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MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Letter Proposing To Develop Plans For Summit Is Sent To Gorbachev -- President Reagan sent Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev a letter proposing to work out plans for a new summit meeting, a White House official said. (Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, UPI)

China To Launch American Satellites in 1987, 1988 -- A New York company has signed an agreement for China to launch two communications satellites in the next two years, the company said Sunday. (Washington Post, AP)

NATIONAL NEWS

ABC Report Says Court Finds Gramm-Rudman Unconstitutional -- The Supreme Court, in a decision due out Monday, has ruled that a key provision of the deficit-reduction law passed by Congress last year is unconstitutional, ABC News reported Sunday. (Washington Post, AP, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Sunday Evening)

SUMMIT -- President Reagan sent Mikhail Gorbachev a letter proposing to begin planning for a summit meeting.

SOUTH AFRICA -- Black leaders say they will defy a ban on commemorating the 1976 Soweto massacre and they have called for a nationwide general strike.

SOUTH AFRICAN SANCTIONS -- There is more pressure on President Reagan to pull further away from the Botha regime.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN REOPENS DOOR TO '86 SUMMIT MEETING

President Reagan last week sent what was described as a "warm" letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, proposing that Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze meet soon to begin planning for a 1986 Washington summit, probably in November.

White House officials said they could not discuss the contents of diplomatic messages. However, the tone of the message delivered to the Kremlin by U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hartman was said to be "conciliatory."
(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A2)

Reagan Letter Proposing To Develop Plans For Summit Is Sent To Gorbachev

President Reagan sent Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev a letter proposing to work out plans for a new summit meeting, a White House official said.

This new evidence of interest in a summit came as the U.S. was studying Soviet arms control proposals offered in Geneva last week. The Soviet offer wouldn't restrict the number of U.S. nuclear weapons as severely as previous proposals. Secretary of State George Shultz said the proposals are a "good sign" because they have "substance in them."

(Ellen Hume & John Fialka, Wall Street Journal, A48)

Reagan Places Summit In Gorbachev's Court

A new overture from President Reagan has left prospects for another superpower summit in the hands of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at a time of contention and possible opportunity in U.S.-Soviet relations.

The White House confirmed during the weekend that Reagan sent Gorbachev a letter proposing that Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze meet soon, possibly in Europe, to develop an agenda for a summit late this year.

When asked about the letter Sunday as he returned to the White House from Camp David, Reagan refused to discuss its content or say whether a response had been received. "We just correspond," he told reporters.
(Norman Sandler, UPI)

U.S. FIRMS PLANS TALKS WITH CHINA ON SPACE

PEKING -- China has agreed with a major American aircraft company to open negotiations soon over cooperation in the launching of space satellites, the official New China News Agency reported today.

According to the agency, the Hughes Aircraft Co., a leading American aerospace corporation, recently proposed that a joint satellite launching ground be set up on a Hawaiian island. The report, which did not identify the island, said that "the suggestion has received a positive response from the Chinese side."

(Daniel Southerland, Washington Post, A1)

China To Launch American Satellites in 1987, 1988

PEKING -- A New York company has signed an agreement for China to launch two communications satellites in the next two years, the company said Sunday.

Teresat Inc. of New York and the China Great Wall Industry Corp., an affiliate of the Astronautics Ministry, signed the agreement Saturday night in Peking. One satellite is to be launched in the last quarter of 1987, and the other in 1988, both from a launch site in southern China, Teresat said in a news release.

Meanwhile, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday that Hughes Aircraft Co. was proposing that a satellite launching ground be set up on a Hawaiian island, and that Chinese rocket carriers and launching technology be used to launch American civilian satellites from the site in cooperation with Hughes.

But Lee Titt, a Hughes spokesman in Los Angeles said the Xinhua report was incorrect. (Donna Anderson, AP)

10 ARE KILLED IN S. AFRICAN VIOLENCE

JOHANNESBURG -- Ten persons were killed in racial violence overnight in South Africa, bringing the total to 22 since the government declared a state of emergency Thursday. Tensions increased today as the country braced for the commemoration by blacks Monday of the 10th anniversary of the uprising in Soweto, the vast black township near Johannesburg.

"I pray that tomorrow will be peaceful and that we will observe this great day in our history with the dignity it deserves," Desmond Tutu said. (Allister Sparks, Washington Post, A1)

S. Africa Battens Down For Racial Storm

Cape Town -- Security forces ringed South Africa's black townships with steel today, ready to put down any unrest reminiscent of the nationwide rioting that erupted in Soweto on June 16, 1976.

Massive security precautions were in force. Airports, railway stations and other key points in all the major cities were protected by heavily armed police and troops.

(Peter Younghusband, Washington Times, A1)

Killings Continue As Pretoria Girds For Anniversary

JOHANNESBURG -- South African authorities reported unabated bloodshed today as the nation braced for the 10th anniversary on Monday of the Soweto uprising.

A government spokesman in Pretoria said seven more people have been killed overnight in the nation's segregated black townships. This brings to 19 the number slain in township violence since a nationwide state of emergency was declared on Thursday.

(Alan Cowell, New York Times, A1)

South Africa Tense As Shooting Anniversary Dawns, Vows Force

Johannesburg -- The South African government has vowed to crush any protests by anti-apartheid groups today on the 10th anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

And it has warned the foreign media against sending any "subversive" reports out of the country.

Amid mounting tension over what could be the most crucial day in the republic's 25-year history, it was unclear whether anti-apartheid groups would defy the government's state of emergency and hold rallies to mark the day in 1976 when police shot students protesting in the sprawling black township of Soweto just outside Johannesburg.

(Sharon Fuller, Reuter)

JOINT CHIEFS BACK REAGAN SALT PLAN

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have sent a secret policy document to President Reagan that supports any SALT II decision he makes without disclosing that some of them favor adhering to the weapons limits in the agreement, according to Pentagon sources.

But House Armed Services Committee Chairman Les Aspin and other lawmakers are expected to drag them into the storm by demanding to know their personal views on the wisdom of abandoning the limits in SALT II. Aspin said he intends to summon the chiefs before his committee.

(George Wilson, Washington Post, A7)

HOUSE EXPECTED TO URGE ADHERENCE TO SALT II

The House, perhaps accompanied by the Senate, is expected to pass a resolution this week urging President Reagan to continue to keep the numbers of U.S. strategic nuclear weapons within the limits set by the 1979 SALT II treaty.

The SALT II treaty was withheld from U.S. ratification as a political signal to the Soviets and the international community that the United States disapproved Soviet actions -- not because the United States decided to field or develop nuclear forces prohibited by the treaty's terms.

Today, the reverse is being debated.

This week's congressional debate will indicate whether a majority of lawmakers agree with Mr. Reagan's worries and, more important, with the tactics he has chosen to underscore them.

(Iris Portny, News Analysis, Washington Times, A4)

AFGHANS TO PRESS REAGAN FOR MORE AID

Four Afghan resistance leaders will press President Reagan for more aid today, possibly Stinger missiles to counter Hind helicopter gunships that have wreaked heavy casualties on the guerrillas in their six-year war against the Soviet occupation.

"No one has promised us officially that we will receive them," said Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of Jamiati-Islami, one of seven Afghan resistance groups banded together in a National Alliance which operate from Peshawar, Pakistan.

(Gus Constantine, Washington Times, A7)

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WAY IS CLEARED FOR U.S. TO SEND AWACS TO SAUDIS

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia have completed agreements clearing the way for delivery, beginning later this month, of Awacs reconnaissance aircraft to the Arab nation.

A State Department official confirmed that the two nations have agreed to certain technical arrangements meant to insure that the Awacs aircraft and the intelligence data they gather won't fall into hostile hands or be used to jeopardize the security of Israel.

(Robert Greenberger, Wall Street Journal, A37)

TAX MANEUVERING BY KENNEDY FORCES ANGOLA MEASURE OFF FLOOR

Sen. Edward Kennedy has checkmated an effort by conservatives to end tax credits for companies doing business with communist Angola.

The Massachusetts Democrat blocked Sen. Alfonse D'Amato from offering his Angola amendment by threatening to offer a similar amendment to end tax credits for U.S. companies doing business in South Africa.

"That may have pretty much put the kibosh on that particular approach," said a top adviser to Sen. Robert Dole. The Kennedy threat forced the withdrawal of the D'Amato amendment.

(Thomas Brandt, Washington Times, A3)

URUGUAY PRESIDENT, IN TALKS HERE, MAY PUSH TRADE ISSUES

Uruguay's President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who has guided the small South American nation back to democracy after 12 years of military dictatorship, pays an official visit to Washington tomorrow, the first Uruguayan leader to do so in more than 30 years.

The visit will afford President Reagan yet another opportunity to hail the rising tide of democracy in Latin America. But in all likelihood, Mr. Reagan will be asked to provide more than lip service support to a country where democracy is threatened by economic stagnation.

(Timothy O'Leary, Washington Times, A2)

COST OF IMPORTED GOODS RISES

Those with a yen to spend are finding that the cost of foreign goods, from cars to cameras to wine and cheese, is racing upward as the value of the dollar continues to fall against some foreign currencies.

In the past six months, Washington area merchants say, the price of French cognac has risen \$5 a bottle, Japanese watches have increased \$10 apiece and the sticker prices on some luxury automobiles from Germany have soared \$5,500.

(Leah Latimer, Washington Post, A1)

NATIONAL NEWS

GRAMM-RUDMAN SETBACK REPORTED

ABC News, apparently in a rare leak from the Supreme Court, reported last night that the justices today will strike down, 7 to 2, the key automatic triggering provision of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-balancing act.

ABC Supreme Court correspondent Tim O'Brien said that while he had not obtained a copy of the opinion, he had been told of its contents, including that it is authored by Chief Justice Warren Burger with an important concurring opinion by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

(Fred Barbash, Washington Post, A5)

ABC Report Says Court Finds Gramm-Rudman Unconstitutional

The Supreme Court, in a decision due out Monday, has ruled that a key provision of the deficit-reduction law passed by Congress last year is unconstitutional, ABC News reported Sunday.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Phil Gramm told reporters in Bay City, Texas, Sunday night, "Gramm-Rudman is not in jeopardy. If it is, there are plenty more ideas where that one came from."

"If the Supreme Court simply reaffirms the lower court decision it will have found 95 percent of Gramm-Rudman constitutional," he added. He also said the legislation contains a "fallback option" that would still make it workable if the court does rule it unconstitutional. (AP)

Gramm-Rudman/Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is about to deal a staggering setback to the Gramm-Rudman balanced-budget law by declaring a key provision of the measure unconstitutional, ABC News has reported.

ABC reported Sunday night that the court is to announce its ruling at 10 a.m. EDT today, striking down the provision that allows automatic budget cuts to kick in if Congress and the White House are unable to meet annual deficit reduction targets.

Sen. Phil Gramm told "ABC World News Tonight" Sunday that the ruling would not harm the deficit reduction effort.

Gramm told the network there is another provision in the law which allows Congress to vote on an agreed budget estimate that would limit spending, without consulting the comptroller general. (UPI)

SENATE DISCOVERS RESTRAINT

Sen. Wendell Ford (D-Ky.) had reason to revolt. Senate leaders were pushing through the chamber a tax-overhaul bill that would repeal deductions for state and local sales taxes -- a change that stood to hurt Ford's Bluegrass State more than most.

Ford's tradeoff -- sacrificing one cherished tax to protect another -- is part of a quiet revolution that tax overhaul has brought to the Senate. For the first time in recent history, a major tax bill is steaming toward Senate passage almost unamended. The Senate resumes action on the measure today and is expected to pass it by Tuesday or Wednesday.

"Not long ago," recalled Sen. John Chafee, "amendments were added willy-nilly. What restraint was there? Let the state of Washington deduct sales taxes! Let someone else have their IRAs! IRAs are wonderful, let's have IRAs! That's how it worked."

(Dale Russakoff, Washington Post, A4)

Tax Overhaul Expected to Pass Senate This Week

The Senate is about to clear away the last remaining challenges to tax-overhaul legislation and give its overwhelming approval to the landmark measure.

"At this stage, we are past the major amendments," Sen. Bob Packwood said confidently.

As the Senate begins its second week of debate on the bill today, Packwood is predicting passage of the measure possibly as early as Tuesday.

(Cliff Haas, AP)

THE SPREADING RIPPLES OF CHALLENGER DISASTER

The loss of publicity for an unmanned scientific space venture, long the poor cousin in the nation's exploration of the heavens, was just the beginning of the cost the scientific community will pay because of the shuttle explosion.

With the shuttle grounded and other rocket systems broken, once-in-a-lifetime launch dates have come and gone and the competition is increasing to find bookings on future launches. The scientists worry that the Pentagon will preempt most nonmilitary launches, particularly when it gets into heavy testing of President Reagan's SDI.

(Douglas Feaver, Washington Post, A1)

PROTESTS CALLED OFF AFTER BUSH ABORTS RIGHT-TO-LIFE TALK

DENVER -- Vice President George Bush would have faced heckling and a protest march had he addressed the annual convention of the National Right to Life Committee here last week, according to participants.

Several representatives of Right to Life/Oregon said Mr. Bush's long-standing pro-choice views and his support for "our No. 1 enemy" -- Sen. Bob Packwood, in the May Senate primary, was the basis for the opposition.

(Myron Struck, Washington Times, A3)

SHORT-SIGHTED AMENDMENT

President Reagan is right in opposing the 22nd Amendment, even if his insight is illuminated by self-interest. After midterm elections this year, particularly if Democrats regain control of the Senate, Americans face the prospect of two years of divided government in which the President would lack the political leverage provided by the prospect that he might seek reelection.

The two-term limitation was discussed at length and rejected by the founders, who trusted the people more than the Republican majority of the 80th Congress. Recalling this during the 1947 congressional debate, Rep. Joseph Bryson, an ardent New Dealer, said that if the people could be trusted to elect a president for two terms, "they also can be trusted to determine whether he should be continued in office for a third term."

Franklin D. Roosevelt would have been delighted with this argument and perhaps even more pleased with the enforcement of it by Reagan, a onetime disciple who by New Deal standards has gone astray. Now is a good time to get rid of an amendment that had as its principal motive a profound mistrust of the capacity of Americans to govern themselves.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

DEAVER'S ROLE WORRIES REAGAN LIBRARY BOARD

Embattled lobbyist Michael Deaver's continued role as chief fund-raiser for the Ronald Reagan presidential library is being questioned by several officials involved in the non-profit project. They say they are concerned about conflict-of-interest probes involving the former White House deputy chief of staff.

"Concerns have been expressed to me, particularly now that the special independent counsel has been appointed, in terms of how much time Michael Deaver will have in the next few months," said W. Glenn Campbell, chief trustee of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, which is trying to raise \$85 million for the library at Stanford University.

(George Archibald & Mark Tapscott, Washington Times, A1)

SEN. DOLE SCORING ON RUN TO HIS RIGHT

When Sen. Robert Dole appeared before the Republican National Convention in 1984, he was given a cold shoulder that would have been appropriate for a "tax collector for the welfare state," which is what some conservatives were calling him.

Only two years after spurning him, many conservatives are hailing Dole for being "right" on the issues, for going out of his way to solicit their views and for expediting Senate consideration of their concerns.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A1)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Recuperating Hawkins Makes Emotional Return to Campaign," by Bill Peterson, in The Washington Post, A3.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Sunday Evening, June 15, 1986)

SUMMIT

NBC's Chris Wallace reports negotiations for a U.S.-Soviet summit are at a standstill. Now President Reagan wants to break that impasse by retracing some old steps.

NBC's Marvin Kalb reports President Reagan returning from the White House from a weekend at Camp David confirmed that he had sent another private letter to Gorbachev.

(TV coverage: The President and Mrs. Reagan returning from Camp David.)

The President provided no details of his latest effort to arrange a summit. "We just correspond," he said. The prospects are now considered bleak after the President's recent decision to break out of the constraints of the SALT II treaty. His idea, according to U.S. officials, is to set up another series of preliminary meetings between Secretary Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnaze, a repeat of last year's procedure that led ultimately to the Geneva summit last November when the two leaders agreed to meet again. U.S. officials say that for his part, the President is serious about wanting to breathe life into East-West negotiations. But what is not known at this time is whether the President is also prepared to respond favorably to the latest Soviet arms control proposal which would involve a cut-back in his strategic defense initiative, called star wars, in exchange for a promised cut-back in Soviet offensive weapons. (NBC-3)

SOUTH AFRICA

CBS's Forrest Sawyer reports that black leaders say they will defy a ban on commemorating the 1976 Soweto massacres, and they have called for a nationwide general strike. The government points to a car-bombing blamed on the outlawed African National Congress as proof that the new state of emergency is needed to keep peace.

CBS's Alan Pizzey reports that the authorities declared the state emergency because black radicals plan to march into white areas, burn down government offices and create a nationwide blood-bath.

(CBS-Lead)

Wallace reports South Africa's state of emergency, designed to calm the situation there, has instead become a state of siege. Officials announced today that seven more blacks have been killed and they condemned a car-bombing in a white resort that killed three women.

(NBC-Lead)

SOUTH AFRICAN SANCTIONS

Sawyer reports these new events put still more pressure on the President to pull further away from the Botha regime.

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CBS's Jacqueline Adams reports the House this week is expected to pass a bill restricting mineral imports from South Africa and ordering an end to new U.S. capital investment there.

(Rep. Bill Gray: "There's over 130 persons per month that are being killed. So clearly there is a need for the U.S. to remove economic fuel from the political engine of apartheid and its virulent racism.")

(Sen. Levin: "This may be our last chance to divert a disaster in South Africa, and our last chance to avoid an international humiliation for American policy in South Africa. The way to do that is to apply sanctions now.")

Although some U.S. companies have left South Africa, some 266 remain, controlling half of South Africa's petroleum industry, a third of its auto industry, and 70% of its computer industry. In part, because they employ some 80,000 blacks, President Reagan remains opposed to ordering those companies to leave.

(President Reagan on June 13th: "Whatever we did do in that line would militate against the people we're trying to help.")

Administration officials are considering a series of political and diplomatic sanctions against South Africa -- things like closing consulates and recalling embassy staff. But economic sanctions are out. To accept those, some say, would be admitting the Reagan policy in South Africa has failed. (CBS-2)

Wallace reports President Reagan has resisted calls for sanctions against South Africa, instead holding to a policy of constructive engagement. But under increasing pressure from Congress, there are signs the President may take some half-way measures.

NBC's Robin Lloyd reports White House officials say the President may consider taking some limited actions against South Africa if the government's response to tomorrow's planned demonstrations is excessively violent.... Officials say the President remains firmly opposed to economic sanctions such as prohibiting new investment or loans.

(The President on June 13th: "Whatever we did do in that line would militate against the people we're trying to help.")

Still, aides describe top Administration officials as growing frustrated and losing patience with the South African government. Two weeks ago, Secretary of State Shultz blasted the South Africans calling apartheid, "An immoral system that does not serve our interests. It offends our moral principles," Shultz said. The South African government responded in an angry letter. Sources say President Botha warned President Reagan more criticism like that would end U.S.-South African contacts. That hard-line reaction and the current government crackdown has triggered concerns in Congress that Botha intends to totally ignore and defy international opinion. Pressure for sanctions in the House is getting stronger and the debate more heated, with a bill calling for economic sanctions scheduled to be voted on later this week.

(Rep. Solarz: "Sanctions may not guarantee that peaceful change will take place in South Africa, but you can be virtually sure that without sanctions there won't be any hope at all.")

The President has urged the South African government to respect peaceful demonstrations tomorrow. However, officials here say even if the situation gets completely out of control, the Administration still will not consider economic sanctions. (NBC-2)

SOUTH AFRICA/BRITAIN

Sawyer reports pressure is also mounting on Margaret Thatcher to reconsider her opposition to further economic sanctions against South Africa. British newspapers report Thatcher appears to be leaning toward accepting the idea. In the meantime, the U.S., Britain, and West Germany will boycott a United Nations conference on sanctions against South Africa that begins tomorrow in Paris. (CBS-3)

YELENA BONNER

Wallace reports Yelena Bonner failed to return to Moscow from the closed city of Gorky today as she had planned. Her son in the U.S. says he fears his mother will again be denied communication with the outside world. (NBC-4)

CHERNOBYL

Sawyer reports it was revealed today in Moscow that the plant's director and chief engineer have both been sacked. Pravda said they did not provide responsible leadership and failed to comprehend the seriousness of the accident until it was too late. (CBS-8, NBC-5)

CHINA/SPACE

Wallace reports that with the U.S. space program in disarray, China is moving to fill the gap. The People's Republic has agreed to launch two satellites for an American company, and Hughes aircraft has made another proposal: Use Chinese rockets to launch western satellites from a new space center to be built in Hawaii. (NBC-6)

LIBYA

Wallace reports that Libya's official news agency claims that wreckage from an American bomber, lost during the U.S. raid last April, has washed ashore on the Libyan coast. Since then, observers say Khadafy seems to have lost his spark, and just perhaps his support at home.

NBC's Rick Davis reports that the fire may be dying out. There was little of the old spark when Col. Khadafy spoke on radio and television last week. Long time observers, including diplomats, spoke of Khadafy's drawn appearance, his hesitant delivery.... Stores are closed -- there are few consumer goods to sell. There are reports of trouble in the military -- that officers were executed after an attempted coup. And a few western diplomats say Khadafy is on the way out. But third world diplomats say any talk about the quick fall of Col. Khadafy is just wishful thinking. And they say if Americans thought the air raids of April 15th would bring him down, it was a naive thought. In fact, the U.S. raids may have helped Khadafy in the short run. It united the people. Khadafy says Americans will invade Libya and Libyans must be ready for further sacrifices.

Wallace reports there are indications today that Libya is not backing off. Khadafy's right-hand man says Libya is considering joining the Warsaw Pact, the military alliance headed by the Soviet Union.

(NBC-8)

WEST GERMAN ELECTIONS

Sawyer reports coming less than two months after Chernobyl, some Germans were calling today's state election practically a referendum on the future of nuclear power in West Germany. The results are in -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling party did not lose, but it didn't have much to brag about either.

CBS's Burt Quint reports that German's have been obsessed with radioactivity since the accident in the Ukraine. Pollsters said it worried them even more than the building of the Berlin wall. The pro-nuclear stand of the Christian Democrats hurt them today.... There's little reassurance here for Kohl. If this was the weather vane election it was billed as, it means stormy times ahead for one of Washington's most reliable allies.

(TV coverage: The President walking with Chancellor Kohl.) (CBS-9)

ISRAEL

Sawyer reports Israel's Prime Minister appealed for peace tonight inside his own country. Tension is growing and violence worsening between secular Jews and ultra-Orthodox Jews in a clash that is threatening the fabric of the state.

CBS's Bill Redeker reports that ultra-Orthodox Jews are defacing posters on bus shelters that they consider provocative. Their campaign really heated up when they began burning down dozens of the shelters.

(CBS-10, NBC-7)

PERKINS' DEATH

Sawyer reports that Marlin Perkins, the man who brought the world of wild animals into the living rooms of America has dies of cancer in St. Louis. He was 81. He was the host of TV's Wild Kingdom for 23 years.

(CBS-12)

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ABC -- THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY

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

Guests: John Shad, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission; John Phelan, Jr., Chairman and CEO of the New York Stock Exchange; James Balog, Vice Chairman of Drexel Burnham Lambert; Samuel Hayes III, Professor of Investment Banking at Harvard Business School.

The discussion dealt with insider trading and what is being done to control the problems which have shown up recently through the Dennis Levine case.

FREE-FOR-ALL DISCUSSION -- Bob Maynard joins panel.

Brinkley: There are other things this week: A Gallup poll showing that Mr. Reagan has the highest approval rating he has ever had half way through his second term in office. What do you make of that?

Donaldson: Ronald Reagan is a popular guy. And it's not him, his policies so far, so good.

Maynard: His policies are not necessarily as popular as he is as a personality. Ronald Reagan is unusual in the degree to which he has managed to master communication. And he is "well-handled" by those who work for him. When he loses his script or loses his place in the script, as in Wednesday's press conference, you see a different image of the President.

Brinkley: We've all said Ronald Reagan is a great communicator. But to be a great communicator you must have something to communicate, of substance and appeal, so what makes him a great communicator?

Will: About the 4-millionth time a sports writer asked Joe Namath, "To what, Mr. Namath, do you attribute your success?", Namath said, "I am one helluva quarterback." I think the reason Reagan is succeeding is he's a pretty good President. And that is, not the cosmetics of it, it is because his policies are by and large working and the ideas he has are ideas that find a residence in the country.

Maynard: Prosperity tends to cause people to look with a certain benign attitude toward whoever's in the White House.

Donaldson: He is lucky. His policies may be working to a large extent, but he also has the great luck. He didn't have a 100% increase in oil prices as Carter had in '79 -- something that was not Carter's fault. The fact that OPEC is dropping apart now is not Reagan's doing. But it's okay with me that he gets the profit from that because when things go wrong in this world, even if it's not his fault, he'll get the blame.... Ronald Reagan is the man for the times from the standpoint of the national mood. He tells us it's morning in America. He tells us we're terrific, he tells us there's nothing we can't do.

THIS WEEK (continued)

Will: One of the things Ronald Reagan understands is the fecundity of happiness -- get people feeling good and see what happens. They're going to start having babies, staying in school, investing their money, and the country will be energized.

On SALT II:

Brinkley: Where does it stand?

Will: Dead. Decisions about American arms will no longer be taken with reference to SALT II limits.

Donaldson: Forget the pieces of paper. It's the limits, it's the restraints that both sides have been agreeing to politically. I don't think they're dead. I think the President said, hard-liners you have not yet won.

Maynard: He is confusing himself, he's confusing this country, he has confused any notion of a consensus with our allies in Western Europe. Gorbachev is rising from the ashes of Chernobyl on the confusion we have created about SALT.

Donaldson: We're still abiding by it. Mr. Reagan has not broken it yet, and I think we'll get to the end of the summer and he'll find some reason, maybe having nothing to do with the SALT treaty, to retire another submarine.

Will: Small wager?

Donaldson: Okay.

On South Africa:

Brinkley: How long can this go on?

Maynard: It's on the brink of a catastrophe. I think we could see one of the largest countries on the globe in the midst of some of the worst bloodshed we have ever seen. The government seems to be caught between its right wing which is urging it to be tougher, and the moderates who are looking for ways to pacify a rising rebellion.

Donaldson: George Shultz in recent days has been very forceful in his language, but the problem is we apparently have not anything in our arsenal that we think will be effective.

Maynard: I'm not sure that there's no weapon in our arsenal. The U.S. and Great Britain have the leverage available in this situation to be much more effective with that Botha government than they have chosen to be.... I hope the Reagan Administration finds it necessary soon to get much more involved with the process of urging the Botha government to dismantle apartheid before it's much too late.