet Union and as many as 6,000 Soviet advisers on its soil. However, Soviet spokesmen in recent days have distanced themselves somewhat from Col. Qaddafi.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

American Bombers Hit Libya

"Today we did what we had to do," Mr. Reagan said in a 10-minute televised address. "If necessary, we will do it again."

One U.S. plane was unaccounted for when Secretary Weinberger briefed reporters after the President's address. Official Libyan sources claimed three U.S. jets were downed.

The President warned Col. Qaddafi that the U.S. would continue to respond to terrorism. "Despite repeated warnings, Qaddafi counted on Americans to be passive," said Mr. Reagan. "He counted wrong. We will respond as long as I remain in the Oval Office."

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

American Bombers Strike Bases In Libya

The U.S. conducted a series of air strikes tonight against what the White House called "terrorist centers" in Libya.

President Reagan said American forces had "succeeded" in their mission of retaliation against Libya for the "reign of terror" he said had been launched by Col. Qaddafi against the U.S.

(Bernard Weintraub, New York Times, A1)

U.S. Aircraft Attack Libyan Targets In Bid To Preempt Terrorism

President Reagan unleashed a series of air strikes against military and "terrorism-related" targets in Libya.

The move boldly underscored the President's conviction that state-sponsored international terrorism, such as represented by Col. Qaddafi, amounts to acts of war that warrant responses in kind. "Today we have done what we had to do," the President declared in a televised address last night. "And if necessary we shall do it again."

(Wall Street Journal, A1)

U.S. Warplanes Hit Libya -- One Jet Unaccounted For

U.S. warplanes blasted targets in Libya's two main cities, including a headquarters used by Col. Qaddafi, in response for what President Reagan called the Libyan leader's "reign of terror."

Secretary Weinberger said tonight one long-range U.S. bomber from a base in Britain was unaccounted for after the attacks on the capital of Tripoli and the second city of Benghazi.

Weinberger stressed the plane, an F-111, could not be counted as lost. He said it might only have a faulty radio.

(Patricia Wilson, Reuter)

Reagan Says U.S. Hit Libya Because Of Berlin Bombing

Despite reports of intense disagreement within the Administration over an appropriate response to Qaddafi for the Berlin bombing, the White House Monday night orchestrated a show of unity.

Moments after Mr. Reagan's speech, Secretary Shultz, who reportedly urged a strike, and Secretary Weinberger, who reportedly had reservations, appeared jointly to brief reporters at the White House.

(Benjamin Shore, Copley News Service)

Tass Says U.S. Committed State Terrorism With Libya Raid

LONDON -- Tass said the U.S. committed "state terrorism" with its air strikes against Libya but it was too soon to speak of the consequences.

The news agency, monitored in London, said: "American imperialism has perpetrated a new bloody crime: from words -- rude and inadmissible verbal attacks against Libya and its leadership -- from military demonstrations and provocations against that sovereign and freedom-loving country, Washington has moved to naked aggression."

(Reuter)

Libya/Soviets

MOSCOW -- A Soviet commentator on Tuesday called the U.S. attack on Libya a "new bloody crime" aimed at intimidating the North African country.

The commentary of political news analyst Vladimir Goncharov was carried by the official Soviet news agency, Tass, and said the U.S. "has started speaking in its true tongue -- the tongue of bombs, flames and death." (AP)

Soviets Condemn U.S. Attack On Libya

MOSCOW -- There was no indication of what action, if any, the Soviet Union would take. Moscow had confined its support to words during the clash between Libyan and U.S. forces last month.

Tass carried thorough reports of the attacks as reported by both sides, calling the American attack a "heinous act of state terrorism against Libya." Tass linked the bombing of Libya to U.S. support for anti-communist forces in Afghanistan and Nicaragua and past military action in Grenada and Vietnam. (Jack Redden, UPI)

U.S. Jets Hit Libya, Radio Says Qaddafi Kin, Foreigners Hit

TRIPOLI, Libya -- "A number of civilians, most of them foreign nationals, have fallen," the radio said. It later called on Arab neighbors to strike back against American civilian and military targets.

Ground gunners returned volleys of anti-aircraft fire when U.S. warplanes struck the western port district at 2 a.m. Libyan radio later said three planes had been shot down and their pilots killed by citizens. (Philip Shehadi, Reuter)

U.S./Libya

A broadcast by Libya radio, monitored by the BBC, said "...the savage American invaders carried out a treacherous and barbaric air strike...against the residence of the brother leader of the revolution (Qaddafi). A number of members of the family of the brother leader were injured as a result of this raid."

In Tripoli, Qaddafi's information director, Ibrahim Seger, said Tuesday that Qaddafi had survived the raid. "He's OK, he's OK," Seger told AP. (Michael Putzel, AP)

U.S. OUTPOSTS WORLDWIDE BRACE FOR POSSIBLE LIBYAN REPRISAL

Security forces at U.S. embassies around the world kept a close watch early Tuesday for Libyan reprisals that Secretary Shultz said could strike as many as 30 missions following the American air attack on Libya. American embassies around the world were on a security alert, Shultz said. (UPI)

Iran Warns Of Reprisals, Thailand Pulling 30,000 Workers From Libya

Iran warned today of attacks against Americans in retaliation for the U.S. air raid on Libya, China condemned the strike by American warplanes, and Thailand said it was ordering 30,000 workers out of Libya.

Many U.S. allies had no immediate comment on the raid that occurred early today. Britain's foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said today the U.S. raid, launched partly from bases in Britain, was "essential."

(Terrence Petty, AP)

LIBYAN RADIO ISSUES CALL TO ARMS

LONDON -- Libyan radio issued a call to arms Tuesday to its citizens and the entire Arab world to strike out everywhere at Americans in retaliation for the U.S. attack on Libya, warning that those who do not heed will be "cursed forever."

"To arms, O sons of our Arab nation, to dive on all the targets which belong to terrorist America, everywhere in our great Arab homeland," Libya's Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland radio said in a broadcast monitored in London.

(UPI)

PRESIDENT BASED HIS DECISION ON "INCONTROVERTIBLE" EVIDENCE

President Reagan ordered military operations against Libya after being told of "incontrovertible" evidence the Col. Qaddafi was responsible for the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque and being warned that Administration credibility would suffer if he failed to act, officials said yesterday.

(Larry) Speakes declined to provide details of the decision-making process, but sources said that a formal national security decision directive was signed last Wednesday in which Reagan approved an attack on Libya "in principle." These sources said that the President approved the specifics of the operation yesterday upon the strong recommendation of Secretary Shultz, who has advocated military action against terrorism.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. HAD WORD OF MORE PLOTS

U.S. officials said yesterday that before the military strike against Libya, they had uncovered evidence not only of Libya's involvement in the April 5 attack on a West Berlin discotheque but of Libyan planning for a grenade and a handgun attack against visa applicants at the U.S. consulate in Paris, the kidnaping of an American ambassador in Africa, and the bombing of schools attended by the children of U.S. diplomats.

The attacks were averted after being discovered by U.S. intelligence officials and local police, the officials said.

(Keith Richburg, Washington Post, A1)

NO WORD WHETHER QADDAFI HARMED

TRIPOLI, Libya -- State radio said Col. Qaddafi's home and headquarters were hit by the American warplanes that struck this Mediterranean seaside capital in an early-morning lightning raid today. There was no immediate word whether the Libyan leader was harmed.

Relatives of Col. Qaddafi and some foreigners were injured in U.S. air attacks, which struck a military airport in Tripoli, Col. Qaddafi's barracks headquarters and his house, the local radio reported.

(Washington Times, A1)

JAPAN CONCERNS OVER LIBYA ESCALATION, FEARS FOR CITIZENS

TOKYO -- Japan today expressed grave concern over U.S. air strikes against Libya and reported that its embassy in Tripoli had been damaged in the raid.

(A Foreign Ministry spokesman) quoted Foreign Minister Abe in Washington as saying: "The United States would have its own reason for the attack. But we will watch developments with grave concern. We hope the situation will not escalate further."

(Reuter)

WALTERS CONCLUDES TOUR WITH TALKS IN ROME

ROME -- U.S. special envoy Vernon Walters met here tonight with Italian Prime Minister Craxi, concluding a tour of key European capitals intended to rally allied support for U.S. sanctions against Libya.

A brief statement by Craxi later seemed to indicate there had been little agreement on U.S. demands for a much stronger European stance against Col. Qaddafi than the steps taken earlier in the day by Common Market foreign ministers meeting in The Hague.

(Loren Jenkins, Washington Post, A20)

EUROPEANS AGREE, BEFORE RAIDS, TO RESTRICT LIBYAN DIPLOMATS

THE HAGUE -- European Community foreign ministers "knew nothing at all" about the pending U.S. military attack against Libya when they met here yesterday to discuss joint European action in response to Libyan involvement in terrorism, a spokesman for the government of the Netherlands said earlier today.

In a statement released here last night following a five-hour emergency meeting, the EC foreign ministers declared that Libya was "clearly implicated in supporting terrorism" and they agreed to reduce and restrict Libyan diplomatic missions in their countries.

(Karen DeYoung, Washington Post, A22)

ALGERIA ACTS TO "CONTAIN" QADDAFI

ALGIERS -- Overshadowed by the Reagan Administration's confrontation with Libya, Algeria has launched a major diplomatic initiative to "contain" Col. Qaddafi and stabilize turbulent North African politics.

Algerian officials stressed that the plans hinge on tying the volatile Libyan leader into a web of specific economic cooperation deals that range from natural gas to electronics and are aimed at dissuading him from further regional troublemaking. (Jonathan Randal, Washington Post, A23)

MOSCOW SAYS IT URGED AGAINST U.S. "AGGRESSION"

MOSCOW -- A Foreign Ministry official, speaking at a press conference several hours before the U.S. raids, said today that the Soviet Union was doing "everything possible" to stop what he called U.S. aggression against Libya.

"Our commitment is not to allow aggression," he said. "That position has prevailed in our contacts with the United States."

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A23)

U.S. PROTESTS ALLEGED ISRAELI TORTURE CASE

The U.S. has protested to Israel the alleged torture of an Arab American who contends he was brutally mistreated during five weeks in an Israeli-supervised detention center after he was arrested in early February in south Lebanon.

The Israeli Embassy last night said (Ghazi) Dabaja's allegations that an Israeli officer was involved in his torture were "totally baseless."

(David Ottaway, Washington Post, A1)

LIBYA ON ALERT, QUIET AND TENSE

TRIPOLI, Libya -- Libya had been braced quietly but apprehensively all day today for the widely expected U.S. attack. It had bolstered its defenses and sought to distance itself from the terrorist actions that precipitated the current crisis.

(Christopher Dickey, Washington Post, A1)

JUSTICE PROBING FARRAKHAN'S TRIP TO LIBYA

The Justice Department is deciding whether Louis Farrakhan should be prosecuted for attending what the Reagan Administration has billed a "terrorist convention" in Libya last month, a senior agency official said yesterday.

"The question is did he [Farrakhan] spend any money while he was there? That's what we're looking into now," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

(John McCaslin, Washington Times, A2)

PRESIDENT ASSAILS HOUSE DEMOCRATS ON CONTRA AID TACTICS

President Reagan complained yesterday that House Democrats are trying to sidetrack for months his proposed \$100 million package of aid for Nicaraguan rebels and warned that such delays could result in defeat of the rebels and "a verdict of shame on us all" in the history books.

His comments were directed at the House Democratic leadership decision to include such aid in a \$1.7 billion supplemental appropriations bill that Reagan has vowed to veto.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A7)

President Rips Deals In Contra Aid Fight

President Reagan yesterday warned that Nicaraguan lives will be lost and American foreign policy damaged if House "subterfuge or backroom deals" scuttle his \$100 million aid request for the anti-Sandinista forces.

(Christopher Simpson & Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Coalition Targets Foes Of Contra Aid

A coalition of 30 major conservative organizations has asked Vice President Bush and other potential 1988 Republican presidential candidates to withhold support for any House member who does not support President Reagan's aid package for the Nicaraguan resistance.

David Keene, chairman of the American Conservative Union, a leader of the coalition, yesterday said the group would "go after those members of Congress who with full knowledge of the facts, vote against their own country's interests to curry favor with a Marxist thug who poses a threat to our hemisphere."

(David Sellars, Washington Times, A5)

Nationwide Protests Oppose Contra Aid

Fifty-seven people were arrested yesterday in the Capitol Rotunda while dozens more protested on steps outside against a Reagan Administration proposal to send \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan resistance.

(Jim Clardy, Washington Times, A5)

Battle Expected In Congress Over Linking Contra Aid To Spending

President Reagan and supporters of his plan to aid the Nicaraguan rebels are trying to defeat a move by Democratic opponents that would tie the \$100 million aid package to an related spending bill that may be vetoed by the President.

Reagan denounced the move on Monday as "subterfuge and backroom deals" and Republican leaders in the Democratic-controlled House said they would try to separate the two issues.

(Tim Ahern, AP)

LATIN-AID VOTES LIKELY TO LIFT LIMITS ON CIA

All restrictions on CIA participation in the rebel effort against Nicaragua would be lifted under any of the likely outcomes of this week's congressional votes on the issue.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, News Analysis, A7)

NAKASONE EXPECTS DROP IN U.S. TRADE DEFICIT

Prime Minister Nakasone, ending two days of meetings with President Reagan, said yesterday that Japan's towering trade imbalance with the U.S. should begin to decline this fall.

Nakasone's two-day visit, which included an intimate luncheon and meeting with Reagan at Camp David Sunday and a brief meeting with him at the White House yesterday morning, was notable for the relatively relaxed atmosphere on both sides about the persistent trade problem and other issues. (Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A13)

Trade Deficit With Japan Will Ease, Nakasone Says

Prime Minister Nakasone ended talks with President Reagan yesterday with a prediction that his country's economic reforms should begin to ease the U.S.-Japan trade imbalance this fall.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Nakasone agreed that Japan should make some fundamental changes to whittle down the \$50 billion trade imbalance between their countries and to promote international economic harmony.

(Washington Times, A2)

SIX NATIONS' LEADERS DEPLORE NUCLEAR TEST

Six prominent leaders in Europe and the developing world told President Reagan in a letter released yesterday that they are "deeply disappointed" by the recent U.S. underground nuclear test that brought an end to the Soviet Union's self-imposed testing moratorium.

The six leaders also told Reagan and Gorbachev that continued development of nuclear weapons by states possessing them "would be detrimental to the efforts to prevent any further proliferation of nuclear arms to other countries." (Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A13)

U.S. STILL SEES HOPES OF RETAINING TWO MILITARY BASES IN PHILIPPINES

Administration officials remain publicly upbeat about the chances for the U.S. keeping its two large military bases in the Philippines. The Reagan Administration has been careful to avoid suggesting that a move from the Philippines might be considered. Pentagon officials are unwilling to discuss the possibility publicly. (Iris Portny, Washington Times, A3)

--NATIONAL NEWS--

FARM AGENCY CHIEF THREATENS TO CUT FUNDS TO STATES

The head of FmHA, "greatly disturbed" that some farmers have received spring planting loans in violation of strict new rules, has threatened to cut off loan money to states that ignore the new federal policy.

In a message sent last week to all state FmHA directors, administrator Vance Clark ordered them to "cease and desist" from authorizing operating loans for farmers who cannot meet the agency's tighter loan guidelines. (Ward Sinclair, Washington Post, A3)

-end of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Monday Evening, April 14, 1986)

LIBYA

ABC's Peter Jennings: Two aircraft carriers, part of the Sixth Fleet, we are now told, have moved from their position near Sicily towards Libya, also staying in the Mediterranean, and we are now hearing reports from ABC Radio's Liz Coulton in Tripoli tonight, who says she can hear bombs in the distance. Whatever is going on at the moment, or is about to go on, it all comes about after a weekend of very intense debate.

ABC's John McWethy reports a debate at the highest level of the Reagan Administration raged right through the weekend about how best to deal with Khadaffy. Officials say arguments were so intense that the President late last week was unwilling to order a military strike until differences among his top advisors could be narrowed. They now have, officials say, and plans have been set into motion to order a military strike. One major reservation, expressed late last week, was the need to more fully consult with America's allies. Over the last two days, U.N. Ambassador Walters has done that consulting. A man with a long history of conducting sensitive missions on behalf of a president. There were other concerns about not having enough military muscle on the scene. Another concern was the lack of secrecy. Today, Secretary Weinberger issued a tough new order for no one to talk about details of ship or plane movements. Other reservations -- many of them said to be raised by Weinberger -- include concern that civilian casualties, Libyan, European, and American, be minimized. And that American pilots be exposed to the lowest possible risk. Though differences among high-level advisers still exist, officials say once the President signed off on the plan for action, the debate stopped. Now all attention is focused on making sure that the plan for retaliation works.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: President Reagan was playing his cards on Libya close to his vest.

(Donaldson shouts: "Mr. President, are you going to do anything about Kaddafi?"

President: "Just wait.")

In fact, top officials met at the White House this morning to thrash out a decision, even appearing to continue the discussion in public, as the President was saying goodbye to Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone. Late this afternoon, key members of Congress were summoned to a National Security Council secure briefing room in the EOB, across the street from the White House for a briefing attended by the President, the National Security Advisor, the Secretary of State and other Administration officials. Everyone was sworn to secrecy. But it was significant that earlier in the day, in a speech in Kansas, Secretary Shultz continued a very hard line about how to deal with terrorism.

(Shultz: "The sternest test for all free nations is to summon the will to eradicate this terrorist plague. If we do not hesitate to defend ourselves, democracy will prevail.")

-more-

Donaldson continues: When the meeting broke up at the White House this evening, the senators were tight-lipped.

(Sen. Thurmond: "Can't say anything. Let the news speak for itself a little later.")

There is a sense here now that the next news will be of a U.S. military strike. And that the President may deliver it himself. Senators on Capitol Hill, including Sen. Byrd are saying tonight that the President will make a statement at 9:00 p.m. this evening. There has been no confirmation of that from the White House. And if there is a military strike, what happens next? Many officials believe that Khadafy will strike back, and then the President will be faced with a new decision on what to do next.

Jennings reports that Liz Coulton in Tripoli can hear bombing in the distance. We're also hearing reports that there may be aircraft -- we're not sure if they're American -- flying over Tripoli itself. Did the White House give you any indication?

Donaldson: No one here is talking, Peter. They're trying to put a clamp of secrecy on all of this, and that's very understandable.

When we tried to check reports from John McWethy and others, they won't say that they aren't true, but they will simply say "no comment." We understand that Larry Speakes, the President's spokesman, will be in the briefing room with a statement in about 10 or 15 minutes. Perhaps he can shed some light on what is going to happen.

ABC's Liz Coulton reports from Tripoli that for now it's quiet, but for the past four minutes we had planes overhead, anti-aircraft going off, flares in the sky, explosions. Bombs that had shaken the whole hotel.

Jennings reports that there is no indication that Kaddafi of the Libyan military has moved American or other Western personnel into any military areas, where they might have acted as some kind of a deterrent to an American attack on Libya. (ABC-Lead)

ABC's Charles Glass reports that what appears to be a second raid is beginning right now, about four minutes after that first. It's too soon to confirm any targets.

Jennings: Have you talked to any Americans today as to how they feel about this, and whether or not they feel safe and secure?

Glass: So far, right now, Americans, Canadians, Britons, West Germans, other Westerners are very worried not so much about a Libyan reaction, but actually about being hurt in any American attack because so many of them are involved in working here in radar communications, in the oil industry, and almost any potential American targets. (ABC-6)

ABC ends its broadcast with coverage of Larry Speakes' briefing.

NBC's Tom Brokaw: There is a sharp increase in American military activity in the Mediterranean tonight and also in Europe. And now White House sources are saying that President Reagan will go on television at 9 o'clock eastern time, but that has not been officially confirmed by White House spokesmen. Libya has warned that if there is an American attack, it will retaliate. And once again, it raised the specter of suicide squads in the U.S. We begin tonight with an update on the military situation from NBC's Fred Francis, who is at the Pentagon.

NBC's Fred Francis reports there is no confirmation from Pentagon officials or others in the Administration that two battle groups are to form up as one armada and strike Libya.

NBC's Steve Delaney reports from Tripoli that city is under attack.

Brokaw: At the White House right now, where it has been a day of some confusion and not much public discussion about what may be happening, is Chris Wallace. Chris, what about this report that the President will address the nation tonight at 9 eastern time?

Wallace: We've gotten no official confirmation from that. But White House sources told us about half an hour ago that it is true. The President does plan to address the nation from the Oval Office at 9 p.m. tonight and it's clear he'll be announcing that military action against Libya. We've just learned that Larry Speakes will be appearing in the briefing room on camera about 7:20 tonight and it is expected that that will be the time when he will announce the President's plan.

Brokaw: What was the indication there today in terms of the determination of the President to engage in some kind of military retaliation? Since about last Thursday now there has been this kind of on-again, off-again idea that we may or may not strike the Libyans. What is your feeling politically?

Wallace: Today the feeling was that it was definitely on again and there were two key points: One was that the allies came out with some sanctions against Libya and the White House quickly said that that wasn't enough, that it wouldn't be nearly enough to get Khadafy's attention, which was an indication that they weren't looking for a way out. And then, in addition, there was a clear sense that they were not going to be stopped by Khadafy's threat to move foreigners, including Americans, to those key places like military bases or oil areas. They said that any foreigner who is still in Libya has been fairly warned to get out and so it was clear once again, or there were clear hints, that they were intending to go after Khadafy.

Brokaw reports the Reagan Administration was continuing its efforts to get the allies to take a harder line against Libya. The American U.N. ambassador is in Europe tonight and, as NBC's John Cochran reports, the European foreign ministers did take some action, but not as much as the Reagan Administration had wanted.

NBC's John Cochran reports Ambassador Walters continued his job as President Reagan's special prosecutor, trying to convince European leaders that Libya is guilty of masterminding terrorism and deserves stiff punishment. At an emergency meeting of European foreign ministers in The Hague, Britain's Sir Geoffrey Howe urged Europeans to show President Reagan they can punish Libya without military action. The Europeans agreed to reduce the number of European diplomats and to make it tougher for other Libyans to visit Europe. The British, though disappointed, said those steps were a beginning. The Europeans ended their meeting hoping they had gone far enough to persuade President Reagan not to attack Libya. (NBC-Lead)

NBC ends its coverage with Larry Speakes' briefing. (NBC-4)

CBS's Dan Rather: America's allies in Europe have refused to approve an economic crackdown against Libya. The U.S. naval armada in the Mediterranean apparently has moved -- its whereabouts and intentions unknown.

CBS's Tom Fenton reports from The Hague the European foreign ministers today and gave the Administration a clear statement that Libya is implicated in terrorism.

(Geoffrey Howe, British Foreign Exchange: "We have no doubt that the Libyan authorities have been directly involved in promoting a terrorist campaign against Western interests. That includes the recent Berlin bombing where there is solid evidence of Libyan complicity.")

The only action they could agree on was to restrict freedom of movement of Libyan diplomats, reduce the staffs of Libyan embassies and impose tighter visa requirements on Libyans. Ambassador Vernon Walters found opposition to stronger measures, such as economic sanctions, as he continued a tour of European capitals. The British are reluctant to allow the U.S. to use against Libya the American warplanes based in Britain. They have not publicly ruled that out.

(Phil Williams, international terrorist expert: "The objection is that this is not the best way we can deal with the problem. It may actually make it much worse.")

There is one further reason why the Europeans failed to take stronger measures today -- that's the widely held feeling here that if President Reagan decides to strike Libya, he'll do so no matter what his allies say or do.

David Martin reports President Reagan told reporters asking about military action against Libya to be patient. There were high level meetings at the White House and late in the day the President and his aides left the White House to brief members of Congress about his policy toward Libya. State Department officials said the action taken today by European foreign ministers against Libyan diplomats do not go far enough -- leaving only the military shoe left to drop. There was no sign of unusual activity at the naval airfield in Sicily.

(TV coverage: The President and Donald Regan.)

Syrian pilots are reported to have flown into Libya last night. U.S. officials say they cannot confirm that Khadafy had made good on his threat to place foreign oil workers on his military bases.

Martin continues: An informed Pentagon source said messages between Tripoli and the Libyan Peoples Bureau in East Berlin spoke of making arrangements for a wedding. On the night of the bomb blast, a message said to read the newspapers tomorrow morning for news of a great success. U.S. officials have said publicly they would back off if Khadafy ceases his support for terrorists attacks against Americans. Privately, the same officials say they see no evidence Khadafy is ceasing his terrorist campaign.

Rather reports there are reports on Capitol Hill that President will sometime this evening is expected to make a statement concerning Libya.

CBS's Alan Pizzey reports from Tripoli a demonstration to defy the might of America. The Green March claimed Libya will single out U.S. nuclear bases in Europe if the U.S. attacks Libya. Also, suicide squads will pursue Americans one by one and deal them the mightiest blows. A Libyan official said today even a scratch on an American aircraft carrier would be seen as a victory for his country.

(CBS-LEAD)

Rather: There are new developments and confirmations tonight about the Libyan situation. A high congressional source now has told CBS News that President Reagan will make a broadcast statement of some kind -- concerning Libya -- at 9:00 P.M. EST tonight. We know no other details about that. Pentagon sources have now told the Associated Press that two U.S. carriers in the Mediterranean are moving closer tonight to the Libyan coast. Their intentions are still unknown.

(CBS-9)

NICARAGUA

CBS's Phil Jones reports both sides on the contra aid battle escalated their attacks today to influence this week's vote in the House. In New York, more than 100 protesters were arrested. In Manhattan, Kansas, the Secretary Shultz spoke out.

(Shultz: "Nicaragua is the odd man out. Nicaragua is a cancer and we must cut it out.")

In Chicago, 500 demonstrated against aid to the contras. At the White House, the President weighed in.

(President Reagan: "The Sandinista government is not a duly elected chosen government. It's a gang that took over by force.")

Aid to the contras does not have widespread public support according to a new CBS News-New York Times poll conducted last week. Do you think the U.S. government should give \$100 million in military and other aid to the contras trying to overthrow the government, the overwhelming response from the 1,601 interviewed was no.

(TV coverage: Graphic of the poll.)

CBS NEWS-NEW YORK TIMES POLL

OPPOSED 62%

FAVORED 25%

Jones continues: The poll has a sampling error of plus or minus 3%. The main reasons for opposing aid -- money could be better spent at home and the feeling that the U.S. should stay out of Nicaragua internal affairs. Strong opposition came from majorities of both parties from every region and every age group.

OPPOSITION

REPUBLICANS 51%

DEMOCRATS 74%

Even with the President's personal effort, only 38% knew which side the U.S. is supporting. Both sides in the House are saying now that the second vote is too close to call.

(TV coverage: Graphic of the poll.)

(CBS-3)

NAKASONE

Rather reports Prime Minister Nakasone left the White House today with a rosy prediction. He told President Reagan he expects a huge U.S. trade deficit with Japan to start falling later this year. Nakasone hopes to implement radical economic changes designed to encourage spending by Japanese consumers. This presumably would boost demand for U.S.-made products.

(TV coverage: The President and Prime Minister Nakasone.)(CBS-6)

MEESE/MEXICO

Rather reports Attorney General Edwin Meese met with Mexico's attorney general today to discuss the widespread corruption that keeps the flood of illegal drugs flowing from Mexico into the U.S.

CBS's Michael Conner reports Attorney General Meese met with Mexican officials to review their efforts at reducing the flow of drugs.

(Meese: "Their law enforcement officials are both inept and corrupt. A combination of those factors results in nothing being done.")

The problem is getting worse because largely of corruption in the Mexican government.

(CBS-5)

MARCOS

Brokaw reports he interviewed Ferdinand Marcos via satellite from Hawaii on Sunday. He blames his loss of power on the Americans who flew him out of the country, and he now claims the new government has taken over even his personal property.

(Marcos: "If I had not left Malacanang, and been brought to the United States against my will, we would still be in control. I had superior forces, dedicated men, when I was taken out of Malacanang. But that's neither here nor there. It doesn't matter any more.")

(NBC-3)

CHALLENGER

Rather reports salvage crews have recovered a crucial piece of an O-ring joint from Challenger's right hand solid rocket booster. One investigator told CBS News it's the key piece of evidence everybody has been looking for. (NBC-2, ABC-3, CBS-2)

INTEREST RATES

Jennings: Another sign of falling interest rates. Today the government auctioned six-month T-Bills for 5.93 percent. That is the first time T-Bills have dropped under 6 percent since 1977. (ABC-4)

STOCKS

Jennings reports the Dow climbed back over the 1800 mark, closing up 15 points in light trading. (ABC-5)

VOTERS

Rather reports 51% of young Americans under age 30 identify themselves as Republicans or say they lean toward the Republican party. Americans under 30 are also the least likely to be registered to vote.

CBS's Bruce Morton reports from San Diego the most Republican voters in the country in poll after poll are the youngest voters -- those under 30. They are President Reagan's strongest supporters. (TV coverage: Graphic of the poll, which shows: Voters under age 30: Republicans 51%; Democrats 41%; Independents 8%.)

These young voters are strongly Republican, but they're not down the line conservatives -- very conservative on economic policy, believers in a strong defense, but apt to differ on environmental and social issues.

(Robert Teeter, Republican pollster: "The party is now a coalition and what we've got to do is to learn to live with it and kind of manage that coalition -- keep them all in the bigger tent.") (CBS-7)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Coverage includes the 7 p.m. newscasts of ABC and NBC, and the 6:30 p.m. broadcast by CBS.

###

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

U.S.-LIBYA

Confronting A Mad Dog -- "One cannot imagine anything more loathsome than the terrorist acts that killed five innocent Americans last week. If Washington is able to gather irrefutable evidence of Libyan complicity in the dastardly deeds, it will have no other realistic alternative than to take whatever steps are necessary to discourage Col. Khadafy and his fellow thugs from carrying out further terrorist activities against Americans. The Reagan Administration would not be seeking vengeance; it merely would be fulfilling one of government's principal obligations; to protect the lives of its citizens." (Dallas Times Herald, 4/11)

The Best 'Surgery' -- "If we have evidence of Khadafy's involvement, then we should invoke the Shultz Doctrine. We shouldn't employ 'surgical' strikes that could only make things worse, however. If America's to get involved, it should apply the only surgery that will work: complete removal of the irritant that's causing at least some of the cancer of terrorism." (Detroit News, 4/11)

Dealing With The 'Mad Dog' -- "The intent of any U.S. military move against Col. Khadafy ought to have a clear and enduring strategic objective. There is no point in giving him a bloody nose only for the sake of making ourselves feel better. The difficult question for the White House now is not whether to use force, but how to use it effectively. But given such purpose, when and if Mr. Reagan does strike at Col. Khadafy he will have - and should have - the support of the American people and our too-often too-reluctant allies in the war on terror." (Chicago Tribune, 4/11)

Khadafy's Vulnerability -- "If the Administration wants Khadafy toppled, it should work tenaciously and patiently on many fronts, applying relentless economic and diplomatic pressures. Economically and politically, Khadafy is more vulnerable than he has ever been. Missile strikes may be the one measure that would help him more than hurt him." (Boston Globe, 4/12)

Khadafy In New Trouble? -- "If Libyans want to make points with Uncle Sam (and some must wish to; our people built up their airfields, their oilfields and various other facilities), giving him the final bum's rush out of Tripoli would be a fine way to do it. Not only Americans would appreciate it. So would all the more immediate neighbors." (Sarasota Herald Tribune, 4/9)

Ron And The Hood -- "One credulous member of the White House press corps asked the President Wednesday if 'major retaliation' wouldn't kill 'a lot of innocent people.' What a pity the real question wasn't asked: Mightn't the failure to retaliate meaningfully against Khadafy endanger the whole civilized world? The obvious answer: Count on it." (Dallas Morning News, 4/11)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

Striking Back -- "If there is evidence linking Libya directly with the cowardly assault on a TWA airliner over Greece which killed four Americans, including a babe in arms, and the disco blast that took the life of an American Army sergeant, let us make it known to the world community. If our case can be made with a high degree of certainty, let us follow with an appropriately devastating response against the forces in Libya responsible."
(Birmingham News, 4/9)

Back To The Libyan Brink -- "It is possible this brink is being stage-managed for European benefit. The allies have been, at best, grudgingly willing to act in concert against terror. The Sixth Fleet is already concentrating European minds more powerfully on the need for economic sanctions and a diplomatic boycott of Libya. These would constitute the most desirable outcome. But if Europeans hold back, and Mr. Reagan is determined to punish Libya, then his decision will require solid public support - and that requires solid evidence."
(New York Times, 4/12)

Responding To Terrorism -- "The Free World has no choice in the war against terrorists. It must be prepared to retaliate when conditions warrant. And it must be willing to confront and isolate terrorists wherever possible. Europe is beginning to see that there is a terrible price to be paid for appeasing the Muammar Kadafis of this world."
(Baltimore Sun, 4/14)

Allies Must Cooperate In Anti-Terrorism Fight -- "The ultimate answer to curbing terrorism, however, may have been voiced by former national security adviser Robert McFarlane. McFarlane said that a covert anti-terrorism force should be developed to infiltrate terrorist operations and make pre-emptive strikes against terrorist training camps. But this, too, must be a cooperative venture of some sort. The U.S. cannot fight a world war against terrorism by itself."
(Milwaukee Sentinel, 4/9)

NEWS CONFERENCE

Mr. Reagan's 3 Valid Points -- "The President deserves the support of the American people on tax reform without tax increases, on aid to the anti-Communist Nicaraguans and on punishment of terrorist murderers."
(Chattanooga News-Free Press, 4/10)

NICARAGUA

Only Congress Can Do It -- "Subtleties cannot be discussed as long as Reagan's crusade against the Sandinistas diverts the nation's attention and energy. U.S. aid to the rebels must be ended, and only Congress can do it. The House of Representatives must again refuse to approve aid for the contras when it votes on Reagan's proposal this week."
(Los Angeles Times, 4/14)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

Covert Aid: Effective Weapon For Combating Communists -- "Faced with this, the Reagan Administration uses the 'covert' label in order to give the Congress as little opportunity as it can to block aid to anticommunist rebels. Sending Stingers to Afghanistan and Angola at least gives the rebels in those places some chance of shooting down the jets and helicopters flown by their people's oppressors. Whatever that kind of assistance is called, it's a good idea." (Providence Journal, 4/10)

Aid To Contras -- "Again, Ortega and his Soviet and Cuban sponsors will never negotiate until they are forced to the negotiating table. The House thus should go ahead and approve the Senate-passed aid package and give Ortega and his henchmen 90 days to negotiate the crisis. If they again ignore negotiations, then the only immediate alternative left is to assist the Nicaraguan rebels." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 4/9)

Contadora Failure Suggests U.S. Must Not Pin All Hopes On Talks -- "There exists the real possibility that nothing will come of negotiations. All the Nicaraguan talk about talking may be just so much talk. That government, in considering its options, might well decide that it shouldn't give up anything. If there are only two ways of containing the Nicaraguans -- supporting the contras and negotiating -- then the first of the two seems more promising." (Dayton Daily News, 4/9)

Contadora Pressure Valuable -- "The peace talks that ended Monday were billed as the last hope of the Contadora process. That must not prove to be the case. Growing Latin American pressure for changes in Nicaragua provides a needed backdrop to the assistance Congress is now very likely to approve for the Nicaraguan rebels." (Houston Chronicle, 4/9)

Contadora Collapse -- "Nicaragua claims it cannot go along with Contadora unless the U.S. specifically agrees not to support the Contras. But the truth of the matter is that Nicaragua is playing the spiteful prima donna in kicking back against the peace efforts of its neighbors." (San Francisco Chronicle, 4/9)

ARMS CONTROL

Cancel One Arms-Race Pause -- "In breaking the underground test moratorium, the Administration has squandered a rare public relations and diplomatic opportunity. If it yields to hardliners pushing to break the SALT limits, it will not only poison arms talks in Geneva, but preside over a weakened U.S. defense. It should listen to the Senate." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 4/13)

SUMMIT

Summit Back On Track -- "The visit, like last November's summit, may not bring any specific results but it is important for each superpower leader to know the other and the nature of the other's country. In the nuclear age, we cannot afford misunderstandings based on ignorance." (Buffalo News, 4/11)

Tuesday, April 15, 1986 -- C-1

NETWORK COMMENTARY FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

ABC

Peter Jennings: President Reagan speaking live from the Oval Office tonight...in a forceful justification of today's attack on Libya. The President saying we have done what we had to do, and we shall do it again if necessary. And comparing Col. Khadafy today virtually with Adolf Hitler during World War II. The President does not give us many details of today's attack. We hope to have those for you in the next few minutes. But before we go on to analyze today's attack, to bring you some more details of it, to raise some of the questions about the ramifications of this very large -- huge, the attack was described to us -- a slight sense for you of what it was like as heard by ABC correspondents in their hotel in the capitol in Tripoli. First, ABC's Liz Colton, looking and listening out her window.

ABC's Liz Colton reports on the explosions going off earlier in Tripoli.

Jennings: East of Tripoli and in many other parts of the country, as best we can tell tonight. And as I said, as we go along, we'll try to pinpoint some of those targets for you. The President referred to them both as terrorist targets and military assets. ABC's Charles Glass is in that same hotel in downtown Tripoli on the edge of the harbor. He simply stuck his microphone out the window and here is what he heard. (TV Coverage: Sounds of gunfire.) ABC's Charles Glass. What you hear out that window sounds very much to our ear like small arms fire and may simply have been an expression, ineffective, by people on the ground in the capitol itself firing at American aircraft which Liz Colton and Charles Glass told us made at least a couple of passes over the airport. As we said, the President raised a great many questions tonight. Let us go now to our national security correspondent, John McWethy, who is standing by at the State Department in Washington. John, let me if I may try to pick up quickly on what, something the President said. He said we want to thank our friends and allies in Europe who cooperated today. What does he mean?

ABC's John McWethy: I think he's talking about the British, Peter. The United States used not only carrier-based aircraft tonight, but they also used F-111 aircraft, which are based in Great Britain. The United States has had a very touchy sort of relationship over the idea of using bases in Britain to attack other countries. The British apparently bowed in this particular instance and said, okay, you can use our bases, and the U.S. in fact did.

Jennings: John, just before we go on with you, please stand by for one second. I want to tell people a couple things. The Libyans, by the way, have said, according to the BBC monitoring service...in Britain that the Libyans are claiming that three American aircraft were shot down. Every indication we have so far, both from the President, from Larry Speakes, his press spokesman, earlier, and from briefings at the Pentagon and the State Department, is that from an American point of view there were no casualties and no damage.

-more-

NETWORK COMMENTARY (continued)

Jennings continues: This is our map, which will give you at least some sense, as we wait to hear from Secretary of State George Shultz and the Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger on more of the details. (Jennings points out the geography involved in the attack.) As John McWethy said, part of the attack came from the Sixth Fleet and part of it came from land. John, do you have any sense at all of the targets at this point?

McWethy: Well, it's a little early to tell too much about the targets. It's quite obvious they hit several around Tripoli. One of them was apparently the Azia Barracks, which Col. Khadafy's elite corps is believed to be housed in, and sometimes Khadafy himself spending nights in that particular area. There was the military side of the airfield at Tripoli, the military side of the airport, that was apparently also hit. In each location, what the United States was apparently trying to do was to suppress fire and to keep any interceptors that might get off the ground from leaving by hitting the military part of the facility and then also going after barracks. There were also barracks attacked in Benghazi, and several military targets there designed again to suppress fire at American aircraft.

Jennings: So this attack, which occurred about 3:30, as I recall, no 3 o'clock in the morning Libyan time does not appear to have met much opposition.

McWethy: It does not appear that way. U.S. intelligence sources say they were somewhat puzzled by the lack of Libyan readiness and awareness. The United States over the last few weeks has continually been talking about the possibility of an attack and apparently the Libyans just got tired of being at alert all the time and they just decided not to pay very much attention to all the things that were coming out of Washington.

Jennings: ...Sam Donaldson is standing by at the White House and we are waiting for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to give us more details. But the French Foreign Ministry has already told us, despite what we have been told so far about surgical attacks, that the French Embassy in Tripoli was hit this evening. Sam, as the Administration went into this operation today, what do you think concerned them most?

Donaldson: Well, I think the concern, certainly first of all, of a military attack was whether our planes could get in and out safely. Peter, the preliminary estimate here is that no American aircraft was hit. An official who told me that stressed that that is a preliminary estimate. They want to see all planes back safely, but that was the word from the attack. Secondly, of course, they were concerned about not only the secrecy, but teaching Khadafy the lesson that they hope to have taught him with this particular attack, the one that the President referred to.

Jennings: Sam, the President did say again that he was trying to provide an incentive for the Colonel not to do this again. Even before this attack was mounted today, is there anybody in the Administration believing you can stop Col. Khadafy with an attack such as this?

NETWORK COMMENTARY (continued)

Donaldson: Well, I don't know. Many officials here believe Col. Khadafy is an incorrigible, the mad dog of the Mediterranean, as the President called him, and that they're not going to deter him. But you saw the President rather skillfully tried to separate Khadafy from the Libyan people. It is an appeal that he was making tonight to the Libyan people in effect to overthrow Khadafy, by saying we have always been friends, we don't hold you responsible; it is the mad man who is at your helm.

Jennings: ...It was quite interesting to a great many political observers in this country, and I'm sure abroad, that the Administration went on the air so quickly after the attack occurred. And perhaps one of the reasons was that American reporters were there in Tripoli listening to it. The Soviets, by the way, have had a very mild reaction so far. You may have heard earlier in the week reports from John McWethy and others that the Soviets had essentially moved, at least here in Tripoli, had moved those particular Soviet ships which they had on a port visit to Tripoli -- the Soviet-Libyan military relationship being a very close one -- out to sea and if Col. Khadafy, as John McWethy said, was getting tired of keeping his people on alert, the Soviets perhaps anticipated something was going to happen and moved their ships, all of them, as to the best of our knowledge, out to sea where they would not be even accidental targets during an attack such as today.

ABC continues with coverage of the briefing by Secretary Shultz and Secretary Weinberger.

CBS

CBS's Dan Rather: President Ronald Reagan explaining to the American people and reporting to the American people on tonight's strikes against the Libyan government of Moammar Khadafy. Recapping briefly, the President outlined the reasons why he ordered tonight's U.S. military strikes against Libya -- what he called and I quote him, "Direct, precise and irreputable evidence" of Libya's hand in terror attacks. The President made a point of mentioning attacks already carried out and attacks being planned -- that according to U.S. intelligence. President Reagan said that first indications were that the U.S. strikes on Libya were successful. The President gave very little hard information on what targets were hit. He had nothing to say about the possibility of any U.S. casualties. He did say everything had been done to try to minimize casualties to Libyans not involved in terrorism.

Earlier this evening we had information from Pentagon sources and also sources from Capitol Hill that among the targets were five in Libya -- three in and around Tripoli, two in and around Benghazi, which is on the other side of the Gulf of Sidra. Barracks in Tripoli and Benghazi, that is where the command control and training facilities for terrorism are believed to be at those barracks. A port facility at Sidi Bilal, a port facility. Keep in mind, we do not know if any of these targets were hit, much less destroyed -- we do not know that.

-more-

NETWORK COMMENTARY (continued)

Rather continues: These were among the targets listed. The port facility at Sidi Bilal is believed to a place where Libyans move people and equipment overseas for terrorist activities. Perhaps, all pumping facilities there as well. The military side of the Tripoli airport was one of the targets. The Benina military airfield where at least one time Soviet manufactured Mig-25s had been based. Whether there were any Mig-25s there during this strike, if indeed the target was hit, we simply do not know. It's not clear whether any or all of these were actually hit or destroyed. F-111 fighter bombers taking off from Britain were involved in the raid, as were carrier based planes.

We're going to go Allen Pizzey who is in Tripoli. There have been no strikes over the last hour to hour and a half as I understand it. Have there been any strikes since roughly 7:25 U.S. EST? Allen Pizzey reports from Tripoli: "Since that one and only strike ended there has nothing else. The city has been virtually blacked out. The port lights have been turned off. We can see the glow of what we think is the soccer stadium, but far from that it's very, very quiet. There is no traffic to speak of. There was a lot right after the raid. Now, there is just not much going on at all. It's very quiet. There has been no other signs of activity. We are locked into the city's main hotel where the foreign press is housed and we cannot get out into the streets. We cannot tell you anymore than what we see out the hotels."

NBC

NBC's Tom Brokaw: President Reagan, with a very brief speech tonight from the White House, explaining his orders earlier this evening to send American warplanes against what he called terrorist facilities and military assets in Libya, to strike back at Libyan leader Col. Khadafy. He said that the evidence now is what he described as direct, precise and irrefutable. That Libya had a direct role in a bombing of a West Berlin discotheque on April 5 in which an American soldier was killed. Today the President said we did what we had to do, and if necessary, we shall do it again. The President concluded tonight that what he has done is within the boundaries of the law, under the U.N. article #51 of the U.N. charter, and he made it clear that he does not expect that this will end the reign of terror, as he describes it, that Colonel Khadafy has been conducting, but that he felt it was necessary to strike back. We have standing by, in Tripoli, Libya, tonight, in the Capitol, NBC's Steve Delaney. He was there when the attack began.

NBC's Steve Delaney reports that the lights are still off in most parts of the city. There is still a little bit of traffic on the streets.

Brokaw: We have a report here that Libyan Radio is reporting that a number of Colonel Khadafy's relatives were injured, were casualties, in this attack. Are you hearing anymore about that?

Delaney: That was filed by a Reuters reporter, the European News Service, which is based here, and it originates from a report on Libyan Radio; we don't know the specifics of that. That would be consistent with what was apparently an effort to strike at his main HQ, which Libyan Radio had reported earlier had been hit, and had sustained some damage.

-more-

NETWORK COMMENTARY (continued)

Delaney continues: The obvious question is was Khadafy there, and if so, was he injured, or more? We simply don't know.

Brokaw: We're also hearing tonight from Libyan Radio that the "savage and barbaric American invaders" -- that's the language of the Libyan Radio -- carried out a treacherous and barbaric air strike against the residence of Khadafy. A number of the members of his family were injured, and they say, a number of civilians -- most of them foreign nationals -- were also hurt. Are you hearing anything more than that on Libyan Radio?

Delaney: No, but I would point out that foreign nationals could be almost anybody. There are a vast number of basically Third World nationals, who are in here on a contract labor basis to do most of this country's manual labor. Libyans hire that stuff out as a matter of course. There are thousands of them here.

Brokaw In Washington, at this hour is an influential member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, a Democrat from Georgia, the Honorable Senator Sam Nunn. Senator, what's going to be the Congressional reaction to this military strike that the President has described as against terrorist facilities and military assets in Libya.

Senator Sam Nunn: "I think once the members of Congress are fully acquainted with the Intelligence reports that we received this afternoon from the White House, and those that we'd received previously about Libya's involvement, they will be supportive of the President's actions. No one likes to have to take military action. I would've preferred an economic embargo, but our allies have simply not made that possible, because it can only be effective if we all join together. So I think the President was justified, and I think the intelligence clearly points at Libya as a terroristic state."

NBC continues interviewing Sen. Nunn.

###