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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Contra Aid Pledge By Reagan Sought -- Angered by "mixed signals" sent by the Administration, House Republican leaders have asked President Reagan to promise aid to the Nicaraguan resistance -- regardless of the outcome of the upcoming peace talks in Central America.

(Washington Times)

Officials Say Mexico Not Doing Enough To Rid Border Of Violence And Drugs -- Reagan Administration officials today told a Senate panel that Mexico is not doing enough to reduce the threat of violence, drug trafficking and illegal immigration along the southwest border of the U.S.

(Washington Post, Copley)

NATIONAL NEWS

Deaver Gives Up Symbols Of His Link To Presidency -- Michael Deaver said yesterday that he has given up key symbols of his special relationship with President Reagan but he denied ever using that special relationship to help foreign or domestic clients of his consulting business.

(Washington Post)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

NASA -- James Fletcher told a congressional committee today that he was appalled by the way the press had treated NASA in recent months.

SHCHARANSKY -- The White House handled Shcharansky's visit with great ceremony, but also with great caution.

REACTOR -- Radiation is still leaking from the reactor at Chernobyl. The Soviets now hope they can trap it in a tomb of concrete.

□ DETAILS, DETAILS:

***Kremlin Official Offers Details,
Says Human Error Was Responsible***

—front page, *Washington Post*, May 3

***Kremlin, Offering No New Data,
Assails West on Nuclear Disaster***

—front page, *New York Times*, same day

THE NEW REPUBLIC

MAY 26, 1986

*This Summary is prepared Monday through Friday by the White House News Summary Staff.
For complete stories or information, please call 456-2950.*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SYRIAN ROLE IN BOMBING INDICATED

Secretary Shultz and Deputy Secretary Whitehead acknowledged yesterday that the U.S. is aware of evidence that could link Syria to the aborted April 17 attempt to bomb an El Al airliner in London and a terrorist bombing last month in West Berlin.

Whitehead said the U.S. "has no reason to doubt" Israeli charges that Syria was behind the El Al incident. But both he and Shultz refused to speculate on whether the U.S. might strike Syria with the same kind of military and economic actions taken against Libya.

(John Goshko, Washington Post, A1)

SHCHARANSKY MEETS REAGAN; "QUIET DIPLOMACY" UNCHANGED

Anatoly Shcharansky met for nearly 40 minutes yesterday with President Reagan and other senior officials at the White House, but reporters were not invited and no details of the conversation were released because Reagan wanted to continue practicing "quiet diplomacy" to advance human rights in the Soviet Union, according to Larry Speakes.

Although Speakes said that Soviet human rights could best be advanced quietly, Shcharansky seemed to disagree. "Quiet diplomacy, from my point of view, can only help if it is supported by strong public pressure, so that for the Soviet Union there will be no illusions that the question of human rights, the question of Soviet Jewry, the question of emigration are all very closely related to their economic and political interests," Shcharansky said. (David Remnick, Washington Post, A1)

Reagan's Shift On Human Rights

Yelena Bonner did not get an appointment with the President. Anatoly Shcharansky did. As Shcharansky was honored in the nation's capital yesterday, diplomatic observers noted the change in President Reagan's handling of the sensitive issue of human rights in the Soviet Union. From the harsh rhetorical approach he adopted when first in office, Reagan has moved to a strategy of "quiet diplomacy" to try to persuade Kremlin leaders to improve their human rights practices.

Reverting to the practice of his predecessors, the President came to adopt a low-key posture, pressing Kremlin leaders quietly behind the scenes -- as he did in his meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev -- but holding his verbal fire for suitable occasions.

(Charlotte Saikowski, Christian Science Monitor, A1)

CONTRA AID PLEDGE BY REAGAN SOUGHT

Angered by "mixed signals" sent by the Administration, House Republican leaders have asked President Reagan to promise aid to the Nicaraguan resistance -- regardless of the outcome of the upcoming peace talks in Central America.

In a letter circulated on the House floor yesterday, eight Republican leaders requested an immediate meeting with Reagan to clear up "mixed signals" sent by Philip Habib.

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

Drift On Nicaragua Policy Sows Panic

The Reagan Administration's lack of a clearly defined policy toward Nicaragua has panicked some State Department officials and angered conservatives who fear that anti-Sandinista rebels will be sold out for a questionable peace treaty with Managua.

(James Morrison, News Analysis, Washington Times, A10)

U.S. SEEKS DEMOCRACY IN PARAGUAY

ASUNCION, Paraguay -- A new U.S. ambassador to this South American country has enraged the long-lived authoritarian government while boosting the hopes of opposition groups by taking steps to encourage an end to the dictatorial rule of President Alfredo Stroessner.

Since his arrival last November, Ambassador Clyde Taylor has made a point of meeting with opposition parties and expressing U.S. displeasure with the lack of progress toward democracy here.

(Bradley Graham, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. AIDE SHARPLY CRITICIZES MEXICO ON DRUG TRADE

U.S. Customs Commissioner William von Raab, escalating U.S. public criticism of Mexico's handling of drug traffickers, testified yesterday that there is "massive" official corruption "up and down the ladder" in Mexico and said he believes the governor of Sonora state owns four ranches that produce opium and marijuana.

The accusation came in an unusual hearing in which several Administration officials harshly criticized the Mexican government for tolerating drug trafficking and related corruption as well as its growing foreign debt.

(Mary Thornton, Washington Post, A3)

Officials Say Mexico Not Doing Enough To Rid Border Of Violence And Drugs

Reagan Administration officials today told a Senate panel that Mexico is not doing enough to reduce the threat of violence, drug trafficking and illegal immigration along the southwest border of the U.S.

Elliott Abrams said that while corruption appears to be a growing problem, top Mexican officials are cooperating with U.S. officials. "Some Mexican officials at lower levels, however, have been corrupted by the vast sums of money available to the traffickers, including some officials supposedly engaged in anti-narcotics efforts," Abrams said.

(Marcus Stern, Copley)

ASK JEWISH AID ON SAUDI SALE, REAGAN URGED

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar urged President Reagan yesterday to seek support from American Jewish leaders for his embattled proposal to sell missiles to Saudi Arabia and said later that Reagan thought it "was a good idea."

A senior White House official said that the Administration is taking Lugar's idea "very seriously" and that a White House effort is being planned to generate support for the package by Jewish leaders.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A7)

Reagan Starts Fight For Saudi Arms Sale

President Reagan yesterday began the difficult task of trying to reverse a congressional ban on a proposed \$354 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia. But his Capitol Hill allies were not optimistic.

In an hour-long meeting with GOP congressional leaders yesterday morning, Reagan said he had "no choice" but to veto the measure prohibiting arms sales to the Saudis, according to Larry Speakes.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A1)

BYRD SAYS RASH OF LEAKS PRECEDED STRIKE ON LIBYA

Robert Byrd yesterday deplored what he described as a steady stream of leaks and loose talks from the Reagan Administration in the week before the April 14 military strike against Libya.

"The military action was undertaken only after a full week of news reports that quoted Administration officials revealing the nature of the mission, against whom the raid would take place, roughly when it would occur, what targets would probably be struck, and which countries would and would not assist it," he said in a Senate speech.

(George Lardner, Washington Post, A28)

WEINBERGER OPPOSES BULLDOZER CONTRACT TO COMPANY WITH LIBYAN INTEREST

Secretary Weinberger has made "a political judgement" that the Pentagon will not award a contract for combat bulldozers to the Fiat-Allis Co. because it is partially owned by Libya, Pentagon sources say.

Defense Department attorney's are still investigating how to deny the contract to Fiat-Allis since it was the low bidder on the program. But Weinberger has personally intervened in the case and is now "taking a real hard line," the sources added.

(Norman Black, AP)

NATIONAL NEWS

DEAVER GIVES UP SYMBOLS OF HIS LINK TO PRESIDENCY

Michael Deaver said yesterday that he has given up key symbols of his special relationship with President Reagan but he denied ever using that special relationship to help foreign or domestic clients of his consulting business.

Deaver said he sent back his White House pass, no longer receives a copy of Reagan's daily schedule and no longer plays on the White House tennis courts.

Deaver maintained that he had never used his 20-year relationship with the President and Nancy Reagan "on behalf of any client" since he left the White House on May 10, 1985.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

Canadian Legislators To Probe Deaver Hiring

TORONTO -- A Canadian parliamentary committee plans to conduct a preliminary inquiry Wednesday on the circumstances surrounding Canada's decision to pay Michael Deaver \$105,000 for lobbying services.

(Herbert Denton, Washington Post, A18)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Deaver: 'I Didn't Use My Influence' At Any Time," edited excerpts of Michael Deaver's interview with staff writer Lou Cannon, appears on page A18 of the Washington Post.

REAGAN: TAXING COMMENTS AND GOVERNMENTAL GAFFES

The accent was education. The audience: a group of high school students. But President Reagan could have landed a failing grade in current events for a premature cry of victory in his crusade for tax reform.

Speaking Tuesday to more than 140 visiting graduating seniors from John A. Holmes High School in Edentown, N.C., Reagan praised the Senate for a passage of a tax reform bill that only last week cleared the Senate Finance Committee. Reagan's enthusiasm for the bill -- and for a long-sought overhaul of the tax code -- obscured the fact the Senate may be weeks away from a final vote.

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

Reagan Tells Students Mutual Assured Destruction Doctrine Is "Stupid"

President Reagan says the U.S. will never shoot first in a nuclear war and describes the decades-old doctrine of nuclear deterrence between the U.S. and Soviet Union as "the most stupid policy."

Reagan said the best way to avert nuclear war is to work toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Beyond that, he said, "Let's get rid of mistrust between the East bloc and the West bloc so that there's no need for any war."

(Terence Hunt, AP)

6,500 COLLEGE SCIENTISTS TAKE ANTI-SDI PLEDGE

More than 6,500 scientists, including a majority of professors in the nation's top 20 university physics departments, have declared themselves opposed to President Reagan's SDI and have pledged not to accept any "Star Wars" research funds, SDI opponents said yesterday.

Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.) said the opposition to space-based missile defense shows that Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, SDI director, was incorrect last fall when he said that there were "only a few diehards left, sincere diehards left, but only a very few" opposing the program.

(Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A3)

HOUSE GOP IS BUCKING PENTAGON

The Pentagon ran into more trouble from Republicans on Capitol Hill yesterday, as House GOP leaders drafted a budget alternative that would cut President Reagan's defense spending request by \$8 billion more than a Senate-approved budget that the White House has criticized as inadequate.

The latest setback for the Pentagon came as Pete Domenici urged the President, during a meeting of congressional leaders to the White House, to support the Senate plan in order to fend off further losses on defense.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A6)

Even Republicans In House Want Deep Cuts In Military Spending

The House is opening debate on a fiscal 1987 budget with even Republicans proposing deep cuts in President Reagan's military buildup.

Reagan told House Republicans on Tuesday the package was "totally unacceptable" not only because it cut defense further below the \$301 billion approved by the Senate but also because it accepted the Senate's \$13.2 billion tax increase.

(Steven Komarow, AP)

DEFENSE TORPEDOES FOREIGN AID REQUEST

A Reagan Administration effort to wring more foreign aid funding out of Congress apparently was derailed yesterday by Republican legislators' annoyance over continued White House refusal to trim defense spending.

Republican leaders, emerging from a morning White House strategy session on the fiscal 1987 budget, said they went prepared to hear a plea from President Reagan and Secretary Shultz for another \$550 million for beefed-up security at U.S. facilities worldwide and more aid to the Philippines.

Instead, according to several of those present, they bogged down on the Administration's insistence on \$4 billion more in defense funds than the Senate allocated.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A21)

WHITE HOUSE REVIEWS NEW U.S. PENSION PLAN

Civil servants will have to wait longer and take an earnings test on a portion of their retirement benefits under a compromise pension plan being reviewed today by the White House.

(Mark Tapscott, Washington Times, A3)

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BAKER CALLS DOLLAR'S FALL "ORDERLY,"
SEES TRADE DEFICIT DECLINE IN '87

Secretary Baker brushed aside concerns of the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and major U.S. trading partners yesterday and called the year-long fall of the dollar "orderly," saying that the drop has not hurt financial markets.

Baker's comments came in the midst of great volatility in world currency markets, where traders are keeping an extremely close eye on official U.S. statements for signs of whether the Reagan Administration wants the dollar to continue to fall or level off.

(Stuart Auerbach, Washington Post, G1)

STEEL AMONG TOP BENEFICIARIES OF SENATE PANEL'S TAX RULES

The Senate Finance Committee's radical tax-overhaul bill contains a hidden provision obligating the U.S. Treasury to write hundreds of millions of dollars of checks to ailing steel companies over the next several years.

(Dale Russakoff & Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A1)

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NEWS FROM THE STATES

GUARD MEMBERS FLYING MISSIONS TO CENTRAL AMERICA

SACRAMENTO (UPI) -- A key officer of the California Air National Guard has told surprised lawmakers that the guard has been regularly flying supplies to Honduras and other Central American countries since 1978 with approval from the governor's office.

Lt. Col Tandy Bozeman, in testimony to an Assembly budget subcommittee, Monday said guard members have been flying C-130 cargo planes loaded with foodstuffs, tent stakes and other military or embassy supplies to Honduras two or three times a week.

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES BIG CYPRESS BILL

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- The Administration told a House panel Tuesday it opposes a bill calling for the 128,000-acre expansion of South Florida's Big Cypress National Preserve in conjunction with the construction of Interstate 75.

The opposition came in the face of unanimous support for the measure from Gov. Bob Graham, the bill's sponsors Sen. Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., and Rep. Tom Lewis, R-Fla. and several other members of Florida's House delegation.

"We are not prepared to support the legislation based on current program and budgetary priorities," P. Daniel Smith, a deputy assistant secretary of Interior, told the House subcommittee on national parks and recreation.

Smith said the White House "cannot support the commitment of such a substantial amount of funds for these lands." He said Interior was trying to acquire some South Florida lands, including some designated in the bill, without spending so much money.

CONSERVATIONISTS CHALLENGE FEDERAL GRAZING FEE

SACRAMENTO (UPI) -- Conservationists, in a lawsuit, have accused federal officials of violating the law by allowing ranchers to graze their herds on public lands for fees that are below what the law requires.

The Natural Resources Defense Council and eight co-plaintiffs contended in the U.S. District Court action filed Monday that the fee formula fails to reflect the market value of the forage as required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Plaintiffs said they want the court to approve an appropriate fee schedule with which Reagan Administration officials must comply.

ALABAMA SEEKS DROUGHT EMERGENCY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (UPI) -- Gov. George Wallace asked President Reagan Monday to declare Alabama a disaster area in the wake of the worst drought in a century that has "brought farmers to their knees."

Wallace, who filed a lawsuit two weeks ago to stop farm loan mortgage foreclosures, warned in a letter to the President of "severe economic losses" from a drought that has left farms parched from four months with little rain.

The request, which state officials said is the first in the nation from the drought, came after the state's emergency board met in Montgomery to review reports from 67 drought-stricken counties.

-End of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, May 13, 1986)

NASA

NBC's Tom Brokaw: These are dark days for America's space program, but James Fletcher says that he can get it back on course by next summer. Fletcher told a congressional committee today that he was appalled by the way the press has treated NASA in recent months -- complaining that the news media seems to have forgotten the many achievements of the space agency. However, as Robert Hager reports, today there was also more evidence that NASA new early on that the O-ring on the shuttle's rockets would be a problem in cooler temperatures.

NBC's Robert Hager reports the shuttle will be flying again in 14 months, said James Fletcher before a House subcommittee.

(James Fletcher: "We think now that July of 1987 is an appropriate flight date. This may change depending on a number of factors, but nevertheless, July looks like a good target date.")

Fletcher said he is appointing a panel to make a six-month study of how to solve NASA's management problems. Also, a Morton Thiokol memo warned that the O-rings may fail in cool temperatures and was sent to NASA five months before the accident. Two of Morton Thiokol's engineers have now been transferred to less important jobs. (Sen. Albert Gore: "It is incomprehensible that a company could watch the courage and candor of those two engineers and then turn right around and punish them. It's beyond belief.")

Tonight, 28 senators joined in a letter demanding an investigation in to whether Morton Thiokol used intimidation and retaliation in demoting the engineers.

Brokaw reports NASA experts are saying tonight that they should soon be able to pinpoint the short circuit that caused the failure of the Delta rocket launched ten days ago. (NBC-LEAD)

CBS's Dan Rather reports NASA launched two rockets from Wallop Island, Va. They carried payloads that are designed to figure out why the planets are all so different and move in regular orbits.

CBS's Robert Schackne reports investigators hoped to find the critical clue from the wreckage pulled today to the cause of the Delta rocket accident ten days ago.

(TV coverage: The wreckage of the Delta rocket.)

An internal document obtained by CBS News discloses that the numbers used to sell the shuttle program to Congress at a supposed bargain price were rigged. In a 1983 memo, NASA inflated the predicted number of shuttle missions far beyond any realistic limits in order to reduce the apparent cost per flight. NASA was not bargaining in good faith and the shuttle is not cheaper to operate than currently available unmanned rockets.

(Walter Mondale: "The agency kept telling the Congress everything was great, they were on schedule, it was safe, they were on budget and everything was terrific. In fact, we know now that none of that was true.")

(CBS-3)

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ABC's James Walker reports NASA new before the launch of the Challenger that the shuttle's solid rocket boosters were not safe. Those O-ring seals were deemed not safe when the temperature was below 50 degrees.

(Rep. Edward Boland: "Until we feel that NASA's management and NASA's house is in order and until we feel that you have turned this agency around -- until that happens -- this subcommittee can withhold funds for new programs.")

ABC's Peter Jennings reports James Fletcher said that July, 1987 looks like a pretty good date for the next flight of a shuttle mission. Also, today there two successful launches of NASA rockets from Wallop Island, Va. (ABC-2)

ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKY

Brokaw: Anatoliy Shcharansky...took his human rights campaign to Washington today and Americans he said, should keep speaking out against the Soviet oppression of Jews. Shcharansky has advocated a massive show of protest so that Mikhail Gorbachev comes to this country. The White House favors a quieter approach and this difference, says correspondent Chris Wallace, was reflected in the Administration's welcome to Shcharansky.

NBC's Chris Wallace: The White House handled Shcharansky's visit with great ceremony, but also with great caution. Secretary Shultz escorted him to a meeting with the President, but reporters were kept out.

(TV coverage: Secretary Shultz and Shcharansky.)

Officials explaining that Mr. Reagan still believes in quiet diplomacy. The best way to free more Jews is not to embarrass the Soviets.

(TV coverage: A still photograph of the President and Shcharansky.)

Shcharansky said later he owes his release to the President, but does not feel the Reagan policy is enough.

(Shcharansky: "-- My point of view can help only if it is supported by strong public pressure and strong public diplomacy.")

Aides say the President believes public complaints about human rights only antagonize the Soviets and that at last year's summit, he told Mikhail Gorbachev he wanted to deal privately.

(TV coverage: The President and Gorbachev on Nov. 21, 1985.)

That policy has brought the release of few highly publicized dissidents. The overall number of Jews permitted to emigrate is down sharply from a 1979 high. It was certainly not quiet at the Capitol today, where Shcharansky had to end the standing ovation. He called for increased political and economic pressure on the Soviets.

(Shcharansky: "The time has come for us to -- I am released, but 400,000 Soviet Jews are still kept as prisoners in the Soviet Union.")

Having imposed trade sanctions against the Soviets 12 years ago, Congress is not considering any new measures, but there was rhetorical support for Shcharansky.

(Sen. Dole: "In celebrating his release, we also shine the light on thousands of others who remain in prison by a godless state.")

While the President keeps to his private bargain with the Soviets, Shcharansky and others will use public pressure. None of them expect any dramatic change in the fate of Soviet Jews. (NBC-3)

Rather reports Anatoliy Shcharansky was honored at a Washington ceremony today in the Capitol rotunda.

(TV coverage: Speaker O'Neill and Shcharansky on Capitol Hill.)

Later, Shcharansky went to the White House and discussed human rights with President Reagan for more than a half hour. Shcharansky told reporters there's a way Mr. Reagan's offstage approach to human rights can work.

(TV coverage: "Secretary Shultz and Shcharansky at the White House.)

Shcharansky also said that he's sure his release would not have been possible without President Reagan's strong position on his behalf.

(CBS-4)

ABC's Charles Gibson reports Anatoliy Shcharansky was welcomed on Capitol Hill and at the White House.

(TV coverage: Sen. Dole, Speaker O'Neill and Shcharansky on Capitol Hill.)

(Speaker O'Neill: "We pledge that the success in winning the release of Anatoliy Shcharansky is proof that we need to do much more and not proof that we have done enough.")

Shcharansky met with President Reagan in private -- the White House keeping his welcome as low key as possible trying not show up the Soviets for fear it could harm the cases of other Soviet political prisoners.

(TV coverage: A still photograph of the President and Shcharansky.)

(Rep. James Courter: "The Administration's apparent decision to down play his presence here is upsetting to many of us.")

Spokesman Larry Speakes said the President would continue to use quiet diplomacy and continue to raise objections in private.

The President reportedly told Shcharansky that he promised Mikhail Gorbachev that he would only raise human rights questions in private, but Mr. Reagan said public pressure from others will be loud and clear.

(ABC-3)

DIVIDED FAMILIES

ABC's Bill Blakemore reports that after the Reagan-Gorbachev summit last fall, the Soviets allowed eight divided families to be reunited in America and others are still waiting for the word to come.

(Sen. Paul Simon: "It it needlessly painful. The government should not stand in the way of people who want to do the simple thing of getting married and living together.")

Sen. Paul Simon and 59 other senators have written to Gorbachev on behalf of some 20 Americans who are now divided from spouses in the Soviet Union.

(ABC-4)

SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

Jennings: ...Radiation is still leaking from the reactor at Chernobyl. The Soviets now hope they can trap it in a tomb of concrete. Today, the Soviets were speaking more openly and frankly than any time since the accident occurred.

ABC's Dean Reynolds reports from Moscow the Soviets say the reactor is still hot and radioactive, but they said they have mastered

Reynolds continues:

the problem. The reactor will be encased in concrete and will remain that way for centuries. The Soviet newscast showed pictures of cleanup activities at the Chernobyl reactor and those involved were interviewed.

(Soviet TV coverage: The cleanup activities at Chernobyl.)

Pravda today explained that ten days into the accident a meltdown almost took place. Also, Dr. Armand Hammer arrived today with medical supplies for the victims. Tomorrow night, Mikhail Gorbachev will address his nation on television and Soviet sources say the subject will be Chernobyl.

ABC's John McWethy reports U.S. intelligence sources say the radiation levels at the damaged reactor are being grossly understated by the Soviets.

(Soviet TV coverage: The cleanup activities at Chernobyl.)

(ABC-LEAD)

Rather reports the Soviets expanded their plans to completely entomb the radioactive wreckage of the nuclear reactor at Chernobyl. In Moscow, Dr. Armand Hammer arrived with a load of medical supplies for victims being treated by bone marrow transplant specialists. Also, Sweden today said it detected the first Soviet fallout to contain plutonium, but the levels detected were not dangerous. Swedish scientists said the plutonium they monitored probably was not weapons-grade plutonium.

CBS's Bruce Morton compares the possible long-term effects of Chernobyl to the effects of what occurred in Rongelap in the Marshall Islands.

(CBS-2)

Brokaw reports new signs of radioactive fallout from the Soviet nuclear accident at Chernobyl have been detected in 15 cities in 11 U.S. states. However, there is no public health danger. In the Soviet Union today, radiation was said to be still be leaking from that damaged reactor and the reactor will be encased in concrete.

(NBC-2)

U.S.-SYRIA

CBS's Dan Rather: For weeks now, the Reagan Administration has been trying to put on the pressure. For one thing, it has been eluding to Syria as a backer of terrorism and Israel has tried to help. Tonight, correspondent Bill McLaughlin reports that Syria is at least putting on a show of appearing to be deeply involved in trying to free American and other hostages.

CBS's Bill McLaughlin reports well informed sources tell CBS News Syria's President is engaged in an intensive effort to free the American and French hostages in Lebanon. Today, Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead said the U.S. had no reason to doubt that Syria was involved in the Libyan-backed bombing of the Berlin night club. Intelligence sources say there has been fighting over the past week between Syrian troops and the kidnappers, but the Syrians have told the Reagan Administration that they can't risk using force. If we do that said the Syrians, all that we will deliver to you is a lot of dead hostages.

(CBS-LEAD)

MEGA TUESDAY

CBS's James McMannus reports from Atlanta that white conservative southern Democrats are fed up with Yankee liberals on their party's presidential ticket and they say they are not going to put up with it anymore. Eight states have thrown down a political gauntlet and five more on the way, maybe six -- perhaps 14 southern states in a same day presidential primary in 1988. Southern lawmakers who designed this solid south predict it will destroy the bandwagon effect of Iowa and New Hampshire contests and allow the South to produce a more conservative Democratic front runner who would go on to win the White House.

(Lee Atwater, Republican strategist: "I think they have the right string to the wrong yo-yo. They are going to wind up with a liberal which they didn't anticipate and I don't think they are going to diminish the importance of New Hampshire.") (CBS-11)

PAC'S

Brokaw presents a special segment on political action committees representing a single interest, such as home builders, teachers or environmentalists. Now, there are so many PAC's with so much money, many people believe that they have become the problem they were meant to cure.

(Rep. Barney Frank: "People like me are supposed to be able to take on a regular basis thousands of dollars a year from perfect strangers and have it have no influence on our behavior. If people believe that, then maybe they would like to buy that building [U.S. Capitol] in the background.")

(Sen. Alan Cranston: "I do recognize that I should provide access to people that help me get there and do my best to do so. There are times when you suddenly have to make a decision...and then I do what I think best.") (NBC-5)

MEXICO-U.S./DRUGS

ABC's Brit Hume reports a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee met today to discuss the problem of drugs flowing into the U.S. from Mexico. Witnesses from several U.S. agencies portrayed the U.S.-Mexican border as a drug smugglers paradise with a safe haven always available on the Mexican side -- Mexican law enforcement is full of corruption.

(Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams: "The president of Mexico does not have the availability as President Reagan does to push a number of buttons because behind some of the buttons that you would want to push from the presidential palace in Mexico City, you'll find corruption -- people who do not want to carry out those orders.")

(ABC-5)

AFGHANISTAN

Rather reports 13 Afghan refugees were killed by artillery shells that hit a refugee camp inside Pakistan.

CBS's Harry Smith reports nine Afghan refugee children arrived in Houston, Tx, and another seven in Hartford, Ct. to receive medical treatment.

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(CBS-5)

MICHAEL DEAVER

NBC's John Chancellor's commentary: The question is not so much a legal one as it is a question of taste and judgement. The President said Deaver never put the arm him, but the point is that Deaver never had to put the arm on the President. Everybody knew how close he was -- that was the firm's \$18 million asset. Questions of taste and judgement are not part of the legal proceedings, but they are part of Deaver's essential contradiction. He could not succeed if he weren't the President's friend, but his great success has damaged his friend -- the President. (NBC-6)

SOUTH AFRICA

Brokaw reports a major strike by black workers in South Africa is over tonight after six days. More than 6,500 workers reached a settlement with one of that country's biggest supermarket chains.

NBC's Mike Jensen reports from Cambridge, Ma. on the growing movement of colleges and universities disinvestment in companies with ties in South Africa. (NBC-4)

NORTHERN IRELAND-U.S.

Rather reports the British secretary for Northern Ireland was in Washington today lobbying the U.S. Congress to pass a strong anti-terrorist extradition bill to help Britain in its battle with the Irish Republican Army. (CBS-10)

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Rather reports Americans last year paid more than \$9 billion in liability insurance premiums -- up 60% from 1983.

CBS's Anthony Mason reports from New York numerous cities around the country are worried about their liability insurance -- across the country, insurance premiums suddenly have doubled or tripled. (CBS-7)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

TAX REFORM

Keep The IRA, Not The Olive -- "The IRA could be saved without endangering the goals of tax reform by a simple trade: Ax the 'three-martini lunch' instead. Nothing angers the ordinary taxpayer more than to be told that a bricklayer's tuna-fish sandwich isn't deductible, but a businessman can write off a \$200 night on the town. The Senate bill would retain 80 percent deductibility for such business entertainment. We'd rather encourage people to save money to rebuild American productivity than to underwrite corporate extravagance."

(Denver Post, 5/8)

IRA Reduction: That's Encouraging? -- "The IRA is one of the few fiscal moves made by Congress that has worked out. There are now 28 million households with IRAs. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen has predicted 'a firestorm' of protest from those households. If that 28 million produce the firestorm, it is likely that the IRA clip will be removed from the bill. The bill doesn't need it, nor do the taxpayers."

(Dallas Morning News, 5/10)

Senate's Tax Bill Is Fair, Simple And A Bold Stroke -- "Congress and the President have a chance, through the Senate bill, to restore confidence and fairness. The very simplicity of the measure gives it a better chance than previous bills, so laden with tradeoffs they represented inviting targets for critics of any persuasion."

(Atlanta Constitution, 5/11)

How Tax Reform Meshes With Packwood's Principles -- "The only constituencies deserted by the dazzling swiftness of his [Packwood] conversion are lobbyists, tax shelter hunters and dozens of special interests. Sen Packwood many not have taken care of them, but he did take care of himself...having already extracted a fifth of his mammoth campaign treasury from their political action committees. And he protected his other core principles. As with the Reagan plan, the Packwood reform chops tax rates for everyone, but especially for the poor, working women and minorities. That will bolster the appeal of the Republican Party, Bob Packwood and progressive Republicanism. Behind the legalese and accountant's language of the Finance Committee's tax reform bill, one can see Bob Packwood's political principles springing to life."

(Wall Street Journal, 5/13)

Now That's Tax Reform -- "Now that's tax reform. Packwood's plan would make the system fairer, simpler and more efficient -- exactly what tax reform is supposed to do. What's more, Packwood has repelled (momentarily, at least) the Washington Horde -- the thousands of lobbyists who so easily distort even the best reform initiatives. With the exception of one concession to influential oil and gas senators, Packwood's tax plan establishes no precedent for compromise.... If every interest was happy, it wouldn't be reform."

(Plain Dealer, 5/9)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

A Decent Tax Bill -- "Many of the arguments for continued loopholes and special treatments are easily answered by the fact that for most people and many businesses the tax rates would be lower than before. Still, that won't be good enough for many special interests. And it's the multitude of those special interests that can overwhelm this bill."

(Chicago Sun-Times, 5/11)

We Are All Supply-Siders Now -- "The bill was also a political triumph for Ronald Reagan. He seized the high ground on taxes in 1980 and stuck to it, forcing all other politicians to fall into line. Through his political skill and courage, he has succeeded in doing what Franklin Roosevelt did before him -- redefining the center of American politics. The bill's real message isn't about tax rates but about the proper relationship between citizens and their government. Mr. Reagan has long expressed a distrust of overweening government, and the Packwood tax bill goes a long way toward enshrining that view as the new conventional wisdom. Low tax rates signal that society has once again adopted the Jeffersonian attitude that government which governs least governs best." (Detroit News, 5/11)

TOKYO SUMMIT

Major Success In Tokyo -- "As these annual economic summit conferences go, the one that ended Tuesday in Japan has to be judged a success. Amid the usual posturing and platitudes, it produced one major substantive achievement: A formal commitment by the world's seven leading industrial democracies to try to stabilize currency exchange values by better coordinating economic policies. Achieving that goal will be far more difficult than agreeing to try." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 5/8)

At The Summit: A Few Crumbs For The War Against Terrorism -- "President Reagan has small reason to exult over Monday's statement at the economic summit in Tokyo.... One doubts however, that Mr. Khadafy needed a joint statement to know that he is disliked vigorously by people he has been attacking for years. That economic sanctions were not included in the statement must be considered disappointing to Mr. Reagan. It is another indication that terrorism has wreaked significant damage on global order." (The Providence Journal, 5/6)

Suharto Shows Ruthless Control -- "However, Indonesia provides a strategic bulwark in an unstable region, so the United States averts its eyes from Mr. Suharto's abuses, much as it did in dealing with Ferdinand Marcos. By venting his frustration with Australia over a minor matter, Mr. Suharto not only has embarrassed his guest, a most important ally, but also has revealed himself on the world stage as a small-minded autocrat." (Idaho Statesman, 5/4)

Trade Policy: Good Signals Emerge From Tokyo Summit -- "It is essential that Reagan continue pressing the Japanese, and to a lesser extent other Western allies, for a more favorable international trade policy. The greatest pressure, though, must be applied to the Japanese. They either trade with us as equal partners -- giving our goods the same free access to consumers as we give theirs in this country -- or Congress must step in with trade sanctions. It is the only solution to our \$150 billion annual trade deficit dilemma." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 5/8)

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Editorials/Columnists (continued)

SAUDI ARMS SALE

Saudi Arms, Maybe -- "Unless the Saudis are exceedingly foolish, they will not misread the congressional mood, and neither should the White House. As a condition of this arms sale, the Saudis should be expected to stop supporting Syria, Libya, the PLO, and all other terrorists. Yes, we want to encourage Arab moderates, and, no, we have no wish to destabilize the Saudi royal family. But since when was neutrality toward one's enemies too much to expect of one's friends?" (Washington Times, 5/12)

Saudis Need Those Missiles -- "The Reagan Administration shouldn't docilely accept the congressional rejection of missile sales to Saudi Arabia.... Saudi Arabia is a friend, and a staunch one. It also is a key piece in the Middle East puzzle and needs defending. Limber up the veto pen, Mr. President." (Chicago Sun-Times, 5/12)

LIBYA

Allies Must See The Light To Reduce the Heat -- "The American retaliation against Libya and its aftermath have brought home dramatically the extent of discord in the Atlantic alliance over issues outside of Europe.... A larger European role in the defense of Europe is long overdue. This will require not only a more substantial material effort -- where in fact progress is being made -- but also an explicit European identity within NATO. If the Atlantic relationship can encourage a European Economic Community where competition with the United States is inevitable, it should welcome a European Defense Community, in which all incentives -- in case of a Soviet attack or pressure on Europe -- would be for cooperation rather than dissociation.... Such a major reassessment of the Atlantic alliance should not be undertaken as a reaction to a transitory mutual recrimination. It should be done carefully and constructively, with the goal of increasing the overall effectiveness of the defense of free people." (Newsday, 5/12)

Oil The Exits -- "Now the President has been reminded that he cannot coddle the oil companies and occupy the high ground in the war against Libyan terrorism at the same time. He has made the right choice. Now the companies must be required to follow." (Miami Herald, 5/8)

Sterner Oil Company Deadline Enforces Anti-Khadafy Policy -- "The decision to revoke the oil companies' temporary exemption to the embargo will eliminate a perceived inconsistency in American policy toward Libya. It just didn't look right for President Reagan to be bombing Tripoli while at the same time permitting American companies to produce Libyan oil and pay desperately needed taxes to Col. Khadafy. Ordering the last U.S. companies out of Libya will resolve this contradiction and strengthen the wall President Reagan is building to contain Col Khadafy." (Salt Lake Tribune, 5/7)



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Contra Aid Pledge By Reagan Sought -- Angered by "mixed signals" sent by the Administration, House Republican leaders have asked President Reagan to promise aid to the Nicaraguan resistance -- regardless of the outcome of the upcoming peace talks in Central America.

(Washington Times)

Officials Say Mexico Not Doing Enough To Rid Border Of Violence And Drugs -- Reagan Administration officials today told a Senate panel that Mexico is not doing enough to reduce the threat of violence, drug trafficking and illegal immigration along the southwest border of the U.S.

(Washington Post, Copley)

NATIONAL NEWS

Deaver Gives Up Symbols Of His Link To Presidency -- Michael Deaver said yesterday that he has given up key symbols of his special relationship with President Reagan but he denied ever using that special relationship to help foreign or domestic clients of his consulting business.

(Washington Post)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

NASA -- James Fletcher told a congressional committee today that he was appalled by the way the press had treated NASA in recent months.

SHCHARANSKY -- The White House handled Shcharansky's visit with great ceremony, but also with great caution.

REACTOR -- Radiation is still leaking from the reactor at Chernobyl. The Soviets now hope they can trap it in a tomb of concrete.

□ DETAILS, DETAILS:

***Kremlin Official Offers Details,
Says Human Error Was Responsible***

—front page, *Washington Post*, May 3

***Kremlin, Offering No New Data,
Assails West on Nuclear Disaster***

—front page, *New York Times*, same day

THE NEW REPUBLIC

MAY 26, 1986

***This Summary is prepared Monday through Friday by the White House News Summary Staff.
For complete stories or information, please call 456-2950.***

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SYRIAN ROLE IN BOMBING INDICATED

Secretary Shultz and Deputy Secretary Whitehead acknowledged yesterday that the U.S. is aware of evidence that could link Syria to the aborted April 17 attempt to bomb an El Al airliner in London and a terrorist bombing last month in West Berlin.

Whitehead said the U.S. "has no reason to doubt" Israeli charges that Syria was behind the El Al incident. But both he and Shultz refused to speculate on whether the U.S. might strike Syria with the same kind of military and economic actions taken against Libya.

(John Goshko, Washington Post, A1)

SHCHARANSKY MEETS REAGAN; "QUIET DIPLOMACY" UNCHANGED

Anatoly Shcharansky met for nearly 40 minutes yesterday with President Reagan and other senior officials at the White House, but reporters were not invited and no details of the conversation were released because Reagan wanted to continue practicing "quiet diplomacy" to advance human rights in the Soviet Union, according to Larry Speakes.

Although Speakes said that Soviet human rights could best be advanced quietly, Shcharansky seemed to disagree. "Quiet diplomacy, from my point of view, can only help if it is supported by strong public pressure, so that for the Soviet Union there will be no illusions that the question of human rights, the question of Soviet Jewry, the question of emigration are all very closely related to their economic and political interests," Shcharansky said. (David Remnick, Washington Post, A1)

Reagan's Shift On Human Rights

Yelena Bonner did not get an appointment with the President. Anatoly Shcharansky did. As Shcharansky was honored in the nation's capital yesterday, diplomatic observers noted the change in President Reagan's handling of the sensitive issue of human rights in the Soviet Union. From the harsh rhetorical approach he adopted when first in office, Reagan has moved to a strategy of "quiet diplomacy" to try to persuade Kremlin leaders to improve their human rights practices.

Reverting to the practice of his predecessors, the President came to adopt a low-key posture, pressing Kremlin leaders quietly behind the scenes -- as he did in his meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev -- but holding his verbal fire for suitable occasions.

(Charlotte Saikowski, Christian Science Monitor, A1)

CONTRA AID PLEDGE BY REAGAN SOUGHT

Angered by "mixed signals" sent by the Administration, House Republican leaders have asked President Reagan to promise aid to the Nicaraguan resistance -- regardless of the outcome of the upcoming peace talks in Central America.

In a letter circulated on the House floor yesterday, eight Republican leaders requested an immediate meeting with Reagan to clear up "mixed signals" sent by Philip Habib.

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

Drift On Nicaragua Policy Sows Panic

The Reagan Administration's lack of a clearly defined policy toward Nicaragua has panicked some State Department officials and angered conservatives who fear that anti-Sandinista rebels will be sold out for a questionable peace treaty with Managua.

(James Morrison, News Analysis, Washington Times, A10)

U.S. SEEKS DEMOCRACY IN PARAGUAY

ASUNCION, Paraguay -- A new U.S. ambassador to this South American country has enraged the long-lived authoritarian government while boosting the hopes of opposition groups by taking steps to encourage an end to the dictatorial rule of President Alfredo Stroessner.

Since his arrival last November, Ambassador Clyde Taylor has made a point of meeting with opposition parties and expressing U.S. displeasure with the lack of progress toward democracy here.

(Bradley Graham, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. AIDE SHARPLY CRITICIZES MEXICO ON DRUG TRADE

U.S. Customs Commissioner William von Raab, escalating U.S. public criticism of Mexico's handling of drug traffickers, testified yesterday that there is "massive" official corruption "up and down the ladder" in Mexico and said he believes the governor of Sonora state owns four ranches that produce opium and marijuana.

The accusation came in an unusual hearing in which several Administration officials harshly criticized the Mexican government for tolerating drug trafficking and related corruption as well as its growing foreign debt.

(Mary Thornton, Washington Post, A3)

Officials Say Mexico Not Doing Enough To Rid Border Of Violence And Drugs

Reagan Administration officials today told a Senate panel that Mexico is not doing enough to reduce the threat of violence, drug trafficking and illegal immigration along the southwest border of the U.S.

Elliott Abrams said that while corruption appears to be a growing problem, top Mexican officials are cooperating with U.S. officials. "Some Mexican officials at lower levels, however, have been corrupted by the vast sums of money available to the traffickers, including some officials supposedly engaged in anti-narcotics efforts," Abrams said.

(Marcus Stern, Copley)

ASK JEWISH AID ON SAUDI SALE, REAGAN URGED

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar urged President Reagan yesterday to seek support from American Jewish leaders for his embattled proposal to sell missiles to Saudi Arabia and said later that Reagan thought it "was a good idea."

A senior White House official said that the Administration is taking Lugar's idea "very seriously" and that a White House effort is being planned to generate support for the package by Jewish leaders.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A7)

Reagan Starts Fight For Saudi Arms Sale

President Reagan yesterday began the difficult task of trying to reverse a congressional ban on a proposed \$354 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia. But his Capitol Hill allies were not optimistic.

In an hour-long meeting with GOP congressional leaders yesterday morning, Reagan said he had "no choice" but to veto the measure prohibiting arms sales to the Saudis, according to Larry Speakes.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A1)

BYRD SAYS RASH OF LEAKS PRECEDED STRIKE ON LIBYA

Robert Byrd yesterday deplored what he described as a steady stream of leaks and loose talks from the Reagan Administration in the week before the April 14 military strike against Libya.

"The military action was undertaken only after a full week of news reports that quoted Administration officials revealing the nature of the mission, against whom the raid would take place, roughly when it would occur, what targets would probably be struck, and which countries would and would not assist it," he said in a Senate speech.

(George Lardner, Washington Post, A28)

WEINBERGER OPPOSES BULLDOZER CONTRACT TO COMPANY WITH LIBYAN INTEREST

Secretary Weinberger has made "a political judgement" that the Pentagon will not award a contract for combat bulldozers to the Fiat-Allis Co. because it is partially owned by Libya, Pentagon sources say.

Defense Department attorney's are still investigating how to deny the contract to Fiat-Allis since it was the low bidder on the program. But Weinberger has personally intervened in the case and is now "taking a real hard line," the sources added.

(Norman Black, AP)

NATIONAL NEWS

DEAVER GIVES UP SYMBOLS OF HIS LINK TO PRESIDENCY

Michael Deaver said yesterday that he has given up key symbols of his special relationship with President Reagan but he denied ever using that special relationship to help foreign or domestic clients of his consulting business.

Deaver said he sent back his White House pass, no longer receives a copy of Reagan's daily schedule and no longer plays on the White House tennis courts.

Deaver maintained that he had never used his 20-year relationship with the President and Nancy Reagan "on behalf of any client" since he left the White House on May 10, 1985.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

Canadian Legislators To Probe Deaver Hiring

TORONTO -- A Canadian parliamentary committee plans to conduct a preliminary inquiry Wednesday on the circumstances surrounding Canada's decision to pay Michael Deaver \$105,000 for lobbying services.

(Herbert Denton, Washington Post, A18)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Deaver: 'I Didn't Use My Influence' At Any Time," edited excerpts of Michael Deaver's interview with staff writer Lou Cannon, appears on page A18 of the Washington Post.

REAGAN: TAXING COMMENTS AND GOVERNMENTAL GAFFES

The accent was education. The audience: a group of high school students. But President Reagan could have landed a failing grade in current events for a premature cry of victory in his crusade for tax reform.

Speaking Tuesday to more than 140 visiting graduating seniors from John A. Holmes High School in Edentown, N.C., Reagan praised the Senate for a passage of a tax reform bill that only last week cleared the Senate Finance Committee. Reagan's enthusiasm for the bill -- and for a long-sought overhaul of the tax code -- obscured the fact the Senate may be weeks away from a final vote.

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

Reagan Tells Students Mutual Assured Destruction Doctrine Is "Stupid"

President Reagan says the U.S. will never shoot first in a nuclear war and describes the decades-old doctrine of nuclear deterrence between the U.S. and Soviet Union as "the most stupid policy."

Reagan said the best way to avert nuclear war is to work toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Beyond that, he said, "Let's get rid of mistrust between the East bloc and the West bloc so that there's no need for any war."

(Terence Hunt, AP)

6,500 COLLEGE SCIENTISTS TAKE ANTI-SDI PLEDGE

More than 6,500 scientists, including a majority of professors in the nation's top 20 university physics departments, have declared themselves opposed to President Reagan's SDI and have pledged not to accept any "Star Wars" research funds, SDI opponents said yesterday.

Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.) said the opposition to space-based missile defense shows that Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, SDI director, was incorrect last fall when he said that there were "only a few diehards left, sincere diehards left, but only a very few" opposing the program.

(Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A3)

HOUSE GOP IS BUCKING PENTAGON

The Pentagon ran into more trouble from Republicans on Capitol Hill yesterday, as House GOP leaders drafted a budget alternative that would cut President Reagan's defense spending request by \$8 billion more than a Senate-approved budget that the White House has criticized as inadequate.

The latest setback for the Pentagon came as Pete Domenici urged the President, during a meeting of congressional leaders to the White House, to support the Senate plan in order to fend off further losses on defense.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A6)

Even Republicans In House Want Deep Cuts In Military Spending

The House is opening debate on a fiscal 1987 budget with even Republicans proposing deep cuts in President Reagan's military buildup.

Reagan told House Republicans on Tuesday the package was "totally unacceptable" not only because it cut defense further below the \$301 billion approved by the Senate but also because it accepted the Senate's \$13.2 billion tax increase.

(Steven Komarow, AP)

DEFENSE TORPEDOES FOREIGN AID REQUEST

A Reagan Administration effort to wring more foreign aid funding out of Congress apparently was derailed yesterday by Republican legislators' annoyance over continued White House refusal to trim defense spending.

Republican leaders, emerging from a morning White House strategy session on the fiscal 1987 budget, said they went prepared to hear a plea from President Reagan and Secretary Shultz for another \$550 million for beefed-up security at U.S. facilities worldwide and more aid to the Philippines.

Instead, according to several of those present, they bogged down on the Administration's insistence on \$4 billion more in defense funds than the Senate allocated.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A21)

WHITE HOUSE REVIEWS NEW U.S. PENSION PLAN

Civil servants will have to wait longer and take an earnings test on a portion of their retirement benefits under a compromise pension plan being reviewed today by the White House.

(Mark Tapscott, Washington Times, A3)

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BAKER CALLS DOLLAR'S FALL "ORDERLY,"
SEES TRADE DEFICIT DECLINE IN '87

Secretary Baker brushed aside concerns of the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and major U.S. trading partners yesterday and called the year-long fall of the dollar "orderly," saying that the drop has not hurt financial markets.

Baker's comments came in the midst of great volatility in world currency markets, where traders are keeping an extremely close eye on official U.S. statements for signs of whether the Reagan Administration wants the dollar to continue to fall or level off.

(Stuart Auerbach, Washington Post, G1)

STEEL AMONG TOP BENEFICIARIES OF SENATE PANEL'S TAX RULES

The Senate Finance Committee's radical tax-overhaul bill contains a hidden provision obligating the U.S. Treasury to write hundreds of millions of dollars of checks to ailing steel companies over the next several years.

(Dale Russakoff & Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A1)

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NEWS FROM THE STATES

GUARD MEMBERS FLYING MISSIONS TO CENTRAL AMERICA

SACRAMENTO (UPI) -- A key officer of the California Air National Guard has told surprised lawmakers that the guard has been regularly flying supplies to Honduras and other Central American countries since 1978 with approval from the governor's office.

Lt. Col. Tandy Bozeman, in testimony to an Assembly budget subcommittee, Monday said guard members have been flying C-130 cargo planes loaded with foodstuffs, tent stakes and other military or embassy supplies to Honduras two or three times a week.

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES BIG CYPRESS BILL

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- The Administration told a House panel Tuesday it opposes a bill calling for the 128,000-acre expansion of South Florida's Big Cypress National Preserve in conjunction with the construction of Interstate 75.

The opposition came in the face of unanimous support for the measure from Gov. Bob Graham, the bill's sponsors Sen. Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., and Rep. Tom Lewis, R-Fla. and several other members of Florida's House delegation.

"We are not prepared to support the legislation based on current program and budgetary priorities," P. Daniel Smith, a deputy assistant secretary of Interior, told the House subcommittee on national parks and recreation.

Smith said the White House "cannot support the commitment of such a substantial amount of funds for these lands." He said Interior was trying to acquire some South Florida lands, including some designated in the bill, without spending so much money.

CONSERVATIONISTS CHALLENGE FEDERAL GRAZING FEE

SACRAMENTO (UPI) -- Conservationists, in a lawsuit, have accused federal officials of violating the law by allowing ranchers to graze their herds on public lands for fees that are below what the law requires.

The Natural Resources Defense Council and eight co-plaintiffs contended in the U.S. District Court action filed Monday that the fee formula fails to reflect the market value of the forage as required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Plaintiffs said they want the court to approve an appropriate fee schedule with which Reagan Administration officials must comply.

ALABAMA SEEKS DROUGHT EMERGENCY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (UPI) -- Gov. George Wallace asked President Reagan Monday to declare Alabama a disaster area in the wake of the worst drought in a century that has "brought farmers to their knees."

Wallace, who filed a lawsuit two weeks ago to stop farm loan mortgage foreclosures, warned in a letter to the President of "severe economic losses" from a drought that has left farms parched from four months with little rain.

The request, which state officials said is the first in the nation from the drought, came after the state's emergency board met in Montgomery to review reports from 67 drought-stricken counties.

-End of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, May 13, 1986)

NASA

NBC's Tom Brokaw: These are dark days for America's space program, but James Fletcher says that he can get it back on course by next summer. Fletcher told a congressional committee today that he was appalled by the way the press has treated NASA in recent months -- complaining that the news media seems to have forgotten the many achievements of the space agency. However, as Robert Hager reports, today there was also more evidence that NASA new early on that the O-ring on the shuttle's rockets would be a problem in cooler temperatures.

NBC's Robert Hager reports the shuttle will be flying again in 14 months, said James Fletcher before a House subcommittee.

(James Fletcher: "We think now that July of 1987 is an appropriate flight date. This may change depending on a number of factors, but nevertheless, July looks like a good target date.")

Fletcher said he is appointing a panel to make a six-month study of how to solve NASA's management problems. Also, a Morton Thiokol memo warned that the O-rings may fail in cool temperatures and was sent to NASA five months before the accident. Two of Morton Thiokol's engineers have now been transferred to less important jobs. (Sen. Albert Gore: "It is incomprehensible that a company could watch the courage and candor of those two engineers and then turn right around and punish them. It's beyond belief.")

Tonight, 28 senators joined in a letter demanding an investigation in to whether Morton Thiokol used intimidation and retaliation in demoting the engineers.

Brokaw reports NASA experts are saying tonight that they should soon be able to pinpoint the short circuit that caused the failure of the Delta rocket launched ten days ago. (NBC-LEAD)

CBS's Dan Rather reports NASA launched two rockets from Wallop Island, Va. They carried payloads that are designed to figure out why the planets are all so different and move in regular orbits.

CBS's Robert Schackne reports investigators hoped to find the critical clue from the wreckage pulled today to the cause of the Delta rocket accident ten days ago.

(TV coverage: The wreckage of the Delta rocket.)

An internal document obtained by CBS News discloses that the numbers used to sell the shuttle program to Congress at a supposed bargain price were rigged. In a 1983 memo, NASA inflated the predicted number of shuttle missions far beyond any realistic limits in order to reduce the apparent cost per flight. NASA was not bargaining in good faith and the shuttle is not cheaper to operate than currently available unmanned rockets.

(Walter Mondale: "The agency kept telling the Congress everything was great, they were on schedule, it was safe, they were on budget and everything was terrific. In fact, we know now that none of that was true.")

(CBS-3)

-more-

ABC's James Walker reports NASA new before the launch of the Challenger that the shuttle's solid rocket boosters were not safe. Those O-ring seals were deemed not safe when the temperature was below 50 degrees.

(Rep. Edward Boland: "Until we feel that NASA's management and NASA's house is in order and until we feel that you have turned this agency around -- until that happens -- this subcommittee can withhold funds for new programs.")

ABC's Peter Jennings reports James Fletcher said that July, 1987 looks like a pretty good date for the next flight of a shuttle mission. Also, today there two successful launches of NASA rockets from Wallop Island, Va. (ABC-2)

ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKY

Brokaw: Anatoliy Shcharansky...took his human rights campaign to Washington today and Americans he said, should keep speaking out against the Soviet oppression of Jews. Shcharansky has advocated a massive show of protest so that Mikhail Gorbachev comes to this country. The White House favors a quieter approach and this difference, says correspondent Chris Wallace, was reflected in the Administration's welcome to Shcharansky.

NBC's Chris Wallace: The White House handled Shcharansky's visit with great ceremony, but also with great caution. Secretary Shultz escorted him to a meeting with the President, but reporters were kept out.

(TV coverage: Secretary Shultz and Shcharansky.)

Officials explaining that Mr. Reagan still believes in quiet diplomacy. The best way to free more Jews is not to embarrass the Soviets.

(TV coverage: A still photograph of the President and Shcharansky.)

Shcharansky said later he owes his release to the President, but does not feel the Reagan policy is enough.

(Shcharansky: "-- My point of view can help only if it is supported by strong public pressure and strong public diplomacy.")

Aides say the President believes public complaints about human rights only antagonize the Soviets and that at last year's summit, he told Mikhail Gorbachev he wanted to deal privately.

(TV coverage: The President and Gorbachev on Nov. 21, 1985.)

That policy has brought the release of few highly publicized dissidents. The overall number of Jews permitted to emigrate is down sharply from a 1979 high. It was certainly not quiet at the Capitol today, where Shcharansky had to end the standing ovation. He called for increased political and economic pressure on the Soviets.

(Shcharansky: "The time has come for us to -- I am released, but 400,000 Soviet Jews are still kept as prisoners in the Soviet Union.")

Having imposed trade sanctions against the Soviets 12 years ago, Congress is not considering any new measures, but there was rhetorical support for Shcharansky.

(Sen. Dole: "In celebrating his release, we also shine the light on thousands of others who remain in prison by a godless state.")

While the President keeps to his private bargain with the Soviets, Shcharansky and others will use public pressure. None of them expect any dramatic change in the fate of Soviet Jews. (NBC-3)

Rather reports Anatoliy Shcharansky was honored at a Washington ceremony today in the Capitol rotunda.

(TV coverage: Speaker O'Neill and Shcharansky on Capitol Hill.)

Later, Shcharansky went to the White House and discussed human rights with President Reagan for more than a half hour. Shcharansky told reporters there's a way Mr. Reagan's offstage approach to human rights can work.

(TV coverage: "Secretary Shultz and Shcharansky at the White House.)

Shcharansky also said that he's sure his release would not have been possible without President Reagan's strong position on his behalf.

(CBS-4)

ABC's Charles Gibson reports Anatoliy Shcharansky was welcomed on Capitol Hill and at the White House.

(TV coverage: Sen. Dole, Speaker O'Neill and Shcharansky on Capitol Hill.)

(Speaker O'Neill: "We pledge that the success in winning the release of Anatoliy Shcharansky is proof that we need to do much more and not proof that we have done enough.")

Shcharansky met with President Reagan in private -- the White House keeping his welcome as low key as possible trying not show up the Soviets for fear it could harm the cases of other Soviet political prisoners.

(TV coverage: A still photograph of the President and Shcharansky.)

(Rep. James Courter: "The Administration's apparent decision to down play his presence here is upsetting to many of us.")

Spokesman Larry Speakes said the President would continue to use quiet diplomacy and continue to raise objections in private.

The President reportedly told Shcharansky that he promised Mikhail Gorbachev that he would only raise human rights questions in private, but Mr. Reagan said public pressure from others will be loud and clear.

(ABC-3)

DIVIDED FAMILIES

ABC's Bill Blakemore reports that after the Reagan-Gorbachev summit last fall, the Soviets allowed eight divided families to be reunited in America and others are still waiting for the word to come.

(Sen. Paul Simon: "It is needlessly painful. The government should not stand in the way of people who want to do the simple thing of getting married and living together.")

Sen. Paul Simon and 59 other senators have written to Gorbachev on behalf of some 20 Americans who are now divided from spouses in the Soviet Union.

(ABC-4)

SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

Jennings: ...Radiation is still leaking from the reactor at Chernobyl. The Soviets now hope they can trap it in a tomb of concrete. Today, the Soviets were speaking more openly and frankly than any time since the accident occurred.

ABC's Dean Reynolds reports from Moscow the Soviets say the reactor is still hot and radioactive, but they said they have mastered

Reynolds continues:

the problem. The reactor will be encased in concrete and will remain that way for centuries. The Soviet newscast showed pictures of cleanup activities at the Chernobyl reactor and those involved were interviewed.

(Soviet TV coverage: The cleanup activities at Chernobyl.)

Pravda today explained that ten days into the accident a meltdown almost took place. Also, Dr. Armand Hammer arrived today with medical supplies for the victims. Tomorrow night, Mikhail Gorbachev will address his nation on television and Soviet sources say the subject will be Chernobyl.

ABC's John McWethy reports U.S. intelligence sources say the radiation levels at the damaged reactor are being grossly understated by the Soviets.

(Soviet TV coverage: The cleanup activities at Chernobyl.)

(ABC-LEAD)

Rather reports the Soviets expanded their plans to completely entomb the radioactive wreckage of the nuclear reactor at Chernobyl. In Moscow, Dr. Armand Hammer arrived with a load of medical supplies for victims being treated by bone marrow transplant specialists. Also, Sweden today said it detected the first Soviet fallout to contain plutonium, but the levels detected were not dangerous. Swedish scientists said the plutonium they monitored probably was not weapons-grade plutonium.

CBS's Bruce Morton compares the possible long-term effects of Chernobyl to the effects of what occurred in Rongelap in the Marshall Islands.

(CBS-2)

Brokaw reports new signs of radioactive fallout from the Soviet nuclear accident at Chernobyl have been detected in 15 cities in 11 U.S. states. However, there is no public health danger. In the Soviet Union today, radiation was said to be still be leaking from that damaged reactor and the reactor will be encased in concrete.

(NBC-2)

U.S.-SYRIA

CBS's Dan Rather: For weeks now, the Reagan Administration has been trying to put on the pressure. For one thing, it has been eluding to Syria as a backer of terrorism and Israel has tried to help. Tonight, correspondent Bill McLaughlin reports that Syria is at least putting on a show of appearing to be deeply involved in trying to free American and other hostages.

CBS's Bill McLaughlin reports well informed sources tell CBS News Syria's President is engaged in an intensive effort to free the American and French hostages in Lebanon. Today, Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead said the U.S. had no reason to doubt that Syria was involved in the Libyan-backed bombing of the Berlin night club. Intelligence sources say there has been fighting over the past week between Syrian troops and the kidnappers, but the Syrians have told the Reagan Administration that they can't risk using force. If we do that said the Syrians, all that we will deliver to you is a lot of dead hostages.

(CBS-LEAD)

MEGA TUESDAY

CBS's James McMannus reports from Atlanta that white conservative southern Democrats are fed up with Yankee liberals on their party's presidential ticket and they say they are not going to put up with it anymore. Eight states have thrown down a political gauntlet and five more on the way, maybe six -- perhaps 14 southern states in a same day presidential primary in 1988. Southern lawmakers who designed this solid south predict it will destroy the bandwagon effect of Iowa and New Hampshire contests and allow the South to produce a more conservative Democratic front runner who would go on to win the White House.

(Lee Atwater, Republican strategist: "I think they have the right string to the wrong yo-yo. They are going to wind up with a liberal which they didn't anticipate and I don't think they are going to diminish the importance of New Hampshire.") (CBS-11)

PAC'S

Brokaw presents a special segment on political action committees representing a single interest, such as home builders, teachers or environmentalists. Now, there are so many PAC's with so much money, many people believe that they have become the problem they were meant to cure.

(Rep. Barney Frank: "People like me are supposed to be able to take on a regular basis thousands of dollars a year from perfect strangers and have it have no influence on our behavior. If people believe that, then maybe they would like to buy that building [U.S. Capitol] in the background.")

(Sen. Alan Cranston: "I do recognize that I should provide access to people that help me get there and do my best to do so. There are times when you suddenly have to make a decision...and then I do what I think best.") (NBC-5)

MEXICO-U.S./DRUGS

ABC's Brit Hume reports a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee met today to discuss the problem of drugs flowing into the U.S. from Mexico. Witnesses from several U.S. agencies portrayed the U.S.-Mexican border as a drug smugglers paradise with a safe haven always available on the Mexican side -- Mexican law enforcement is full of corruption.

(Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams: "The president of Mexico does not have the availability as President Reagan does to push a number of buttons because behind some of the buttons that you would want to push from the presidential palace in Mexico City, you'll find corruption -- people who do not want to carry out those orders.")

(ABC-5)

AFGHANISTAN

Rather reports 13 Afghan refugees were killed by artillery shells that hit a refugee camp inside Pakistan.

CBS's Harry Smith reports nine Afghan refugee children arrived in Houston, Tx, and another seven in Hartford, Ct. to receive medical treatment. -more- (CBS-5)

MICHAEL DEAVER

NBC's John Chancellor's commentary: The question is not so much a legal one as it is a question of taste and judgement. The President said Deaver never put the arm him, but the point is that Deaver never had to put the arm on the President. Everybody knew how close he was -- that was the firm's \$18 million asset. Questions of taste and judgement are not part of the legal proceedings, but they are part of Deaver's essential contradiction. He could not succeed if he weren't the President's friend, but his great success has damaged his friend -- the President. (NBC-6)

SOUTH AFRICA

Brokaw reports a major strike by black workers in South Africa is over tonight after six days. More than 6,500 workers reached a settlement with one of that country's biggest supermarket chains.

NBC's Mike Jensen reports from Cambridge, Ma. on the growing movement of colleges and universities disinvestment in companies with ties in South Africa. (NBC-4)

NORTHERN IRELAND-U.S.

Rather reports the British secretary for Northern Ireland was in Washington today lobbying the U.S. Congress to pass a strong anti-terrorist extradition bill to help Britain in its battle with the Irish Republican Army. (CBS-10)

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Rather reports Americans last year paid more than \$9 billion in liability insurance premiums -- up 60% from 1983.

CBS's Anthony Mason reports from New York numerous cities around the country are worried about their liability insurance -- across the country, insurance premiums suddenly have doubled or tripled. (CBS-7)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

TAX REFORM

Keep The IRA, Not The Olive -- "The IRA could be saved without endangering the goals of tax reform by a simple trade: Ax the 'three-martini lunch' instead. Nothing angers the ordinary taxpayer more than to be told that a bricklayer's tuna-fish sandwich isn't deductible, but a businessman can write off a \$200 night on the town. The Senate bill would retain 80 percent deductibility for such business entertainment. We'd rather encourage people to save money to rebuild American productivity than to underwrite corporate extravagance."

(Denver Post, 5/8)

IRA Reduction: That's Encouraging? -- "The IRA is one of the few fiscal moves made by Congress that has worked out. There are now 28 million households with IRAs. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen has predicted 'a firestorm' of protest from those households. If that 28 million produce the firestorm, it is likely that the IRA clip will be removed from the bill. The bill doesn't need it, nor do the taxpayers."

(Dallas Morning News, 5/10)

Senate's Tax Bill Is Fair, Simple And A Bold Stroke -- "Congress and the President have a chance, through the Senate bill, to restore confidence and fairness. The very simplicity of the measure gives it a better chance than previous bills, so laden with tradeoffs they represented inviting targets for critics of any persuasion."

(Atlanta Constitution, 5/11)

How Tax Reform Meshes With Packwood's Principles -- "The only constituencies deserted by the dazzling swiftness of his [Packwood] conversion are lobbyists, tax shelter hunters and dozens of special interests. Sen Packwood may not have taken care of them, but he did take care of himself...having already extracted a fifth of his mammoth campaign treasury from their political action committees. And he protected his other core principles. As with the Reagan plan, the Packwood reform chops tax rates for everyone, but especially for the poor, working women and minorities. That will bolster the appeal of the Republican Party, Bob Packwood and progressive Republicanism. Behind the legalese and accountant's language of the Finance Committee's tax reform bill, one can see Bob Packwood's political principles springing to life."

(Wall Street Journal, 5/13)

Now That's Tax Reform -- "Now that's tax reform. Packwood's plan would make the system fairer, simpler and more efficient -- exactly what tax reform is supposed to do. What's more, Packwood has repelled (momentarily, at least) the Washington Horde -- the thousands of lobbyists who so easily distort even the best reform initiatives. With the exception of one concession to influential oil and gas senators, Packwood's tax plan establishes no precedent for compromise.... If every interest was happy, it wouldn't be reform."

(Plain Dealer, 5/9)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

A Decent Tax Bill -- "Many of the arguments for continued loopholes and special treatments are easily answered by the fact that for most people and many businesses the tax rates would be lower than before. Still, that won't be good enough for many special interests. And it's the multitude of those special interests that can overwhelm this bill."

(Chicago Sun-Times, 5/11)

We Are All Supply-Siders Now -- "The bill was also a political triumph for Ronald Reagan. He seized the high ground on taxes in 1980 and stuck to it, forcing all other politicians to fall into line. Through his political skill and courage, he has succeeded in doing what Franklin Roosevelt did before him -- redefining the center of American politics. The bill's real message isn't about tax rates but about the proper relationship between citizens and their government. Mr. Reagan has long expressed a distrust of overweening government, and the Packwood tax bill goes a long way toward enshrining that view as the new conventional wisdom. Low tax rates signal that society has once again adopted the Jeffersonian attitude that government which governs least governs best." (Detroit News, 5/11)

TOKYO SUMMIT

Major Success In Tokyo -- "As these annual economic summit conferences go, the one that ended Tuesday in Japan has to be judged a success. Amid the usual posturing and platitudes, it produced one major substantive achievement: A formal commitment by the world's seven leading industrial democracies to try to stabilize currency exchange values by better coordinating economic policies. Achieving that goal will be far more difficult than agreeing to try." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 5/8)

At The Summit: A Few Crumbs For The War Against Terrorism -- "President Reagan has small reason to exult over Monday's statement at the economic summit in Tokyo.... One doubts however, that Mr. Khadafy needed a joint statement to know that he is disliked vigorously by people he has been attacking for years. That economic sanctions were not included in the statement must be considered disappointing to Mr. Reagan. It is another indication that terrorism has wreaked significant damage on global order." (The Providence Journal, 5/6)

Suharto Shows Ruthless Control -- "However, Indonesia provides a strategic bulwark in an unstable region, so the United States averts its eyes from Mr. Suharto's abuses, much as it did in dealing with Ferdinand Marcos. By venting his frustration with Australia over a minor matter, Mr. Suharto not only has embarrassed his guest, a most important ally, but also has revealed himself on the world stage as a small-minded autocrat." (Idaho Statesman, 5/4)

Trade Policy: Good Signals Emerge From Tokyo Summit -- "It is essential that Reagan continue pressing the Japanese, and to a lesser extent other Western allies, for a more favorable international trade policy. The greatest pressure, though, must be applied to the Japanese. They either trade with us as equal partners -- giving our goods the same free access to consumers as we give theirs in this country -- or Congress must step in with trade sanctions. It is the only solution to our \$150 billion annual trade deficit dilemma." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 5/8)

Editorials/Columnists (continued)

SAUDI ARMS SALE

Saudi Arms, Maybe -- "Unless the Saudis are exceedingly foolish, they will not misread the congressional mood, and neither should the White House. As a condition of this arms sale, the Saudis should be expected to stop supporting Syria, Libya, the PLO, and all other terrorists. Yes, we want to encourage Arab moderates, and, no, we have no wish to destabilize the Saudi royal family. But since when was neutrality toward one's enemies too much to expect of one's friends?" (Washington Times, 5/12)

Saudis Need Those Missiles -- "The Reagan Administration shouldn't docilely accept the congressional rejection of missile sales to Saudi Arabia.... Saudi Arabia is a friend, and a staunch one. It also is a key piece in the Middle East puzzle and needs defending. Limber up the veto pen, Mr. President." (Chicago Sun-Times, 5/12)

LIBYA

Allies Must See The Light To Reduce the Heat -- "The American retaliation against Libya and its aftermath have brought home dramatically the extent of discord in the Atlantic alliance over issues outside of Europe.... A larger European role in the defense of Europe is long overdue. This will require not only a more substantial material effort -- where in fact progress is being made -- but also an explicit European identity within NATO. If the Atlantic relationship can encourage a European Economic Community where competition with the United States is inevitable, it should welcome a European Defense Community, in which all incentives -- in case of a Soviet attack or pressure on Europe -- would be for cooperation rather than dissociation.... Such a major reassessment of the Atlantic alliance should not be undertaken as a reaction to a transitory mutual recrimination. It should be done carefully and constructively, with the goal of increasing the overall effectiveness of the defense of free people." (Newsday, 5/12)

Oil The Exits -- "Now the President has been reminded that he cannot coddle the oil companies and occupy the high ground in the war against Libyan terrorism at the same time. He has made the right choice. Now the companies must be required to follow." (Miami Herald, 5/8)

Sterner Oil Company Deadline Enforces Anti-Khadafy Policy -- "The decision to revoke the oil companies' temporary exemption to the embargo will eliminate a perceived inconsistency in American policy toward Libya. It just didn't look right for President Reagan to be bombing Tripoli while at the same time permitting American companies to produce Libyan oil and pay desperately needed taxes to Col. Khadafy. Ordering the last U.S. companies out of Libya will resolve this contradiction and strengthen the wall President Reagan is building to contain Col Khadafy." (Salt Lake Tribune, 5/7)