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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Senate Upholds Arms For Saudis, Backing Reagan -- President Reagan won a narrow victory in the Senate today as his supporters mustered enough votes to allow the sale of advanced missiles to Saudi Arabia. The margin was single vote. (New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, Copley News Service, AP, UPI)

Pelton Is Convicted Of 4 Spying Charges -- Former National Security Agency employe Ronald Pelton was convicted yesterday of passing top secret national defense information to the Soviet Union between 1980 and 1985. (Washington Post, Washington Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan, Senate In Harmony On Tax Revision -- President Reagan invited the entire Senate to the White House yesterday to lobby for a sweeping over-haul of the tax system, only to find himself preaching to the choir. (Washington Post)

NETWORK NEWS (Thursday Evening)

PELTON SPY TRIAL -- A federal jury convicted Ronald Pelton of selling secrets to the Soviets.

SAUDI ARMS -- President Reagan won a big foreign policy victory by the slimmest possible margin.

ISRAELI MILITARY -- Israel's military might be somewhat of a mirage.

THE PELTON SPY CASE

"In this cloak and dagger game, there was confusion and comedy on both sides. [Soviet defector] Vitaly Yurchenko said Ronald Pelton asked the first day to be paid in gold bullion. Yurchenko did not know what bullion was. He thought the spy wanted to be paid in chicken soup."

(James Polk, NBC Nightly News, 6/5)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN WINS APPROVAL OF ARMS SALE TO SAUDIS

The Republican-controlled Senate salvaged President Reagan's proposed arms sale to Saudi Arabia yesterday as the required minimum of 34 senators voted to approve the politically controversial transaction.

After the 66 to 34 vote, both sides claimed at least partial victory in the hard-fought battle.

Sen. Alan Cranston, who led opponents, said Congress "has sent a strong, clear message to Saudi Arabia that friendship is a two-way street and that we expect much more of you."

However, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar said, "I'd call it a victory" for the Administration. "The President has again established his ability to prevail in these close issues of foreign policy," he said.

(Edward Walsh, Washington Post, A1)

President Wins By One Vote In Showdown On Saudi Arms

President Reagan yesterday won a victory by one vote in the Senate, gaining approval of the \$265 million missile sale to Saudi Arabia.

The Senate voted 66-34 against the sale of Sidewinder air-to-air and Harpoon anti-ship missiles, one vote short of the 67 needed to override the President's veto.

"I claim it as a victory, a close one," said Sen. Richard Lugar, the Indiana Republican who led the floor fight for the President. "Most [people] predicted it couldn't be done."

But Sen. Alan Cranston, the California Democrat who led the opposition to the sale, said, "The President won a 10 percent victory."

(Thomas Brandt & Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Senate Upholds Arms For Saudis, Backing Reagan

President Reagan won a narrow victory in the Senate today as his supporters mustered enough votes to allow the sale of advanced missiles to Saudi Arabia. The margin was single vote.

Leaders in both parties agreed that critical to the outcome was President Reagan's argument that a defeat on such a highly visible foreign policy issue would undermine his international credibility and destroy his role as a mediator in the Middle East.

(Steven Roberts, New York Times, A1)

Policies And Politics Play On Saudi Arms Vote

President Reagan's leadership, Middle East peace and Israel's political influence all collided in the dramatic Senate vote to permit a \$256 million weapons sale to Saudi Arabia.

Reagan won Thursday by the slimmest margin -- one vote -- but critics said it was a hollow endorsement of his policies and a warning to Saudi Arabia to do more with regard to the Middle East peace process.

Sen. Barry Goldwater said his colleagues were under pressure "of other countries to persuade us to vote against our Commander in Chief and our President. I think it is wrong."

(Michael Myers, UPI)

GOP Freshmen Abandon Reagan

Most of the freshmen Republican senators who rode in on President Reagan's landslide in 1980 abandoned him on the question of selling arms to Saudi Arabia, ignoring a reminder of how they won six years ago.

Reagan averted an embarrassing defeat on the issue Thursday by a single vote that was a mystery until the end.

When it was over, the vote was 66-34, and the key was Sen. William Armstrong, a conservative, born-again Christian who believes strongly in the state of Israel. Although the Israeli government avoided commenting on the sale, pro-Israeli lobbying groups contested the \$265 million missile package.

(Joseph Mianowany, UPI)

Reagan Narrowly Wins Right To Sell Saudi Arabia Sharply Reduced Arms Package

The Senate, by a single vote, authorized President Reagan Thursday to proceed with the sale of missiles to Saudi Arabia.

"You've got one happy man down here," Mr. Reagan told Senator Dole in a telephone call from the White House after the Senate vote.

According to a Dole aide, Mr. Reagan said the sale was "a very important issue" which would "have had a terrible impact on the Middle East" if the vote had gone the other way.

(Otto Kreisher, Copley News Service)

Reagan, The Realist, Knew When To Say When To Win Saudi Arms Vote

President Reagan needed one-third of the Senate plus one vote to permit his Saudi Arabian arms sale to go through. To get it, he gave up more than two-thirds of his original prospectus for the transaction he called "vital to world peace."

The 66-34 vote in the Senate Thursday was portrayed by senators on both sides of the aisle as support for a President whose prestige and leadership were on the line. Reagan said the vote was needed to hold the trust of the more moderate Arab nations.

To achieve it, he followed a familiar pattern of taking a firm position, backing down from it when it becomes clear he can't get all he wants, and then welcoming a partial victory as the achievement of his aims.

(Dale Nelson, News Analysis, AP)

PELTON CONVICTED ON 4 COUNTS OF SELLING SECRETS TO SOVIETS

BALTIMORE -- Ronald Pelton was convicted today of selling Soviet KGB agents top-secret information on U.S. intelligence-gathering projects directed at the Soviet Union.

The jury in federal court here deliberated for 13 hours before returning a verdict convicting Pelton, a 44-year-old former National Security Agency employe, on one count of conspiracy, two counts of espionage and one count of disclosing classified communications intelligence to an unauthorized person. He was acquitted on one count of espionage.

(Susan Schmidt, Washington Post, A1)

Pelton Is Convicted Of 4 Spying Charges

BALTIMORE -- Former National Security Agency employe Ronald Pelton was convicted yesterday of passing top secret national defense information to the Soviet Union between 1980 and 1985.

After deliberating nearly 13 hours, the jury convicted Pelton on four counts of espionage, but acquitted him on one count related to a 1980 trip he took to Vienna, Austria. (Bill Gertz, Washington Times, A1)

PERLE, HILL UNIT TRADE CHARGES OVER SALT MOVE

In a vitriolic, four-hour hearing before a House Armed Services subcommittee yesterday, Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle said "either the Congress will stand with the Administration...or the Congress will stand with the Soviets" over President Reagan's decision to abandon the limits of the unratified SALT II strategic arms limitation treaty.

Perle, the Administration's top arms control expert, was particularly caustic in deriding a bill introduced by Rep. Norman Dicks that would block spending for U.S. nuclear weapons whose manufacture would exceed the SALT II limits. Perle said the measure supports the Soviets, harms arms control prospects and impinges on presidential and senatorial powers by using the budget to ratify SALT II, whose limitations have been observed by the two superpowers although the treaty was never approved by the Senate after being signed in 1979.

When Dicks' turn came he lashed out at Perle, saying he had led the Administration into emphasizing Soviet violations "so you can walk away from" the 1972 ABM treaty and SALT II, and possibly undercut another superpower summit. (Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

WEST SEES RENEWED COMMUNIST INTEREST IN CONTROLLING BERLIN

Western diplomats are increasingly concerned that after a decade of tranquility, East Germany and its patron, the Soviet Union, once again are trying to expand communist control over Berlin.

After nearly two weeks of wrangling over passport controls, East and West are at an impasse, with the United States, Britain and France resisting what they say they believe is an East German effort to chip away at allied rights in the divided city.

(John Goshko, Washington Post, A31)

SOVIETS WIDEN CHERNOBYL EVACUATION

MOSCOW -- The Soviet government has ordered 20,000 evacuations from additional areas as a result of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl in the Ukraine and has extended the radiation danger zone into parts of neighboring Byelorussia, officials indicated in a news conference here today.

Yuri Israel, chairman of the state committee for hydrology and meteorology, told reporters that high temperatures lifted the radioactive emissions high into the air, from where winds swept them far afield after the April 26 explosion.

(Gary Lee, Washington Post, A1)

POLLARD PROVIDING GOVERNMENT WITH INFORMATION
ON ISRAELI SPYING, TIMES SAYING

NEW YORK -- A former Navy analyst who has admitted taking part in an Israeli espionage ring is providing the Justice Department with information about Israeli spy operations in the United States, according to a published report.

Jonathan Jay Pollard agreed to cooperate with the government as part of a plea bargain in which he admitted selling U.S. military documents to Israel, The New York Times quoted unidentified senior Reagan Administration officials as saying in its Friday editions.

"His promise of cooperation was broad, not narrow," one official told The New York Times. (AP)

SYRIA INCLUDED IN EXPORT BAN OF CHEMICAL ARMS INGREDIENTS

The Reagan Administration yesterday extended to Syria its export controls on eight compounds used to manufacture chemical weapons, saying it was concerned that the Syrians now have the capability to produce such weapons and are helping Iran do the same.

The State Department said yesterday it does not believe any U.S. companies are exporting the eight chemical compounds to Syria. The export control was described as "a precautionary measure."

(David Ottaway, Washington Post, A35)

FISCAL WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS AT THE STATE DEPT.

Imagine a situation in which the world's foremost superpower would have to close many of its consulates and even some embassies and operate those that remain with skeleton crews lacking the language skills and funds to perform many of the routine tasks of diplomacy.

According to Ronald Spiers, the State Department's undersecretary for management, this vision of a diplomatic wasteland is likely to become a reality in the months just ahead if Congress persists in its determination to make deep cuts in President Reagan's \$22.6 billion foreign affairs budget request for next fiscal year. (John Goshko, Washington Post, A17)

MANILA REBELS PICK CEASE-FIRE ENVOY

MANILA -- President Corazon Aquino announced today that the Philippines' communist guerrilla movement has named a fugitive former journalist as its representative for talks with the government on a cease-fire. She said she would name her own negotiators within two days.

The announcement at a news conference marking her 100th day in office was the first sign of movement toward a cease-fire between the more than 200,000-strong armed forces and at least 16,500 rebels of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party.

(William Branigin, Washington Post, A29)

NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN, SENATE IN HARMONY ON TAX REVISION

President Reagan invited the entire Senate to the White House yesterday to lobby for a sweeping over-haul of the tax system, only to find himself preaching to the choir.

Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd, among others, told Reagan he expects a 100 to 0 vote for the radical tax bill, which would slash tax rates in exchange for eliminating many deductions.

However, congressional aides who were drafting amendments to the bill yesterday -- about 20 to 30 are expected -- predicted that debate over changes could last until late this month. Reagan urged the 75 senators who came to breakfast to keep the bill bipartisan, but did not ask them to oppose all changes. (Dale Russakoff, Washington Post, A4)

REAGAN PICK FOR JUDGESHIP IS REJECTED

The Senate Judiciary Committee rejected one of President Reagan's judicial nominees for the first time yesterday, voting down Jefferson Beauregard Sessions amid accusations that he has demonstrated an insensitivity to civil rights.

But Messe called the vote "an appalling surrender to the politics of ideology." He said Sessions was "an excellent nominee" to the federal district court in Alabama, and blamed his defeat on "vicious and highly personal attacks" by liberal groups "with a big ideological ax to grind."

(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A1)

POWER CO-OP'S REFINANCING APPROVED

The Senate voted yesterday to allow the nation's rural electric cooperatives to refinance up to \$9 billion in high-interest government loans, over objections of senators who said the provision tempts a presidential veto.

The provision was adopted on a 62 to 36 vote, underscoring the political clout of the rural cooperatives, as lawmakers began work on a \$3.9 billion "urgent" supplemental spending bill for 1986.

Sen. Jesse Helms said the provision puts the bill "on a collision course with a veto." The Rural Electrification Administration language leads a list of White House objections to the spending bill.

(AP story, Washington Post, A4)

NASA IS URGED TO SEEK A SECOND SOURCE FOR ROCKETS

More than 250 members of the House urged NASA to move immediately to hold a "full, fair and open competition" for the selection of a second supplier for the space shuttle's solid-fuel booster rockets.

"We're being paid lip service on second sourcing," complained Rep. Robert Torricelli. "If NASA is under the impression that we're going to be satisfied with the mere symbols of competition, they're wrong."

(Laurie McGinley, Wall Street Journal, A2)

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EX-PRESIDENTIAL COUNSEL FIELDING TO TESTIFY IN DEEVER INVESTIGATION

Former White House counsel Fred Fielding will testify in closed session Tuesday before the House subcommittee investigating the lobbying activities of Michael Deaver, the panel said yesterday.

Deaver, the former White House deputy chief of staff, appeared last month before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on oversight and investigations and is scheduled to testify a second time, although no date has been set. Both Deaver and Fielding told the panel, chaired by Rep. John Dingell, that they preferred to appear in closed session.

(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A2)

PANEL BACKS NAVY'S HOME-PORT PLAN

The Senate Armed Services Committee voted yesterday to release \$79 million in start-up construction funds for the Navy's \$799 million home-port program, and senators said the vote amounted to an endorsement of the controversial concept.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, chairman of the Armed Services subcommittee on military construction, said the vote was 10 to 9 in favor of releasing the initial funds for the program.

"We have approved this concept, which is of vital importance to the defense of this nation," Thurmond told reporters following the closed meeting.

(AP story, Washington Post, A2)

HOUSE VOTES TO EXPEDITE SHELTER PLAN

The House yesterday overcame sharp criticism of the tactics of advocate for the homeless Mitch Snyder to move to expedite renovation of the shelter Snyder and his group operate near Capitol Hill.

After defeating by one vote an amendment that would have prohibited any political activity in the shelter, the House voted 242 to 116 to transfer to the D.C. government jurisdiction over -- but not title to -- the dilapidated shelter, located at 425 Second St. NW.

(Milton Coleman, Washington Post, A42)

BILINGUAL-EDUCATION CHANGE DEBATED

Education Secretary William Bennett told a Senate panel yesterday that his proposed changes in the nation's bilingual education law would give local school districts more flexibility, but Hispanic leaders and bilingual advocates roundly criticized his plan as "a prescription for disaster."

The two-hour hearing was marked by the rhetoric on both sides, with Bennett calling current bilingual laws "heavy-handed" and a former Puerto Rican immigrant challenging the secretary to "study Japanese for six months, and then study philosophy -- his discipline -- in Japanese."

Opponents have accused the Reagan Administration of using the proposed changes in the bilingual law as a front for dismantling the program -- a charge Bennett hotly denied.

(Keith Richburg, Washington Post, A9)

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FASTER, CHEAPER, SPARSER INFORMATION FROM THE FEC

The Federal Election Commission, forced by budget cuts to reduce sharply the amount of information available to the general public, has renegotiated a contract with a private computer firm so basic information services will be offered more quickly and inexpensively.

The revised contract with Digital Equipment Corp. will quintuple the speed at which information on campaign contributions and expenditures is received and printed for those making inquiries at the FEC.

(Thomas Edsall, Washington Post, A17)

REAGAN WILL HAVE PLENTY OF LEGROOM ON NEW AIR FORCE ONES

During his first ride on Air Force One five years ago, President Reagan surveyed the posh interior of the Boeing 707 and, with a broad grin, declared: "Rather small. But it will do."

According to the Pentagon, he won't lack for legroom or much else when he makes his last presidential flight. The Air Force announced Thursday it intends to buy, pending congressional approval, two Boeing 747-200B jumbo jets as flagships of the White House fleet.

(Lee Byrd, AP)

PRESIDENTIAL TELEPROMPTING

President Reagan has some words of wisdom for senators grappling for the first time with live TV.

"Learn your lines. Don't bump into the furniture. And in the kissing scenes, keep your mouth closed," the Great Communicator advised 75 senators who breakfasted at the White House yesterday.

"Some would be better off keeping their mouth closed period," said Sen. William Proxmire.

(Lloyd Grove, Washington Post, D1)

EDITORS NOTE: "The Public Rebirth Of William Rogers," by Michael Kernan, appears in The Washington Post, D1.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

NUCLEAR WASTE

OLYMPIA, Wash. (UPI) -- Washington Attorney General Ken Eikenberry, charging that the Reagan Administration "betrayed us," filed three federal lawsuits challenging the selection of the Hanford Reservation as one of three potential sites for the nation's first high level nuclear waste depository.

President Reagan is a defendant in one of the three actions filed by Eikenberry Wednesday in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Other defendants are the Department of Energy and Energy Secretary John Harrington.

"The U.S. Department of Energy betrayed us," Eikenberry said in a statement announcing the lawsuits. "How can they deny this was a political decision?"

He accused the DOE of abandoning an elaborate and finely tuned scientific process that took years to develop and using "geologic diversity as an excuse to pick Hanford."

"The western states should not be left to bear the nation's high level waste burdens," Eikenberry said. "It is a national problem requiring a national solution."

"There has been no partnership here," Eikenberry said. "USDOE has acted like a solo operator."

BOISE, Idaho (UPI) -- Gov. John Evans said Wednesday he asked President Reagan to reconsider his decision not to site a nuclear waste repository in the eastern part of the United States.

"I am convinced that the construction of a second repository in the eastern part of the United States, nearer to most of the nuclear power plants which generate spent fuel and high-level waste, is amply justified," Evans said in a letter to the President.

If the Hanford, Wash., site is selected, much of the potentially deadly waste would be shipped through Idaho.

LOCAL SOCIAL PROGRAMS

SPOKANE, Wash. (UPI) -- The Spokane City Council has cut \$650,000 from local community development programs because of federal aid reductions.

Hardest hit by the decision Monday night were citywide social programs for the homeless and handicapped, and parks and home-repair projects.

Because of cuts proposed by the Reagan administration, the city has been informed it can expect \$2.8 million in federal community development funds in 1986-87, not the \$3.4 million previously expected.

Human services had to be cut because cities can't spend more than 15 percent of their federal community development grants on social programs, council members said.

NEWS FROM THE STATES (continued)

HUNGER

LOS ANGELES (UPI) -- An activist fasting for the homeless will die in Washington unless President Reagan immediately appropriates \$5 million to renovate a shelter for the homeless, actors Dennis Weaver and Valerie Harper said Wednesday.

Mitch Snyder, perhaps the best known activist for the homeless in the nation, entered a fourth day of fasting in a Washington shelter to persuade Reagan to free the funds.

"We're talking about bureaucracy and distance from the homeless, not callousness," Harper said. Mr. Reagan stood in line, now he can put into action that commitment that he demonstrated."

"If he (Snyder) could get \$1 million he would stop his fast because it would be a sign of good faith," Weaver said.

A visibly angry Ned Beatty identified himself as a Kentucky Republican and conservative.

He said Reagan, unlike himself, was not a character actor, but a leading man and he asked the President to admit he made a mistake when he suggested people were going homeless and hungry because they simply did not know where to go for help.

"He's not used to taking the part of someone who screws up or does the wrong thing," Beatty said. "I want him to rethink the idea that everybody out there (homeless) just needs to reach out to us. I want him to volunteer to be ugly, to be wrong. I want to ask the media...to put an end to the Teflon presidency."

-End of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

PELTON SPY TRIAL

CBS's Dan Rather: After hearing all the testimony, after reviewing classified U.S. Defense documents, a federal jury in Baltimore today convicted Ronald Pelton of selling secrets to the Soviets.

CBS's Rita Braver reports that it was a crucial victory for the government. Pelton's disclosures had cost the U.S. millions, and federal officials were so determined to convict him, that for the first time they publicly acknowledged certain NSA activities. (CBS-Lead)

ABC's Bill Greenwood reports it had been a big government gamble that paid off -- a bet that revealing state secrets for the first time in an open court would insure an espionage conviction.... U.S. officials said the sentencing may not have been possible without the confession obtained by FBI agents, and called the conviction a vindication of their techniques. The FBI may have to defend its methods in this case once again, since the defense promises to appeal. But not before Ronald Pelton is sentenced on July 28th facing three terms of life in prison as a Soviet spy. (ABC-Lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: Ronald Pelton, who sold out his country for \$35,000, is guilty of spying for the Soviet Union.... (NBC-Lead)

SAUDI ARMS

Rather reports: President Reagan met 75 senators at the White House today for an arm-twisting breakfast -- some last minute lobbying about his big arms sale to Saudi Arabia. It worked. The Senate, which turned down the arms deal last month, went back and approved it today. And the President, Phil Jones reports, thus avoided a historic foreign policy debate.

CBS's Phil Jones: It was a squeaker for the President. He needed 34 of the 100 Senators voting with him -- that's all he got. Twenty-four Republicans voted against the President, but afterwards the Vice President discounted the closeness of the vote.

(Vice President Bush: "The main thing is the President, who they see as a strong leader, prevailed. And I think that's the signal that'll go through the moderate Arab world.")

The vote today cleared the way for a \$265 million arms sale to the Saudis. Dropped was a Saudi request for 200 hand-held Stinger air defense missiles which many senators feared would end up in the hands of terrorists. Yet opponents still argued that the Saudis were no friends of the U.S.

(Sen. Metzenbaum: "Is it friendship when Saudi Arabia pours \$27 million into the coffers of the PLO, and the PLO uses that money to train terrorists?")

(Sen. Biden: "I've been here 14 years. I'm tired of being subjected to litmus tests by the Saudis.")

Supporters of the arms sale said that the President's ability to mediate in the Middle East was at stake.

Jones continues:

(Sen. Exon: "Today we have the President of the U.S., the leader of the free world, weighing his national and international prestige on the line.")

(Sen. Laxalt: "In fact this sale promotes important U.S. strategic interests. By the 1990's gulf oil will become more critical for the U.S. and our allies. We cannot undermine our relationship with our principal friend in the gulf now, and expect to suddenly rebuild it later.")

Earlier in the day the President had all 100 senators to the White House to lobby their support for the arms sale. After the vote the President said he was one happy man. The President said he is determined to work with the Saudis and other friendly states to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East. But political facts remain that when weapon sales are challengers of Presidential prestige abroad, the President always wins. (CBS-2)

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan won a big vote in the Senate today but only by the slimmest of margins. The vote had to do with the sale of a weapons package to Saudi Arabia, minus some controversial Stinger missiles the President removed from the package to make the sales more acceptable to Congress. Still, the Senate turned it down once. Today, however, opponents of the bill did not have the strength to override the President's veto. Mr. Reagan was pushing until the very last minute.

ABC's Brit Hume reports the President invited the whole Senate to breakfast this morning; presidents always have trouble with arms sales to Saudi Arabia because Congress is sensitive to anything that might threaten Israel.

(Sen. Dole: "He's been on the telephone, he's met one-on-one with members. In fact, he was calling people yesterday, as I understand, during his trip to North and South Carolina.")

On Capitol Hill, Democratic Whip Cranston, perhaps Israel's best friend in Congress, was working the phone in search of a single vote to make the two-thirds needed to block the sale.

(Sen. Cranston: "I'm sure we have 66, whether we can get 67 or not is the question.")

On the Senate floor, there were charges of undue pressure from Israel against the sale.... From the other side, charges that it was Saudi Arabia that had failed the friendship test.... So Congress maintains its record of often protesting, but never actually voting down a weapons sale. And one more thing: not one of the senators who switched sides to back the sale today is up for reelection this year. (ABC-3)

Brokaw: In Washington, President Reagan today won a big foreign policy victory by the slimmest possible margin....As John Dancy reports, the President went to great lengths to keep the Senate from overturning his veto.

NBC's John Dancy reports the President lobbied personally for the sale, inviting all 100 senators for breakfast. But afterward, the outcome was still in doubt. Clearly, a majority of senators opposed the sale, believing it would harm Israel and increase tensions.

Dancy continues:

(Sen. Kennedy: "Peace will not come to the Middle East from the barrel of a gun.")

Administration supporters argued that the Saudis deserve support because they are moderates and allies in the troubled Persian Gulf.

(Sen. Lugar: "We cannot undermine our relationship with our principal friend in the gulf now and expect to suddenly rebuild it later.")

But Biden of Delaware rejected that argument.

(Sen. Biden: "I'm tired of being subjected to litmus tests by the Saudis, litmus tests by anyone else. We should operate and move in what is the naked self-interest of the United States of America.")

Both sides knew there were three undecided votes today. Then one of them, Pete Domenici, decided.

(Domenici: "I simply cannot say to Ronald Reagan that I oppose his design to bring peace to the Middle East.")

With Vice President Bush presiding and President Reagan watching on television, the voting began. Dole continued to lobby even as the votes were counted. In the end, 24 Republicans voted against the President. Opponents of the sale say they still sent a message to Saudi Arabia.

(Sen. Cranston: "Friendship has to be a two-way street, and we expect more of you.")

So even though the President won, he has not erased the deep misgivings in Congress about selling sophisticated arms to Saudi Arabia. (NBC-2)

ISRAELI MILITARY

CBS's Phil Jones reports that there are indications that Israel's military might may be somewhat of a mirage. A three year study concentrating mainly on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, blasts Israel's military as bureaucratically bloated, ill-trained, and inefficient. At training camp #1, Israel's West Point, today's military brass has been criticized by military analysts as mediocre and poorly motivated.... Any suggestion that Israel's military is not what it once was couldn't have come at a worse time. Syria's military, poised just across the border here on the Golan Heights, has just undergone a massive build-up. With both sides now on a nearly equal footing in terms of manpower and weapons, this desolate yet strategically important stretch of territory between Israel and Syria could test whether today's Israeli military is still the Goliath of the Middle East. (CBS-3)

SYRIA/CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Rather: Because Syria, with help from the Soviets, may now have the capability of making chemical weapons and because Syria has sided with Iran in the Iran-Iraq war, the U.S. today banned the sale of chemicals to Syria. The ban already applied to both Iran and Iraq. (CBS-4)

TAX REFORM

Brokaw: Senate leaders from both parties predicted the Senate may well pass its sweeping tax reform plan unanimously. They made their predictions after this morning's breakfast meeting with President Reagan, who reaffirmed his support of the plan. Sen. Packwood said the hard part will come later, when the Senate must reconcile its version of the tax plan with the one already passed by the House.

The latest NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll shows that tax reform has broad support among Americans....Still, people do seem to have some reservations.

Favor tax reform -- 75%, Oppose -- 14%.

Do you think you will benefit from tax reform? Yes -- 47%.

Do you think you will be hurt by tax reform? Yes -- 27%.

Would you prefer to keep the IRA deduction? Yes -- 51%, No -- 34%.

Would you prefer to keep deducting sales taxes? Yes -- 50%, No -- 38%.
(NBC-4)

Jennings: At his meeting on Saudi Arabia with senators this morning, President Reagan also discussed tax reform. The Democratic leader, Robert Byrd, said he would not be surprised if all 100 members approve the bill. Mr. Reagan, who was apparently pleased with the bipartisan support, gave the retiring Democratic Senator Russell Long, the long-time Finance Committee chairman, a t-shirt bearing the senator's favorite saying: "Don't tax you, don't tax me, tax that fellow behind the tree." Sen. Dole said a vote on tax reform could come by the end of next week.
(ABC-11)

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT

Rather: As President was chalking up the Saudi arms win in the full Senate, a Senate committee was delivering him a stinging defeat, saying no to his controversial nomination of Jefferson Sessions to a federal judgeship.

CBS's Bob Schieffer: It was a rare occurrence at the Capitol. Only once before in the last 49 years had the Senate Judiciary Committee formally turned down a Presidential nominee for the federal bench.

(Sessions: "The vote has been taken. The matter is over. I accept the vote of the Judiciary Committee, and intend to continue with my work.")

(Sen. Biden: "Sessions at a minimum, was much too flippant with regard to matters relating to race. He joked about it, he made comments about it...")

Attorney General Edwin Meese blasted the action as an appalling surrender to the politics of ideology. But it also means new trouble for another controversial Administration nominee to the federal bench, Daniel Manion of Indiana. The full Senate votes on that nomination soon. It was already in trouble, and Senate Democrats are now sure to redouble efforts to kill it.
(ABC-4, NBC-3, CBS-9)

POLLARD/ISRAEL

Jennings: Now that the former Navy counter-intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard has pleaded guilty to charges that he spied for Israel, there are any number of reports suggesting a much larger network of spies working for the Israelis in this country. The U.S. government is saying very little.

ABC's John McWethy reports the U.S. government built a wall of silence around the Pollard case and the many questions it raises about whether Israel is doing much more spying on the U.S. than it admits. (Bernard Kalb: "I will not be in a position of comment on reports or discuss the case further since it is still under investigation.") Sources say there is a sharp difference of opinion within the Reagan Administration about what the specifics of the Pollard case actually show.... The complexity and cost of operation leads some to conclude that the Israeli government had to know about it, support it and that there must be more such operations.... Others, primarily at the State Department, say there is not one shred of evidence beyond what has already been made public that indicates the Pollard case is anything other than the isolated incident the Israelis say it is. Further, officials say that without Israeli cooperation, the Pollard indictment would not have been possible. Despite these sharp differences of opinion on what the case shows about Israel, everyone acknowledges that there are powerful political reasons for both Israel and the U.S. to want it to go away. (NBC-11, ABC-2)

PHILIPPINES

Brokaw reports President Aquino marked her 100th day in office with two major announcements: that general elections for a new Parliament will be held in November and that communist rebels have now named a representative for negotiations on ending their fighting. (CBS-6, ABC-16, NBC-10)

HAITI

Rather reports that anti-government demonstrations went on in Haiti today in spite of warnings of government crack-downs.... The new military-dominated Haitian government blamed the crowds for at least one death. (CBS-6)

SOUTH AFRICA

Rather reports that South Africa reportedly has again made a military attack on a neighboring independent country. Angola says a port city has been hit -- a cargo ship sunk, two others damaged. In Pretoria the white minority government of South Africa had no comment.

Also, Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu said he will defy the South African government's ban on events commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Soweto killings by holding church services June 16th. (ABC-5, CBS-5)

INSIDER STOCK TRADING

Rather reports that today, investment banker Dennis Levine, pleaded guilty to four counts in what officials called the largest insider trading scheme ever discovered. Levine admitted he used inside information about a 1984 transaction to make a quick \$1.4 million pocket. The judge set July 9th for sentencing. A short time later four other defendants pleaded guilty to criminal charges of trading on Wall Street on information allegedly stolen from a well-connected corporate law firm. (ABC-9, CBS-11)

CHERNOBYL

Rather reports that a top Soviet official said today that some people have returned to their homes inside the danger zone around the damaged Chernobyl nuclear reactor. He promised the clean-up around Chernobyl would be finished by year's end. But even when the repairs are completed the danger still may not be over.

CBS's Wyatt Andrews reports that the project is mankind's first ever entombment of...a nuclear reactor. It is a unique kind of engineering that some critics say could be killing some of the men and women building it. The Soviets have always acknowledged that this is a new and dangerous job.... and workers are taken off the job if their radiation dosages get too high. The problem is who knows if even that level of precaution is enough. (CBS-6)

GE-RCA MERGER

Brokaw reports the last major hurdle to General Electric's purchase of RCA was overcome. The FCC approved GE's purchase. (NBC-5)

BIRTH CONTROL

NBC's Lisa Myers reports on the unavailability of IUDs, withdrawn from the market because of lawsuits claiming they are unsafe. One study predicts that women forced to switch from IUDs will triple their chance of pregnancy, producing 123,000 more unwanted pregnancies each year. And experts warn that unless the federal government substantially increases funding of birth control research, American women will continue to experience a dwindling number of choices. (NBC-8)

AIR FORCE ONE

Jennings: The Pentagon announced today it will buy two new Boeing 747 jumbo jets to be used as presidential planes that we refer to as Air Force One. The new jumbos will replace two older, smaller 707s which currently are used for presidential travel. (ABC-12)

BABY JESSIE

Brokaw reports a right to life group has issued an appeal to hospitals all over the country for someone to perform a heart transplant on newborn Baby Jessie, who is dying of heart failure. (NBC-6)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

SALT II

What The U.S. Loses By Chucking SALT II -- "Most assuredly, the President's announcement will not improve the chances for better compliance, major reduction, or measurable progress in arms control. All it has done, and all it will do, is put to rest any illusions that may have existed as to the real arms control policies of this Administration."

(Jack Mendelsohn, Christian Science Monitor, 6/5)

Reagan Threat Risks New Arms Race -- "Even if SALT II were 'fatally flawed,' as Reagan and Weinberger unconvincingly assert, the President should be negotiating vigorously for a better agreement, not threatening to trample on the old one. By making threats, he runs the risk of backing the Russians into a corner and making a new agreement impossible."

(Milwaukee Journal, 5/30)

SALT II: An Unratified, Unsigned, Unworkable Agreement -- "Despite expected howls from the U.S. arms control community, it appears Reagan will tell the Air Force to go ahead. Let's hope so. The SALT II tarbaby has tied U.S. hands long enough. It's time to start undoing the damage."

(James T. Hackett, Hartford Courant, 6/4)

Reagan Calls The SALT Undertaker -- "The chance that the superpowers would reach a broad arms control treaty has been dead since Ronald Reagan became President. His announcement that the U.S. intends to ignore the provisions of the SALT II accord, barring a 'radical' change in Soviet policy, amounts to nothing more than calling the undertaker.... The Geneva negotiations, which were stalled anyway, are not likely to produce progress now. The era of arms control, at least for now, is over. The succeeding one isn't likely to be safer for either side."

(Stephen Chapman, Chicago Tribune, 6/4)

Yes And No On SALT II -- "When it finally comes to the crunch, when the warring factions in his Administration have come to terms at last, the nation -- and the world -- must hope that the decision is to stick with SALT. To do otherwise would be to do what one congressman says Reagan did in his announcement this week: declare war against arms control."

(Des Moines Register, 5/30)

Alas, SALT II -- "The SALT II treaty has never been more than a public relations ploy, but it's a very useful one.... Reagan has lobbed the ball back into the Soviets' court. While both sides continue to pay lip service to the unratified treaty, the President has clearly linked its future to progress in current arms talks. If this strategy works, the United States and the nuclear-nervous world will be ahead of the game. We may move toward achieving what is really needed -- an arms reduction treaty with teeth and verification procedures. If it doesn't work...well, alas, SALT II -- we knew it well even if we never accepted it and the Soviets merely played with it."

(Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 5/30)

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PATRIDGE

Brokaw: James Patridge of West Chicago...was sitting in his wheelchair yesterday when he heard a neighbor's cry for help. A one-year-old girl had fallen into a swimming pool and she wasn't breathing. Patridge knows how to administer first aid, so he got there as fast as he could. He rolled his wheelchair 80 yards and then he crawled 20 yards more. But he did get there in time to revive the child. He says he isn't a hero, but some people would disagree. Twenty years ago, in Vietnam, Patridge lost both of his legs. (ABC-7, NBC-9)

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

ABC's Jack Lawrence, on Special Assignment, reports on Amnesty International -- the world's foremost human rights organization. (ABC-13)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS (continued)

Did Reagan Misfire On SALT II -- "The best that can be said about the President's announcement...is that it is not serious and is the reflection of bush-league bureaucratic maneuvering. The worst is that the Administration has still not learned basic lessons either about the value of predictability in the nuclear age or the demands of leadership in the Western alliance."
(Robert E. Hunter, Los Angeles Times, 6/3)

LEAKS

Call Casey Off The Press -- "We can't imagine why President Reagan has allowed Casey to rail on so long and so loud on this matter. The CIA Director is apparently in the wrong on the specific issue at hand, and he is clearly wrong on the larger matter of principle involved.... Governments, being made up of politicians, can be expected to be unhappy from time to time with the things the press says, especially when they are accurate. But that unhappiness cannot be allowed to make truth a casualty not just of war, but of peacetime -- such as it is."
(Atlanta Journal, 5/25)

A Dangerous Spy Case -- "So here we have two issues: One is spying. The other is freedom of the press. Actually, the questions ought to be resolved without real difficulty. If Pelton is guilty as charged, it is to be determined in court. Spying for the Soviets should be seriously punished. And certainly, news agencies should not be broadcasting or printing information so secret that a man is being tried for selling it to the Soviets. The public has a 'right to know' many things. But there are some things that necessarily for the safety of our country should not be broadcast or published. The public 'right to know' is not hurt if details of secret information and spying are not made public. The public needs to know no more than is presented in open court, and the trial judge should be very careful about what he permits to be aired."
(Chattanooga News-Free Press, 5/31)

CONTRAS

Contadora Peace -- "The Contras serve a purpose, and they should not be abandoned lightly. President Ortega says they do not pose a threat to national security. But he does concede that 'They continue having an economic effect.'... President Reagan and the Congress should nurture along Ortega's alleged intentions by providing the Contras with some more aid, at the same time they establish this country's intention to cut off that aid if the Sandinistas change."
(Bangor Daily News, 6/1)

Contadora Fly Trap -- "The proposed (Contadora) treaty is a bit of fly paper, coated with peace promises. It has no real teeth, no way to enforce compliance with its terms.... Despite Habib's letter, President Reagan should continue to demand that Ortega deal with the Contras before the U.S. makes a decision about supporting them. As communist regimes have shown time and again, without enforcement power, treaties are only pieces of paper."
(Birmingham News, 5/28)