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: 04/21/1986

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/

Last Updated: 02/18/2025



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Gorbachev Says Summit Still Possible -- Mikhail Gorbachev said yesterday a summit meeting with President Reagan is still possible this year despite strains caused by the U.S. attack on Libya.

(Washington Post, Washington Times, New York Times)

Libyans Show Bombed Naval School -- Part of an installation targeted by U.S. jets Tuesday morning as a terrorist training base was shown to reporters here today as a high school for naval cadets, and Libyan officials reported the death of another victim of the bombing.

(Washington Post)

NATIONAL NEWS

U.S. Researchers Forsee Big Rise In Nuclear Tests -- The number of nuclear explosions needed to perfect new types of nuclear arms is rising dramatically, according to Government scientists in Los Alamos, N.M.

(New York Times)

Ex-Reagan Aides' Lobbying Leads To Calls For New Rules -- Congressional critics of lobbying by some former White House officials are considering (New York Times) new rules to limit lobbvists' activities.

NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

U.S./LIBYA -- Washington, Beirut and Moscow were feeling the ramifications of last week's air raid on Libya.

SUMMIT -- There were mixed signals from Mikhail Gorbachev. On a trip to East Germany, he said he is ready for another summit meeting with President Reagan.

NATURAL GAS -- President Reagan used his weekly Saturday radio address to push for decontrol of natural gas.

'THIS WAS A WEEK FOR COURAGE'

"I'm especially grateful for all your efforts to provide a vigorous, probing and unbiased free press. I saluted the courage of our Air Force and Navy pilots after they carried out their difficult and dangerous mission this week, but another group also performed courageously and well...putting themselves in harm's way, trying to give the American people the best and most accurate account possible of one of the most important stories of this decade."

(President Reagan, speaking at the White House Correspondents Dinner, 4/17)

GORBACHEV STILL SEES A SUMMIT

EAST BERLIN -- Mikhail Gorbachev said today that a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting could go alread this year despite the recent rise in East-West tension, but warned that if the Reagan Administration continues its present course, "a shadow will be thrown over all plans for a future summit."

Gorbachev said a summit meeting would take place if the U.S. agrees "it is necessary to take this path." The Soviet Union, he added, is "ready to take realistic steps along the path to peace."

[Responding to Gorbachev's comments, the White House said yesterday that it assumed this year's summit would occur as scheduled and that it was ready to discuss a wide range of issues with Moscow, including terrorism.]

(Jackson Diehl, Washington Post, A1)

Gorbachev Says Summit Still Possible

EAST BERLIN -- Mikhail Gorbachev said yesterday a summit meeting with President Reagan is still possible this year despite strains caused by the U.S. attack on Libya.

Mr. Gorbachev told reporters the Soviet Union wants to take serious steps to safeguard peace and it is ready cooperate with the U.S.

(Bob Haeger, Washington Times, A7)

Gorbachev Summit Hint Stresses His Low Opinion of Col. Qaddafi

Mikhail Gorbachev's broad hint yesterday that a summit is still possible this year with President Reagan underlines the low priority Moscow attaches to its alliance with Col. Qaddafi.

Less than a week after his heated rhetoric Mr. Gorbachev is not even mentioning the U.S. air raid on Libya. And American analysts categorize the strain in U.S.-Soviet relations as both temporary and manageable.

(Roger Fontaine, News Analysis, Washington Times, A7)

Gorbachev Says Parley Is Possible If U.S. Shifts Line

BONN -- Mikhail Gorbachev held out the possibility today that a Soviet-American summit meeting might still be held this year if the Reagan Administration altered a foreign policy course that he said was poisoning the international atmosphere.

"If the American Administration realizes that this is the path to take, then we are ready for it," he said, referring to a summit meeting. "But if it continues what it is doing today, attempting to poison the international atmosphere and worsen it, this will overshadow any plans for a future meeting."

(James Markham, New York Times, A1)

LIBYANS SHOW BOMBED NAVAL SCHOOL

TRIPOLI, Libya -- Part of an installation targeted by U.S. jets Tuesday morning as a terrorist training base was shown to reporters here today as a high school for naval cadets, and Libyan officials reported the death of another victim of the bombing.

Officials at Central Hospital here said that the death toll from the U.S. attack rose to 39 today after a 55-year-old man died from his injuries. (Christopher Dickey, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. RAID ON LIBYA, CALLED MILITARY SUCCESS, HEARTENS THE PENTAGON

The U.S. forces hit all the designated targets, and only one U.S. aircraft was lost, for causes still being analyzed. The Air Force and Navy collaborated throughout the operation, without the communications failures that afflicted some past operations. Moreover, the technologies of "smart weapons," built into the U.S. arsenal beginning in the last years of the Vietnam war, paid off, or at least worked.

(Tim Carrington, Wall Street Journal, A1)

QADDAFI REPORTEDLY IN SEVERE DEPRESSION AFTER U.S. AIR RAID

Col. Qaddafi sank into a severe depression after last week's U.S. bombing raid that wounded two of his sons and killed a 15-month-old girl described by Libyan officials as his adopted daughter, according to a reliable intelligence report reaching officials here.

Qaddafi has begun displaying the extravagant mood swings of a manic depressive, the sources said. CIA specialists have concluded that the bombing raid, which apparently caught Qaddafi completely by surprise, triggered the depression.

Meanwhile, there were some strong indications from sources yesterday that the U.S. is close to proving that Libya is responsible for the sh∞ting last week of William Calkins, a U.S. Embassy communications specialist in Khartoum. (Bob Woodward, Washington Post, A1)

MITTERAND FAVORED RAID TO OUST QADDAFI

French President Mitterand told a U.S. envoy seeking support for last week's raid against Libya that France would support that attack only if it were strong enough to have the "political objective" of ousting strongman Muammar Qaddafi, a senior Administration official has confirmed.

According to the official, who asked not to be named, Mr. Mitterand told Vernon Walters in a meeting last Monday that the limited scale of the proposed U.S. attack amounted only to a "pinprick" that France could not support, even by granting permission for U.S. planes to fly over French territory.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Post, A1)

LIBYA SQUEEZING PROPAGANDA TO BLACKEN AMERICA

TRIPOLI, Libya -- Libya is cranking up its propaganda machine to dramatize civilian casualties, convinced that it can put the Americans on the defensive for its raids on terrorist bases here.

(Peter Almond, Washington Times, A1)

GREECE SAYS LIBYA ASKS EUROPEANS TO MEDIATE

ATHENS, Greece -- A foreign ministry spokesman said Libya has asked the 12-nation European Community Friday to mediate a "peaceful solution" to its tense conflict with the U.S. But a Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said they had not received any official request from Libya.

"We have not had any official invitation so far to mediate in the crisis," the Dutch official said. (James Dorsey, UPI)

COMMON MARKET WEIGHS TOUGH MEASURES ON LIBYA

BRUSSELS -- European Community foreign ministers will discuss tougher measures against Libya today, partly in an attempt to ease tension with the U.S. over its widely-criticized bombing attack on Tripoli last week.

The ministers were to meet in Luxembourg under the shadow of a looming farm trade war with the U.S. following failure of high-level talks in Paris on Saturday. That too will be high on the agenda of their regular two-day monthly session. (Paul Taylor, Reuter)

QUESTIONS OVER NEXT STEP IN WAR ON TERRORISM

Although most agreed the raid would not end terrorism, they also shared the view of former Sen. John Tower: "The raid was the right idea (to) ameliorate Qaddafi's terrorist activity."

Reagan has threatened more military action if Col. Qaddafi does not abandon his support for terrorism, and former White House national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski called for blockading Libya, including mining its harbors, closing its airfields and "interferring with its telecommunications" to "generate unrest" that could topple Qaddafi.

(Sean McCormally, UPI)

BANK OF JAPAN BATTLES TO BAIL OUT DOLLAR

TOKYO -- The Bank of Japan bought vast sums of dollars today to prop up the U.S. currency as selling by dealers pushed the greenback to a record low of less than 172 yen and 2.20 West German marks.

Dealers said the bank may have bought \$1 billion this morning alone. It spent more than \$1 billion last week in the fight to sustain the unit and curb the yen's rise.

(Eric Hall, Reuter)

SAUDIS USE BUSH VISIT TO SIGNAL DISPLEASURE

The highest-ranking U.S. envoy sent to the Saudi kingdom by the Reagan Administration was met by only the governor of the capital province, Prince Salman, and lesser royal dignitaries.

In the subtle, arcane ways of Saudi diplomacy, the decision to greet Bush in this relatively low-key fashion appeared to be a signal of royal displeasure not just with his pre-trip comments indirectly blaming the Saudis for "the free fall" of oil prices but with the Reagan Administration's generally indifferent attitude toward the security needs of the kingdom.

(David Ottaway, News Analysis, Washington Post, A4)

KILBURN'S BODY FLOWN HOME TO U.S.

The body of Peter Kilburn was returned to the U.S. yesterday aboard a military plane. The State Department said there was no ceremony and reporters were barred from the landing at Andrews Air Force Base here at the request of Kilburn's family.

(Cass Peterson, Washington Post, A17)

Kilburn

APTOS, Calif. -- Family members of Peter Kilburn on Sunday condemned the U.S. raid on Libya and said the slain American hostage probably won't be the last person killed in retaliation for the attack. "I don't think Peter will be the only one that will be sacrificed," Jeanne Repetto, Kilburn's sister-in-law, said in an interview.

She added, "We're very angry that the United States didn't do anything to try to negotiate with the Lebanese people for his release. We were told one thing one day and other things on other days, and then it seemed he was just forgotten." (Julie Amparano, AP)

U.S. RESEARCHERS FORSEE BIG RISE IN NUCLEAR TESTS

The number of nuclear explosions needed to perfect new types of nuclear arms is rising dramatically, according to Government scientists in Los Alamos, N.M.

Senior officials of the Los Alamos National Laboratory said in interviews that about six underground nuclear tests have ususally been required in developing a new weapon.

But the amount is rising, they said, as scientists try to create more complex nuclear arms. Perfecting one of these new designs could require 100 or 200 explosions, the officials estimated.

(William Broad, New York Times, A1)

TAX REFORM FACES MAJOR SETBACK

Troubled tax reform faces another hard hit in the Senate Finance Committee today with complaints from some two dozen witnesses about excise tax changes at the heart of Chairman Bob Packwood's bill.

Packwood has said the alterations -- worth about \$75 billion in five years -- are the key to making the rest of his tax overhaul measure work. But with complaints pouring in from lobbyists and more than half the Senate, he has all but admitted the provisions will be killed.

(Mary Beth Franklin, UPI)

KISSINGER SAYS HISTORY COULD JUDGE REAGAN TO BE "SIGNIFICANT" PRESIDENT

Henry Kissenger says "a strange phenomenon" occurs when you meet and listen to Ronald Reagan. "You ask yourself, 'How did it ever occur to anybody that he should be governor, much less president?'" Kissenger said at a Library of Congress symposium last week.

"On the other hand, you have to says also that a man who dominated California for eight years, and now dominates the American political process for $5\frac{1}{2}$ years, as he has, cannot be a trivial figure," the former secretary of state said.

"He has a kind of instinct that I cannot explain," Kissenger said, adding that it is "perfectly possible" history will judge Reagan as "a most significant president."

(Christopher Connell, AP)

FARRAKHAN AIDE THREATENS TO KILL WHITES IN THE STREETS

Calling President Reagan "the No. 1 terrorist on the face of the planet Earth," Louis Farrakhan's chief spokesman said yesterday that White Americans would be slaughtered in the streets if the Administration prosecutes the black Muslim leader for defying its ban on travel to Libya.

"If you attempt to lock our leader up and fine him \$50,000, or ban him from the country, or kill him...the people will burn this country to the ground," the spokesman, Khallid Abdul Muhammad, said at Washington rally.

(Warren Strobel, Washington Times, A4)

-more-

REPORT ON DEAVER SPURS HILL REACTION

A White House report that Michael Deaver took part in Reagan Administration acid rain policy deliberations just before signing on as Canada's foreign agent has given Congress further impetus to tighten conflict-of-interest prohibitions, sources said yesterday.

The revelations by White House counsel Peter Wallison, in a report to the GAO, also might scotch an \$18 million deal being pressed by Mr. Deaver, former deputy chief of staff for the President Reagan, to sell his lobbying firm, Michael K. Deaver & Associates, to the worldwide public relations conglomerate Saatchi & Saatchi, said several trade experts.

(George Archibald, Washington Times, A3)

Ex-Reagan Aides' Lobbying Leads To Calls For New Rules

Congressional critics of lobbying by some former White House officials are considering new rules to limit lobbyists' activities.

The Congressional scrutiny follows the swift success of former Reagan Administration officials as lobbyists who sometimes work for foreign governments.

(Martin Tolchin, New York Times, A1)

AN AWARENESS OF TIME LIMITS

What is important to realize about President Reagan, now that he has finally translated his repeated warnings to terrorists into military action against Libya, is that he has finally become acutely conscious that time is running out on his presidency.

Reagan's recognition that time is running out on his presidency could prove significant. His retaliation against Libya has proved tremendously popular, but his time to negotiate with the Soviets is growing short. It is devoutly hoped that he remembers his insight of March 16, when he told the American people that he has only three years left "to work for peace."

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

VICE PRESIDENT OUT FRONT IN FUND-RAISING STAKES

Vice President Bush is overwhelming the opposition in early fund-raising for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination, pulling in cash at three times the rate of his nearest competitor.

While Bush is raking in cash, he is working to defuse criticism that he is amassing a fortune to finance his presidential aspirations. He has been ladling out money to federal, state and local Republicans in a move designed not only to quiet critics but also to win friends among Republicans who are sure to play a major role in the 1988 convention.

(Thomas Edsall, Washington Post, A4)

PENDLETON IN THE HOT SEAT

Survival, with a megadose of self-sufficiency, is what [Clarence] Pendleton, the most visible black appointee of President Reagan, is practicing these days. The calls for his resignation are mounting. "I can't afford to get mad. I have to get things straightened out," Pendleton said the other day. Has he thought of resigning? "Never."

(Jacqueline Trescott, Washington Post, B1)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Charles Heatherly: Taking On The Business Of Eliminating The SBA" by Judith Havemann appears on page A9 of the Washington Post.

"For Once, Reagan Roasts Reporters" by Ann Geracimos appears on page B2 of the Washington Times.

(Sunday Evening, April 20, 1986)

U.S.-LIBYA

CBS's Susan Spencer: Washington, Beirut and Moscow were feeling the ramifications of last week's air raid on Libya. Gorbachev charged the U.S. with poisoning the atmosphere for a summer summit. More Westerners fled West Beirut in fear of new acts of vengeance. In Washington, the body of Peter Kilburn arrived at Andrews Air Force Base....

CBS's Burt Quint reports from Damascus on the evacuation of Westerners from West Beirut.

Spencer reports a second planeload of Americans evacuated from Sudan arrived in Nairobi early today.

CBS's Allen Pizzey reports from Tripoli that reporters got a look at more of the devastation from the U.S. air attack. Today, representatives of nonaligned nations were here to express solidarity with Libya. Sudan's defense minister strolled into the hospitals to declare disgust at the raid.

CBS's Bill Redeker reports from Tripoli that reporters obtain what Khadafy's government wants them to report. The newsmen see only what they're allowed to see. What you see, hear and read from Libya these days is strictly controlled. (CBS-LEAD)

ABC's Kenneth Walker reports demonstrations at the British

air base used by some of the bombers involved in the raid continued in Western Europe. Great Britain, virtually alone in its support of the raid might help again -- its defense minister said on "This Week With David Brinkley," but his government clearly prefers diplomatic and economic moves first.

(George Younger, British defense minister on "This Week With David Brinkley": "We would consider the case on its merits. But we would like to see a major effort now to make stronger non-military action and see if that makes any further bombing unnecessary.")

This morning, a U.S. military transport returned to Washington the body of slain American hostage Pete Kilburn from Beirut — a reminder that the U.S. confrontation with Libya didn't end with a raid on Tripoli. Kilburn's murder is precisely the kind of attack the President warned to avenge, but there is no reason to believe the widespread international criticism of the last raid would diminish with any new retaliation.

ABC's Sam Donaldson reports more than 100 people -- most of them Americans -- were flown from Khartoum to Nairobi today.

Donaldson reports two Americans and 32 Britons were evacuated from West Beirut to the Christian eastern portion of the city to escape pro-Libyan terrorists. (ABC-LEAD)

U.S.-LIBYA (continued)

NBC's Chris Wallace reports Donald Regan says there were attempts by the Libyan military to overthrow Khadafy, but the mutiny has been put down. In Libya, Khadafy seemed clearly in charge and building support against the U.S.

NBC's Steve Delaney reports from Tripoli the delegation of foreign ministers from nonaligned countries stopped in Tripoli today. They have a draft resolution condemning the American raid from the nonaligned conference in India.

NBC's Jim Miklaszewski reports Administration sources say report that Khadafy is already begun to pay the price for sponsoring terrorism -- European allies are beginning to turn up the pressure against Libya. Those sources indicate the allies are quietly imposing tougher travel restrictions against Libyans and have placed Libyan embassies under surveillance. Great Britain is pressing the allies for even more punitive steps against Libya. Foreign affairs experts say the U.S. raid on Libya has shot the Europeans into action. Libya claims the attack has strengthened Khadafy's hand. Administration officials dispute that -- noting that serious anti-American reaction in the Arab world has been confined to Libya and Sudan. Meanwhile, informed sources say the aircraft carrier Enterprise may join the Mediterranean this Fleet in the week. Administration's private optimism, the White House has put a lid on public speculation over the success of last week's raid -- waiting for the full impact to sink in on Khadafy. According to one Administration official, Khadafy is obviously far less powerful today than he was a week ago. (NBC-2)

SUMMIT

Wallace: There were mixed signals from Mikhail Gorbachev. On a trip to

East Germany, he said he is ready for another summit meeting with
President Reagan. Gorbachev continued attacking the American raid
on Libya and he warned that if Mr. Reagan stands by his get tough
policy -- it will affect the range of U.S.-Soviet relations.

NBC's Steve Porter: Gorbachev had just finished visiting the building where the Potsdam agreement was signed when he stopped to answer questions about the U.S. attack on Libya and summit prospects. He said he is willing to meet with the President this year, but if the U.S. goes on trying to poison the atmosphere, it will cast a shadow over a future meeting. The President, returning from Camp David was asked: Is there anything new on a possible summit? (TV coverage: President Reagan on the south lawn with words beneath -- "No.")

Then the White House released a restatement of its policy -- a summit is in the interest of both countries. In the direct reference to the raid, it said the U.S. wants to work with all nations, including the Soviet Union, to resolve the threat of international terrorism. Right after the Libyan air attacks, the Soviets cancelled Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's scheduled meeting with Secretary Shultz to discuss a

SUMMIT (continued)

Porter: (continued)

summit date. Donald Regan says he never felt that the meeting was cancelled, just postponed and he expects Gorbachev to come to the U.S. this year.

(Donald Regan: "We expect that man to live up to his word and I think he will.")

John Tower says arms issues are the real reason for Soviet foot-dragging.

(John Tower, former chairman on the Senate Armed Services Committee on "This Week With David Brinkley": "They keep pushing the summit off into the future in an effort to bring pressure on us at the negotiating table -- to come to some kind of concessionary terms with them on arms control issues.")

Administration officials feel that Soviet reaction to the Libyan attack is a complication, but not a decisive factor in setting a date. But as to a summer summit -- June is out and July is all but gone -- making a meeting after election day more and more likely. (NBC-LEAD)

CBS's Gary Shuester: Gorbachev told reporters at the East

German Communist Party Congress he is prepared to meet with President Reagan despite the U.S. raid on Libya and the recent nuclear test. He added the Soviets are ready to take serious steps toward peace -- if the U.S is.

(TV coverage: President Reagan and the First Lady on the south lawn.)

Returning from Camp David, President Reagan avoided answering questions about a summit. Administration officials remain convinced that the Soviet reaction to the raid on Libya is a complication, and not the deciding point in planning for a 1986 superpower summit in Washington.

(John Tower on "This Week With David Brinkley": "The Soviet reaction is predictable and I think it was relatively restrained. The Soviets are -- sort of come up with an excuse a year, excuses periodically for delaying the arms control process.")

(Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security advisor on "This Week With David Brinkley": "The Soviets need the summit as much as we do and probably more -- they will come to the summit. They're hanging back because they're hoping to capitalize on the political turmoil that will now ensue, both in the Middle East and in our relations with Europe.")

Administration officials believe the Soviets had to display some form of public toughness toward the Libyan raid to appease their Arab allies. Officials believe that Gorbachev's remarks today show the summit may be delayed, but that it will not become a victim of the U.S. raid on Libya.

(ABC-3, CBS-2)

NATURAL GAS

Spencer reports President Reagan used his weekly Saturday radio address to push for decontrol of natural gas. Today, the Energy Department said that deregulation would cause natural gas prices to fall over the next 10 years and would help reduce consumption of imported oil. It's all a part of the Administration's effort to get Congress to pass a decontrol measure. (CBS-10)

GRAMM-RUDMAN

CBS's Fred Graham reports the Supreme Court process begins on Wednesday. What will be in question is the constitutional separation of powers.

(TV coverage: President Reagan on December 17, 1985.) (CBS-8)

FARM EXPORTS

CBS's Jim McMannus reports from Stuttgart, Arkansas that a farm war is heating up between the U.S. and Europe. The U.S. has put new restrictions on farm goods from the common market -- once again, the American farmer is caught in the middle -- finding it tougher and tougher to sell his crops overseas. Due to the "Grain Revolution," the high tech science of modern farming is spreading around the world -- U.S. farm exports plunged 30%, costing billions and increasing surpluses.

(TV coverage: President Reagan giving his signature.) (CBS-5)

TORNADO

Spencer reports Texas Governor Mark White toured the devastated town of Sweetwater today and promised to seek federal disaster relief. Yesterday, a tornado caused up to \$20 million damage there.

(NBC-3, ABC-5, CBS-3)

PHILIPPINES

ABC's Mark Litke reports from Manila President Corazon Aquino warned her country's communist rebels today -- they must accept her offer of an honorable peace or face a military crackdown. The Marcos loyalist opposition stepped up its demonstrations against her.

(NBC-7, ABC-4)

SOUTH AFRICA

CBS's John Blackstone reports from Johannesburg a group of churchgoing women attending a mass funeral in Port Elizabeth were overcome by police teargas. (NBC-5, CBS-7)

JESSE JACKSON

NBC's Ken Bode reports this weekend in Washington Jesse Jackson held a convention of his "Rainbow Coalition" and he was clearly trying to broaden his appeal. Also, Jackson had blunt criticism of the U.S. attack on Libya.

MICHAEL DEAVER

Wallace reports Michael Deaver played a key role in White House discussions on acid rain. Administration officials say the White House has given that information to GAO. (NBC-9)

ABC -- THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY

Moderator David Brinkley, with Sam Donaldson and George Will.

Guests: Ali Treiki, Libyan Ambassador to the United Nations; George Younger, British defense minister; Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security advisor; and John Tower, former senator and chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Brinkley: Did your people blow up the nightclub in Germany?

Treiki: I think we said this. I think we have not to repeat it. We are denying categorically any connection with this bombing in Germany.

<u>Will:</u> Given the fact that you are, in your eyes, a systematic sustained <u>victim</u> of American imperialism, what is the response of your government going to be to this status?

<u>Treiki</u>: I think we can turn now to the Security Council.... This is the fourth time that we came to the Security Council to complain against the American aggression.

Will: Do you believe, and do you happen to know if Mr. Khadafy believes if it was the intention and aim of the American raid to kill him?

Treiki: Definitely he is one of the targets, I think, if he's not the main target. And I think the American Administration never hide their intention to eliminate him.

Donaldson: ... We attacked military air fields. Where is your evidence that we attacked civilians?

Treiki: I think I said in the Security Council, and I repeated it, and I am very glad that the American public will be able to hear it. We are ready for an international investigation, that the United Nations send a team to be realize that none of the military targets have been affected, only civilians....

Donaldson: What are the chances that elements of the Libyan military will rise up and throw Col. Khadafy out of power?

Treiki: Certainly the Administration, this is one of their expectations — that's wishful thinking — that there will be a military rise against Khadafy. But contrary now, Khadafy is more stronger. He has the support not only of the Libyan people, but all of the Arab and Muslim world, and the Muslims and Arab world consider this as a new crusade from the U.S. against the Arab nations. I even think in the European countries you have seen the demonstrations supporting Khadafy and the denouncing of Reagan.

 $\frac{\text{Will:}}{\text{was}}$...There were reports in the Western press after the raid that there $\frac{\text{Was}}{\text{was}}$ gunfire in Libya between Libyans, forces of the army fighting others. Were those reports correct?

Treiki: It is not true at all....

Brinkley: Do I understand you to say that Libya is guilty of no terrorist acts anywhere?

Treiki: You have to make a distinction between what we mean by our definition for terrorism. As far as action of terrorism, I told you that we are a victim like you, like any other of the countries, many countries are victims. But our, the problem between us and the U.S. is that our support to the liberation struggle, the Palestinians, the South Africans. This is our problem with the U.S. concerning the definition of terrorism.

Brinkley: Your government has been severely criticized, within your own country and in other European countries, for allowing the American bombers to leave British bases and fly to Libya. Would you do it again?

Younger: Yes, I think so, presented with the same facts that we were presented with by the President -- we would take the same decision if the same thing happened again. It was very clear that there was clear intelligence of a scheme of further terrorist attacks that was liable to be made against American and other European targets....

Will: But if you think you made the correct decision, then given the fact that France is similarly related to the U.S. and the evidence is the same, you must think the French made a bad decision.

Younger: They have to look at it from a French interest's point of view and it's not my job to look at it from the French point of view.... The first was that we were quite convinced, as the President had advised us, we were quite convinced that the use of the planes from the British bases was going to make the action more effective and less likely to hurt civilians by mistake.... The second thing that weighed with us was that the American nation spends a lot of its money and its people in helping us to defend ourselves. If they are defending themselves, we don't think it is very right for us to step aside.

Donaldson: What about the theory that one of the reasons why the President wanted Britain to participate was just that; not just so that F-111s could be used to make the raid safer and better, but so that at least one of our major European allies could be drawn in and to be said to be part of the whole raid.

Younger: We didn't quite see it that way....

<u>Donaldson</u>: If one of your principal allies is under attack, why don't you help us by imposing severe economic sanctions against Libya, something you have not been willing to do?

Younger: Yes, we would like, and we are going to be taking pretty strong efforts during the next week, to persuade all of our European allies to try and act in concert for some more severe non-military measures. Our view on economic sanctions is that it has never been known for economic sanctions to work....

Donaldson: What if the U.S. bombs again? Will you support it?

Younger: We have made it clear that if they wished to do this again with our help it would be a new application for help and they have agreed—the President has agreed with that. We would consider the case on its merits. But we would like to see a major effort now to make stronger non-military action and see if that makes any further bombing unnecessary.

Brinkley: ...Do you doubt that the Libyans were behind the West Berlin nightclub bombing?

Tower: I have no doubt of it at all and obviously some things have to remain classified to protect sources and methods.

Brinkley: Was this the best way to respond? What do you think?

Tower: I think it was the appropriate way to respond. I wouldn't try to second guess the President on this....

Brzezinski: I support the President's decision. I think the President had little choice. It was, so to speak, a necessary tragedy. If I were doing it, I might have done it slightly differently. I think imposing a protracted blockade on Libya — the total isolation of Libya might have had over a longer period of time — the effect of stimulating domestic unrest, without generating the kind of support for Khadafy that bombing might precipitate.

Donaldson: ... What do you see ahead, more Libyan attacks or fewer?

Tower: I think we'll continue to have terrorist activity, but I don't think you can speculate on that. I think that what has to be done is to impress on Khadafy the fact that he's going to have to pay a price if he continues this....

Will: ...Wouldn't it have been a much more convincing raid if we had picked more convincing targets?

Tower: No, I think initially you'd strike only at military targets and not economic targets and see if that does the job. I think the possibility that we could strike the oil fields and inflict economic damage on Libyans must give Khadafy some pause.

Donaldson: The cancellation of this meeting in mid-May between the foreign ministers is not a serious blow even to the prospects of a summit.

Brzezinski: I couldn't care less about that because the Soviets need the summit as much as we do and probably more, and they will come to the summit....

<u>Tower:</u> I think the Soviet reaction is predictable and I think it was relatively restrained. The Soviets -- sort of come up with an excuse each year -- excuses periodically for delaying the arms control process....

FREE-FOR-ALL DISCUSSION -- Hodding Carter joins the panel.

On Minority Set-Asides:

Will: ... I'm prepared to say that even if it worked, and even if it were free of corruption, it would be a terrible idea... because it is simply wrong....

<u>Donaldson:</u> ...We have an obligation, those of us, I think, who are in the mainstream -- because we are white -- in this country, which is predominantly white, to say to people who have been systematically discriminated against all these years, "All right, not only do we agree that it's wrong in law, but we're going to try to help you, not just your great grandchildren, come up into the mainstream."

Carter: ...Set-asides were an idea whose time came so long ago, it had nothing to do with minorities, so the debate on whether or not that ought to be a principle of governmental action is ridiculous...We now have enshrined by congresses of several political persuasions, and several political persuasions of presidents, a thesis that we need...to take certain actions to undo the past for a certain period of time, including this Administration...That report by the Civil Rights Commission, long on assertion, non-existent with the facts....If corruption is going to end government programs, we would wipe out the Defense Department tomorrow.

On Why The Economy Is Doing So Well Despite Unemployment And The Deficit:

Donaldson: ...You're right, we've had large deficits, and in almost a classical sense, they have been fueling the economy as deficits always do. And...here comes OPEC and decides to collapse....Now this combination, it seems to me, has resulted in sort of a false euphoria as far as the economy goes. My only caveat...I've been preaching for two or three years that this economy was about to go over the brink. Well, it hasn't.

Carter: ... The economic growth rate for the last five years is less than the normal average over any five year period, both recession or recovery, of the last 40 years. The second thing is, you have a great thing going in the stock market, which is precisely the great success of this Administration and Paul Volcker, which is kicking the head of inflation.

Will: ...I have a completely off-the-wall theory and I will now unload it on you. Ronald Reagan's great contribution to America is to make people feel good. Let's just get people happy.... People will stay in school longer, they'll get married, they'll have babies, they'll invest, they'll just feel good about the future and let's see what happens. Maybe that's what we're seeing.

Moderator Marvin Kalb, with Andrea Mitchell and Robert Novak.

Guests: Edward Heath, former British prime minister; Senator Lowell Weicker; and Robert McFarlane.

Kalb: You have said that you would not have allowed the U.S. to fly its planes out of Great Britain for the attack against Libya, could you explain why?

Heath: ...We do not accept Article 51 of the United Nations charter justifies an action of this kind.... Second, we do not believe that this will achieve its objective of ending terrorism.... The real question is how are we going to deal with terrorism.... This makes Khadafy a hero.... Where does this escalation end?...

Mitchell: ...If Europe would have responded with economic sanctions back in January and February, the military retaliation would not have been necessary.

Heath: The British government is opposed to economic sanctions....

People do not believe that history shows that economic sanctions have ever achieved that purpose either....

Novak: ... You don't think the British or any of the European nations should owe some duty to following the U.S. lead as the senior partner of the alliance...

Heath: ...What you're saying is that because the U.S. has an interest in maintaining Europe -- which is not to be overrun by the Soviets and so do we. Therefore, in other parts in the world which are not NATO connected, we also have to go along with what the U.S. wants -- that cannot be right.

<u>Kalb</u>: Don't you believe the President when he lays out the evidence against Libya's complicity in at least the West Berlin disco bombing?

Weicker: ...What I question is the very fact -- the toll of terrorism. In this case, the toll of terrorism has taken the Constitution of the U.S. and the laws of the U.S. with it. Specifically, the President violated both the War Powers Act and the Constitution in so far as engaging in a military operation.

Kalb: Is that really the basis of your criticism -- it has been put on moral grounds. Is it more than that?

Weicker: That's a pretty good basis.... I also don't see us engaging in the type of act which takes civilians with it.... I think that's terribly important to the U.S....

Mitchell: What would you have proposed if you were the president?

Weicker: ... Number one, you can operate under the War Powers Act...or if you want to let him come to the Congress with a resolution of war and lets debate the consequences in engaging in acts of war....

Mitchell: Do you think we ought to be trying to kill Khadafy? Do you think we were trying to assassinate Khadafy?

Weicker: Number one, by Reagan's own executive order, we by law, shouldn't be trying to kill Khadafy and by the spokesman for the Administration -- it became very clear that they wouldn't have minded if that happened....

Kalb: From what you know, were we in fact trying to topple Khadafy?

McFarlane: I think we were taking a step among what must be dozens of steps to begin to counter terrorism. It wasn't intended. I don't think the President expects that that act alone would solve the problem....

Mitchell: ... Some people are concerned that we are involved in a "tit for tat" response where we become reactive, where we've given the terrorists the initiative, and where we have to retaliate if the certain criteria are met.

McFarlane: I don't think that a "tit for tat" policy will solve the problem and I agree with you on that. You must do dozens of things, many of them passive -- such as barrier sensors, better intelligence, better sharing with allies, and better planning with law enforcement officials. However, there comes a time when if these things don't work, the terrorists must understand that there is a cost to killing innocent human beings....

<u>Kalb</u>: Do you think now, given the widespread disappointment with the <u>West</u> European reaction to this American act against Libya, that within the Senate, perhaps within the Administration, there may be a move to begin to withdraw American forces from Western Europe?

McFarlane: I don't think so, but I'm glad you mention it. Our commitments in Europe are key to the deterrence of an important threat to the alliance. What we're facing here -- and this is part of the public confusion I think. It's no less a threat to American and allied interest.

Mitchell: Haven't we in fact weakened whatever moderate opposition there was internally to Khadafy, and made it much less likely that he would be overthrown?

McFarlane: That's hard to say. It's possible it evoked a certain amount of violent opposition. Whether it can survive is something that we can't judge today. I think basically, Khadafy's continuity is pretty much assured.

Mitchell: Were we trying to kill him?

McFarlane: I don't think it was the willful focus of our attack to destroy Khadafy personally. It surely must have crossed the minds of some people in the Administration that that might have been a collateral outcome -- but no, we don't murder people.

THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP

Moderator John McLaughlin, with Jack Germond, Kenneth Walker, Robert Novak and Morton Kondracke.

On U.S.-Libya:

McLaughlin: Is Khadafy going to alter his behavior? Is this going to check terrorism?

Walker: Not much. Who are we kidding here, is there any doubt at all, even if as seemed to be the intention -- Khadafy had been incinerated last Monday. Would that have solved the problem of Middle East terrorism?

Novak: What it has shown is the U.S. will strike back. What we have to do is get rid of Khadafy and that is an open question.

Germond: It was necessary for this country to retaliate give the provocation. On the other hand, the Administration should be held accountable for the kind of retaliation we made. This was not a surgical strike.

Kondracke: We didn't get Khadafy this time. In the short-term, there is going to be a lot more terrorism.

<u>McLaughlin</u>: What do you think are the long-term consequences of the Reagan Administration's strike at Libya? Will the long-term consequences be positive or negative?

Walker: Negative, it does violence to the diplomatic and legal institutions in the world and in this country.

Novak: It's positive because it shows we're not a pussy -- which was in doubt for a long time.

Germond: I have no idea.

Kondracke: I'm abstaining. If we get him soon, then it's positive. If we don't get him soon, then it's maybe negative.

McLaughlin: The long-term consequences will be positive.

McLaughlin: Did the Soviets give us a tacit green light to counter-strike?

Kondracke: They made it clear that they would not intervene.

Novak: It hurt the U.S. and the Arab world -- that's a Soviet objective.

Germond: If the Soviets want to have a summit, then we're going to have a summit. If they don't, it's not because of Khadafy.

Walker: They don't want a summit and they're going use Khadafy to avoid it. The Administration clearly thought it had a wink and a nod from the Soviets.

U.S.-Libya (continued)

McLaughlin: Any surprises in this generally hostile allied reaction?

Novak: The only surprise was just how miserable they looked. There is so much proof that is being laid and generated by the allies about Libyan involvement that you may see some change in attitude very soon.

Germond: All of Europe is going to be watching the political reaction in Great Britain to see what happens to Thatcher and what happens in Britain because of these subsequent deaths -- that is going to have a great deal to do with whether or not they move in the direction that Bob was suggesting.

Kondracke: The punishment is going to be delivered by hundreds of thousands of American tourists who are not going to spend their money in Europe this year.

McLaughlin: Will there be a summit this year?

McLaughlin, Kondracke, Novak: Yes. Germond, Walker: No.

McLaughlin: Referring to the U.S.-Arab world relations, can the pieces of this relationship be put back together?

Walker: Not anytime soon.

Kondracke: The Arabs are scared to death that Khadafy is going to go in and destabilize in the hand that we're not going to handle this situation well.

Novak: The Arab reaction is tepid.

McLaughlin: Don't you think that Jimmy Carter has a point there (referring to retaliation if his daughter was killed)?

Novak: We don't know whether Khadafy's daughter was adopted and that does matter.

Kondracke: What we did was try a retaliatory strike and we made a mistake when civilians were killed by accident -- that's a big difference between what Khadafy did in Rome.

McLaughlin: Do you think the impact of the Libyan strike will have long-term major negative consequences on U.S.-Arab relations?

McLaughlin, Kondracke, Novak: No. Germond, Walker: Yes.

On Contra Aid:

McLaughlin: What's the future for contra aid?

Germond: It's unlikely to pass. Walker: It's dead.

McLaughlin, Kondracke, Novak: Yes, it will pass.

Predictions:

Walker: The escalation of violence in the Middle East will demand that the U.S. return to Tripoli within a month.

Novak: The new Public Liaison director in the White House will be Mari Maseng.

Germond: I think two or three American airlines are going to have to pull out of the whole southern half of Europe.

Kondracke: President Reagan's poll ratings as a result of the Libya attack will be in the mid-70s next week.

McLaughlin: Product liability will pass the Senate in 1986 and the full Congress in 1987.

AGRONSKY & COMPANY

Moderator Martin Agronsky, with James Kilpatrick, Carl Rowan, Elizabeth Drew and Hugh Sidey.

On U.S.-Libya:

Agronsky: What do you think of Mr. Reagan's decision and its result?

Kilpatrick: I applaud the decision. The results in the short-term will be bad. In the long-term, I don't know where it will fall.

Rowan: There are some tough slippery days down the road.

<u>Drew</u>: Will it stop terrorism? No. Will it change Khadafy's ways? <u>Doubtful</u>. Does it show there is a cost for terrorism? Yes, but then what. Is it going to get Khadafy overthrown? Questionable.

Sidey: Nobody's happy in making the decision, but it was necessary. We need to keep the pressure on our friends so that we rally in this cause and also look for ways for accommodation with our adversaries — then we will prosper from this.

Agronsky: Is a new policy going to emerge from this and is that policy something that might be called a "Reagan Doctrine?"

Drew: This is another step in fighting terrorism. How often will we do it and how far will we go with it?

Rowan: When you get into this track of punishing all of the people who engage in terrorism and support it -- one of these days the track leads you to the Soviet Union and we ought to never forget that.

Sidey: Terrorism is on the rise and now in the open -- we can't run away from it.

Kilpatrick: We should have went in there and leveled the oil docks, mine the harbors and blasted up the airfields -- really have done a job on it.

Rowan: My basic criticism is that I would have kept my mouth shut and if there ever was a time for a covert action -- this was the time for a covert action.

On Contra Aid:

Agronsky: Do you think that this business with Libya is going to affect the House approach to the contras? Is it going to make it more likely the President will get aid for the contras or not?

<u>Drew:</u> No, I think the House will keep them separate. I have always thought that the President would end up with military assistance. The President is having a far harder time (aid to the contras) than I expected.

Contra Aid (continued)

Kilpatrick: It's going to come back in early June as an amendment to a defense authorization bill.

Drew: Logic is going to overwhelm them. The Democrats and Republicans, when it comes down to it, they don't disagree that much.

On Tax Reform:

Agronsky: Senator Packwood postponed indefinitely the President's tax reform bill, how come?

Drew: Packwood clearly had to try to buy some time to see if the Finance Committee could put something together. I don't know if they will be able to or not.

On Stockman's Book:

Agronsky: Stockman squeals on his colleagues, misleads the people of the U.S., demonstrates almost a contempt for the intelligence of the President and is richly paid -- how do you feel about that?

Kilpatrick: It's one of the most arrogant works that I can remember reading in years.

Rowan: I agree with you.

Agronsky: Absolutely reprehensible.

Drew: Many of things he says in the book are true. He crossed a line -- he was egregious. He went too far, did it too soon and it's very unattractive.

Sidey: This arrogance just transcended from it.

On Deaver:

Agronsky: How wrong is he?

Rowan: I don't mind the man making a lot of money, but he just ought to separate himself from the President so he doesn't appear to be selling the White House.