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TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Blacks By Million Quit Jobs For Day In South Africa -- Millions of blacks, defying the government's most severe crackdown on dissent, stayed away from work today in a subdued protest to mark the 10th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising.

(New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times)

Gorbachev Attacks U.S. Policy But Says Summit Possible -- Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has criticized Washington for rejecting a series of Moscow's arms control proposals but said a new U.S.-Soviet summit could still be held if there was a chance it would produce results.

(Washington Post, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

GOP Leaders: Tax Reform Plan Will Pass This Week -- A slowdown in debate forced Republican leaders to adjust predictions of exactly when the Senate will approve its tax reform plan, but they insist it will pass intact this week, even if it means a rare weekend session.

(Washington Post, AP, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

SOUTH AFRICA -- Millions of blacks stayed away from their jobs to mark the tenth anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

SOUTH AFRICA REACTION -- All Western governments concerned, including Israel, say no to severe economic sanctions.

TAX REFORM -- There are still some hurdles to clear on the sweeping tax reform bill.

Dunagin's People



'A fair tax system is one that is equally unfair to everyone.'

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BLACKS BY THE MILLIONS STRIKE IN SOUTH AFRICA TO MARK ANNIVERSARY

JOHANNESBURG -- Millions of blacks stayed away from their jobs today, bringing South Africa's major cities to a virtual standstill in commemoration of the 1976 Soweto uprising, while the government imposed stringent new restrictions on news coverage under the country's state of emergency.

The downtown streets of this usually bustling city, South Africa's largest, were all but deserted, and most shops and department stores were either closed or nearly empty. Observers estimated that the one-day, nationwide general strike was at least 90 percent effective among blacks in Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and in the capital, Pretoria; 80 percent in Cape Town, and between 30 and 40 percent in Durban.

(Glenn Frankel, Washington Post, A1)

South Africa Slams Tight Lid On Soweto Day

CAPE TOWN -- South Africa's security machine left black protesters leaderless yesterday and their plans for mass violence were reduced to spasmodic and scattered incidents commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

Black workers staged a nationwide strike, but the level of violence reported by a strictly censored press indicated that South Africa had its quietest Soweto Day since the original riots of June 16, 1976.

(Peter Younghusband, Washington Times, A1)

Blacks By Million Quit Jobs For Day In South Africa

JOHANNESBURG -- Millions of blacks, defying the government's most severe crackdown on dissent, stayed away from work today in a subdued protest to mark the 10th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising.

The authorities, meanwhile, reported that eight more blacks had been killed overnight in the nation's segregated black townships and ordered the most sweeping restrictions on press coverage since the hard-line Nationalists came to power in 1948. (Alan Cowell, New York Times, A1)

CALLS FOR SANCTIONS, DEMONSTRATION MARK SOWETO ANNIVERSARY IN CAPITAL

Members of Congress have used the 10th anniversary of the Soweto riots to argue that it is time for the United States to impose stiffer sanctions on South Africa, while demonstrators took to the streets of the capital peacefully to mark the occasion.

"The time has come for real economic sanctions," Sen. Gary Hart told about 600 demonstrators who gathered outside the South African Embassy Monday to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

White House officials said President Pieter Botha had defiantly rejected a personal appeal from President Reagan last week for restraint and an end to the nationwide state of emergency decree, The New York Times reported in today's editions.

(Joan Mower, AP)

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17 Arrested At Embassy In Apartheid Protest

Seventeen persons, including Del. Walter Fauntroy and U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Mary Berry, were arrested at the door of the South African Embassy here yesterday during a peaceful demonstration to mark the 10th anniversary of the uprising in that country's black township of Soweto.

Fauntroy, Berry and Randall Robinson, head of TransAfrica, handcuffed themselves to metal railings on steps outside the embassy after a rally of an estimated 600 protesters. There were calls for immediate imposition of harsher U.S. economic sanctions against the white minority government of South Africa because of its policy of rigid racial segregation.

(Ed Bruske, Washington Post, A19)

TOP ANC LEADER SAYS STATE DEPT. WON'T SEE HIM

Officials at the State Department, which has been pressing South Africa to open talks with the opposition African National Congress, apparently will not meet with ANC Secretary-General Alfred Nzo, who is visiting here.

Nzo said yesterday that he had asked to see State Department officials but received "no response."

A State Department official said there are "no plans" to meet with Nzo during his visit. Spokesman Charles Redman said the department has no record of a request by Nzo for a meeting with any department official.

(David Ottaway, Washington Post, A17)

SOUTH AFRICA REJECTS U.N. APPEAL

UNITED NATIONS -- South Africa Monday rejected a unanimous appeal by the U.N. Security Council to release all detainees and lift the state of emergency in that country, calling it an incitement to "hate, violence and revolution."

A statement by South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha said the appeal issued by the 15-nation council Friday in anticipation of Monday's anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising was a misuse of the council's function.

(UPI)

U.S. SAYS SOUTH AFRICA HOLDING 3 AMERICANS

A white college freshman from California is among three Americans being held under South Africa's state of emergency following his arrest Sunday at a mixed-race church service near Cape Town commemorating the 1976 Soweto riots, the State Department said yesterday.

Joseph Reed, a department spokesman, said Scott Daugherty of San Diego, identified by a family member as an 18-year-old student at Humboldt College in northern California, was being held in Polsmoor prison in Cape Town. U.S. diplomats have not been allowed to contact Daugherty, Reed said.

(Philip Smith, Washington Post, A19)

GORBACHEV SAYS SUMMIT DEPENDS ON U.S. ATTITUDE

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in a report today to Communist Party leaders, said that a new summit meeting with President Reagan was possible, but only if the atmosphere was conducive to "real agreements."

"We are not slamming shut the door," Gorbachev said, according to the Soviet news agency Tass. But he questioned recent U.S. actions, including renunciation of the unratified Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty II, which he said "still further aggravates international relations."

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A1)

Gorbachev Attacks U.S. Policy But Says Summit Possible

MOSCOW -- Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has criticized Washington for rejecting a series of Moscow's arms control proposals but said a new U.S.-Soviet summit could still be held if there was a chance it would produce results.

Gorbachev added that recent U.S. acts led him to doubt that President Reagan wanted a second summit, due this year as a follow-up to their meeting in Geneva last November.

(Helen Womack, Reuter)

SOVIETS HAVE 10-YEAR LEAD IN SPACE RACE

LONDON -- The Soviets are 10 years ahead of the United States in space use and experience -- "almost out of sight" -- while NASA is still reeling from the Challenger disaster, Jane's 1986 Spaceflight Directory said.

"The Soviet lead in space is now almost frightening," Jane's said.

"For all NASA's brilliant interplanetary successes...(they) are now 10 years behind the Soviets in the practical utilization" of space, it said.

(Lee Stokes, UPI)

REAGAN SAYS SOVIETS GIVE SANDINISTAS EDGE

Soviet pilots, who recently began reconnaissance flights in Central America, have given the Nicaraguan government an advantage over the rebels fighting the Sandinista regime, President Reagan said yesterday.

The President also reiterated his earlier charge that the Soviet Union has resumed direct military aid to the Marxist Sandinista government, along with growing oppression of labor unions, religious groups, opposing political parties and the Miskito Indians.

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

REAGAN TO CERTIFY AWACS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA

President Reagan will tell Congress this week that Saudi Arabia has met congressional conditions on the sale of five advanced radar planes and that the delivery of the first aircraft should proceed as planned at the end of June, aides said yesterday.

The certification, which congressional aides said is expected as early as Wednesday, will detail the Reagan Administration's contention that Saudi Arabia has contributed significantly to the Middle East peace process.

"I really don't think there'll be a big fight this time," said an aide to Rep. Mel Levine, who led the House battle against the missile sale. Sen. Alan Cranston, who led the Senate fight, said he would not fight the AWACS sale but did not rule out another legislator taking the lead.

(Reuter story, Washington Post, A6)

AFGHAN REBELS ASK FOR U.S. RECOGNITION

Afghan resistance leaders appealed to President Reagan yesterday to break diplomatic ties with the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul and extend full recognition to the rebels, but Reagan said it would be "premature" to do so now, according to the leaders and White House officials.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan believes U.S. representation in Kabul "plays a role in our efforts to be helpful to the resistance and our efforts to continue working with the Afghan people" against the Soviet occupation.

(David Hoffman & David Ottaway, Washington Post, A12)

Afghan Rebels Vow To Set Up Own Government, But Reagan Won't Recognize It

President Reagan has rejected a request by Afghan guerrillas that he break relations with the Soviet-backed Kabul regime, but rebel leaders say they will establish their own government and seek sophisticated arms to defend it.

Reagan told the Afghans on Monday that although recognition was important, it was too early to make a decision. He also said any negotiated settlement to the fighting must provide for withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan and a method of permitting the Afghans to determine their own form of government, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said.

(Bryan Brumley, AP)

REAGAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY

Economics and trade are high on the agenda for today's talks between President Reagan and Uruguay's President Julio Sanguinetti, aides say.

An official, who asked not to be identified, said price cutting by the Common Market "is having a very deleterious impact on the Uruguay economy."

While "the main theme of the visit is the support" of Uruguay's transition to democracy, the official said, "Economics will be the theme of this visit as well."

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

PASTORA SEEKS TO CHALLENGE SANDINISTAS POLITICALLY

CARACAS -- Nicaraguan rebel leader Eden Pastora said yesterday that he is trying to mount a political challenge to the Nicaraguan government, but he left open the possibility of reconciliation with the Sandinistas.

Pastora, who arrived here yesterday, ruled out joining forces with the U.S.-backed contras fighting the Nicaraguan government.

The contras "have no chance whatsoever of military or political victory," he said. (Tyler Bridges, Washington Post, A12)

U.S. WON'T PAY LIBYA TO IDENTIFY RECOVERED BODY

The State Department yesterday ruled out a ransom payment or other concessions to Libya in order to determine whether a body that reportedly washed ashore is that of one of the two American airmen lost in the April 15 bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi.

"Simple humanity would dictate a prompt resolution of this issue," said Bernard Kalb, department spokesman.

But he said, "We have not, as yet, received any response to various diplomatic approaches through various channels about identifying the body." (AP story, Washington Post, A16)

DEEPER ISRAELI ROLE IN POLLARD CASE SEEN

As the New York-bound El Al jet cruised through the darkness last Dec. 20, exhausted U.S. investigators quietly celebrated the successes of their trip: Israeli officials implicated in the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy case finally had been questioned, Israel had returned the classified U.S. documents, and Israeli leaders had pledged full cooperation.

Yet the investigators were still nagged by suspicions that they hadn't been told the full story despite nine days of sleuthing in Israel.

"I don't know that it was a renegade operation," said Sen. David Durenberger, chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, which has been briefed on the case by Justice Department officials. "What we know today that we didn't know a year ago is that we need more information... The investigation...is ongoing." (Joe Pichirallo, Washington Post, A3)

U.S. AMBASSADOR RESPONDS TO REPORTS ACCUSING MILITARY CHIEF

PANAMA CITY -- U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis gave Panama the Reagan Administration's response Monday to news reports linking Panama's military chief to drugs, weapons trafficking and spying for the United States and Cuba.

Davis would not disclose the contents of the document he handed over to the Foreign Ministry, but confirmed it was the official response from the U.S. government to reports last week by The New York Times and NBC News. (Elizabeth Love, UPI)

VATICAN ENVOY FORCED OUT AS 'SELF-SERVING,' OFFICIAL CLAIMS

William Wilson was asked to resign as ambassador to the Vatican because of allegations that he tried to use his office for personal gain, a senior Administration official says.

Mr. Wilson, who announced his resignation at a May 21 Rome press conference, actually was "forced out" of his job, the official said.

"I'm not aware of any efforts by the ambassador to influence U.S. or Vatican policy on Chile," Bill Barnes, the ambassador's spokesman in Rome, said in a telephone interview.

(J. H. Doyle, Washington Times, A1)

NATIONAL NEWS

TAX BILL BACK ON NO-AMENDMENT TRACK

The Senate revived its no-amendment approach to tax revision yesterday, voting to preserve a \$100 million tax break for Phillips Petroleum Co. as the bill headed for final passage later this week.

Finance Committee aides, meanwhile, denied rumors that Chairman Bob Packwood will support an amendment at the close of consideration of the bill to provide transition breaks for senators whose requests were not included in the committee bill. The Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated that those requests would cost about \$7 billion over five years.

(Anne Swardson & Dale Russakoff, Washington Post, A4)

Senate May Approve Many Hidden Tax Breaks In Tax Overhaul Bill

The Senate, marching toward approval this week of a landmark overhaul of the federal tax code, appears ready to preserve scores of special tax breaks buried in the legislation when it was drafted by the Finance Committee.

Sen. Bob Packwood has given up optimistic predictions that the Senate would complete work on the measure by today and as discussion of the remaining amendments drags on, Senate leaders now are looking toward final passage by Wednesday or Thursday.

(Cliff Haas, AP)

GOP Leaders: Tax Reform Plan Will Pass This Week

A slowdown in debate forced Republican leaders to adjust predictions of exactly when the Senate will approve its tax reform plan, but they insist it will pass intact this week, even if it means a rare weekend session.

In a day marked mostly by inaction, the GOP-led Senate spent hours Monday talking about the sweeping bill drafted by the Finance Committee, but took only one vote, agreeing to save an estimated \$100 million tax break written into the bill for the Phillips Petroleum Co.

A handful of major amendments are still pending and a host of smaller challenges are possible, although Sen. Bob Packwood says he is confident the bill will pass with no serious alterations.

(Joseph Mianowany, UPI)

Progressivity In Taxes: Back To The Campaign?

Today Sen. George Mitchell will bring the question of progressivity onto the floor of the Senate. He will introduce an amendment adding a third rate of 35 percent for wealthy taxpayers (on top of the 15 percent and 27 percent rates in the current bill), and plowing the revenues raised by this third rate into bigger tax reductions for the middle class.

No one thinks Mitchell's amendment will pass; few think it will come close. Even such liberals as Sens. Edward Kennedy and Gary Hart plan to vote against it.

(Paul Taylor, Washington Post, A21)

A 'COURT RULING' THAT WASN'T

An odd thing happened on the way to the historic Supreme Court decision expected yesterday on the constitutionality of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-balancing law.

All Washington was ready. Rep. Mike Synar, one of 11 members of Congress who had challenged the law, had scheduled a news conference to proclaim victory.

Instead of being witnesses to history, however, the spectators heard the justices opine on the subjects of federal Indian law preemption and tortious conduct on the high seas. Then they admitted a group of New Jersey lawyers to the Supreme Court bar and got up and left.

There was no Gramm-Rudman-Hollings ruling.

(Al Kamen & Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A1)

BUDGET COMPROMISE OUT

Budget director James Miller said yesterday the Reagan Administration cannot support a proposed budget compromise from the Republican-controlled Senate that calls for tax increases to finance extra spending for defense and domestic programs.

Miller warned that it may be "a long hot summer...into the fall" before the fiscal 1987 budget controversy is resolved.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A5)

DEFENSE SPENDING WILL RISE EVEN IF BUDGETS ARE CUT

Although President Reagan's unprecedented five-year military buildup has crested, military spending will continue to rise through the rest of his presidency and beyond even if annual Pentagon appropriations decline sharply, according to Defense Department, congressional and industry officials.

In the eye of this political storm over how much is enough for defense is Secretary Caspar Weinberger. He has instructed the services to plan their future budgets on the assumption that they will keep receiving 3 percent growth above inflation adjustments, and that Reagan will receive his requested \$320 billion for fiscal 1987.

(George Wilson, News Analysis, Washington Post, A1)

SUPREME COURT SAYS NORFOLK MAY ABANDON SCHOOL BUSING

The Supreme Court agreed yesterday to allow Norfolk to return to a public school system with neighborhood elementary schools this fall, permitting the Virginia city to become the first in the nation to win court approval to abandon a busing program that successfully integrated schools.

Although the court dealt only with the issue of when the city could abandon its busing plan, its action yesterday may signal that opponents of the Norfolk plan will have difficulty gaining enough votes to win a full hearing over the issue.

The court's action yesterday was regarded as a victory for the Reagan Administration.

(Donald Baker, Washington Post, A1)

NEWS FROM THE STATES

MIDWEST GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI) -- Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste told the nation's Midwestern governors today their states have staged a "homegrown" economic recovery in spite of, and not because of, the policies of the Reagan Administration.

In opening the initial plenary session of the 25th Annual Midwestern Governors' Conference, Celeste described the Midwest as the "heartland" of the nation and said it has the important resources of food, water and knowledge to continue its recovery.

"I think that the recovery of America's heartland is homegrown in significant ways, and in many respects it is occurring in spite of and not because of policies in Washington."

TELLER: STAR WARS' BEST DETERRENT

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (UPI) -- Nobel laureate Edward Teller, participating in a secret Strategic Defense Initiative conference, says President Reagan's "Star Wars" missile defense shield is the nation's best hope for peace.

Teller, who spoke with reporters Thursday, said a shift in U.S. military policy from the threat of retaliation toward an invulnerable defense system is long overdue.

"A good defensive system should have been used 20 or 30 years ago," he said. "I believe defense is the best deterrent."

PILOT THREATENS TO DROP COCAINE BOMB

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) -- Russell Howard Hancock, a Nashville test pilot, says he plans to drop a fake nuclear warhead filled with cocaine over the U.S. Capitol -- to get his anti-drug smuggling point across to the government.

The only thing that would stop him from proceeding with his plan would be a direct request from President Reagan telling him not to do it, Hancock said, adding that he was not expecting that to happen.

"Hancock is the subject of an ongoing investigation by our intelligence group, the FBI and other federal agencies," said Inspector Robert Howe of the U.S. Capitol Hill Police. "I really can't comment more than that."

TERRORISTS' WON'T CLOSE CLINICS

ST. LOUIS (UPI) -- The director of an abortion clinic struck by a weekend firebombing said Monday she expected little help in investigating the incident from the FBI or the "hostile" Reagan Administration.

Judith Widdicombe, director of a suburban clinic damaged by fire Saturday, said clinic officials were "in the process of developing a strategy" to deal with possible future incidents. Authorities said the fire at Reproductive Health Services was set deliberately.

"We have an administration that is exceedingly hostile," she said. "The FBI is part of that Administration."

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Monday Evening, June 16, 1986)

SOUTH AFRICA

CBS's Dan Rather reported that only South Africa's white minority rulers know what really happened today -- how much killing there was -- because of the tightest press censorship they've ever ordered, there can be no independent reporting or confirmation. The white rulers say eight blacks were killed yesterday, but they say none died today. They say their massive show of force blocked black plans to make this what they call, "a day of anarchy". Millions of black workers honored the anniversary by striking. Bishop Desmond Tutu told a white congregation, "The government is rubbing our noses in the dust. There was scattered violence in the black townships but Soweto apparently was quiet, described by one resident as almost like a town in mourning."

CBS's Alan Pizzey: This is where it all began ten years ago. Today the only pictures allowed in Soweto are the ones taken by the government controlled television. Reporters were banned from Soweto. But there was an eyewitness. Bishop Desmond Tutu drove through Soweto this morning.

(Bishop Tutu: "There is a kind of solemn peace there.")

Rather reports the unprecedented press censorship and intimidation was imposed Thursday as part of the government's latest, what it called, state of emergency. One white opposition politician told Parliament today, "There is probably less freedom in South Africa at present than in communist Russia"... Is the white minority government's ability to repress black protest being stretched to the limit by all this? Not by a long-shot.

CBS's Steve Croft reports the South African government is still in control and despite the brutality and repression, it likes to brag that it's used only one tenth of the force at its disposal in its war against anti-apartheid activists and the African National Congress.... Despite isolated bombing attacks, the black resistance is still largely unarmed and unorganized. (CBS-Lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: Because of a wide-spread government crackdown on news coverage there is only so much we can show you tonight on what happened in South Africa today. Millions of blacks stayed home, off the job, to mark the tenth anniversary of a bloody uprising in the black township of Soweto. The state of emergency imposed by the white government did keep the lid on -- for now at least. Police and army troops were stationed throughout the country. Authorities say about eight blacks were killed from about noon yesterday to noon today, but government officials that the violence would have been much greater if there no state of emergency. (NBC-Lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: This is the tenth anniversary of something called the Soweto uprising. Nothing in South Africa was ever the same again. Because of the present state of emergency imposed by the white minority government, it has been a very difficult anniversary to commemorate.... There was apparently violence in several black townships near Johannesburg, Capetown, and Port Elizabeth.

(ABC-Lead)

SOUTH AFRICA REACTION

Rather reports South Africa's anniversary of bloody Soweto increased pressure on President Reagan and America's European Allies to make South Africa pay economically. But so far all Western governments concerned including Israel say no.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: Hundreds of demonstrators marched in Washington's sweltering 90 degree heat in support of South Africa's black majority. Seventeen were arrested after they handcuffed themselves to the entrance of the South African Embassy. In scattered groups from Chicago, to Atlanta, to Tallahassee, Americans marched and protested. The demonstrations were directed as much at the Reagan Administration as at the regime in Pretoria. In Congress, moves to force new sanctions against South Africa gained momentum.

(Sen. Kennedy: "The Administration clings to a bankrupt policy that puts the U.S. on the wrong side of history and human rights in South Africa.")

(The President this afternoon: "I won't take any questions.")

The President was silent on the issue but a spokesman argued against sanctions and any moves to pull U.S. companies out of South Africa.

(Secretary Shultz: "To just pull out means that we sort of cop out. Where are you when you're not there anymore? What influence do you have left?")

But even within the Administration there's growing fear that the policy might not work.

(Assistant Secretary of State, Alan Keyes: "It may not end cleanly. It may not end cleanly no matter what we do. We may be looking at Africa's Lebanon, Africa's Northern Ireland, Africa's endless cycle.") Republicans in Congress have warned the President that he could become isolated over South Africa and end up losing control of foreign policy as a growing bipartisanship develops opposing him on defense spending, arms control, Contra aid, and now South African sanctions.

CBS's Doug Tunnell reports ten years after Soweto Western Europe is united in condemning apartheid but just as divided as ever on what to do about it.... European Foreign Ministers, meeting in Luxembourg today, refused to adopt new restrictions on South African food imports and air links with Europe. British officials opposed what they described as hasty solutions. And when French Prime Minister Chirac was asked about economic sanctions, he simply backed away from the microphone.... The United Nations conference on sanctions opened in Paris today but none of South Africa's leading trade partners participated. The only Americans here were unofficial and angry that the American government did not take part. The conference agreed to a long communique denouncing the state of emergency, to be telexed to the people of South Africa, who will almost certainly never have the chance to read it.

(CBS-2)

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Jennings: In many parts of the world today it has been an occasion of solidarity with South Africa's majority.

ABC's John Martin: Demonstrators showed up to commemorate the Soweto uprising and to be arrested outside the South African embassy here in Washington. They called for an end to Ronald Reagan's policy of friendly persuasion.

(Sen. Gary Hart: "I call upon our President to make direct contact with the President of South Africa -- to say to Mr. Botha that this nation intends to impose real economic sanctions.")

This week the House votes on a bill to ban any new investment in South Africa by American firms. The Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has been opposed to new sanctions. Today he issued a statement calling for greater efforts without such sanctions. But a leading Republican colleague broke ranks with her President on this issue.

(Sen. Kassebaum: "Faced with no means to influence events and little hope for progress, the only action left to us is to protest in the strongest terms possible. This is why I say economic sanctions may now be unavoidable.")

At the White House, meeting with Afghan rebels, the President refused to be drawn into the question.

(TV coverage: The President at White House with Afghan leaders. Reporter: Mr. President are you planning any actions against the South African government to put pressure on them?

The President: "I'm not going to take any questions at this.")

But at a State Department conference the Secretary of State insisted there should be no change.

(Secretary Shultz: "We are not in favor of drastic sanctions now. But that doesn't mean by any means that we are blessing the situation or even remotely so.")

The clamor for government sanctions comes as private efforts are expanding. Bank of America said today it won't lend any more money to South Africans.... The Reagan Administration insists that sanctions do more harm than good, so unless Congress insists, there won't be any new sanctions.

Jennings reports a United Nations conference on possible sanctions against South Africa opened today in Paris, timed to coincide with the Soweto anniversary. Three of South Africa's most important trading partners were not there: Britain, West Germany, and the U.S. A U.S. spokesman said the meeting was, "pre-cooked", and was unlikely to accomplish anything. (ABC-2)

Brokaw reports opponents of the South African government are stepping up their campaign for economic sanctions against that country -- that is stopping all trade or cutting it back sharply -- but the Reagan Administration and other key Western leaders are resisting this idea.

NBC's Richard Valeriani: In Paris, the Reverend Jesse Jackson and singer Harry Belafonte appeared at a meeting of UNESCO to appeal for economic sanctions against South Africa.

(Rev. Jackson: "Apartheid can not do without America, and the Western democratic allies.")

NBC's Valeriani continues: In Luxembourg, the 12 Foreign Ministers of the European Common Market countries talked about sanctions but put off a decision pending further study. However, Margaret Thatcher is said to be putting together a package of political, trade, and financial restrictions to be imposed later this summer. It reportedly includes such measures as cutting direct air service between the two countries. In this country, calls for American economic sanctions were heard at anti-apartheid demonstrations in several cities including one rally in Washington. There was also bipartisan talk of sanctions on Capitol Hill.

(Sen. Kennedy: "The case for economic sanctions is clear. Quiet diplomacy has failed.")

(Sen. Kassebaum: "In recent days I have come to the conclusion that sanctions are probably inevitable.")

Two-way trade between the U.S. and South Africa totalled almost three and a half billion dollars last year making this country South Africa's number one trading partner. The Reagan Administration has already banned the sale of South African gold coins in the U.S. and could extend the embargo to other products or even order American companies out of South Africa. But as Secretary of State Shultz reiterated late today, the Administration remains adamantly opposed to stronger economic sanctions.

(Secretary Shultz: "To just pull out means that we sort of cop out. Where are you when you're not there anymore. What influence do you have left?")

The House is expected to pass a resolution later this week calling for economic sanctions against South Africa, but officials here say the Administration's "no sanctions" policy is not under review and will not be affected by the vote. (NBC-2)

TAX REFORM

Jennings: The Senate is nearing the end of its debate on the tax reform bill. There are still some hurdles to clear.

ABC's Brit Hume: They didn't do anything to change this bill today, and it appears that the next big test, which could come tomorrow, will be on an amendment to be offered by Sen. Mitchell of Maine that would add one more bracket, one more tax bracket for individuals to this bill. Sen. Mitchell and some other Democrats are saying that this is too easy on upper-income people and they want to hit them a little harder with a 35% bracket. Senator Packwood, says they have the votes to beat that.

Jennings: What's the key to keeping the momentum going?

Hume: The key to this thing is keeping this bill intact to go into the conference. The Mitchell amendment would make this bill look very much more like the House bill which has three brackets for individuals and is much tougher on upper-income people than this bill would be. So the Senate bill needs to stay intact to give them the momentum they think they have to have in the conference.

Jennings: And the clout in the conference. (ABC-10)

CONTRA AID

Brokaw: President Reagan again today took up the lobbying effort for his military aid proposal for the Contras.

(TV coverage: The President at speech today)

He told 200 private sector supporters of this policy -- he said it was time to put out the maximum effort to win House approval for his aid request. And the President unveiled what he said was the latest evidence of Soviet influence in Nicaragua. The President showed the group a still photo of a Soviet reconnaissance plane which he said was flown by a Soviet pilot at least four times over Contra positions in Nicaragua. White House Spokesman Larry Speakes said later that while not illegal, the Soviet flights do show Moscow's increasing involvement in Nicaragua. (NBC-5)

Rather: With next week's House vote on Contra aid in view, President

Reagan spoke today to a group that backs his position on giving more money to the Nicaraguan rebels.

(TV coverage: The President at speech today)

Behind him, on an easel, was one of the President's exhibits -- a photo of the Soviet spy plane he says is being used to help the Sandinistas fight the Contras. (CBS-2)

SOVIET ARMS PROPOSAL

Jennings reports Mikhail Gorbachev today made public part of the Soviet's most recent proposal to the U.S. on arms control. The Soviets suggest lowering the ceiling of nuclear warheads each side may have to 8,000. The U.S. has suggested a ceiling of 6,000. The Soviets also suggest reducing the number of long-range delivery systems to 1,600 each. The Soviets say that research on star wars, the President's Strategic Defense Initiative, could continue in the lab but the U.S. would also have to abide by the anti-ballistic missile treaty for the next 15 years. The Reagan Administration is giving this proposal very serious consideration. There has been, you may notice, none of the usual public analysis. (ABC-7)

SUMMIT LETTER TO GORBACHEV

Brokaw: The White House said today that President Reagan has not yet received a reply to his letter late last month to Soviet leader Gorbachev about preparations for a super-power summit between the two countries. (NBC-7)

AFGHAN LEADERS

Brokaw: Four leaders of the rebels fighting Afghanistan's Marxist regime met today at the White House with President Reagan and Secretary Shultz. One of the Afghans called for official U.S. diplomatic recognition of their movement. The President called that premature. (NBC-6)

Rather: The President also met at the White House today with four top Afghan rebel leaders.

(TV coverage: The President at the White House with Afghan leaders) They asked for more military help to fight Soviet occupiers and they said that U.S. Stinger missiles President Reagan had promised haven't arrived yet. The rebel leaders honored America's war-dead at the tomb of the unknowns at Arlington. (CBS-4)

GRAMM-RUDMAN

Jennings reports the Supreme Court was expected to issue its decision today on certain provisions of the Gramm-Rudman budget-cutting law. Yesterday, ABC's law correspondent Tim O'Brien reported on the Justice's decision, and today as O'Brien reports, the Court decided to hold off on its announcement.

ABC's Tim O'Brien: ABC News learned over the weekend from highly reliable sources that the Supreme Court was poised to invalidate critical sections of the Gramm-Rudman law, that Chief Justice Burger would write the decision, and that the vote would be 7-2. The decision, when issued, is expected to turn on the role of the Comptroller General.... Sen. Gramm, when informed of the impending ruling, said it would not necessarily be fatal.

(Sen. Gramm: "I've already told the President and told the leadership of the Senate that if the Supreme Court did take some teeth out of Gramm-Rudman, that there would be a Gramm-Rudman II. I'm not going to let the Congress get off the hook and put the American taxpayer and the American worker back on the hook.")

Sources told ABC News the Gramm-Rudman ruling would be one of three decisions to be released by the Court this morning. But then shortly before today's decisions were to be released, the Court's press office announced a change. There would only be two rulings. It would not disclose which decision had been pulled or explain why. But in the past, the Justices have delayed announcing decisions because of leaks -- changing the date but not the decision. Gramm-Rudman's automatic trigger will still be invalidated by the Court. Not today, but definitely before the term is over -- any time in the next three weeks. (ABC-3)

Rather: Can the U.S. Congress vote away its own year-to-year specific budget responsibilities provided in the constitution as part of the nation's system of checks and balances? A key part of the new Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law dealing with future budgets is now before the Supreme Court. ABC News reported last night the Court has decided 7-2 that the key part is not constitutional. Apparently annoyed about the leak, the Court didn't allow the decision to be officially announced today as scheduled. (CBS-5)

DRUG ABUSE

Rather: Part of today's national scene includes a flood of drug abuse and a restrictive flow of federal money to fight it. With that in mind, CBS News correspondent Rita Braver reports tonight on a million dollar federal drug program that has a lot of people asking, "Where did the money go?"

CBS's Rita Braver: Flanked by Attorney General Edwin Meese, the First Lady kicked off a national partnership to prevent drug and alcohol abuse among youth.

(The First Lady at kick-off ceremony: "With help like this, I can even see my dreams of ending this terrible problem maybe becoming a reality.")

And the help looked good. A \$1 million grant from the Justice Department, a star-studded board of trustees from politics, the corporate world, and public service. The idea: Fight substance abuse with a national clearinghouse for information on good programs, raise money in the private sector. But it never happened and today, eight months later, the Justice Department had this news:

(Verne Speirs at Justice Department: "...Have suspended the programmatic and the financial disbursement of funds in the program and it's in a period of review.")

Despite the White House endorsement, the grant had always been controversial. One Justice Department official wrote, "I was troubled by the amount of money you propose to spend...and the vagueness of the entire initiative. But others including the Attorney General liked the idea.

(James Wooten at Justice Department: "Everybody would agree that the idea was good, the concept was good, the organization was good, and personality conflicts prevented it from being a success.")

House and Senate committees are launching their own investigations.

(Rep. Kildee: "Half the money is gone but nothing yet reaching kids.")

Still there are some believers.

(Robert Baldwin: "I think that is a very, very worthwhile effort and one that must continue whether it's through the partnership or some other means.")

Mrs. Reagan's office had no comment. A Justice Department spokesman said the Attorney General still hopes to save the partnership. (CBS-6)

Jennings: ABC News has learned that the Reagan Administration has decided to stop providing funds for a much publicized drug abuse program -- a program that never got off the ground.

ABC's Dennis Troute: October 10, 1985 -- First Lady Nancy Reagan and Attorney General Ed Meese sign on as honorary leaders of the National Partnership to Prevent Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Youth.

(TV coverage: The First Lady and Mr. Meese at signing)

Run by a handful of retired business executives, the partnership was funded with \$1.5 million grant from the Justice Department, and after nine months \$500,000 had been spent but most of it on salaries and furniture for an office in Washington. The new Juvenile Justice Director announced during an interview with ABC news that the Administration now is turning off the cash flow.

(Verne Speirs: "I have come on board and have asked to suspend the funding to the grant until I can take a look at the activities from a program aspect and form a financial audit aspect and determine where we need to go from here.")

Troute continues: To date the partnership has only one member organization -- in Mobile, Alabama -- though one hundred were envisioned.... A Justice Department memo from June 6, obtained by ABC News, shows serious spending irregularities found in the National Partnership's books, such as a \$2,000 personal loan of government money to one employee, cash for a \$2,500 unauthorized raise for another. At least one top Justice Department official last October called the partnership proposal, "vague, with serious problems." Some now are asking if those problems warrant criminal investigation. (ABC-4)

U.S./SOVIETS/SPACE

Brokaw reports the authoritative, Janes Spaceflight Directory, said today that there is such a huge gap between the Soviet and American space programs, "it is almost frightening." The publication said the Soviets have a ten-year lead on the U.S. and in terms of space experience they are almost out of sight. (ABC-6, NBC-3)

MEXICO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Brokaw reports that once again Mexico is having a financial nightmare. Plunging oil prices, recession, big government spending cuts, and the danger that Mexico will halt interest payments on its huge foreign debt. The crisis is being felt from the streets of Mexico City to the big American banks.

NBC's Charles Gomez: Demonstrations against the government's economic policies are becoming an almost everyday occurrence. His economic policies have made him a political target.... Inflation is still more than 60%.

NBC's Mike Jensen: Mexico owes American banks \$25 billion. That's more than any other country owes them.... The International Monetary Fund is working out a new package of loans for future interest payments.... Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker made a special trip to Mexico to keep the new loan negotiations moving along. President Reagan also threw in his support.

(The President at June 11, news conference: "Mexico is a next door neighbor. Our fortunes are linked on many fronts so we want to be of as much help as we can. And that was the reason for his trip.")
(Secretary Baker at a speech on June 11: "We are actively working on this issue and we are confident that Mexico will stabilize its situation.") (NBC-10)

WALDHEIM/ISRAEL

Brokaw reports Kurt Waldheim said today that he would like to visit Israel and he would like to visit a concentration camp when, as he put it, the waves calm down. The new President of Austria again denied allegations that he was involved in Nazi war crimes, but he did acknowledge that he may have know of such crimes. (NBC-11)

VANDENBERG LAUNCH SITE

Brokaw reports that the Senate Military Construction subcommittee began looking at the Vandenberg site after the Challenger disaster and had found a project that has slipped from a 1982 start date to 1989 while it has almost tripled in cost. The subcommittee's minority staff report raises questions about whether Vandenberg ever should have been the site. (NBC-4)

PRISON POPULATION

Brokaw reports that the government reported today that there are more convicts behind bars now than ever before -- more than a half million across the country. It said the reason for the increase was tougher sentencing. During last year the prisons were so overcrowded officials had to give early release to more than 18,000 inmates. (CBS-9, NBC-8)

BUSING

Rather: The Reagan Administration applauded today's U.S. Supreme Court decision refusing to put off Norfolk, Virginia's plans to end 15 years of busing. Students had been bused in Norfolk, and a lot of other cities, trying as a last ditch effort to end school segregation. (CBS-10)

RACISM/U.S./SOUTH AFRICA

Rather: How does what happened in the American South a generation ago compare to what is happening in South Africa in 1986?... Some Americans hope that what once worked for American blacks can by song and sympathy help solve South Africa's problems. But so much is different -- very different. Here the federal government battled against the segregationists. In South Africa the segregationists are the government. Martin Luther King was the beneficiary of a constitution, and a public outcry when pictures showed the truth of what was happening. (Mayor Andrew Young: "They (people of South Africa) want to have a right to vote and the opportunity to participate in the decision making about their country. And I think that as long as you have people of that kind, they essentially will prevail.") To prevail they must survive. In today's South Africa, no one knows if they will. (CBS-11)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

EDITORIALS ON THE PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE

SALT II

SALT II As P.R. -- "In case there was any confusion about the status of SALT II growing out of the President's press conference Wednesday night, White House spokesman Larry Speakes cleared it up yesterday. SALT II is dead. Future U.S. arms-control moves will be predicated on what the Soviets do.... Over time, we think, Mr. Reagan will be accorded more respect, both in Europe and the U.S., for having confronted the dangerous illusion that the U.S. and the Soviets are practicing arms control. The European majority has few illusions about the Soviet Union and its minions, and its spirit will grow if it is no longer fed a constant diet of fairy-tale P.R." (Wall Street Journal, 6/13)

Where's The Sense In Dumping Arms Control -- President Ronald Reagan has now spread so much befuddlement about his intentions concerning arms control that no one else on this planet can say for certain what they are. The United States should only be this good at concealing its military secrets.... And while a treaty that merely restricts the superpowers' nuclear arsenals may not make as much sense as one that actually reduces them, surely it makes more sense than no treaty at all." (Newsday, 6/13)

U.S. Arms-Control Actions Will Clarify Reagan Words -- "Want to understand the Administration's arms control policy? The only hope is to watch what it does, not what it says. That's because what's being said -- by the President and his most senior aides -- is contradicted almost as soon as the words leave the speaker's mouth.... But the real issue is not the Administration's confusing style -- which is nothing new -- but the substance of Mr. Reagan's policy. Is he, or is he not, interested in exploring the new Soviet proposals?" (Philadelphia Inquirer, 6/15)

America Is Not Obligated To Honor Flawed SALT II -- "This much is clear. For a change, the U.S. apparently has gotten the Soviets' attention. Thus, thanks to the Strategic Defense Initiative -- the misnomered 'Star Wars' -- it finally may be possible to get some significant nuclear reductions, both in terms of weapons and strategic forces.... The U.S. has given seven months notice on SALT II. That is plenty of time for something better to come out of the arms negotiations in Geneva. If the Soviets are genuinely interested in substantial warhead cuts, they will quit griping and start talking."

(Pueblo, Colo. Sunday Chieftain and Star-Journal, 6/8)

Dear Mr. President: -- "When you accepted your party's nomination on July 17, 1980, you said, 'We must always stand ready to negotiate (with the Soviet Union) in good faith, ready to pursue any reasonable avenue that holds forth the promise of lessening tensions and furthering the prospects of peace.' The record has not been good, sorry to say.... You, Mr. President, are the most popular president since John F. Kennedy -- maybe since Franklin D. Roosevelt. Popularity has an ephemeral quality, however. The good you have done in helping restore economic health and national confidence will come to naught if you leave us with the weight of an unbridled nuclear arms race." (Hartford Courant, 6/15)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS (continued)

SALT II: The House Shouldn't Try To Force The Treaty's Terms On The President -- "Despite the contradiction between what President Reagan said about the SALT II treaty at his press conference Wednesday and what his aides on Thursday said he meant to say, Democratic House leaders should drop their ill-conceived attempt to force Mr. Reagan's hand on the unratified pact.... The basic stipulations of SALT II should be followed by the United States and the Soviet Union until a better pact is negotiated. The Democrats' strategy would likely harm Mr. Reagan's ability to negotiate with the Soviets effectively. There is a definite need to persuade President Reagan not to abandon SALT II, but the Democratic leaders can and should come up with a better way to do that."

(Detroit Free Press, 6/13)

It's Now Our Duty To Take On Reagan's Undoing Of SALT -- "His threat to violate the second strategic arms limitation treaty, virtually a promise that he reiterated Wednesday at his press conference, is one of the few really revolutionary deeds of the so-called 'Reagan Revolution.' ...Should Reagan succeed, he will destroy not simply an agreement but hope. For if one President can so readily discard what others have so laboriously achieved, then negotiations, pledges, pacts have no more effect on the currents of history than the fall of snowflakes on the ocean tides.... Public men must be judged by their public acts. By that standard, the only possible standard, President Ronald Reagan is a very dangerous man."

(Los Angeles Times, 6/13)

The Reagan Arms Policy -- "In fact, the President seems to have come full circle from the days early on in his Administration when he attacked the Soviet Union as an 'evil empire.' On two occasions during his recent news conference, he went out of his way to find kind words for Mikhail Gorbachev as the first Soviet leader to voice a desire for reducing weaponry. And Mr. Reagan affirmed again his desire to hold a second summit meeting this year with Mr. Gorbachev.... Mr. Reagan's basic point is correct. A seven-year-old flawed treaty not formally in effect is not and cannot be the key to U.S.-Soviet relations or to world peace."

(Newark Star Ledger, 6/13)

SPACE PROGRAM

Which Stars Are We Aiming For? -- "A fourth orbiter is only part of a space policy package to be determined coherently. When the package is assembled, there appears to be a sound way to proceed without the orbiter -- if the Government would only decide what America wants to accomplish in space before worrying about how.... Congress can not decide space policy without leadership from the White House. It can postpone approval of a fourth orbiter until our goals in space are better defined. If production lines won't wait, let them be kept busy making the spare parts the three shuttles desperately need. If the Pentagon and intelligence agencies insist on a fourth orbiter now, let them pay for it. NASA's flight plan was outdated even before the Challenger tragedy; why on earth should we rush to resume it now?"

(New York Times, 6/15)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS (continued)

BUDGET

Break the Budget Impasse -- "If President Reagan wants more military spending than Congress wants to approve, then he should agree to a tax increase to pay for some of the difference. Mr. Reagan is having none of it. At his press conference last week, he took a poke at those in Congress who 'apparently intend to take large and dangerous cuts out of our national defense.' At the same time he reiterated his pledge to 'veto any tax hike that comes across my desk.' The President, as he has in the past, is playing a game of chicken with Congress over the matter of military spending and revenue increases. He usually compromises, and he should this time -- or he'll stand a good chance of losing even more money from the military budget than he has already.... He is risking too much in hanging tough with his anti-tax pledge." (Hartford Courant, 6/16)

The Land Of The Free Lunch -- "There is an abiding cynicism in this Administration's approach to the deficit. The President's fiscal policy does not add up; it never has. Yet he, his advisers and his spokesmen are undeterred.... For six years, this Administration has lived in the land of the free lunch. It wants the deficit reduced, but doesn't want to do any of the things necessary to reduce it. So Congress will have to. The House and Senate are close to a sensible budget resolution; they ought not to let the White House sabotage that effort. As politically difficult as it may be, it is in the interests of both parties in Congress to do the President's dirty work for him. Suppose the Democrats elect the next president. Do they want him to spend his administration mopping up after this one? The same argument applies on the Republican side. For political as well as fiscal reasons, it is past time to put this government's finances in order." (Washington Post, 6/13)

THE NEWS CONFERENCE FORMAT

The Decline And Fall Of The Press Conference -- "Because presidential news conferences are meant to be informative and are potential forums of accountability, their decline in the Reagan years is a saddening spectacle. This was never more clearly illustrated than by the President's performance June 11, at his 37th such gathering.... Every Wednesday, like it or not, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her ministers must submit to close, hectoring cross-examination by well-informed rivals sitting just across a small table in the House of Commons. The bluff and baloney that often pass for executive accountability in Washington are not encouraged. The presidential news conference is, or was, our closest approximation to Question Time, even though reporters really aren't well-equipped to play surrogates for the loyal opposition. The decline of the news conference has changed all that. Like so many other political institutions, it has become a branch of entertainment. Mediocre entertainment at that." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 6/14)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE

"In another day of confusion at the White House, a statement by President Reagan on the SALT II arms limitation treaty was flatly contradicted by his chief press spokesman, Mr. Larry Speakes. At a press briefing, Mr. Speakes declared that the SALT pact was dead and that the decision to abrogate its provisions by deploying more cruise missiles later this year had already been taken."

(Daily Telegraph, Britain)

"The White House yesterday strongly rejected any suggestion that President Reagan might be backing away from his decision to abrogate...SALT II.... Mr. Speakes' unusually forthright denial of what the President had said seemed calculated to head off any false hopes which might be building in Europe and on Capitol Hill that Mr. Reagan was preparing the world for a U-turn.... The President seemed distinctly ill at ease with the SALT questions. The repudiation of his answers by his own White House suggested that his arms control advisers were, too."

(Guardian, Britain)

"The confusion over Mr. Reagan's remarks (on SALT II), not unusual after his news conferences, had threatened to reopen the bitter wrangle in the Administration over the treaty."

(Financial Times, Britain)

"Larry Speakes' clarification came after the somewhat ambiguous remarks made by President Reagan on Wednesday. Speakes acknowledged that the explanations provided by Mr. Reagan on his decision on SALT II had created some 'confusion.'"

(Quotidien, France)

"It is sometimes difficult to understand what Reagan means to say. He has a great talent for reading texts of long speeches with conviction, but he seems somewhat at a loss when he has to improvise short answers without notes. Wednesday evening, the President was clearly not at his best and his press conference was marked by a certain confusion.... "

(Liberation, France)

"President Reagan has made one thing clearer than ever: America's turning away from SALT II...should not mark the end of all hope for disarmament. On the contrary, Reagan had announced the death of that treaty in an attempt to inspire the Soviets to join the American negotiators in Geneva in energetically and seriously seeking new and better disarmament agreements."

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, West Germany)

"Reagan's praise...for Gorbachev's approach on disarmament negotiations is significant.... The fact that Reagan took the occasion to reiterate his efforts toward a second U.S.-USSR summit is also important.... The fact that the U.S. position is going through a very indefinite and fluid phase as far as disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union are concerned emerged from the statements on SALT II issued [Thursday] by Larry Speakes."

(Renzo Cianfanelli, Corriere della Sera, Italy)

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FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION (continued)

"With statements confusedly delivered by an especially uneasy President...Reagan tried to revive the dialogue between the two superpowers. There were a series of unexpected openings toward the Soviet Union, contrasting clearly with the rigidity displayed by the Republican Administration in recent months. Reagan was conciliatory even on SALT II, so much so that his spokesman Speakes was forced to clarify later.... Reagan was very firm only on Nicaragua, reiterating that 'Soviet expansion in Central America must be halted.'" (La Stampa, Italy)

"A 40-minute televised press conference was not enough for Ronald Reagan to clarify once and for all whether the SALT II treaty is still alive or dead. The President caused so much confusion in his news conference Wednesday night...that his spokesman Larry Speakes had to intervene yesterday. With the language of one who admits no doubts, the White House oracle was able to dispel all uncertainties."

(Enrico Franceschini, La Repubblica, Italy)

"Late [Thursday] night there was still some doubt whether Ronald Reagan, by expressing himself less decisively, had made a slip of the tongue at the press conference, something that has happened before, or if maybe he and his staff later had found his statements so unclear that they decided to correct them."

(Berlingske Tidende, Denmark)

"In his press conference, apparently attenuating his previous anti-Soviet rhetoric, the President presented a positive image of Mikhail Gorbachev.... Some observers point out that Reagan's tactics may be right, since Gorbachev has recently offered a new arms reduction proposal in Geneva."

(El Pais, Spain)

"President Reagan stated at his news conference...that he had not decided yet on whether or not to abrogate SALT II, but Speakes stated that he had the President's understanding on his statements. But Speakes' reply was not persuasive. It is unclear at this point as to the real intention of the White House in emphasizing SALT II is already dead."

(Sankei, Japan)

"We do not fault President Reagan for playing the Soviets at their own game by disregarding SALT II. We only hope that he will use any pressure he can apply with a more formidable arsenal to get new limitation talks started."

(Pretoria News, South Africa)

-end of B-Section-