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Last Updated: 08/07/2025

BPB

AMS

(Robinson/ARD)
August 8, 1986
3:00 p.m.

40108555
4710
PROII
ME001-01

ME004
ME005
FG098

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: DANNY THOMAS FUNDRAISER FOR ST. JUDE'S
HOSPITAL AND 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1986

Ladies and gentlemen, it was in 1936 that Danny Thomas met and married his beautiful Rose Marie. ^{THOMAS} Danny had a job hosting a Michigan radio show -- a good job to provide for the young couple as they began their life together. But the Depression was on, and within a few months, Danny was out of work.

Soon he was desperate, wondering whether he should forget about show business. It all seemed hopeless. When he could think of nothing else, Danny prayed to the patron of hopeless causes, St. Jude.

St. Jude was listening. The next day, Danny was offered a radio job in Chicago.

Since then, it's been five decades of show business greatness -- television shows like "Make Room for Daddy;" movies like "The Unfinished Dance" and "The Jazz Singer;" in more recent years, a production company and guest appearances. Danny, I can't help thinking -- if things had worked out like that for me, I would never have left Hollywood.

But there has been still more to the life of Danny Thomas -- something else that goes back to that almost hopeless day in 1936 and that desperate prayer to St. Jude: In 1962, Danny returned his thanks to St. Jude and to God Himself by founding the St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis. And in the years since, Danny has worked ceaselessly for that institution. Proceeds from his concerts and commercials go to St. Jude's. So, too, do the

funds raised in his annual golf tournament. And tonight Danny and Rose Marie are surrounded by you, their friends, because they asked you to buy tickets to this dinner for St. Jude's rather than anniversary presents.

And that says it all. Rose Marie and Danny -- once again here you are working with heart and hand as you have for so many years past, to help children everywhere by way of the St. Jude Children's Medical Center. Once again your family is with you in this effort -- those beautiful children and grandchildren to whom both of you have shown such devotion. And this time it's all happening on a very special, personal, golden day for both of you. I know your children, grandchildren -- all your friends -- are proud of you.

Nancy and I are sorry we can't be there with you, but from our hearts we say: Congratulations to you both on this happy golden 50th wedding anniversary. God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: *Biff Henley*

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE

DATE: 7-9-86

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1986

MEMORANDUM TO FRED RYAN
FROM: KATHY OSBORNE

SUBJECT: TAPING FOR Danny and Rose Marie Thomas

The President would like to use the following for the Danny Thomas taping:

"Rose Marie and Danny -- once again here you are working with heart and hand as you have for so many years past, to help children everywhere by way of the St. Judes Childrens Medical Center."

"And this time you are doing it on a very special, personal, golden day for both of you."

"Nancy and I are sorry we can't be there with you but from our hearts we say; Congratulations to you both on this happy golden 50th wedding anniversary. God bless you."

*from
Ph make sure
the nursery
people have this.
Helen
Give to speechwriter
& Eliz. Board -
Jen*

End
case
File



RONALD REAGAN

Do a tape - (Nancy & I)
VHS 1/2 inch for Danny Thomas
50th Wedding Anniversary
at the annual Gala for
St. Jude's Children's Research
Hospital. - Aug. 30th

Send to Danny Thomas
1187 Hillcrest Rd.
Beverly Hills Calif. 90210

434820
SP1080

August 11, 1986

Dear John:

Bless you and thank you for your kind letter and generous words. I'm most grateful.

It behooves us all to counter the wave of feeling and lack of understanding about the South African situation. Of course, we are all opposed to apartheid and injustice, but causing economic hardship and unemployment for millions of Black workers is not the answer. I've just had a remarkable, statesman-like letter from Buthelezi, the leader of all the Zulus, the largest group among the Blacks of South Africa. He details what punitive sanctions would do to his people and the other tribes as well, and it's a very ugly picture.

Again, you were kind to write -- thank you.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Dr. John A. Howard
President
The Rockford Institute
934 North Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

To Dr. John A. Howard - The Rockford Inst.
934 No. Main St. Rockford Ill. 6/1/63

Dear John

Bless you & thank you for your kind letter & generous words. I'm most grateful.

It behooves us all to counter the wave of feeling and lack of understanding about the S. African situation. Of course we are all ~~opposed~~ opposed to apartheid & injustice but causing ec. hardship and unemployment for mil's. of Black workers is not the answer. I've just had a remarkable, statesman-like letter from Buthelezi the leader of all the Zulus, the largest group among the Blacks of S. Africa. He details what punitive sanctions would do to his people & the other tribes as well & it's a very ugly picture.

Again you were kind to write - thank you.

Sincerely Ron

The Rockford Institute

934 North Main Street Rockford, IL 61103
815/964-5053

July 29, 1986

The Hon. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D C 20500

Dear Ron:

I meant to write you the very evening of your speech about South Africa, but was sidetracked. The continued carping, including a growing chorus of folks who know better, makes it all the more important to register a 100% solid gold Bravo!!!

As I listened to your wisely conceived and skillfully phrased analysis, I kept thinking how greatly blessed the United States is, and has been, to have a man of such courage, perception and integrity as its President. Providential is the apt designation for your Presidency.

I am confident history will prove you absolutely correct in this matter.

With abiding gratitude,

JAH:rk

John A. Howard
President

End
case
file

434822
61002

August 11, 1986

Dear Nick:

Thank you very much for all our Icelandic goodies. I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to see you while you were here. They've had me on quite a merry-go-round.

You were very kind to give me a review of Maureen's performance. I've relayed your words to her, and she was very touched and pleased. Incidentally, she came home with nothing but the warmest praise for all that happened to her in Iceland.

My Nancy sends you and your Nancy the very best, and so do I.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Nicholas Ruwe
American Ambassador
Reykjavik

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation



Nicholas Ruwe
Ambassador of the United States of America
August 5, 1986

Dear Mr President,

Nancy and I are pleased to send you and Mrs Reagan some Icelandic smoked salmon and gravlax. I am in Washington for bilateral talks with Iceland and delivered the salmon today.

Margaret was in Iceland for our 4th of July celebration at the Embassy and let me tell you that her appearances up there should make you proud as a father and as President.

Nancy joins me in sending both of you our very best.

Sincerely -

Nick Ruwe

434821
PR005

August 11, 1986

Dear Ken:

Thanks for your nice letter and for relaying Bette Lou's generous words. If you are being fitted for the same kind of ear plug I have, let me tell you they are just great and so inconspicuous I call them the contact lenses of hearing aids.

With regard to your problems with mathematics, may I suggest you start having anniversaries of your 39th birthday. That's a gift Jack Benny left to all of us. Nancy sends her love, and from both of us to Bette Lou.

Sincerely, **RON**

Mr. Ken Murray
2370 Bowmont Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

FYI

Ken Murray

July 28, 1986

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Ron:

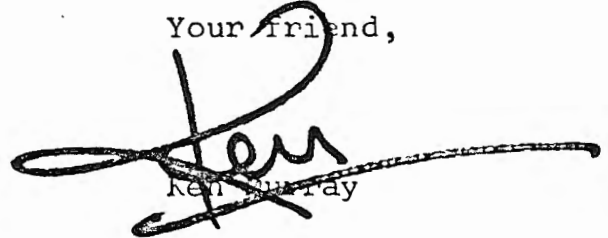
With your busy schedule, it was so thoughtful of you to send me birthday greetings. Many, many thanks.

Everything going fine here, except I've just joined the club and signed up to be fitted for a Miracle Ear. Oh well, when you're leaving your sixties and going into your seventies I guess it's natural to get new parts! By the way, you may have noticed I seem to be having some math problems, too.

Bette Lou just whispered into my good ear to be sure to congratulate you on the great job you're doing and to say we both send our warmest regards to you and Nancy.

As always,

Your friend,



Ken Murray

KM/bl

2370 Bowmont Drive
Beverly Hills, Ca. 90210

To our Ambass. in Iceland ~~Atto~~ Nicholas Ruwe

Dear Nick

I thank you very much for all our Icelandic goodies. I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to see you while you were here. They've had me on quite a merry go round.

You were very kind to give me a review of Maureen's performance. I've ^{replayed} ~~replayed~~ your words to her & she was very touched & pleased. Incidentally she came home with nothing but the warmest praise for all that happened to her in Iceland.

My Nancy sends you & your Nancy the very best - so do I. Sincerely Ron

To Mr. Ken Murray 2370 ~~Bowmont~~ Bowmont Dr.
Beverly Hills Calif. 90210

Dear Ken

Thanks for your nice letter and for relaying Betty Lou's generous words. If you are being fitted for the same kind of ear plug I have let me tell you they are first great & so inconspicuous I call them the contact lenses of hearing aids.

With regard to your problems with mathematics may I suggest you start having anniversaries of your 39th birthday. That's a gift Jack Benny left to all of us. Nancy sends her love & from both of us to Betty Lou. Sincerely Ron

End
Case
File

August 11, 1986

Dear Al:

It was good to hear from you. You are right about what our goal must be. I continue to be optimistic about our chances for at least a beginning to reduce the weapons we both have aimed at each other. I think right here I better add a line that I'm not talking about you and me. We don't have weapons aimed at each other, we're talking about the Soviets.

Al, you are so right about things like Ft. Mason, but you'd be amazed at how the fellows on Capitol Hill close ranks on things like this. Cap has tried, when they demand cuts in defense spending, to get them to approve closing bases for which we have no need. They dig in their heels -- they being the Congressmen in whose districts the bases are located. I'm glad you mentioned Ft. Mason. I don't know whether we've brought that one up. I'll take it up with Cap.

My very best to your lady. Nancy sends her regards to you both.

Sincerely, **RON**

Mr. Albert E. Schwabacher, Jr.
Vice President, Investment Banking
Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.
101 California Street
San Francisco, California 94111

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.
101 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94111

42

ALBERT E. SCHWABACHER, JR.
Vice President, Investment Banking

August 1, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, CA 20013

Dear Dutch:

This week I enjoyed lunch with another admirer, George Christopher. He startled me with a simple concept: He said every major city in the U.S. must have a property similar to Fort Mason. Wouldn't it be great, in order to reduce the deficit, if the Government decided to sell that property to the highest bidder. Quite an idea, isn't it?

Recently you were quoted as saying that "with this Summit we won't only have a point of direction as to where we are going but a start down the road". Wonderful! There is some coincidental timing. Tom and Terry, about whom we have talked in the past, are meeting on Monday, August 4th, with Bud McFarlane. I still hope that this meeting will give you more conviction than ever to continue to be the world leader you are, and that it may be appropriate for you to convince Gorbachev to set the first global goal - Peace in our time.

Thinking of you.

Sincerely,



Albert E. Schwabacher, Jr.
Vice President, Investment Banking

434823
60141

August 11, 1986

Dear Brute:

Your critique on the Bishop warmed my heart. I have no use for him, but I sure have a use for your column. I'm showing it to some of the bleeding hearts around here who have trouble seeing the picture as it really is.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

RON

LtGen Victor H. Krulak, USMC, Ret.
3665 Carleton Street
San Diego, California 92106

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

St. Men. VICTOR H. KRULAK

3665 Carleton St.

San Diego Calif. 92106

28 July 1986

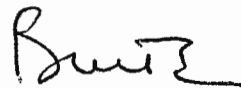
The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I believe America has good reason to lose patience with Tutu. I hope the enclosed may help to put him in perspective.

The Grove was a thorough success and Owl's Nest made its full contribution. Eddie Carlson, who was this year's Captain, is going to send you a detailed report. Be sure, we missed you and spoke often of our pride in all you do for us.

Sincerely,



VHK:jm
Enclosure

To Mr. Albert E. Schwalbach Jr.

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., 101 Calif. St.
S. F. Calif. 94111

Dear Al

It was good to hear from you. You are right about what our goal must be. I continue to be optimistic about our chances for at least a beginning to reduce the weapons we both have aimed at each other. I think right here I better add a line that I'm not talking about you & me. ~~But~~ We don't have weapons aimed at each other, ~~even~~ talking about the Soviets.

Al you are so right about things like Ft. Mason but you'd be amazed at how the fellows on ~~the~~ Capitol Hill close ranks on things like this. Cap has tried, when they demand cuts in defense spending to get them to approve closing bases for which we have no need. They dig in their heels - they being the congressmen in whose districts the bases are located. I'm glad you mentioned Ft. Mason. I don't know whether we've brought that one up. I'll take it up with Cap.

My very best to your lady. Nancy sends her regards ~~love~~ to you both. I meanly Dutch

To Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak 3665 Carleton St.
San Diego Calif. 92106

Dear Brute

Your critique on the Bishop warmed my heart. I have no use for him but I sure have a use for your column. I'm showing it to some of the bleeding hearts around here who ~~have~~ have trouble seeing

about our chances for at least a beginning to reduce
the weapons we both have aimed at each other. I think
right here I better add a line that I'm not talking
about you & me. ~~but~~ We don't have weapons aimed at
each other, ~~even~~ talking about the Soviets.

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but you'd be amazed at how the fellows on ~~the~~ Capitol
Hill close ranks on things like this. Cap has tried,
when they demand cuts in defense spending to get them
to approve closing bases for which we have no need.
They dig in their heels - they being the congressmen in
whose districts the bases are located. I'm glad you
mentioned Ft. Mason. I don't know whether we've brought
that one up. I'll take it up with Cap.

My very best to your lady. Nancy sends her
regards ~~love~~ to you both. I sincerely Dutch

To Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak 3665 Carleton st.
San Diego Calif. 92106

Dear Brute

Your critique on the Bishop warmed my heart.
I have no use for him but I sure have a use for
your column. I'm showing it to some of the bleeding
hearts around here who ~~have~~ have trouble seeing
the picture as it really is. Thanks again, Sincerely Ron

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FOODS OC

Aug 86

VICTOR H. KRULAK

11 August 1986

Mr. Reagan

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The enclosed column on divestment and sanctions may be food for thought for a few people in the Congress.

I'm relieved and pleased that your recent physical tests were favorable.

Sincerely,

Victor H. Krulak

VHK:jm
Enclosure

P.S. Last Friday, Millie Goetze, Bill Goetze's wife, passed away -- a sudden stroke. She had never had any vascular problem before.

→
WIRE FROM YOU
HAS ALREADY BEEN SENT.
KATY

474980

End
Case
File

434827
GI 002

August 14, 1986

Dear Bill:

Thank you very much for the book on Arabian horses. You were very kind and I'm delighted to have it. By the time you get this, I'll be in California at our ranch and on one of those horses.

Again, my thanks and also my appreciation for the always pleasant and generous hospitality of the Hyatt Regency O'Hare.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Bill Eider-Orley
9300 West Bryn Mawr Avenue
Rosemont, Illinois 60018

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

BILL EIDER-ORLEY

Dear Mr. President -

From one Arabian horse
lover to another! It's an
honor to have you with us at the
Hyatt Regency O'hare - Bill Eider-orley

434829
60141

August 14, 1986

Dear Mr. Roeser:

Just a line to thank you for your letter. I appreciate very much your input and the information on South Africa. You are so right that many people today are making judgments without any knowledge of the complexity of the situation in that faraway land. I shall continue to battle against ill-advised punitive sanctions which would only hurt those we're trying to help. At the same time, we'll try to be of help in finding a solution, too, that is fair and doable.

Again, thanks and best regards.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. J. O. Roeser
President
Otto Engineering, Inc.
2 East Main Street
Carpentersville, Illinois 60110

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

OTTO

ENGINEERING INC.®

J. O. ROESER
President

OTTO Engineering, Inc. • 2 East Main Street • Carpentersville, Illinois 60110
312/428-7171 • Telex 72-2426

August 12, 1986

Ronald Reagan, President

Dear President Reagan:

In 1900 there were 100,000 blacks in South Africa and 1,500,000 whites. There are now about 15,000,000 blacks. To this day the problem of illegal immigration to S.A. continues because S.A. is better than the economic and political disasters of the black and communist ruled areas to the north. The racial problems of whites, Asians, coloureds and blacks of various antagonistic tribes are difficult to solve. There are clumsy and cruel features of the present accommodation, but it is far better than the destruction of this government and its replacement with another communist dictatorship.

The ANC is plainly following Communist practice in destabilizing the present government through terror, black on black, burning by "necklacing" those who would cooperate with the government.

Thank you for sticking to your principles on South Africa and on Nicaragua despite the noisy press. Many of us give thanks that you are a man of principle and not just another political egotist playing to popular pressure. We will support you, work and contribute.

Very truly yours,


J. O. Roeser

WHORM: Presidential Handwriting File

FILE TRANSFER
BY THE REAGAN LIBRARY STAFF

*Ronald Reagan personal Paper
presidential Personal (PP)*

Previously filed: *August 1986*

Presidential Records

New file location: *Folder 254*

Date of transfer: *4/27/96 JG*

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Dear Bill & Joan - Odey
I thank you very much for the check on Christmas
Kisses. You were very kind & I'm delighted to have it.
By the time you get this I'll be in Calif. at our
ranch & on one of those buses.
Again my thanks and over my appreciation for
the always pleasant & generous hospitality of the
Hight Regency O'Hare.
Sincerely RR

To Mr. Bill & Joan - Odey
9300 West Bryn Mawr Ave.
Rosemont Ill. 60018

To Mr. J. C. ^{ROESER} ~~Rosen~~ - Otto Engineering Inc. 2 East Main St.
Carpentersville Ill. ~~60110~~ 60110

Dear Mr. - Rosen

Just a line to thank you for your letter. I appreciate
very much your input and the information on S. Quinn.
You are so right that many people today are making
judgements without any knowledge of the complexity of
the situation in that far away land. I shall continue
to battle against ill advised punitive sanctions which
would only hurt those we're trying to help. At the
same time we'll try to be of help in finding a solution
to that is fair and doable.

Again Thanks & Best Regards

Sincerely RR

End
Case
File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

Don Regan wanted you to see
the attached.

David
David L. Chew

Thank you
RR

40122.055
TA003



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

The President has seen

8/14

*Phyllis
Finished.
Thanks.
muf*

August 13, 1986

To: Donald T. Regan
Chief of Staff to the President

Thru: Alfred H. Kingon
Assistant to the President
and Secretary of the Cabinet

From: Richard E. Lyng
Secretary of Agriculture

Dirk

Subject: Export Grain Inspection

The attached responds to your question about the criticism of grain inspection as described in The Kansas City Star.

We are continuing to work on this issue. It is poorly understood, but I think we are making progress.

The full story is also attached.

Attachments

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Federal Grain Inspection Service

Response to the August 4 KANSAS CITY STAR Article on Grain Quality

Mark Ziemann's article in the August 4, 1986, issue of The Kansas City Star contends that the industry-wide practice of blending is promoted by "lax standards."

The U.S. Standards for Grain were developed to facilitate marketing by providing a common language for merchandising. The USDA, Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) implements those standards uniformly as part of a nationwide inspection services for grain. FGIS does not regulate grain quality, it reports quality and condition at the time of inspection.

The U.S. grain marketing system is very complex. Mixing and blending of grain, a key element in the marketing chain, begins at the farm and is practiced at each marketing level. Historically, quality requirements for grain have been governed by grade standards and contract specifications to ensure a uniform product. The U.S. standards have tolerances for various grading factors; one or all of them may be the limiting factor to determine the grade.

Generally, foreign grain buyers recognize the levels of grain quality that the official U.S. grades represent. Some buyers have preconceived concepts of grain quality. When grain does not meet expectations, buyers complain — even if the quality is within the grade limits.

Clearly grain quality is an important concern to every faction of U.S. agribusiness as well as the foreign buyer. Recently the grain industry, producers, merchants and exporters, conducted workshops on issues affecting the quality of U.S. grain and made specific proposals and recommendations on the major issues concerning grain quality. Congress is addressing this problem as evidenced by the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 which directs the Office of Technology Assessment to conduct a study of United States grain export quality standards and grain handling practices.

In addition, legislation has been introduced which seeks to improve the quality of U.S. grain by amending the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The Department of Agriculture has supported and will continue to support such legislation. Under the mandate provided by the U.S. Grain Standards Act, FGIS has taken steps to improve grain quality. Some recent examples are reporting dockage in wheat to the nearest 0.1 percent; tightening interpretations for soybean damage; certifying protein in wheat on a constant 12 percent moisture basis; and reviewing possible changes relating to tolerances for insect infestation in grain.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Monday evening, August 4, 1986, Main Edition, 34 pages

Missouri Metro

25c

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF AMERICAN GRAIN

Shipping methods and loose standards for U.S. grain

1. UNWANTED GRAIN

Exporters can mix as much as 5 percent cheaper or different types of wheat into any class of No. 2 wheat, the best-selling grade. Canadian standards allow only 3 percent.

5. HIDDEN BUGS

Insects revealed during grain loading aren't mentioned to the buyer unless infestation exceeds a certain level. That level is higher than flour contamination limits set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, meaning that flour from some exported grain would be ruled unfit to eat in the United States.

3. MORE HIDDEN DIRT

Exporters also typically add up to another 1.5 percent "dockage," or more dirt, to wheat. Competitors don't do that.

7. MISLEADING LOADING

Exporters can load large amounts of grain below contract specifications as long as the average of the total cargo meets the requested grade. Customers whose shipments come from these pockets of inferior grain pay for a much higher quality than they receive.

2. HIDDEN DIRT

Exports can include as much as 5 percent dirt and damaged kernels in No. 2 wheat. That's 25 percent more dirt than the amount allowed by Canada, the United States' chief competitor.

4. HIDDEN WATER

U.S. moisture-testing machines understate the amount of water in grain by about 1 percent, a difference that could lead to spoilage if the grain is shipped too wet on long trips. Other countries use a more accurate test.

6. LESS PROTEIN

U.S. methods of measuring grain protein often overstate it. A similarly rated Canadian grain would have a higher protein—and milling—value than its American counterpart.

Grain quality: Standards of confusion

By Mark Ziemer

special projects

Reserve, La.—Cargill Inc.'s Terre Haute grain terminal sprawls across nearly a square mile of plantation land hard by the Mississippi River, a mechanical state-of-the-art octopus that gobbles and disgorges thousands of farm harvests every year.

Car-size buckets chomp away at barges of corn, then scoop the grain up to a system of belts, bins and gantries that will clean it, store it and, in the end, stow it in ocean freighters. One such ship, the Taiwan-bound New Diamond, is slowly filling with 1.3 million

DIRTY GRAIN

Today: Strangled competition

Tuesday: Farmers in revolt

bushels of Cargill corn that, as terminal superintendent James Johnson points out, is about the finest America has to offer.

But that's a problem. The corn is too clean.

Although the foreign buyer would welcome it, the corn pouring into the New Diamond is too good for Cargill's ledger books. So up in Terre Haute's

control room an operator flips a switch. "I'll back off the cleaners a bit," he says. Then, like a man watering down his favorite Scotch for uninvited guests, he pumps tons of extra dust, chaff and cracked kernels into the ship, all to be sold at full corn prices.

Ultimately more than 36,000 bushels of the unwanted material ships off to Taiwan in a shipment a hair's breadth away from the worst the contract allows.

In the grain industry this is called "blending," a euphemism for adding—or not removing—dirt and inferior kernels to boost profits. Exporters say blending merely allows them to give buyers what they've paid for, and they

point out that it's entirely legal under federal standards.

But many grain-producer groups call it unethical, even immoral, and charge that it's ruining their reputation and costing them millions of dollars in overseas business. And blending is just one of dozens of controversial rules and practices that foreign buyers say make American grain exports the worst in the world.

Grain exported from the United States is typically dirtier, wetter and more infested with insects than the exports of America's chief competitors. Protesting U.S. farmers say they

See Standards, pg. 10A, col. 1

DIRTY GRAIN

Standards

continued from pg. 1A

are the ones who suffer when foreign producers increasingly look elsewhere to buy their grain.

A review by *The Kansas City Star* of federal grain standards, together with a look at some of the most common practices among domestic exporters, suggests that orders for U.S. grain often can be bum deals, geared more toward profiting the seller than supplying the buyer with a top-quality product.

Lax standards

One grain-quality specialist, Lowell Hill, a professor of grain marketing at the University of Illinois, pronounces American grain standards riddled with nonsense. "U.S. grain standards should be changed even if no one in the world has ever complained about them," he says.

America's grain standards generally have failed to keep up with rapid changes in milling technology, exporting methods and plant genetics, Mr. Hill and other critics say. They believe that has resulted in a hodgepodge of rules that mislead or misinform foreign buyers. Even "grain standards" is a misnomer: Soybeans, which are legumes, are covered in the standards but rice, a grain, is not.

U.S. grain standards were created in 1916 as common references for buyers and sellers. Although developed for domestic use, today the standards are referred to mostly by foreign customers, who typically pay for cargoes sight unseen and thus need guidelines to judge what they're getting.

American millers, who are closer to the grain supply, don't have to rely on the standards. They can more easily refuse delivery on inadequate shipments, and their marketplace clout ensures suppliers will provide the quality they want.

But foreign buyers are more dependent on those standards, which they say often leaves them unable to judge the value of their purchase. Unlike the guidelines of Canada and other competitors, America's standards ignore certain quality factors vital to bakers and processors, such as the oil content of soybeans.

They're also misleading. Based on certain testing methods, federal inspectors typically overstate the amount of water in grain by about 1 percent, a difference that may promote spoilage during long voyages. "Our reference method for moisture is not correct," William Shuey, an official with the grain inspection service who is in charge of monitoring foreign complaints, says bluntly.

The amount of insects in a grain shipment also can be understated. According to a study by the General Accounting Office, the congressional in-

spection agency, insects detected during grain loading aren't mentioned on inspection certificates—or to the buyer—unless they exceed certain levels. But those levels are higher than the contamination limits set by the Food and Drug Administration, the congressional auditors pointed out. That means that some of the exported grain would be ruled unfit to eat and could be impounded if made into flour in this country.

Other lax standards are more apparent. A foreign miller who buys No. 2 hard spring wheat from Canada, for instance, will receive no more than 0.75 percent dirt and dust in that shipment. A similarly priced No. 2 shipment from the United States, however, might be spiked with 1 percent unwanted material.

Moreover, every shipment of wheat also contains another category of dirt unique to the United States called "dockage." Unlike most foreign material—minute impurities that usually aren't separated from the grain—dockage is debris that is separated but later returned to the grain. This trash, which often totals 0.5 to 1.5 percent of the shipment and which must be cleaned out at the buyer's expense, isn't counted with the other defects, so it often comes as a rude surprise to unsophisticated buyers.

Exporters usually discount the dockage amount from their bill but round down the amount to the nearest half-percent. That means that in a large shipment, a buyer still can get stuck with several thousand unexpected, and unusable, bushels on which he has to pay freight charges.

Even if foreign buyers write their contracts to specifically plan around those problems, they still may not receive high-quality grain. The vast majority of shipments are split among several buyers. Under current loading plans, large amounts of grain—perhaps 20 percent or so—that are below what the contract calls for can be dumped into a ship's hold as long as the average cargo meets the contract standards.

These pockets of inferior grain aren't mentioned to foreign buyers, thus the unlucky miller who gets stuck with one ends up paying for a much higher quality grain than he actually receives.

Officials of the Federal Grain Inspection Service, in charge of reviewing U.S. grain standards, defend the system as reflecting industry consensus. "Generally the rule of the majority prevails," says inspection service Administrator Kenneth Gilles. (This week Mr. Gilles becomes assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for marketing and inspection services.)

But farmers and others say it's time for another vote. As early as 1977, a poll by Mr. Hill, the University of Illinois professor, showed 55 percent of farmer surveyed in six states favored tightening at least some of the standards.

"I think the standards are almost counterproductive," says Adrian Polan-

sky of Belleville, Kan., a wheat farmer and chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates, a national producer group.

Because grading methods allow so much waste material in grain, Mr. Polansky says, "there's a lot less desire on my part to bring in the cleanest wheat that I can to the elevator." But that only exacerbates customer dissatisfaction, he admits, and costs farmers business in the end.

"It's in our best interests to make some changes," he says.

The General Accounting Office agrees. In a report released in May, the agency listed several recommendations it has suggested over 10 years of scrutiny to improve the quality of U.S. grain exports. None of those has been implemented, it noted.

Blending

Historians agree that the sale of grain has been more vital to civilization than the trading of any other commodity, including oil. Grain quality has been so important that in the 13th century London ordinances forbade merchants from blending moldy corn with good kernels.

Unlike in Canada, where government restrictions make blending infrequent, it has become an art in the United States. Domestic elevators such as Cargill's Terre Haute terminal in Louisiana can use the practice to give them an extra advantage in a buyer's market, when shaving pennies per bushel might mean the difference between profit and loss.

"Any time a sale is made today, the pressure is there to make a margin where one may be nonexistent," says James Guinn, technical director for the St. Louis-based American Soybean Association.

Blending takes many forms. In Houston, a terminal owned by Union Equity Cooperative Exchange, a large exporter of Kansas hard red winter wheat, routinely buys barge-loads of cheaper soft wheat for blending, according to federal inspectors. Foreign millers protest that soft wheat mixed with hard can gum up their equipment and affect flour quality. But Union Equity officials defend the practice, arguing that standards allow it.

"You don't want to give away grain that sells for more than what the contract specifies," says Irvin Clubine, vice president of business development.

During recent bad harvests, blending allowed farmers a way of selling below-average crops, he says, while giving buyers more of a selection.

Nothing is added to grain that doesn't belong there, he says.

Farmers disagree. They say grain can be cleaned or adulterated long before it reaches the export terminal and the federal grain inspectors. Besides, they say, blending only helps the minority of farmers who need to sell poor-quality crops.

Soybean farmer Dennis Jones in Tennessee says his local grain elevator

routinely scoops up the muck that falls from trucks hauling in area harvests, then throws it back into the grain.

"They'd throw rusty cars in grain if they could get away with it," says Mr. Jones, one of 2,000 farmers who sent letters to *Farmer Journal* magazine urging tighter grain standards. "It's unethical to sell this junk. It's costing farmers exports."

One of the most common, and risky, blending practices involves not dirt but water. At export terminals in the Great Lakes and Louisiana, very wet corn and soybeans are commonly added to drier grain by exporters rather than going through the more costly and time-consuming drying process.

Like a bad apple hidden in a barrel, the wet grain is impossible to see and greatly increases the chances of the whole shipment arriving spoiled.

If high-moisture grain is added to low-moisture grain, "the high moisture is going to mold and probably take the low with it," says William Hawkins, a marketing specialist in the Kansas City-based standards division of the grain inspection service.

Last December, dock hands in the Soviet port of Odessa at first refused to unload part of a shipment of corn from New York-based Continental Grain Co. because the corn had spoiled en route.

"The corn was clearly out of condition and was quite embarrassing to see," says Ervain Friehe, vice chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates who was at the dock that day as part of a U.S. grain-quality task force sent to check export quality.

Continental Vice President Max Spencer remembered the event differently. "We saw nothing while we were there," he said.

Continental officials later recalled the problem as "a minor and isolated case," a company spokesman said. "The Russians made a claim and we adjusted for that."

Minor, perhaps, but certainly not isolated, according to Soviet grain buyers. "Moisture has always been our biggest problem," says Alexander Ivlev, a New York representative for Exportkhleb, the Soviet grain importer. "Several companies have such problems."

FGIS

Unlike other regulatory agencies, the Federal Grain Inspection Service was formed in 1976 primarily to aid the sale of American grain exports—not to protect consumers, or buyers, from receiving bad grain.

Such a mandate leaves some farmers and foreign buyers doubting the agency's objectivity, but agency officials rebut that. "We really try to be a neutral third party," says Mr. Gilles, the administrator.

Still, agency employees often view their role more narrowly than Mr. Gilles. "The idea of the grain standards is to help grain dealers merchandise

their grain," says Conrad Herndon, an inspection service supervisor whose Litcher, La., office handles 30 percent of all grain exports. "We're all in the same business."

Right now, that business is in a disastrous slump, and the resulting drop in export inspections has battered the agency. Since 1980, the grain inspection service has laid off more than 1,000 employees—more than half its staff—leaving a staff of 714. Mr. Herndon has cut his staff in Louisiana by one-third, but if exports continue to decrease, he predicts, "they're going to cut the staffs down to the bare bones."

Lee Roberts, a supervisor in Pasadena, Texas, says inspections now take longer at his office because of the layoffs. He describes his remaining crew of employees as "weak, lame and limited"—veteran, formerly desk-bound workers who are being forced back into the field for such rigorous inspections as crawling atop box cars and punching 12-foot-long test poles into grain.

Mr. Gilles dismisses claims that performance is suffering. "I think we've got a viable organization," he says. But he admits: "We are down to levels where it's hard to make further cuts."

Already the agency does much less than its original charter envisioned. In 1980 Congress eliminated mandatory weighing of grain in certain instances, in effect leaving a large portion of the grain marketed within the United States uninspected. Now the Reagan administration, in an attempt to boost private initiative, has proposed that the Federal Grain Inspection Service exist entirely on user fees, an idea both exporters and the agency resist.

Presently taxpayers pay about \$6.5 million, or 15 percent, of the agency's \$43 million budget, mainly for operations deemed important to America's credibility in the grain export market. Those operations include a marketing division that researches standards, a

compliance division that investigates corruption within the agency, and an international monitoring division that reviews foreign complaints.

If exporters balk at paying for those extra services, agency officials worry, they may in turn have to cut back on such tasks as researching changes in the grain standards, the very thing critics are demanding now.

And officials of the grain inspection agency agree that some of those standards should be changed.

"If I want to buy U.S. or Canadian wheat at the same class and grade level, and one of them is anywhere from one to three percent cleaner, which am I going to buy?" Mr. Shuey asks. "We've just got to face the facts of life."

In The Star Tuesday: Farmers disagree on changes needed in U.S. grain standards.

End
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The President has seen 9/7

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Received 9/7
1986 AUG 18 PM 3:14

August 18, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PAT BUCHANAN *PB*

*Thanks,
RR*

While the South Africa address may have not played well in Georgetown, we certainly swept the boards in Jo'burg.

& COMMENT OPINION

INTERNATIONAL

Howe visit, Reagan's policy speech on SA
(Refer to articles on pages 687 to 689)

Beeld

The visit

Particularly two important matters came to the fore during the big sanctions debate and also during Sir Geoffrey Howe's visit to South Africa.

Firstly the West wants to start a discussion with, on and in South Africa.

Discussion has consistently been indicated as a starting point for a peaceful solution. However, what will happen if those spokesmen, who have over several years developed into a power group, refuse to talk, while so many other domestic interest and power groups are willing to talk as a prelude to negotiation?

Should these boycotters (and Sir Geoffrey met several) be allowed to wreck the whole process, or will the West decide to concentrate its powers on those moderate groups eager to search for formulas for power-sharing and protection?

Secondly those groups who do welcome the West's role as mediator almost unanimously told Sir Geoffrey that sanctions are counter-productive and will affect the wrong, and therefore innocent, people. In the light hereof it would be the limit of audacity and irresponsibility to nevertheless pursue punitive measures — particularly because the West knows it does not have a rescue plan at the ready, but only a few comforting words and the political "liberation" prophesies of a few extremists.

Several foreign missions to the Republic in the last year or two distorted the facts in such a way that their solutions make one shudder. If Sir Geoffrey, together with his criticism, only mentions this clearly abroad, then the whole exercise would have been worthwhile.

Johannesburg

A — July 30

Sunday Times

There can be life beyond sanctions

The debate about economic sanctions against South Africa has now reached such a pitch and become so unrelated to achievable ends that rational argument may no longer be possible.

Pretoria — which, heaven knows, has

not been guiltless in creating the circumstances that make sanctions a probability, if not a dead certainty — can even be forgiven if it abandons the field of debate altogether. Mr Pik Botha's recent "let them come" pronouncement may sound like a declaration of defiance, but in the circumstances it is probably more a symptom of fatalistic resignation.

All of which makes Sir Geoffrey Howe's mission to this region — honest as its purpose may be — almost doomed to failure.

The countless logical arguments against sanctions have been stated so often that they scarcely require repetition. Many of them are persuasively underscored in articles on this and the opposite page.

Yet sanctions have become elevated to the status of an elixir that will miraculously cure South Africa of all its racial ills. Political opinion — particularly in America, but only marginally less so in Britain and Europe — has now been so aroused by "the South African crisis" that leaders feel impelled to "do something".

And sanctions, as a means of expressing abhorrence of apartheid and punishing its practitioners (regardless of the punishment it also inflicts on its victims), has been chosen as the weapon.

There are signs that President Reagan, Mrs Thatcher and probably also Chancellor Helmut Kohl — who have kept cooler heads and who know the folly of stepping aboard the roller-coaster — are now earnestly trying to synchronise their last-gasp efforts to halt the process. In this context, Mr Reagan's speech this week was a remarkable expression of logic and political courage in the face of congressional and public hysteria, as was Mrs Thatcher's hint that she may well intervene personally.

We wish them well in their efforts to restore sanity where little any longer exists, but we fear that the bandwagon can no longer be stopped.

The prudent course, therefore, may be for South Africans, as well as those countries which will themselves have to make not unpainful adjustments to life without South African products, to begin planning for a life beyond sanctions.

And life there will be, given this country's bountiful resources and resourcefulness — and so long as we work harder and faster to create a discrimination-free society

in which equality of political, economic and educational opportunity is available to all.
Johannesburg E — July 27

PRETORIA NEWS

Pinstripe pride

Official foresight has paid off for our foreign service. In the late seventies a coloured officer, Mr Richard Davis, and an Indian, Mr Viveka Naicker, were sent as attachés to our missions in Britain and the United States to experience life at the sharp end. By all accounts they acquitted themselves well — particularly Mr Davis, who was given a torrid time but never shied away from arguing South Africa's case even before the vociferous radicals on American college campuses. Now they are going back into pinstripes to serve their country — Mr Davis as First Secretary in London and Mr Naicker as Second Secretary in Canberra. Their task will, if anything, be more difficult and sensitive than it was a decade ago. But we have every faith that these men will once again be a credit to South Africa. We have a professional diplomatic corps recognised internationally as a second to none. They are experts in their field and they represent their country above any government or ideology. This is the tradition in which Mr Davis and Mr Naicker have been raised. We cannot have too many people like them.

Pretoria

E — July 28

Transvaler

Tide been halted?

The degree to which President Ronald Reagan's firm stand against sanctions aimed at South Africa has been successful, will only become apparent in the following days, particularly as far as the soothing of the sanctions tide, which was heading toward us with devastating effects, is concerned.

The way in which the leader of the West put our case in his important policy speech, could not have been presented stronger by South Africa itself: Stop the emotional shouting for sanctions against the Republic,

While Foreign Minister Pik Botha, in his reaction last night, raised some valid points about the problems of meeting Mr Reagan's proposals for the release of Nelson Mandela and unbanning of the ANC, these are matters of such magnitude that they can no longer be pushed aside. Instead of harping again about "foreign interference" in the country's affairs, the Government should be seeking the help of all intermediaries who may be able to help in working out a compromise leading to meaningful negotiations between black and white.

Mr Reagan and Mrs Thatcher have gone out on a limb for South Africa, at great risk to their reputations in the world community. They have done so in the belief that their approach is in the best interests of all South Africa's people. Now the Government must act in a way that will justify their stand.
Port Elizabeth E — July 23

Die Volksblad

Reagan realism

After all the West's prophecies of doom about South Africa, the show of malice, wantonness and lack of comprehension on world stages, all the gross over-simplifications and slogan politics, it is extremely encouraging for South Africans to hear sober sounds from the Anglo-Saxon world's leaders.

And when a big mouthful of realism emanates from the leader of the leading country in the West, hope flares higher that South Africans will be given the opportunity of solving their distinctive problems in their own fashion. There is gratitude for the fact that leaders such as President Ronald Reagan and Mrs Margaret Thatcher do not allow themselves to be bowled over by the emotional wave of the sanctions chorus and that they stick firmly to their convictions.

In his remarkable speech last night President Reagan surprised by not deviating from his chosen course despite the strong pressure build-up in the Congress and also within the Republican Party.

Notwithstanding a certain extent of ignorance evident from the speech (and which was pointed out by Minister Pik Botha) and a degree of contradiction in terms, President Reagan showed that he has a much better understanding of what the struggle in Southern Africa is about than any of his predecessors. Particularly three elements in the speech are significant.

Firstly he realises that at least a section of the African National Congress consists of communist-armed terrorists who plant land-mines and kill Blacks for political gain. He also realises that they are not fighting for a democracy modelled on Western lines, and that they want to make the "post-apartheid South Africa" of which he spoke part of the communist bloc — with all the



Bishop Tutu: "Where you're going to get food? Go to hell!" His newspaper reads: To hell with the West over sanctions, says Tutu. Beeld

implications which this holds for the global balance of power, and therefore also for American interests.

Secondly he knows that South Africa is the power house of the entire Southern African economy and he realises what it would cost the United States to keep the Republic's neighbours going if South Africa were to be brought to its knees.

Thirdly he concedes that South Africa has in recent years made exceptional progress with the elimination of discriminatory legislation. This is an acknowledgement long overdue in the West.

President Reagan's standpoint encourages South Africa to continue on the road it has taken. Because even though there will always be differences between South Africa and America, meaningful dialogue with such an ally is possible.

Bloemfontein

A — July 23

Business Day

Bishop's Curse

President Ronald Reagan's surprisingly forthright rejection of punitive sanctions against SA has drawn the predictable condemnation from people like Bishop Desmond Tutu who say "To hell with the West", and from Westerners who fear that people like Bishop Tutu may say "To hell with the West".

The bishop's curse may be premature. Senator Nancy Kassebaum, chairman of the Africa sub-committee of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will surely do her best to undermine the President's stand before the current session of

Congress ends. And she will surely succeed.

The House of Representatives, acting with feckless disregard for cost or consequence, has already passed a sanctions Bill that amounts to a declaration of economic warfare. The Senate, burdened as the House is not with co-responsibility with the President for foreign policy, will be much more circumspect in passing a Bill with limited, but not inconsequential, effect.

In the end, the two chambers will agree on a compromise that falls between the two Bills, probably much closer to the Senate version; and the compromise will almost certainly be immune to presidential veto. So US sanctions, in some or other degree, remain on the cards.

The real importance of President Reagan's speech should perhaps be sought, therefore, on the other side of the Atlantic where an insular Labour Party, no longer restrained by the old imperial sense of Britain's global interests, is hell-bent (to use a bishop's word) on sanctions, even if to do so it must misrepresent Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi as a fascist and slander South African liberals as racists. A moral crusade, tainted by unholy glee.

Thatcher has met the tide head-on, even though Britain's direct interests in Southern Africa have steadily declined as her identification with Europe has grown. Neither she nor Reagan is irrevocably tied these days to SA by material interests, but neither of them is yet ready — as Bishop Tutu apparently is — to destroy SA in order to save it.

Both leaders know that the consequences of smashing one of the world's major trading nations and mineral exporters would be capricious and unpredictable — and, more to the point, that Britain and

America would in the end have to clean up the mess as they are trying to do in Angola and Mozambique and in a dozen other basket cases created by the retreat of the West.

So Reagan comes to Thatcher's aid at a psychologically critical moment, just as Thatcher came to Reagan's aid against Libya. Two conservative leaders work together to preserve structures against disintegration, not simply because their immediate political interests so demand, but because they share an instinctive feeling that little good can arise from destructive means.

Heaven help us, bishops and all, if the West ever does go to hell.

Johannesburg

E — July 24

PRETORIA NEWS

Sickening

He is not yet the Archbishop but, sadly, Bishop Desmond Tutu is already distancing himself so far from his flock that when he fills that post it is likely to decline. He is, rightly and justly, a champion for the oppressed blacks. But the issue of racism is immaterial in the bishop's latest gaffe. Criticising President Reagan's use of the term "calculated terror" in describing ANC attacks, he said it is "utter nonsense" to refer to "our freedom fighters" thus. His justification that the government "kills four-year-olds" is sickening. He, above all, should know that two wrongs do not make a right.

Pretoria

E — July 24

Vaderland

Courageous behaviour

President Ronald Reagan's speech the evening before last was probably the bravest attempt till now by a foreign statesman to prevent sanctions against South Africa. Whether it will succeed remains to be seen.

The interest groups opposing the Reagan Administration are of such a nature that considered and level-headed opinions do not have much chance of success.

The internal politics of the American Congress is probably incomprehensible for the average foreigner. However, just a limited knowledge thereof will make anyone realise how courageous President Reagan was to publicly take a stand against sanctions.

It was possibly easier for Mrs Margaret Thatcher to take a stand against sanctions — despite the great sentimental value still attached to the Commonwealth.

Unlike America, the power is in the hands of the prime minister of the day. In Washington, however, a two-thirds majority in the Congress can counter any Presidential veto.

And this is what is being presently worked on in the Senate and the House of Representatives — to obtain enough votes in favour of sanctions so that it would be impossible for President Reagan to veto them, or at least to veto them a second time

in the case of him referring them back to Congress for reconsideration.

A concealed factor in favour of the anti-sanctions groups is the astronomical amount which the West will have to cough up to protect our Black neighbouring states from the catastrophic consequences of sanctions.

Johannesburg

A — July 24

The Daily News

Mozambican refugees

It is both pathetic and ironic that almost a quarter of a million people have streamed across the border of "free" Mozambique into "oppressed" South Africa in search of food, work and security. Unfortunately the human drama, and its message, seem to be wasted on critics of South Africa advocating sanctions which could result in similar economic hardship for millions here, people who would however have nowhere to flee. For its part South Africa can only carry on assisting the refugees, especially with medical aid, even if it has no alternative but to repatriate them at Mozambique's request. Apart from humanitarian grounds there are practical reasons for doing everything we can to ensure stability among neighbouring people.

Durban

E — July 22

because that will harm particularly the country's Blacks and its neighbouring states, to Moscow's benefit.

In addition, the American President did what South Africa has asked the world for so long to do, namely to give credit to those measures already taken to abolish apartheid.

The fact that President Reagan also set demands — some of which contradicted his own viewpoints — does not detract from the positive contents of his speech.

Let us hope that the signs of realism will have a rippling effect on the other trade partners so that the South African situation will be judged more soberly.

President Reagan emphasised that South Africans themselves should find the answers to their problems. This viewpoint is also welcomed. At the same time it should, however, be seen as an indication of the expectation that an attempt to solve the urgent problems cannot be delayed indefinitely.

Pretoria A — July 24



Reagan and us

President Reagan's speech last night was the most powerfully forthright ever made by an international leader on the current South African issue. There was nothing new in it — hundreds of South Africans and others have been saying the same thing since reform levered this country into the agonies of change. But coming from the head of the strongest nation on earth, the leader of the free world, it carries a punch that nobody can ignore.

In effect, Mr Reagan has thrown gauntlets into the faces of three prominent players on the South African scene: the government here, the pro-sanctions lobby, and the South African radicals who see profit only from conflict.

His message to Pretoria is that it must now finally and quickly bury apartheid under a socio-political dispensation that involves all peoples equally; he has condemned the government's repressive tactics, but not the government itself, nor has he prescribed solutions, which South Africans must find themselves.

To the protagonists of sanctions it is that one form of immorality does not justify another, that it is cheap to use such destructive weapons as boycotts when others will die, not them.

To the radical nationalists here it is bluntly that the US rejects terrorism outright and that those who claim, like Bishop Tutu, that blacks are willing to suffer starvation for freedom are talking nonsense.

A subliminal message to all is that time is running out. South Africans must immediately seek reconciliation, he said, "and we will do our part to keep that road open." He cannot do that indefinitely; his term lasts only two years more.

So categorical was Mr Reagan's speech that it will accelerate the polarisation of people in this country. That is not a bad thing. The main problem for the apostles of reason is the difficulty of discerning where the hopes, fears and potential loyalties of the masses lie. If the impact of this speech forces the extremists of both left and right to draw their battle lines, and encourages those who seek neither to make themselves more visible, then it will have served great purpose.

Another fact that emerges is that Reagan's policy is not focused exclusively on South Africa but on the whole Southern African region. The message is: stand or fall together, the death of South Africa will be the death of all.

Pretoria

E — July 23

DIE BURGER

A voice of reason

In his powerful speech regarding America's policy toward South Africa, President Ronald Reagan made statements testifying of exceptional insight and knowledge of the complex and potentially dangerous problems confronting South Africa.

With his speech President Reagan brought the necessary balance to the present world-wide emotional outcry against South Africa. On the one hand he criticised aspects of the South African policy with which he does not agree, but on the other hand left no doubt as to where his affections lie.

That President Reagan — despite strong resistance in the American Congress and even within his own party — sees his way clear to voice opinions which can hardly be popular in the present anti-South African climate, speaks volumes for his integrity and realism.

We believe President Reagan was led by his own strong personal convictions and principles. South Africa's strategic importance, which is unfortunately undervalued by so many Western interests in their blind condemnation of South Africa, apparently means a great deal to him.

In addition, since President Reagan came to office he has made no secret of the fact that he foresees great danger if Russian expansionism were allowed to continue unhindered along its path. He is sufficiently realistic to realise that Russia would be the real victor if South Africa were devastated and the sub-continent plunged into increasing confrontation.

He also repeatedly emphasised the immorality and futility of sanctions against a country which, as he put it, finds itself in an important transitional phase. He understands only too well, like the British Prime Minister, that the primary victims of sanctions would be those people America and the West want to assist most.

President Reagan's policy statement also reflects his aversion to the sort of violence and terrorism current in South Africa. He

LANGUAGE CODE

For those readers who are not familiar with South Africa's news media, the code indicates whether editorials originally appeared in English-language or Afrikaans-language newspapers. An A or E preceding the date of publication — at the end of each editorial — denotes Afrikaans or English. E/A denotes English and Afrikaans, as in the case of radio commentary broadcast in both languages.

did not hesitate to voice loudly his opinion against the "barbaric" necklace murders and planting of bombs in public places with which the ANC is occupying itself.

The realism President Reagan reveals regarding the South African situation, came as a fresh breeze. This does not mean South Africans can now rest on their laurels. They will have to continue introducing changes necessary for peaceful coexistence in the country and which will strengthen the hands of its friends such as President Reagan.

Cape Town

A — July 24

Evening Post

Pretoria must use this time

The threat of punitive sanctions against South Africa has declined dramatically with President Reagan's policy speech last night. So long as he remains President and Mrs Margaret Thatcher controls the British Government, Pretoria can rest easy.

Mr Reagan's dispassionate analysis of the South African situation is bringing predictable responses — a sense of relief in many quarters in South Africa and one of outrage from the Government's more vociferous opponents, particularly among the supporters of sanctions.

Early positive reaction to the speech is highlighting Mr Reagan's accurate assessment of the devastating effect economic sanctions would have on the whole subcontinent. These points, enunciated so clearly by the President, are not "a lot of nonsense", as Bishop Desmond Tutu would have it, but compelling arguments backed by facts which proponents of sanctions choose to ignore.

But while Mr Reagan is undoubtedly right when he says the American people do not want to destroy the economic powerhouse on which millions of people depend for their survival, the other major aspect of his speech must also be emphasised — that the current situation in South Africa is unacceptable and that it has to change.

It is vitally important that the respite granted by the Reagan/Thatcher stand should be used by the South African Government to bring about such substantial change that future governments in the United States and Britain, and those of other major Western nations, will be inclined to continue with policies of restraint.

End.
Case
File