

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: 05/19/1986

Box: 388

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/>

MONDAY, MAY 19, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Jews, Reagan To Discuss Saudi Arms -- President Reagan will meet with Jewish leaders at the White House today to continue the task of trying to lift a congressional resolution banning a \$354 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia. (Washington Times, UPI)

U.S. Intelligence On Soviets Faulted -- A Defense Intelligence Agency analyst says both the DIA and the CIA have seriously underestimated Soviet defense spending. (Washington Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

ABM Pact Tied To Fund Pledge For 'Star Wars' -- The Reagan Administration may reconsider its commitment to abide strictly by the terms of the 1972 antiballistic missile treaty if Congress does not support President Reagan's so-called Strategic Defense Initiative, according to a report by the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. (New York Times)

NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

TERRORISM/BRITISH FERRY -- There is a new anti-terrorist alert in Europe as police in four countries try to prevent the bombing of an English Channel ferry.

LEBANON/SYRIA/HOSTAGES -- President Assad is talking terrorism, denouncing what he calls President Reagan's verbal bombs against his country.

PILOTS' HOMECOMING -- The pilots who led the attack on Libya returned home today.

WORKING FOR PEANUTS

"There isn't a person here who isn't willing to go to great lengths to get a good shot. Just this afternoon I stepped outside the Oval Office to feed the squirrels -- six photographers came out of the bushes. It was okay, I had enough peanuts to go around."

(President Reagan in remarks at the White House News Photographers' Dinner, 5/15)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SAUDI ARMS, PENTAGON BUDGET TO TAP PRESIDENTIAL PERSUASIVENESS

President Reagan, who relaxed this weekend at the White House, will tap his persuasive powers in coming weeks to try to restore billions in Pentagon budget cuts and overcome Congress's opposition to an arms sale to Saudi Arabia. His advisers have told him an all-out lobbying campaign is needed on both scores.

There were indications, meanwhile, that the Administration may reply today to Syrian President Hafez Assad, who claimed in a Washington Post interview that the U.S. bombing of Libya had "won a lot of hatred" for the United States in Arab countries. (Helen Thomas, UPI)

Jews, Reagan To Discuss Saudi Arms

President Reagan will meet with Jewish leaders at the White House today to continue the task of trying to lift a congressional resolution banning a \$354 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia.

Presidential aides deny that Reagan is trying to enlist the unlikely support of the Jewish community. The purpose of today's meeting, said Edward Djerejian, is "not to ask the members of the American Jewish community to go out and lobby."

Instead, he said, the President "wants to take this opportunity to explain the very important national security interests that are involved in the Saudi arms sale. (Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A3)

ASSAD DENIES SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM, HITS U.S. ACTIONS

Hafez Assad denies harboring terrorists in his country and blames President Reagan for strained U.S.-Arab relations, but Israeli Prime Minister Peres says Assad must answer charges of "directly supporting acts of terror."

Assad told the Washington Post in an interview that he is "bitter and disappointed" about what he views as threats from the Reagan Administration and a policy of alternately ignoring and confronting Syria. (UPI)

ASSAD SAYS SYRIA STOPPED EFFORTS TO WIN RELEASE OF U.S. HOSTAGES AFTER ATTACK

Hafez Assad says his country halted its efforts to win the release of American and French nationals being held hostage in Lebanon following the U.S. attack on Libya and because of U.S. charges that Syria was involved with terrorists.

He said in the wake of the April 15 bombing raid on Libya and other U.S. political acts, the small groups holding the hostages broke off contacts that were aimed at winning their release. (AP)

U.S. INTELLIGENCE ON SOVIETS FAULTED

A Defense Intelligence Agency analyst says both the DIA and the CIA have seriously underestimated Soviet defense spending. In an article in the May issue of the Heritage Foundation's National Security Record, DIA analyst W.T. Lee says that, contrary to DIA and CIA estimates of relatively flat Soviet military spending, the Soviet Union has been spending a growing percentage of its total state budget for military purposes. (John McCaslin, Washington Times, A1)

SHCHARANSKY CALLS ON JEWS TO MARCH AT GORBACHEV VISIT

Anatoly Shcharansky has called on 400,000 American Jews to protest in Washington for the freedom of Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union when Mikhail Gorbachev visits the U.S. for a summit meeting with President Reagan.

Shcharansky also said he supported President Reagan's SDI as a way to put the Soviet economic system under heavy pressure in its effort to keep up with American technology, thereby forcing it change its goals. (Martin Sieff, Washington Times, A1)

CHERNOBYL MAY AFFECT 100,000

LOS ANGELES -- Dr. Robert Gale, head of a team of western doctors helping victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, said today that as many as 100,000 Soviets may have suffered radiation doses with long-term health effects.

"I expect we will be returning there at 3 to 6-month intervals for the next several years," Gale told reporters at UCLA Medical Center.

(Jay Mathews, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. REINED VOA ON SOVIET DISASTER

Voice of America had to clear all editorials on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster with the National Security Council to keep the U.S. from "gloating" over the incident, according to Administration sources.

"All over Europe there was scathing criticism of the Soviet Union and its lack of openness," one VOA official said. "Our normally timid allies were very critical of the Soviet Union, and we were the ones lagging behind."

But Charles Wick defended the clearance procedure as proper. "If the United States [government] wants to be moderate and not appear to gloat on the Soviet misfortune, and that's what the NSC wants, that's exactly what we do," Wick said. (Bill Gertz, Washington Times, A3)

CANADIANS UNLIKELY TO RETAIN DEAVER FIRM

As Michael Deaver defended himself against charges of unethical conduct, the Canadian Embassy said it has no plans to renew the contract that sparked the current controversy.

A source close to embassy officials monitoring the Deaver matter said Canadian environmental officials have recommended that Ambassador Gotlieb not renew the contract because the adverse publicity surrounding Deaver.

(George Archibald & Myron Struck, Washington Times, A2)

CONTADORA TALKS BREAK UP UNTIL MAY 27

PANAMA CITY -- The Contadora peace talks broke off until May 27 after Nicaragua and its U.S.-backed neighbors failed to agree on a formula for demilitarizing the war-torn region, officials said.

"They ended in a deadlock...with four countries in absolute agreement and one which is absolutely in disagreement," chief Honduran delegate to the talks Jorge Hernandez Alcerro told reporters.

(Tom Brown, Reuter)

SHELL FIRED AT NATO POST BEFORE WEINBERGER ARRIVES

LISBON -- A mortar shell was fired at a NATO command post near Lisbon yesterday, 36 hours before Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger arrived here today for talks with Portuguese leaders, police said. No one was injured in the attack, the sixth against NATO or U.S. targets in Portugal in 18 months.

(Washington Post, A16)

Terrorism Expected To Figure In Weinberger Talks

LISBON -- Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger holds talks with Portuguese leaders today 48 hours after an abortive attack against a NATO headquarters which is expected to boost U.S. calls for joint action against terrorism.

(Pascal Fletcher, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

THE REAGAN ERA'S REAL HEROES

When historians assess the successes and failures of the Reagan presidency, they may discover that its real heroes were Republicans in the Senate rather than the White House.

Except for two years in the Eisenhower administration, Republican presidents since Herbert Hoover have not enjoyed the advantage of working with a Senate controlled by their party. Reagan has made much of this advantage, and the Senate has made him look good.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

ABM PACT TIED TO FUND PLEDGE FOR 'STAR WARS'

The Reagan Administration may reconsider its commitment to abide strictly by the terms of the 1972 antiballistic missile treaty if Congress does not support President Reagan's so-called Strategic Defense Initiative, according to a report by the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

(Michael Gordon, New York Times, A1)

BUDGET HAS LITTLE INPUT BY REAGAN

It's the final inning of the annual budget game on Capitol Hill and so far the Reagan Administration has hardly made it out of the dugout.

The House and Senate have been playing on the same team this year to an unusual degree, and some congressional budget leaders now say there is a strong chance that the White House may end up simply forfeiting the game.

(Nancy Schwerzler, Baltimore Sun, A1)

NEW ERA OF MISTRUST MARKS CONGRESS' ROLE

Ten years ago today, 72 senators voted to assert a stronger role for Congress in overseeing the vast U.S. intelligence apparatus in the wake of painful disclosures, scandals and abuses at the Central Intelligence Agency and the collection of secretive federal agencies known as the U.S. intelligence "community."

But after a decade, a new era of mistrust has dawned. The Reagan Administration is virtually at war with the two committees that were established to oversee the U.S. intelligence arm. Each side has accused the other of endangering the nation's most sensitive intelligence systems and jeopardizing covert operations in the Third World through unauthorized leaks to the news media.

(David Ottaway and Patrick Tyler, Washington Post, A1)

LEAKS UNDER THE ROTUNDA?

Amid growing concern about government leaks, Senate officials have discovered that a hideaway where congressional leaders often discuss national secrets is vulnerable to electronic eavesdropping, it was learned last week.

At the same time, a survey by three committees found that the Senate has what one official termed "the potential for serious security problems" because it has no standardized procedures to protect top-secret documents stored in senator's offices. (Sara Fritz, Washington Post, A13)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OMB CITED FOR ETHICS VIOLATIONS

The deputy director of OMB has been cited by the Office of Government Ethics for engaging in improper conduct. He was accused of lobbying a federal agency to help a family-owned business extricate itself from a logjam of federal regulations at the Department of Energy.

Joseph Wright, who has served as deputy OMB chief since 1982, had telephoned the Energy Department in September of that year to settle an oil price overcharge case that had been dragging on.

(Myron Struck, Washington Times, A5)

FORMER REAGAN AIDE DEAVER DEFENDS LOBBYING ACTIVITIES BEFORE HOUSE PANEL

Former White House aide Michael Deaver told a congressional subcommittee that his activities as a private lobbyist have been "within the law at all times."

"It's completely unjust for a man with high status as Mr. Deaver to be in the employ of a foreign government," said Rep. John Bryant in an interview after the hearing. He said there is "widespread support" in Congress for legislation restricting such lobbying by former officials.

(Monica Langley, Wall Street Journal, 6)

TEAMSTERS CHIEF AND FBI AGENT INDICTED BY U.S.

The indictment of Teamsters union president Jackie Presser, two other union officials and a FBI agent in connection with an alleged payroll-padding scheme raises new questions about Mr. Presser's alleged role as a government informant.

(Andy Pasztor and Gregory Stricharchuk, Wall Street Journal, 2)

ANALYSTS UPGRADE THEIR ECONOMIC FORECASTS

The prospects for strong economic growth and lower inflation are considerably brighter now than they were three months ago because of the dramatic plunge oil prices, the nation's business economists said today.

(Martin Crutsinger, AP)

HIGH TEACHER PAY TIED TO TESTING

The nation's most able teachers could be paid as much as \$70,000 annually if teachers' unions agree to methods of testing or evaluating educators in public schools, Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander said yesterday.

"The American people will pay more for education, but they have to see performance as a condition of paying," said Education Secretary William Bennett, whose reaction to the report was "generally very favorable."

(Eleanor Randolph, Washington Post, A7)

PRIVATE LAUNCH INDUSTRY DOUBTED

The National Commission on Space, fueling a debate now before the Reagan Administration, apparently backs NASA's desire to continue using the shuttle for commercial satellite launches.

(Al Rossiter, UPI)

NANCY REAGAN DEDICATES COLLEGE LIBRARY

CHESTNUT HILL, MASS. -- First Lady Nancy Reagan, in a tree-shaded amphitheater, dedicated a renovated library and communications center at Pine Manor College in honor of her friends Walter and Leonore Annenberg.

(Linda Corman, UPI)

EDITOR'S NOTES: "Back On Campus," story about Nancy Reagan visiting Chestnut Hill, Mass., yesterday to dedicate a renovated library and communications center at Pine Manor College in honor of her friends Walter and Leonore Annenberg, by Chuck Conconi, appears in the personalities section on B3 in the Washington Post.

"Lawmakers Turned Lobbyists Fear Deaver Fallout" by Myron Struck appears on page A1 of the Washington Times.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Sunday Evening, May 18 -- NOTE: ABC did not air a broadcast.)

TERRORISM/BRITISH FERRY

NBC's Chris Wallace: There is a new anti-terrorist alert in Europe as police in four countries try to prevent the bombing of an English Channel ferry. There is a dragnet in ports on both sides of the channel after British police sent out warnings to French, Dutch and Belgian officials of a possible plot to blow up a ferry. They are looking for a terrorist group with a Mideast connection and police in all four countries are taking this alert very seriously.

NBC's Stephen Frazier reports police face an enormous task, examining cars and checking passengers at all the ferry ports after receiving a tip that a car loaded with explosives would be driven aboard one of the ships and detonated at sea. There was a warning of an attempt by a terrorist group with links to the Middle East to avenge the American raid on Libya and to answer British expulsions of Syrian diplomats suspected of terrorist activity. (NBC-Lead)

LEBANON/SYRIA/HOSTAGES

Wallace: President Assad is talking terrorism, denouncing what he calls President Reagan's verbal bombs against his country and saying the U.S. raid on Libya has frozen his efforts to free the American hostages. But the biggest threat to Syria these days is a possible new war with Israel. Jim Miklaszewski reports that threat seems to be receding.

NBC's Jim Miklaszewski reports that, appearing increasingly isolated and faced with mounting international pressure to end suspected support of terrorism, President Assad has taken steps to pull his country back from the brink of war with Israel. In a rare interview, Assad told the Washington Post there was no unusual troop movement in Syria or Israel, and said recent tensions now seem to be lessening. Assad also told the Post that Syria will not be the origin for terrorist attacks abroad. Prime Minister Peres welcomed Assad's public statements.

(Peres: "The fact that Assad, for the first time, found it necessary for him to explain his position to the American public opinion shows that he understands that there is a price to violence, not just an advantage to it.")

Assad's interview with the Western press is now seen as an attempt to cool the war fever as a result of the Israeli pressure. At the same time, Assad said U.S. pressure on Syria could hinder Syria's efforts to gain the release of the American hostages held by Islamic extremists in Lebanon. The U.S. had no immediate reaction. But diplomatic officials say that while Assad's tone was tough, his message -- at least for now -- was conciliatory. (NBC-2)

CBS's Bill McLaughlin reports President Assad has run into a major roadblock in his efforts to free the five American hostages reportedly still alive in Lebanon. Reliable Western intelligence sources tell CBS that the leaders of the small faction of the Hezbollah holding the Americans have told the Syrians that they will only release their hostages in exchange for relatives now being held in a Kuwaiti prison, jailed for bombing French and American targets there. So Assad has asked the Saudis to bring pressure on the Kuwaiti regime to release those prisoners. The Damascus regime has also informed the U.S. that any attempt to free the hostages by force would end in a slaughter. The French government, meanwhile, is reportedly more hopeful that its nine hostages, being held by a different faction of Hezbollah, will soon be released in Lebanon. The French deal reportedly involves sophisticated arms for the Iranian government and a cash payment for the terrorists. (CBS-6)

PILOTS' HOMECOMING

Wallace: The roar of the jets was nearly drowned out by the cheers of the crowd today when pilots who led the attack on Libyan terrorist targets returned home. The 32 fliers of Navy Squadron 55 flew into Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach, where about 200 relatives and friends were waiting. (NBC-3)

FRENCH-U.S. RELATIONS

CBS's David Andelman reports from Paris that these days in France, the word is, "Think tough." Accused of cowardliness and arrogance after refusing to allow American bombers to cross France on their way to Libya, the French government is now trying to change its image of being soft on terrorists and tough on its best ally. As a result, on orders of the new interior minister, Paris is in what he calls a state of siege; stop and search a routine for anyone remotely suspicious or unorthodox. A Gallup poll out today confirms French fears. The poll shows 86% of all Frenchmen think the U.S. is a valued ally. But barely 55% of the Americans questioned believe the French can be trusted. And it's getting worse. French television reporters are sending back firsthand word of just how bad it's been for themselves, even their children. And it's also affected some French businesses. It's money as much as image that still worries the French. As many as 1.5 million Americans are believed to have canceled trips planned to France this year. The French government sent the foreign minister to Washington this week to try to stem the tide of this anti-French feeling in the U.S. But thinking here is he has his work cut out for him. (CBS-8)

SOUTH KOREA

CBS's Susan Spencer: There were prayers and violent demonstrations in the South Korean city of Kwangju. The occasion: the anniversary of a bloody revolt there against martial law.

CBS's Barry Peterson reports from Tokyo that there is growing evidence that anti-government factions in Korea are fighting among themselves, but no evidence they have lost their resolve to fight against the government. (NBC-9, CBS-9)

ANDERSON/DRUG MONEY

NBC's James Polk reports from the British West Indies, where Robert Anderson, secretary of the Treasury during the Eisenhower years, and his bank are under federal investigation after Anderson's business associate David Gould was caught on tape telling undercover agents how he could help them conceal money here. Prosecutors are looking at whether Anderson helped violate the currency and money-laundering laws of the same Treasury Department he once ran.
(NBC-7)

SOUTH AFRICA/ARMS

Wallace reports police in South Africa announced they have found in a mine shaft what may be the largest cache of arms and explosives ever discovered in that country. Many of the arms are Soviet-made. Police have not said who may have put this arsenal together, but note there has been a sharp rise in rebel attacks in South Africa in recent months.
(NBC-8)

TORNADOES

Spencer: Mother Nature showed little mercy on the South today, lashing out at Alabama with tornadoes, sending severe thunder storms into Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee. In Texas, five people are now known dead from violent wind storms yesterday....
(NBC-5, CBS-Lead)

DROUGHT

CBS's Peter van Sant reports that across the Southeast, one of the worst droughts on record is destroying hundreds of millions of dollars worth of crops. In Alabama, crops are dying in the fields at such an alarming rate that the governor has asked the federal government to declare the state of disaster area.
(CBS-2)

HANDS ACROSS AMERICA

Spencer reports that the dream is that one week from today, 5 1/2 million Americans will join hands coast-to-coast in Hands Across America, the most recent fundraising extravaganza -- participants to pay \$10 each for the poor. But Hands goes into this last week sort of with its fingers crossed. With just a week to go, organizers lack about 2 million hand-holders, but they don't lack enthusiasm. The line is supposed to cover more than 4,000 miles, 16 states and the District of Columbia, raising \$100 million for the poor. Doctors said this week no one should try holding hands across the Arizona desert.
(NBC-14, CBS-11)

WALDHEIM

Wallace reports a U.N. war crimes commission report charged Kurt Waldheim was putting hostages to death. Newsweek got a copy of the 1948 report, which accused Waldheim of atrocities, but was not a finding of guilt.
(NBC-11)

GERMAN NUCLEAR PROTESTS

Wallace reports that in West Germany there were demonstrations protesting nuclear power; 7,000 protesters gathered, a number that surprised even the organizers of the peace camp. But it was not so peaceful. Many of the demonstrators threw rocks and Molotov cocktails, injuring 132 police, 25 seriously. (NBC-10)

PAT ROBERTSON

NBC's Ken Bode reports Pat Robertson says his mail is running 85% in favor of a run for the presidency. Robertson's people say the money they make at fundraisers is all legal. No complaints have been filed with the Federal Election Commission. Some of the money will go to other Christian candidates, some to Robertson's tax-deductible Freedom Council, which does grassroots political organizing, a lot of it in Michigan. Michigan will have a precinct-delegate primary this summer, which is really the first Republican presidential test for 1988. The Michigan Freedom Council sponsors political rallies for Robertson, but to spend this tax-free money legally, it must be non-partisan and officially neutral. (NBC-12)

###

ABC -- THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY

Moderator: David Brinkley. Panel: Sam Donaldson and George Will.

Guests: Ambassador Clovis Maksud, Permanent U.N. Observer, League of Arab States; followed by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Alexander Haig.

Brinkley: We hear all sorts of charges and denials about Syria. Army buildup, involvement in terrorism and so on....What are we to believe?

Maksud: I think the focus of this rising tension between Syria and Israel must be treated in perspective of what is taking place in the south of Lebanon. South of Lebanon there is still Israeli occupation....Now, naturally, because the Israelis have not withdrawn from the south of Lebanon...they have kept the whole Lebanon situation off balance and in a state of political flux....

Israel is a belligerent state to both Syria and Lebanon....

Guest: Yitzhak Rabin.

Brinkley: We hear from Hafez Assad in Syria that the reports about his military buildup are false, reports about his involvement in terrorism are false. What is your response?

Rabin: ...In Lebanon the Syrians operate in two ways. First, encourage what they call Lebanese resistance to Israel and to the Lebanese security zone, including attacking targets in Israel. In addition, a creeping of fortification of Syria since January this year to make sure that the flank in Lebanon that protects Damascus will be better prepared in case of war.... And...terrorism, directed by Syrians or assisting terror organizations against Israeli targets and other targets in Europe, like the attacks on Rome and Vienna airports, and no doubt they attempted to plant a bomb in the El Al plane in London.

Donaldson: Would you like to see the United States attack Damascus?

Rabin: We have never asked the United States to do anything instead of what Israel has to do....I'm not sure that it's my job to advise the United States....

Guest: Alexander Haig.

Brinkley: Now it has been some weeks since the American raid on Libya. After some time to examine the results and to reflect on it, give us your opinion. Was that the right thing to do, the right way to combat terrorism?

Haig: I think unquestionably the second raid has had an effect, and indeed, I would suggest that the more tentative position now taken by Syria, denying its role in terrorism and its buildup, has rather shaken Syria. Before that time they had believed that they could isolate Israel and continue the pressure tactics that Mr. Rabin described and I think this has sobered them considerably.

THIS WEEK (continued)

Will: You've been quoted as saying the United States government camouflaged what we knew about Syrian involvement in the attack on the Marine barracks in Lebanon, that Libya itself is a peripheral player, indicating that Syria is the real player....Do you think we ought to go to the source, and is Syria the source, and what should we do about it?

Haig: I think we should make it very clear that we know -- when we know it -- to be the fact that Syria has been involved. I think that should not necessarily be accompanied by threats of direct, or even covert action. We are far better being soft-tongued, and when it's necessary to take action to do so, and do so very effectively.

Donaldson: Does it serve U.S. interests to turn down the Saudi arms sale, as it appears Capitol Hill is intent on doing?

Haig: ...I think the failure to support our President would be a very, very serious setback to American credibility, which was so badly damaged at the time of the Israeli intervention in Lebanon.

Donaldson: Now the Reagan Administration seems to have reversed the role that started out, I suppose, when William Scranton was sent by Richard Nixon in 1969 to the Mid-East to look at an even-handed policy. The Reagan Administration seems intent on supporting Israel, does it not? And that includes your own tenure there when you gave a green light to the Israelis to go into Lebanon in 1982.

Haig: Yes. Quite the contrary, there was no green light given, and the history books have confirmed that repeatedly....

Will: ...How would the world be different and better if we had not stopped the Israelis [in 1982], and whose fault was that within the Reagan Administration?

Haig: ...There's no question that the emotion associated with the Israeli interventionism at the time tended to lead the White House and the White House staff to believe that we had to do some Israeli-bashing, and some of the tilting now very much in favor of Israel I think is the consequences of lessons learned, and sometimes over-learned. It was my position at the time that the interest of the moderate Arab world was best served by an Israeli victory early, which would have demanded a Syrian as well as an Israeli and PLO withdrawal from Lebanon and a return of that tortured country to the sovereign control of the people.

Brinkley: ...How can you be hopeful that we will have any success in this [dealing with terrorism]?

Haig: We always have to recognize that it's in our interest to try to develop an international consensus before taking action. But where that's not possible we cannot be held hostage to the lowest common denominator of allied approval. If we do that we're going to be frequently paralyzed, as we might have been more recently in Libya....

Brinkley: Our response has been to attack Libya, for example. and do you think that's really going to pay off over the long haul?

THIS WEEK (continued)

Haig: I think the jury is still out on that. I do think that the action taken by the President was right....

Donaldson: May I ask you whether you think there's going to be a war between Israel and Syria at the moment?

Haig: I don't know at the moment. I think the likelihood of the residue of policies and the situation we left in Lebanon in 1982 makes the likelihood of conflict, either in the near term or the longer term, very strong....

Donaldson: I'm tempted to also ask you what should our policy be, having warned Israel that we don't think it's in our interest to engage in a war with Syria, if Israel does it despite that, should we then support Israel to the extent of saying go on in and get Damascus?

Haig: No one can answer that question yet and I think it's very foolish to try. I do think that the United States has acted very prudently in recent weeks. It has put down a marker for both Syria and Israel that the circumstances emanating from conflict between those two powers will not improve the situation at this juncture....

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

On the firing of middle-level Reagan Administration officials for leaking to the press:

Will: This is the way you inoculate the government against this plague....

Carter: At some point, you have to start firing people, at whatever level.... Fire the water-carrier.... Fire him first. If that doesn't work, go up the line.

Donaldson: So the top people get to leak security information, but not middle-level people....

Brinkley comments on tax reform and the IRA: Finally, a suggestion to five members of the Senate: Go down to the corner drug store and buy a calculator for about \$2 or \$3. The new tax bill, if passed, will say for most people, contribution to an IRA cannot be deducted. So there's a good deal of complaint. And five members of the Senate say when the bill comes to the floor, they will try to amend it to save the IRA deduction -- a brave legislative fight to save the voters a tax deduction, always politically popular. But a business-labor research organization reports a study showing that under the new tax bill, with its lower rates, even without the deduction the IRA will likely be a better deal than it is now because when a person retires and collects his pension it will be taxed at a much lower rate, so he will wind up with at least as much money and probably more.

CBS -- FACE THE NATION

Moderator: Lesley Stahl.

Guests: Prime Minister Shimon Peres; Sen. Richard Lugar; Jim Hoagland of The Washington Post.

Stahl: The president of Syria has given an interview to the Washington Post this morning and he says that the tensions between his country and Israel are lessening and have cooled off. Do you believe him or do you think that Syria is getting ready to attack Israel?

Peres: I believe the escalation was rather in the domain of rhetoric than in the domain of military preparedness and we have tried our very best to de-escalate this situation. We have declared very clearly that Israel does not intend to attack Syria....I am glad that President Assad made public, at least felt that he has to go public, and denounce his own -- so to speak -- contribution to their escalated situation.

Stahl: Let me ask you about Syrian links to terrorism, and specifically the charges that your government has made that they were very deeply involved in the attempt to plant a bomb on the El Al airplane. Is that not, in your view, a provocative action?

Peres: Very much so. You see, now that the United States decided to lead a battle against the international terror, there are three countries that were identified either as centers for terroristic activities, or they are suspect of being so. Those countries are Libya, Syria and Iran. When it comes to Syria, there are the following questions that the Syrians have to answer. To start with, there are quite a collection of terroristic organizations either on their land or under their control. An organization, for example, like Abu Nidal. I read a little bit with a smile of the remark of President Assad that Abu Nidal will continue with its cultural and political activities. I must say I didn't read any book of philosophy that was published by the Abu Nidal organization, but we can see a lot of murderous and violent actions that it took....

Stahl: President Reagan is planning shortly to meet with Jewish leaders in this country to ask for their help in trying to reverse the congressional vote against the sale of new weapons to Saudi Arabia. Would you endorse or look the other way even if the Jewish leaders in this country were able to help the President with this sale?

Peres: You know, we don't give orders to the Jewish community in the United States nor would they take orders from us. I think this is the sort of decision that the leaders of the Jewish communities must make for themselves, and we shall respect any decision they will take.

Guest: Sen. Lugar.

Stahl: You are, I know, in favor of the Saudi arms sales. Do you think what he [Peres] said on that subject helps or hurts your cause?

Lugar: I think it helps. I think the Prime Minister very accurately expressed the position of the Israeli government. He also expressed the independence of Jewish leaders in this country....

-more-

FACE THE NATION (continued)

Stahl: But what do you say to those in Congress who say the Saudis vote against the United States in the U.N.? The Saudis, at least rhetorically, supported Libya when we carried out our raid. What's your answer to those criticisms?

Lugar: I think the criticisms are, unfortunately, very accurate. The Saudis have not been as helpful as they ought to have been....The question right now is, can we supply the Saudis missiles that they already have, a very scaled down situation, to help them against Iran and the threat that the Khomeini situation has for them, for the moderate states, and the Emirates. Israel could find itself in a situation in which not only Syria threatens, but Iran....

Stahl: The Israelis are quite persuaded that the Syrians are deeply involved in acts of terrorism. Are you equally persuaded?

Lugar: I believe the Syrians have been heavily involved in acts of terrorism for a long time. If you're asking where is the smoking gun, the precise trail of evidence, that's another question and perhaps the Israelis are on the trail of digging something up.

Guest: Jim Hoagland of the Washington Post, after interviewing Assad.

Hoagland: He adopted an unyielding approach towards the United States and toward Western countries that have accused Syria of participating in state-sponsored terrorism, and he said that Syria would not be intimidated by the kind of verbal warfare that the Reagan Administration, he says, is conducting against Syria.

Stahl: We have also had reports that he's offered to help release the American hostages. Did he talk about that at all with you?

Hoagland: ...President Assad presented a gloomy picture. He confirmed that Syria has made efforts in recent weeks to get the Islamic extremists who are holding the Americans and the eight French hostages to release them, but he said that those efforts have failed. The efforts to get the Americans freed was stymied, he said, by the bombing of Libya and by the escalation of American rhetoric against Syria.

Stahl: Did Assad give you any indication about the condition of the American hostages...?

Hoagland: ...He said he could not, he did not know where they are being held....He says that Syria will continue to try, but at the moment it seems to be pointless.

Stahl: What about Israel? Did he give you any feeling that he's worried that Israel might attack Syria?

Hoagland: ...He took the occasion to say that Syria was not moving its forces on the ground and saw no sign that the Israelis were doing anything unusual. His answer was quite soft. He seemed to be trying to lower the temperature, and he said that the most recent statements coming out of Israel had already lessened tensions, but he did add that Syria would continue to seek strategic parity with Israel....

###

NBC -- MEET THE PRESS

Moderator: Marvin Kalb. Panel: Fred Barnes and David Broder.

Guests: Gov. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee; Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of the NEA; Albert Shanker, president of the AFT, followed by Secretary of Education William Bennett.

Kalb: Mrs. Futrell...I'd like to ask if, in your view, the Carnegie Report should now be the basis for the kind of major overhaul in teaching that seems to be required.

Futrell: We believe that the Carnegie report certainly deserves strong consideration as we look at ways to raise standards, to improve the teacher training program, and to restructure the schools....

Broder: Mrs. Futrell, as I read this report, the basic thrust of it is that it's an attack on the school bureaucracy and a call for teachers to take over control of the schools. How do parents and taxpayers get assurance in that kind of a system that bad teachers will be weeded out and good teachers will be rewarded for the job that they're doing?

Futrell: First of all, we certainly did not intend for the report to be an attack on the current administration, but what we were saying is that in order to have effective schools, we should involve teachers more in the day-to-day decisions which take place in those schools....We're proposing to drastically strengthen the teacher training program, to raise the certification requirements, and to make sure that teachers have more say in the schools....

Broder: Mr. Shanker, this report calls for national certification of teachers. Education is basically a state and local function. Why do we need to have the national bureaucracy certifying teachers?

Shanker: You don't need a national bureaucracy. Law and medicine and accounting are also kind of local and state, but that doesn't mean the standards shouldn't be national....

Barnes: Mrs. Futrell...don't you have to, in order to get the things you want like higher teacher pay and more teacher control of schools, have to accept some of the things you don't want -- such as more accountability of teachers and merit pay for teachers who teach in schools where educational progress is made?

Futrell: ...As we look at the report and look at what's happening in America, we don't believe that merit pay is the answer. We believe that we need to upgrade the quality of teachers throughout the nation in every school and every classroom and those teachers should be rewarded for that....

Guests: Secretary Bennett and Governor Alexander.

Kalb: Governor....Both of the teacher union representatives have said that it's going to cost a lot of money to do this. We live in an era of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings....How do you get the money to do it?

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Alexander: Gramm-Rudman has nothing to do with the states. We'll pay the bill for quality....

Kalb: Mr. Secretary, how is it that the future of the country depends upon this crisis in teaching. Could you relate the two for us?

Bennett: The teacher is the linchpin in education....The evidence is very clear that a solid background such as that recommended by this report, in the liberal arts, and all those indicators of excellence should be the focus for the compensation of teachers, the key players in this process....

The best things about the report are the emphasis on quality, the emphasis on looking at competence and productivity, the career ladder, rewarding excellence so that all teachers are encouraged to be as good as they can be. The American public will pay; I agree with Gov. Alexander.

Barnes: ...What about the suggestion for schools run by committees of schoolteachers?

Bennett: I think that's a bad idea, but I don't know how serious they are about this one. If they are, they ought to revisit the question.

Barnes: What about the idea of "superteachers," these "lead teachers?"

Bennett: I think lead teachers is an excellent idea, but you can't replace a good principal. All the research is clear that a strong instructional leader, a strong leader in the principal's office, is very closely tied to educational results. And when a parent comes to school, she doesn't want to meet with a committee, she wants to meet with the man or woman in charge.

Broder: [Governor], you emphasize public schools and you're sitting next to a fellow from the same party and the Administration that you support who wants a choice extended to private schools. Why not extend it to private schools as well?

Alexander: We have a big, broad party and so we have lots of views. I believe we ought to throw all we've got into encouraging public schools right now. I would be satisfied and happy with giving the parents a choice of the public schools....

Broder: Secretary Bennett, this report doesn't ask much from the federal government, but it does say that there have to be equalization payments from Washington to the states or the better teachers are all going to congregate in the richer states. Do you agree with that?

Bennett: I certainly will want to take a look at that....The federal government's programs are aimed at equalization and I think it may need some readjustment of our programs to respond to that....

Broder: You've been critical of some of the federal subsidies for higher education....What do you think about the idea of requiring those students to help back in the schools as a price for the assistance that they've gotten?

Bennett: It's an interesting thought. I'd like to think further about it....

THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP

Moderator: John McLaughlin, with Morton Kondracke, Jack Germond, Robert Novak, and Susan Page.

On Chernobyl:

McLaughlin: Do you think that the West did actually try to exploit the Chernobyl nuclear accident?

Page: Absolutely. President Reagan in particular. But the fact is we didn't have to do much, the Russians did most of this to themselves.

Novak: We didn't have to anything about it, and Mr Gorbachev really showed his true colors that what he is is a P.R. specialist.

Germond: What's fascinating is that the pressure was finally enough to make him go on television and try this repair work.

Kondracke: One point in which Gorbachev has something going for himself, is the hype in the western media.

McLaughlin: Gorbachev appealed for the strengthening of the international atomic energy commission; secondly, a nuclear test ban; and thirdly, a nuclear freeze. What do you think of those ideas?

Page:...the real impact of this nuclear disaster may be to put the kabosh on the summit that was supposed to happen later this year between Reagan and Gorbachev. Gorbachev is weakened, he's defensive, and he's going to be less willing to take the risk associated with coming here.

Kondracke: I think he's all the more likely to come just to show what a nuclear good guy he is.

McLaughlin: Reagan had no response to these (Gorbachev's) ideas about stressing the IAEC, i.e., he has permitted Gorbachev to go on the offensive and to frame the debate.

Germond: He can't possibly get on the offensive, his credibility has been destroyed. I think Reagan was exactly right.

Novak: The salutary thing that might come out of this is that even the liberals might not trust them to engage and observe a nuclear arms treaty.

McLaughlin: Is Chernobyl now behind the Soviets for all intents and purposes?

Novak, Germond, Page: No.

Kondracke, McLaughlin: Yes.

On U.S. and Mexico:

McLaughlin: Is this good policy to crack down publicly or is it bad policy?
-more-

MCLAUGHLIN GROUP (continued)

Page: If you really want to get tough with Mexico you try to shut off that border and eliminate the safety valve for the next couple of years.

Novak: You can't shut off the border, but you can shut off the loans to Mexico through the IMF.

Germond: Quiet diplomacy is a joke. The Administration has had no success with it anywhere that I have seen.

Kondracke: I think you have down there a cauldron that one of these days is gonna blow, and I think you ought to let it blow by itself.

McLaughlin: We five concur that the public crackdown is a good idea.

On Tax Reform:

McLaughlin: Do you see any sign that the wave of euphoria is ebbing, or is the wave swelling?

Germond: What has been most remarkable in the last week is how little serious movement there has been to change this bill.

Novak: I think that it's going to be a close vote in the Senate on the IRA, but don't believe that there's a big wave of protest on it.

Page: This will breeze through the Senate because it's going to be the first big debate held after the Senate allows T.V. cameras in its chambers.

Kondracke: I think they (the realtors) are getting banged really hard especially when the oil and gas interests have been let off scott-free.

On U.S. Senate Races '86 West:

McLaughlin: The group says that the Democrats will have a net gain of one seat from the ten western Senate races.

Predictions:

Page: The secret beneficiary of the Chernobyl disaster is George Bush, because it's gonna increase markets for American grain, that's gonna help the farmer, that's gonna ease anti-Administration sentiment in Iowa which Bush has to win in the Presidential caucuses in 1988.

Novak: Asst. Sec. of State Elliot Abrams is leaving for the Soviet Union on an exchange visit, and people wonder if the State Dept. is getting him out of the way just as we're about to sell the Contras down the river.

Germond: ...after Deaver, there is a very good chance we're gonna have some new legislation tightening the rules on what former officials can do in the way of lobbying.

Kondracke: The U.S. is not selling out the Contras, and there will not be a Contadora agreement agreed to in the U.S. unless it is iron-clad.

AGRONSKY & COMPANY

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

On the Budget and Tax Reform:

Agronsky: Can you see the President accepting these heavy defense cuts and tax increases in the budget that the House has just passed?

Drew: No. The Administration, by being cute, brought these military cuts on itself.

Rowan: Mr. Reagan is not going to get everything he asks for in defense.

Kilpatrick: The budget resolution that's finally agreed upon will not be the one that was passed in the House.

Sidey: I don't think Mr. Reagan's going to get what he wants...(but) I think it will not be that drastic.

Drew: Pete Domenici said...that the Pentagon had brought this on itself by crying wolf for so many years, asking for enormous increases and learning to live with the cuts. As Domenici put it, the Pentagon and the Administration on defense budgets have no credibility.

Rowan: Every time that Weinberger cries wolf, they come up with more money than they ever dreamed of having.

Kilpatrick: When it comes back to conference committee and compromise, the House Democrats will stand up and they're all going to be voting for more defense.

Drew: The tax reform bill on its way to the Senate floor, will have a revenue increase, and the Senate leaders are talking about using that to offset the budget deficit. That is precisely what the President said he absolutely opposed.

Sidey: There's a lot of momentum behind a lot of things: tax reform, deficit reduction,...and a lot of people including Reagan and the Democrats are going to be forced to do things they said they wouldn't do.

Rowan: There is such a mass of people of every political persuasion behind this that the lobbyists are going to have a tough time changing it in any major way. It looks as though people are coming to say at 27% I can afford to have my IRA taken away.

On Chernobyl:

Agronsky: One of the interesting things the U.S. doctor said, was that when you see what happened with the peaceful production of nuclear energy when it goes wrong, you wonder how we could ever cope with a nuclear war. How do feel about that?

AGRONSKY & COMPANY (continued)

Sidey: That event may have a more profound effect on international relations than anybody has ever calculated.

Rowan: I think Gorbachev blew it in his speech by talking about how the U.S. and West Germany were trying to defame the Soviet Union. He's not the great communicator and propagandist that some people thought he was.

Kilpatrick: As the meaning of Chernobyl sinks in, the demand for a real arms agreement is going to blossom.

Drew: I find people on both sides of the arms control issue feeling that Gorbachev has not been terribly smart in his arms proposals, because he is proposing something that our allies will not want. Now that they have gone through the political struggle, they don't want to say "never mind" and have our missiles pulled out.

Kilpatrick: Gorbachev is trying to recover some of the P.R. image that he lost by his long delay at Chernobyl.

On Shultz, Covert Aid, and Terrorism:

Sidey: I found that speech about covert operations to be fascinating. Shultz seems to be in a pretty good frame of mind that we may actually be able to deal terrorism some kind of a blow.

Rowan: I have always favored covert action over a big military assault. One thing Shultz was trying to say is, wait a minute, we're not going to advocate a whole long string of bombings of this country or the other in the name of fighting terrorism. He's trying to cut down the talk on it.

On NASA:

Agronsky: Where do we go with NASA at this point?

Kilpatrick: This is one of the saddest stories of my experience in Washington -- the decline and fall of NASA from the pinnacle it was on.

Sidey: Let's also point out that the hardware got much more complex, the tasks before them were much more difficult...cost over-runs occur every place.

Drew: I'm struck by two things. One is that the Rogers commission came through. NASA's P.R. department is still spinning out of control. What are they doing still announcing who might be the journalist in space?

-end of B-Section-