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# News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1987 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

USS Stark Attack/Reaction -- President Reagan, vowing to protect Persian Gulf oil lanes despite a loss of American lives, decried the attack on the USS Stark and ordered U.S. ships to fire at Iranian or Iraqi aircraft showing hostile intent. (Baltimore Sun, Christian Science Monitor, Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, Copley, Newhouse, Reuter, UPI)

### IRAN-NICARAGUA

Boland Asserts President Subject To Ban -- Rep. Edward Boland said that the amendment bearing his name that banned aid to the contras was clearly constitutional and certainly applied to President Reagan. (Baltimore Sun, Newhouse)

### NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Speaking At High School Commencement In Tennessee -- President Reagan is making his third commencement address in two weeks, speaking about education to nearly 3,000 Tennessee high school seniors in Chattanooga, Tenn. (AP, UPI)

### NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

USS STARK -- Expressing concern and anger, the President ordered a full scale investigation of the USS Stark incident.

IRAN-CONTRA -- The Iran-contra hearings resume with Robert Owen testifying.

SIMON -- Sen. Paul Simon announced his candidacy for President.

### SKIPPER: SHIP THIS BILGE TO KHADAFY

Capt. Duffy St. Pierre has his own idea on where to dump Islip's nomadic bargeload of trash. "If New York City doesn't take it, maybe we could give this to Khadafy," he joked in a rich Louisiana drawl.... "I'm a seaman -- I'm not accustomed to all this insanity." St. Pierre said he feels "like a man imprisoned" aboard the bad-news barge. "You just have to adapt to it, I guess."

(New York Post, 5/18)

## ***INTERNATIONAL NEWS***

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### **U.S. AUTHORIZES FIRING AT HOSTILE PLANES IN GULF Plan To Protect Tankers Proceeds**

President Reagan announced that U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf have been ordered to fire at Iranian or Iraqi warplanes approaching "in a pattern which indicates hostile intent," while Administration officials said Reagan has decided to proceed with a plan to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers in the war-torn region.

Reflecting the heightened prospect of military action involving the U.S., Administration officials said they considered but rejected notifying Congress under the War Powers Resolution that U.S. forces were being placed in a situation where "imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated."

The White House said it expects an "apology and compensation for the men who died in this tragic incident. We also seek compensation for the ship."

In a message to Reagan late yesterday, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein expressed "deepest regret over the painful incident." He said Iraqi warplanes, operating in an area where they had previously attacked "enemy targets, had no intention whatsoever to strike at a target belonging to your country or to any other country other than Iran."

(David Hoffman & Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

### **USS Stark Attack/Reaction**

President Reagan, vowing to protect Persian Gulf oil lanes despite a loss of American lives, decried the attack on the USS Stark and ordered U.S. ships to fire at Iranian or Iraqi aircraft showing hostile intent.

The move was announced after an urgent 75-minute White House meeting where Reagan and a team of senior national security advisers discussed the first spillover of violence from the Iran-Iraq war to U.S. forces in the region.

Despite the high death toll -- the attack was the deadliest on a U.S. ship in 20 years -- the initial U.S. reaction was restrained, reflecting a tentative conclusion the missile strike against the Stark was "inadvertent."

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

### **Reagan Demands Answers On Missile Attack; Reviews Policy**

President Reagan, dissatisfied with Iraq's expression of "regret" over its attack on a U.S. Navy frigate and angry over the deaths of 28 American servicemen, authorized U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf to fire upon Iranian or Iraqi aircraft displaying "hostile intent."

The President also demanded both an apology and a full explanation from Iraq, and ordered an overall review of U.S. policy in the war-torn region.

The White House also began making plans for a possible presidential address to the nation to report on what Reagan said were "any further steps that are warranted" after he receives Iraq's explanation.

(George Condon, Copley)

### U.S. Gulf Ships On Alert; U.S. Seeks Compensation From Iraq

American warships patrolling the Persian Gulf have move onto a higher state of alert after 28 U.S. sailors were killed by an Iraqi warplane on the frigate Stark.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein expressed his "deepest regret" for the incident in a letter to President Reagan, calling the attack unintentional and hoping it would not affect cordial U.S.-Iraqi relations.

The Stark, a \$375 million vessel packed with electronic anti-aircraft gear and weapons, did not fire on the attacker even though its crew was aware the ship had been locked into the aircraft's radar, Defense officials told reporters. (William Scally, Reuter)

### U.S. Wants Apology, Compensation For Attack, But Won't Seek War Powers Act

President Reagan, while demanding an apology and compensation from Iraq for firing on an American ship in the Persian Gulf, will not go to Congress to invoke the War Powers Act, the White House says.

The White House said it will consult with Congress on the attack on the USS Stark, and it will put Navy ships in the Persian Gulf on a higher alert status.

However, officials said the Administration would not invoke the War Powers Resolution. (Terence Hunt, AP)

### Hill Leaders Ask: Why No Defense

Defense experts and congressional leaders challenged the Reagan Administration to explain why a U.S. warship lacked air cover and failed to use shipboard defense systems during an Iraqi missile attack in the Persian Gulf.

The frigate USS Stark apparently was unprotected by U.S. jet fighters as the result of an aircraft carrier task force rotation, according to retired Rear Adm. Robert Hanks, a defense analyst with the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis.

"That raises the particular question of why they were sent up there and allowed to operate without air cover while we had a carrier group in the region," said Adm. Hanks, who once commanded the fleet of ships that includes the Stark.

At a Capitol Hill news conference, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn told reporters, "There's going to have to be a change in the rules of engagement for U.S. ships" as a result of the undefended attack. (Bill Gertz & Gene Grabowski, Washington Times, A1)

### USS Stark Attack

The Reagan Administration is moving to extend U.S. Navy protection to Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf despite major unanswered questions about an Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark that killed at least 28 American sailors and injured 21.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered a "serious investigation," according to the Iraqi news agency, and senior Iraqi officials said that if Iraqi jets were involved, blame must be attributed to "confusion by the pilots."

American officials said they were certain the attacking jet was Iraqi because the plane was tracked leaving and returning to Iraqi airspace. But the officials could not explain why Iraq, which has significantly improved relations with Washington over the past few years, would attack an American ship.

The Navy said it would reassess whether its normal Middle East task force of four warships and a command ship is sufficient to carry out the mission (of protecting Kuwaiti oil tankers from attack).

(David Wood, Newhouse)

### 28 Are Dead, 7 Missing From Frigate

The USS Stark issued two warnings to an attacking Iraqi warplane Sunday night but, despite more than one minute's alert, failed to take other action against an incoming Exocet missile, which killed at least 28 crew members and wounded 21 others, Pentagon officials said.

Seven other crew members are missing and believed dead, a knowledgeable Pentagon source said.

The Iraqi F1 fighter was tracked from its takeoff in Iraq by a U.S. Air Force AWACS plane orbiting near the Persian Gulf and also was detected by the Stark's radar. The frigate twice warned the fighter over an international radio frequency to veer away, but Pentagon officials were uncertain whether the Iraqi pilot heard the instructions.

For reasons that Navy officials said are still unexplained, Cmdr. Glenn Brindal, the Stark's skipper, failed to launch his long-range anti-aircraft missiles against the plane, fire at the incoming missile with the frigate's antimissile Phalanx gatling guns, or try to confuse the missile's homing radar by flinging up clouds of metal chaff.

(George Wilson & Molly Moore, Washington Post, A1)

### Ship's Failure To Defend Itself Still Unexplained

The USS Stark had weapons aboard that should have been able to handle the French-built Exocet missile that ripped a hole in its hull Sunday night in the Persian Gulf but apparently did not use them, high-ranking military officers said.

"What we do know is that in his routine morning report that morning, the captain had reported that all his weapon systems were operational. That doesn't mean they were all energized," Vice Adm. Henry Mustin, a deputy chief of naval operations, told reporters.

The attack by an Iraqi Mirage fighter on the Stark took place 60 miles south of two attacks earlier in the day against commercial shipping by Iraqi warplanes, and it occurred 40 miles from the previous southernmost nighttime foray by Iraqi fighters. No U.S. warships had come under attack before in seven years of fighting between Iran and Iraq.

(Vernon Guidry, Baltimore Sun, A1)

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### Pentagon Investing Why USS Stark Did Not Defend Itself

Pentagon officials hoped to learn additional details about why an American frigate was unable to defend itself against a surprise attack in the Persian Gulf that killed 28 U.S. sailors.

"The ship's perfectly capable of defending itself," Secretary Weinberger said on Cable News Network, rejecting suggestions the Navy should be assigning larger ships to the waterway in light of Iraqi and Iranian attacks on commercial vessels.

"They (the ship's defenses) were not used," he added. "But it's a little easy to sit here so many thousands of miles away and second-guess someone who's on the job, and I don't want to do that. The possibility, or even the likelihood, that an Iraqi plane...would launch a missile at us was just about zero. And so you did don't have any expectation of that."

Weinberger told ABC News it was "a single, horrible error on the part of the Iraqi pilot."

Weinberger, President Reagan and top Pentagon officers promised a full investigation of the Sunday night attack on the USS Stark.

(Norman Black, AP)

### U.S. Warships On Alert Around Damaged Frigate

BAHRAIN -- Holed, listing and burning, the battered USS Stark passed its second night at sea after an Iraqi Exocet missile attack that killed 28 sailors and wounded many more.

With protective warships and tugs standing by, the 3,585-ton guided missile frigate wallowed in calm seas 70 miles northeast of this Persian Gulf island state a short distance from where it was hit Sunday evening.

Two badly wounded crewmen, brought to Bahrain by helicopter, left by special aircraft for treatment in West Germany.

U.S. Ambassador Sam Zakhem told reporters that apart from the two badly wounded men, four other sailors suffered moderate injuries while some two dozen had minor wounds. Two sailors were missing, he said.

(James Foley, Reuter)

### Stark Crew "Didn't Know What Hit Them"

MANAMA, Bahrain -- The supply ship USS LaSalle cruised for the island nation of Bahrain today, bearing the bodies of at least 28 American Sailors killed in an Iraqi attack on the guided missile frigate USS Stark.

U.S. Ambassador Sam Zakhem praised the heroism of wounded American sailors he visited in hospitals Monday.

"They said that all hell broke loose when the Exocets hit the ship," Zakhem told a news conference. "They told me they did not know what hit them. One moment they were working, then they were blown through a hole."

(John Phillips, UPI)

### USS Stark Towed Toward Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain -- The USS Stark moved slowly toward Bahrain under tow Monday, a huge hole in its left side and 28 of its sailors dead from the blast and fire of an Iraqi missile that ripped into the sleeping quarters.

Fires started in the attack Sunday night were under control but threatened to erupt again, and the guided-missile frigate was "too hot to move under its own power," a salvage executive said.

Reporters watched the listing ship from a helicopter. One said it was "like a funeral procession." (Aly Mahmoud, AP)

### U.S. Policy In Gulf Seen Taunting Danger

PARIS -- An uncomfortable question raised by the attack on the USS Stark is what would Washington have done if Iran -- and not an apologetic Iraq -- had been responsible.

Until the Reagan Administration's current plan to agree to transfer Kuwait shipping to American registry -- and thus provide U.S. naval protection -- that was a question Washington policymakers had not had to deal with since Iraq inaugurated the Persian Gulf war on vessels in the summer of 1984, hoping to cripple Iranian oil exports.

Now Washington may become a kind of reluctant gendarme in the shipping war in the gulf, part in cooperation, part in competition with the Soviet Union. (Jonathan Randal, Washington Post, A23)

### Iraqi Attack Spotlights Growing Risks In Tense Gulf Region

When an Iraqi Mirage F1 fighter streaked across the Persian Gulf and attacked the USS Stark, the American frigate became the first neutral navy ship to become a casualty of the bloody six-year war between Iran and Iraq.

But more than 150 ships in the Persian Gulf have been attacked during the past two years by Iranian or Iraqi forces and the assault on the Stark underscores the growing menace faced by all vessels plying the waters of the strategic waterway.

The incident also underscores the great risks faced by the U.S. and Soviet Union as they bolster their presence in the volatile Gulf in an effort to keep vital shipping lanes open and check Iran's increasingly aggressive actions there.

"It's the risk a superpower takes when it feels it must have a presence in a region," said Robert Neumann, former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Afghanistan. "Except for the unhappiness of the (dead and wounded servicemen's) families, the attack on the Stark has changed nothing." (Marcus Stern, Copley)

### Strike Highlights Risks To Superpowers In Gulf

The Iraqi air strike on the USS Stark is being seen in the Middle East as the first major test for Washington's post-Iran policy of buttressing the Arab states of the Gulf region against any Iranian threat.

The incident, following hot on the heels of damage to two Soviet vessels in the Persian Gulf in the space of 10 days, also highlights the unpredictable dangers raised by the recent intensification of superpower involvement in the region. (Jim Muir, Christian Science Monitor, A1)

### Oil Prices Rise Slightly On Iraqi Attack

Oil prices rose slightly on world markets following the Iraqi attack on a U.S. frigate in the vital Persian Gulf oil-shipping corridor.

An Iranian patrol boat hit a Norwegian tanker in the Gulf Monday in still another episode in the so-called tanker war between OPEC archenemies Iraq and Iran.

More than 200 ships have come under attack in the Gulf since 1984, when Iraq and Iran began striking vessels in an attempt to choke off one another's oil exports. (Roz Liston, UPI)

### PERES, SOVIET DISCUSS CONDITIONS FOR TALKS

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin to discuss conditions for the Kremlin's participation in Middle East peace talks, an Israeli official said.

The meeting was requested by the Soviets in an effort to gain entry to a proposed peace conference that would serve as an umbrella for Israeli-Jordanian talks, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity. But a Soviet official said Israel requested the session.

(AP story, Washington Post, A16)

### AFGHANISTAN'S NEW SUMMER OF WAR Despite Talk Of Peace And Reconciliation, All Sides Prepare For Combat

KABUL, Afghanistan -- The bloody conflict over the future of Afghanistan is mired in a political and diplomatic stalemate that is unlikely to be broken without a policy shift by the Soviet Union or the U.S. As the diplomatic shadowboxing continues, the military stakes are mounting.

Western diplomats here who closely monitor the Afghan conflict remain divided over whether the Kremlin really wants to end its involvement in the war and, if so, on what terms.

(Richard Weintraub, Washington Post, A24)

### PRESIDENT, SOARES DISCUSS CUTS IN AID

President Reagan met with Portuguese President Mario Soares and discussed the cutbacks imposed by Congress in aid the U.S. has promised to Portugal, the White House said.

During their 45-minute meeting, Reagan and Soares discussed the status of democracy in Central and South America and the situation in Africa, with particular emphasis on Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony which is facing a severe food shortage.

(AP story, Washington Times, A2)



#### FINANCE CHAIRMAN WARNS TRADE BILL MUST BE PASSED

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said trade legislation must be enacted this year, warning that another chance will not come until after the 1988 elections.

Bentsen predicted the Senate would pass a "tough but fair bill" and "put it on the President's desk before the August recess."

President Reagan threatened again Monday to veto what he terms protectionist trade legislation if it reaches his desk.

Reagan denounced the trade bill now before Congress, saying it is "destructionist" rather than "protectionist." (Steve Gerstel, UPI)

#### WORLD BANK OFFICIAL TO RESIGN OVER DISPUTE WITH CONABLE

Eugene Rotberg, who raised more than \$100 billion on behalf of the World Bank since 1968, plans to resign as vice president and treasurer because of a disagreement with bank President Barber Conable over management of the Third World debt problem, bank sources said.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the bank will announce a \$500 million variable-rate loan to Argentina, one of the largest per-capita loans ever made by the bank. (Hobart Rowen, Washington Post, D1)

#### KOHL EASES STANCE ON MISSILE PLAN Elections Results Seen Influencing Decision

BONN -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl, under pressure from West German voters and his NATO allies to accept a proposed superpower deal on European-based nuclear missiles, said that his government would not allow its doubts over a Soviet offer on short-range missiles to stand in the way of an accord.

Kohl's comments, at a news conference, indicated that West Germany was moving toward accepting the Soviet offer to remove from Europe all missiles with ranges of between 300 and 600 miles as long as certain conditions were met, according to government sources and western diplomats. (Robert McCartney, Washington Post, A21)

#### AUSTRIAN TO APPEAL ON WALDHEIM

VIENNA -- Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said that he will try to convince the Reagan Administration to remove President Kurt Waldheim from its watch list of people barred from entering the U.S.

Before departing for a five-day visit to the U.S., Vranitzky called the Reagan Administration's move to bar Waldheim a "political decision" made "on pressure from Congress." The Socialist chancellor said he regretted that the U.S. has not shown "political restraint for a small democratic country at the borderline between the West and East that has a record of fighting off communism and one of good relations with America."

(Peter Hoffer, Washington Post, A25)

## **IRAN — NICARAGUA**

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### **BOLAND ASSERTS PRESIDENT SUBJECT TO RESOLUTION BEARING HIS NAME**

Rep. Edward Boland said that the amendment bearing his name that banned aid to the contras was clearly constitutional and certainly applied to President Reagan.

"I don't even think it's a close question," said Boland, challenging the assertion by Reagan and White House officials over the weekend that the President was not covered by the Boland amendment's restrictions.

"I think it's clear," said Boland, a member of the House committee investigating the Iran-contra affair.... "I think the President must abide by the law."

So far, Boland said of the President, "I don't know what he was aware of." But Boland suggested that the Administration appears to be developing a defense with an eye toward continuing testimony before the nationally-televised hearings on the affair that could tie the White House more closely to directing private or third-country aid to the contras while the Boland amendment was in effect. (Jonathan Tilove, Newhouse)

### **Boland Limits Clouded By Interpretation**

The words are printed on posters that hang high on the wall of the House hearing room, and they represent perhaps the most critical, and most disputed, documents of the Iran-contra hearings that resume today.

The words belong to the Boland amendments, the different versions of limits on U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contras that date to 1982 and mark distinct phases of congressional sentiment toward the program.

Rep. Edward Boland was the chief author of the aid limits while he was chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, and he is now a member of the House Iran-contra inquiry panel. To Boland, the words of the Boland amendments are "simple...unadorned...literal...clear."

But to others, especially the Reagan White House and some House Republicans on the Iran-contra panel, the legislative limits on aid to the contras from 1982 to 1985 are open to interpretation.

(Nancy Schwerzler, Baltimore Sun, A3)

### **THIRD WEEK OF IRAN-CONTRA HEARINGS BEGINS**

The congressional committee investigating the Iran-contra affair moves into its third week of hearings expecting more details on cash payments and secret assistance to the Nicaraguan rebel leaders.

Committee aides said that Robert Owen, the courier who carried cash-stuffed envelopes and messages between the White House and the contras, and Adolfo Calero, a top rebel official who received some of the payments, should provide important details on how the contras received secret help from the Reagan Administration. (Robert Gettlin, Newhouse)

North's Point Man Wrote Of 'Cold Feet'

Robert Owen, Lt. Col. Oliver North's point man in Costa Rica, will testify about efforts to thwart a Justice Department investigation into alleged gun running to the Nicaraguan resistance, according to sources in Miami.

Owen, in a memo to Col. North, wrote, "If and when I am contacted by the FBI I will not answer any questions without an attorney present. Even then, I will not answer any questions. It is the only way I can see to stem the tide."

The letter, written in April 1986, reflected Owen's growing concern that he and Col. North were treading on questionable ground in their attempt to help the contras in Central America, a source said.

(Michael Hedges, Washington Times, A1)

Calero Expected To Tell Of Foreign Donors, Front Companies For Contra Aid

Adolfo Calero, the Nicaraguan rebel leader summoned to testify at congressional Iran-contra hearings this week, plans to say his forces accepted money from foreign donors when Congress banned U.S. assistance.

"Yes, we set up front companies" to receive aid during the U.S. ban, Calero says in a copy of his opening statement made available in advance.

"We received monies from foreign sources; that was the only way to survive after U.S. aid was cut off by Congress," Calero said.

(David Espo, AP)

NORTH SAID TO CASH TRAVELER'S CHECKS FROM CONTRA HEAD

Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North personally cashed more than \$2,000 in traveler's checks that he received from contra leader Adolfo Calero, according to sources familiar with the congressional investigation of the Iran-contra affair.

Investigators for the House-Senate committees, which resume public hearings today, are trying to determine if Col. North used any of the money to pay personal expenses, the sources said.

According to the account provided by the sources, two of the traveler's checks were cashed as payment for airline tickets, and those funds may have been used by Col. North in his covert activities. But the sources said Col. North also cashed more than a dozen checks at grocery stores and other retail establishments in the Washington area.

(Edward Pound, Wall Street Journal, A2)

SAM HALL SAYS HE WAS A CONTRA 'COMMANDANTE'

Sam Hall, the Ohio congressman's brother captured last December while spying in Nicaragua, says he was a contra "commandante" who took orders from Robert Owen, a self-described foot soldier in Lt. Col. Oliver North's private army.

"People don't realize how far it goes.... Ollie North was the guy who was OK'ing my missions," said Hall in his first interview since the joint House-Senate Iran-contra hearings began two weeks ago. "When I had to have my missions OK'ed. I had to give them to Rob Owen. Rob Owen then gave them to Ollie North."

Hall said he received cash from Owen and that Owen arranged for arms and other supplies Hall needed to train Miskito Indians at a camp in Honduras near the Nicaraguan border.

(Tom Diemer & Keith Epstein, Newhouse)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Day 9 Of Iran-Contra Hearings (Profiles of Robert Owen and Adolfo Calero)," appears in The Washington Post, A8.

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

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### **REAGAN TAKES EDUCATION MESSAGE TO TENNESSEE**

President Reagan, setting aside crises at home and abroad today to salute a crop of graduating high school seniors, is promoting his view of educational excellence as key to a strong America in the 21st century.

Hoping to show his Administration is active on various fronts, Reagan planned a high-visibility trip to Chattanooga, Tenn., to spotlight familiar themes of his domestic agenda and test a new tactic for dealing with the news media.

The White House, exploring different ways to make Reagan appear more accessible to reporters, set aside time before a speech for him to field questions from representatives of nine Tennessee newspapers in a private session from which members of the traveling press corps were excluded.

The official theme of the day was morals-rooted education as Reagan, who has urged greater local control of public schools while seeking deep cuts in federal support for education, looked forward to a red-carpet welcome in Tennessee.  
(Norman Sandler, UPI)

#### **Reagan Speaking At High School Commencement In Tennessee**

President Reagan is making his third commencement address in two weeks, speaking about education to nearly 3,000 Tennessee high school seniors in Chattanooga, Tenn.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said today's speech to Chattanooga area high school students at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga arena would focus on education.

(Dale Nelson, AP)

### **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CLOSES PROBE OF GENERAL DYNAMICS**

The Justice Department has closed a three-year investigation of General Dynamics Corp. after finding insufficient evidence that the company defrauded the government in building nuclear attack submarines, according to federal law-enforcement sources.

Department officials will emphasize that while there was some evidence that General Dynamics may have falsified information about submarine delivery schedules and cost overruns, the Navy did not rely on this questionable data. Prosecutors lacked an identifiable "victim" on which to base a fraud case, the officials say, because the Navy acquiesced in General Dynamics' actions.  
(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A1)

### **FIRING OF SBA HEAD IN 1982 LINKED TO WEDTECH INTERVENTION**

Attorney General Meese attended a meeting at which top aides to President Reagan discussed firing an Administration official who balked at awarding a no-bid contract to Wedtech Corp., a former White House personnel director says.

Pendleton James said in an interview, however, that it was White House Deputy Chief of Staff Michael Deaver and not Meese, then counselor to Reagan, who was instrumental in forcing Small Business Administration chief Michael Cardenas to resign.  
(Pete Yost, AP)

#### REYNOLDS PROMOTED DESPITE REBUFF

Civil Rights Chief Will Also Be Counselor To The Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, whose promotion was blocked by the Senate after a fierce battle in 1985, has moved a step up the Justice Department ladder.

The department announced that Reynolds, who has headed the Civil Rights Division since 1981, will henceforth hold a second title as counselor to the attorney general. (Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A17)

#### FEDERAL RESERVE POLICYMAKERS MEET TODAY

Despite Some Calls To Raise Discount Rate, No Major Shifts Are Expected

Federal Reserve policymakers, concerned about jittery financial markets, an unstable dollar, new inflationary pressures and conflicting evidence on the strength of the economy, will meet to set a monetary course for the coming weeks.

In a series of interviews earlier this month, several members of the policymaking group, the Federal Open Market Committee, indicated that they saw no need to make any major changes in policy.

(John Berry, Washington Post, D1)

#### NEW SHUTTLE LAUNCH DATE IMMINENT

A new launch date for the first post-Challenger shuttle flight could be announced this week based on meetings at NASA headquarters to assess schedule requirements, officials say.

Top NASA managers planned to meet today at headquarters and their results were expected to be presented to Administrator James Fletcher by Wednesday.

Discovery commander Frederick Hauck said the launch probably would be rescheduled to "the early summer of '88," which he called "optimistic."

(UPI)

#### BIAS LAWS ARE RULED TO COVER 'ALL RACES'

The Supreme Court significantly expanded the scope of federal anti-discrimination laws, ruling that federal civil rights statutes protect all victims of racial discrimination, not just blacks.

The court acted in two cases that forged an unprecedented alliance between Arab and Jewish groups, who urged the high court to broadly interpret the Civil Rights Act of 1866 as a law designed to protect ethnic minorities, as well as blacks, from racially inspired discrimination.

(Theo Stamos, Washington Times, A1)



## ***NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY***

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(Monday Evening, May 18, 1987)

### **ATTACK ON USS STARK**

NBC's Tom Brokaw: President Reagan commenting on the attack that killed 28 sailors aboard the USS Stark.

(The President: "The hazard to our men and women in uniform in the defense of freedom can never be understated. The officers and crew of the USS Stark deserve our highest admiration and appreciation.")

Twenty-eight American sailors are dead tonight, seven are wounded and there are several unanswered questions about why their ship was attacked by an Iraqi plane in the Persian Gulf. The USS Stark was hit by an Exocet missile last night as it cruised in the Gulf, a part of the American fleet sent there to protect oil tankers caught in the Iran-Iraq war. Iraqi President sent a message to President Reagan tonight saying that the attack was accidental. Nonetheless, the President has placed other American war ships in the area on a state of higher alert.

NBC's Rick Davis from Bahrain: The USS Stark being propped up and pumped out by tug -- a gaping 10 by 15 foot hole in the port side of her hull. Escorted by two other U.S. Navy ships, she limps towards a port in Bahrain. The Stark was hit by a French made Exocet missile fired by an Iraqi jet. Two Iraqi fighters moved down the coast of Saudi Arabia last night -- further down than Iraqi planes are known to have gone before. They were tracked for at least an hour and when the planes moved east into international waters, they were warned twice by the Stark they were approaching a U.S. Navy ship. One Iraqi plane fired a single missile from a range of about 10 miles. The Exocet hit the hull, went through it and into the crew's quarters. It's believed three men died instantly. The seamen fought fires that raged through the night; but by morning they had lost the fight. The two Navy ships and Saudi helicopters aided in the evacuation. Five men were pulled from the water alive. But 25 others were dead. Today U.S. Ambassador Sam Zakhem visited two of the living in a Bahrain hospital. The men were burned over 35 percent of their bodies. Tonight the Ambassador told how four men rescued from the water described their ordeal.

(Ambassador Zakhem: "There were in good spirits, but they told you that all hell broke loose when the Exocet hit the ship and they go look out and instead to staying in the front of the ship, they fell off in the water and thank God we picked them up.")

The major question being asked tonight -- why didn't the USS Stark fight back with the sophisticated weapons it had aboard -- weapons designed to counter just this kind of attack?

Brokaw: This attack does leave several major diplomatic as well as military questions unanswered tonight -- why didn't the Stark defend itself? What will President Reagan do now?

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Fred Francis at the Pentagon: The Pentagon is still awaiting a full report from the captain who still has a very dangerous ship and is bringing it in. But already judgments are being made. The Pentagon questioned the captain's judgment for not firing back and tried to excuse the Iraqis by saying they may have thought they were shooting at an oil tanker.

(Vice Admiral Henry Mustin: "It's not inconceivable that the pilots coming out at night could have become confused and made a navigational error and attack the ship which could look somewhat the same to the airplane's radar.")

While flying over Saudi Arabia, a U.S. AWACS radar plane tracked the Iraqi fighters from their base, along an unusual route south into the Gulf. The State Department said today the radar plane had no time to alert the warship. The Pentagon says the ship was warned by the strange route of the fighters.

(Lt. Col. Richard Burpee: "We have not seen their fighters come down that far south before and so we just simply don't know why it occurred.")

The ship's missiles and its automatic machine gun system were manned and ready. If the missiles fail against an incoming target, this automatic machine gun is suppose to finish the job. The ship's captain had the authority to use those weapons.

(Burpee: "If the ship captain determines in his mind, in his judgment, that there is a hostile intent toward his ship, he has every right to self defense and to defend himself.")

Naval officers defended the captain, calling the Iraqi airstrike a sucker punch -- saying the captain was watching friendly aircraft and never expected to be fired upon. And those officers question why Saudi Arabian F15 fighters escorting the AWACS did not intercept the Iraqis or give chase. One Pentagon source said the Saudis "just turned tail and ran." Whatever the errors, the tragedy again raises the question of how to defend a multi-million ship of the 1980's against an inexpensive but technically sophisticated missile designed in the 1960's....

NBC's Chris Wallace at the White House: Expressing concern and anger, the President ordered a full scale investigation of the incident and pledged the U.S. will not be driven from the Persian Gulf.

(The President: "We remained deeply committed to supporting the self defense of our friends in the Gulf and to insuring the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.")

(TV coverage: The President speaking from the steps outside the Oval Office.)

Mr. Reagan then called in his top foreign policy advisors and in a meeting that lasted 75 minutes, took steps to back up his rhetoric.

(TV coverage: Still photograph of the President sitting in front of a map in the Situation Room.)

He ordered a higher state of alert for U.S. ships in the Gulf, warning both Iran and Iraqi that aircraft flying in a pattern that indicates hostile intent will be fired upon. The White House will notify Congress of the situation under the war powers act. The President also demanded an apology from Iraqi and compensation for the attack. This morning the State Department called in the Iraqi Ambassador to lodge a vigorous protest. At that point, he was not yet willing to accept blame for the event.

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Wallace continues:

(Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun: "If it's to be proven that our pilots were behind it, we'll be courageous enough to announce that and express our apology.")

While the White House at this point believes the attack was not intentional, the incident dramatizes the growing American involvement in the Gulf. The problem is that Iran has been more aggressive recently in disturbing shipping there. Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union have taken steps to respond. Iran's special target has been tankers from the Iraqi ally of Kuwait. Iran has attacked 16 Kuwaiti ships already this year. Both the U.S. and Soviet Union are now offering to protect Kuwaiti ships -- a commitment that worries some in Congress.

(Sen. Sam Nunn: "Do we have the right kind of ships there as the situation gets more dangerous and I think that the answer to that has to be addressed rather quickly.")

(Rep. Larry Smith: "We are playing fast and loose again with the lives of American military personnel and that's disgraceful.")

But the State Department emphasized today's attack appears to have been a mistake, not an act of aggression, and that it won't alter U.S. plans to protect Kuwait.

(Charles Redman: "Our concerns remain the same. Kuwaiti concerns remain the same, so that those basic interest are still there.")

A Persian Gulf expert says the U.S. is headed for a new level of involvement in a dangerous part of the World.

(Frederick Alexgard: "The United States is being asked to provide a military presence to help send a political message. We need to go in with our eyes open -- very, very wide open.")

Tonight White House officials are trying to play down the sense of crisis, restating this was apparently a mistake, not a hostile act. The problem is that in the Persian Gulf even a mistake can be deadly.

Brokaw: For his part Prime Minister Mousavi of Iran declared that the U.S., "the great Satan" in his words, has been trapped. Mousavi warned the U.S. to avoid the quicksands of the Iran-Iraqi war and to stop supporting Iraq or face a halt of oil to the Persian Gulf.

NBC's Nolan Nelson reports from Maysport, Florida on the families of the sailors on the USS Stark.

Brokaw: Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger is at the Pentagon tonight. Mr. Secretary, the Iraqis say that it was an accidental firing, are you persuaded that is the case?

(Secretary Weinberger: "That's the only information we have. We can't think of any reason why it could have been anything else. We have no evidence to indicate any hostile intent.")

The U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf now, tonight, on Presidential order, are on a state of higher alert, does that mean that they're more likely to engage the Iraqis or the Iranians or other war ships in that area?

(Secretary Weinberger: "No, I think it's mostly a matter of having a slightly different way of determining hostile intent -- the commanders on the field and those ships have always been authorized to fire if hostile intent against us is evidenced and this is a new way of evidencing hostile intent.

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Brokaw continues:

Weinberger continues: "That is to say any belligerent plane now that approaches on a pattern that could launch an attack will be assumed to be hostile. That has not been the case before, because we had no reason whatever to suppose that an Iraqi plane would launch a missile attack against an American ship.")

The Soviets have a considerable presence in the Persian Gulf as well, do we let them know what we're doing and why under these circumstances?

(Secretary Weinberger: "There's generally -- they are aware of the rules of engagements and they are not belligerent. But we would -- the rules that the President announced today are rules that enable hostile intent to be determined -- as I say -- by a belligerent plane or ship, getting himself in a situation where...coming out of pattern or a path where it could launch an attack similar to the one that took place yesterday.") (NBC-Lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: It's been a very direct way for Americans to understand how violent and often unexpected war in the Persian Gulf is. Now we know that 28 men died when the USS Stark was hit by a missile after dark in the Gulf last night. We're not certain how many men were injured -- at least half a dozen -- or what their condition is. We are now certain that it was an attack by an Iraqi because, late this afternoon, in a message to President Reagan, the Iraqi President said so -- "an unintentional accident." There are many unanswered questions, not the least of which is why the American frigate's antimissile defense system wasn't used. Tonight President Reagan has put the U.S. military in the Gulf on a higher state of alert. It may not be a war zone technically, but it can be a very dangerous place.

ABC's David Ensor reports from the Gulf on the details of what actually happened.

ABC's Bob Zelnick reports from the Pentagon on the military atmosphere in the Gulf and U.S. military response.

Jennings gives a background report on the Exocet missile.

NBC's Sam Donaldson at the White House: President Reagan called his top national security advisors to the White House this afternoon for a 75 minute meeting that resulted in new orders to U.S. Navy ships in the Persian Gulf.

(TV coverage: A still photo of the President sitting in front of a map in the Situation Room.)

First ships were told to maintain a higher alert status. The heretofore governing view that they were not operating in a war zone is clearly no longer acceptable. Second, ships were told to fire on any aircraft flying in a pattern which indicates hostile intent -- something they've always had the right to do -- but captains are being reminded of that now by the President and both Iran and Iraq are being notified of the order. This effort from the top to tighten naval security came shortly after the President delivered his first public comment on the attack.

Jennings continues:

(The President: "I know and I share the sense of concern and anger that American feel over yesterday's tragedy in the Persian Gulf. We have protested this attack in the strongest terms and are investigating the circumstances of the incident.")

(TV coverage: The President speaking from the steps in front of the Oval Office.)

Later a White House statement said the United States expects an apology from Iraq and compensation for both the dead sailors and the ship damage. The Iraqi Ambassador to Washington called on the State Department to receive the protest (and) sounded contrite.

(Ambassador Nizar Hamdoon: "Yes, we expressed our condolences to the families of the victims and our profound regret for the incident.") None of these Administration moves, however, could prevent some immediate congressional criticism over what had happen.

(Rep. Lawrence Smith: "I'm absolutely outraged. This seems to be another situation where the Defense Department and the military are in a situation like they were in Beirut. They don't know what to do.")

(Rep. Torricelli: "Operating without air cover, admissions for which they were not designed beyond the ability to have any protection from our armed forces, these ships have from the outset been in danger.") Officials here are keenly aware that it looks like somebody goofed and that Mr. Reagan's political critics are sure to point the finger at him. But the President today reaffirmed his intention to keep the Persian Gulf open to neutral shipping even at the risk of more American lives.

ABC's Mike Lee reports from Baghdad from the reaction in Iraq.

ABC's John McWethy reports on the Iran/Iraq war.

Jennings: We talked briefly to the Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who is still getting details of an incident that is not all together over. Mr. Secretary, it sounds like, and not for the first time, a case of someone not being adequately on guard. Would you agree?

(Secretary Weinberger: "No, I would not agree. The ship is adequately equipped to deal with missiles of this kind. We don't have all the facts yet because quite properly, I think, we have not been harassing the captain with a lot of demands for full reports. He's very busy dealing with wounded and putting out fires and getting his ship ready to get under way again.")

Is the ship in order now?

(Secretary Weinberger: "No, not at this point. They are still putting out some of the small fires that kept popping up. But the ship is dead in the water, but the...system is already and it will be able to get underway. The list has been greatly reduced and a lot of the water has been pumped out of the compartments and there are four American ships standing by. It's not a question of not being ready or anything of the kind. You have an Iraqi plane that has never attacked an American ship before in an area where it is outside the declared war zones.")

What is your best intelligence on why the Iraqi pilots attacked?

Jennings continues:

(Secretary Weinberger: "I haven't the faintest idea. I just have to think it's a ghastly error. We've had expressions now of condolences coming in from the Iraqis and they're certainly investigating and we will certainly expect them to complete these investigations and to give it a full apology and, of course, a full...to the extent that anyone ever can make (up) for the loss of life.")

Does this lead you to think that the entire Persian Gulf should be declared a war zone?

(Secretary Weinberger: "No, I think that you just have to wait until we get the full facts out of this. So far as we know, this was a single, horrible error on the part of the Iraqi pilot.")

ABC's Al Dale reports from Maysport, Florida, on the families of the sailors aboard UUS Stark. (ABC-Lead)

CBS's Dan Rather: Once again conflict in the Middle East has touched the United States with tragedy. At least 28 American sailors are dead -- killed by the Iraqi missile that destroyed their quarters aboard the U.S. frigate Stark in the Persian Gulf. Six are wounded, some of them seriously burned. Tonight President Reagan put U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf on heightened alert with authority now to fire on any hostile aircraft. Both United States and Iraqi are treating the attack as an accident, but many questions remain.

CBS's Alan Pizzey reports from Bahrain on the details of what happened.

CBS's David Martin reports from the Pentagon on the military atmosphere in the Gulf and on the U.S. military reaction.

CBS's Bill Plante at the White House: Even as President Reagan called his national security advisors into a special meeting this afternoon, the Administration was moving quickly to defuse possible confrontation.

(TV coverage: Still photo of the President sitting in front of a map in the Situation Room.)

Aids downplayed the attack as an accident, and Mr. Reagan himself was stern, but cautious.

(The President: "I know and I share the sense of concern and anger that Americans feel over yesterday's tragedy in the Persian Gulf. We have protested this attack in the strongest terms and are investigating the circumstances of the incident.")

After a delay of more than 24 hours, Iraq late today sent Mr. Reagan a formal apology for the attack, calling it an unintentional accident and voicing the hope that it would not damage relations with the U.S.

(Ambassador Nizar Hamdoon: "I think that the American Administration people have expressed in the last few hours their understanding to the situation that Iraq has no intention whatsoever to attack an American targets.")

The President emphasized that the U.S. would not step back from its presence in the Persian Gulf, including a plan to protect Kuwaiti oil shipments by putting them under the U.S. flag.

(The President: "We remain deeply committed to supporting the self defense of our friends in the Gulf and to insuring the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.")

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Rather continues: Some members of Congress question whether the Administration has provided adequate protection for American forces. (Sen. Sam Nunn: "And if we're serious about staying in that part of the world, then he better get serious about the kind of ships we put there and the kind of capability they have.")

Many in Congress believe that Mr. Reagan's decision to place U.S. forces in the Gulf on a higher state of alert requires him to notify them under the terms of the War Powers Act. The White House disagrees, but to avoid confrontation, it will continue informal consultations with Congress.

CBS's Peter Vasant reports from Maysport, Florida, on the reaction of families of sailors aboard the USS Stark.

CBS's Tom Fenton reports on the danger of the oil and naval ships in the Gulf.

Rather: With us now is Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. Mr. Secretary, the Administration is treating what happened as merely an accident, why are you giving the Iraqis such benefit of doubt?

(Secretary Weinberger: "We're not treating it merely as an accident. We have no evidence of this point of any hostile intent. And we have apologies and at least expressions of deep regret and condolences are in. We're talked with the Iraqis. A week ago our Ambassador Murphy was there and had from the President indications, statements that they wanted a much closer, warmer relationship with the United States. We have no reason whatever to believe that this was a deliberate attack. We obviously are trying to find out all of the facts and no matter what -- whether it was a ghastly error as I think it was now -- we would unquestionable ask for full (compensation) to the extent that is can ever be made to any of the family. And, also, of course obviously, all the repairs to the ship. But we're not treating it lightly, we're not treating it as a mere accident. We have no evidence to indicate that it was anything other than an accident -- a ghastly accident.")

Mr. Secretary, if an aircraft fires a missile at your ship, hits it with kind of loss of life, it seems to me that a case can be made that that's a hostile act.

(Secretary Weinberger: "Well, it certainly is a hostile act as it turned out. But you -- want we have now are the rules that authorize the commander -- always have had -- if any hostile act is committed against them they have every right to respond immediately without seeking any authority from anyone else. But now we have a definition of hostility that is to say that if a belligerent plane or ship approaches on a path that will enable it to deliver a missile or an attack, then we can assume right them that it's hostile -- just as we did...where Libya was involved.")

Mr. Secretary, the Iranian are calling this a blessing...what is our posture towards to Iranians?

(Secretary Weinberger: "Well, the Iranians always twist words around and use religious terms to describe horrendous acts of all kinds. We have no support for the Iranian whatever and there is no feeling that Iran should ever be in a position to win that war. That would be a disaster for the world.")

Mr. Secretary, if you can't protect these ships, why have them in there?

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Rather continues:

(Secretary Weinberger: "We can protect the ships. The ships have protection systems on board that enable them to destroy both the planes and the missiles. They should be in there because these are international waters and we can't be driven out of international waters by anyone. It is vital to the west and to the United States that oil be lifted out of those area freely and it is important for us to be -- to have the naval presence as we have since 1949 and as we will continue to have.")

Mr. Secretary, a lot of finger pointing is taking place today toward the ship's captain. What about the people who sent the ship there?

(Secretary Weinberger: "Well, I don't think there is any basis for pointing the finger at anybody. It's very early to start blaming the ship's captain and there's a lot of second guessing perhaps that people are saying what they would do if they were in command, but when you have a missile that comes at 10 miles a minute at you and when it's launched from about 12 miles out, you take all the steps that you think are required and he did. He had no reason whatever to believe that there was an Iraqi plane (that) was going to send a missile in. As far as the people who sent the ships in, we have been there since 1949, it's vital to the interest of the United States and to our allies that we be in open waters and keep those waters open. And we will be there.") (CBS-Lead)

#### IRAN-CONTRA HEARINGS

Jennings: The Iran-contra hearing resume tomorrow with what could be some revealing testimony. Once again the witness will be Robert Owen -- the man who was testifying last Thursday when the hearings recessed for the weekend. ABC's Brit Hume reports that Owen is expected to tell the committee that while he was working as a consultant to the State Department distributing the \$27 million in humanitarian aid that Congress approved for the contras, he was also working under cover for Oliver North, who is charged with helping supply the contras with weapons. (ABC-2)

#### CONTROVERSY OVER WILD HORSE

Rather: The wild horse running free over the range land is as much a symbol of the American west today as it was a century ago. But the government says there are too many of those horses -- too many by the thousands. So, it now proposes killing the surplus horses. The chance for the public to debate that decision ends Friday.

CBS's Terry Drinkwater reports on the two sides of this issue. (CBS-5)

#### SIMON ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY

Brokaw: Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, one of the few Democrats who doesn't hesitate to say he's proud of his party's liberal past, announced as a candidate for President today.

(NBC-8, ABC-4, CBS-3)

## EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

### IRAN-CONTRA

An Unconvincing Gesture -- "Robert McFarlane...has loyally tried to take upon himself all responsibility for the clandestine efforts by the White House to get around the ban once imposed by Congress on aid to the Nicaraguan rebels....It's hard, after observing his four days of testimony, not to feel some sympathy for McFarlane..... Robert McFarlane deserved a better end to his public career than the one he invited."

(Los Angeles Times, 5/15)

The Insidious Boland Amendment -- "Judging from President Reagan's remarks this weekend, the administration seems determined to mount a head-on public challenge to the Boland amendment.... That's welcome news, though it's a shame this wasn't done many months ago -- before Congressional inquisitors had even thought of using Boland as a rod with which to beat the President and his aides."

(New York Times, 5/18)

Hearings Raise Constitutional Issue -- "The Iran-contra hearings have quickly brought us to a radical constitutional claim. It is that the President has plenary power in foreign policy, not subject to limitation by law. That may sound like an extreme view of Presidential power under the Constitution. It would give Presidents, on the greatest issues of war and peace, something like the divine right of kings. But Ronald Reagan's supporters have not shied away from making the claim."

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 5/10)

Congress' Version Of 'People's Court' -- "Had the writers of the U.S. Constitution known about television, they probably would have scrapped the idea of authorizing Congress to investigate anything. Televised hearings before the legislative branch are vivid proof that the spectacle of congressional investigations overwhelms the real issue. The problem is not the legitimate effort by Congress to get at the truth of some particular matter, which is a vital function accomplished for the most part in the quiet, private interviews of potential witnesses by House and Senate investigators. Rather, it stems from the ultimate distortion of that function into a circus presentation designed to influence public opinion against the target of the investigation, in this case the President of the United States."

(Chicago Tribune, 5/17)

Iran-Contra Misdeeds Shouldn't Taint All Policy -- "The congressional hearings now under way to determine culpability in the Iran-contra arms scandal are without question crucial in uncovering the truth. But there is one caveat. The public simply cannot afford to allow the adrenalin-stimulating chase of wrongdoing to trample every aspect of foreign policy decision-making.... The U.S. simply cannot allow this Iran-contra problem to incapacitate the whole mechanism of U.S. foreign policy, calling into serious question every diplomatic action taken over the course of the last 18 months, however aboveboard. U.S. enemies are all too eager to take advantage of such weak moments when they feel the U.S. may be too off-balance from internal concerns to act."

(Dallas Morning News, 5/15)

IRAN-CONTRA continued

Breakdown In Foreign Policy -- "If the Iran-contra hearings are to serve a positive purpose, they must convince the country that something is indeed very wrong with the foreign policy system. Without effective and trustworthy direction from the White House, Congress will not be able to act in constructive ways. And the U.S. will fail in its responsibilities, not only to its own people but to the Guatemalas of this world."

(Baltimore Sun, 5/18)

Iranscam Hearings Taking Toll On Prez -- "In the Oval Office, President Reagan, seemingly unfazed while his associates are being grilled on live television, goes about his daily business as though the Iran-contra scandal is happening in someone else's Administration.... Reagan allies are growing increasingly concerned that unless the White House can move quickly and start ignoring the Iran hearings -- which do not appear to be drawing an enormous interest from the public -- he may soon drift into irrelevance and ignomity."

(New York Post, 5/18)

Iran, Contra Policies Were Both Bad Ideas -- "The hearings have not been dramatic, earth-shaking, or shocking. But they serve to remind us that it was wrong to pay ransom for hostages, knowing it would result in more hostage taking. It was wrong to divert funds to the contras, knowing Congress had outlawed it. And it was wrong to mislead the people of the USA about this foreign policy mess, which has cost our country both credibility and prestige."

(USA Today, 5/14)

From Trimming The Truth To Lies In The Iran-Contra Scandal -- "As McFarlane said, there are those like himself who begin to trim -- trim the truth, that is -- and once they begin, the nose gets bigger and bigger with every lie. It is what the Iran-contras scandal is all about. They lied to each other, and, in the end, President Reagan lied to the American people because the affair was so bizarre, no President could tell the American people that really happened because to do so would cost him his credibility."

(Robert Healy, Boston Globe, 5/13)

Reagan's Deficiency Undeniable -- "Reagan has said from the beginning that he knew nothing about the secret aid to the rebels. Being exposed as a liar would cost him dearly with voters, many of whom have given him the benefit of the doubt.... Whatever his role, Reagan is to blame for the affair. The Constitution obliges him to 'take care that the laws be faithfully executed.' But sins of omission or commission, he failed in that duty. That's the real scandal."

(Stephen Chapman, Sunday Oklahoman, 5/10)

Hearing, And Listening -- "Administration officials have their own owning up to do, the worst of which may be yet to come. But a word of caution to the committeemen who see these hearings as an occasion not for taking stock but for honing their own reputations. The details of the affair aren't easily retained, but the atmospherics of the hearing are. Questioners who persist in trying, and failing, to make Administration officials look irredeemably bad will themselves look worse."

(Richmond Times Dispatch, 5/16)