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TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Lugar Bill Would Clamp Sanctions On South Africa -- Sen. Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is asking Congress to ignore appeals from President Reagan and adopt sanctions aimed at pushing South Africa's white minority government toward negotiations with blacks.

(Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, Reuter)

6,000 Soviet Troops Will Leave Afghanistan -- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced plans for the withdrawal of a limited number of Soviet troops from Afghanistan -- one of a number of goodwill gestures aimed at improving relations with Asian nations.

(Washington Post, UPI, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

Challenger Crew Knew Of Problem, Data Now Suggest -- The Challenger crew members were probably aware that the space shuttle was in trouble in the final seconds before it disintegrated and may well have survived the initial breakup, according to evidence released today.

(New York Times, Washington Post, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

CHALLENGER -- NASA released a transcript of the last recorded moments in the crew compartment and space agency scientists offered their analysis.

ARMS CONTROL/AFGHANISTAN -- Mikhail Gorbachev announced that 7,000 Soviet troops will leave Afghanistan.

JENCO/HOSTAGES -- President Reagan telephoned the freed Rev. Jenco.



"Since I've given up reading and watching the news I feel 100% better!"

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LUGAR TO URGE NEW S. AFRICA SANCTIONS

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar will recommend a tentative list of economic sanctions against South Africa today when the committee begins work on legislation to pressure the white minority government to negotiate an end to the apartheid system of strict racial segregation.

Mark Helmke, Lugar's press secretary, said yesterday that the proposed sanctions include several measures already in place under an executive order signed by President Reagan last year and seven new steps aimed at "hitting the white South African government and its infrastructure" without requiring a total U.S. withdrawal from the country.
(Edward Walsh, Washington Post, A1)

Lugar Bill Would Clamp Sanctions On South Africa

Sen. Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is asking Congress to ignore appeals from President Reagan and adopt sanctions aimed at pushing South Africa's white minority government toward negotiations with blacks.

"The basic theme is that these are all sanctions that hurt the white South African government and infrastructure," said Mark Helmke, Lugar's spokesman. "The idea is to convince South Africa that the United States is serious about the need to enact substantive sanctions."

(Lawrence Knutson, AP)

U.S. Senators Working On Harsh Sanctions Against Pretoria

A Senate committee is working on harsh sanctions against South Africa including a curb on major mineral imports, a freeze on South Africa assets in U.S. banks and a threat to drive down the price of gold.

Those are features of a bill unveiled yesterday by Sen. Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Lugar's spokesman, Mark Helmke, told reporters the bill "stops just short of total disinvestment."
(Jim Adams, Reuter)

Laxalt Calls Mission To Pretoria Pointless

Sen. Paul Laxalt, the closest man in the Congress to President Reagan, yesterday said he sees no point in going to South Africa as a Reagan emissary "at this time."

The situation in South Africa is not like the Philippines, he told editors and reporters at The Washington Times.

(Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A1)

U.S.-PRETORIA TEXTILE DEAL NEGOTIATED

On the eve of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee debate on economic sanctions against South Africa, the office of the U.S. special trade representative has negotiated a tentative bilateral agreement with the South African government increasing the rate of textile exports to the United States.

"This is lunacy," said Rep. William Gray. "I don't think it's proper."

House Speaker Thomas O'Neill said, "It is outrageous that, at the same time the American people are demanding an end to our economic support of apartheid, the Administration has secretly agreed to increase that support."

(Sidney Blumenthal, Washington Post, A9)

GORBACHEV ANNOUNCES REDUCTION OF 6,000 IN AFGHANISTAN FORCE

MOSCOW -- The Soviet Union will withdraw six military regiments totaling about 6,000 troops from Afghanistan by the end of this year in an attempt to speed up the political solution to the war, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said today.

The White House and State Department reacted coolly to Gorbachev's troop withdrawal announcement, saying that "if the Soviets are seriously interested in a settlement, they should present a short withdrawal timetable" at the next round of U.N.-sponsored talks in Geneva.

(Gary Lee, Washington Post, A1)

6,000 Soviet Troops Will Leave Afghanistan

MOSCOW -- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced plans for the withdrawal of a limited number of Soviet troops from Afghanistan -- one of a number of goodwill gestures aimed at improving relations with Asian nations.

Western diplomats, however, called the move "chicken feed," saying it would be impossible to know if troops were withdrawn or if their return was part of a routine rotation. An estimated 115,000 Soviet troops are in Afghanistan.

(Anna Christensen, UPI)

Soviet Afghanistan Troop Pullout Is Gesture, Diplomats Say

MOSCOW -- Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev said the Soviet Union will withdraw some 7,000 troops from Afghanistan by 1987, but Moscow-based analysts doubt the move amounts to more than a diplomatic gesture.

Most saw it as an olive branch to Washington, which wants regional conflicts to be discussed if a new superpower summit is held this year, and to China, which has cited Afghanistan as one of three obstacles to better relations with Moscow.

Some diplomats interpreted the move more cynically as a means of putting pressure on Pakistan before the Geneva talks. But all agreed it was likely to be little more than a gesture, and U.S. officials yesterday dismissed it as such.

(Helen Womack, Reuter)

Gorbachev's Rein On Military

MOSCOW -- The limited withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, announced today, is a minor reflection of the new Kremlin leadership's most underestimated achievement: effective political control of the powerful Soviet military.

Western analysts cite pressure from the military as the main brake on Moscow's go-ahead for a second summit. "It is the military that is behind Gorbachev's calls for 'concrete results' at the summit," one senior western official said. "All the rest probably feel that the merits of a Gorbachev trip to Washington stand on their own."

Some western analysts see an effort at work to keep relations steady between party officials and the military. Others contend that in Soviet society, the interests of the military and the party are the same.

(Gary Lee, News Analysis, Washington Post, A10)

PRE-SUMMIT TALKS MAKING PROGRESS

Three days of talks between U.S. and Soviet officials resulted in progress on summit preparations and brought the two governments close to agreement on a visit here in mid-September by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, State Department officials said yesterday.

The meetings late last week and yesterday with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh reviewed "the whole range of U.S.-Soviet relations," according to State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb, who declined to characterize the outcome.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A10)

WHEAT SALE PLAN CREATES CONFLICT IN CABINET

President Reagan heard conflicting arguments yesterday from his Cabinet on a politically touchy proposal to subsidize U.S. wheat sales to the Soviet Union as a way of boosting sagging U.S. farm exports.

"I don't think there's anybody in the room willing to predict what the President's decision will be on it," Larry Speakes said after Reagan conferred with the leaders of the State, Defense, Treasury, Agriculture and Labor departments, the CIA, the Office of Management and Budget, the U.S. Trade Representative's Office and the National Security Council.

(AP story, Washington Post, A10)

USIA OFFICIAL DRAWS FIRE FOR 'PRO-SOVIET' SPEECH

A speech by Gregory Guroff, the deputy coordinator of President Reagan's U.S.-Soviet Exchanges Initiative, has drawn angry protests to the White House for what some critics call a "pro-Soviet tone."

Darrell Kearney, a Des Moines businessman who attended the April speech in Iowa, sparked the widespread interest by writing to President Reagan, U.S. Information Agency chief Charles Wick and Sen. Charles Grassley. Mr. Kearney expressed anger that a government employee would so deviate from the Administration's anti-communist stance.

(Myron Struck, Washington Times, A1)

CIA CHIEF WENT TO SYRIA TO SEEK HOSTAGES' RELEASE

CIA Director William Casey made a secret visit to Damascus early this month to discuss release of the Rev. Lawrence Jenco and other U.S. hostages with Syrian President Hafez Assad, Administration sources said yesterday.

President Reagan telephoned Jenco in Wiesbaden, West Germany, yesterday afternoon and talked with him for seven minutes. He said he was "touched and pleased" by Jenco's expressions of concern for the three hostages held with him. (Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

ORTEGA VOWS TO PRESS HONDURAS AND COSTA RICA ON SANCTUARIES

NEW YORK -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said today his government will intensify pressure on neighboring Honduras and Costa Rica to eliminate sanctuaries for the U.S.-backed guerrillas, known as contras, seeking to topple the Sandinista leadership.

In an interview here, Ortega said that Nicaragua filed a complaint with the World Court today seeking to assign responsibility for the damage and bloodshed in the Nicaragua's four-year-old civil war to Honduras and Costa Rica because they continue to play host to the contras. He said Nicaragua would now focus its legal and diplomatic efforts on its neighbors, rather than the United States, to suppress the rebel forces.

(William Drozkiak, Washington Post, A8)

DEFECTOR BRINGS INSIDER'S VIEW FROM HAVANA

The brother of one of Fidel Castro's closest advisers has defected to the United States, bringing with him valuable information on Cuba's worldwide network of dummy corporations and Mr. Castro's secret service, U.S. intelligence sources said yesterday.

Oscar Valdes, who headed a Cuban front trading company in Canada that doubled as an intelligence-gathering operation, took about \$1 million in Cuban government funds with him when he defected, sources said.

(Roger Fontaine & James Morrison, Washington Times, A1)

BUSH'S HOPES FOR MOROCCO VISIT DASHED

JERUSALEM -- Vice President Bush strolled through the historic passageways of Old Jerusalem today and later tasted the frustration and dashed hopes that have long been a part of efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

After several days of signaling his willingness to visit Morocco to bolster the discussions that started last week between Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Morocco's King Hassan II, Bush tonight scrapped a possible visit to Rabat, Morocco's capital. Aides said the Moroccan monarch had given no indication that he wanted to see the Vice President now.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A8)

BALDRIGE WARNS JAPAN ON TRADE

TOKYO -- The coming months in Congress are critical to averting a trade war with Japan, whose trade surplus with the United States will reach \$55 billion this year, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige warned Tuesday.

Baldrige told members of the American Chamber of Commerce that key votes approaching in Congress could swing the United States toward protectionism.

Baldrige, who spent Monday warning Japanese leaders that protectionist sentiment is building in Washington as the mid-term congressional elections approach this fall, said there would be little relief in trade figures.

(David Schweisberg, UPI)

MEDAL FOR HOROWITZ

Fresh from a recent world tour that took him back to his native Russia for the first time in 61 years, pianist Vladimir Horowitz arrived at the White House yesterday to receive his latest honor, the Medal of Freedom.

President Reagan hailed the 81-year-old Horowitz as "the most dazzling virtuoso since Liszt set the standard in the 19th century."

(Lon Tuck, Washington Post, C2)

NATIONAL NEWS

CHALLENGER CREW WAS CONSCIOUS DURING BREAKUP

The space agency revealed yesterday that, an instant before a spreading fireball ended all communications aboard the doomed shuttle Challenger, pilot Michael Smith uttered one last phrase: "Uh-oh." For several more seconds, at least some crew members apparently remained conscious and tried to activate emergency oxygen supplies.

The exact causes of death of the seven crew members could not be positively determined, the report said. "The impact of the crew compartment with the ocean surface was so violent that evidence of damage occurring in the seconds which followed the explosion was masked," Dr. Joseph Kerwin, the former astronaut who headed the investigating team, said in his report to Richard Truly, head of the shuttle program.

(Kathy Sawyer, Washington Post, A1)

Challenger Crew Knew Of Problem, Data Now Suggest

The Challenger crew members were probably aware that the space shuttle was in trouble in the final seconds before it disintegrated and may well have survived the initial breakup, according to evidence released today.

NASA also disclosed that at least three of the seven individual emergency breathing supplies on the shuttle had been manually activated, individual indicating that the astronauts were struggling to survive in the spacecraft's final moments. There were indications that one of the packs could not have been turned on by the person using it, and that one of his companions had turned it on for him.

(Philip Boffey, New York Times, A1)

How Crew Died Remains Uncertain

NASA has closed its investigation of the Challenger disaster with the startling disclosure that although it remains uncertain exactly how the crew died, the astronauts may have been alive during the craft's fearsome drop from orbit to ocean.

Evidence from the explosion Jan. 28 indicated at least some of the astronauts knew something had gone seriously wrong, and that three emergency air supplies were activated in a futile bid for life, the space agency said Monday.

(Jan Ziegler, UPI)

SENATE TAX CONFEREES TO OFFER NEW LIST OF REVENUE-RAISING IDEAS

Senate tax overhaul negotiators agreed yesterday to submit new revenue-raising proposals to their House counterparts, after House members rejected more than half the Senate's \$26 billion worth of suggestions.

Sen. Bob Packwood said the list, which could be proposed as early as today, also would include enough revenue -- about \$4 billion -- to pay for some other deductions the Senate wants to restore.

(Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A4)

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WHITE HOUSE SAYS REAGAN PLANS NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG USE

President Reagan plans to announce a broad new campaign in the next few weeks to combat the use of narcotics, White House officials said today.

One key White House official said Mr. Reagan might deliver a nationally broadcast speech to open the campaign, but that no final decision had been made.

On Thursday Speaker Thomas O'Neill and other House leaders announced a drive for bipartisan legislation to deal with drug abuse. Administration officials denied that the vigorous White House interest in narcotics was related to that Democratic-led program, but they conceded that the issue had abruptly taken on political overtones.

(Bernard Weinraub, New York Times, A1)

REAGAN ENLISTS IN BATTLE AGAINST CIGARETTE TAX HIKE

President Reagan has agreed to join the battle against raising the federal cigarette tax from 16 to 24 cents a pack, a levy strongly opposed by tobacco-growing states, Sen. James Broyhill said yesterday.

After an Oval Office meeting with Reagan, Broyhill told reporters that he had asked the President "to put it in writing" and Reagan agreed, saying he would enlist White House and Treasury staffers to lobby against the tax increase.

(UPI story, Washington Post, A4)

CIVIL RIGHTS, WOMEN'S GROUPS TO FIGHT REHNQUIST CONFIRMATION

Civil rights and women's organizations vowed yesterday to ignore the odds and wage an all-out battle to block William Rehnquist's confirmation as the 16th chief justice of the United States.

In Phoenix, meanwhile, the FBI is inquiring into recently renewed allegations of voter harassment involving Rehnquist in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

(George Lardner & Al Kamen, Washington Post, A4)

Democrats Resurrect Old Rehnquist Queries

The FBI yesterday widened its "background investigation" of Justice William Rehnquist, President Reagan's nominee for chief justice of the United States, at the request of two Democratic senators who want the Senate to go over again charges that the nominee harassed black voters in Arizona during the 1960s.

The expanded investigation was made at the request of Sens. Paul Simon and Howard Metzenbaum, both Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee who have led challenges to the President's appointments to the federal courts.

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

MAJOR CRIMES INCREASED 5% IN NATION, FBI SAYS

Final 1985 FBI statistics show that crime-index offenses rose 5 percent nationwide. Index crimes are murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft.

Overall, crime rates were highest in the nation's cities and lowest in rural counties. There were 5,921 index offenses per 100,000 people in metropolitan areas; 4,580 in cities outside metropolitan areas; and 1,803 in rural areas.

(Joe Hughes, Copley News Service)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Playing His Card" -- Ron Reagan and his popular pitches, by Donnie Radcliffe, appears in The Washington Post, C1.

TRIP NEWS

'DREAM TICKET' GETS A BOOST

COLUMBIA -- President Ronald Reagan gave a rousing endorsement of the Campbell-Hartnett ticket Thursday as hundreds of appreciative supporters shelled out thousands of dollars for the Republican campaign's war chest. And a well-heeled crowd of about 1,200 was clearly pleased with the party's "dream ticket," if not with the \$150-a-plate dinner that was an hour late in coming. They used the occasion to celebrate Campbell's 46th birthday by presenting him with a cake. Both Campbell and Hartnett appeared primed for a campaign fight following the Reagan appearance. They delivered tough speeches that promised tax reform, a cleanup they say is needed of the state worker's compensation, and new leadership.

(Al Dozier, Greenville (S.C.) News, A1, 7/25)

Protesters Stalk Reagan Entourage

COLUMBIA -- They were young and old, black and white, textile worker and punk rocker, and they all had a message for President Reagan. "Reagan, Reagan he's no good, send him back to Hollywood," they sang as they broiled under the noonday sun in Columbia.

(Marilyn Rauber, Greenville (S.C.) News, B1, 7/25)

Reagan Offers Farmers Aid

COLUMBIA -- President Reagan announced more help for Southeastern farmers on Thursday, ordering emergency federal assistance to ease the pain caused by a drought he said is reaching "tragic proportions."

It was Reagan's last stop in a political swing through the South that also had him at fund-raisers for GOP candidates in Texas and Florida, and Campbell and Hartnett strategists see the visit as an enormous benefit to their campaigns, even if it does come about six weeks before the traditional Labor Day start of political season.

Reagan didn't mention any local Democrats by name, but he compared the S.C. governor's race to his own 1984 re-election contest against former Vice President Walter Mondale and said "Carroll, go easy on him."

(Jerry Adams, Columbia State, A1, 7/25)

Fund-Raiser Attracts Crowd To Hear Reagan

COLUMBIA -- Among those in the audience was North Charleston Mayor John E. Bourne Jr., who said the President's visit means more than just money for Republican candidates. "The President is very popular in South Carolina," Bourne said. "The evidence of his support, by being here today, adds impetus to their campaigns."

State Sen. William S. Branton Jr., R-Dorchester, agreed. "Anytime you have the President in an area, you have a lot of excitement," he said. "Carroll needs all the help he can get, and I think with President Reagan coming in, it will give him financial help and good moral support."

The President's visit, said Clay Cable of the Isle of Palms, one of many Low-country Republicans in the audience, "means good, widespread support for the ticket."

(Sid Gaulden, Charleston, S.C. News and Courier, A12, 7/25)

-End of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Monday Evening, July 28, 1986)

CHALLENGER

CBS's Dan Rather: Official confirmation from NASA tonight: indications now are that not all seven Challenger crew members died instantly or were unaware of their plight in the fireball that consumed the space shuttle six months ago today. The evidence comes from the final word of an astronaut.

CBS's Bob Schieffer: It was one minute and ten seconds into the flight of Challenger when mission commander Dick Scobee replied "Roger, go with throttle up." But three seconds later pilot Michael J. Smith is heard to say "Uh oh." NASA officials said today that brief phrase, the last words recorded, is the first evidence the Challenger crew may have been aware of the disaster.

(Rear Admiral Richard Truly: At that point there was awareness on the part at least of the commander and pilot because that was the moment of the explosion.")

The investigators still believe the rest of the crew was unaware of what was happening, but all of them may have lived for several seconds after the explosion.

(Dr. Joseph Kerwin, NASA: "The number of seconds that the crew may have retained consciousness would be a function of how rapidly the crew module lost pressure. It could have been as low as ten seconds or more so.")

Newly enhanced pictures of Challenger's last seconds...show the crew compartment tumbling intact toward the ocean floor. And NASA officials said today that analysis of the recovered module shows that all the crew members were strapped in their seats with harnesses buckled at impact and all but Smith and Scobee had used their emergency oxygen packs. In the transcript released today no conversation was heard from crew members Ronald McNair, Gregory Jarvis, or Christa McAuliffe who were on the lower deck. Until today NASA had said the Challenger crew never knew what hit them but now with today's disclosures they can't be sure.

Rather: Citing safety concerns and only three space shuttles left in the fleet the Air Force is reportedly recommending mothballing for years the multi-billion dollar Shuttle launch complex in California. The Aviation Week magazine out today says the Air Force recommendation would keep the military shuttle facility at Vandenberg Air Force Base out of action until 1991 or longer. (CBS-Lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: At least one astronaut in the crew compartment of the space shuttle Challenger did know there was a problem. And this long after the accident NASA told the public today they cannot exclude the possibility that the crew survived until their cabin hit the ocean. Until today the space agency had led us to believe that the astronauts never knew what happened, so this is startling news and it's painful.

ABC's Bettina Gregory: The transcripts of these newly processed tapes reveal the pilot, Mike Smith, said..."Uh oh." But it showed that at least he knew something was terribly wrong.

(Admiral Richard Truly: "There could have been something in the cockpit, some dial or something, that could have caused that remark, or it could have the first awareness of the explosion.")

But at the news conference pathologists said they could not determine the cause of death for the Challenger's seven astronauts. (ABC-Lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: We have all wondered: Did the crew of the Challenger know what was happening at the time of the explosion? Did they die instantly, or did they live if only for a few moments with the knowledge that something had gone horribly wrong. Today NASA released a transcript of the last recorded words in the cockpit and space agency scientists offered their analysis of what the astronauts went through.

NBC's Robert Hager: ...NASA reported today the crew was probably not killed by the explosion or breakup of the orbiter but might have been knocked unconscious by loss of pressure 10 or 15 seconds after the explosion, or less likely, remained conscious until the crew compartment smashed into the water. The astronauts carry with them emergency air-filled breathing packs. To be used the astronaut has to pull a plug on the pack. Normal oxygen would have been disconnected in the explosion, but in the wreckage three of the airpacks were found in the used position as though some of the astronauts knew the peril they were in and tried to use the equipment....

(Reporter: "The possibility does exist the crew members could have been able to survive until impact.

Joseph Kerwin: "We could not exclude that possibility with definite data.")

NASA found the crew experienced pressures equal to 12 to 20 times the pressure of gravity but only for a couple of seconds during the explosion; and after that the crew cabin was essentially in a free fall. Analysts said all these forces should have been survivable and shouldn't even have caused serious injury until the crew cabin hit the water.

Brokaw: NASA figures it was 2 minutes, 45 seconds from the time of the explosion to the moment when the crew cabin crashed into the sea. And based on today's announcement we'll never know for sure what exactly happened inside the cabin during that fall. (NBC-Lead)

ARMS CONTROL/AFGHANISTAN

Rather: An answer tonight to the White House promoted mystery in recent days -- the much publicized surprise in President Reagan's recent letter to Soviet leader Gorbachev. It turns out to be a not altogether new proposal about the President's star wars defense.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: In the letter to Gorbachev President Reagan formally proposes that if his Strategic Defense Initiative is fully developed the two super powers share in "A joint command and control of the system."

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Stahl continues: According to government officials the proposal would be contingent upon the total elimination of all nuclear weapons on both sides. The idea expressed in the letter, said one official, is that the U.S. and U.S.S.R. actually deploy the system together then run it together. The President has talked about sharing SDI with the Soviets before. He says he began to explore the idea with Gorbachev at last year's summit.

(The President, November 1985: "Let me give you my dream of what would happen. We have the weapon, we don't start deploying it. We get everybody together and we say here, here it is, and here's how it works.")

Arms control experts ridiculed the idea of sharing SDI technology with the Soviets.

(Gerard Smith, Arms Control Expert: "I can't conceive of it being serious. We won't export to the Soviets even personal computers -- that's too classified to give to them. And now we're talking about giving them the most highly classified technology we have in our arsenal.")

On live television today Gorbachev said he's studying the letter assessing whether its proposals would prevent the spread of the arms race into space. He was positive about another superpower summit and efforts to arrange one for later this year continued in Washington when Secretary of State Shultz met for four hours with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister. In his letter the President expressed his willingness for the first time to negotiate on SDI and some arms control experts in Congress have praised him for that. But even those who are generally positive criticize the idea of a joint command -- one source calling it ludicrous.

Rather: ...He [Gorbachev] announced plans to pull out a few thousand of his troops. At most the withdrawal involves about 6,000 of the well over 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan. What's more, about half the troops to be pulled out are in anti-artillery units -- units rarely used against the ill-equipped Afghan rebels. (CBS-2)

Jennings: The United States and the Soviet Union are still trying to prepare the ground for a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr. Gorbachev said today he would meet if Mr. Reagan met his conditions. And he tried to sweeten the atmosphere just a little with an announcement about Afghanistan.

ABC's Walter Rodgers: Soviet leader Gorbachev said he's studying President Reagan's latest offer on arms control to see how much the President has actually compromised on star wars.

(Gorbachev: "We shall treat it with responsibility and attention.")

Gorbachev's remarks in this nationally televised broadcast were devoid of the usual criticism. He spoke positively about another summit meeting. He said it still depends on improved U.S. Soviet relations. Then he made this surprise announcement on Afghanistan.

(Gorbachev: "Six regiments will be returned home from Afghanistan by the end of this year.")

Gorbachev is driving a very hard bargain in Afghanistan demanding the Guerrillas lay down their weapons while he still has more than 100,000 troops there. But the Soviet leader's remarks about the summit were more positive. And while still not promising to go, he continues to indicate an interest in talking to President Reagan again.

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Jennings: The State Department reacted to Mr. Gorbachev's announcement by saying there's only one acceptable solution to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan: prompt and complete withdrawal of all the Soviet troops there. (ABC-7)

Brokaw: Mikhail Gorbachev today signalled what may be a new thaw in the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. In a nationally televised speech in the Soviet Union Gorbachev announced that 7,000 Soviet troops out of a total of more than 100,000 would be brought home by the end of the year. Gorbachev also repeated Soviet warnings that the hopes for another superpower summit meeting rest on President Reagan's willingness to compromise on star wars. In Washington today Secretary of State Shultz met with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister in their first high level talks to prepare for a possible summit.

JENCO/HOSTAGES

Rather: President Reagan telephoned freed American hostage Martin Jenco late today. Jenco is at the U.S. Air Force Hospital in Wiesbaden, West Germany. Mr. Reagan told Father Jenco that his release was an answer to our prayers. Father Jenco said his prayers would be answered when the remaining missing Americans in Lebanon experience the same joy of freedom he is feeling today.

CBS's Charles Osgood: Along with prayers of thanksgiving there were prayers for the other three Americans still being held in Lebanon including David Jacobsen who recorded the chilling videotape Father Jenco brought back with him -- a cry for help that creates a terrible dilemma:

(David Jacobsen on videotape: "And that our release will be by death if the government doesn't negotiate right now.")

But the U.S. government says it will not negotiate with terrorists. What the Islamic Jihad wants to talk about is the release of 17 Muslim extremists being held by Kuwait for the bombing of the U.S. Embassy there. Kuwait will not negotiate and Washington will not ask the government there to reconsider. Hostage Jacobsen cannot understand that.

(D. Jacobsen: It seems that my government, or at least my President, might be a prisoner of an absurd subservience to a political position of, "We will not negotiate with terrorists.")

To Jacobsen's family it seems incredibly cold blooded.

(Paul Jacobsen, Son of David: "Gambling with my father's life and the other men's lives over something like this -- an unwillingness to even approach the Kuwaiti government.")

But at least publicly...the U.S. government says nothing doing.

(Bernard Kalb: "There is no change in U.S. policy on the question of negotiations.")

...D. Jacobsen: "There are days when I believe that the government really doesn't care about me and that we have been totally abandoned.")

Those are painful words, but the government's dilemma is that in helping three citizens it does not want to endanger thousands more. Rightly or wrongly if those with burning causes in this world come to think that America will bargain with kidnappers, then there will more David Jacobsens and no end of pain. (CBS-6)

ABC's Pierre Salinger: In the early afternoon Father Jenco, supported by his family and friends, agreed to appear before the press from the balcony of the hospital. He had not planned to speak. But the emotion of the moment was too strong.

(Father Jenco: I'm so grateful to God...as we realize I have the dignity of a person. It's a great feeling to have.... I hope to come back to the same balcony one day soon and be present to Terry Anderson, Tom Sullivan, and David Jacobsen. That'll be my great day of joy. It's a joyous day for me and my family. Pray God soon those three men will have the same joy that I have....")

Jennings: President Reagan told Father Jenco on the telephone today, our prayers for your release have finally been answered. And ABC's John Scali reports tonight that in his debriefing with U.S. officials Father Jenco said that before he was released he was blindfolded, wrapped like a mummy, and driven for four hours in the back of a truck before he was set free beside a lake. Local Lebanese children apparently panicked when they saw him and called the police. Question: Who was responsible for Father Jenco's release and why now?

ABC's John McWethy: No it is not clear how much real influence Syria's President Hafez al Assad had in helping to win the freedom of Reverend Jenco from factions in Lebanon, some American analysts contend the release was extremely well-timed for use by Assad whether it was coincidence or not.... Assad is a leader who regards himself as the man who must be dealt with to accomplish anything in the Middle East and likes to underscore that point whenever he can.... In a videotape brought out by Jenco Jacobsen said a fourth hostage, William Buckley, was dead. Jacobsen also added this curious comment about Buckley:

(D. Jacobsen: "And our sympathies to his wife and his four children.")

Buckley was a bachelor with no wife or children. Was Jacobsen's comment a mistake, a coded message? It's not yet clear. The State Department today reiterated its position that the U.S. will not make concessions to kidnappers -- will not yield to the demand in this case that 17 terrorists be released from prison in Kuwait.

(Bernard Kalb: "There is no change in U.S. policy on the question of negotiations.")

So without offering to give the kidnappers anything the U.S. is keeping a wide range of secret channels open in hopes that just talking might somehow free the other hostages. (ABC-2)

Brokaw: ...In a telephone call President Reagan told Jenco, our prayers for your release have finally been answered. Later this week the Priest from Illinois will go to the Vatican for an audience with Pope John Paul....

Peggy Say is the sister of hostage Terry Anderson.... She said today that the Reagan Administration should bargain with the Shiite Moslem kidnappers. At a stop in Cypress after spending nine days in Syria she said the Administration should in her words, "stop tap-dancing around the word negotiate and get there and do it." At the White House spokesman Larry Speakes repeated the Administration's refusal to negotiate with these kidnappers. (NBC-2)

CASEY/SYRIA

Rather: A report today that 73 year old CIA Director William Casey made a secret trip to Syria recently and met with President Assad. The San Francisco Examiner says the visit helped bring about Father Jenco's release. The CIA would neither confirm or deny the report. CBS News confirms that Casey did make the Syrian visit but not what happened during those talks with Assad. (CBS-7)

SOUTH AFRICA/HOWE

Brokaw: British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe continued his mission to South Africa today with a visit to Soweto. That's the huge black ghetto which is near Johannesburg. Afterward Howe said South Africa blacks were better off than many other people in Africa. Howe also met today with Zulu Chief Buthelezi. He's one of the few black leaders who oppose economic sanctions against South Africa. Many of those leaders have refused to meet with the British Foreign Secretary. Howe later said he still doesn't know whether the Pretoria government has the courage to begin negotiations with South Africa's black majority. At the same time the government said that eight more blacks were killed overnight. 188 people now have died since the state of emergency was declared last month. (NBC-8)

REHNQUIST

Jennings: The Senate confirmation hearings for Justice William Rehnquist begin tomorrow. Justice Rehnquist...has been nominated by the President to be the new Chief Justice. Today some prominent civil rights groups joined together to announce their opposition. The leadership conference on civil rights called Justice Rehnquist an extremist on civil rights. (ABC-11)

NICARAGUA

Brokaw: Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega said today in this country the Sandinista government now has filed suit in the World Court against Costa Rica and Honduras for permitting Contras to use their territory to stage attacks against Nicaragua. Ortega said that Nicaragua's two neighbors are violating an earlier Court ruling that U.S. support for the Contras is illegal. (NBC-7)

DROUGHT

Rather: Thunderstorms brought some minor relief to small patches of the southeast U.S.A. again today, but weather forecasters say much, much more is needed to end the killing drought. This is a drought of historical proportions. Farm losses are now estimated at close to \$2 billion. At least 48 people have died in the heat. (ABC-5, CBS-4, NBC-10)

Rather interviews farmers and farm families on location in Georgia. (CBS-13)

PERES/THE VICE PRESIDENT/MIDEAST

Brokaw: Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres today called for a year long moratorium on Arab-Israeli violence so peace talks can begin. And he pledged that Israel would not annex captured Arab lands during those talks. Peres told Israel's Parliament that he had proposed this plan last week in his meeting with King Hassan of Morocco. He called that meeting a turning point in the history of peace efforts. Later at a dinner for Peres in Jerusalem Vice President George Bush said he Hoped leaders throughout the Middle East would take advantage of what he called, this opening that Peres and Hassan made for advancing peace. (NBC-4)

BOMB IN LEBANON

Rather: The deadliest car bomb in more than a year ripped through a crowded residential street in East Beirut today. As many as 32 people were killed. More than 140 people were injured. Dozens of stores and buildings were destroyed or badly damaged. There's been no claim of responsibility. Christian leaders charge that Syrian supported Muslims were behind the East Beirut car bombing. Syria denies it. (ABC-3, CBS-5, NBC-3)

W.R. GRACE/POLLUTION TRIAL

Rather: A verdict today in a big environmental case. It is a closely watched, first-of-a-kind federal court trial. It involves a nation wide worry, industrial waste, and one community's tragedy.

CBS's Steve Young: Today after more than 70 days of testimony, a federal jury agreed, finding that W.R. Grace polluted municipal wells by dumping toxic chemicals that cause cancer in test animals. Beatrice Foods, also named in the suit, was cleared of all responsibility.... It's the first case of its kind pitting a citizens group without government help against big corporations.

(Hugh Kaufman, EPA: "Well, I think today's verdict shows that despite the fact that citizens have to fight these cases with both hands tied behind their back, they can still make their point.")

(CBS-10, NBC-9)

HOROWITZ/MEDAL OF HONOR

Rather: The President and First Lady Nancy Reagan figured in today's latest high note for Vladimir Horowitz, and he didn't even have to tune up for it.

(TV coverage: The President and First Lady as the First Lady presents Horowitz with the Medal of Honor.)

The 81 year old pianist who recently played his old Soviet stomping grounds for the first time in decades, today played the White House. He was there to receive the U.S.A.'s highest civilian award: the Medal of Freedom, plus a peck on the check.

(TV coverage: The First Lady gives Horowitz a kiss(ABC-12, CBS-9)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

SOUTH AFRICA

Put Pressure On S. Africa -- "While President Reagan tries to buy time, his South Africa policy is falling apart. It's time to stiffen the economic sanctions the United States has imposed against that racist government."
(Idaho Statesman, 7/20)

More Is Needed On So. Africa -- "We disagree. To impose sanctions is not 'to cut and run,' as the President insisted. To impose sanctions is to communicate to South Africans and the rest of the world that we will no longer associate ourselves with base repression. To impose sanctions is to communicate to black South Africans -- to blacks around the world, for that matter -- that we will not tolerate the evils of institutionalized racism. To impose sanctions is to raise the cost of apartheid for a government unwilling so far to even negotiate with blacks for the abolition of its police-state policies."
(San Diego Tribune, 7/23)

Reagan Fails On S. Africa; It's Up To Congress To Act -- "President Reagan has apparently stopped using the phrase 'constructive engagement' to describe his South African policy, but the policy itself has not changed.... Sanctions may or may not prove effective in South Africa. But the Administration's policy of friendly persuasion regarding Pretoria has clearly failed. Not to take strong action against South Africa would imply American support of the Botha government and represent a sorry default of U.S. leadership. It is encouraging that Congress recognizes this, even if the President does not."
(Buffalo News, 7/24)

Reagan's S. African Errors -- "The President is wrong on South Africa.... The blacks want sanctions against their government by the United States. They don't need a white President of the United States to tell them that sanctions will be bad for them. It is already intolerable."
(Robert Healy, Boston Globe, 7/25)

Demanding Morality, Inviting Disaster -- "President Reagan made the astute point that, no matter what the United States does, South Africa may be doomed to terrible internal bloodshed and destruction, anyway. At best the United States can influence the Botha government only marginally to act in its own enlightened interests by ending apartheid and adopting a timetable to redress black grievances. Economic sanctions would end any such American influence, and could well harden an ill-fated Botha government against further reforms that are essential to any hope of democracy in South Africa."
(The News, Greenville, SC, 7/25)

The Road To Hell -- "President Reagan is right: for the United States to impose economic sanctions on South Africa in an effort to force an end to apartheid there would be an 'act of folly.' The President is wrong, however, in claiming that such a move would constitute a 'historic' act of folly -- unless he means that it would be in keeping with our history as an international power. For meddling in the affairs of other nations has been the norm, not the exception, in U.S. foreign policy since before the beginning of this century."
(Orange County Register, CA, 7/25)

SOUTH AFRICA (continued)

Burning The House Down -- "The sanest thing said about President Reagan's speech was by a legislator in the Indian chamber of South Africa's Parliament. He said that its message was that 'burning the house down will not help those imprisoned inside.' Unfortunately, there are those in this country who, having realized only lately that apartheid is a sin but who are anxious to ride a hot political issue, don't mind giving a box of matches to those who would burn someone else's house down. That is the cruelest way imaginable to remind both whites and blacks that they share the same prison and that, if they are not to die together, they must learn to live together." (The News and Courier, Charleston, SC, 7/25)

Which Side Are We On? -- "Like a complacent sleepwalker, oblivious to evil and isolated by a yea-saying staff, Ronald Reagan risks failing the greatest moral test of his Presidency: South Africa. The problem is not his opposition to sanctions against the nation's racist regime. On the question of means, there is ample room for reasoned argument. But there should be no argument, doubt or cavil about right and wrong in South Africa or about which side America is on. As Congress will shortly demonstrate, on this issue America is not on the President's side."

(New York Times, 7/27)

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

Movement On Arms Talks -- "Faced with a Soviet proposal on banning nuclear tests, U.S. negotiators are considering a trade-off that would limit tests and cut the number of strategic weapons. At least talks will proceed, and there could be a deal on limiting medium-range missile: and chemical weapons, if verification hang-ups can be untangled. If the Reagan Administration is willing to put some limits on its Star Wars development, it might even cut a deal limiting long-range nuclear missiles. Of course, the President has said over and over that he will not limit Star Wars development, which is a foolish position to take, though his obstinance on the issue could set up Star Wars as a good bargaining chip -- if not for moderates in his Administration, then for his successor."

(Dayton Daily News, 7/21)

Perilous Times For SDI Program -- "The fact that Gorbachev is so eager to bring SDI to an end is all the more reason for Reagan not to do so. Tax reform and the rest of the Reagan agenda notwithstanding, the 21st century is likely to judge the success of this Administration primarily on whether it put an effective missile defense into place. The President has said many times that the needs of national security take precedence over all other policy considerations -- a statement that should be, but unfortunately is not, a commonplace. Reagan needs to back that statement up with strong support for the most important defense initiative in decade."

(St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 7/23)

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (continued)

Reagan Should Take Lead On U.S.-Soviet Trade-Off -- "The time has come for the President, who so far has refused to choose between warring arms-control factions in his administration, to make a decision. His choice: to challenge Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to conclude a bargain that could be Mr. Reagan's legacy to history or to preside over the demise of past arms control treaties and usher in a deadly new arms race in space.... If the President truly believes in arms control, it's time for him to rein in the hawks and put his imprint on the process. Star Wars research could continue in search of scientific break-throughs that might make Mr. Reagan's vision more likely. That's for the far future. In the meantime, if the President and Mr. Gorbachev are far-sighted enough, the present generation could win some respite from the fear of nuclear war."

(Philadelphia Inquirer, 7/24)

ISRAELI-ARAB TALKS

Bringing Israeli-Arab Talks Into The Open -- "That's the Middle East for you. Just when there seems to be no flicker of progress toward Arab-Israeli peace, something dramatic happens. It will take a while to assess the results of the Hassan-Peres meeting -- if, in fact, it actually produces any concrete results. No matter. What counts today -- as it did in 1977 -- is that the head of an Arab country and the prime minister of Israel at last could bring themselves to sit down not in shadowy secret but in broad daylight and talk to each other about peace."

(Newsday, 7/23)

TRADE BILL

And More Of The Same... -- "Two potentially negative factors may frustrate an Administration trade effort next year on Capitol Hill -- a growing 'lame duck' image of the Reagan presidency and a possible Democratic majority in the Senate. Moreover, the Administration may have to pay a higher price for a trade bill next year than in 1986. It will feel increasing pressure from its partners in the new Geneva trade round to get Congress to give the President negotiating authority. Perhaps one way to try to resolve the dilemma is for President Reagan to confer at length with both House and Senate leaders, if not this year, then very early in 1987. To obtain a positive trade bill, Mr. Reagan will have to be more than just a Great Communicator. He will need to be a Great Accommodator."

(Journal of Commerce, 7/23)

EXTRADITION TREATY

Needed Extradition Treaty -- "The Senate's 87-10 approval of an extradition treaty with Great Britain was a very long time coming, and we believe its passage at last was an exercise in logic as well as justice. The United States does not take it kindly when criminals -- terrorists or otherwise -- are given safe haven in some other country which refuses to send them back to face prosecution for acts against this nation or its criminal laws."

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 7/19)