

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** News Summary Office, White House:  
News Summaries, 1981-1989

**Series:** II: WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY FINALS,  
1981-1989

**Folder Title:** 07/29/1987

**Box:** 397

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>



# News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1987 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Arms Control Talks Back On Track -- The roller-coaster Geneva arms negotiations again appear back on track, with a week of moves and countermoves fueling White House hopes of progress leading to an agreement and another superpower summit.

(Washington Post, Reuter, UPI)

### IRAN-NICARAGUA

Meese Was Misled By NSC Officials, Remarks Indicate -- Attorney General Meese testified that he had not asked probing questions last November during his inquiry into the Iran-contra affair because he had no reason to disbelieve other top officials.

(Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, Newhouse, Scripps Howard, UPI)

### NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Says 'Sky's The Limit' On Superconductivity Technology -- President Reagan has challenged the nation's scientists and researchers to develop new commercial products from the advancing technology called superconductivity. (Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Scripps Howard)

### HALF-PRICE MEALS AT THE DUTCH DINER...

TAMPICO, ILL. -- Motorists caught speeding in Ronald Reagan's birthplace can find some consolation -- their citations will buy a half-price meal at the Dutch Diner. But the owner of the diner is having second thoughts about his promotional campaign, saying he lost up to \$15,000 in business in less than a year because the town's part-time police officer, Bruce Anderson, is giving out too many speeding tickets.... And Tampico residents were so outraged by automobile safety checks conducted by Anderson that they showed up at the next City Council meeting to complain. And Anderson heard their complaints, because he is on the City Council, too.

(UPI, 7/28)

### NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

**ARMS CONTROL** -- The Administration announced that Secretary Shultz will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to work out details of an arms control agreement.

**IRAN-CONTRA** -- Attorney General Meese defended himself from any wrongdoing in the Iran-contra affair.

**PERSIAN GULF** -- U.S. Navy believes it has detected still more underwater mines in the area where Kuwaiti tankers are flying the American flag.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **REAGAN OPTIMISTIC ON MISSILE TREATY White House Confirms Shultz Will Meet With Shevardnadze**

President Reagan struck an upbeat tone about a prospective treaty on medium- and short-range nuclear missiles, praising the Soviets for accepting recent U.S. arms proposals and confirming that the U.S. is offering concessions in response.

"There is still much to do in Geneva, but I'm heartened that the climate is now receptive to an historic proposal of this type," Reagan told a government superconductor conference here.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, meanwhile, confirmed State Department reports that Secretary Shultz will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss arms control and other issues when he comes to this country for the U.N. General Assembly meeting in mid-September.

(Jeffrey Smith, Washington Post, A19)

### **Shultz, Shevardnadze Meeting Seen Boosting Hopes**

The White House has raised hopes that a September meeting between Secretary Shultz and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, will bring a third superpower summit.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater disclosed plans for the meeting between Shultz and the Soviet Foreign Minister, although no official announcement has yet been made.

(Gene Gibbons, Reuter)

### **Arms Control Talks Back On Track**

The roller-coaster Geneva arms negotiations again appear back on track, with a week of moves and countermoves fueling White House hopes of progress leading to an agreement and another superpower summit.

While problems remain -- notably the status of 72 Pershing 1A missiles in West Germany -- Reagan wasted no time challenging Moscow for the hearts and minds of Western Europe by attributing the potential for success to U.S. initiatives.

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

### **U.S. Concessions Brighten Prospects For A Superpower Pact**

Prospects for a superpower pact banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles have brightened with U.S. concessions that President Reagan says could lead to a "Historic" U.S.-Soviet arms pact.

Career diplomat Maynard Glitman, who heads the U.S. team dealing with INF weapons, said Washington was presenting "a new proposal which will recommit ourselves to going forward with a double 'global zero' approach to the INF issue."

Glitman rejected any compromise on 72 Pershing-1A rockets owned by West Germany but controlled by the Americans. He said these were part of a "third party" system and did not belong to the bilateral Geneva talks.

(Claude Fillet, Reuter)

Soviet Officials Firm On Arms Pact; In Rare Interview, Two Rule Out Compromise On Pershing IAs

Senior Soviet arms control officials today ruled out any compromise effort to break a deadlock at the Geneva negotiations by insisting that the U.S. destroy 72 Pershing IA nuclear warheads stationed in West Germany as part of a superpower accord to eliminate theater nuclear weapons.

In an unusual joint interview, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh and Col. Gen. Nikolai Chervov took an unrelenting line in rejecting any possibility that an American pledge not to modernize the aging warheads could clear the way for a "global double-zero" agreement and a U.S.-Soviet summit in Washington later this year.

(Jim Hoagland & Gary Lee, Washington Post, A1)

SOVIET ENVOY TO VISIT IRAN, IRAQ

MOSCOW -- Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov is planning another round of visits to Tehran and Baghdad shortly, maintaining the Soviet Union's high-profile diplomatic presence in Iran and Iraq, the two warring Persian Gulf states.

Vorontsov's upcoming tour, announced today by the Soviet Foreign Ministry, shows an acceleration in the developing contacts between Iran and the Soviet Union.

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A19)

U.S. SEEKS COMBINED ANTI-MINE PLAN FOR GULF CONVOYS

The U.S. is talking to allies about a combined anti-mine operation to protect U.S.-escorted convoys through the gulf, U.S. officials say.

Embarrassed by the damage to the supertanker Bridgeton by a mine last week on the first American escort of re-registered Kuwaiti ships, Washington wants French, British and possibly West German minesweepers to protect the convoys which eventually could number five or six a month, they said.

(Michael Battye, Reuter)

Mine Field Near Where Ship Was Hit; Concerns Rise On Protecting Gulf Convoys

Mine-sweeping teams have discovered a mine field in the Persian Gulf near where a reflagged Kuwaiti supertanker escorted by U.S. Navy warships hit a mine last Thursday, increasing concern over the lack of long-term plans for protecting convoys through the treacherous channels, Pentagon officials said.

U.S. explosives-disposal teams have been dispatched to help clear the mines from waters off Farsi Island about 120 miles southeast of Kuwait, officials said. Pentagon officials said Saudi, Kuwaiti and U.S. mine-sweeping teams think that they have identified seven mines in the area but are uncertain how many more may have been laid in the channel.

Pentagon officials said the discovery of the mine field raises new concerns about U.S. warships and the reflagged tankers in the gulf, prompting military and diplomatic leaders to intensify efforts to protect future escorted convoys through the region.

(Molly Moore & Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

-more-

### Navy Team Ordered To Search For More Mines

A Navy team is under orders to search for more underwater explosives in a Persian Gulf channel where a full minefield was discovered after the supertanker Bridgeton struck one last week, Pentagon officials say.

The search in an area 120 miles southeast of Kuwait will be carried out from helicopters based on U.S. warships in the gulf, with personnel drawn from an 18-man Navy mine warfare team staying in Kuwait, according to the officials. (Richard Gross, UPI)

### Saudis Find More Mines, U.S. Lacks OK To Move In Anti-Mine Ships

Saudi Arabia says more mines have been found in a Persian Gulf channel where a reflagged Kuwaiti tanker hit one mine last week, but the U.S. still lacks permission from its allies in the area to base anti-mine equipment there.

Pentagon officials ordered conflicting accounts of how the Navy plans to deal with the new mines. One source said U.S. Navy demolition experts might try to explode them, while other sources said the Saudis might try to do the job or U.S. allies such as Britain or the Netherlands could be asked for help. (Tim Ahern, AP)

### Official Says Kuwait Wants International Mine-Sweepers

Kuwait's U.S. ambassador said early today his country was seeking an international mine-sweeping operation in the gulf, and denied it had rejected any U.S. request to base mine-sweeping helicopters there.

"Our effort is international and we expect also to get an international responsibility involved in this whole process of mine-sweeping in the gulf," Ambassador Saud Nasir Al-Sabah said on ABC's "Nightline." (Reuter)

### Iraq May Help Protect U.S. Escort Vessels

Iraq may strike Iranian facilities in the Persian Gulf that threaten U.S. naval vessels protecting the recently reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers, according to diplomatic sources.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz may have conveyed a willingness to cooperate against such targets in his meeting here this week with Secretary Shultz.

Iraq, the sources said, is willing to carry out such strikes to stop Iran from blackmailing the fragile, oil-rich, conservative gulf states, the sources said. (James Dorsey, Washington Times, A6)

### Renewed Congressional Criticism Of Gulf Policy

Angry lawmakers have demanded an end to U.S. protection of Kuwait's oil tankers in the Persian Gulf because the Arab nation has resisted serving as a base for American minesweeping operations in the area.

"The time is coming for the United States to pull the plug on this operation and put an end to being jerked around by the government of Kuwait," [Senate Democratic leader Robert] Byrd said, pointing to the apparent Kuwait refusal to base American mine-sweeper helicopters despite the U.S. Navy escorts being provided for the oil tankers.

(Eliot Brenner, UPI)

### Khomeini Says U.S. Suffered Defeat In Persian Gulf

Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini said that the U.S. suffered a defeat in the Persian Gulf and he hinted Iran would provoke a worldwide oil crisis if U.S. forces intervene in the area, Tehran radio said.

Khomeini, in an address to Moslem scholars in Tehran, warned that Iran so far has "used only a small part of its facilities" in the gulf while the U.S. already has suffered a "defeat" in escorting tankers. (AP)

### Iran's Threats Alarm Arab Gulf Sheikdoms

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates -- Leaders of the Arab sheikdoms that line the southern Persian Gulf have expressed alarm over Iran's newest threat: to hit economic targets, possibly including offshore oil installations, in the event of an escalation in the gulf war.

Some United Arab Emirates oil platforms near the mouth of the gulf are being fitted with Swedish laser-guided anti-aircraft missiles, according to Western sources, raising fears in their large foreign work force that the heavily defended oil rigs are becoming military targets that might invite attack. (Patrick Tyler, Washington Post, A1)

### Iraq Calls For Sanctions Against Iran

Iraq called on France and other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran for refusing to heed U.N. calls for a cease-fire in the nearly 7-year-old gulf war.

Tariq Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, said he made the appeal during a meeting with French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. Aziz, who said he spent 45 minutes with Chirac, stopped in Paris after similar consultations in the U.S. with Secretary Shultz and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. (Roman Rollnick, UPI)

### PRESIDENT AND TOP AIDES TOIL OVER EMBASSY SECURITY WOES

President Reagan met with his top national security aides to discuss embassy security problems, but was unable to reach any conclusions on what to do about the new bug-riddled U.S. Embassy chancery in Moscow, U.S. government officials said.

The officials, who declined to be named, said Reagan is expected to decide within two weeks what steps to take in repairing the new building.

(Bill Gertz, Washington Times, A4)

### U.S. ENVOY SAYS TURKISH AID HAMPERED BY CONGRESS

Visiting U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost told reporters the Reagan Administration is dedicated to providing adequate military aid to Turkey but is being hampered by the U.S. Congress.

Armacost denied the U.S. was applying pressure on Turkey to end its military presence on Cyprus. He also told reporters he brought no new proposals on resolving the Cyprus dispute. (David Bamford, UPI)



## IRAN — NICARAGUA

---

### MEESE DEFENDS HIS SHORT IRAN PROBE

Conflicting Accounts Did Not Raise Suspicions, Hill Panels Told

Attorney General Meese defended his four-day effort to seek the facts of the Iran-contra affair last November, telling congressional questioners that the conflicting accounts he received from other top Reagan Administration officials did not cause him to suspect that "more was involved than confusion."

Meese...reiterated the basic story he has told for the last eight months, frequently relying on notes of key meetings to describe how he and his deputies uncovered evidence that profits from U.S. arms sales to Iran had been diverted to aid the Nicaraguan contras.

No notes exist, however, for one crucial conversation that Meese recounted in detail: the brief meeting last Nov. 24 when Meese informed John Poindexter of the discovery of a NSC staff draft memo that referred to the diversion.

Meese said: "I asked him whether he knew about this...and I believe his exact words or close to his exact words were: 'Ollie has given me enough hints about this so that I generally knew, but I did nothing to follow up or stop it.'"

(Dan Morgan & Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

### Meese Defends His Iran Inquiry; Didn't Immediately View Affair As A Criminal Case, He Testifies

Attorney General Meese told Congress' Iran-contra committees that he did not immediately recognize the affair as a criminal case, even after he was told that profits from the Iran arms sales were diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels without President Reagan's knowledge.

At the same time, the attorney general disclosed that the late CIA Director Casey expressed surprise when told last November about the diversion of funds. Meese said he still believes that Casey was unaware of the diversion, even though Oliver North has testified that Casey was fully informed about it. (Sara Fritz & Karen Tumulty, Los Angeles Times, A1)

### Meese's Testimony

The nation's top law enforcement officer, Attorney General Meese, failed to recall key events and conversations in any great detail, leaving some congressmen with the impression he wasn't interested in getting to the bottom of the Iran-contra scandal.

Like a well-trained prize fighter, the long-time Reagan loyalist ducked and dodged important questions and stuck to his story that he was merely conducting a "fact-finding inquiry" for the President on the weekend of Nov. 21-23.

Meese claimed he had no reason to suspect any criminal wrongdoing until Nov. 24, when his aides discovered a memo in Oliver North's files alluding to the diversion of Iran arms profits to the Nicaraguan contras. A day later he went on national television to tell the American people of his discovery.

"I simply tried to keep things legal and accurate," Meese said.

(Kathryn Kahler, Newhouse)

### Meese Kept Justice Criminal Division, FBI Out Of Iran-Contra Probe

Attorney General Meese acknowledged that he had prevented the head of the Justice Department's criminal division from joining an Iranian arms sales probe last November even after uncovering evidence of criminal activities.

Meese defended his decision to delay both the FBI and the Justice Department criminal probes of the Iranian arms deals on the grounds he really didn't develop evidence of criminal activities until Nov. 25 -- the day John Poindexter resigned and Oliver North was fired.

But Rep. Peter Rodino, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, read Meese a portion of a sworn deposition that William Weld, assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division, gave the Iran-Contra panels last week.

According to Rodino, Weld said he had asked Justice Department officials at a meeting last Nov. 21 to include representatives of his criminal division in the department's probe of the Iranian arms deals, then being headed by Meese's assistant William Bradford Reynolds and a team of Reagan appointees who lacked any criminal investigative experience.

(Lance Gay & Walter Friedenberg, Scripps Howard)

### Meese Was Misled By NSC Officials, Remarks Indicate

Attorney General Meese testified that he had not asked probing questions last November during his three-day preliminary inquiry into the Iran-contra affair because he had no reason to disbelieve other top officials.

The attorney general's testimony indicated that the top NSC officials, John Poindexter and Oliver North, and CIA Director Casey, all had misled him on key aspects of the case. But Meese steadfastly avoided any judgment that they had been untruthful.

(David Rosenbaum, New York Times, A1)

### Meese Defends Probe, Says He Saw Nothing 'Obviously Criminal'

Attorney General Meese defended the casual nature of his probe of the Iran-contra scandal, saying he saw nothing "obviously criminal" about the affair last November -- even when he learned details of the scheme to send arms profits to the Nicaraguan rebels.

[Meese] also acknowledged he gave advance notice of his probe to John Poindexter, which gave time to the national security adviser and Oliver North to destroy critical documents.

(Dana Walker & Anne Walker, UPI)

### Hours Of Preparation Preceded Testimony; Meese Was Grilled By Staff

The testimony given by Attorney General Meese to the Iran-contra committees was preceded by long hours of preparation during the last two weeks, according to Justice Department officials.

Meese has been closeted with a group of close advisers, led by Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, who have peppered the attorney general with questions about his knowledge of arms shipments to Iran and his investigation last November after the sales came to light....

(Ruth Marcus, Washington Post, A9)



Affable Witness Talks Of 'Confusion'

To the attorney general of the U.S., the Iran-contra affair was a case of confusion, and during his first day on the witness stand Edwin Meese III left as many questions unanswered as answered. His testimony was a curious study in incuriosity.

Meese was affable throughout. And the story he told was marked by singular lack of passion -- and curiosity. As he described it, his inquiry for President Reagan into the origins of the Iran arms sales was casual. He seems to have experienced no sense of alarm, anger or betrayal as he learned that some of the President's closest advisers were deeply involved in what he himself belatedly recognized to be a possible criminal matter.

(News Analysis, Haynes Johnson, Washington Post, A1)

SEN. LEAHY QUIT PANEL AFTER LEAK  
Iran-Contra Report Disclosed Ban By Committee

Sen. Patrick Leahy, former vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, resigned from the panel last January after acknowledging he had shown a reporter a draft report on the Iran-contra investigation that the committee had voted not to release to the public.

Responding to reports that Leahy resigned after leaking the document to NBC reporter John Dancy, the committee issued a statement yesterday saying that "the member of the committee responsible for the disclosure" offered his resignation and it was accepted by Committee Chairmen David Boren and Vice Chairmen William Cohen.

The committee did not identify Leahy as the member in question, but Leahy subsequently issued a statement saying he had "carelessly" allowed a reporter to examine the report to verify his contention that it was withheld because of "major gaps," not as an effort to embarrass President Reagan. He had not intended to disclose details of the report, Leahy said.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A1)

Leahy Regrets Leak, Colleague Sees Committee Resignation As Warning

While Sen. Patrick Leahy says he regrets leaking a Senate Intelligence Committee draft staff report, the panel's vice chairmen says Leahy's resignation from the committee should be a warning against similar disclosures.

Committee Vice Chairman William Cohen, asked whether the incident might serve as a deterrent against future unauthorized leaks, said, "yes."

(Larry Margasak, AP)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Excerpts Of Attorney General Meese," appears in The Washington Post, A8.

###

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **COMMERCIALIZING SUPERCONDUCTORS**

Hailing a "new arena for the spirit of enterprise," President Reagan announced an 11-point program to help the U.S. beat its foreign competitors to the punch in commercializing new superconductor technologies.

His "Superconductivity Initiative" calls for an increase in research money for the Defense Department, "quick start" grants for commercial applications, a relaxation of antitrust laws to permit joint production ventures, stricter patent laws and the withholding from the release under the Freedom of Information Act of "commercially valuable" scientific information developed in government laboratories.

(Kathy Sawyer, Washington Post, A3)

#### **Superconductivity Gets Top Priority**

President Reagan, declaring that the "sky is the only limit" on futuristic applications of the new superconducting materials discovered in recent months, outlined a series of steps designed to accelerate their commercial development ahead of the nation's foreign competitors.

"Science tells us that the breakthroughs in superconductivity bring us to the threshold of a new age," the President said in a half-hour appearance before an unusual meeting of 1,200 scientists, government officials and senior business executives sponsored by the White House and the Department of Energy.

Many in the audience appeared to share Reagan's assessment of the dawning of a new electronic revolution comparable to those spawned early in this century by the vacuum tube and, more recently, by the transistor and its progeny, the computer chip.

(Robert Gillette, Los Angeles Times)

#### **Reagan Says 'Sky's The Limit' On Superconductivity Technology**

President Reagan has challenged the nation's scientists and researchers to develop scores of new commercial products from the rapidly advancing technology called superconductivity.

There are indicators, the President said, that superconductivity will enable Americans to build high-speed trains that will float in air above their tracks, devise tiny but powerful super computers and construct cheap, new medical diagnostic devices. (Don Kirkman, Scripps Howard)

### **STOPGAP DEBT-LIMIT MEASURE ADVANCES**

The House, acting to avert a government financial crisis that would strike by the end of the week, began moving stopgap legislation to extend the nation's authority to borrow money through Aug. 6.

The short-term extension of the \$2.3 trillion debt ceiling, expected to pass the House and Senate today, would give Senate Republican and Democratic negotiators additional time to perfect a compromise to reinvigorate the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-reduction law.

(Tom Kenworthy, Washington Post, A4)  
-more-

#### SENATE EXPECTED TO CONFIRM GREENSPAN, RUDER

President Reagan's appointment to two key posts in the country's financial and securities markets seem secure heading to the full Senate after gaining the approval of the Senate Banking Committee.

The full Senate was expected by the end of next week to approve the nominations of Alan Greenspan as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and David Ruder as head of the SEC. (Hugh Vickery, UPI)

#### BUSH OUTLINES PROGRAM TO EASE TUITION BURDEN Special Bonds' Interest Would Be Tax-Free

INDIANAPOLIS -- Vice President Bush, taking a rare step toward defining a distinct position for himself on a sensitive issue, education, today called for the creation of college savings bonds and the expansion of student loan programs to help families pay escalating college costs.

"The college savings bond would work just as the U.S. Savings Bonds do now, except their income would be tax-free if applied to college tuition," the Vice President said in a speech to the National Conference of State Legislators. (Bill Peterson, Washington Post, A16)

#### GOP GOVERNORS SAY BUSH LEADS FOR NOMINATION

TRAVERSE CITY, Mi. -- The Republican presidential race, in the eyes of GOP governors, has been largely a two-man contest, with Vice President Bush well out front of Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole.

Interviews with most of the 24 Republicans at the National Governors Association meeting, which ended here today, produced repeated comments that the Iran-contra hearings have not turned into a serious threat to Bush's candidacy and that his methodical personal campaigning and organization work have made him the candidate to beat.

(David Broder, Washington Post, A1)

#### DECONCINI CAUTIONS DEMOCRATS ON BORK

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, a key swing vote on the Senate Judiciary Committee, has urged his fellow Senate Democrats by letter not to follow liberal party leaders in their ideological assault on Supreme Court nominee Judge Robert Bork.

"I am truly hopeful that the majority of Democrats will withhold judgment until we can objectively examine Judge Bork's legal background, character, judicial philosophy, judicial temperament and personal attributes and shortcomings," the Arizona moderate wrote to the Senate's 53 other Democrats. (George Archibald & Gene Grabowski, Washington Times, A2)

Byrd Warns Against A Partisan Battle Over Confirmation Of Bork

The Senate majority leader, Robert Byrd, cautioned today that the battle over the confirmation of Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court should not become "a litmus test of party affiliation and loyalty."

The West Virginia Democrat, while nominally addressing his Republican counterpart on the Senate floor, also delivered a clear message of disapproval to his fellow Democrats who have announced their opposition to the nomination in advance of the confirmation hearings.

Further, Byrd, who sits on the Judiciary Committee, said the committee should not try to kill the nomination.

(Linda Greenhouse, New York Times, A12)

EMISSION RULES MUST BE HEALTH-BASED

The EPA can only use health factors to determine safe emissions levels of toxic pollutants and cannot base decisions on how much it will cost an industry to meet them, as it does now, the U.S. Court of Appeals here ruled.

The opinion represents a surprising reversal by Circuit Judge Robert Bork, whom President Reagan has nominated for the Supreme Court.

(Nancy Lewis, Washington Post, A1)

-End of A-Section-

## **NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY**

---

(Tuesday Evening, July 28, 1987)

### **ARMS CONTROL**

NBC's Tom Brokaw: In Washington and in Geneva today there were promising steps toward a third summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. In Washington, the Administration announced that Secretary of State George Shultz will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to work out details of a deal involving short-range and intermediate nuclear missiles -- the so-called double zero option that would force the Soviets and the Americans to remove these weapons from their arsenals around the world.

NBC's Chris Wallace: U.S. officials say Shultz and Shevardnadze will meet the week of Sept. 14 in what they see as the next big step to an arms deal and a superpower summit. Today in Geneva an American negotiator submitted the latest U.S. offer aimed at narrowing differences. As an agreement became more likely, the White House emphasized the Soviets are coming around to U.S. positions.

(President Reagan: "There's still much to do in Geneva, but I'm heartened that the climate is now receptive to an historic proposal of this type. The United States is proud to be in a position to make this proposal.")

(TV coverage: President speaking at superconductivity conference.)

The U.S. formally agreed with the Soviets today on a double-zero option -- elimination of all medium and short-range missiles in Europe and Asia. The U.S. also agreed to destroy those missiles, barring any transfer to NATO allies. But there was still one big stumbling block: Soviet insistence the U.S. also remove nuclear warheads from 72 missiles controlled by West Germany. On a broadcast to western Europe, the chief negotiator said the German missiles are not on the table, and accused the Soviets of trying to divide the western alliance.

(Max Kampelman: "We have no intention of asking the Federal Republic to do that. That's the furthest thought from our mind.")

Former Secretary of State Kissinger sees this as one more case of the Soviets winning the public relations battle, trying to give the U.S. to give more, by making it appear the Americans are holding up an agreement.

But for all the diplomatic games, U.S. officials are confident neither side will allow the German missiles to break up a deal. And some congressional leaders are already talking about ratification of a medium-range missile treaty in the Senate.

(Sen. Cranston: "Unless there is some bug in it, I foresee very, very strong support on the Democratic side and I presume, of course, there will be a lot of support on the Republican side.")

With agreement on a Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting in September, U.S. officials believe the Soviets are now firmly committed to working out an arms deal. They have already begun to plan here (at the White House) for a Reagan-Gorbachev summit in the U.S. Tentative target date: this November.

(NBC-Lead)

ABC's Jennings: In Washington today there has been a good deal of public optimism about an arms control agreement with the Soviets this year and there is at least a suggestion that the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan will sign an agreement before the year is out.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: President Reagan and other U.S. officials, projecting new confidence that arms control negotiations are now in the home stretch, today went about raising public expectations for a deal later this year.

(The President: "There is still much to do in Geneva, but I'm heartened that the climate is now receptive to an historic proposal of this type.")

(TV coverage: The President walking onto the stage to the sound of applause, then speaking from the podium.)

The latest version of Mr. Reagan's historic proposal was presented today in Geneva when Soviet negotiators came to the U.S. mission. It reaffirmed the double zero plan to eliminate all intermediate-range missiles worldwide -- a plan which the Soviets have now said they would accept. And it contained new ways to settle other issues -- ways Ambassador Maynard Glitman would not spell out, but which he was not embarrassed to label "concessions."

(Ambassador Glitman: "The U.S. has from the beginning done its share to help bring these talks closer together and we will not be found wanting.")

But one concession the U.S. still says it will not make to the Soviets is to scrap the 72 Pershing missiles owned by the Germans. Although the U.S. controls the warheads, Washington says it will never negotiate for third-country weapons. Despite this, the two sides are so close together over-all that a White House spokesman today confirmed that the long anticipated meeting between Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will now take place in mid-September.... And that's the meeting that could set the date for a treaty-signing summit in Washington. All of this suggests "breakthrough" to the chief U.S. arms negotiator.... Raising expectations is always a dangerous thing to do when the Soviets are involved, as U.S. officials learned anew only last October when they did it unwisely midway through the Iceland summit. But this time they believe things are different -- the betting is on a treaty-signing summit in November.

ABC's Steve Sheperd reports on the Pershing missiles in Germany. The most likely way out appears to be a proposal to leave the Pershings in place but with a promise not to modernize them. (ABC-2)

CBS's Bill Plante: The White House, looking toward an arms control agreement to help President Reagan move beyond the Iran-contra scandal, announced today that Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will meet in mid-September to pave the way for a superpower summit and a weapons deal.

(TV coverage: File footage of the President and Gorbachev in Iceland.)

Mr. Reagan was upbeat about the possibility.



Plante continues:

(The President: "I'm always optimistic about that.")

U.S. negotiators in Geneva today presented a formal response to the latest Soviet arms control offer. It agrees to eliminate U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear missiles worldwide and also proposes a guarantee that all missiles and launchers covered by the treaty would be destroyed, not converted to other types of weapons.

(The President: "Our goal as you can see is not arms control, but arms reduction. And despite the skepticism when we first announced these plans, we are moving in this direction.")

There's one remaining problem -- the Soviets recently began to insist that 72 older Pershing missiles, owned by Germany but carrying U.S. nuclear warheads, be included. The U.S. says they belong to the Germans, and they can't reach Soviet territory in any case.

(Max Kampelman: "Why (aren't the Soviets asked), 'Are you prepared to risk an INF failure simply by coming up with a brand-new issue at the last moment, which has only a political objective for you and has no military consequences for you at all?'" )

...If there is an agreement it will be because it benefits both sides. Mr. Reagan, of course, will see it as a logical result of his defense buildup and his get-tough policy on the Soviets. That may be, but given the President's other problems right now, the timing could hardly be better. (CBS-Lead)

#### IRAN-CONTRA HEARINGS/MEESE

Brokaw: Attorney General Edwin Meese today defended himself and his old friend Ronald Reagan from any wrongdoing in the Iran-contra affair, accused of running a sloppy, unaggressive investigation, perhaps on purpose. The Attorney General did concede the deception of others in the Administration, but he insisted on his own innocence. Committee members were skeptical, but Meese was unyielding.

NBC's John Dancy: In the Iran-contra drama, Attorney General Meese portrayed himself playing the role of the perennial innocent, uncovering layers of the diversion -- struggling to understand -- surprising himself and surprising others.

(Meese: "And the President was quite surprised and indicated he had not known anything of this and I believe Don Regan said at that time -- or at least indicated that he was surprised.")

Oliver North was surprised, too, in a different way, to learn in a Nov. 23rd interview that Meese had discovered a memo that spelled out the scheme to divert profits from the Iran arms sale.

(Meese: "I would describe him as being shocked that we had the memorandum, and that we were raising this issue with him.")

Meese's investigation has come under fire by some committee members as amateurish, often handling sticky questions by not asking them. For example: Meese ignored the role of former CIA Director William Casey, a close friend.

(Meese: "...My knowledge of Bill Casey from 1980 to 1987 when he passed away, I always knew Bill Casey to be an honorable man. And I have no information personally that anything he told me was other than the truth.")

Meese described his interview with North about the diversion scheme.

Dancy continues:

(Meese: "But I said, 'Was this ever discussed with the President?' And he said not as far as he knew -- not with North.")

John Nields, committee counsel: "Did he tell you whether Director Casey knew?"

Meese: "No, he said again -- there were only three who knew. I didn't ask him specifically about Casey or anybody else. I said, 'Who knew?' And he said there were only three who could know in the United States, and that was McFarlane, Poindexter and North."

Nields: "Let me turn the question around. Did he tell you Director Casey knew?"

Meese: "Absolutely not.")

Meese also did not follow up on the diversion memo's clear indication that profits from the Iran-arms sale would flow through a U.S. corporation account -- an account testimony has shown was controlled by retired Gen. Richard Secord and arms dealer Albert Hakim.

(Nields: "And what did he tell you about that?"

Meese: "I don't recall that he said -- I don't recall anything that he told us about that account, other than it was an account of the corporation.")

North misled Meese at least three times during that Nov. 23rd interview, according to North's own earlier testimony before the committees. But Meese said he had no reason to suspect North's statements.

(Meese: "I accepted them as true and had no reason to believe otherwise.")

One of the committees' more conservative Republicans, Bill McCollum of Florida, wasn't buying that.

(Rep. McCollum: "There were numerous occasions in Col. North's interview and in the interviews with Mr. McFarlane where you were not given the full facts. Where you were misled. Is that not true?"

Meese: "Mr. McCollum, since I did not have the benefit of watching their testimony -- except very occasionally -- I couldn't say for sure, but I will accept your characterization of it."

McCollum: "Well, it's sure. And unfortunate."

But Meese said his investigation got high marks from the FBI.

(Meese: "The leadership of the FBI -- the top leadership -- said that to a person the FBI leadership felt I had made no mistakes and had made no errors in the way that I had conducted that investigation.")

Nevertheless, Meese sounded like a man with some regrets about the way he handled the inquiry that weekend. He conceded today, 'It certainly looks a lot different to us today than it did then.'

Brokaw: Sen. Patrick Leahy has resigned from the Senate Intelligence Committee for making a copy of the committee's report on the Iran-contra investigation available to the news media. In disclosing his resignation today, Senators Boren and Cohen did not identify the news organization that received the report. NBC News reported on the contents of the report in January. NBC News said today it was given the unclassified (report) by a reliable, confidential source. Leahy said in a statement this evening he had no intention that any part of the unclassified report be made public. (NBC-3)

CBS's Dan Rather: ...The nation's top law enforcement official and friend of Mr. Reagan told the congressional investigating committee he wasn't in on any cover-up conspiracy, lawbreaking, or wrongdoing....

-more-

Rather continues:

CBS's Phil Jones: Referring frequently to notes, Attorney General Edwin Meese walked cautiously through a potential political mine field today of questions suggesting that he had mishandled the initial Iran-contra scandal investigation by not bringing in criminal investigators.... Admiral Poindexter testified that the President would have approved the contra diversion if asked, but Meese contradicted that today and indicated that Lt. Col. Oliver North was fired because of the diversion.

(Meese: "On the basis of his involvement in the diversion of funds, which was an unauthorized activity and something which had not been approved and would not be approved by the President had he known it.")

The Attorney General described the crucial meeting he had with North on Nov. 23 after Justice Dept. investigators had discovered the diversion memo.... Meese today contradicted North's testimony that former CIA Director William Casey knew of the diversion.

(Meese: "He indicated to me that he had been surprised by what Don Regan told him and he also said, 'We've got to get this out as soon as possible.'")

From interviews Meese conducted, he was aware of conflicting versions of the Iran-contra operation, but described it as merely confusion.... The Attorney General also contradicted previous witnesses who had said he had gone along with the preparation of false chronologies for planned testimony.

(Meese: "The truth is, I did not, at the time, have knowledge sufficient to allow me to make any sort of judgment regarding the accuracy of the proposed testimony of the prepared chronology or the revisions of corrections that were being suggested.")

Throughout these hearings Meese's name has come up frequently, leaving some members to conclude that he was either incompetent in his investigation or part of a cover-up. Today Meese argued that he had done nothing wrong.

Rather: Joining us now are...Senators Sam Nunn and William Cohen.... Senator Nunn, with the Meese testimony today, what did the Attorney General say, not say, or couldn't remember that you think is most important?

Nunn: "I think we'll really get to the part of it tomorrow when Sen. Cohen does his cross-examination. But I think the fact that Casey told Meese that he didn't know about the diversions, and also the fact that Director Casey said in front of Meese and the President of the United States and the congressional leadership that he did not know about the diversion -- and that contradicts directly Col. North's testimony -- to me that was the most interesting fact today."

Rather: ...What are you most interested in knowing now?

Cohen: "I think I, and other members of the committee, want to know more about the way in which the investigation proceeded. The Attorney General indicated he was talking about not even a fact-finding inquiry, but an inquiry to discover what the facts were -- and there is some sort of a distinction that he was drawing. But to know exactly what he knew at what given time and whether or not the inquiry was conducted in a thorough and professional manner, I think that's what the committee members want to know."

Rather: President Reagan indicated he thinks the climate is right now for an arms control deal with the Soviets. Do you agree?

Nunn: "I agree with that. I think both sides would like an agreement. I think we're down to the end game now. I think we've really made some progress."

Cohen: "I think that's correct...."

Rather: Do you think the Russians see this as an ideal opportunity to deal with a weakened President?

Cohen: "I think they see it as an ideal opportunity to get an agreement. I think they do not want to see this President leave office with a delay that would entail negotiating a new agreement with a new President. And they see that the time is right."

Nunn: "I think it is important to note this is the result of two administrations -- the Carter Administration's and the Reagan Administration's striking to a bipartisan commitment and the result of NATO -- the alliance -- striking to a commitment to deploy those missiles in the face of great opposition. So it is continuity. It is bipartisanship and it's an alliance-type determination that had brought this result about over a period of time."

Rather: Would you be surprised if we don't see another summit by the end of this year?

Cohen: "I'd be very surprised."

Nunn: "Well, it could be delayed longer than that. The Soviets are going to have a lot of fun with the German missile proposal because that brings in the question of something that hasn't been discussed very much -- that is, the Germans have the missiles, but the U.S. has the warheads and that also applies to some other non-nuclear countries in NATO. It could be a sensitive question in the alliance."

(CBS-2)

ABC's Peter Jennings: We begin again with the Iran-contra hearings.

It's a fascinating skeptical for people in other parts of the world watching as they do this country's most senior Cabinet officers have to answer for their policy or their knowledge of a policy before the elected officials of the land. Today it was the Attorney General Edwin Meese, and he told the Congress he did not participate in a cover-up of the Iran-contra affair.

ABC's Brit Hume: The Attorney General had been called to account principally for the weekend inquiry he led last November which uncovered the diversion of Iran arms money to the contras, but which has been criticized as too easy-going. Meese defended it.

(Meese: "The essential point to keep in mind is that our purpose was not to conduct a criminal investigation. Indeed, on the 21st of November, there was no hint criminal activity was in any way implicated in the Iranian arms transactions... Our efforts in the space of just over three days turned up the essential facts that are still the essential facts today.")

Hume continues:

That may be so, but two committees which have spent eight months and millions of dollars on this case, are not eager to embrace that idea. There were a lot of questions about what Ed Meese didn't do in what he said was an effort to find the facts and resolve confusion over the Iran arms sales.

(John Nields: "Did you ask the President whether the U.S. government had known of the Hawk missile shipment at the time or whether he'd approved of it?"

Meese: "No, I don't believe that ever came up in the conversation.") There were questions about the team he assembled to help in his inquiry.

Nields: "Did you select anyone from the criminal division?"

Meese: "No, I did not."

Nields: "Was there a reason for that?"

Meese: "Well, there was no reason to select anyone from the criminal division in as much as there was no criminal aspects to this.")

Meese said he looked into U.S. government involvement in the very first shipments to Iran, which were actually made by Israel. But he got conflicting stories from Administration officials.

(Nields: "Did it occur to you at that point in time that you might be dealing with something other than confusion?"

Meese: "No, it really didn't because each of these people had been very straight-forward in what they told.")

But then the Meese team found the so-called diversion memo in Oliver North's office. That led to a Sunday afternoon meeting in Meese's office where a surprised North was confronted with the memo. He confirmed the diversion scheme and was asked who knew about it.... Casey, of course, did know -- at least according to Oliver North's testimony. And Meese had several talks with Casey in that November period and never discovered or even asked whether Casey knew of the diversion....

(Meese: "No I didn't [mention that to Casey] and for very good reason. I felt it was not appropriate to discuss this with anyone, even as good a friend as Mr. Casey until after I had found what it was all about.")

But Poindexter...told Meese a somewhat different story. Here is how Meese quoted Poindexter --

(Meese: "Ollie has given me enough hints about that so that I generally knew, but I did nothing to follow up or stop it or words to that effect.")

Nields: "Did you ask him if he had told the President?"

Meese: "Implicitly, yes, when I asked who else in the White House knew or whether he told anyone in the White House, and he said no.")

Meese took this information to the President in a meeting attended also by Reagan Chief of Staff Donald Regan.... Meese had an easy time of it in today's hearings, although it did bring out some questions he never asked. Tomorrow he's likely to be asked why not.

Jennings: Last January the Senate Intelligence Committee, which carried out the first investigation of the Iran-contra affair, issued a secret but unclassified report, and that report was later leaked to a news organization. Today Sen. Leahy...acknowledged that he was the one who had leaked the report and he has resigned from the committee.

(ABC-Lead)

## PERSIAN GULF

Brokaw: In the Persian Gulf, the United States Navy says it believes it has detected still more underwater mines in the area where Kuwaiti tankers are flying the American flag.... A Defense Department official describes it as a mine field deliberately set in the channel. That development and the continuing danger in the Persian Gulf prompted the Pentagon to expand the U.S. presence in that area. It includes a carry-over from World War II.

NBC's Fred Francis reports on the movement of the battleship Missouri earlier than planned to the Persian Gulf. Today, because more mines have been found in the gulf, the Missouri is regarded with almost the same awe by officials who must plan for retaliatory strikes against Iran. The captain says he can destroy targets which would be too dangerous for jets and smaller ships now in the gulf to attack. It is the ultimate in gunboat diplomacy, sent against an Iranian leadership that has not hesitated to challenge American might. And that is what worries many in Congress.

(Sen. Kassebaum: "I think what we need are amphibious ships that can handle the helicopter minesweepers. That's what's needed. And we don't need the provocative presence of a battleship like the Missouri.")

Pentagon officials say the amphibious ships which can handle the minesweeping helicopters probably will be sent. But the Missouri will be sent to demonstrate U.S. resolve.

Brokaw: Meanwhile that supertanker from Kuwait, the USS Bridgeton...is expected to leave Kuwait Thursday on its return journey through the gulf. (NBC-2)

Jennings: In Iran today the Ayatollah Khomeini said that the U.S. policy of escorting the Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf has failed. In fact, he said Moslems of the world should unite and crush American's teeth in its mouth. Shipping sources in the Gulf are now saying that the Coast Guard has given permission for the Bridgeton...to take on a partial load of oil despite the damage and sail out of the gulf perhaps sometime later this week....

ABC's Bob Zelnick: Pentagon sources say that a Navy team of minesweeping experts...has found seven mines in the general area of where the tanker Bridgeton was hit. Officials say privately they're certain the mines were dropped by Iran. Officials here are uncertain whether all new mines have been found, but they acknowledge that the laying by Iran of an entire mine field where none had been anticipated, represents an embarrassing failure of military intelligence....

(Sen. Byrd: "The time is coming for the U.S. to pull the plug on this operation and put an end to being jerked around by the government of Kuwait.")

...Officials hope the Sea Stallion will end such tragic comic sights as the stricken Bridgeton serving as a minesweeper to the warships supposedly escorting her.



Jennings: The Iraqis say they have shot down a Syrian plane which strayed into their airspace. The pilot, who was apparently in training, survived. (ABC-2)

Rather: Today the Pentagon reported an ominous discovery in the narrow Persian Gulf tanker channel: more mines lurking just beneath the surface. They pose not only a threat to shipping, but to the entire Reagan Administration gulf policy.

(CBS's David Martin reports the search for mines in the area where the Bridgeton was hit. Officials concede it was a major intelligence failure not to have anticipated that Iran might lay mines there. The presence of mines there has convinced the Pentagon that a major mining operation had taken place, aimed at the Bridgeton and her escorts.

(Robert Sims: "While one doesn't know who placed it, or when, logical assumption would tell you that it was placed there a short time before the ship came through.")

If it's so logical, members of Congress want to know why the Navy wasn't prepared.

(Rep. Torricelli: "I don't understand how the leadership of this government meets and discusses a military action in the Persian Gulf and the appropriate questions are not asked or comments are not made regarding the real threat of mines in the Persian Gulf.")

If Iran continues to lay mines, one Pentagon official says the U.S. will have to consider not just sweeping them, but mounting an operation that will somehow prevent Iran from laying any more mines.

Brokaw: As the U.S. and other western nations have discovered, the challenge of the Ayatollah and Iran in their neighborhood is to risk trouble everywhere you are.

CBS's Tom Fenton reports that American installations in Europe and around the world have been put on alert, guarding against Iranian retaliation for U.S. involvement in the gulf war, noting that Khomeini knows how to galvanize a network of support outside Iran. Today, he made an open appeal to Muslims around the world to, quote, crush America's teeth in its mouth. (CBS-3)

#### USS STARK

Brokaw: A third officer from the USS Stark was reprimanded today. The Navy said that Lt. Commander Raymond Gajan Jr. -- the Stark's second-in-command -- shared responsibility for the ship's failure to defend itself against an Iraqi jet attack. Unlike the two officers reprimanded yesterday, Gajan will not be forced to resign from the service. The Navy's handling of the case has raised a lot of questions, and they are the subject of John Chancellor's commentary. (NBC-8)

#### CHANCELLOR COMMENTARY/GULF

NBC's John Chancellor: Accountability is a word that has been tossed around in the Iran-contra hearings, but it's a word that has different

Chancellor continues:

shades of meaning these days. Take the captain and the weapons officer of the USS Stark.... What this does, of course, is to keep the story of what happened to the Stark out of the headlines. Courts-martial might have dragged on for weeks with embarrassing details in the news every day. It also insulates senior officers from accountability. The captain of the Stark says the investigation didn't go high enough and the facts remain: 37 men die, two officers resign, end of case. It's a replay of what happened after the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut.... What happened? The President himself assumed responsibility. He said the Marine officers had already suffered enough.... A fundamental principle of the American military is that officers are accountable for the safety of the troops. That principle is violated in the aftermath of the Beirut bombing and the attack on the Stark. Two defeats for the honor of the Marines and the Navy, two victories for politics and public relations.

(NBC-9)

BORK

Jennings: Today the White House has reaffirmed its commitment to having Robert Bork confirmed as a Supreme Court justice through the normal process in the Senate. A White House spokesman has, however, refused to rule out the possibility of a recess appointment -- a temporary appointment of Judge Bork to the high bench without Senate confirmation. We asked Tim O'Brien if that could be done.

ABC's Tim O'Brien: It can be done -- Robert Bork can become Justice Robert Bork without first being confirmed by the Senate. Article II of the Constitution says such recess appointments are good until the end of the Senate's next session. In Bork's case that wouldn't be until the end of next year. If not confirmed by then, Bork would be out. On the Senate floor today Republican leader Bob Dole accused Democrats of stalling the Bork nomination, making a recess appointment a possible option.

(Dole: "What we have seen so far is an unprecedented delay before committee hearings even start.")

The Democrats say they need time to get the nomination full consideration and charged the President was using his appointment power to boost his conservative social agenda on the high court.

(Sen. Biden: "What's unusual is the degree to which the President has engaged this debate in such a clearly political sense by picking someone to meet his objectives.")

The White House today said it planned to proceed through normal Senate channels but did not rule out a recess appointment, should that fail. A recess appointment would expire at about the time of the next general election. Bork's first year on the court would become a campaign issue for presidential candidates and one-third of the Senate -- making it one of the most politically charged Supreme Court nominations in U.S. history.

(ABC-8)

#### PRESIDENT/SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

Brokaw: President Reagan today made a big pitch for what many scientists see as the most exciting technological breakthrough of the late 20th century: superconductivity. It is a means of transmitting electricity very efficiently through superconductors and it could revolutionize transportation, medical technology and computer use as well as household power. Today at a conference, which was closed to foreigners, the President called for a joint effort of government, science and industry to get a head start on the rest of the world on superconductivity. (NBC-6)

#### FCC/PIRATE RADIO SHIP

Brokaw: A pirate radio station has been operating from a ship in international waters near New York city. Running it: several people who are upset at recent FCC regulations covering the content of radio programs.

NBC's Richard Valeriani reports on Radio New York International, which went off the air after the arrests of the station operators by the Coast Guard. It has been broadcasting a mix of rock and roll, and chatter about peace, love and understanding for six nights on unassigned AM and FM frequencies in the New York area.

(Richard Smith of the FCC: "What we have here, though, is a very deliberate attempt to test the authority of the commission.")

As short-lived as it was, it apparently made history. An FCC official said it was the first time a station without a license had ever broadcast into the U.S. from a ship offshore.

(NBC-5, CBS-10)

-End of B-Section-

## **EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS**

---

### **PERSIAN GULF**

On Flying The American Flag -- "One can too easily sense that the U.S. is doing something it shouldn't in reflagging Kuwaiti oil tankers and then escorting them with warships through the Persian Gulf. This is the feeling that remains after all the arguments for and against this critical foreign policy decision are heard and considered.... The risk of reflagging even if there is no military engagement in the gulf, is far out of proportion to what the U.S. can possibly gain."

(Arkansas Gazette, 7/24)

Surprised Again In The Gulf -- "After the tanker Bridgeton was damaged by a mine in the Persian Gulf last week, the Navy's vulnerable escort ships lined up behind it in single file, since the tanker was better able to withstand further mines. The inaugural voyage of Kuwaiti tankers bearing American flags thus ended in bizarre inversion, with the tanker protecting the warships meant to defend it. To avoid further inglorious setbacks, the Navy needs now to suspend convoys until it gets a handle on the mining threat."

(New York Times, 7/28)

The ABCs Of The Gulf, Tankers, And Flags -- "The U.S. has in this case elected to play the policeman role in the gulf. In theory, it is doing it to uphold the rights of neutral shipping. In fact, it is done to bolster Iraq, which is almost exhausted from its losses in the war, now in its seventh year. Policemen sometimes get hurt. So far the damage is one tanker holed by one mine. Probably there will be more damage to the policeman or to the tankers he is trying to protect. It won't be a free ride. But the alternative was to leave the policing job to others. The Russians might well have enjoyed the opportunity to take over. If they did not, then neutral shipping would be at the mercy of Iran. There are no easy alternatives for Washington."

(Christian Science Monitor, 7/28)

A Poor Beginning In The Persian Gulf -- "The U.S. Navy has gotten off to a bad start on its new mission in the Persian Gulf. The job is to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers sailing under U.S. flags. The first tanker, the Bridgeton, struck a mine. It survived the blast. But as far as protection goes, the Navy is batting 0 to 1.... Assigning minesweepers to mine-strewn waters seems a pretty obvious step. The U.S. has a big stake in the Persian Gulf. Weinberger had better not bungle the job again."

(New York Daily News, 7/28)

The Message: Shape Up, Don't Ship Out, In Gulf -- "Is it really necessary for the U.S. military performance in the Persian Gulf to live up to everyone's worst expectations? ...The proper response to the mine episode is not a congressional stampede to set gulf withdrawal deadlines. Nor is it a premature U.S. military sortie. But the Administration had better talk tough, soon, to Pentagon brass and to the gulf Arab states on better minesweeping and other precautionary measures. The gulf is not the place for amateur hour. If America aims to show that it can protect Western interests there, the Pentagon needs to do better."

(Philadelphia Inquirer, 7/28)

PERSIAN GULF (continued)

A Real Mine Field -- "Washington might have insisted on greater cooperation by Saudis and Kuwaitis as a condition of reflagging -- and it ought to insist on that now. Or Washington might have worked out from the start whatever U.S. minesweeping arrangements Secretary Weinberger assures us is being worked out now. The damage done by the mine to the Bridgeton appears to be reparable. Time will measure the damage it could do to Americans' faith in the U.S. military, and to the respect of foreigners, friend and foe, for it." (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 7/28)

America's Coin Toss In The Gulf -- "America has to carry through what it started, because the stakes are now so huge. Is also has to remember what it is attempting to achieve. It is not fighting the Iraqis' war for them. It is protecting Kuwait, and covering Iraq's flank, and hoping to show other Arabs that they can rely on America." (Economist, 7/28)

Do Kuwaitis Really Know What This Means? -- "I am unconvinced by the rationale that foreign protection is needed to maintain the freedom of international navigation in the gulf. If this were so, foreign powers should have offered their flags five years and several hundred maritime attacks ago. If we wish to keep the sea lanes open -- certainly an admirable and reasonable goal -- we would have to reflag all ships in the gulf, not only Kuwait's." (Rami G. Khouri, Kansas City Star, 7/20)

Two Reasons For Hope In Persian Gulf -- "Obviously, if the United Nations had not been reduced to the status of a squabbling, ineffectual club, American action would not be needed. We hope that Washington and Moscow can continue to work together, focusing only on the gulf situation and ignoring their other, long-standing differences. It would be beneficial for all. It could help rescue the United Nations from its reputation as a tool or a fool, and it might relieve the U.S. of the burden of going it alone in a cause that is shared by almost all." (Chicago Sun-Times, 7/22)

Sailing Into Confrontation -- "Seven years and hundreds of thousands of casualties too late, the United Nations Security Council has demanded that Iran and Iraq observe a cease-fire in their senseless war, return to internationally recognized borders and promptly exchange prisoners of war.... The American-flagged tankers face threats from mines, missiles, aircraft and fast gunboats. U.S. personnel and property could be attacked by Iranian-inspired terrorists. Reagan, who lost his credibility in the region by withdrawing from Lebanon and selling arms to Iran, would have to retaliate -- even if it were not in the U.S. interest to do so. That is a rotten position to be in." (Rocky Mountain News, 7/23)

The Gulf War: Sound Diplomacy, Risky Strategy -- "In the Persian Gulf and at the United Nations, the U.S. is now doing what many Arabs have long advocated. The question is whether the mixture of military impetuosity and diplomatic finesse will defuse the Iran-Iraq war. They can. We hope they will. But experience (taught) that Middle East events are likely to play out in ways much different than expected.... For the moment, a further U.S. initiative would help: Persuade Iraq to withhold attacks on Iranian shipping. If Iraq agrees, Iran will have less reason to strike back. That probably would not end the war, but it would surely help." (Minneapolis Star and Tribune, 7/22)

## **FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION**

### **PERSIAN GULF**

"The United States clearly fears that both its peace initiative and its escort mission could end in chaos after the damage suffered by the reflagged supertanker Bridgeton. Despite American assurance that the tanker escort will continue, little convincing evidence has been furnished of how Washington expects to master the problem of mines."

(Alex Brummer, Guardian, Britain)

"Armed American intervention in the area makes an end to the war less likely.... It worsens the risk that the greatest free nation in the world will be brought low. It should be avoided." (Independent, Britain)

"The humiliation suffered by the United States because of the Bridgeton incident will not be easily canceled.... The tug-of-war with Tehran does not prevent the United States from simultaneously continuing its efforts toward a negotiated solution of the crisis."

(Ennio Caretto, La Stampa, Italy)

"Such a development (sending U.S. minesweeping helicopters to the Persian Gulf) is raising considerable concern among friendly Arab countries, which risk becoming more actively involved in the Gulf conflict."

(La Repubblica, Italy)

"Weinberger is undoubtedly right in saying that the United States is able to undertake retaliatory actions, should Iran be behind this attack on the U.S. escort program. But are the American people willing to become involved in a war with the Ayatollah?"

(Arbeiderbladet, Norway)

"If France does send an aircraft carrier to the Gulf, it will be giving the Iranians a particularly tempting target.... Washington and Paris would be wise to proceed with extreme caution."

(Montreal Gazette, Canada)

"A simple mine has exposed major vulnerability in the super-sophisticated U.S. Navy and for a time left warships in the Gulf under the protection of a supertanker they were supposed to be escorting."

(Gulf Times, Qatar)

"The U.S. Navy cannot guarantee the security of the ships it is supposed to protect, and that discredits the American naval forces as well as the policy makers who sent them there."

(L'Opinion, Morocco)

"The United States should not take the responsibility in the security of the Persian Gulf without consulting other countries using the Gulf. We hope the showing of American flags by Kuwaiti tankers will not have a more serious effect."

(Merdeka, Indonesia)

"The wisdom of Reagan's decision to reflag Kuwaiti merchant ships, and provide them with a naval escort through the Persian Gulf, was always questionable."

(Sydney Morning Herald, Australia)





# News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1987 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Arms Control Talks Back On Track -- The roller-coaster Geneva arms negotiations again appear back on track, with a week of moves and countermoves fueling White House hopes of progress leading to an agreement and another superpower summit.

(Washington Post, Reuter, UPI)

### IRAN-NICARAGUA

Meese Was Misled By NSC Officials, Remarks Indicate -- Attorney General Meese testified that he had not asked probing questions last November during his inquiry into the Iran-contra affair because he had no reason to disbelieve other top officials.

(Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, Newhouse, Scripps Howard, UPI)

### NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Says 'Sky's The Limit' On Superconductivity Technology -- President Reagan has challenged the nation's scientists and researchers to develop new commercial products from the advancing technology called superconductivity. (Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Scripps Howard)

### HALF-PRICE MEALS AT THE DUTCH DINER...

TAMPICO, ILL. -- Motorists caught speeding in Ronald Reagan's birthplace can find some consolation -- their citations will buy a half-price meal at the Dutch Diner. But the owner of the diner is having second thoughts about his promotional campaign, saying he lost up to \$15,000 in business in less than a year because the town's part-time police officer, Bruce Anderson, is giving out too many speeding tickets.... And Tampico residents were so outraged by automobile safety checks conducted by Anderson that they showed up at the next City Council meeting to complain. And Anderson heard their complaints, because he is on the City Council, too.

(UPI, 7/28)

### NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

**ARMS CONTROL** -- The Administration announced that Secretary Shultz will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to work out details of an arms control agreement.

**IRAN-CONTRA** -- Attorney General Meese defended himself from any wrongdoing in the Iran-contra affair.

**PERSIAN GULF** -- U.S. Navy believes it has detected still more underwater mines in the area where Kuwaiti tankers are flying the American flag.

*This Summary is prepared Monday through Friday by the White House News Summary Staff.  
For complete stories or information, please call 456-2950.*

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **REAGAN OPTIMISTIC ON MISSILE TREATY White House Confirms Shultz Will Meet With Shevardnadze**

President Reagan struck an upbeat tone about a prospective treaty on medium- and short-range nuclear missiles, praising the Soviets for accepting recent U.S. arms proposals and confirming that the U.S. is offering concessions in response.

"There is still much to do in Geneva, but I'm heartened that the climate is now receptive to an historic proposal of this type," Reagan told a government superconductor conference here.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, meanwhile, confirmed State Department reports that Secretary Shultz will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss arms control and other issues when he comes to this country for the U.N. General Assembly meeting in mid-September.

(Jeffrey Smith, Washington Post, A19)

### **Shultz, Shevardnadze Meeting Seen Boosting Hopes**

The White House has raised hopes that a September meeting between Secretary Shultz and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, will bring a third superpower summit.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater disclosed plans for the meeting between Shultz and the Soviet Foreign Minister, although no official announcement has yet been made.

(Gene Gibbons, Reuter)

### **Arms Control Talks Back On Track**

The roller-coaster Geneva arms negotiations again appear back on track, with a week of moves and countermoves fueling White House hopes of progress leading to an agreement and another superpower summit.

While problems remain -- notably the status of 72 Pershing 1A missiles in West Germany -- Reagan wasted no time challenging Moscow for the hearts and minds of Western Europe by attributing the potential for success to U.S. initiatives.

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

### **U.S. Concessions Brighten Prospects For A Superpower Pact**

Prospects for a superpower pact banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles have brightened with U.S. concessions that President Reagan says could lead to a "Historic" U.S.-Soviet arms pact.

Career diplomat Maynard Glitman, who heads the U.S. team dealing with INF weapons, said Washington was presenting "a new proposal which will recommit ourselves to going forward with a double 'global zero' approach to the INF issue."

Glitman rejected any compromise on 72 Pershing-1A rockets owned by West Germany but controlled by the Americans. He said these were part of a "third party" system and did not belong to the bilateral Geneva talks.

(Claude Fillet, Reuter)

Soviet Officials Firm On Arms Pact; In Rare Interview, Two Rule Out Compromise On Pershing IAs

Senior Soviet arms control officials today ruled out any compromise effort to break a deadlock at the Geneva negotiations by insisting that the U.S. destroy 72 Pershing IA nuclear warheads stationed in West Germany as part of a superpower accord to eliminate theater nuclear weapons.

In an unusual joint interview, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh and Col. Gen. Nikolai Chervov took an unrelenting line in rejecting any possibility that an American pledge not to modernize the aging warheads could clear the way for a "global double-zero" agreement and a U.S.-Soviet summit in Washington later this year.

(Jim Hoagland & Gary Lee, Washington Post, A1)

SOVIET ENVOY TO VISIT IRAN, IRAQ

MOSCOW -- Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov is planning another round of visits to Tehran and Baghdad shortly, maintaining the Soviet Union's high-profile diplomatic presence in Iran and Iraq, the two warring Persian Gulf states.

Vorontsov's upcoming tour, announced today by the Soviet Foreign Ministry, shows an acceleration in the developing contacts between Iran and the Soviet Union.

(Celestine Bohlen, Washington Post, A19)

U.S. SEEKS COMBINED ANTI-MINE PLAN FOR GULF CONVOYS

The U.S. is talking to allies about a combined anti-mine operation to protect U.S.-escorted convoys through the gulf, U.S. officials say.

Embarrassed by the damage to the supertanker Bridgeton by a mine last week on the first American escort of re-registered Kuwaiti ships, Washington wants French, British and possibly West German minesweepers to protect the convoys which eventually could number five or six a month, they said.

(Michael Batty, Reuter)

Mine Field Near Where Ship Was Hit; Concerns Rise On Protecting Gulf Convoys

Mine-sweeping teams have discovered a mine field in the Persian Gulf near where a reflagged Kuwaiti supertanker escorted by U.S. Navy warships hit a mine last Thursday, increasing concern over the lack of long-term plans for protecting convoys through the treacherous channels, Pentagon officials said.

U.S. explosives-disposal teams have been dispatched to help clear the mines from waters off Farsi Island about 120 miles southeast of Kuwait, officials said. Pentagon officials said Saudi, Kuwaiti and U.S. mine-sweeping teams think that they have identified seven mines in the area but are uncertain how many more may have been laid in the channel.

Pentagon officials said the discovery of the mine field raises new concerns about U.S. warships and the reflagged tankers in the gulf, prompting military and diplomatic leaders to intensify efforts to protect future escorted convoys through the region.

(Molly Moore & Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

-more-

### Navy Team Ordered To Search For More Mines

A Navy team is under orders to search for more underwater explosives in a Persian Gulf channel where a full minefield was discovered after the supertanker Bridgeton struck one last week, Pentagon officials say.

The search in an area 120 miles southeast of Kuwait will be carried out from helicopters based on U.S. warships in the gulf, with personnel drawn from an 18-man Navy mine warfare team staying in Kuwait, according to the officials. (Richard Gross, UPI)

### Saudis Find More Mines, U.S. Lacks OK To Move In Anti-Mine Ships

Saudi Arabia says more mines have been found in a Persian Gulf channel where a reflagged Kuwaiti tanker hit one mine last week, but the U.S. still lacks permission from its allies in the area to base anti-mine equipment there.

Pentagon officials ordered conflicting accounts of how the Navy plans to deal with the new mines. One source said U.S. Navy demolition experts might try to explode them, while other sources said the Saudis might try to do the job or U.S. allies such as Britain or the Netherlands could be asked for help. (Tim Ahern, AP)

### Official Says Kuwait Wants International Mine-Sweepers

Kuwait's U.S. ambassador said early today his country was seeking an international mine-sweeping operation in the gulf, and denied it had rejected any U.S. request to base mine-sweeping helicopters there.

"Our effort is international and we expect also to get an international responsibility involved in this whole process of mine-sweeping in the gulf," Ambassador Saud Nasir Al-Sabah said on ABC's "Nightline." (Reuter)

### Iraq May Help Protect U.S. Escort Vessels

Iraq may strike Iranian facilities in the Persian Gulf that threaten U.S. naval vessels protecting the recently reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers, according to diplomatic sources.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz may have conveyed a willingness to cooperate against such targets in his meeting here this week with Secretary Shultz.

Iraq, the sources said, is willing to carry out such strikes to stop Iran from blackmailing the fragile, oil-rich, conservative gulf states, the sources said. (James Dorsey, Washington Times, A6)

### Renewed Congressional Criticism Of Gulf Policy

Angry lawmakers have demanded an end to U.S. protection of Kuwait's oil tankers in the Persian Gulf because the Arab nation has resisted serving as a base for American minesweeping operations in the area.

"The time is coming for the United States to pull the plug on this operation and put an end to being jerked around by the government of Kuwait," [Senate Democratic leader Robert] Byrd said, pointing to the apparent Kuwait refusal to base American mine-sweeper helicopters despite the U.S. Navy escorts being provided for the oil tankers.

(Eliot Brenner, UPI)

### Khomeini Says U.S. Suffered Defeat In Persian Gulf

Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini said that the U.S. suffered a defeat in the Persian Gulf and he hinted Iran would provoke a worldwide oil crisis if U.S. forces intervene in the area, Tehran radio said.

Khomeini, in an address to Moslem scholars in Tehran, warned that Iran so far has "used only a small part of its facilities" in the gulf while the U.S. already has suffered a "defeat" in escorting tankers. (AP)

### Iran's Threats Alarm Arab Gulf Sheikdoms

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates -- Leaders of the Arab sheikdoms that line the southern Persian Gulf have expressed alarm over Iran's newest threat: to hit economic targets, possibly including offshore oil installations, in the event of an escalation in the gulf war.

Some United Arab Emirates oil platforms near the mouth of the gulf are being fitted with Swedish laser-guided anti-aircraft missiles, according to Western sources, raising fears in their large foreign work force that the heavily defended oil rigs are becoming military targets that might invite attack. (Patrick Tyler, Washington Post, A1)

### Iraq Calls For Sanctions Against Iran

Iraq called on France and other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran for refusing to heed U.N. calls for a cease-fire in the nearly 7-year-old gulf war.

Tariq Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, said he made the appeal during a meeting with French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. Aziz, who said he spent 45 minutes with Chirac, stopped in Paris after similar consultations in the U.S. with Secretary Shultz and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. (Roman Rollnick, UPI)

### PRESIDENT AND TOP AIDES TOIL OVER EMBASSY SECURITY WOES

President Reagan met with his top national security aides to discuss embassy security problems, but was unable to reach any conclusions on what to do about the new bug-riddled U.S. Embassy chancery in Moscow, U.S. government officials said.

The officials, who declined to be named, said Reagan is expected to decide within two weeks what steps to take in repairing the new building. (Bill Gertz, Washington Times, A4)

### U.S. ENVOY SAYS TURKISH AID HAMPERED BY CONGRESS

Visiting U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost told reporters the Reagan Administration is dedicated to providing adequate military aid to Turkey but is being hampered by the U.S. Congress.

Armacost denied the U.S. was applying pressure on Turkey to end its military presence on Cyprus. He also told reporters he brought no new proposals on resolving the Cyprus dispute. (David Bamford, UPI)



## **IRAN — NICARAGUA**

---

### **MEESE DEFENDS HIS SHORT IRAN PROBE**

**Conflicting Accounts Did Not Raise Suspicions, Hill Panels Told**

Attorney General Meese defended his four-day effort to seek the facts of the Iran-contra affair last November, telling congressional questioners that the conflicting accounts he received from other top Reagan Administration officials did not cause him to suspect that "more was involved than confusion."

Meese...reiterated the basic story he has told for the last eight months, frequently relying on notes of key meetings to describe how he and his deputies uncovered evidence that profits from U.S. arms sales to Iran had been diverted to aid the Nicaraguan contras.

No notes exist, however, for one crucial conversation that Meese recounted in detail: the brief meeting last Nov. 24 when Meese informed John Poindexter of the discovery of a NSC staff draft memo that referred to the diversion.

Meese said: "I asked him whether he knew about this...and I believe his exact words or close to his exact words were: 'Ollie has given me enough hints about this so that I generally knew, but I did nothing to follow up or stop it.'"

(Dan Morgan & Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

### **Meese Defends His Iran Inquiry; Didn't Immediately View Affair As A Criminal Case, He Testifies**

Attorney General Meese told Congress' Iran-contra committees that he did not immediately recognize the affair as a criminal case, even after he was told that profits from the Iran arms sales were diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels without President Reagan's knowledge.

At the same time, the attorney general disclosed that the late CIA Director Casey expressed surprise when told last November about the diversion of funds. Meese said he still believes that Casey was unaware of the diversion, even though Oliver North has testified that Casey was fully informed about it. (Sara Fritz & Karen Tumulty, Los Angeles Times, A1)

### **Meese's Testimony**

The nation's top law enforcement officer, Attorney General Meese, failed to recall key events and conversations in any great detail, leaving some congressmen with the impression he wasn't interested in getting to the bottom of the Iran-contra scandal.

Like a well-trained prize fighter, the long-time Reagan loyalist ducked and dodged important questions and stuck to his story that he was merely conducting a "fact-finding inquiry" for the President on the weekend of Nov. 21-23.

Meese claimed he had no reason to suspect any criminal wrongdoing until Nov. 24, when his aides discovered a memo in Oliver North's files alluding to the diversion of Iran arms profits to the Nicaraguan contras. A day later he went on national television to tell the American people of his discovery.

"I simply tried to keep things legal and accurate," Meese said.

(Kathryn Kahler, Newhouse)



### Meese Kept Justice Criminal Division, FBI Out Of Iran-Contra Probe

Attorney General Meese acknowledged that he had prevented the head of the Justice Department's criminal division from joining an Iranian arms sales probe last November even after uncovering evidence of criminal activities.

Meese defended his decision to delay both the FBI and the Justice Department criminal probes of the Iranian arms deals on the grounds he really didn't develop evidence of criminal activities until Nov. 25 -- the day John Poindexter resigned and Oliver North was fired.

But Rep. Peter Rodino, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, read Meese a portion of a sworn deposition that William Weld, assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division, gave the Iran-Contra panels last week.

According to Rodino, Weld said he had asked Justice Department officials at a meeting last Nov. 21 to include representatives of his criminal division in the department's probe of the Iranian arms deals, then being headed by Meese's assistant William Bradford Reynolds and a team of Reagan appointees who lacked any criminal investigative experience.

(Lance Gay & Walter Friedenberg, Scripps Howard)

### Meese Was Misled By NSC Officials, Remarks Indicate

Attorney General Meese testified that he had not asked probing questions last November during his three-day preliminary inquiry into the Iran-contra affair because he had no reason to disbelieve other top officials.

The attorney general's testimony indicated that the top NSC officials, John Poindexter and Oliver North, and CIA Director Casey, all had misled him on key aspects of the case. But Meese steadfastly avoided any judgment that they had been untruthful.

(David Rosenbaum, New York Times, A1)

### Meese Defends Probe, Says He Saw Nothing 'Obviously Criminal'

Attorney General Meese defended the casual nature of his probe of the Iran-contra scandal, saying he saw nothing "obviously criminal" about the affair last November -- even when he learned details of the scheme to send arms profits to the Nicaraguan rebels.

[Meese] also acknowledged he gave advance notice of his probe to John Poindexter, which gave time to the national security adviser and Oliver North to destroy critical documents.

(Dana Walker & Anne Walker, UPI)

### Hours Of Preparation Preceded Testimony; Meese Was Grilled By Staff

The testimony given by Attorney General Meese to the Iran-contra committees was preceded by long hours of preparation during the last two weeks, according to Justice Department officials.

Meese has been closeted with a group of close advisers, led by Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, who have peppered the attorney general with questions about his knowledge of arms shipments to Iran and his investigation last November after the sales came to light....

(Ruth Marcus, Washington Post, A9)

Affable Witness Talks Of 'Confusion'

To the attorney general of the U.S., the Iran-contra affair was a case of confusion, and during his first day on the witness stand Edwin Meese III left as many questions unanswered as answered. His testimony was a curious study in incuriosity.

Meese was affable throughout. And the story he told was marked by singular lack of passion -- and curiosity. As he described it, his inquiry for President Reagan into the origins of the Iran arms sales was casual. He seems to have experienced no sense of alarm, anger or betrayal as he learned that some of the President's closest advisers were deeply involved in what he himself belatedly recognized to be a possible criminal matter.

(News Analysis, Haynes Johnson, Washington Post, A1)

SEN. LEAHY QUIT PANEL AFTER LEAK  
Iran-Contra Report Disclosed Ban By Committee

Sen. Patrick Leahy, former vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, resigned from the panel last January after acknowledging he had shown a reporter a draft report on the Iran-contra investigation that the committee had voted not to release to the public.

Responding to reports that Leahy resigned after leaking the document to NBC reporter John Dancy, the committee issued a statement yesterday saying that "the member of the committee responsible for the disclosure" offered his resignation and it was accepted by Committee Chairmen David Boren and Vice Chairmen William Cohen.

The committee did not identify Leahy as the member in question, but Leahy subsequently issued a statement saying he had "carelessly" allowed a reporter to examine the report to verify his contention that it was withheld because of "major gaps," not as an effort to embarrass President Reagan. He had not intended to disclose details of the report, Leahy said.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A1)

Leahy Regrets Leak, Colleague Sees Committee Resignation As Warning

While Sen. Patrick Leahy says he regrets leaking a Senate Intelligence Committee draft staff report, the panel's vice chairmen says Leahy's resignation from the committee should be a warning against similar disclosures.

Committee Vice Chairman William Cohen, asked whether the incident might serve as a deterrent against future unauthorized leaks, said, "yes."

(Larry Margasak, AP)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Excerpts Of Attorney General Meese," appears in The Washington Post, A8.

###

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **COMMERCIALIZING SUPERCONDUCTORS**

Hailing a "new arena for the spirit of enterprise," President Reagan announced an 11-point program to help the U.S. beat its foreign competitors to the punch in commercializing new superconductor technologies.

His "Superconductivity Initiative" calls for an increase in research money for the Defense Department, "quick start" grants for commercial applications, a relaxation of antitrust laws to permit joint production ventures, stricter patent laws and the withholding from the release under the Freedom of Information Act of "commercially valuable" scientific information developed in government laboratories.

(Kathy Sawyer, Washington Post, A3)

#### **Superconductivity Gets Top Priority**

President Reagan, declaring that the "sky is the only limit" on futuristic applications of the new superconducting materials discovered in recent months, outlined a series of steps designed to accelerate their commercial development ahead of the nation's foreign competitors.

"Science tells us that the breakthroughs in superconductivity bring us to the threshold of a new age," the President said in a half-hour appearance before an unusual meeting of 1,200 scientists, government officials and senior business executives sponsored by the White House and the Department of Energy.

Many in the audience appeared to share Reagan's assessment of the dawning of a new electronic revolution comparable to those spawned early in this century by the vacuum tube and, more recently, by the transistor and its progeny, the computer chip.

(Robert Gillette, Los Angeles Times)

#### **Reagan Says 'Sky's The Limit' On Superconductivity Technology**

President Reagan has challenged the nation's scientists and researchers to develop scores of new commercial products from the rapidly advancing technology called superconductivity.

There are indicators, the President said, that superconductivity will enable Americans to build high-speed trains that will float in air above their tracks, devise tiny but powerful super computers and construct cheap, new medical diagnostic devices. (Don Kirkman, Scripps Howard)

### **STOPGAP DEBT-LIMIT MEASURE ADVANCES**

The House, acting to avert a government financial crisis that would strike by the end of the week, began moving stopgap legislation to extend the nation's authority to borrow money through Aug. 6.

The short-term extension of the \$2.3 trillion debt ceiling, expected to pass the House and Senate today, would give Senate Republican and Democratic negotiators additional time to perfect a compromise to reinvigorate the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-reduction law.

(Tom Kenworthy, Washington Post, A4)  
-more-

### SENATE EXPECTED TO CONFIRM GREENSPAN, RUDER

President Reagan's appointment to two key posts in the country's financial and securities markets seem secure heading to the full Senate after gaining the approval of the Senate Banking Committee.

The full Senate was expected by the end of next week to approve the nominations of Alan Greenspan as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and David Ruder as head of the SEC. (Hugh Vickery, UPI)

### BUSH OUTLINES PROGRAM TO EASE TUITION BURDEN Special Bonds' Interest Would Be Tax-Free

INDIANAPOLIS -- Vice President Bush, taking a rare step toward defining a distinct position for himself on a sensitive issue, education, today called for the creation of college savings bonds and the expansion of student loan programs to help families pay escalating college costs.

"The college savings bond would work just as the U.S. Savings Bonds do now, except their income would be tax-free if applied to college tuition," the Vice President said in a speech to the National Conference of State Legislators. (Bill Peterson, Washington Post, A16)

### GOP GOVERNORS SAY BUSH LEADS FOR NOMINATION

TRAVERSE CITY, Mi. -- The Republican presidential race, in the eyes of GOP governors, has been largely a two-man contest, with Vice President Bush well out front of Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole.

Interviews with most of the 24 Republicans at the National Governors Association meeting, which ended here today, produced repeated comments that the Iran-contra hearings have not turned into a serious threat to Bush's candidacy and that his methodical personal campaigning and organization work have made him the candidate to beat.

(David Broder, Washington Post, A1)

### DECONCINI CAUTIONS DEMOCRATS ON BORK

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, a key swing vote on the Senate Judiciary Committee, has urged his fellow Senate Democrats by letter not to follow liberal party leaders in their ideological assault on Supreme Court nominee Judge Robert Bork.

"I am truly hopeful that the majority of Democrats will withhold judgment until we can objectively examine Judge Bork's legal background, character, judicial philosophy, judicial temperament and personal attributes and shortcomings," the Arizona moderate wrote to the Senate's 53 other Democrats. (George Archibald & Gene Grabowski, Washington Times, A2)

Byrd Warns Against A Partisan Battle Over Confirmation Of Bork

The Senate majority leader, Robert Byrd, cautioned today that the battle over the confirmation of Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court should not become "a litmus test of party affiliation and loyalty."

The West Virginia Democrat, while nominally addressing his Republican counterpart on the Senate floor, also delivered a clear message of disapproval to his fellow Democrats who have announced their opposition to the nomination in advance of the confirmation hearings.

Further, Byrd, who sits on the Judiciary Committee, said the committee should not try to kill the nomination.

(Linda Greenhouse, New York Times, A12)

EMISSION RULES MUST BE HEALTH-BASED

The EPA can only use health factors to determine safe emissions levels of toxic pollutants and cannot base decisions on how much it will cost an industry to meet them, as it does now, the U.S. Court of Appeals here ruled.

The opinion represents a surprising reversal by Circuit Judge Robert Bork, whom President Reagan has nominated for the Supreme Court.

(Nancy Lewis, Washington Post, A1)

-End of A-Section-

## **NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY**

---

(Tuesday Evening, July 28, 1987)

### **ARMS CONTROL**

NBC's Tom Brokaw: In Washington and in Geneva today there were promising steps toward a third summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. In Washington, the Administration announced that Secretary of State George Shultz will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to work out details of a deal involving short-range and intermediate nuclear missiles -- the so-called double zero option that would force the Soviets and the Americans to remove these weapons from their arsenals around the world.

NBC's Chris Wallace: U.S. officials say Shultz and Shevardnadze will meet the week of Sept. 14 in what they see as the next big step to an arms deal and a superpower summit. Today in Geneva an American negotiator submitted the latest U.S. offer aimed at narrowing differences. As an agreement became more likely, the White House emphasized the Soviets are coming around to U.S. positions.

(President Reagan: "There's still much to do in Geneva, but I'm heartened that the climate is now receptive to an historic proposal of this type. The United States is proud to be in a position to make this proposal.")

(TV coverage: President speaking at superconductivity conference.)

The U.S. formally agreed with the Soviets today on a double-zero option -- elimination of all medium and short-range missiles in Europe and Asia. The U.S. also agreed to destroy those missiles, barring any transfer to NATO allies. But there was still one big stumbling block: Soviet insistence the U.S. also remove nuclear warheads from 72 missiles controlled by West Germany. On a broadcast to western Europe, the chief negotiator said the German missiles are not on the table, and accused the Soviets of trying to divide the western alliance.

(Max Kampelman: "We have no intention of asking the Federal Republic to do that. That's the furthest thought from our mind.")

Former Secretary of State Kissinger sees this as one more case of the Soviets winning the public relations battle, trying to give the U.S. to give more, by making it appear the Americans are holding up an agreement.

But for all the diplomatic games, U.S. officials are confident neither side will allow the German missiles to break up a deal. And some congressional leaders are already talking about ratification of a medium-range missile treaty in the Senate.

(Sen. Cranston: "Unless there is some bug in it, I foresee very, very strong support on the Democratic side and I presume, of course, there will be a lot of support on the Republican side.")

With agreement on a Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting in September, U.S. officials believe the Soviets are now firmly committed to working out an arms deal. They have already begun to plan here (at the White House) for a Reagan-Gorbachev summit in the U.S. Tentative target date: this November.

(NBC-Lead)

ABC's Jennings: In Washington today there has been a good deal of public optimism about an arms control agreement with the Soviets this year and there is at least a suggestion that the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan will sign an agreement before the year is out.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: President Reagan and other U.S. officials, projecting new confidence that arms control negotiations are now in the home stretch, today went about raising public expectations for a deal later this year.

(The President: "There is still much to do in Geneva, but I'm heartened that the climate is now receptive to an historic proposal of this type.")

(TV coverage: The President walking onto the stage to the sound of applause, then speaking from the podium.)

The latest version of Mr. Reagan's historic proposal was presented today in Geneva when Soviet negotiators came to the U.S. mission. It reaffirmed the double zero plan to eliminate all intermediate-range missiles worldwide -- a plan which the Soviets have now said they would accept. And it contained new ways to settle other issues -- ways Ambassador Maynard Glitman would not spell out, but which he was not embarrassed to label "concessions."

(Ambassador Glitman: "The U.S. has from the beginning done its share to help bring these talks closer together and we will not be found wanting.")

But one concession the U.S. still says it will not make to the Soviets is to scrap the 72 Pershing missiles owned by the Germans. Although the U.S. controls the warheads, Washington says it will never negotiate for third-country weapons. Despite this, the two sides are so close together over-all that a White House spokesman today confirmed that the long anticipated meeting between Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will now take place in mid-September.... And that's the meeting that could set the date for a treaty-signing summit in Washington. All of this suggests "breakthrough" to the chief U.S. arms negotiator.... Raising expectations is always a dangerous thing to do when the Soviets are involved, as U.S. officials learned anew only last October when they did it unwisely midway through the Iceland summit. But this time they believe things are different -- the betting is on a treaty-signing summit in November.

ABC's Steve Sheperd reports on the Pershing missiles in Germany. The most likely way out appears to be a proposal to leave the Pershings in place but with a promise not to modernize them. (ABC-2)

CBS's Bill Plante: The White House, looking toward an arms control agreement to help President Reagan move beyond the Iran-contra scandal, announced today that Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will meet in mid-September to pave the way for a superpower summit and a weapons deal.

(TV coverage: Film footage of the President and Gorbachev in Iceland.)

Mr. Reagan was upbeat about the possibility.

Plante continues:

(The President: "I'm always optimistic about that.")

U.S. negotiators in Geneva today presented a formal response to the latest Soviet arms control offer. It agrees to eliminate U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear missiles worldwide and also proposes a guarantee that all missiles and launchers covered by the treaty would be destroyed, not converted to other types of weapons.

(The President: "Our goal as you can see is not arms control, but arms reduction. And despite the skepticism when we first announced these plans, we are moving in this direction.")

There's one remaining problem -- the Soviets recently began to insist that 72 older Pershing missiles, owned by Germany but carrying U.S. nuclear warheads, be included. The U.S. says they belong to the Germans, and they can't reach Soviet territory in any case.

(Max Kampelman: "Why (aren't the Soviets asked), 'Are you prepared to risk an INF failure simply by coming up with a brand-new issue at the last moment, which has only a political objective for you and has no military consequences for you at all?'" )

...If there is an agreement it will be because it benefits both sides. Mr. Reagan, of course, will see it as a logical result of his defense buildup and his get-tough policy on the Soviets. That may be, but given the President's other problems right now, the timing could hardly be better. (CBS-Lead)

#### IRAN-CONTRA HEARINGS/MEESE

Brokaw: Attorney General Edwin Meese today defended himself and his old friend Ronald Reagan from any wrongdoing in the Iran-contra affair, accused of running a sloppy, unaggressive investigation, perhaps on purpose. The Attorney General did concede the deception of others in the Administration, but he insisted on his own innocence. Committee members were skeptical, but Meese was unyielding.

NBC's John Dancy: In the Iran-contra drama, Attorney General Meese portrayed himself playing the role of the perennial innocent, uncovering layers of the diversion -- struggling to understand -- surprising himself and surprising others.

(Meese: "And the President was quite surprised and indicated he had not known anything of this and I believe Don Regan said at that time -- or at least indicated that he was surprised.")

Oliver North was surprised, too, in a different way, to learn in a Nov. 23rd interview that Meese had discovered a memo that spelled out the scheme to divert profits from the Iran arms sale.

(Meese: "I would describe him as being shocked that we had the memorandum, and that we were raising this issue with him.")

Meese's investigation has come under fire by some committee members as amateurish, often handling sticky questions by not asking them. For example: Meese ignored the role of former CIA Director William Casey, a close friend.

(Meese: "...My knowledge of Bill Casey from 1980 to 1987 when he passed away, I always knew Bill Casey to be an honorable man. And I have no information personally that anything he told me was other than the truth.")

Meese described his interview with North about the diversion scheme.



Dancy continues:

(Meese: "But I said, 'Was this ever discussed with the President?' And he said not as far as he knew -- not with North.")

John Nields, committee counsel: "Did he tell you whether Director Casey knew?"

Meese: "No, he said again -- there were only three who knew. I didn't ask him specifically about Casey or anybody else. I said, 'Who knew?' And he said there were only three who could know in the United States, and that was McFarlane, Poindexter and North."

Nields: "Let me turn the question around. Did he tell you Director Casey knew?"

Meese: "Absolutely not.")

Meese also did not follow up on the diversion memo's clear indication that profits from the Iran-arms sale would flow through a U.S. corporation account -- an account testimony has shown was controlled by retired Gen. Richard Secord and arms dealer Albert Hakim.

(Nields: "And what did he tell you about that?")

Meese: "I don't recall that he said -- I don't recall anything that he told us about that account, other than it was an account of the corporation.")

North misled Meese at least three times during that Nov. 23rd interview, according to North's own earlier testimony before the committees. But Meese said he had no reason to suspect North's statements.

(Meese: "I accepted them as true and had no reason to believe otherwise.")

One of the committees' more conservative Republicans, Bill McCollum of Florida, wasn't buying that.

(Rep. McCollum: "There were numerous occasions in Col. North's interview and in the interviews with Mr. McFarlane where you were not given the full facts. Where you were misled. Is that not true?")

Meese: "Mr. McCollum, since I did not have the benefit of watching their testimony -- except very occasionally -- I couldn't say for sure, but I will accept your characterization of it."

McCollum: "Well, it's sure. And unfortunate."

But Meese said his investigation got high marks from the FBI.

(Meese: "The leadership of the FBI -- the top leadership -- said that to a person the FBI leadership felt I had made no mistakes and had made no errors in the way that I had conducted that investigation.")

Nevertheless, Meese sounded like a man with some regrets about the way he handled the inquiry that weekend. He conceded today, 'It certainly looks a lot different to us today than it did then.'

Brokaw: Sen. Patrick Leahy has resigned from the Senate Intelligence Committee for making a copy of the committee's report on the Iran-contra investigation available to the news media. In disclosing his resignation today, Senators Boren and Cohen did not identify the news organization that received the report. NBC News reported on the contents of the report in January. NBC News said today it was given the unclassified (report) by a reliable, confidential source. Leahy said in a statement this evening he had no intention that any part of the unclassified report be made public. (NBC-3)

CBS's Dan Rather: ...The nation's top law enforcement official and friend of Mr. Reagan told the congressional investigating committee he wasn't in on any cover-up conspiracy, lawbreaking, or wrongdoing....

-more-

Rather continues:

CBS's Phil Jones: Referring frequently to notes, Attorney General Edwin Meese walked cautiously through a potential political mine field today of questions suggesting that he had mishandled the initial Iran-contra scandal investigation by not bringing in criminal investigators.... Admiral Poindexter testified that the President would have approved the contra diversion if asked, but Meese contradicted that today and indicated that Lt. Col. Oliver North was fired because of the diversion.

(Meese: "On the basis of his involvement in the diversion of funds, which was an unauthorized activity and something which had not been approved and would not be approved by the President had he known it.")

The Attorney General described the crucial meeting he had with North on Nov. 23 after Justice Dept. investigators had discovered the diversion memo.... Meese today contradicted North's testimony that former CIA Director William Casey knew of the diversion.

(Meese: "He indicated to me that he had been surprised by what Don Regan told him and he also said, 'We've got to get this out as soon as possible.'")

From interviews Meese conducted, he was aware of conflicting versions of the Iran-contra operation, but described it as merely confusion.... The Attorney General also contradicted previous witnesses who had said he had gone along with the preparation of false chronologies for planned testimony.

(Meese: "The truth is, I did not, at the time, have knowledge sufficient to allow me to make any sort of judgment regarding the accuracy of the proposed testimony of the prepared chronology or the revisions of corrections that were being suggested.")

Throughout these hearings Meese's name has come up frequently, leaving some members to conclude that he was either incompetent in his investigation or part of a cover-up. Today Meese argued that he had done nothing wrong.

Rather: Joining us now are...Senators Sam Nunn and William Cohen.... Senator Nunn, with the Meese testimony today, what did the Attorney General say, not say, or couldn't remember that you think is most important?

Nunn: "I think we'll really get to the part of it tomorrow when Sen. Cohen does his cross-examination. But I think the fact that Casey told Meese that he didn't know about the diversions, and also the fact that Director Casey said in front of Meese and the President of the United States and the congressional leadership that he did not know about the diversion -- and that contradicts directly Col. North's testimony -- to me that was the most interesting fact today."

Rather: ...What are you most interested in knowing now?

Cohen: "I think I, and other members of the committee, want to know more about the way in which the investigation proceeded. The Attorney General indicated he was talking about not even a fact-finding inquiry, but an inquiry to discover what the facts were -- and there is some sort of a distinction that he was drawing. But to know exactly what he knew at what given time and whether or not the inquiry was conducted in a thorough and professional manner, I think that's what the committee members want to know."

Rather: President Reagan indicated he thinks the climate is right now for an arms control deal with the Soviets. Do you agree?

Nunn: "I agree with that. I think both sides would like an agreement. I think we're down to the end game now. I think we've really made some progress."

Cohen: "I think that's correct...."

Rather: Do you think the Russians see this as an ideal opportunity to deal with a weakened President?

Cohen: "I think they see it as an ideal opportunity to get an agreement. I think they do not want to see this President leave office with a delay that would entail negotiating a new agreement with a new President. And they see that the time is right."

Nunn: "I think it is important to note this is the result of two administrations -- the Carter Administration's and the Reagan Administration's striking to a bipartisan commitment and the result of NATO -- the alliance -- striking to a commitment to deploy those missiles in the face of great opposition. So it is continuity. It is bipartisanship and it's an alliance-type determination that had brought this result about over a period of time."

Rather: Would you be surprised if we don't see another summit by the end of this year?

Cohen: "I'd be very surprised."

Nunn: "Well, it could be delayed longer than that. The Soviets are going to have a lot of fun with the German missile proposal because that brings in the question of something that hasn't been discussed very much -- that is, the Germans have the missiles, but the U.S. has the warheads and that also applies to some other non-nuclear countries in NATO. It could be a sensitive question in the alliance."

(CBS-2)

ABC's Peter Jennings: We begin again with the Iran-contra hearings.

It's a fascinating skeptical for people in other parts of the world watching as they do this country's most senior Cabinet officers have to answer for their policy or their knowledge of a policy before the elected officials of the land. Today it was the Attorney General Edwin Meese, and he told the Congress he did not participate in a cover-up of the Iran-contra affair.

ABC's Brit Hume: The Attorney General had been called to account principally for the weekend inquiry he led last November which uncovered the diversion of Iran arms money to the contras, but which has been criticized as too easy-going. Meese defended it.

(Meese: "The essential point to keep in mind is that our purpose was not to conduct a criminal investigation. Indeed, on the 21st of November, there was no hint criminal activity was in any way implicated in the Iranian arms transactions... Our efforts in the space of just over three days turned up the essential facts that are still the essential facts today.")

Hume continues:

That may be so, but two committees which have spent eight months and millions of dollars on this case, are not eager to embrace that idea. There were a lot of questions about what Ed Meese didn't do in what he said was an effort to find the facts and resolve confusion over the Iran arms sales.

(John Nields: "Did you ask the President whether the U.S. government had known of the Hawk missile shipment at the time or whether he'd approved of it?"

Meese: "No, I don't believe that ever came up in the conversation.") There were questions about the team he assembled to help in his inquiry.

Nields: "Did you select anyone from the criminal division?"

Meese: "No, I did not."

Nields: "Was there a reason for that?"

Meese: "Well, there was no reason to select anyone from the criminal division in as much as there was no criminal aspects to this.")

Meese said he looked into U.S. government involvement in the very first shipments to Iran, which were actually made by Israel. But he got conflicting stories from Administration officials.

(Nields: "Did it occur to you at that point in time that you might be dealing with something other than confusion?"

Meese: "No, it really didn't because each of these people had been very straight-forward in what they told.")

But then the Meese team found the so-called diversion memo in Oliver North's office. That led to a Sunday afternoon meeting in Meese's office where a surprised North was confronted with the memo. He confirmed the diversion scheme and was asked who knew about it.... Casey, of course, did know -- at least according to Oliver North's testimony. And Meese had several talks with Casey in that November period and never discovered or even asked whether Casey knew of the diversion....

(Meese: "No I didn't [mention that to Casey] and for very good reason. I felt it was not appropriate to discuss this with anyone, even as good a friend as Mr. Casey until after I had found what it was all about.")

But Poindexter...told Meese a somewhat different story. Here is how Meese quoted Poindexter --

(Meese: "Ollie has given me enough hints about that so that I generally knew, but I did nothing to follow up or stop it or words to that effect."

Nields: "Did you ask him if he had told the President?"

Meese: "Implicitly, yes, when I asked who else in the White House knew or whether he told anyone in the White House, and he said no.")

Meese took this information to the President in a meeting attended also by Reagan Chief of Staff Donald Regan.... Meese had an easy time of it in today's hearings, although it did bring out some questions he never asked. Tomorrow he's likely to be asked why not.

Jennings: Last January the Senate Intelligence Committee, which carried out the first investigation of the Iran-contra affair, issued a secret but unclassified report, and that report was later leaked to a news organization. Today Sen. Leahy...acknowledged that he was the one who had leaked the report and he has resigned from the committee.

(ABC-Lead)

## PERSIAN GULF

Brokaw: In the Persian Gulf, the United States Navy says it believes it has detected still more underwater mines in the area where Kuwaiti tankers are flying the American flag.... A Defense Department official describes it as a mine field deliberately set in the channel. That development and the continuing danger in the Persian Gulf prompted the Pentagon to expand the U.S. presence in that area. It includes a carry-over from World War II.

NBC's Fred Francis reports on the movement of the battleship Missouri earlier than planned to the Persian Gulf. Today, because more mines have been found in the gulf, the Missouri is regarded with almost the same awe by officials who must plan for retaliatory strikes against Iran. The captain says he can destroy targets which would be too dangerous for jets and smaller ships now in the gulf to attack. It is the ultimate in gunboat diplomacy, sent against an Iranian leadership that has not hesitated to challenge American might. And that is what worries many in Congress.

(Sen. Kassebaum: "I think what we need are amphibious ships that can handle the helicopter minesweepers. That's what's needed. And we don't need the provocative presence of a battleship like the Missouri.")

Pentagon officials say the amphibious ships which can handle the minesweeping helicopters probably will be sent. But the Missouri will be sent to demonstrate U.S. resolve.

Brokaw: Meanwhile that supertanker from Kuwait, the USS Bridgeton...is expected to leave Kuwait Thursday on its return journey through the gulf. (NBC-2)

Jennings: In Iran today the Ayatollah Khomeini said that the U.S. policy of escorting the Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf has failed. In fact, he said Moslems of the world should unite and crush American's teeth in its mouth. Shipping sources in the Gulf are now saying that the Coast Guard has given permission for the Bridgeton...to take on a partial load of oil despite the damage and sail out of the gulf perhaps sometime later this week....

ABC's Bob Zelnick: Pentagon sources say that a Navy team of minesweeping experts...has found seven mines in the general area of where the tanker Bridgeton was hit. Officials say privately they're certain the mines were dropped by Iran. Officials here are uncertain whether all new mines have been found, but they acknowledge that the laying by Iran of an entire mine field where none had been anticipated, represents an embarrassing failure of military intelligence....

(Sen. Byrd: "The time is coming for the U.S. to pull the plug on this operation and put an end to being jerked around by the government of Kuwait.")

...Officials hope the Sea Stallion will end such tragic comic sights as the stricken Bridgeton serving as a minesweeper to the warships supposedly escorting her.

Jennings: The Iraqis say they have shot down a Syrian plane which strayed into their airspace. The pilot, who was apparently in training, survived. (ABC-2)

Rather: Today the Pentagon reported an ominous discovery in the narrow Persian Gulf tanker channel: more mines lurking just beneath the surface. They pose not only a threat to shipping, but to the entire Reagan Administration gulf policy.

(CBS's David Martin reports the search for mines in the area where the Bridgeton was hit. Officials concede it was a major intelligence failure not to have anticipated that Iran might lay mines there. The presence of mines there has convinced the Pentagon that a major mining operation had taken place, aimed at the Bridgeton and her escorts.

(Robert Sims: "While one doesn't know who placed it, or when, logical assumption would tell you that it was placed there a short time before the ship came through.")

If it's so logical, members of Congress want to know why the Navy wasn't prepared.

(Rep. Torricelli: "I don't understand how the leadership of this government meets and discusses a military action in the Persian Gulf and the appropriate questions are not asked or comments are not made regarding the real threat of mines in the Persian Gulf.")

If Iran continues to lay mines, one Pentagon official says the U.S. will have to consider not just sweeping them, but mounting an operation that will somehow prevent Iran from laying any more mines.

Brokaw: As the U.S. and other western nations have discovered, the challenge of the Ayatollah and Iran in their neighborhood is to risk trouble everywhere you are.

CBS's Tom Fenton reports that American installations in Europe and around the world have been put on alert, guarding against Iranian retaliation for U.S. involvement in the gulf war, noting that Khomeini knows how to galvanize a network of support outside Iran. Today, he made an open appeal to Muslims around the world to, quote, crush America's teeth in its mouth. (CBS-3)

## USS STARK

Brokaw: A third officer from the USS Stark was reprimanded today. The Navy said that Lt. Commander Raymond Gajan Jr. -- the Stark's second-in-command -- shared responsibility for the ship's failure to defend itself against an Iraqi jet attack. Unlike the two officers reprimanded yesterday, Gajan will not be forced to resign from the service. The Navy's handling of the case has raised a lot of questions, and they are the subject of John Chancellor's commentary. (NBC-8)

## CHANCELLOR COMMENTARY/GULF

NBC's John Chancellor: Accountability is a word that has been tossed around in the Iran-contra hearings, but it's a word that has different

Chancellor continues:

shades of meaning these days. Take the captain and the weapons officer of the USS Stark.... What this does, of course, is to keep the story of what happened to the Stark out of the headlines. Courts-martial might have dragged on for weeks with embarrassing details in the news every day. It also insulates senior officers from accountability. The captain of the Stark says the investigation didn't go high enough and the facts remain: 37 men die, two officers resign, end of case. It's a replay of what happened after the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut.... What happened? The President himself assumed responsibility. He said the Marine officers had already suffered enough.... A fundamental principle of the American military is that officers are accountable for the safety of the troops. That principle is violated in the aftermath of the Beirut bombing and the attack on the Stark. Two defeats for the honor of the Marines and the Navy, two victories for politics and public relations.

(NBC-9)

BORK

Jennings: Today the White House has reaffirmed its commitment to having Robert Bork confirmed as a Supreme Court justice through the normal process in the Senate. A White House spokesman has, however, refused to rule out the possibility of a recess appointment -- a temporary appointment of Judge Bork to the high bench without Senate confirmation. We asked Tim O'Brien if that could be done.

ABC's Tim O'Brien: It can be done -- Robert Bork can become Justice Robert Bork without first being confirmed by the Senate. Article II of the Constitution says such recess appointments are good until the end of the Senate's next session. In Bork's case that wouldn't be until the end of next year. If not confirmed by then, Bork would be out. On the Senate floor today Republican leader Bob Dole accused Democrats of stalling the Bork nomination, making a recess appointment a possible option.

(Dole: "What we have seen so far is an unprecedented delay before committee hearings even start.")

The Democrats say they need time to get the nomination full consideration and charged the President was using his appointment power to boost his conservative social agenda on the high court.

(Sen. Biden: "What's unusual is the degree to which the President has engaged this debate in such a clearly political sense by picking someone to meet his objectives.")

The White House today said it planned to proceed through normal Senate channels but did not rule out a recess appointment, should that fail. A recess appointment would expire at about the time of the next general election. Bork's first year on the court would become a campaign issue for presidential candidates and one-third of the Senate -- making it one of the most politically charged Supreme Court nominations in U.S. history.

(ABC-8)

## PRESIDENT/SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

Brokaw: President Reagan today made a big pitch for what many scientists see as the most exciting technological breakthrough of the late 20th century: superconductivity. It is a means of transmitting electricity very efficiently through superconductors and it could revolutionize transportation, medical technology and computer use as well as household power. Today at a conference, which was closed to foreigners, the President called for a joint effort of government, science and industry to get a head start on the rest of the world on superconductivity. (NBC-6)

## FCC/PIRATE RADIO SHIP

Brokaw: A pirate radio station has been operating from a ship in international waters near New York city. Running it: several people who are upset at recent FCC regulations covering the content of radio programs.

NBC's Richard Valeriani reports on Radio New York International, which went off the air after the arrests of the station operators by the Coast Guard. It has been broadcasting a mix of rock and roll, and chatter about peace, love and understanding for six nights on unassigned AM and FM frequencies in the New York area.

(Richard Smith of the FCC: "What we have here, though, is a very deliberate attempt to test the authority of the commission.")

As short-lived as it was, it apparently made history. An FCC official said it was the first time a station without a license had ever broadcast into the U.S. from a ship offshore.

(NBC-5, CBS-10)

-End of B-Section-



## **EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS**

---

### **PERSIAN GULF**

On Flying The American Flag -- "One can too easily sense that the U.S. is doing something it shouldn't in reflagging Kuwaiti oil tankers and then escorting them with warships through the Persian Gulf. This is the feeling that remains after all the arguments for and against this critical foreign policy decision are heard and considered.... The risk of reflagging even if there is no military engagement in the gulf, is far out of proportion to what the U.S. can possibly gain."

(Arkansas Gazette, 7/24)

Surprised Again In The Gulf -- "After the tanker Bridgeton was damaged by a mine in the Persian Gulf last week, the Navy's vulnerable escort ships lined up behind it in single file, since the tanker was better able to withstand further mines. The inaugural voyage of Kuwaiti tankers bearing American flags thus ended in bizarre inversion, with the tanker protecting the warships meant to defend it. To avoid further inglorious setbacks, the Navy needs now to suspend convoys until it gets a handle on the mining threat."

(New York Times, 7/28)

The ABCs Of The Gulf, Tankers, And Flags -- "The U.S. has in this case elected to play the policeman role in the gulf. In theory, it is doing it to uphold the rights of neutral shipping. In fact, it is done to bolster Iraq, which is almost exhausted from its losses in the war, now in its seventh year. Policemen sometimes get hurt. So far the damage is one tanker holed by one mine. Probably there will be more damage to the policeman or to the tankers he is trying to protect. It won't be a free ride. But the alternative was to leave the policing job to others. The Russians might well have enjoyed the opportunity to take over. If they did not, then neutral shipping would be at the mercy of Iran. There are no easy alternatives for Washington."

(Christian Science Monitor, 7/28)

A Poor Beginning In The Persian Gulf -- "The U.S. Navy has gotten off to a bad start on its new mission in the Persian Gulf. The job is to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers sailing under U.S. flags. The first tanker, the Bridgeton, struck a mine. It survived the blast. But as far as protection goes, the Navy is batting 0 to 1.... Assigning minesweepers to mine-strewn waters seems a pretty obvious step. The U.S. has a big stake in the Persian Gulf. Weinberger had better not bungle the job again."

(New York Daily News, 7/28)

The Message: Shape Up, Don't Ship Out, In Gulf -- "Is it really necessary for the U.S. military performance in the Persian Gulf to live up to everyone's worst expectations? ...The proper response to the mine episode is not a congressional stampede to set gulf withdrawal deadlines. Nor is it a premature U.S. military sortie. But the Administration had better talk tough, soon, to Pentagon brass and to the gulf Arab states on better minesweeping and other precautionary measures. The gulf is not the place for amateur hour. If America aims to show that it can protect Western interests there, the Pentagon needs to do better."

(Philadelphia Inquirer, 7/28)

PERSIAN GULF (continued)

A Real Mine Field -- "Washington might have insisted on greater cooperation by Saudis and Kuwaitis as a condition of reflagging -- and it ought to insist on that now. Or Washington might have worked out from the start whatever U.S. minesweeping arrangements Secretary Weinberger assures us is being worked out now. The damage done by the mine to the Bridgeton appears to be reparable. Time will measure the damage it could do to Americans' faith in the U.S. military, and to the respect of foreigners, friend and foe, for it." (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 7/28)

America's Coin Toss In The Gulf -- "America has to carry through what it started, because the stakes are now so huge. Is also has to remember what it is attempting to achieve. It is not fighting the Iraqis' war for them. It is protecting Kuwait, and covering Iraq's flank, and hoping to show other Arabs that they can rely on America." (Economist, 7/28)

Do Kuwaitis Really Know What This Means? -- "I am unconvinced by the rationale that foreign protection is needed to maintain the freedom of international navigation in the gulf. If this were so, foreign powers should have offered their flags five years and several hundred maritime attacks ago. If we wish to keep the sea lanes open -- certainly an admirable and reasonable goal -- we would have to reflag all ships in the gulf, not only Kuwait's." (Rami G. Khouri, Kansas City Star, 7/20)

Two Reasons For Hope In Persian Gulf -- "Obviously, if the United Nations had not been reduced to the status of a squabbling, ineffectual club, American action would not be needed. We hope that Washington and Moscow can continue to work together, focusing only on the gulf situation and ignoring their other, long-standing differences. It would be beneficial for all. It could help rescue the United Nations from its reputation as a tool or a fool, and it might relieve the U.S. of the burden of going it alone in a cause that is shared by almost all." (Chicago Sun-Times, 7/22)

Sailing Into Confrontation -- "Seven years and hundreds of thousands of casualties too late, the United Nations Security Council has demanded that Iran and Iraq observe a cease-fire in their senseless war, return to internationally recognized borders and promptly exchange prisoners of war.... The American-flagged tankers face threats from mines, missiles, aircraft and fast gunboats. U.S. personnel and property could be attacked by Iranian-inspired terrorists. Reagan, who lost his credibility in the region by withdrawing from Lebanon and selling arms to Iran, would have to retaliate -- even if it were not in the U.S. interest to do so. That is a rotten position to be in." (Rocky Mountain News, 7/23)

The Gulf War: Sound Diplomacy, Risky Strategy -- "In the Persian Gulf and at the United Nations, the U.S. is now doing what many Arabs have long advocated. The question is whether the mixture of military impetuosity and diplomatic finesse will defuse the Iran-Iraq war. They can. We hope they will. But experience (taught) that Middle East events are likely to play out in ways much different than expected.... For the moment, a further U.S. initiative would help: Persuade Iraq to withhold attacks on Iranian shipping. If Iraq agrees, Iran will have less reason to strike back. That probably would not end the war, but it would surely help." (Minneapolis Star and Tribune, 7/22)

## **FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION**

### **PERSIAN GULF**

"The United States clearly fears that both its peace initiative and its escort mission could end in chaos after the damage suffered by the reflagged supertanker Bridgeton. Despite American assurance that the tanker escort will continue, little convincing evidence has been furnished of how Washington expects to master the problem of mines."

(Alex Brummer, Guardian, Britain)

"Armed American intervention in the area makes an end to the war less likely.... It worsens the risk that the greatest free nation in the world will be brought low. It should be avoided." (Independent, Britain)

"The humiliation suffered by the United States because of the Bridgeton incident will not be easily canceled.... The tug-of-war with Tehran does not prevent the United States from simultaneously continuing its efforts toward a negotiated solution of the crisis."

(Ennio Caretto, La Stampa, Italy)

"Such a development (sending U.S. minesweeping helicopters to the Persian Gulf) is raising considerable concern among friendly Arab countries, which risk becoming more actively involved in the Gulf conflict."

(La Repubblica, Italy)

"Weinberger is undoubtedly right in saying that the United States is able to undertake retaliatory actions, should Iran be behind this attack on the U.S. escort program. But are the American people willing to become involved in a war with the Ayatollah?"

(Arbeiderbladet, Norway)

"If France does send an aircraft carrier to the Gulf, it will be giving the Iranians a particularly tempting target.... Washington and Paris would be wise to proceed with extreme caution."

(Montreal Gazette, Canada)

"A simple mine has exposed major vulnerability in the super-sophisticated U.S. Navy and for a time left warships in the Gulf under the protection of a supertanker they were supposed to be escorting."

(Gulf Times, Qatar)

"The U.S. Navy cannot guarantee the security of the ships it is supposed to protect, and that discredits the American naval forces as well as the policy makers who sent them there."

(L'Opinion, Morocco)

"The United States should not take the responsibility in the security of the Persian Gulf without consulting other countries using the Gulf. We hope the showing of American flags by Kuwaiti tankers will not have a more serious effect."

(Merdeka, Indonesia)

"The wisdom of Reagan's decision to reflag Kuwaiti merchant ships, and provide them with a naval escort through the Persian Gulf, was always questionable."

(Sydney Morning Herald, Australia)