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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1987 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

IRAN -- NICARAGUA

Republicans Told Not To Expect Any Apologies From Oval Office --
President Reagan will not apologize to the nation for the Iran-Contra affair despite the pleas of some Republican lawmakers that he take responsibility for the matter, White House officials said yesterday.

(Washington Times, AP, Reuter, Scripps Howard, UPI)

NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan honors King In Speech To Teens -- President Reagan, deploring a new outbreak of racial incidents, Thursday memorialized Martin Luther King, Jr., by calling for an America "free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination."

(Washington Post, Sacramento Bee, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Thursday Evening)

PRESIDENT REAGAN -- President Reagan delivered a televised speech from the White House today to mark the actual birthday of Martin Luther King.

847 HIJACKER -- The U.S. has told the German government that Hamadi should stand trial here.

CASEY -- Congressional investigators say CIA Director Casey is emerging as a key actor in the diversion of Iran arms sales money to the contras.



DANZIGER
The Christian Science Monitor

IRAN — NICARAGUA

REAGAN WON'T USE STATE OF UNION ADDRESS TO APOLOGIZE FOR IRAN

President Reagan has rejected the advice of some Republicans on Capitol Hill that he use his Jan. 27 State of the Union speech to Congress to apologize for the Iran-Contra affair.

"This is the President's thinking. The President feels he has done nothing for which he feels he should apologize," said White House spokesman Albert Brashear Thursday.

The legislators say they feel that with Iran hearings and investigations likely to drag on for weeks or months, a sincere plea for forgiveness and admission of error from Reagan is the only way to get the matter behind him. They are afraid the political fallout of continuing revelations will hurt GOP chances in the 1988 elections.

(Ann McFeatters & Lance Gay, Scripps Howard)

Republicans Told Not To Expect Any Apologies From Oval Office

President Reagan will not apologize to the nation for the Iran-Contra affair despite the pleas of some Republican lawmakers that he take responsibility for the matter, White House officials said yesterday.

"The President has said that mistakes were made, but he certainly feels no apology is necessary," Mr. Brashear said, responding to a New York Times report that some Republican congressmen want Mr. Reagan to make such a statement.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A3)

Reagan Supporter Urges Him To Admit Mistake In Iran Arms Dealing

One of President Reagan's strongest supporters in Congress says the President should admit he made "an error of the heart" in approving arms sales to Iran as he sought freedom for American hostages.

And the top-ranking Republican on the Senate committee investigating the controversy surrounding the once-secret sales says the President should do more to assume responsibility for the foreign affairs fiasco.

Both Hyde and Rudman avoided saying that the President should apologize, but both indicated he has not done enough to take responsibility for the crisis that has engulfed his Administration.

(Dale Nelson, AP)

White House Bars Reagan Apology For Iran-Contra Affair

The White House has rejected suggestions that President Reagan say he's sorry for the Iran scandal, despite a clamor for an apology from top congressional Republicans.

"I expect him to explain what happened, explain the rationale in reaching out to moderates or pragmatists in Iran and take responsibility," says Rep. Henry Hyde.

(Gene Gibbons, Reuter)

Senate Republican Suggests Reagan Say More About Iran-Contra

The top-ranking Republican on the Senate's Iran-Contra investigative committee suggested Thursday that President Reagan should do more to take responsibility for the foreign affairs fiasco.

Sen. Rudman insisted that "we are not going to have a circus" when the committee begins its work in earnest.

And Rep. Hyde exhorted Reagan to admit he made "an error of the heart" in approving arms sales to Iran as he sought freedom for Americans held hostage in Lebanon by groups of Iranian sympathizers.

(Cliff Haas, AP)

President/Iran Arms/Republicans

President Reagan, urged by some top Republicans to ask the American people to forgive him for the Iran arms-Contra aid scandal, "feels no apology is needed," a White House spokesman said Thursday.

"The President feels he has done nothing for which he feels he must apologize," said Albert Brashear, a deputy White House press secretary.

(Sean McCormally, UPI)

WHITE HOUSE DECISIONS ON POLICY, STAFFING DELAYED AS OFFICIALS' ENERGIES ARE DIVERTED BY IRAN AFFAIR

The scandal has drained officials' time and delayed policy decisions, including the filling of important jobs that have been vacant or are about to become so: head of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, White House domestic policy chief, secretary of the cabinet. Explaining President Reagan's slowness in choosing new members for the Federal Reserve Board, a senior White House official said: "Perhaps you've heard -- we've been preoccupied."

On Capitol Hill as well, there are signs that the crisis has caused some issues to fall through the cracks. GOP Senate staff aides complain that this week's clash with the Reagan Administration over two unratified nuclear testing treaties in part reflected the failure of a preoccupied White House staff to consult closely with Republican allies.

(Ellen Hume, Wall Street Journal, A46)

WHITE HOUSE GRUDGING WITH ITS NEWS

The Reagan White House has long been known for its well-oiled ability to deflect even the worst news.

But this week, it seemed the old answers no longer worked with a press corps hungry for the latest word in Iran, the economy -- even the President's mood.

As White House spokesman Larry Speakes heads into his final two weeks, daily briefings have degenerated into denials and repetitions of the official Administration line.

(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A4)

WEINBERGER WARNS AGAINST LETTING IRAN-CONTRA PROBE BLOCK
IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT TASKS OR BRING "DANGEROUS
RESTRICTIONS ON PRESIDENT

With a ringing defense of President Reagan, Defense Secretary Weinberger Thursday warned Congress not to allow the Iran-Contra controversy to result in "dangerous" restrictions on the conduct of defense and foreign policy.

While urging continuation of the various investigations into how profits from the sale of arms to Iran were used to illegally aid the Nicaraguan Contras, Weinberger said "foreign and domestic policy should not be held hostage to these investigations...." (Otto Kreisher, Copley)

MCFARLANE RETURNS TO SENATE TODAY AS
IRAN ARMS SCANDAL WIDENS

Former national security adviser Robert McFarlane, called back to Capitol Hill today to discuss his secret trip to Tehran in May that was geared to buy the freedom of all American hostages held in Lebanon at the time.

With Capitol Hill focus stuck on the scandal, however, President Reagan has been put in the position of responding to congressional calls for an apology regarding the sour turn in his policy toward Iran.

(Michael Myers, UPI)

McFarlane To Testify; Report Says He Rejected Offer To Release Two Hostages

Former National Security Adviser McFarlane held out for the release of four U.S. hostages during his secret trip to Iran in May, rejecting an Iranian offer to release just two, according to a broadcast report.

Meanwhile, there were indications that the Iranian arms deals had their genesis in plans by commercial arms dealers and among Iranian officials more than a year before the Reagan Administration began considering the sales.

(Lawrence Knutson, AP)

Report: North Favored Deal For 2 Hostages But McFarlane Held Out For 4

Former White House security aide Oliver North on a trip to Iran last May argued in favor of accepting the proffered release of two hostages in exchange for arms, according to a broadcast report.

But North was overruled by former national security adviser Robert McFarlane who held out for all four kidnapped Americans and ultimately went home empty-handed, ABC News reported Thursday.

(AP)

North/Iran

An Iranian weapons dealer warned Lt. Col. North and CIA Director Casey they would have "a bigger problem than Watergate," if he was cut out of arms-for-hostages negotiations, ABC News reported Thursday night.

A source who attended the negotiations between the United States and Iran provided the network with a chronological account of the five-day meeting, including direct quotations from the conversations.

(UPI)

-more-

FEW FOLLOW SCANDAL 'VERY CLOSELY'
Reagan Favorable Rating Down To 61 Percent, Poll Finds

Only 20 percent of Americans are following the Iran arms sale-contra aid story "very closely," compared with 80 percent who followed the aftermath of the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger very closely last January and 46 percent the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union last April, according to a poll.

While one-fifth of the respondents to the Gallup Organization's poll of 1,500 adults by telephone for Times-Mirror said they were paying attention to the scandal, 47 percent said they were paying fairly close attention.

(AP story, Washington Post, A20)

Poll Finds Iranian Affair Hurt Credibility Of U.S. Journalism

The nation's news organizations have lost substantial public esteem and credibility as a result of the Iran-Nicaragua affair, although the public views them more favorably than it views President Reagan, the military, Congress or the CIA, according to a new Gallup Poll for The Times Mirror Company.

The poll showed a slight increase in the President's approval rating, which dropped sharply in November. Fifty-two percent of those polled said they approved of the way Mr. Reagan was handling his job, as against 47 percent in mid-December. (Alex Jones, New York Times, A1)

Only 20% Found To Follow Iran Arms Story Closely

Only one in five Americans is paying "very close" attention to news coverage of the Iran arms-contra scandal, an unusually low figure for a major news story, according to a public opinion poll released yesterday.

The national survey by the Gallup Organization found that almost half of those questioned think that news organizations are giving too much coverage to the Iran story and the intense coverage is making the U.S. look bad in the eyes of the world. (Paul West, Baltimore Sun, A1)

Iran Arms Affair/Poll

The Iran arms-Contra aid scandal is "a story Americans don't like," because it has hurt public opinion of President Reagan, and they blame reporters even though they trust them more than Reagan, a poll reveals.

Though other polls have shown a drop in Reagan's popularity during his worst political crisis, the new survey proves, "his critics are more critical than his supporters are supportive," said Andrew Kohut, the Gallup president. (Sydney Shaw, UPI)

HEFLIN: NO 'JOHN DEAN' YET IN IRAN-CONTRA PROBE

Democratic Sen. Howell Heflin, a former Alabama chief justice now on the Senate panel probing the Iran arms-Contra aid scandal, says without a "John Dean" the case will be even tougher to crack than Watergate.

In an interview Thursday, Heflin said the current investigation faces many obstacles -- including its global nature and the fact that so far there is no one person who knows all about the affair and is willing to testify.

(Robert Doherty, UPI)

ASPIN, LEATH SAY THEY MAY VOTE AGAINST FURTHER CONTRA AID

Reps. Aspin and Leath, two of the four Democrats competing to become chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, say they may change their previous positions and vote against further U.S. military aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

All four said they are trying hard to line up support for the vote, which will be by secret ballot during a closed-door meeting of the 258 House Democrats. (Tim Ahern, AP)

COURTER: PRIVATE CONTRA AID 'RATHER IRRELEVANT'

A member of the House select committee probing the Iran arms-Contra aid affair said Thursday he would oppose any attempt by Democratic panel members to launch an investigation into private efforts to help the Contras.

Rep. James Courter, an ardent supporter of the Contras, said the panel should look into private Contra-aid networks only in respect to whether they helped channel public money from Iranian arms sales to the Contras, in violation of federal law banning such use of federal funds. (George Lobsenz)

REPORT: CIA AGENT RECALLED FOR AIDING CONTRAS

The CIA recalled its station chief in Costa Rica last week for helping a private air force fly weapons to the Nicaraguan rebels while U.S. military aid to the Contras was banned, it was reported today.

Quoting Administration and congressional sources, the Los Angeles Times said the CIA told the Senate Intelligence Committee this week that it recalled its chief officer from the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, because of "unauthorized contacts with private benefactors: who were aiding the rebels. (UPI)

POINDEXTER DEFENSE FUND

Naval officers across the nation are contributing to a defense fund for Vice Adm. Poindexter in response to a fund-raising letter from former chief of naval operations, officers said Thursday.

The letter from retired Adm. James Holloway III seeks donations to help pay the legal fees of Poindexter, identified as a central figure in the Iran arms-Contra aid scandal, who resigned as White House national security adviser in November. (Rob Gloster, UPI)

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER PLEDGES ANSWERS ON IRAN ARMS SCANDAL

JERUSALEM -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed the Iranian arms scandal as a minor problem for Israel and promised to explain his country's role in the weapons deal when he visits the United States next month.

He also said the Americans and Israelis would "decide together" how to investigate the scandal. (Galina Vromen, Reuter)

IRAN LOSSES PUT AT 40,000 IN WEEKS Weinberger Says Victory Over Iraq Would Be 'Very Disastrous'

About 40,000 Iranian troops, many as young as 14, have been killed in human-wave attacks against Iraqi positions since Tehran went on the offensive Dec. 24, Defense Secretary Weinberger said yesterday.

"It would be very disastrous for everyone" if Iran won the Persian Gulf war, now in its seventh year, Weinberger told a group of Washington Post reporters and editors. He said a victorious Iran, tied to the Soviet Union, could provide the Soviets with a warm-water port and access to gulf oil. (George Wilson, Washington Post, A19)

IRAN SALES KEY TO PORTUGAL'S ARMS TRADE Country's Antiquated Weapons Industry Depends On Nations Shunned By Allies

LISBON -- For three years, from the beginning of the Persian Gulf war until 1983, Portugal's largest single customer for weapons exports was Iraq.

More recently, Baghdad has slipped to second place. The new front runner is its archenemy, Iran.

Since Portugal dropped an official ban on direct dealings with Iran in late 1983, Tehran has purchased more than half of all the weaponry produced for export by Portuguese factories, worth more than \$100 million through last September. (Karen DeYoung, Washington Post, A18)

HABIB/CENTRAL AMERICA

TEGUCIGALPA -- Philip Habib, the Reagan Administration's Central American envoy, canceled a visit to three Central American nations where he planned to seek support for the Reagan Administration's policies, a U.S. official said Thursday.

Habib "cannot visit the region at this time," U.S. Embassy spokesman Arthur Skop said, and the decision to suspend the trip was made in Washington by the State Department. (UPI)

NATIONAL NEWS

PRESIDENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO SLAIN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

High School Students Are Urged To Be A Generation

'Free Of Bigotry, Intolerance And Discrimination'

President Reagan paid tribute yesterday to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and urged American youth to "accept nothing less than making yours a generation free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination."

In his first appearance since his recent prostate surgery, Reagan, speaking from the Oval Office in a broadcast to be aired in high schools around the country, hailed the Rev. King for helping "dismantle the legal vestiges of discrimination and racism."

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A3)

The President/King

President Reagan, urging Americans to "reflect on the legacy" of Martin Luther King Jr., told high school students that opportunity is theirs because of the slain civil rights leader's courage.

Reagan arranged to meet with his key advisers today before flying to Camp David in nearby Maryland mountains for a three-day respite over the national holiday honoring King -- which he originally opposed establishing.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

Reagan honors King In Speech To Teens

President Reagan, deploring a new outbreak of racial incidents, Thursday memorialized Martin Luther King, Jr., by calling for an America "free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination."

In observance of the 58th birthday of the slain civil rights leader, Reagan also strove for a belated reconciliation of his own, setting aside long-held disagreements with King's crusading views and a persistent reluctance to accord him a great place in history.

Reagan's laudatory comments were in sharp contrast to his past criticism of King's civil disobedience tactics and his opposition to civil rights measures that King championed in the 1960s.

(Leo Rennert, Bee Washington Bureau)

BENNETT VISITS ATLANTA TO HONOR CITY'S NATIVE SON

ATLANTA -- Atlanta celebrated the birthday today of native son Martin Luther King Jr. with a visit by Education Secretary Bennett and speeches on the slain civil rights leader's place in history.

Bennett taught a third-grade class about King, then spoke at an assembly at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

(AP story, Washington Post, A3)

BILINGUAL PROGRAM AGAIN UNDER FIRE

Bennett Seeks Flexibility For Schools Teaching English As 2nd Tongue

Education Secretary Bennett is expected to send Congress a proposal today to restructure federal bilingual education, reviving the controversy he prompted more than a year ago when he suggested changes in the \$143 million program.

The proposed legislation would allow local school districts more flexibility in choosing how to teach English to nonnative children. Bennett was scheduled to announce the proposal in a speech in San Antonio before Hispanic leaders, a group that has vocally opposed similar changes in the past. (Barbara Vohejda, Washington Post, A4)

Bilingual Education

The Reagan Administration is renewing its campaign to lift federal restrictions on bilingual education funds that require most schools to teach students in their native language as they learn English.

In a speech prepared for delivery Friday, Education Secretary Bennett said he wants Congress to remove the current limitation because there is no evidence that "transitional bilingual education" is the best way to teach all non-English-speaking students. (Susan Garland, Newhouse)

REAGAN AIDE BUCHANAN SAID TO FAVOR 1988 WHITE HOUSE TRY

White House communications director Pat Buchanan has told a meeting of conservative activists he is inclined to enter the Republican presidential primaries, one meeting participant said Thursday.

"He said he was very much inclined towards running. That was the clear impression he conveyed," said Howard Phillips, head of the Conservative Caucus and one of those pressuring him to make the race.

(Peter Brown, Scripps Howard)

Buchanan Wants Nixon Blessing Before Making Presidential Run

White House Communications Director Patrick Buchanan will seek the blessing of his former boss, Richard Nixon, before deciding to make a run for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination.

Mr. Buchanan told a meeting of some 20 conservative leaders and strategists at his home Wednesday night he would leave the White House by the end of the month to "preserve every element of propriety" should he decide to run, according to Howard Phillips, Conservative Caucus Chairman. (Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A5)

Editor's Note: "The Ascent Of Marlin Fitzwater," appears on page B1 of The Washington Post.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN CONSIDERS PLAN TO PUT SDI WEAPONS TO WORK

President Reagan is considering a \$100 billion plan to begin full-scale development of ground- and space-based SDI weapons, according to Administration and congressional sources.

Mr. Reagan was briefed Dec. 17 on the SDI plan by Defense Secretary Weinberger, Assistant Defense Secretary Perle and Air Force Gen. James Abrahamson, director of the Pentagon's SDI Organization.

"He [the President] was enthusiastic about it," said one Administration official close to the SDI program. "Of course, Weinberger is leading the charge." (Warren Strobel, Washington Times, A1)

U.S., SOVIETS RESUME ARMS TALKS

GENEVA -- Superpower arms talks resumed today with a luncheon meeting between U.S. delegation head Max Kampelman and his new Soviet counterpart, Yuli Vorontsov.

The two delegation leaders met privately at Soviet request, instead of heading a meeting of all three top negotiators from each side, which normally marks the beginning of a round.

(AP story, Washington Post, A26)

Delegations Impose News Blackout On Negotiations

GENEVA -- U.S. and Soviet negotiators imposed a strict news blackout today on the new round of superpower negotiations on strategic and medium-ranged nuclear missiles and space-based defense systems.

U.S. delegation leader Max Kampelman and his new Soviet counterpart, Yuli Vorontsov, opened the new round Thursday with a private working luncheon.

The news blackout was so severe that U.S. delegation spokesman Terry Schroeder was unable to even say how long the luncheon lasted. Kampelman was seen returning to the U.S. Embassy after three hours.

(John Callcott, UPI)

FORMER CIA DIRECTOR URGES SENATE APPROVE TEST TREATIES

For the second time this week, a former CIA director disputed President Reagan's claim that national security would be threatened unless on-site verification is added to a pair of nuclear testing treaties.

William Colby, who headed the CIA from 1973 to 1976, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Thursday that the two decade-old unratified treaties should be approved by the Senate as is, without adding language Reagan is seeking that requires on-site verification. (Bud Newman, UPI)

U.S. CALLS AFGHAN PEACE OFFENSIVE A PROPAGANDA PLOY AGAINST REBELS

U.S. officials scoffed yesterday at a one-sided government cease-fire in Afghanistan that is linked to a vague offer of a Soviet troop withdrawal.

But they conceded that Moscow's well-orchestrated peace offensive has put pressure on Pakistan and the Afghan resistance.

"Offering a troop withdrawal after the acceptance of a cease-fire is an empty gesture that can only be seen as a propaganda ploy," said White House spokesman Albert Brashear.

(Richard Beeston, Washington Times, A1)

U.S. SAYS SOVIETS DISAVOW GRAIN SALE AGREEMENT

The Soviet Union has virtually repudiated the long-term agreement that requires it to buy minimum amounts of U.S. grain each year, Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng said yesterday.

Lyng said the indication came during a meeting here last month with Moscow's foreign trade minister, Boris Ivanovich Aristov.

"He virtually disavowed that agreement by saying that they -- in total over the years -- had purchased more than the minimum agreement," Lyng said in an interview with farm editors.

(AP story, Washington Post, A26)

U.S. LIFTS CONTROLS ON EXPORT OF DRILLING GEAR TO SOVIETS

The Reagan Administration, responding to pressure from the domestic oil and gas industry, yesterday lifted controls on the export of drilling equipment to the Soviet Union that had been imposed in 1978 to force a change in Soviet human rights policy.

Officials emphasized that the Soviets had shown no improvement on human rights. Instead, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said the controls were being lifted because they "have lost their impact in the face of widespread foreign availability of like products" and have had a "debilitating effect" on the U.S. oil and gas industry.

(Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A1)

Commerce Lifts Export Bans Against Soviet Union

The United States will end its export restrictions on oil and gas equipment and technology to the Soviet Union Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said Thursday.

"I am convinced despite our dissatisfaction with Soviet human rights efforts that it is no longer in our national interest to keep these unilateral foreign policy controls on exports of oil and gas equipment and technology to the Soviet Union," Baldrige said.

(UPI)

HIJACKING SUSPECT ARRESTED West Germans Hold Lebanese Sought In 1985 TWA Seizure

BONN -- West German police have arrested a Lebanese man suspected of having helped stage the dramatic 17-day hijacking of a TWA jet airliner to Beirut in June 1985 in which a U.S. Navy diver was slain, authorities said today.

Customs agents detained Mohammed Ali Hamadei, 22, on his arrival at Frankfurt airport on Tuesday when they found that he was carrying three bottles containing a powerful liquid explosive, court officials said. Federal investigators later identified him as one of the suspected hijackers from his fingerprints, they said. (Robert McCartney, Washington Post, A1)

Hijacking Suspect Likely To Be Extradited To U.S. To Face Murder

West Germany is likely to extradite a Palestinian hijacking suspect to the United States where he will face charges of murder and piracy, diplomats say.

A Department of Justice spokesman said he couldn't say for certain that the man arrested, Muhammad Ali Hamadi, "pulled the trigger." The suspect is one of three men charged with murder and piracy in warrants issued by the department after the hijacking ended.

(Walter Friedenberg, Scripps Howard)

Palestinian Kidnapper

The U.S. Ambassador to West Germany negotiated Thursday for the swift extradition of a Palestinian arrested in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner, to stand trial in the United States for air piracy, murder, and a dozen other charges, the Justice Department said.

"We are very interested in getting this individual back to the United States to face charges here," said department spokesman Pat Korten.

(Lori Santos, UPI)

Palestinian Kidnapper

A Palestinian described as a "big fish" in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner in the Middle East was arrested when he tried to smuggle explosives into West Germany for use in a terrorist attack, the government said Thursday.

If extradited, Hamadei would be the first alleged Middle East terrorist returned to the United States for trial, Justice Department spokesman Pat Korten said in Washington.

(Edward Roby, UPI)

U.S. Indictment Charges Four With 1985 TWA Hijacking In Beirut

A long-sealed indictment in the 1985 hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in Beirut alleges that four people, including a man now in custody in West Germany, conspired to kill a U.S. Navy diver and assault eight other people during the 17-day hostage ordeal.

The 15-count indictment alleging conspiracy to commit air piracy and murder omits the name of one of the four defendants and was handed up Nov. 14, 1985, but kept under seal until Thursday night.

(Pete Yost, AP)

SHULTZ DOGGED BY IRAN, RESIGNATION ISSUES
Questioning On Africa Trip Shows How Stewardship
Of Foreign Policy May Suffer

Secretary of State Shultz, who returned Wednesday from an eight-day trip to black Africa, got his first sour taste of how the Iran arms sale is likely to bedevil his stewardship of U.S. foreign policy in the coming months.

At almost every stop, Shultz was confronted by reporters -- primarily those traveling with him -- seeking his reaction to the latest revelations in Washington and to renewed reports that he intends to resign.

(David Ottaway, News Analysis, Washington Post, A16)

SHULTZ IS UNDER FIRE FOR ASSERTING LIBERIA HAS
MADE GAINS ON RIGHTS

Secretary Shultz, who returned from a six-nation tour of Africa late Wednesday, has become embroiled in criticism over his assertion that Liberia has made progress in human rights.

Several Liberians, including a politician, a newspaper publisher and a human rights campaigner, said today that Mr. Shultz had made inaccurate statements at a news conference Wednesday in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, where he said Liberia had a free press, an elected Government and no political prisoners.

(David Shipler, New York Times, A1)

REBEL LEADERS URGE U.S. TO PRESSURE S. AFRICA
ANC To Request Aid For 'Front-Line States'

GABORONE, Botswana -- The African National Congress, the main guerrilla group battling white minority rule in South Africa, has embarked on a strategy of trying to persuade the United States to escalate pressure on Pretoria to negotiate a transition to majority rule.

Emphasizing the importance of diplomatic contact more than it has in the past, the congress will also ask the Reagan Administration to more than triple financial assistance to "front-line" black African states.

(William Claiborne, Washington Post, A25)

S. AFRICA CANCELS ORDER TO EXPEL U.S REPORTER
Los Angeles Times Editors Gain Reprieve

JOHANNESBURG -- The South African government withdrew an expulsion order against Los Angeles Times correspondent Michael Parks today after a meeting in Cape Town between the newspaper's editors and Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha.

Botha said he had agreed to allow Parks to stay "in view of assurances and undertakings received" from the paper's editor in chief, William Thomas, and its foreign editor, Alvin Shuster, who met with him for an hour yesterday.

(Allister Sparks, Washington Post, A28)

DOLLAR'S FALL LINKED TO ALLIES' SLOW GROWTH

A Treasury official yesterday said that poorer prospects for economic growth in West Germany and Japan -- rather than an Administration effort to push the dollar down -- were responsible for this week's sharp decline of the dollar.

He said in a telephone interview that "there are only a few ways" in which to deal with the huge trade and current account imbalances among the United States, West Germany and Japan.

"One is to get stronger growth out of our trading partners. Another is to change the currency relationships. And a third way would be slower U.S. growth or a recession, and that's an option that, obviously, nobody wants," said the official, who did not want to be identified.

(Hobart Rowen, Washington Post, F1)

U.S./CANADA/TRADE

U.S. and Canadian trade negotiators wrapped up another round of talks Thursday aimed at eliminating tariffs, duties and other barriers in the world's biggest bilateral trade relationship.

Deputy U.S. negotiator William Merkin said the two sides "narrowed their differences" on several customs issues and began to focus on how to deal with the more complicated tariffs issue. (UPI)

2 EXECUTIVES OFFER GRIM TRADE OUTLOOK

The United States has lost its dominant position in world trade, and even the best trade legislation would not be enough to restore it, two business leaders told the Senate Finance Committee yesterday.

"In thinking of trade, we are often like a group of people playing chess -- only the game is being played on the decks of the Titanic and the waters are rising all around us," said John Young, president of Hewlett-Packard Co., the computer maker.

(Anne Swardson, Washington Post, F3)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Thursday evening, January 15th)

PRESIDENT REAGAN

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan delivered a televised speech from the White House today to mark the actual birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King 58 years ago. The President said Dr. King was an inspiration to all Americans no matter what their race. The speech provided an opportunity for many people to have their first extended look at the President since he came out of the hospital and it was given at a time when numerous other politicians had been questioning the President's grasp of the world's most powerful job.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The President's coming out appearance was a carefully controlled Oval Office television speech designed to show Mr. Reagan alive and, if not completely well, at least firm of voice and sharp of eye, and it did that.

(President Reagan: "I wish you all the very best. Thank you and God bless you.")

But it did not answer the question of how much the President is involved these days in other matters of administration. With only still photographers from the press corps allowed to see him since his return from the hospital last Thursday, reporters have been barred, several stories have surfaced questioning Mr. Reagan's grasp of his surroundings, quoting sources as saying he seems inattentive and unable to focus on matters, particularly on his own role in the Iranian arms sale episode. Deputy press secretary Rusty Brashear today insisted such reports are erroneous. He said the President is very much involved in the decision making process. It has been almost two months since the President answered questions about the arms sales and a lot of new information has surfaced. But spokesman Brashear declined to relay new questions to the President saying: "We do not think it appropriate to ask him to try and remember a series of complicated events that unfolded over a long period of time." On Capitol Hill the special Senate committee which will investigate the scandal held an organizational meeting and some congressional Republicans said Mr. Reagan needs to speak up again soon to explain things.

(Sen. Tribble: "Certainly the President has to do something, perhaps, I think the President should simply underscore the fact that he wants the full facts before the American people.")

(Rep. Hyde: "I think the President cannot appear to be so disengaged that all this was going on without his knowledge and I think an explanation is due.")

(Sen. Rudman: "All of this effort on the part of mainly his staff to point the finger some place else is not fitting to man who has great personal courage and convictions.")

Some Republican lawmakers have even gone so far as to suggest Mr. Reagan apologize, but that's going too far for the President, who did relay word today through his spokesman he feels he has done nothing to apologize for.

(ABC-3)

CBS's Dan Rather: President Reagan had one of his spokesmen, Albert Brashear, today try to put a stop to the suggestions, some made by congressional Republicans, that Mr. Reagan should apologize for the Iran-contra arms scandal. The President, said Brashear, feels he has done nothing for which he feels he must apologize. (CBS-3)

847 HIJACKER

NBC's Tom Brokaw reports a Lebanese suspected of being one of the hijackers of flight 847 is in a West German jail tonight and American officials are at work trying to arrange for his extradition to the U.S. to stand trial. The suspect is Mohammed Hamadi. He was arrested at the Frankfurt airport Tuesday as he tried to enter West Germany on a flight from Beirut. German authorities said that he was carrying explosives.

NBC's Brian Stewart reports in the United States arrest warrants were handed down two years ago against three terrorists believed to be involved in the hijacking. Hamadi is one of the three. American officials were gratified.

(Charles Redman: "We have notified the Federal Republic that the arrested man is wanted in the U.S. for air piracy, murder and other offenses related to the TWA 847 hijacking in June of 1985.")

Hamadi is now being held at an undisclosed location, security sources say they'll likely agree to extradite him to America, possibly within days. (NBC-Lead, ABC-Lead, CBS-Lead)

CBS's Rita Braver reports the U.S. has told the German government that Hamadi should stand trial here for the murder of Navy seaman Robert Steitem calling it one of the most despicable acts of international terrorism ever committed against Americans.

(Charles Redman: "We are very interested in having this individual sent to the U.S. in order to face charges.")

Both U.S. and German officials predict that German courts will quickly agree to turn Hamadi over to the U.S.

(Attorney General Meese: "As you know it has been our policy to aggressively investigate and prosecute cases of terrorism, hijacking and so on. And so what is being done here is in keeping with that policy.")

The Justice Department says Hamadi would be the first Middle Eastern terrorist ever turned over to the U.S. and that would send a clear message that western nations are now working together against terrorism. (CBS-2)

U.S./IRAN

ABC's Peter Jennings: And now a report on the Reagan Administration's mission to sell arms to the Iranians in exchange for Americans held hostage in Lebanon. There has been a lot of water under bridge since the Iran affair was first revealed and we needn't tell you how many unanswered questions there are, but from an Iranian source who was present we now have a complete feel of what exactly went on when the delegation from Washington, lead by Robert McFarlane, made its first visit to Iran.

ABC's Barbara Walters reports according to the source, in March 1986 Oliver North tells Iranian arms dealer and middleman Gorbanifar that a high level group would come to Tehran. Their mission, to have face to face meetings with top Iranian officials in Iran about future relations for the two nations, also to secure the release of four Americans being held hostage in Lebanon and the body of murdered hostage William Buckley. The Iranian negotiators are Dr. Najafabadi, head of the parliament's foreign relations committee and deputy foreign minister Kahid. Both Rafsanjani and Amal Khomeini are aware of the American's presences. One of the Iranians jokingly asks North what he has brought him? According to the sources, North hands him a chocolate cake and calls it the key to better relations. North also brings as gifts three walnut boxes bearing the Presidential seal. Inside are Colt revolvers. There is no bible as reported. By days end an agreement seems to be reached. Iran will get the four hostages released, the remaining arms will be shipped and future Iranian-American relations were continued to be discussed. Day four, and a snag, the Americans have brought with them 10% of the total arms shipment promised. The Iranians are nervous and want the entire shipment delivered now. New negotiations. Dr. Najafabadi: "We will release two hostages now, you order the plane with the rest of the cargo. When it arrives tomorrow we will give you two more hostages and then you go home." McFarlane, impatiently: "No, I want all the hostages now or I go." McFarlane refuses to continue the discussions and orders that their luggage be packed. By now Khomeini has approved the arms deal. Najafabadi begs McFarlane for more time. McFarlane agrees to wait one more day. Early the next morning, Najafabadi returns empty handed. He has failed to see the Ayatollah. He tells McFarlane I will see him later, but take two hostages now, I will convince the old man, we will wait for the plane together you and I. We will open the plane together and then the final two will be released. McFarlane refuses. Gen. Nir, the Israeli, reportedly is close to tears. Oliver North tries to convince McFarlane to accept the two hostages. McFarlane continues to refuse. The Americans go home. But Iranian sources tell us that even today Iran does not want to close the door to U.S. relations and they say, there is a chance that the remaining hostages will be released in the near future.

Jennings: We asked Robert McFarlane to comment on that report, in deference to the congressional committees, as he put it, he would not expand, but he did tell us in a written statement that the central point was correct, that when Iran failed to release all the hostages he would not negotiate new terms and he terminated the mission.

(ABC-2)

CASEY

CBS's Lesley Stahl reports after reviewing reams of White House documents and computer discs, congressional investigators say CIA Director Casey is emerging as a key actor in the diversion of Iran arms sales money to the contras. According to a congressional source, the computer tapes of Oliver North include numerous references to Casey.

Stahl continues:

They show that there were many meetings and phone calls between North and Casey during the period under investigation. The member of Congress told CBS News that while there is no one document proving Casey's knowledge, the cumulative evidence shows that "Casey had to know and had a central roll." While the new Senate Select Committee on the scandal held a short meeting, Secretary Weinberger struck out at those who he says have turned their backs on the President.

(Weinberger: "These are summer soldiers and sunshine patriots and they seem to have forgotten exactly what and who it is who is largely responsible for the favorable turn in American policies over the last six years.")

A congressional source says that what is remarkable in the documents reviewed so far is that there is no discussion of options, no outlining of the cost of failure, and no analysis of how to limit the damage if the covert operations were ever disclosed. (CBS-4)

U.S./CONTRAS

Brokaw: The White House said today that President Reagan has no plans to apologize for the Iran-contra affair. That statement followed calls from several key Republicans for Mr. Reagan to accept full responsibility for what happened and to ask the American people to forgive him, but a White House spokesman the President feels that he has done nothing to apologize for. (NBC-15)

McFARLANE

Brokaw: Another key figure in the Iran-contra affair, Robert McFarlane, says he doesn't think that the contras are competent fighters. In a speech last night he called them well meaning Coca Cola bottlers, clerks, laborers, peasants, but he said, they are not trained to be counter-revolutionaries. McFarlane added that does not mean their purpose isn't real, however. (NBC-16)

POLL

Brokaw: A Gallop poll conducted for the Times-Mirror company found that only 20% of the American people are following the Iran-contra scandal closely. Still, 42% believe that the scandal is so serious that it has hurt President Reagan's ability to run this country. Thirty-eight percent think that he is holding back information and 50% believe that the media have placed too much emphasis on rumors and unconfirmed reports. (NBC-18)

TRIDENT II

Brokaw: The Navy's Trident II submarine missile is being called the strategic defense weapon of the 1990s and at Cape Canaveral today it had its maiden launch. The Navy declared it a complete success. The three stage missile blasted off on schedule and hurled a dummy warhead on target into the Atlantic several thousand miles southeast of the Florida coast. About two dozen anti-nuclear protesters tried to block the launch, 19 were arrested. (NBC-5, ABC-12, CBS-8)

-more-

GENEVA TALKS

Brokaw: In Geneva the seventh round of the 22 month old superpower arms negotiations resumed today but it was not business as usual. Max Kampelman came calling at a villa in the Soviet diplomatic compound, he was greeted by his new counterpart Uli Vorontsov. The two went inside for what was called a get acquainted working lunch instead of a meeting of the full delegations. It was not known when that meeting will take place. (NBC-6, CBS-7)

KING BIRTHDAY

Brokaw: The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was born 58 years ago today and at ceremonies in Atlanta Secretary Bennett praised him for teaching peace and also the value of struggle and President Reagan, who had opposed a national holiday in his memory, said in a televised speech that Dr. King made our country stronger. (NBC-13)

CBS's Bill Whitaker reports the Justice Department reports acts of racial violence went up 42% last year. Today by satellite hook up, President Reagan called on the nation's school children to fulfill the dream [of King]. (President Reagan: "You should accept nothing less than making yours a generation free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination.") But many blacks say Mr. Reagan has turned the clock back on race relations. (CBS-17)

AFGHANISTAN

Jennings: The White House said today that a cease fire put into effect by the Afghan government in Afghanistan last night was an empty gesture. The rebels say they believe it is a trick. It is apparently only the Afghan government and the Soviets who have agreed to stop shooting. (ABC-8, NBC-7, CBS-9)

U.S./U.S.S.R. EMBARGO

Jennings: And late news today that the Reagan Administration is lifting its embargo against the sale of oil and gas drilling equipment to the Soviet Union. That embargo was first put into effect in 1978 to protest Soviet human rights policies. (ABC-9)

HINCKLEY

Rather: The Secret Service said today that it certainly will oppose any more trips outside the a psychiatric hospital by John Hinckley, the man who shot President Reagan and three others in March of 1981, who was given a 12 hour pass to have a meal with his parents in the Washington suburbs on December 28th. The Secret Service objected but was overruled at the time by Hinckley's doctors. Hinckley was committed to a Washington psychiatric hospital after he succeeded in defending himself with a plea of guilty by reason of insanity. (CBS-12)

RAY BOLGER DIES

Rather: Actor Ray Bolger, who among other things, starred as the Scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz, has died in Los Angeles. Ray Bolger was 83. (CBS-16)

COMMENTARY

NBC's John Chancellor comments the Duke of Wellington, one of England's greatest soldiers, once said there is no such thing as a little war for a great nation. The lesson is that a big country has to be extremely careful not to become obsessed with a smaller enemy. The Johnson administration became obsessed with Vietnam, the Kremlin became obsessed with Afghanistan and the Reagan Administration became obsessed with Nicaragua. That lead to bad troubles for the Reagan Administration. Big countries have to pick their fights very carefully. Victory has to be certain in a fight with a small enemy, if not things can get out of hand. The Duke of Wellington knew that, it is a pity that the White House didn't remember what he said when it got involved with Nicaragua. (NBC-17)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

FEDERAL BUDGET

The Budget's Plan for Treading Water -- "The federal budget is supposed to be a blueprint and a basis for discussion with Congress on spending and taxes, but President Reagan's 1988 trillion-dollar proposal seems more like a how-to manual for treading water.... Overall, though, there's little in the Reagan trillion-dollar budget that shows courage, vision or a resolve to deal with the tough issues of fiscal policy. Let's hope the nation can keep its head above water for another year."

(Chicago Tribune, 1/12)

Same-old-Reagan Budget Merits Same Old Criticisms -- "What is objectionable about the budget is the path to the bottom-line: The slashing of domestic programs while defense is being increased; the gaining of semi-fraudulent, one-time-only savings through the selling of federal assets; the continuing stubbornness about taxes. All of these policies are in conflict with common sense and are in obedience to ideology."

(Dayton Daily News, 1/11)

Healthy U.S. Budget Depends on Collaboration -- "Healthy budget progress heavily depends on collaboration, not recrimination, across party lines. Reagan should move further toward fiscal compromises with Democratic leaders. Democrats should move to meet him by showing more spine in restraining entitlements for people who are not poor and by talking of higher taxes only in the same breath with talk of lower spending."

(Minneapolis Star and Tribune, 1/9)

Budget Onus on Democrats -- "Congressional Democrats trashed President Reagan's budget before it ever got to Capitol Hill, and now the onus is on members of the majority party to put up or shut up about fiscal responsibility. Don't hold your breath.... While individual members of the [Oklahoma] delegation would not be expected to embrace the Reagan budget as is, neither should they go off on a tax-raising tangent. As budget hearings begin, their action will be watched closely."

(Daily Oklahoman, 1/8)

Put Reagan's Budget on Critical List -- "Finding themselves on the short end of the stick are: Farmers, who would lose \$4 billion in price support payments and would see farm target prices drop by 10 percent next year; northwest power users -- Mr. Reagan would sell the Bonneville Power Administration, causing electric rates to rise; older Americans, who would face a big jump in Medicare premiums and shoulder a \$20 billion cut in Medicaid over five years. College students, who would lose \$3.7 billion in student aid. In November, the President decried the budget-setting process as a 'disgrace - simply unworthy of the legislature of the greatest democracy in the world.' He's right, and a credible budget process begins at home. Mr. Reagan cannot expect his budget to arrive healthy on Capitol Hill if it leaves the White House without a heart."

(Idaho Statesman, 1/7)

FEDERAL BUDGET (continued)

A Trillion-Dollar Spending Plan Requires a Search for Cuts -- "Congress' first step is to take President Reagan seriously when he rejects an income-tax increase. Once the easy way out is foreclosed, Congress will have to buckle down to determining what in the budget has to go. There is no other way." (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/7)

Middle Class Plays Victim -- "In the Reagan world of the 1988 fiscal year budget, the middle class can look forward to, in addition to paying the bills, fewer educational opportunities for its children and reduced affordability of a home.... The Administration, which steadfastly opposes new taxes, is crazy about fees for a variety of services and programs. Fees, unlike taxes, are totally regressive, with no relation to the ability to pay. Instead of conservative fiscal planning, the country has received nothing but massive debts and ideological claptrap about getting stingy with the dollar." (Salem Oregon Statesman-Journal, 1/7)

The Budget Fight Begins -- "President Reagan refuses to get together with congressional leaders to search for a compromise that will include either of these changes. But that intransigence dooms serious deficit reduction. A long-term budget plan on which both sides try to find a common ground on taxes, defense and social spending is not hopelessly idealistic. The truth is, in 1987 it's downright despicable." Examiner, 1/6)

Reagan Right on Budget -- "A word to the wise is not to get robbed by tax hike legislation while you're looking the other way. Reagan may have been wrong on Iran but he was right on fiscal policy and taxes.... He deserves the support of those who are better off as a result." (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1/6)

CLEAN WATER BILL

The Big Spenders are Back -- "Nobody is against clean water. That isn't the issue. The real question is how much money can sensibly be spent, given current budgetary pressures. The Democrats say \$20 billion over the next six years. The President says \$6 billion, but has indicated willingness to compromise at \$12 billion. Surely that's plenty.... The President should still give it the ax. It's important to make clear that behind Congress' talk about the horrors of the federal deficit and the 'necessity' for tax increases stand some old-fashioned big spenders." (Detroit News, 1/11)

Clean Water Act: Hoping Reagan Won't Muddy it by His Veto -- "Mr. Reagan should stand aside this time and, if inclined to convey one further note of displeasure, allow the bill to become law without his signature. Inevitable adoption of the Clean Water Act in its original form coincides with good politics and the nation's best interests." (Providence Journal, 1/11)

Clean Water -- "The President considers a \$20 billion, eight-year commitment to clean water to be irresponsible. Yet, he would spend that much in one year alone in foreign aid, pursuing policies that are vaguely defined, unpredictable in their impact and debatable in their long-term benefits to the people of the country." (Bangor Daily News, 1/10)

CLEAN WATER BILL (continued)

Reagan Challenges the Tide on Water Bill -- "Do not be misled by the White House's pained howls of 'budget-busting' and 'partisan confrontation' concerning the resurrected \$18 billion clean-water bill.... Sure, reducing the federal budget deficit is an objective of high priority, but no higher than ensuring a clean-water supply into the 21st century that is sufficient for promoting economic growth and maintaining public health."

(Atlanta Journal, 1/10)

Strong Support for Clean Water -- "According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than \$100 billion must be spent by the year 2000 on treatment facilities. The 1987 Clean Water Act shouldn't be viewed as a budget-breaking request; it's a downpayment on a healthy environment."

(Hartford Courant, 1/9)

Time to Try Again on Water Bill -- "President Reagan claimed to be striking a blow for budget austerity late last year when he pocket-vetoed the Clean Water Act, which has passed both houses of Congress unanimously. In fact, the President signaled his own shortsightedness.... The President is right on one score, however: 'You cannot decry deficits and then pass budget-busting legislation.' But the Clean Water Act - \$18 billion in a \$1.02 trillion package - is hardly the culprit. The real budget-busting comes from Reagan's stubborn refusal to boost taxes and his insistence on another increase in military spending."

(The Milwaukee Journal, 1/5)

IRAN-NICARAGUA

The Iran-Contra Churn -- "The Iran-contra affair continues to unravel into a jumble of semi-recollected events, falsified or sanitized or leaked memos, the blame laying on other governments.... As to recovering its credibility, the White House is not entirely at the mercy of the Iran debacle. It can rely on the soundness and clarity of its decisions from here on to carry the day. Ultimately, this is all that any effective leadership can depend on."

(Christian Science Monitor, 1/15)

Sweet Reason -- "How come President Reagan gets to speak with two voices? Most of his aides portray him as committed to getting to the bottom of the Iran arms scandal. Meanwhile, Pat Buchanan is screeching about the traitors on Capitol Hill. This confusing situation has been going on for weeks.... It still looks like the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing at the White House. Except maybe with Pat Buchanan."

(Kansas City Times, 1/13)

A Strange Defense for the President -- "Given the demonstrated determination of Congress to learn what really happened -- why the arms were sold to Iran, the role of Israel and a flock of other nations, who put the money into the Swiss banks, and who took it out -- the White House staff apparently has decided to defend Mr. Reagan by proving that he slept through the whole show."

(Arkansas Gazette, 1/12)

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1987

Glasnost and Afghanistan

Is Mikhail Gorbachev serious in his new peace overtures to Afghanistan? Perhaps. The Soviets plainly hope to withdraw their troops — though, as usual, on their terms. And for good reason. The Afghan *mujahideen* continue to inflict a heavy toll on Red Army troops. The war continues to deplete Moscow's resources. The Soviet occupation continues to embarrass Kremlin attempts to seduce Third World — especially Islamic — countries.

None of this means an abrupt Soviet retreat. That would impede Soviet geostrategic designs in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. A fast retreat would mean humiliation, might even spark unrest in the U.S.S.R.'s Moslem regions that would dwarf the protests recently suppressed in Kazakhstan. And the Kremlin still has its eye on a warm water port in Baluchistan, the ethnic region that runs across both southern Iran and southwestern Pakistan.

Moreover, a fast pullout would leave Afghanistan open to Westerners eager to investigate Soviet atrocities, including the use of chemical weapons and "toy" bombs

against Afghan tribesmen.

Even so, the gains from a tactical retreat might outweigh the losses, helping advance the *glasnost* subterfuge. Soviet imperialism still would go marching on, from Central America to southern Africa, and Afghanistan could always become a compliant client state instead of an outright puppet. Retreat also might advance Mr. Gorbachev's initiatives in Asia, as outlined last July in his Vladivostok declaration, in particular by removing one of the main obstacles to rapprochement with the People's Republic of China.

Much now depends on the *mujahideen*. Can they trust the Kremlin, after so many abrogated cease-fires, so many atrocities? Much also depends on Pakistan, a key element in expediting military supplies to the *mujahideen* and providing a home for 3 million Afghan refugees.

The United States, ignoring the *glasnost* charade, should give the *mujahideen* more help. No matter how much the Soviets wish to leave, only a well-armed *mujahideen* will force them out on terms equitable to the long-suffering Afghan people and agreeable to the interests of the Free World.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1987

Soviet sees Afghanistan as America's problem

The word *glasnost*, in the headline of your warlike Jan. 8 editorial, never reappears in the text because *glasnost* supposes truthful information while your editorial offered something quite the contrary. I should call it loud-*glasnost*. Remember Sir Winston Churchill's marginal notes to his speeches: "Unconvincing. Louder."

As I see it, withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan is an American problem. Afghans will promptly arrive at national reconciliation as soon as the United States stops inspiring, financing, and supplying with arms and instructions the terrorist gangs attacking Afghanistan from abroad and demands that its allies follow suit. Kabul is offering reconciliation. Will they meet it halfway to the other side of the frontier?

They will if the United States consents.

But then the United States loses Afghanistan as an alternative to Iran: a site to deploy U.S. missiles close to the Soviet frontier. The United States loses its chance of constant military presence in that part of the globe. The United States loses the giant narcotic plantations the gangs control, whose yields are trafficked to the United States and Western Europe to be turned into narcotics and come back to the gangs as missiles, tommy guns, and hand grenades: a vicious circle.

The idea of an independent, non-allied, and peaceful Afghanistan runs counter to America's global strategies. Therein the American plans for that region take root. The closing sentence of your editorial gives the rebels a clear wording, as

simple as a commando's knife: "well-armed *mujahideen* should drive Soviet troops from Afghanistan."

As former bandits who laid down arms testify, the weaponry they received included U.S.-manufactured chemical charges and boobytraps imitating toys.

BORIS SHATROV
Journalist
Novosti Press Agency
Moscow

● The Novosti Press Agency is a subsidiary of the Soviet government's International Information Department and, working intimately with the KGB's Directorate A (Disinformation Department), handles overt and covert propaganda among foreign media.

— The Editor.



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1987 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

IRAN -- NICARAGUA

Republicans Told Not To Expect Any Apologies From Oval Office -- President Reagan will not apologize to the nation for the Iran-Contra affair despite the pleas of some Republican lawmakers that he take responsibility for the matter, White House officials said yesterday.

(Washington Times, AP, Reuter, Scripps Howard, UPI)

NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan honors King In Speech To Teens -- President Reagan, deploring a new outbreak of racial incidents, Thursday memorialized Martin Luther King, Jr., by calling for an America "free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination."

(Washington Post, Sacramento Bee, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Thursday Evening)

PRESIDENT REAGAN -- President Reagan delivered a televised speech from the White House today to mark the actual birthday of Martin Luther King.

847 HIJACKER -- The U.S. has told the German government that Hamadi should stand trial here.

CASEY -- Congressional investigators say CIA Director Casey is emerging as a key actor in the diversion of Iran arms sales money to the contras.



DANZIGER
The Christian Science Monitor

IRAN — NICARAGUA

REAGAN WON'T USE STATE OF UNION ADDRESS TO APOLOGIZE FOR IRAN

President Reagan has rejected the advice of some Republicans on Capitol Hill that he use his Jan. 27 State of the Union speech to Congress to apologize for the Iran-Contra affair.

"This is the President's thinking. The President feels he has done nothing for which he feels he should apologize," said White House spokesman Albert Brashear Thursday.

The legislators say they feel that with Iran hearings and investigations likely to drag on for weeks or months, a sincere plea for forgiveness and admission of error from Reagan is the only way to get the matter behind him. They are afraid the political fallout of continuing revelations will hurt GOP chances in the 1988 elections.

(Ann McFeatters & Lance Gay, Scripps Howard)

Republicans Told Not To Expect Any Apologies From Oval Office

President Reagan will not apologize to the nation for the Iran-Contra affair despite the pleas of some Republican lawmakers that he take responsibility for the matter, White House officials said yesterday.

"The President has said that mistakes were made, but he certainly feels no apology is necessary," Mr. Brashear said, responding to a New York Times report that some Republican congressmen want Mr. Reagan to make such a statement.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A3)

Reagan Supporter Urges Him To Admit Mistake In Iran Arms Dealing

One of President Reagan's strongest supporters in Congress says the President should admit he made "an error of the heart" in approving arms sales to Iran as he sought freedom for American hostages.

And the top-ranking Republican on the Senate committee investigating the controversy surrounding the once-secret sales says the President should do more to assume responsibility for the foreign affairs fiasco.

Both Hyde and Rudman avoided saying that the President should apologize, but both indicated he has not done enough to take responsibility for the crisis that has engulfed his Administration.

(Dale Nelson, AP)

White House Bars Reagan Apology For Iran-Contra Affair

The White House has rejected suggestions that President Reagan say he's sorry for the Iran scandal, despite a clamor for an apology from top congressional Republicans.

"I expect him to explain what happened, explain the rationale in reaching out to moderates or pragmatists in Iran and take responsibility," says Rep. Henry Hyde.

(Gene Gibbons, Reuter)

Senate Republican Suggests Reagan Say More About Iran-Contra

The top-ranking Republican on the Senate's Iran-Contra investigative committee suggested Thursday that President Reagan should do more to take responsibility for the foreign affairs fiasco.

Sen. Rudman insisted that "we are not going to have a circus" when the committee begins its work in earnest.

And Rep. Hyde exhorted Reagan to admit he made "an error of the heart" in approving arms sales to Iran as he sought freedom for Americans held hostage in Lebanon by groups of Iranian sympathizers.

(Cliff Haas, AP)

President/Iran Arms/Republicans

President Reagan, urged by some top Republicans to ask the American people to forgive him for the Iran arms-Contra aid scandal, "feels no apology is needed," a White House spokesman said Thursday.

"The President feels he has done nothing for which he feels he must apologize," said Albert Brashear, a deputy White House press secretary.

(Sean McCormally, UPI)

WHITE HOUSE DECISIONS ON POLICY, STAFFING DELAYED AS OFFICIALS' ENERGIES ARE DIVERTED BY IRAN AFFAIR

The scandal has drained officials' time and delayed policy decisions, including the filling of important jobs that have been vacant or are about to become so: head of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, White House domestic policy chief, secretary of the cabinet. Explaining President Reagan's slowness in choosing new members for the Federal Reserve Board, a senior White House official said: "Perhaps you've heard -- we've been preoccupied."

On Capitol Hill as well, there are signs that the crisis has caused some issues to fall through the cracks. GOP Senate staff aides complain that this week's clash with the Reagan Administration over two unratified nuclear testing treaties in part reflected the failure of a preoccupied White House staff to consult closely with Republican allies.

(Ellen Hume, Wall Street Journal, A46)

WHITE HOUSE GRUDGING WITH ITS NEWS

The Reagan White House has long been known for its well-oiled ability to deflect even the worst news.

But this week, it seemed the old answers no longer worked with a press corps hungry for the latest word in Iran, the economy -- even the President's mood.

As White House spokesman Larry Speakes heads into his final two weeks, daily briefings have degenerated into denials and repetitions of the official Administration line.

(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A4)

WEINBERGER WARNS AGAINST LETTING IRAN-CONTRA PROBE BLOCK
IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT TASKS OR BRING "DANGEROUS
RESTRICTIONS ON PRESIDENT

With a ringing defense of President Reagan, Defense Secretary Weinberger Thursday warned Congress not to allow the Iran-Contra controversy to result in "dangerous" restrictions on the conduct of defense and foreign policy.

While urging continuation of the various investigations into how profits from the sale of arms to Iran were used to illegally aid the Nicaraguan Contras, Weinberger said "foreign and domestic policy should not be held hostage to these investigations...." (Otto Kreisher, Copley)

MCFARLANE RETURNS TO SENATE TODAY AS
IRAN ARMS SCANDAL WIDENS

Former national security adviser Robert McFarlane, called back to Capitol Hill today to discuss his secret trip to Tehran in May that was geared to buy the freedom of all American hostages held in Lebanon at the time.

With Capitol Hill focus stuck on the scandal, however, President Reagan has been put in the position of responding to congressional calls for an apology regarding the sour turn in his policy toward Iran.
(Michael Myers, UPI)

McFarlane To Testify; Report Says He Rejected Offer To Release Two Hostages

Former National Security Adviser McFarlane held out for the release of four U.S. hostages during his secret trip to Iran in May, rejecting an Iranian offer to release just two, according to a broadcast report.

Meanwhile, there were indications that the Iranian arms deals had their genesis in plans by commercial arms dealers and among Iranian officials more than a year before the Reagan Administration began considering the sales.
(Lawrence Knutson, AP)

Report: North Favored Deal For 2 Hostages But McFarlane Held Out For 4

Former White House security aide Oliver North on a trip to Iran last May argued in favor of accepting the proffered release of two hostages in exchange for arms, according to a broadcast report.

But North was overruled by former national security adviser Robert McFarlane who held out for all four kidnapped Americans and ultimately went home empty-handed, ABC News reported Thursday. (AP)

North/Iran

An Iranian weapons dealer warned Lt. Col. North and CIA Director Casey they would have "a bigger problem than Watergate," if he was cut out of arms-for-hostages negotiations, ABC News reported Thursday night.

A source who attended the negotiations between the United States and Iran provided the network with a chronological account of the five-day meeting, including direct quotations from the conversations. (UPI)

FEW FOLLOW SCANDAL 'VERY CLOSELY'
Reagan Favorable Rating Down To 61 Percent, Poll Finds

Only 20 percent of Americans are following the Iran arms sale-contra aid story "very closely," compared with 80 percent who followed the aftermath of the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger very closely last January and 46 percent the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union last April, according to a poll.

While one-fifth of the respondents to the Gallup Organization's poll of 1,500 adults by telephone for Times-Mirror said they were paying attention to the scandal, 47 percent said they were paying fairly close attention.

(AP story, Washington Post, A20)

Poll Finds Iranian Affair Hurt Credibility Of U.S. Journalism

The nation's news organizations have lost substantial public esteem and credibility as a result of the Iran-Nicaragua affair, although the public views them more favorably than it views President Reagan, the military, Congress or the CIA, according to a new Gallup Poll for The Times Mirror Company.

The poll showed a slight increase in the President's approval rating, which dropped sharply in November. Fifty-two percent of those polled said they approved of the way Mr. Reagan was handling his job, as against 47 percent in mid-December. (Alex Jones, New York Times, A1)

Only 20% Found To Follow Iran Arms Story Closely

Only one in five Americans is paying "very close" attention to news coverage of the Iran arms-contra scandal, an unusually low figure for a major news story, according to a public opinion poll released yesterday.

The national survey by the Gallup Organization found that almost half of those questioned think that news organizations are giving too much coverage to the Iran story and the intense coverage is making the U.S. look bad in the eyes of the world. (Paul West, Baltimore Sun, A1)

Iran Arms Affair/Poll

The Iran arms-Contra aid scandal is "a story Americans don't like," because it has hurt public opinion of President Reagan, and they blame reporters even though they trust them more than Reagan, a poll reveals.

Though other polls have shown a drop in Reagan's popularity during his worst political crisis, the new survey proves, "his critics are more critical than his supporters are supportive," said Andrew Kohut, the Gallup president. (Sydney Shaw, UPI)

HEFLIN: NO 'JOHN DEAN' YET IN IRAN-CONTRA PROBE

Democratic Sen. Howell Heflin, a former Alabama chief justice now on the Senate panel probing the Iran arms-Contra aid scandal, says without a "John Dean" the case will be even tougher to crack than Watergate.

In an interview Thursday, Heflin said the current investigation faces many obstacles -- including its global nature and the fact that so far there is no one person who knows all about the affair and is willing to testify.

(Robert Doherty, UPI)

ASPIN, LEATH SAY THEY MAY VOTE AGAINST FURTHER CONTRA AID

Reps. Aspin and Leath, two of the four Democrats competing to become chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, say they may change their previous positions and vote against further U.S. military aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

All four said they are trying hard to line up support for the vote, which will be by secret ballot during a closed-door meeting of the 258 House Democrats. (Tim Ahern, AP)

COURTER: PRIVATE CONTRA AID 'RATHER IRRELEVANT'

A member of the House select committee probing the Iran arms-Contra aid affair said Thursday he would oppose any attempt by Democratic panel members to launch an investigation into private efforts to help the Contras.

Rep. James Courter, an ardent supporter of the Contras, said the panel should look into private Contra-aid networks only in respect to whether they helped channel public money from Iranian arms sales to the Contras, in violation of federal law banning such use of federal funds. (George Lobsenz)

REPORT: CIA AGENT RECALLED FOR AIDING CONTRAS

The CIA recalled its station chief in Costa Rica last week for helping a private air force fly weapons to the Nicaraguan rebels while U.S. military aid to the Contras was banned, it was reported today.

Quoting Administration and congressional sources, the Los Angeles Times said the CIA told the Senate Intelligence Committee this week that it recalled its chief officer from the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, because of "unauthorized contacts with private benefactors: who were aiding the rebels. (UPI)

POINDEXTER DEFENSE FUND

Naval officers across the nation are contributing to a defense fund for Vice Adm. Poindexter in response to a fund-raising letter from former chief of naval operations, officers said Thursday.

The letter from retired Adm. James Holloway III seeks donations to help pay the legal fees of Poindexter, identified as a central figure in the Iran arms-Contra aid scandal, who resigned as White House national security adviser in November. (Rob Gloster, UPI)

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER PLEDGES ANSWERS ON IRAN ARMS SCANDAL

JERUSALEM -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed the Iranian arms scandal as a minor problem for Israel and promised to explain his country's role in the weapons deal when he visits the United States next month.

He also said the Americans and Israelis would "decide together" how to investigate the scandal. (Galina Vromen, Reuter)

IRAN LOSSES PUT AT 40,000 IN WEEKS Weinberger Says Victory Over Iraq Would Be 'Very Disastrous'

About 40,000 Iranian troops, many as young as 14, have been killed in human-wave attacks against Iraqi positions since Tehran went on the offensive Dec. 24, Defense Secretary Weinberger said yesterday.

"It would be very disastrous for everyone" if Iran won the Persian Gulf war, now in its seventh year, Weinberger told a group of Washington Post reporters and editors. He said a victorious Iran, tied to the Soviet Union, could provide the Soviets with a warm-water port and access to gulf oil. (George Wilson, Washington Post, A19)

IRAN SALES KEY TO PORTUGAL'S ARMS TRADE Country's Antiquated Weapons Industry Depends On Nations Shunned By Allies

LISBON -- For three years, from the beginning of the Persian Gulf war until 1983, Portugal's largest single customer for weapons exports was Iraq.

More recently, Baghdad has slipped to second place. The new front runner is its archenemy, Iran.

Since Portugal dropped an official ban on direct dealings with Iran in late 1983, Tehran has purchased more than half of all the weaponry produced for export by Portuguese factories, worth more than \$100 million through last September. (Karen DeYoung, Washington Post, A18)

HABIB/CENTRAL AMERICA

TEGUCIGALPA -- Philip Habib, the Reagan Administration's Central American envoy, canceled a visit to three Central American nations where he planned to seek support for the Reagan Administration's policies, a U.S. official said Thursday.

Habib "cannot visit the region at this time," U.S. Embassy spokesman Arthur Skop said, and the decision to suspend the trip was made in Washington by the State Department. (UPI)

NATIONAL NEWS

PRESIDENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO SLAIN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

High School Students Are Urged To Be A Generation

'Free Of Bigotry, Intolerance And Discrimination'

President Reagan paid tribute yesterday to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and urged American youth to "accept nothing less than making yours a generation free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination."

In his first appearance since his recent prostate surgery, Reagan, speaking from the Oval Office in a broadcast to be aired in high schools around the country, hailed the Rev. King for helping "dismantle the legal vestiges of discrimination and racism."

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A3)

The President/King

President Reagan, urging Americans to "reflect on the legacy" of Martin Luther King Jr., told high school students that opportunity is theirs because of the slain civil rights leader's courage.

Reagan arranged to meet with his key advisers today before flying to Camp David in nearby Maryland mountains for a three-day respite over the national holiday honoring King -- which he originally opposed establishing.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

Reagan honors King In Speech To Teens

President Reagan, deploring a new outbreak of racial incidents, Thursday memorialized Martin Luther King, Jr., by calling for an America "free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination."

In observance of the 58th birthday of the slain civil rights leader, Reagan also strove for a belated reconciliation of his own, setting aside long-held disagreements with King's crusading views and a persistent reluctance to accord him a great place in history.

Reagan's laudatory comments were in sharp contrast to his past criticism of King's civil disobedience tactics and his opposition to civil rights measures that King championed in the 1960s.

(Leo Rennert, Bee Washington Bureau)

BENNETT VISITS ATLANTA TO HONOR CITY'S NATIVE SON

ATLANTA -- Atlanta celebrated the birthday today of native son Martin Luther King Jr. with a visit by Education Secretary Bennett and speeches on the slain civil rights leader's place in history.

Bennett taught a third-grade class about King, then spoke at an assembly at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

(AP story, Washington Post, A3)

BILINGUAL PROGRAM AGAIN UNDER FIRE

Bennett Seeks Flexibility For Schools Teaching English As 2nd Tongue

Education Secretary Bennett is expected to send Congress a proposal today to restructure federal bilingual education, reviving the controversy he prompted more than a year ago when he suggested changes in the \$143 million program.

The proposed legislation would allow local school districts more flexibility in choosing how to teach English to nonnative children. Bennett was scheduled to announce the proposal in a speech in San Antonio before Hispanic leaders, a group that has vocally opposed similar changes in the past.

(Barbara Vobejda, Washington Post, A4)

Bilingual Education

The Reagan Administration is renewing its campaign to lift federal restrictions on bilingual education funds that require most schools to teach students in their native language as they learn English.

In a speech prepared for delivery Friday, Education Secretary Bennett said he wants Congress to remove the current limitation because there is no evidence that "transitional bilingual education" is the best way to teach all non-English-speaking students. (Susan Garland, Newhouse)

REAGAN AIDE BUCHANAN SAID TO FAVOR 1988 WHITE HOUSE TRY

White House communications director Pat Buchanan has told a meeting of conservative activists he is inclined to enter the Republican presidential primaries, one meeting participant said Thursday.

"He said he was very much inclined towards running. That was the clear impression he conveyed," said Howard Phillips, head of the Conservative Caucus and one of those pressuring him to make the race.

(Peter Brown, Scripps Howard)

Buchanan Wants Nixon Blessing Before Making Presidential Run

White House Communications Director Patrick Buchanan will seek the blessing of his former boss, Richard Nixon, before deciding to make a run for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination.

Mr. Buchanan told a meeting of some 20 conservative leaders and strategists at his home Wednesday night he would leave the White House by the end of the month to "preserve every element of propriety" should he decide to run, according to Howard Phillips, Conservative Caucus Chairman.

(Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A5)

Editor's Note: "The Ascent Of Marlin Fitzwater," appears on page B1 of The Washington Post.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN CONSIDERS PLAN TO PUT SDI WEAPONS TO WORK

President Reagan is considering a \$100 billion plan to begin full-scale development of ground- and space-based SDI weapons, according to Administration and congressional sources.

Mr. Reagan was briefed Dec. 17 on the SDI plan by Defense Secretary Weinberger, Assistant Defense Secretary Perle and Air Force Gen. James Abrahamson, director of the Pentagon's SDI Organization.

"He [the President] was enthusiastic about it," said one Administration official close to the SDI program. "Of course, Weinberger is leading the charge." (Warren Strobel, Washington Times, A1)

U.S., SOVIETS RESUME ARMS TALKS

GENEVA -- Superpower arms talks resumed today with a luncheon meeting between U.S. delegation head Max Kampelman and his new Soviet counterpart, Yuli Vorontsov.

The two delegation leaders met privately at Soviet request, instead of heading a meeting of all three top negotiators from each side, which normally marks the beginning of a round.

(AP story, Washington Post, A26)

Delegations Impose News Blackout On Negotiations

GENEVA -- U.S. and Soviet negotiators imposed a strict news blackout today on the new round of superpower negotiations on strategic and medium-ranged nuclear missiles and space-based defense systems.

U.S. delegation leader Max Kampelman and his new Soviet counterpart, Yuli Vorontsov, opened the new round Thursday with a private working luncheon.

The news blackout was so severe that U.S. delegation spokesman Terry Schroeder was unable to even say how long the luncheon lasted. Kampelman was seen returning to the U.S. Embassy after three hours.

(John Callcott, UPI)

FORMER CIA DIRECTOR URGES SENATE APPROVE TEST TREATIES

For the second time this week, a former CIA director disputed President Reagan's claim that national security would be threatened unless on-site verification is added to a pair of nuclear testing treaties.

William Colby, who headed the CIA from 1973 to 1976, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Thursday that the two decade-old unratified treaties should be approved by the Senate as is, without adding language Reagan is seeking that requires on-site verification. (Bud Newman, UPI)

U.S. CALLS AFGHAN PEACE OFFENSIVE A PROPAGANDA PLOY AGAINST REBELS

U.S. officials scoffed yesterday at a one-sided government cease-fire in Afghanistan that is linked to a vague offer of a Soviet troop withdrawal.

But they conceded that Moscow's well-orchestrated peace offensive has put pressure on Pakistan and the Afghan resistance.

"Offering a troop withdrawal after the acceptance of a cease-fire is an empty gesture that can only be seen as a propaganda ploy," said White House spokesman Albert Brashear.

(Richard Beeston, Washington Times, A1)

U.S. SAYS SOVIETS DISAVOW GRAIN SALE AGREEMENT

The Soviet Union has virtually repudiated the long-term agreement that requires it to buy minimum amounts of U.S. grain each year, Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng said yesterday.

Lyng said the indication came during a meeting here last month with Moscow's foreign trade minister, Boris Ivanovich Aristov.

"He virtually disavowed that agreement by saying that they -- in total over the years -- had purchased more than the minimum agreement," Lyng said in an interview with farm editors.

(AP story, Washington Post, A26)

U.S. LIFTS CONTROLS ON EXPORT OF DRILLING GEAR TO SOVIETS

The Reagan Administration, responding to pressure from the domestic oil and gas industry, yesterday lifted controls on the export of drilling equipment to the Soviet Union that had been imposed in 1978 to force a change in Soviet human rights policy.

Officials emphasized that the Soviets had shown no improvement on human rights. Instead, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said the controls were being lifted because they "have lost their impact in the face of widespread foreign availability of like products" and have had a "debilitating effect" on the U.S. oil and gas industry.

(Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A1)

Commerce Lifts Export Bans Against Soviet Union

The United States will end its export restrictions on oil and gas equipment and technology to the Soviet Union Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said Thursday.

"I am convinced despite our dissatisfaction with Soviet human rights efforts that it is no longer in our national interest to keep these unilateral foreign policy controls on exports of oil and gas equipment and technology to the Soviet Union," Baldrige said.

(UPI)

HIJACKING SUSPECT ARRESTED West Germans Hold Lebanese Sought In 1985 TWA Seizure

BONN -- West German police have arrested a Lebanese man suspected of having helped stage the dramatic 17-day hijacking of a TWA jet airliner to Beirut in June 1985 in which a U.S. Navy diver was slain, authorities said today.

Customs agents detained Mohammed Ali Hamadei, 22, on his arrival at Frankfurt airport on Tuesday when they found that he was carrying three bottles containing a powerful liquid explosive, court officials said. Federal investigators later identified him as one of the suspected hijackers from his fingerprints, they said. (Robert McCartney, Washington Post, A1)

Hijacking Suspect Likely To Be Extradited To U.S. To Face Murder

West Germany is likely to extradite a Palestinian hijacking suspect to the United States where he will face charges of murder and piracy, diplomats say.

A Department of Justice spokesman said he couldn't say for certain that the man arrested, Muhammad Ali Hamadi, "pulled the trigger." The suspect is one of three men charged with murder and piracy in warrants issued by the department after the hijacking ended.

(Walter Friedenber, Scripps Howard)

Palestinian Kidnapper

The U.S. Ambassador to West Germany negotiated Thursday for the swift extradition of a Palestinian arrested in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner, to stand trial in the United States for air piracy, murder, and a dozen other charges, the Justice Department said.

"We are very interested in getting this individual back to the United States to face charges here," said department spokesman Pat Korten.

(Lori Santos, UPI)

Palestinian Kidnapper

A Palestinian described as a "big fish" in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner in the Middle East was arrested when he tried to smuggle explosives into West Germany for use in a terrorist attack, the government said Thursday.

If extradited, Hamadei would be the first alleged Middle East terrorist returned to the United States for trial, Justice Department spokesman Pat Korten said in Washington.

(Edward Roby, UPI)

U.S. Indictment Charges Four With 1985 TWA Hijacking In Beirut

A long-sealed indictment in the 1985 hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in Beirut alleges that four people, including a man now in custody in West Germany, conspired to kill a U.S. Navy diver and assault eight other people during the 17-day hostage ordeal.

The 15-count indictment alleging conspiracy to commit air piracy and murder omits the name of one of the four defendants and was handed up Nov. 14, 1985, but kept under seal until Thursday night.

(Pete Yost, AP)

SHULTZ DOGGED BY IRAN, RESIGNATION ISSUES
Questioning On Africa Trip Shows How Stewardship
Of Foreign Policy May Suffer

Secretary of State Shultz, who returned Wednesday from an eight-day trip to black Africa, got his first sour taste of how the Iran arms sale is likely to bedevil his stewardship of U.S. foreign policy in the coming months.

At almost every stop, Shultz was confronted by reporters -- primarily those traveling with him -- seeking his reaction to the latest revelations in Washington and to renewed reports that he intends to resign.

(David Ottaway, News Analysis, Washington Post, A16)

SHULTZ IS UNDER FIRE FOR ASSERTING LIBERIA HAS
MADE GAINS ON RIGHTS

Secretary Shultz, who returned from a six-nation tour of Africa late Wednesday, has become embroiled in criticism over his assertion that Liberia has made progress in human rights.

Several Liberians, including a politician, a newspaper publisher and a human rights campaigner, said today that Mr. Shultz had made inaccurate statements at a news conference Wednesday in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, where he said Liberia had a free press, an elected Government and no political prisoners.

(David Shipler, New York Times, A1)

REBEL LEADERS URGE U.S. TO PRESSURE S. AFRICA
ANC To Request Aid For 'Front-Line States'

GABORONE, Botswana -- The African National Congress, the main guerrilla group battling white minority rule in South Africa, has embarked on a strategy of trying to persuade the United States to escalate pressure on Pretoria to negotiate a transition to majority rule.

Emphasizing the importance of diplomatic contact more than it has in the past, the congress will also ask the Reagan Administration to more than triple financial assistance to "front-line" black African states.

(William Claiborne, Washington Post, A25)

S. AFRICA CANCELS ORDER TO EXPEL U.S REPORTER
Los Angeles Times Editors Gain Reprieve

JOHANNESBURG -- The South African government withdrew an expulsion order against Los Angeles Times correspondent Michael Parks today after a meeting in Cape Town between the newspaper's editors and Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha.

Botha said he had agreed to allow Parks to stay "in view of assurances and undertakings received" from the paper's editor in chief, William Thomas, and its foreign editor, Alvin Shuster, who met with him for an hour yesterday.

(Allister Sparks, Washington Post, A28)

DOLLAR'S FALL LINKED TO ALLIES' SLOW GROWTH

A Treasury official yesterday said that poorer prospects for economic growth in West Germany and Japan -- rather than an Administration effort to push the dollar down -- were responsible for this week's sharp decline of the dollar.

He said in a telephone interview that "there are only a few ways" in which to deal with the huge trade and current account imbalances among the United States, West Germany and Japan.

"One is to get stronger growth out of our trading partners. Another is to change the currency relationships. And a third way would be slower U.S. growth or a recession, and that's an option that, obviously, nobody wants," said the official, who did not want to be identified.

(Hobart Rowen, Washington Post, F1)

U.S./CANADA/TRADE

U.S. and Canadian trade negotiators wrapped up another round of talks Thursday aimed at eliminating tariffs, duties and other barriers in the world's biggest bilateral trade relationship.

Deputy U.S. negotiator William Merkin said the two sides "narrowed their differences" on several customs issues and began to focus on how to deal with the more complicated tariffs issue. (UPI)

2 EXECUTIVES OFFER GRIM TRADE OUTLOOK

The United States has lost its dominant position in world trade, and even the best trade legislation would not be enough to restore it, two business leaders told the Senate Finance Committee yesterday.

"In thinking of trade, we are often like a group of people playing chess -- only the game is being played on the decks of the Titanic and the waters are rising all around us," said John Young, president of Hewlett-Packard Co., the computer maker.

(Anne Swardson, Washington Post, F3)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Thursday evening, January 15th)

PRESIDENT REAGAN

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan delivered a televised speech from the White House today to mark the actual birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King 58 years ago. The President said Dr. King was an inspiration to all Americans no matter what their race. The speech provided an opportunity for many people to have their first extended look at the President since he came out of the hospital and it was given at a time when numerous other politicians had been questioning the President's grasp of the world's most powerful job.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The President's coming out appearance was a carefully controlled Oval Office television speech designed to show Mr. Reagan alive and, if not completely well, at least firm of voice and sharp of eye, and it did that.

(President Reagan: "I wish you all the very best. Thank you and God bless you.")

But it did not answer the question of how much the President is involved these days in other matters of administration. With only still photographers from the press corps allowed to see him since his return from the hospital last Thursday, reporters have been barred, several stories have surfaced questioning Mr. Reagan's grasp of his surroundings, quoting sources as saying he seems inattentive and unable to focus on matters, particularly on his own role in the Iranian arms sale episode. Deputy press secretary Rusty Brashear today insisted such reports are erroneous. He said the President is very much involved in the decision making process. It has been almost two months since the President answered questions about the arms sales and a lot of new information has surfaced. But spokesman Brashear declined to relay new questions to the President saying: "We do not think it appropriate to ask him to try and remember a series of complicated events that unfolded over a long period of time." On Capitol Hill the special Senate committee which will investigate the scandal held an organizational meeting and some congressional Republicans said Mr. Reagan needs to speak up again soon to explain things.

(Sen. Tribble: "Certainly the President has to do something, perhaps, I think the President should simply underscore the fact that he wants the full facts before the American people.")

(Rep. Hyde: "I think the President cannot appear to be so disengaged that all this was going on without his knowledge and I think an explanation is due.")

(Sen. Rudman: "All of this effort on the part of mainly his staff to point the finger some place else is not fitting to man who has great personal courage and convictions.")

Some Republican lawmakers have even gone so far as to suggest Mr. Reagan apologize, but that's going too far for the President, who did relay word today through his spokesman he feels he has done nothing to apologize for.

(ABC-3)

CBS's Dan Rather: President Reagan had one of his spokesmen, Albert Brashear, today try to put a stop to the suggestions, some made by congressional Republicans, that Mr. Reagan should apologize for the Iran-contra arms scandal. The President, said Brashear, feels he has done nothing for which he feels he must apologize. (CBS-3)

847 HIJACKER

NBC's Tom Brokaw reports a Lebanese suspected of being one of the hijackers of flight 847 is in a West German jail tonight and American officials are at work trying to arrange for his extradition to the U.S. to stand trial. The suspect is Mohammed Hamadi. He was arrested at the Frankfurt airport Tuesday as he tried to enter West Germany on a flight from Beirut. German authorities said that he was carrying explosives.

NBC's Brian Stewart reports in the United States arrest warrants were handed down two years ago against three terrorists believed to be involved in the hijacking. Hamadi is one of the three. American officials were gratified.

(Charles Redman: "We have notified the Federal Republic that the arrested man is wanted in the U.S. for air piracy, murder and other offenses related to the TWA 847 hijacking in June of 1985.")

Hamadi is now being held at an undisclosed location, security sources say they'll likely agree to extradite him to America, possibly within days. (NBC-Lead, ABC-Lead, CBS-Lead)

CBS's Rita Braver reports the U.S. has told the German government that Hamadi should stand trial here for the murder of Navy seaman Robert Steitem calling it one of the most despicable acts of international terrorism ever committed against Americans.

(Charles Redman: "We are very interested in having this individual sent to the U.S. in order to face charges.")

Both U.S. and German officials predict that German courts will quickly agree to turn Hamadi over to the U.S.

(Attorney General Meese: "As you know it has been our policy to aggressively investigate and prosecute cases of terrorism, hijacking and so on. And so what is being done here is in keeping with that policy.")

The Justice Department says Hamadi would be the first Middle Eastern terrorist ever turned over to the U.S. and that would send a clear message that western nations are now working together against terrorism. (CBS-2)

U.S./IRAN

ABC's Peter Jennings: And now a report on the Reagan Administration's mission to sell arms to the Iranians in exchange for Americans held hostage in Lebanon. There has been a lot of water under bridge since the Iran affair was first revealed and we needn't tell you how many unanswered questions there are, but from an Iranian source who was present we now have a complete feel of what exactly went on when the delegation from Washington, lead by Robert McFarlane, made its first visit to Iran.

ABC's Barbara Walters reports according to the source, in March 1986 Oliver North tells Iranian arms dealer and middleman Gorbanifar that a high level group would come to Tehran. Their mission, to have face to face meetings with top Iranian officials in Iran about future relations for the two nations, also to secure the release of four Americans being held hostage in Lebanon and the body of murdered hostage William Buckley. The Iranian negotiators are Dr. Najafabadi, head of the parliament's foreign relations committee and deputy foreign minister Kahid. Both Rafsanjani and Amal Khomeini are aware of the American's presences. One of the Iranians jokingly asks North what he has brought him? According to the sources, North hands him a chocolate cake and calls it the key to better relations. North also brings as gifts three walnut boxes bearing the Presidential seal. Inside are Colt revolvers. There is no bible as reported. By days end an agreement seems to be reached. Iran will get the four hostages released, the remaining arms will be shipped and future Iranian-American relations were continued to be discussed. Day four, and a snag, the Americans have brought with them 10% of the total arms shipment promised. The Iranians are nervous and want the entire shipment delivered now. New negotiations. Dr. Najafabadi: "We will release two hostages now, you order the plane with the rest of the cargo. When it arrives tomorrow we will give you two more hostages and then you go home." McFarlane, impatiently: "No, I want all the hostages now or I go." McFarlane refuses to continue the discussions and orders that their luggage be packed. By now Khomeini has approved the arms deal. Najafabadi begs McFarlane for more time. McFarlane agrees to wait one more day. Early the next morning, Najafabadi returns empty handed. He has failed to see the Ayatollah. He tells McFarlane I will see him later, but take two hostages now, I will convince the old man, we will wait for the plane together you and I. We will open the plane together and then the final two will be released. McFarlane refuses. Gen. Nir, the Israeli, reportedly is close to tears. Oliver North tries to convince McFarlane to accept the two hostages. McFarlane continues to refuse. The Americans go home. But Iranian sources tell us that even today Iran does not want to close the door to U.S. relations and they say, there is a chance that the remaining hostages will be released in the near future.

Jennings: We asked Robert McFarlane to comment on that report, in deference to the congressional committees, as he put it, he would not expand, but he did tell us in a written statement that the central point was correct, that when Iran failed to release all the hostages he would not negotiate new terms and he terminated the mission.

(ABC-2)

CASEY

CBS's Lesley Stahl reports after reviewing reams of White House documents and computer discs, congressional investigators say CIA Director Casey is emerging as a key actor in the diversion of Iran arms sales money to the contras. According to a congressional source, the computer tapes of Oliver North include numerous references to Casey.

Stahl continues:

They show that there were many meetings and phone calls between North and Casey during the period under investigation. The member of Congress told CBS News that while there is no one document proving Casey's knowledge, the cumulative evidence shows that "Casey had to know and had a central roll." While the new Senate Select Committee on the scandal held a short meeting, Secretary Weinberger struck out at those who he says have turned their backs on the President.

(Weinberger: "These are summer soldiers and sunshine patriots and they seem to have forgotten exactly what and who it is who is largely responsible for the favorable turn in American policies over the last six years.")

A congressional source says that what is remarkable in the documents reviewed so far is that there is no discussion of options, no outlining of the cost of failure, and no analysis of how to limit the damage if the covert operations were ever disclosed. (CBS-4)

U.S./CONTRAS

Brokaw: The White House said today that President Reagan has no plans to apologize for the Iran-contra affair. That statement followed calls from several key Republicans for Mr. Reagan to accept full responsibility for what happened and to ask the American people to forgive him, but a White House spokesman the President feels that he has done nothing to apologize for. (NBC-15)

McFARLANE

Brokaw: Another key figure in the Iran-contra affair, Robert McFarlane, says he doesn't think that the contras are competent fighters. In a speech last night he called them well meaning Coca Cola bottlers, clerks, laborers, peasants, but he said, they are not trained to be counter-revolutionaries. McFarlane added that does not mean their purpose isn't real, however. (NBC-16)

POLL

Brokaw: A Gallop poll conducted for the Times-Mirror company found that only 20% of the American people are following the Iran-contra scandal closely. Still, 42% believe that the scandal is so serious that it has hurt President Reagan's ability to run this country. Thirty-eight percent think that he is holding back information and 50% believe that the media have placed too much emphasis on rumors and unconfirmed reports. (NBC-18)

TRIDENT II

Brokaw: The Navy's Trident II submarine missile is being called the strategic defense weapon of the 1990s and at Cape Canaveral today it had its maiden launch. The Navy declared it a complete success. The three stage missile blasted off on schedule and hurled a dummy warhead on target into the Atlantic several thousand miles southeast of the Florida coast. About two dozen anti-nuclear protesters tried to block the launch, 19 were arrested. (NBC-5, ABC-12, CBS-8)

-more-

GENEVA TALKS

Brokaw: In Geneva the seventh round of the 22 month old superpower arms negotiations resumed today but it was not business as usual. Max Kampelman came calling at a villa in the Soviet diplomatic compound, he was greeted by his new counterpart Uli Vorontsov. The two went inside for what was called a get acquainted working lunch instead of a meeting of the full delegations. It was not known when that meeting will take place. (NBC-6, CBS-7)

KING BIRTHDAY

Brokaw: The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was born 58 years ago today and at ceremonies in Atlanta Secretary Bennett praised him for teaching peace and also the value of struggle and President Reagan, who had opposed a national holiday in his memory, said in a televised speech that Dr. King made our country stronger. (NBC-13)

CBS's Bill Whitaker reports the Justice Department reports acts of racial violence went up 42% last year. Today by satellite hook up, President Reagan called on the nation's school children to fulfill the dream [of King]. (President Reagan: "You should accept nothing less than making yours a generation free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination.") But many blacks say Mr. Reagan has turned the clock back on race relations. (CBS-17)

AFGHANISTAN

Jennings: The White House said today that a cease fire put into effect by the Afghan government in Afghanistan last night was an empty gesture. The rebels say they believe it is a trick. It is apparently only the Afghan government and the Soviets who have agreed to stop shooting. (ABC-8, NBC-7, CBS-9)

U.S./U.S.S.R. EMBARGO

Jennings: And late news today that the Reagan Administration is lifting its embargo against the sale of oil and gas drilling equipment to the Soviet Union. That embargo was first put into effect in 1978 to protest Soviet human rights policies. (ABC-9)

HINCKLEY

Rather: The Secret Service said today that it certainly will oppose any more trips outside the a psychiatric hospital by John Hinckley, the man who shot President Reagan and three others in March of 1981, who was given a 12 hour pass to have a meal with his parents in the Washington suburbs on December 28th. The Secret Service objected but was overruled at the time by Hinckley's doctors. Hinckley was committed to a Washington psychiatric hospital after he succeeded in defending himself with a plea of guilty by reason of insanity. (CBS-12)

RAY BOLGER DIES

Rather: Actor Ray Bolger, who among other things, starred as the Scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz, has died in Los Angeles. Ray Bolger was 83. (CBS-16)

COMMENTARY

NBC's John Chancellor comments the Duke of Wellington, one of England's greatest soldiers, once said there is no such thing as a little war for a great nation. The lesson is that a big country has to be extremely careful not to become obsessed with a smaller enemy. The Johnson administration became obsessed with Vietnam, the Kremlin became obsessed with Afghanistan and the Reagan Administration became obsessed with Nicaragua. That lead to bad troubles for the Reagan Administration. Big countries have to pick their fights very carefully. Victory has to be certain in a fight with a small enemy, if not things can get out of hand. The Duke of Wellington knew that, it is a pity that the White House didn't remember what he said when it got involved with Nicaragua. (NBC-17)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

FEDERAL BUDGET

The Budget's Plan for Treading Water -- "The federal budget is supposed to be a blueprint and a basis for discussion with Congress on spending and taxes, but President Reagan's 1988 trillion-dollar proposal seems more like a how-to manual for treading water.... Overall, though, there's little in the Reagan trillion-dollar budget that shows courage, vision or a resolve to deal with the tough issues of fiscal policy. Let's hope the nation can keep its head above water for another year."

(Chicago Tribune, 1/12)

Same-old-Reagan Budget Merits Same Old Criticisms -- "What is objectionable about the budget is the path to the bottom-line: The slashing of domestic programs while defense is being increased; the gaining of semi-fraudulent, one-time-only savings through the selling of federal assets; the continuing stubbornness about taxes. All of these policies are in conflict with common sense and are in obedience to ideology."

(Dayton Daily News, 1/11)

Healthy U.S. Budget Depends on Collaboration -- "Healthy budget progress heavily depends on collaboration, not recrimination, across party lines. Reagan should move further toward fiscal compromises with Democratic leaders. Democrats should move to meet him by showing more spine in restraining entitlements for people who are not poor and by talking of higher taxes only in the same breath with talk of lower spending."

(Minneapolis Star and Tribune, 1/9)

Budget Onus on Democrats -- "Congressional Democrats trashed President Reagan's budget before it ever got to Capitol Hill, and now the onus is on members of the majority party to put up or shut up about fiscal responsibility. Don't hold your breath.... While individual members of the [Oklahoma] delegation would not be expected to embrace the Reagan budget as is, neither should they go off on a tax-raising tangent. As budget hearings begin, their action will be watched closely."

(Daily Oklahoman, 1/8)

Put Reagan's Budget on Critical List -- "Finding themselves on the short end of the stick are: Farmers, who would lose \$4 billion in price support payments and would see farm target prices drop by 10 percent next year; northwest power users -- Mr. Reagan would sell the Bonneville Power Administration, causing electric rates to rise; older Americans, who would face a big jump in Medicare premiums and shoulder a \$20 billion cut in Medicaid over five years. College students, who would lose \$3.7 billion in student aid. In November, the President decried the budget-setting process as a 'disgrace - simply unworthy of the legislature of the greatest democracy in the world.' He's right, and a credible budget process begins at home. Mr. Reagan cannot expect his budget to arrive healthy on Capitol Hill if it leaves the White House without a heart."

(Idaho Statesman, 1/7)

FEDERAL BUDGET (continued)

A Trillion-Dollar Spending Plan Requires a Search for Cuts -- "Congress' first step is to take President Reagan seriously when he rejects an income-tax increase. Once the easy way out is foreclosed, Congress will have to buckle down to determining what in the budget has to go. There is no other way."
(Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/7)

Middle Class Plays Victim -- "In the Reagan world of the 1988 fiscal year budget, the middle class can look forward to, in addition to paying the bills, fewer educational opportunities for its children and reduced affordability of a home.... The Administration, which steadfastly opposes new taxes, is crazy about fees for a variety of services and programs. Fees, unlike taxes, are totally regressive, with no relation to the ability to pay. Instead of conservative fiscal planning, the country has received nothing but massive debts and ideological claptrap about getting stingy with the dollar."
(Salem Oregon Statesman-Journal, 1/7)

The Budget Fight Begins -- "President Reagan refuses to get together with congressional leaders to search for a compromise that will include either of these changes. But that intransigence dooms serious deficit reduction. A long-term budget plan on which both sides try to find a common ground on taxes, defense and social spending is not hopelessly idealistic. The truth is, in 1987 it's ~~downright despicable~~ downright despicable"
(Examiner, 1/6)

Reagan Right on Budget -- "A word to the wise is not to get robbed by tax hike legislation while you're looking the other way. Reagan may have been wrong on Iran but he was right on fiscal policy and taxes.... He deserves the support of those who are better off as a result."
(Milwaukee Sentinel, 1/6)

CLEAN WATER BILL

The Big Spenders are Back -- "Nobody is against clean water. That isn't the issue. The real question is how much money can sensibly be spent, given current budgetary pressures. The Democrats say \$20 billion over the next six years. The President says \$6 billion, but has indicated willingness to compromise at \$12 billion. Surely that's plenty.... The President should still give it the ax. It's important to make clear that behind Congress' talk about the horrors of the federal deficit and the 'necessity' for tax increases stand some old-fashioned big spenders."
(Detroit News, 1/11)

Clean Water Act: Hoping Reagan Won't Muddy it by His Veto -- "Mr. Reagan should stand aside this time and, if inclined to convey one further note of displeasure, allow the bill to become law without his signature. Inevitable adoption of the Clean Water Act in its original form coincides with good politics and the nation's best interests."
(Providence Journal, 1/11)

Clean Water -- "The President considers a \$20 billion, eight-year commitment to clean water to be irresponsible. Yet, he would spend that much in one year alone in foreign aid, pursuing policies that are vaguely defined, unpredictable in their impact and debatable in their long-term benefits to the people of the country."
(Bangor Daily News, 1/10)

CLEAN WATER BILL (continued)

Reagan Challenges the Tide on Water Bill -- "Do not be misled by the White House's pained howls of 'budget-busting' and 'partisan confrontation' concerning the resurrected \$18 billion clean-water bill.... Sure, reducing the federal budget deficit is an objective of high priority, but no higher than ensuring a clean-water supply into the 21st century that is sufficient for promoting economic growth and maintaining public health."

(Atlanta Journal, 1/10)

Strong Support for Clean Water -- "According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than \$100 billion must be spent by the year 2000 on treatment facilities. The 1987 Clean Water Act shouldn't be viewed as a budget-breaking request; it's a downpayment on a healthy environment."

(Hartford Courant, 1/9)

Time to Try Again on Water Bill -- "President Reagan claimed to be striking a blow for budget austerity late last year when he pocket-vetoed the Clean Water Act, which has passed both houses of Congress unanimously. In fact, the President signaled his own shortsightedness.... The President is right on one score, however: 'You cannot decry deficits and then pass budget-busting legislation.' But the Clean Water Act - \$18 billion in a \$1.02 trillion package - is hardly the culprit. The real budget-busting comes from Reagan's stubborn refusal to boost taxes and his insistence on another increase in military spending."

(The Milwaukee Journal, 1/5)

IRAN-NICARAGUA

The Iran-Contra Churn -- "The Iran-contra affair continues to unravel into a jumble of semi-recollected events, falsified or sanitized or leaked memos, the blame laying on other governments.... As to recovering its credibility, the White House is not entirely at the mercy of the Iran debacle. It can rely on the soundness and clarity of its decisions from here on to carry the day. Ultimately, this is all that any effective leadership can depend on."

(Christian Science Monitor, 1/15)

Sweet Reason -- "How come President Reagan gets to speak with two voices? Most of his aides portray him as committed to getting to the bottom of the Iran arms scandal. Meanwhile, Pat Buchanan is screeching about the traitors on Capitol Hill. This confusing situation has been going on for weeks.... It still looks like the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing at the White House. Except maybe with Pat Buchanan."

(Kansas City Times, 1/13)

A Strange Defense for the President -- "Given the demonstrated determination of Congress to learn what really happened -- why the arms were sold to Iran, the role of Israel and a flock of other nations, who put the money into the Swiss banks, and who took it out -- the White House staff apparently has decided to defend Mr. Reagan by proving that he slept through the whole show."

(Arkansas Gazette, 1/12)

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1987

Glasnost and Afghanistan

Is Mikhail Gorbachev serious in his new peace overtures to Afghanistan? Perhaps. The Soviets plainly hope to withdraw their troops — though, as usual, on their terms. And for good reason. The Afghan *mujahideen* continue to inflict a heavy toll on Red Army troops. The war continues to deplete Moscow's resources. The Soviet occupation continues to embarrass Kremlin attempts to seduce Third World — especially Islamic — countries.

None of this means an abrupt Soviet retreat. That would impede Soviet geostrategic designs in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. A fast retreat would mean humiliation, might even spark unrest in the U.S.S.R.'s Moslem regions that would dwarf the protests recently suppressed in Kazakhstan. And the Kremlin still has its eye on a warm water port in Baluchistan, the ethnic region that runs across both southern Iran and southwestern Pakistan.

Moreover, a fast pullout would leave Afghanistan open to Westerners eager to investigate Soviet atrocities, including the use of chemical weapons and "toy" bombs

against Afghan tribesmen.

Even so, the gains from a tactical retreat might outweigh the losses, helping advance the *glasnost* subterfuge. Soviet imperialism still would go marching on, from Central America to southern Africa, and Afghanistan could always become a compliant client state instead of an outright puppet. Retreat also might advance Mr. Gorbachev's initiatives in Asia, as outlined last July in his Vladivostok declaration, in particular by removing one of the main obstacles to rapprochement with the People's Republic of China.

Much now depends on the *mujahideen*. Can they trust the Kremlin, after so many abrogated cease-fires, so many atrocities? Much also depends on Pakistan, a key element in expediting military supplies to the *mujahideen* and providing a home for 3 million Afghan refugees.

The United States, ignoring the *glasnost* charade, should give the *mujahideen* more help. No matter how much the Soviets wish to leave, only a well-armed *mujahideen* will force them out on terms equitable to the long-suffering Afghan people and agreeable to the interests of the Free World.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1987

Soviet sees Afghanistan as America's problem

The word *glasnost*, in the headline of your warlike Jan. 8 editorial, never reappears in the text because *glasnost* supposes truthful information while your editorial offered something quite the contrary. I should call it loud-*glasnost*. Remember Sir Winston Churchill's marginal notes to his speeches: "Unconvincing. Louder."

As I see it, withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan is an American problem. Afghans will promptly arrive at national reconciliation as soon as the United States stops inspiring, financing, and supplying with arms and instructions the terrorist gangs attacking Afghanistan from abroad and demands that its allies follow suit. Kabul is offering reconciliation. Will they meet it halfway to the other side of the frontier?

They will if the United States consents.

But then the United States loses Afghanistan as an alternative to Iran: a site to deploy U.S. missiles close to the Soviet frontier. The United States loses its chance of constant military presence in that part of the globe. The United States loses the giant narcotic plantations the gangs control, whose yields are trafficked to the United States and Western Europe to be turned into narcotics and come back to the gangs as missiles, tommy guns, and hand grenades: a vicious circle.

The idea of an independent, non-allied, and peaceful Afghanistan runs counter to America's global strategies. Therein the American plans for that region take root. The closing sentence of your editorial gives the rebels a clear wording, as

simple as a commando's knife: "well-armed *mujahideen* should drive Soviet troops from Afghanistan."

As former bandits who laid down arms testify, the weaponry they received included U.S.-manufactured chemical charges and boobytraps imitating toys.

BORIS SHATROV
Journalist
Novosti Press Agency
Moscow

• The Novosti Press Agency is a subsidiary of the Soviet government's International Information Department and, working intimately with the KGB's Directorate A (Disinformation Department), handles overt and covert propaganda among foreign media.

— The Editor.



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1987 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

IRAN -- NICARAGUA

Republicans Told Not To Expect Any Apologies From Oval Office -- President Reagan will not apologize to the nation for the Iran-Contra affair despite the pleas of some Republican lawmakers that he take responsibility for the matter, White House officials said yesterday.

(Washington Times, AP, Reuter, Scripps Howard, UPI)

NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan honors King In Speech To Teens -- President Reagan, deploring a new outbreak of racial incidents, Thursday memorialized Martin Luther King, Jr., by calling for an America "free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination."

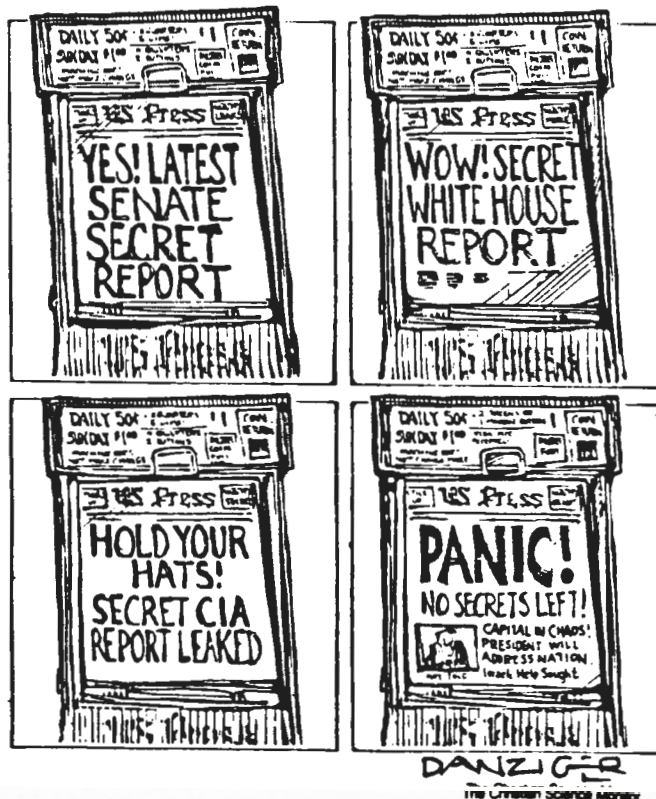
(Washington Post, Sacramento Bee, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Thursday Evening)

PRESIDENT REAGAN -- President Reagan delivered a televised speech from the White House today to mark the actual birthday of Martin Luther King.

847 HIJACKER -- The U.S. has told the German government that Hamadi should stand trial here.

CASEY -- Congressional investigators say CIA Director Casey is emerging as a key actor in the diversion of Iran arms sales money to the contras.



IRAN — NICARAGUA

REAGAN WON'T USE STATE OF UNION ADDRESS TO APOLOGIZE FOR IRAN

President Reagan has rejected the advice of some Republicans on Capitol Hill that he use his Jan. 27 State of the Union speech to Congress to apologize for the Iran-Contra affair.

"This is the President's thinking. The President feels he has done nothing for which he feels he should apologize," said White House spokesman Albert Brashear Thursday.

The legislators say they feel that with Iran hearings and investigations likely to drag on for weeks or months, a sincere plea for forgiveness and admission of error from Reagan is the only way to get the matter behind him. They are afraid the political fallout of continuing revelations will hurt GOP chances in the 1988 elections.

(Ann McFeatters & Lance Gay, Scripps Howard)

Republicans Told Not To Expect Any Apologies From Oval Office

President Reagan will not apologize to the nation for the Iran-Contra affair despite the pleas of some Republican lawmakers that he take responsibility for the matter, White House officials said yesterday.

"The President has said that mistakes were made, but he certainly feels no apology is necessary," Mr. Brashear said, responding to a New York Times report that some Republican congressmen want Mr. Reagan to make such a statement.

(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A3)

Reagan Supporter Urges Him To Admit Mistake In Iran Arms Dealing

One of President Reagan's strongest supporters in Congress says the President should admit he made "an error of the heart" in approving arms sales to Iran as he sought freedom for American hostages.

And the top-ranking Republican on the Senate committee investigating the controversy surrounding the once-secret sales says the President should do more to assume responsibility for the foreign affairs fiasco.

Both Hyde and Rudman avoided saying that the President should apologize, but both indicated he has not done enough to take responsibility for the crisis that has engulfed his Administration.

(Dale Nelson, AP)

White House Bars Reagan Apology For Iran-Contra Affair

The White House has rejected suggestions that President Reagan say he's sorry for the Iran scandal, despite a clamor for an apology from top congressional Republicans.

"I expect him to explain what happened, explain the rationale in reaching out to moderates or pragmatists in Iran and take responsibility," says Rep. Henry Hyde.

(Gene Gibbons, Reuter)

Senate Republican Suggests Reagan Say More About Iran-Contra

The top-ranking Republican on the Senate's Iran-Contra investigative committee suggested Thursday that President Reagan should do more to take responsibility for the foreign affairs fiasco.

Sen. Rudman insisted that "we are not going to have a circus" when the committee begins its work in earnest.

And Rep. Hyde exhorted Reagan to admit he made "an error of the heart" in approving arms sales to Iran as he sought freedom for Americans held hostage in Lebanon by groups of Iranian sympathizers.

(Cliff Haas, AP)

President/Iran Arms/Republicans

President Reagan, urged by some top Republicans to ask the American people to forgive him for the Iran arms-Contra aid scandal, "feels no apology is needed," a White House spokesman said Thursday.

"The President feels he has done nothing for which he feels he must apologize," said Albert Brashear, a deputy White House press secretary.

(Sean McCormally, UPI)

WHITE HOUSE DECISIONS ON POLICY, STAFFING DELAYED AS OFFICIALS' ENERGIES ARE DIVERTED BY IRAN AFFAIR

The scandal has drained officials' time and delayed policy decisions, including the filling of important jobs that have been vacant or are about to become so: head of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, White House domestic policy chief, secretary of the cabinet. Explaining President Reagan's slowness in choosing new members for the Federal Reserve Board, a senior White House official said: "Perhaps you've heard -- we've been preoccupied."

On Capitol Hill as well, there are signs that the crisis has caused some issues to fall through the cracks. GOP Senate staff aides complain that this week's clash with the Reagan Administration over two unratified nuclear testing treaties in part reflected the failure of a preoccupied White House staff to consult closely with Republican allies.

(Ellen Hume, Wall Street Journal, A46)

WHITE HOUSE GRUDGING WITH ITS NEWS

The Reagan White House has long been known for its well-oiled ability to deflect even the worst news.

But this week, it seemed the old answers no longer worked with a press corps hungry for the latest word in Iran, the economy -- even the President's mood.

As White House spokesman Larry Speakes heads into his final two weeks, daily briefings have degenerated into denials and repetitions of the official Administration line.

(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A4)

WEINBERGER WARNS AGAINST LETTING IRAN-CONTRA PROBE BLOCK
IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT TASKS OR BRING "DANGEROUS
RESTRICTIONS ON PRESIDENT

With a ringing defense of President Reagan, Defense Secretary Weinberger Thursday warned Congress not to allow the Iran-Contra controversy to result in "dangerous" restrictions on the conduct of defense and foreign policy.

While urging continuation of the various investigations into how profits from the sale of arms to Iran were used to illegally aid the Nicaraguan Contras, Weinberger said "foreign and domestic policy should not be held hostage to these investigations...." (Otto Kreisher, Copley)

MCFARLANE RETURNS TO SENATE TODAY AS
IRAN ARMS SCANDAL WIDENS

Former national security adviser Robert McFarlane, called back to Capitol Hill today to discuss his secret trip to Tehran in May that was geared to buy the freedom of all American hostages held in Lebanon at the time.

With Capitol Hill focus stuck on the scandal, however, President Reagan has been put in the position of responding to congressional calls for an apology regarding the sour turn in his policy toward Iran.

(Michael Myers, UPI)

McFarlane To Testify; Report Says He Rejected Offer To Release Two Hostages

Former National Security Adviser McFarlane held out for the release of four U.S. hostages during his secret trip to Iran in May, rejecting an Iranian offer to release just two, according to a broadcast report.

Meanwhile, there were indications that the Iranian arms deals had their genesis in plans by commercial arms dealers and among Iranian officials more than a year before the Reagan Administration began considering the sales.

(Lawrence Knutson, AP)

Report: North Favored Deal For 2 Hostages But McFarlane Held Out For 4

Former White House security aide Oliver North on a trip to Iran last May argued in favor of accepting the proffered release of two hostages in exchange for arms, according to a broadcast report.

But North was overruled by former national security adviser Robert McFarlane who held out for all four kidnapped Americans and ultimately went home empty-handed, ABC News reported Thursday.

(AP)

North/Iran

An Iranian weapons dealer warned Lt. Col. North and CIA Director Casey they would have "a bigger problem than Watergate," if he was cut out of arms-for-hostages negotiations, ABC News reported Thursday night.

A source who attended the negotiations between the United States and Iran provided the network with a chronological account of the five-day meeting, including direct quotations from the conversations.

(UPI)

-more-

FEW FOLLOW SCANDAL 'VERY CLOSELY'
Reagan Favorable Rating Down To 61 Percent, Poll Finds

Only 20 percent of Americans are following the Iran arms sale-contras aid story "very closely," compared with 80 percent who followed the aftermath of the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger very closely last January and 46 percent the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union last April, according to a poll.

While one-fifth of the respondents to the Gallup Organization's poll of 1,500 adults by telephone for Times-Mirror said they were paying attention to the scandal, 47 percent said they were paying fairly close attention.

(AP story, Washington Post, A20)

Poll Finds Iranian Affair Hurt Credibility Of U.S. Journalism

The nation's news organizations have lost substantial public esteem and credibility as a result of the Iran-Nicaragua affair, although the public views them more favorably than it views President Reagan, the military, Congress or the CIA, according to a new Gallup Poll for The Times Mirror Company.

The poll showed a slight increase in the President's approval rating, which dropped sharply in November. Fifty-two percent of those polled said they approved of the way Mr. Reagan was handling his job, as against 47 percent in mid-December. (Alex Jones, New York Times, A1)

Only 20% Found To Follow Iran Arms Story Closely

Only one in five Americans is paying "very close" attention to news coverage of the Iran arms-contras scandal, an unusually low figure for a major news story, according to a public opinion poll released yesterday.

The national survey by the Gallup Organization found that almost half of those questioned think that news organizations are giving too much coverage to the Iran story and the intense coverage is making the U.S. look bad in the eyes of the world. (Paul West, Baltimore Sun, A1)

Iran Arms Affair/Poll

The Iran arms-Contras aid scandal is "a story Americans don't like," because it has hurt public opinion of President Reagan, and they blame reporters even though they trust them more than Reagan, a poll reveals.

Though other polls have shown a drop in Reagan's popularity during his worst political crisis, the new survey proves, "his critics are more critical than his supporters are supportive," said Andrew Kohut, the Gallup president. (Sydney Shaw, UPI)

HEFLIN: NO 'JOHN DEAN' YET IN IRAN-CONTRA PROBE

Democratic Sen. Howell Heflin, a former Alabama chief justice now on the Senate panel probing the Iran arms-Contras aid scandal, says without a "John Dean" the case will be even tougher to crack than Watergate.

In an interview Thursday, Heflin said the current investigation faces many obstacles -- including its global nature and the fact that so far there is no one person who knows all about the affair and is willing to testify.

(Robert Doherty, UPI)

ASPIN, LEATH SAY THEY MAY VOTE AGAINST FURTHER CONTRA AID

Reps. Aspin and Leath, two of the four Democrats competing to become chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, say they may change their previous positions and vote against further U.S. military aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

All four said they are trying hard to line up support for the vote, which will be by secret ballot during a closed-door meeting of the 258 House Democrats. (Tim Ahern, AP)

COURTER: PRIVATE CONTRA AID 'RATHER IRRELEVANT'

A member of the House select committee probing the Iran arms-Contra aid affair said Thursday he would oppose any attempt by Democratic panel members to launch an investigation into private efforts to help the Contras.

Rep. James Courter, an ardent supporter of the Contras, said the panel should look into private Contra-aid networks only in respect to whether they helped channel public money from Iranian arms sales to the Contras, in violation of federal law banning such use of federal funds.

(George Lobsenz)

REPORT: CIA AGENT RECALLED FOR AIDING CONTRAS

The CIA recalled its station chief in Costa Rica last week for helping a private air force fly weapons to the Nicaraguan rebels while U.S. military aid to the Contras was banned, it was reported today.

Quoting Administration and congressional sources, the Los Angeles Times said the CIA told the Senate Intelligence Committee this week that it recalled its chief officer from the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, because of "unauthorized contacts with private benefactors: who were aiding the rebels. (UPI)

POINDEXTER DEFENSE FUND

Naval officers across the nation are contributing to a defense fund for Vice Adm. Poindexter in response to a fund-raising letter from former chief of naval operations, officers said Thursday.

The letter from retired Adm. James Holloway III seeks donations to help pay the legal fees of Poindexter, identified as a central figure in the Iran arms-Contra aid scandal, who resigned as White House national security adviser in November. (Rob Gloster, UPI)

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER PLEDGES ANSWERS ON
IRAN ARMS SCANDAL

JERUSALEM -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed the Iranian arms scandal as a minor problem for Israel and promised to explain his country's role in the weapons deal when he visits the United States next month.

He also said the Americans and Israelis would "decide together" how to investigate the scandal. (Galina Vromen, Reuter)

IRAN LOSSES PUT AT 40,000 IN WEEKS
Weinberger Says Victory Over Iraq Would Be 'Very Disastrous'

About 40,000 Iranian troops, many as young as 14, have been killed in human-wave attacks against Iraqi positions since Tehran went on the offensive Dec. 24, Defense Secretary Weinberger said yesterday.

"It would be very disastrous for everyone" if Iran won the Persian Gulf war, now in its seventh year, Weinberger told a group of Washington Post reporters and editors. He said a victorious Iran, tied to the Soviet Union, could provide the Soviets with a warm-water port and access to gulf oil. (George Wilson, Washington Post, A19)

IRAN SALES KEY TO PORTUGAL'S ARMS TRADE
Country's Antiquated Weapons Industry Depends
On Nations Shunned By Allies

LISBON -- For three years, from the beginning of the Persian Gulf war until 1983, Portugal's largest single customer for weapons exports was Iraq.

More recently, Baghdad has slipped to second place. The new front runner is its archenemy, Iran.

Since Portugal dropped an official ban on direct dealings with Iran in late 1983, Tehran has purchased more than half of all the weaponry produced for export by Portuguese factories, worth more than \$100 million through last September. (Karen DeYoung, Washington Post, A18)

HABIB/CENTRAL AMERICA

TEGUCIGALPA -- Philip Habib, the Reagan Administration's Central American envoy, canceled a visit to three Central American nations where he planned to seek support for the Reagan Administration's policies, a U.S. official said Thursday.

Habib "cannot visit the region at this time," U.S. Embassy spokesman Arthur Skop said, and the decision to suspend the trip was made in Washington by the State Department. (UPI)

NATIONAL NEWS

PRESIDENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO SLAIN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

High School Students Are Urged To Be A Generation

'Free Of Bigotry, Intolerance And Discrimination'

President Reagan paid tribute yesterday to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and urged American youth to "accept nothing less than making yours a generation free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination."

In his first appearance since his recent prostate surgery, Reagan, speaking from the Oval Office in a broadcast to be aired in high schools around the country, hailed the Rev. King for helping "dismantle the legal vestiges of discrimination and racism."

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A3)

The President/King

President Reagan, urging Americans to "reflect on the legacy" of Martin Luther King Jr., told high school students that opportunity is theirs because of the slain civil rights leader's courage.

Reagan arranged to meet with his key advisers today before flying to Camp David in nearby Maryland mountains for a three-day respite over the national holiday honoring King -- which he originally opposed establishing.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

Reagan honors King In Speech To Teens

President Reagan, deploring a new outbreak of racial incidents, Thursday memorialized Martin Luther King, Jr., by calling for an America "free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination."

In observance of the 58th birthday of the slain civil rights leader, Reagan also strove for a belated reconciliation of his own, setting aside long-held disagreements with King's crusading views and a persistent reluctance to accord him a great place in history.

Reagan's laudatory comments were in sharp contrast to his past criticism of King's civil disobedience tactics and his opposition to civil rights measures that King championed in the 1960s.

(Leo Rennert, Bee Washington Bureau)

BENNETT VISITS ATLANTA TO HONOR CITY'S NATIVE SON

ATLANTA -- Atlanta celebrated the birthday today of native son Martin Luther King Jr. with a visit by Education Secretary Bennett and speeches on the slain civil rights leader's place in history.

Bennett taught a third-grade class about King, then spoke at an assembly at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

(AP story, Washington Post, A3)

BILINGUAL PROGRAM AGAIN UNDER FIRE

Bennett Seeks Flexibility For Schools Teaching English As 2nd Tongue

Education Secretary Bennett is expected to send Congress a proposal today to restructure federal bilingual education, reviving the controversy he prompted more than a year ago when he suggested changes in the \$143 million program.

The proposed legislation would allow local school districts more flexibility in choosing how to teach English to nonnative children. Bennett was scheduled to announce the proposal in a speech in San Antonio before Hispanic leaders, a group that has vocally opposed similar changes in the past.

(Barbara Vobejda, Washington Post, A4)

Bilingual Education

The Reagan Administration is renewing its campaign to lift federal restrictions on bilingual education funds that require most schools to teach students in their native language as they learn English.

In a speech prepared for delivery Friday, Education Secretary Bennett said he wants Congress to remove the current limitation because there is no evidence that "transitional bilingual education" is the best way to teach all non-English-speaking students. (Susan Garland, Newhouse)

REAGAN AIDE BUCHANAN SAID TO FAVOR 1988 WHITE HOUSE TRY

White House communications director Pat Buchanan has told a meeting of conservative activists he is inclined to enter the Republican presidential primaries, one meeting participant said Thursday.

"He said he was very much inclined towards running. That was the clear impression he conveyed," said Howard Phillips, head of the Conservative Caucus and one of those pressuring him to make the race.

(Peter Brown, Scripps Howard)

Buchanan Wants Nixon Blessing Before Making Presidential Run

White House Communications Director Patrick Buchanan will seek the blessing of his former boss, Richard Nixon, before deciding to make a run for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination.

Mr. Buchanan told a meeting of some 20 conservative leaders and strategists at his home Wednesday night he would leave the White House by the end of the month to "preserve every element of propriety" should he decide to run, according to Howard Phillips, Conservative Caucus Chairman.

(Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A5)

Editor's Note: "The Ascent Of Marlin Fitzwater," appears on page B1 of The Washington Post.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN CONSIDERS PLAN TO PUT SDI WEAPONS TO WORK

President Reagan is considering a \$100 billion plan to begin full-scale development of ground- and space-based SDI weapons, according to Administration and congressional sources.

Mr. Reagan was briefed Dec. 17 on the SDI plan by Defense Secretary Weinberger, Assistant Defense Secretary Perle and Air Force Gen. James Abrahamson, director of the Pentagon's SDI Organization.

"He [the President] was enthusiastic about it," said one Administration official close to the SDI program. "Of course, Weinberger is leading the charge." (Warren Strobel, Washington Times, A1)

U.S., SOVIETS RESUME ARMS TALKS

GENEVA -- Superpower arms talks resumed today with a luncheon meeting between U.S. delegation head Max Kampelman and his new Soviet counterpart, Yuli Vorontsov.

The two delegation leaders met privately at Soviet request, instead of heading a meeting of all three top negotiators from each side, which normally marks the beginning of a round.

(AP story, Washington Post, A26)

Delegations Impose News Blackout On Negotiations

GENEVA -- U.S. and Soviet negotiators imposed a strict news blackout today on the new round of superpower negotiations on strategic and medium-ranged nuclear missiles and space-based defense systems.

U.S. delegation leader Max Kampelman and his new Soviet counterpart, Yuli Vorontsov, opened the new round Thursday with a private working luncheon.

The news blackout was so severe that U.S. delegation spokesman Terry Schroeder was unable to even say how long the luncheon lasted. Kampelman was seen returning to the U.S. Embassy after three hours.

(John Callcott, UPI)

FORMER CIA DIRECTOR URGES SENATE APPROVE TEST TREATIES

For the second time this week, a former CIA director disputed President Reagan's claim that national security would be threatened unless on-site verification is added to a pair of nuclear testing treaties.

William Colby, who headed the CIA from 1973 to 1976, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Thursday that the two decade-old unratified treaties should be approved by the Senate as is, without adding language Reagan is seeking that requires on-site verification. (Bud Newman, UPI)

U.S. CALLS AFGHAN PEACE OFFENSIVE A PROPAGANDA PLOY AGAINST REBELS

U.S. officials scoffed yesterday at a one-sided government cease-fire in Afghanistan that is linked to a vague offer of a Soviet troop withdrawal.

But they conceded that Moscow's well-orchestrated peace offensive has put pressure on Pakistan and the Afghan resistance.

"Offering a troop withdrawal after the acceptance of a cease-fire is an empty gesture that can only be seen as a propaganda ploy," said White House spokesman Albert Brashear.

(Richard Beeston, Washington Times, A1)

U.S. SAYS SOVIETS DISAVOW GRAIN SALE AGREEMENT

The Soviet Union has virtually repudiated the long-term agreement that requires it to buy minimum amounts of U.S. grain each year, Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng said yesterday.

Lyng said the indication came during a meeting here last month with Moscow's foreign trade minister, Boris Ivanovich Aristov.

"He virtually disavowed that agreement by saying that they -- in total over the years -- had purchased more than the minimum agreement," Lyng said in an interview with farm editors.

(AP story, Washington Post, A26)

U.S. LIFTS CONTROLS ON EXPORT OF DRILLING GEAR TO SOVIETS

The Reagan Administration, responding to pressure from the domestic oil and gas industry, yesterday lifted controls on the export of drilling equipment to the Soviet Union that had been imposed in 1978 to force a change in Soviet human rights policy.

Officials emphasized that the Soviets had shown no improvement on human rights. Instead, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said the controls were being lifted because they "have lost their impact in the face of widespread foreign availability of like products" and have had a "debilitating effect" on the U.S. oil and gas industry.

(Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A1)

Commerce Lifts Export Bans Against Soviet Union

The United States will end its export restrictions on oil and gas equipment and technology to the Soviet Union Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said Thursday.

"I am convinced despite our dissatisfaction with Soviet human rights efforts that it is no longer in our national interest to keep these unilateral foreign policy controls on exports of oil and gas equipment and technology to the Soviet Union," Baldrige said. (UPI)

HIJACKING SUSPECT ARRESTED

West Germans Hold Lebanese Sought In 1985 TWA Seizure

BONN -- West German police have arrested a Lebanese man suspected of having helped stage the dramatic 17-day hijacking of a TWA jet airliner to Beirut in June 1985 in which a U.S. Navy diver was slain, authorities said today.

Customs agents detained Mohammed Ali Hamadei, 22, on his arrival at Frankfurt airport on Tuesday when they found that he was carrying three bottles containing a powerful liquid explosive, court officials said. Federal investigators later identified him as one of the suspected hijackers from his fingerprints, they said. (Robert McCartney, Washington Post, A1)

Hijacking Suspect Likely To Be Extradited To U.S. To Face Murder

West Germany is likely to extradite a Palestinian hijacking suspect to the United States where he will face charges of murder and piracy, diplomats say.

A Department of Justice spokesman said he couldn't say for certain that the man arrested, Muhammad Ali Hamadi, "pulled the trigger." The suspect is one of three men charged with murder and piracy in warrants issued by the department after the hijacking ended.

(Walter Friedenberg, Scripps Howard)

Palestinian Kidnapper

The U.S. Ambassador to West Germany negotiated Thursday for the swift extradition of a Palestinian arrested in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner, to stand trial in the United States for air piracy, murder, and a dozen other charges, the Justice Department said.

"We are very interested in getting this individual back to the United States to face charges here," said department spokesman Pat Korten.

(Lori Santos, UPI)

Palestinian Kidnapper

A Palestinian described as a "big fish" in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner in the Middle East was arrested when he tried to smuggle explosives into West Germany for use in a terrorist attack, the government said Thursday.

If extradited, Hamadei would be the first alleged Middle East terrorist returned to the United States for trial, Justice Department spokesman Pat Korten said in Washington.

(Edward Roby, UPI)

U.S. Indictment Charges Four With 1985 TWA Hijacking In Beirut

A long-sealed indictment in the 1985 hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in Beirut alleges that four people, including a man now in custody in West Germany, conspired to kill a U.S. Navy diver and assault eight other people during the 17-day hostage ordeal.

The 15-count indictment alleging conspiracy to commit air piracy and murder omits the name of one of the four defendants and was handed up Nov. 14, 1985, but kept under seal until Thursday night.

(Pete Yost, AP)

SHULTZ DOGGED BY IRAN, RESIGNATION ISSUES
Questioning On Africa Trip Shows How Stewardship
Of Foreign Policy May Suffer

Secretary of State Shultz, who returned Wednesday from an eight-day trip to black Africa, got his first sour taste of how the Iran arms sale is likely to bedevil his stewardship of U.S. foreign policy in the coming months.

At almost every stop, Shultz was confronted by reporters -- primarily those traveling with him -- seeking his reaction to the latest revelations in Washington and to renewed reports that he intends to resign.

(David Ottaway, News Analysis, Washington Post, A16)

SHULTZ IS UNDER FIRE FOR ASSERTING LIBERIA HAS
MADE GAINS ON RIGHTS

Secretary Shultz, who returned from a six-nation tour of Africa late Wednesday, has become embroiled in criticism over his assertion that Liberia has made progress in human rights.

Several Liberians, including a politician, a newspaper publisher and a human rights campaigner, said today that Mr. Shultz had made inaccurate statements at a news conference Wednesday in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, where he said Liberia had a free press, an elected Government and no political prisoners.

(David Shieler, New York Times, A1)

REBEL LEADERS URGE U.S. TO PRESSURE S. AFRICA
ANC To Request Aid For 'Front-Line States'

GABORONE, Botswana -- The African National Congress, the main guerrilla group battling white minority rule in South Africa, has embarked on a strategy of trying to persuade the United States to escalate pressure on Pretoria to negotiate a transition to majority rule.

Emphasizing the importance of diplomatic contact more than it has in the past, the congress will also ask the Reagan Administration to more than triple financial assistance to "front-line" black African states.

(William Claiborne, Washington Post, A25)

S. AFRICA CANCELS ORDER TO EXPEL U.S REPORTER
Los Angeles Times Editors Gain Reprieve

JOHANNESBURG -- The South African government withdrew an expulsion order against Los Angeles Times correspondent Michael Parks today after a meeting in Cape Town between the newspaper's editors and Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha.

Botha said he had agreed to allow Parks to stay "in view of assurances and undertakings received" from the paper's editor in chief, William Thomas, and its foreign editor, Alvin Shuster, who met with him for an hour yesterday.

(Allister Sparks, Washington Post, A28)

DOLLAR'S FALL LINKED TO ALLIES' SLOW GROWTH

A Treasury official yesterday said that poorer prospects for economic growth in West Germany and Japan -- rather than an Administration effort to push the dollar down -- were responsible for this week's sharp decline of the dollar.

He said in a telephone interview that "there are only a few ways" in which to deal with the huge trade and current account imbalances among the United States, West Germany and Japan.

"One is to get stronger growth out of our trading partners. Another is to change the currency relationships. And a third way would be slower U.S. growth or a recession, and that's an option that, obviously, nobody wants," said the official, who did not want to be identified.

(Hobart Rowen, Washington Post, F1)

U.S./CANADA/TRADE

U.S. and Canadian trade negotiators wrapped up another round of talks Thursday aimed at eliminating tariffs, duties and other barriers in the world's biggest bilateral trade relationship.

Deputy U.S. negotiator William Merkin said the two sides "narrowed their differences" on several customs issues and began to focus on how to deal with the more complicated tariffs issue. (UPI)

2 EXECUTIVES OFFER GRIM TRADE OUTLOOK

The United States has lost its dominant position in world trade, and even the best trade legislation would not be enough to restore it, two business leaders told the Senate Finance Committee yesterday.

"In thinking of trade, we are often like a group of people playing chess -- only the game is being played on the decks of the Titanic and the waters are rising all around us," said John Young, president of Hewlett-Packard Co., the computer maker.

(Anne Swardson, Washington Post, F3)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Thursday evening, January 15th)

PRESIDENT REAGAN

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan delivered a televised speech from the White House today to mark the actual birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King 58 years ago. The President said Dr. King was an inspiration to all Americans no matter what their race. The speech provided an opportunity for many people to have their first extended look at the President since he came out of the hospital and it was given at a time when numerous other politicians had been questioning the President's grasp of the world's most powerful job.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The President's coming out appearance was a carefully controlled Oval Office television speech designed to show Mr. Reagan alive and, if not completely well, at least firm of voice and sharp of eye, and it did that.

(President Reagan: "I wish you all the very best. Thank you and God bless you.")

But it did not answer the question of how much the President is involved these days in other matters of administration. With only still photographers from the press corps allowed to see him since his return from the hospital last Thursday, reporters have been barred, several stories have surfaced questioning Mr. Reagan's grasp of his surroundings, quoting sources as saying he seems inattentive and unable to focus on matters, particularly on his own role in the Iranian arms sale episode. Deputy press secretary Rusty Brashear today insisted such reports are erroneous. He said the President is very much involved in the decision making process. It has been almost two months since the President answered questions about the arms sales and a lot of new information has surfaced. But spokesman Brashear declined to relay new questions to the President saying: "We do not think it appropriate to ask him to try and remember a series of complicated events that unfolded over a long period of time." On Capitol Hill the special Senate committee which will investigate the scandal held an organizational meeting and some congressional Republicans said Mr. Reagan needs to speak up again soon to explain things.

(Sen. Tribble: "Certainly the President has to do something, perhaps, I think the President should simply underscore the fact that he wants the full facts before the American people.")

(Rep. Hyde: "I think the President cannot appear to be so disengaged that all this was going on without his knowledge and I think an explanation is due.")

(Sen. Rudman: "All of this effort on the part of mainly his staff to point the finger some place else is not fitting to man who has great personal courage and convictions.")

Some Republican lawmakers have even gone so far as to suggest Mr. Reagan apologize, but that's going too far for the President, who did relay word today through his spokesman he feels he has done nothing to apologize for.

(ABC-3)

CBS's Dan Rather: President Reagan had one of his spokesmen, Albert Brashear, today try to put a stop to the suggestions, some made by congressional Republicans, that Mr. Reagan should apologize for the Iran-contra arms scandal. The President, said Brashear, feels he has done nothing for which he feels he must apologize. (CBS-3)

847 HIJACKER

NBC's Tom Brokaw reports a Lebanese suspected of being one of the hijackers of flight 847 is in a West German jail tonight and American officials are at work trying to arrange for his extradition to the U.S. to stand trial. The suspect is Mohammed Hamadi. He was arrested at the Frankfurt airport Tuesday as he tried to enter West Germany on a flight from Beirut. German authorities said that he was carrying explosives.

NBC's Brian Stewart reports in the United States arrest warrants were handed down two years ago against three terrorists believed to be involved in the hijacking. Hamadi is one of the three. American officials were gratified.

(Charles Redman: "We have notified the Federal Republic that the arrested man is wanted in the U.S. for air piracy, murder and other offenses related to the TWA 847 hijacking in June of 1985.")

Hamadi is now being held at an undisclosed location, security sources say they'll likely agree to extradite him to America, possibly within days. (NBC-Lead, ABC-Lead, CBS-Lead)

CBS's Rita Braver reports the U.S. has told the German government that Hamadi should stand trial here for the murder of Navy seaman Robert Steitem calling it one of the most despicable acts of international terrorism ever committed against Americans.

(Charles Redman: "We are very interested in having this individual sent to the U.S. in order to face charges.")

Both U.S. and German officials predict that German courts will quickly agree to turn Hamadi over to the U.S.

(Attorney General Meese: "As you know it has been our policy to aggressively investigate and prosecute cases of terrorism, hijacking and so on. And so what is being done here is in keeping with that policy.")

The Justice Department says Hamadi would be the first Middle Eastern terrorist ever turned over to the U.S. and that would send a clear message that western nations are now working together against terrorism. (CBS-2)

U.S./IRAN

ABC's Peter Jennings: And now a report on the Reagan Administration's mission to sell arms to the Iranians in exchange for Americans held hostage in Lebanon. There has been a lot of water under bridge since the Iran affair was first revealed and we needn't tell you how many unanswered questions there are, but from an Iranian source who was present we now have a complete feel of what exactly went on when the delegation from Washington, lead by Robert McFarlane, made its first visit to Iran.

ABC's Barbara Walters reports according to the source, in March 1986 Oliver North tells Iranian arms dealer and middleman Gorbanifar that a high level group would come to Tehran. Their mission, to have face to face meetings with top Iranian officials in Iran about future relations for the two nations, also to secure the release of four Americans being held hostage in Lebanon and the body of murdered hostage William Buckley. The Iranian negotiators are Dr. Najafabadi, head of the parliament's foreign relations committee and deputy foreign minister Kahid. Both Rafsanjani and Amal Khomeini are aware of the American's presences. One of the Iranians jokingly asks North what he has brought him? According to the sources, North hands him a chocolate cake and calls it the key to better relations. North also brings as gifts three walnut boxes bearing the Presidential seal. Inside are Colt revolvers. There is no bible as reported. By days end an agreement seems to be reached. Iran will get the four hostages released, the remaining arms will be shipped and future Iranian-American relations were continued to be discussed. Day four, and a snag, the Americans have brought with them 10% of the total arms shipment promised. The Iranians are nervous and want the entire shipment delivered now. New negotiations. Dr. Najafabadi: "We will release two hostages now, you order the plane with the rest of the cargo. When it arrives tomorrow we will give you two more hostages and then you go home." McFarlane, impatiently: "No, I want all the hostages now or I go." McFarlane refuses to continue the discussions and orders that their luggage be packed. By now Khomeini has approved the arms deal. Najafarbadi begs McFarlane for more time. McFarlane agrees to wait one more day. Early the next morning, Najafabadi returns empty handed. He has failed to see the Ayatollah. He tells McFarlane I will see him later, but take two hostages now, I will convince the old man, we will wait for the plane together you and I. We will open the plane together and then the final two will be released. McFarlane refuses. Gen. Nir, the Israeli, reportedly is close to tears. Oliver North tries to convince McFarlane to accept the two hostages. McFarlane continues to refuse. The Americans go home. But Iranian sources tell us that even today Iran does not want to close the door to U.S. relations and they say, there is a chance that the remaining hostages will be released in the near future.

Jennings: We asked Robert McFarlane to comment on that report, in deference to the congressional committees, as he put it, he would not expand, but he did tell us in a written statement that the central point was correct, that when Iran failed to release all the hostages he would not negotiate new terms and he terminated the mission.

(ABC-2)

CASEY

CBS's Lesley Stahl reports after reviewing reams of White House documents and computer discs, congressional investigators say CIA Director Casey is emerging as a key actor in the diversion of Iran arms sales money to the contras. According to a congressional source, the computer tapes of Oliver North include numerous references to Casey.

Stahl continues:

They show that there were many meetings and phone calls between North and Casey during the period under investigation. The member of Congress told CBS News that while there is no one document proving Casey's knowledge, the cumulative evidence shows that "Casey had to know and had a central roll." While the new Senate Select Committee on the scandal held a short meeting, Secretary Weinberger struck out at those who he says have turned their backs on the President.

(Weinberger: "These are summer soldiers and sunshine patriots and they seem to have forgotten exactly what and who it is who is largely responsible for the favorable turn in American policies over the last six years.")

A congressional source says that what is remarkable in the documents reviewed so far is that there is no discussion of options, no outlining of the cost of failure, and no analysis of how to limit the damage if the covert operations were ever disclosed. (CBS-4)

U.S./CONTRAS

Brokaw: The White House said today that President Reagan has no plans to apologize for the Iran-contra affair. That statement followed calls from several key Republicans for Mr. Reagan to accept full responsibility for what happened and to ask the American people to forgive him, but a White House spokesman the President feels that he has done nothing to apologize for. (NBC-15)

McFARLANE

Brokaw: Another key figure in the Iran-contra affair, Robert McFarlane, says he doesn't think that the contras are competent fighters. In a speech last night he called them well meaning Coca Cola bottlers, clerks, laborers, peasants, but he said, they are not trained to be counter-revolutionaries. McFarlane added that does not mean their purpose isn't real, however. (NBC-16)

POLL

Brokaw: A Gallop poll conducted for the Times-Mirror company found that only 20% of the American people are following the Iran-contra scandal closely. Still, 42% believe that the scandal is so serious that it has hurt President Reagan's ability to run this country. Thirty-eight percent think that he is holding back information and 50% believe that the media have placed too much emphasis on rumors and unconfirmed reports. (NBC-18)

TRIDENT II

Brokaw: The Navy's Trident II submarine missile is being called the strategic defense weapon of the 1990s and at Cape Canaveral today it had its maiden launch. The Navy declared it a complete success. The three stage missile blasted off on schedule and hurled a dummy warhead on target into the Atlantic several thousand miles southeast of the Florida coast. About two dozen anti-nuclear protesters tried to block the launch, 19 were arrested. (NBC-5, ABC-12, CBS-8)

-more-

GENEVA TALKS

Brokaw: In Geneva the seventh round of the 22 month old superpower arms negotiations resumed today but it was not business as usual. Max Kampelman came calling at a villa in the Soviet diplomatic compound, he was greeted by his new counterpart Uli Vorontsov. The two went inside for what was called a get acquainted working lunch instead of a meeting of the full delegations. It was not known when that meeting will take place. (NBC-6, CBS-7)

KING BIRTHDAY

Brokaw: The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was born 58 years ago today and at ceremonies in Atlanta Secretary Bennett praised him for teaching peace and also the value of struggle and President Reagan, who had opposed a national holiday in his memory, said in a televised speech that Dr. King made our country stronger. (NBC-13)

CBS's Bill Whitaker reports the Justice Department reports acts of racial violence went up 42% last year. Today by satellite hook up, President Reagan called on the nation's school children to fulfill the dream [of King]. (President Reagan: "You should accept nothing less than making yours a generation free of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination.") But many blacks say Mr. Reagan has turned the clock back on race relations. (CBS-17)

AFGHANISTAN

Jennings: The White House said today that a cease fire put into effect by the Afghan government in Afghanistan last night was an empty gesture. The rebels say they believe it is a trick. It is apparently only the Afghan government and the Soviets who have agreed to stop shooting. (ABC-8, NBC-7, CBS-9)

U.S./U.S.S.R. EMBARGO

Jennings: And late news today that the Reagan Administration is lifting its embargo against the sale of oil and gas drilling equipment to the Soviet Union. That embargo was first put into effect in 1978 to protest Soviet human rights policies. (ABC-9)

HINCKLEY

Rather: The Secret Service said today that it certainly will oppose any more trips outside the a psychiatric hospital by John Hinckley, the man who shot President Reagan and three others in March of 1981, who was given a 12 hour pass to have a meal with his parents in the Washington suburbs on December 28th. The Secret Service objected but was overruled at the time by Hinckley's doctors. Hinckley was committed to a Washington psychiatric hospital after he succeeded in defending himself with a plea of guilty by reason of insanity. (CBS-12)

RAY BOLGER DIES

Rather: Actor Ray Bolger, who among other things, starred as the Scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz, has died in Los Angeles. Ray Bolger was 83. (CBS-16)

COMMENTARY

NBC's John Chancellor comments the Duke of Wellington, one of England's greatest soldiers, once said there is no such thing as a little war for a great nation. The lesson is that a big country has to be extremely careful not to become obsessed with a smaller enemy. The Johnson administration became obsessed with Vietnam, the Kremlin became obsessed with Afghanistan and the Reagan Administration became obsessed with Nicaragua. That lead to bad troubles for the Reagan Administration. Big countries have to pick their fights very carefully. Victory has to be certain in a fight with a small enemy, if not things can get out of hand. The Duke of Wellington knew that, it is a pity that the White House didn't remember what he said when it got involved with Nicaragua. (NBC-17)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

FEDERAL BUDGET

The Budget's Plan for Treading Water -- "The federal budget is supposed to be a blueprint and a basis for discussion with Congress on spending and taxes, but President Reagan's 1988 trillion-dollar proposal seems more like a how-to manual for treading water.... Overall, though, there's little in the Reagan trillion-dollar budget that shows courage, vision or a resolve to deal with the tough issues of fiscal policy. Let's hope the nation can keep its head above water for another year."

(Chicago Tribune, 1/12)

Same-old-Reagan Budget Merits Same Old Criticisms -- "What is objectionable about the budget is the path to the bottom-line: The slashing of domestic programs while defense is being increased; the gaining of semi-fraudulent, one-time-only savings through the selling of federal assets; the continuing stubbornness about taxes. All of these policies are in conflict with common sense and are in obedience to ideology."

(Dayton Daily News, 1/11)

Healthy U.S. Budget Depends on Collaboration -- "Healthy budget progress heavily depends on collaboration, not recrimination, across party lines. Reagan should move further toward fiscal compromises with Democratic leaders. Democrats should move to meet him by showing more spine in restraining entitlements for people who are not poor and by talking of higher taxes only in the same breath with talk of lower spending."

(Minneapolis Star and Tribune, 1/9)

Budget Onus on Democrats -- "Congressional Democrats trashed President Reagan's budget before it ever got to Capitol Hill, and now the onus is on members of the majority party to put up or shut up about fiscal responsibility. Don't hold your breath.... While individual members of the [Oklahoma] delegation would not be expected to embrace the Reagan budget as is, neither should they go off on a tax-raising tangent. As budget hearings begin, their action will be watched closely."

(Daily Oklahoman, 1/8)

Put Reagan's Budget on Critical List -- "Finding themselves on the short end of the stick are: Farmers, who would lose \$4 billion in price support payments and would see farm target prices drop by 10 percent next year; northwest power users -- Mr. Reagan would sell the Bonneville Power Administration, causing electric rates to rise; older Americans, who would face a big jump in Medicare premiums and shoulder a \$20 billion cut in Medicaid over five years. College students, who would lose \$3.7 billion in student aid. In November, the President decried the budget-setting process as a 'disgrace - simply unworthy of the legislature of the greatest democracy in the world.' He's right, and a credible budget process begins at home. Mr. Reagan cannot expect his budget to arrive healthy on Capitol Hill if it leaves the White House without a heart."

(Idaho Statesman, 1/7)

FEDERAL BUDGET (continued)

A Trillion-Dollar Spending Plan Requires a Search for Cuts -- "Congress' first step is to take President Reagan seriously when he rejects an income-tax increase. Once the easy way out is foreclosed, Congress will have to buckle down to determining what in the budget has to go. There is no other way."
(Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/7)

Middle Class Plays Victim -- "In the Reagan world of the 1988 fiscal year budget, the middle class can look forward to, in addition to paying the bills, fewer educational opportunities for its children and reduced affordability of a home.... The Administration, which steadfastly opposes new taxes, is crazy about fees for a variety of services and programs. Fees, unlike taxes, are totally regressive, with no relation to the ability to pay. Instead of conservative fiscal planning, the country has received nothing but massive debts and ideological claptrap about getting stingy with the dollar."
(Salem Oregon Statesman-Journal, 1/7)

The Budget Fight Begins -- "President Reagan refuses to get together with congressional leaders to search for a compromise that will include either of these changes. But that intransigence dooms serious deficit reduction. A long-term budget plan on which both sides try to find a common ground on taxes, defense and social spending is not hopelessly idealistic. The truth is, in 1987 it's do or die." ~~do or die~~
(Los Angeles Herald Examiner, 1/6)

Reagan Right on Budget -- "A word to the wise is not to get robbed by tax hike legislation while you're looking the other way. Reagan may have been wrong on Iran but he was right on fiscal policy and taxes.... He deserves the support of those who are better off as a result."
(Milwaukee Sentinel, 1/6)

CLEAN WATER BILL

The Big Spenders are Back -- "Nobody is against clean water. That isn't the issue. The real question is how much money can sensibly be spent, given current budgetary pressures. The Democrats say \$20 billion over the next six years. The President says \$6 billion, but has indicated willingness to compromise at \$12 billion. Surely that's plenty.... The President should still give it the ax. It's important to make clear that behind Congress' talk about the horrors of the federal deficit and the 'necessity' for tax increases stand some old-fashioned big spenders."
(Detroit News, 1/11)

Clean Water Act: Hoping Reagan Won't Muddy it by His Veto -- "Mr. Reagan should stand aside this time and, if inclined to convey one further note of displeasure, allow the bill to become law without his signature. Inevitable adoption of the Clean Water Act in its original form coincides with good politics and the nation's best interests."
(Providence Journal, 1/11)

Clean Water -- "The President considers a \$20 billion, eight-year commitment to clean water to be irresponsible. Yet, he would spend that much in one year alone in foreign aid, pursuing policies that are vaguely defined, unpredictable in their impact and debatable in their long-term benefits to the people of the country."
(Bangor Daily News, 1/10)

CLEAN WATER BILL (continued)

Reagan Challenges the Tide on Water Bill -- "Do not be misled by the White House's pained howls of 'budget-busting' and 'partisan confrontation' concerning the resurrected \$18 billion clean-water bill.... Sure, reducing the federal budget deficit is an objective of high priority, but no higher than ensuring a clean-water supply into the 21st century that is sufficient for promoting economic growth and maintaining public health."

(Atlanta Journal, 1/10)

Strong Support for Clean Water -- "According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than \$100 billion must be spent by the year 2000 on treatment facilities. The 1987 Clean Water Act shouldn't be viewed as a budget-breaking request; it's a downpayment on a healthy environment."

(Hartford Courant, 1/9)

Time to Try Again on Water Bill -- "President Reagan claimed to be striking a blow for budget austerity late last year when he pocket-vetoed the Clean Water Act, which has passed both houses of Congress unanimously. In fact, the President signaled his own shortsightedness.... The President is right on one score, however: 'You cannot decry deficits and then pass budget-busting legislation.' But the Clean Water Act - \$18 billion in a \$1.02 trillion package - is hardly the culprit. The real budget-busting comes from Reagan's stubborn refusal to boost taxes and his insistence on another increase in military spending."

(The Milwaukee Journal, 1/5)

IRAN-NICARAGUA

The Iran-Contra Churn -- "The Iran-contra affair continues to unravel into a jumble of semi-recollected events, falsified or sanitized or leaked memos, the blame laying on other governments.... As to recovering its credibility, the White House is not entirely at the mercy of the Iran debacle. It can rely on the soundness and clarity of its decisions from here on to carry the day. Ultimately, this is all that any effective leadership can depend on."

(Christian Science Monitor, 1/15)

Sweet Reason -- "How come President Reagan gets to speak with two voices? Most of his aides portray him as committed to getting to the bottom of the Iran arms scandal. Meanwhile, Pat Buchanan is screeching about the traitors on Capitol Hill. This confusing situation has been going on for weeks.... It still looks like the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing at the White House. Except maybe with Pat Buchanan."

(Kansas City Times, 1/13)

A Strange Defense for the President -- "Given the demonstrated determination of Congress to learn what really happened -- why the arms were sold to Iran, the role of Israel and a flock of other nations, who put the money into the Swiss banks, and who took it out -- the White House staff apparently has decided to defend Mr. Reagan by proving that he slept through the whole show."

(Arkansas Gazette, 1/12)

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1987

Glasnost and Afghanistan

Is Mikhail Gorbachev serious in his new peace overtures to Afghanistan? Perhaps. The Soviets plainly hope to withdraw their troops — though, as usual, on their terms. And for good reason. The Afghan *mujahideen* continue to inflict a heavy toll on Red Army troops. The war continues to deplete Moscow's resources. The Soviet occupation continues to embarrass Kremlin attempts to seduce Third World — especially Islamic — countries.

None of this means an abrupt Soviet retreat. That would impede Soviet geostrategic designs in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. A fast retreat would mean humiliation, might even spark unrest in the U.S.S.R.'s Moslem regions that would dwarf the protests recently suppressed in Kazakhstan. And the Kremlin still has its eye on a warm water port in Baluchistan, the ethnic region that runs across both southern Iran and southwestern Pakistan.

Moreover, a fast pullout would leave Afghanistan open to Westerners eager to investigate Soviet atrocities, including the use of chemical weapons and "toy" bombs

against Afghan tribesmen.

Even so, the gains from a tactical retreat might outweigh the losses, helping advance the *glasnost* subterfuge. Soviet imperialism still would go marching on, from Central America to southern Africa, and Afghanistan could always become a compliant client state instead of an outright puppet. Retreat also might advance Mr. Gorbachev's initiatives in Asia, as outlined last July in his Vladivostok declaration, in particular by removing one of the main obstacles to rapprochement with the People's Republic of China.

Much now depends on the *mujahideen*. Can they trust the Kremlin, after so many abrogated cease-fires, so many atrocities? Much also depends on Pakistan, a key element in expediting military supplies to the *mujahideen* and providing a home for 3 million Afghan refugees.

The United States, ignoring the *glasnost* charade, should give the *mujahideen* more help. No matter how much the Soviets wish to leave, only a well-armed *mujahideen* will force them out on terms equitable to the long-suffering Afghan people and agreeable to the interests of the Free World.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1987

Soviet sees Afghanistan as America's problem

The word *glasnost*, in the headline of your warlike Jan. 8 editorial, never reappears in the text because *glasnost* supposes truthful information while your editorial offered something quite the contrary. I should call it loud-*glasnost*. Remember Sir Winston Churchill's marginal notes to his speeches: "Unconvincing. Louder."

As I see it, withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan is an American problem. Afghans will promptly arrive at national reconciliation as soon as the United States stops inspiring, financing, and supplying with arms and instructions the terrorist gangs attacking Afghanistan from abroad and demands that its allies follow suit. Kabul is offering reconciliation. Will they meet it halfway to the other side of the frontier?

They will if the United States consents.

But then the United States loses Afghanistan as an alternative to Iran: a site to deploy U.S. missiles close to the Soviet frontier. The United States loses its chance of constant military presence in that part of the globe. The United States loses the giant narcotic plantations the gangs control, whose yields are trafficked to the United States and Western Europe to be turned into narcotics and come back to the gangs as missiles, tommy guns, and hand grenades: a vicious circle.

The idea of an independent, non-aligned, and peaceful Afghanistan runs counter to America's global strategies. Therein the American plans for that region take root. The closing sentence of your editorial gives the rebels a clear wording, as

simple as a commando's knife: "well-armed *mujahideen* should drive Soviet troops from Afghanistan."

As former bandits who laid down arms testify, the weaponry they received included U.S.-manufactured chemical charges and boobytraps imitating toys.

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● The Novosti Press Agency is a subsidiary of the Soviet government's International Information Department and, working intimately with the KGB's Directorate A (Disinformation Department), handles overt and covert propaganda among foreign media.

— The Editor.