

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

---

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

---

**Collection:** Press Secretary, Office of the: Press Releases and Briefings: Records

**Folder Title:** 07/01/1985 (#1477)

**Box:** 37-Press Briefings

---

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/>

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

---

PRESS BRIEFING  
BY  
LARRY SPEAKES

July 1, 1985

The Briefing Room

1:23 P.M. EDT

INDEX

SUBJECT

PAGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President's Schedule.....	1
Cabinet Meeting	
TWA Hostages/Flight Home.....	2, 18
Fourth of July.....	2

FOREIGN

Terrorism/ Hostages: Past and Present.....	2-17
Summit/Reagan and Gorbachev.....	17
Soviet Spying.....	17-18

DOMESTIC

Peter Peckarsky.....	8
William B. Reynolds.....	18
Heritage Foundation Panel.....	18
David Stockman.....	19

1:58 P.M. EDT

#1477-07/01

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

---

PRESS BRIEFINGS  
BY  
LARRY SPEAKES

July 1, 1985

The Briefing Room

1:23 P.M. EDT

MR. SPEAKES: The President is announcing the appointment of Anne Graham to be Commissioner of the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

At 1:45 p.m. today, he participates in the swearing in ceremony of Clayton Yeutter to be U.S. Trade Representative in the Roosevelt Room.

At 2:00 p.m., he meets with the members of the Cabinet who received a report on the release of the hostages from Secretary Shultz and National Security Advisor McFarlane.

At the State Department today at 4:00 p.m., there will be a briefing on background on the hostage situation. We'll have it provided to you here in the Briefing Room over the speaker. For your information, the briefer will be Michael Armacost, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs.

Q What do you mean, "a briefing on the hostage situation?" Do you mean the seven that are still held?

MR. SIMS: Terrorism.

MR. SPEAKES: Terrorism -- former hostage situation, if that suits you.

Q We've forgotten them, Chris.

Q Well --

MR. SPEAKES: No, you've forgotten those who have been released.

Pardon?

Q A briefing on what happened, or a briefing on what's going to happen?

MR. SPEAKES: All of the above.

Q Bernie Kalb just announced it was at 3:15 p.m., Larry.

Q They've changed it.

MR. SPEAKES: They've just changed it. I've just talked to them since you made the speedy journey over here.

Q Thank you.

MR. SPEAKES: For those of you who need holiday planning, I don't think we're going anywhere on the Fourth of July, so you can get your barbeque pits out for the --

Q What about the second of July?

MORE

#1477-07/01

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon? Tomorrow?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: The -- it looks like the -- whatever group returns by TWA will return tomorrow, New York, tomorrow afternoon, but we have not firmly developed our plans, so we'll let you know as soon as we get some.

Q So you mean the President might go to New York, and then again, he might not?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, that's right. But we'll --

Q Larry, what about Friday? Is it possible he'll take a long weekend so he can take Thursday and Friday, or --

MR. SPEAKES: Right now, he's not scheduled to go up to Camp David, I don't believe, until Friday afternoon, but he could go up --

Q Can we vote on this?

Q What are his plans for the Fourth?

MR. SPEAKES: Stay here at the House and have a private dinner and watch the fireworks.

Q Larry, are you ruling out anything with the former hostages at the White House on the Fourth of July?

MR. SPEAKES: There's not a plan to, Carl. I think they want to get home and be with their families, and that's the President's desire -- not to take any more of their time.

Q Especially if they say things like they've been saying.

Q Are you saying that the President may welcome them at an airport this week?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. He may go to New York. It just has not -- the details have not been worked out enough for us to firmly announce.

Q That would be tomorrow, perhaps.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, if they're there, if they come back tomorrow, it would be tomorrow. If they come back another day, it would be another day.

The President this morning at 10:00 a.m. -- 11:00 a.m., met for an hour with his National Security team, which included the Secretaries of State and Defense, CIA, Joint Chiefs, Foreign Policy and Chief of Staff.

They reviewed the release of the hostages, received a report from those that are involved from our end of the business at Rhein-Main and reviewed the United States' program of counter-terrorism, the report from the Defense Department. At Wiesbaden Air Force Hospital, the Commander -- and this has generally been reported -- Charles K. Maffet, briefed reporters a few hours ago on the health of the returnees. Our impression is that the insect sting was probably the most serious physical ailment.

The medical program there is near completion, but doctors are -- would like some more time for observation. At last report, a number of those who have returned were at the post exchange shopping center. And tonight, most of the group will be having individual dinners with their families in town.

There are no special plans for tomorrow. It's our understanding that TWA will provide transportation for those who wish to come back. And, as I say, some -- they may be back tomorrow. Some may come on their own.

Q Has the Air Force offered transportation to any of them?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know that they have. I think TWA was -- stepped forward and wished to do so, and we had no objection.

Q TWA owes them a flight to the United States.  
(Laughter.)

Q They paid for it.

Q But the networks are jumping in.

Q Only to Rome.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, they're -- anybody -- what about network charters? You guys -- (laughter.)

Q By the way --

Q They all use private jets.

Q One way.

Q Were your accommodations at the Helmsly Palace satisfactory, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: What? (Laughter.)

Q Ohhh.

Q I didn't hear his answer to your question.

Q He wanted to know if you enjoyed the Helmsly Palace, but I don't know what he's talking about either.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know what he's talking about.

Q It was a joke.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know what the Helmsly Palace is.

Q Explain it to him.

Q No one got it.

Q For the record, Mr. Wallace explains it was a joke.

MR. SPEAKES: I know, but I don't understand. Explain the joke to me. Can you explain the joke?

Q Go ahead and work the back row.

MR. SPEAKES: Maybe it's an NBC joke. (Laughter.)

Q Would you explain the joke?

Q Larry, you mentioned that these reviews of counter-terrorist policy were ongoing. Do you expect the President to, while this issue is still fresh in the minds of the America people, ask Congress or come forward with some new recommendations on counter-terrorism measures?

MR. SPEAKES: David, I do not know of any specifics that are going forward. We have, in the past year or so, proposed some changes -- some additional steps and those have either been acted upon or prospects are being acted upon. I think the Vice President's group will be entertaining whether legislative steps are necessary.

Q Did the President approve any action along the lines as described by Robert McFarlane in various interviews last night?

MR. SPEAKES: You've seen the McFarlane interviews, and I don't have any comment on them.

Q Larry, what's the status --

MR. SPEAKES: Frank?

Q In the session with the President and the National Security Advisors, in addition to reviewing the situation for the freed hostages, what was the analysis at this point for the seven who are still detained?

MR. SPEAKES: The analysis is pretty well as it was spoken to yesterday by

Secretary of State and the Foreign Policy Advisor and that is that the United States is still dedicated to their -- to securing their freedom. And for working -- we hope to increase our intelligence capabilities in it. We hope to utilize other nations who might have an influence on the situation. I think Secretary Shultz singled out Syria as someone that could provide an assist to us in that area. That's it.

Q If I may follow up, please. Peggy Say, the wife of -- I'm sorry -- sister of Terry Anderson, was talking this morning and was very critical of the President and said she had not -- had requested access in the final days of the TWA episode and was denied. Says she's going to Syria and is praying that President Assad has more time for her than President Reagan. Have -- were you approached by Mrs. Say? What was your reaction to her? And has there been any contact with her, given her trip to Syria?

MR. SPEAKES: I honestly don't know the answer to any of those. And I don't know whether she contacted us or whether she has contacted -- about planning a trip to Syria. I just don't know. We can check for you.

Q Does the President have plans of getting together in the near future with families of those still in captivity?

MR. SPEAKES: Nothing at the moment scheduled. But, certainly, willing to, as he has with others.

Mike.

Q Have you heard from President Assad, since the release of the 39, concerning the 7? Or from any members of his government in any way? Are there any communications ongoing --

MR. SPEAKES: I think there's been regular and ongoing contacts there through the Embassy. I would have to check to see if there have been other contacts.

Q One of these relatives of the seven claims that at some point a while back, all seven of them signed a letter, which was transmitted to the State Department, saying that they were going to be hung by their captors if --

Q Hanged.

Q Hanged, sorry. Thank you.

Q Hanged.

Q -- if -- well, they may be depending on -- in any event --

MR. SPEAKES: Hung up.

Q -- I've lost my train of thought -- unless the demands were made.

Q Thank you, Peter.

Q And the State Department kept the letter under wraps and told the relatives not to say anything about it. Is that true?

MR. SPEAKES: I would ask the State Department -- I don't know anything about it, Sam.

Candy.

Q In the -- times prior to the hijacking that the seven --

Q Some might be.

Q -- had been mentioned to you in one form or another, you've always assured us that the U.S. was doing everything it can to secure their release. Yet, McFar-- or the Senior Administration Official yesterday implied that --

Q The McFicial.

Q -- you couldn't expect Assad to come up with these seven people in two weeks. Had you not contacted Assad prior to this about those seven?

MR. SPEAKES: We have. But I think that they were -- there was an extra spotlight of public attention on them at the time. And, of course, we publicly stated it again in conjunction with the 39. So, it was a question of whether he could produce. And I think --

Q -- these cameras --

Q Well, are you --

MR. SPEAKES: Going to shoot Clayton Yeutter.

Q Can we shoot Clayton Yeutter?

Q Well, can we, with the television? Why?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Andrea.



Q Wait a minute. Is there some reason why you are now more expectant that Assad -- is he more willing to be helpful or do you now think his power is greater? I don't understand why now Assad comes to play when presumably you've been talking to him for a year.

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not saying that he comes any more prominently to play than he has in the past as far as our efforts are concerned. However, he was active in securing the release of the 39 and we would hope that he could be helpful in securing the release of the seven.

Back to the front row.

Q Has the President had any direct contact with Assad following the release to thank him or --

MR. SPEAKES: Somebody just asked that. I would have to check and see if there's been any contact.

Q I'm a little confused about these meetings -- the one with the National Security Advisors at 11:00 a.m. and the meeting with the Cabinet at 2:00 p.m. Is Armacost likely to announce some terrorism steps this afternoon?

MR. SPEAKES: I'd tune in, Chris.

Q Israel says -- has accused Syria --

Q I won't, but I'll tell Marvin to.

Q Israel says she's going to release 300 prisoners and accuses Syria of taking part in the hijacking. Does that jibe with anything you know?

MR. SPEAKES: The release of the 300, I don't have any comment. Whatever the Israelis do, they certainly do on their own, as we've said many times. And as far as any accusation the Israelis might make about the Syrians, I don't have any comment on that, either.

Q Did the President -- well, have you spoken to the President and asked him what he had on his mind when he said that he'd seen "Rambo" and he knew how to do it next time?

MR. SPEAKES: It seemed obvious to me.

Q Well, does he mean next time he's going to go in there and blow people away with all this fire power?

MR. SPEAKES: You'll have to wait and see.

Q Well, does the -- let me just -- one more question. Is it a joke, was it a joke? I guess it was, apparently.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, it was off the record, to start off with, although I don't think anybody seemed to respect that, but it's just --

Q With live microphones?

Q One newspaper today said it was a serious -- showed how serious he was. Was he doing it jokingly or in a light-hearted way?

MR. SPEAKES: It was joking, obviously. But, once again, that is considered off the record, but nobody seemed to blink. I don't understand. I mean, I've had that agreement, particularly with you network people, reiterated many times and, boy, they didn't blink. Andrea drug out the "Rambo" film.

Do you have to pay those folks for that film, or do they pay you?

Q I don't know. I --

Q It's free advertising.

Q It was on the wires. I think --

Q Are you trying to tell us he didn't know those mikes were live?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Are you trying to tell us he didn't know those mikes were live?

MR. SPEAKES: Peter.

Q I first heard about it from UPI. I have a serious question about whether you have any reaction to --

Q They were way behind.

Q -- Mrs. Weir saying that she feels mugged by the administration? Mrs. Say says --

MR. SPEAKES: I'm just not going to comment on what the families say in the --

Q Larry, would you like to comment on Peter Peckarsky's winning an award of \$200,000 from ABC?

Q Can we stay on this subject?

MR. SPEAKES: Tell us about it, Peter.

Q He's here.

MR. SPEAKES: I know he is. Did he come --

Q He won \$200,000 because they took his reports and didn't credit him and took one.

Q Can we stay on terrorism?

MR. SPEAKES: Sam has the check. (Laughter.)

Q Sam has the check.

Q It comes out of his petty cash.

MR. SPEAKES: It's coming out of your salary, Sam. Did you do it?

Q ABC -- I have no comment. I refer you to our lawyers.

Q Sam had to sell the rest of his book in order to pay the price. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Sam, do you -- you don't have any comment? What do you think --

Q He's a richer man for it.

MR. SPEAKES: What do you think? Have you had enough?

Q New subject?

Q Larry, there's a report in an Israeli paper quoting the Western intelligence sources that two officials in the Amal movement engineered the hijacking to embarrass Berri, and the Israeli report names those two officials. Do you have any comment? Does that match our U.S. understanding?

MR. SPEAKES: Don't have any comment, wouldn't comment on our understanding.

Q -- I'm happy, not only for myself, but also for what this case may do to protect the rights of other freelancers.

MR. SPEAKES: Let's hear it.

Q Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Larry, new subject?

Q No.

Q No, no?

Q Wait. Could I just say --

MR. SPEAKES: There's some more hijackers in the back.

Q One more hijacker question.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay.

Q On the families. Yesterday, Secretary Shultz said we have to wait and put an assessment together of whether Berri was part of the solution or part of the problem, and just what role he played. Has that been done? Have we got a feeling that after this, that Berri is going to be help in obtaining the release of the seven in any way, or has Assad indicated -- or have we got a -- do we have a feeling that Assad's stature may be so elevated as to help with the seven now?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we think that both could have some influence.

Q Larry, could I touch on that one more time? Again, going back to Peggy Say, she said that she was called by the State Department and told that there was reason for hope that the seven were included with the 39, and on that basis of that, flew to Washington. Was there at any time -- did the administration have reason to believe that the seven were, in fact, included?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, without commenting on her remarks or what the State Department may have told her, I don't know. We certainly had hope, but I don't know -- I don't know that we ever had any firm indication. In fact, we were very cautious about counting numbers and so forth, as you know, so I can't say that we had any firm indication that the seven or any more than the four which were separated at that time.

Q What gave you hope?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Was there a comment, or a --

MR. SPEAKES: No. It was -- I don't have Ralph here to come up -- my definition of -- the two definitions of hope. Do you --

Q No, but why did you feel --

Q You didn't fill me in on that.

MR. SPEAKES: One is expectation, and the other

Q Well, what led you --

MR. SPEAKES: -- it was not expectation. It was the wish, the hope.

Q Anticipation.

Q Wishful --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes?

Q Larry?

Q But Secretary Shultz had said that you would insist on the return of all 46. What are you doing now to insist on the return of the seven who are still there?

MR. SPEAKES: That's the second time for that question.

Q I know but --

MR. SPEAKES: You want me to answer it again?

Q Can you answer it any better than you did the first time?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, what did I answer it the first time, or you missed it.

Q No, but insisting is a very strong word, and I don't see anything that's going on today that approaches what you have done during the period of the 16 days of the holding of the 39.

MR. SPEAKES: You don't see everything, Sam, despite the fact that sometimes you may profess to.

Q Is there something going on?

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q Is there something going on?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, as I indicated to you, that we're working on improving our intelligence capabilities in this matter and others. We are contacting other governments and individuals who may have influence on the case of the seven.

Helen?

Q Larry, doesn't it upset and disturb the President that here are the relatives of the seven who are really loudly complaining that they cannot see him? Why can't they?

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't say they couldn't, Helen. I never ruled that out.

Q Well, the question's been asked now over a period of several weeks, and you never have an answer.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think there were several weeks. As you know, even as things were working in the Middle East, we were considering whether we should see the entire group, the 46. And we were prepared to do so. As it worked out, we were successful in letting the 39 see their loved ones --

Q I mean, the relatives --

MR. SPEAKES: -- instead of seeing the President.

Q -- the relatives seeing the President. This is what I mean. They want to see him. Why can't they?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we haven't said they couldn't.

Q Watch television, Helen.

Q Two questions. The combination of what McFarlane --

MR. SPEAKES: Can't see him for seeing the anchorman.

Q The combination of what McFarlane and Shultz said yesterday seemed to imply that -- or to state that the U.S. was basically ruling out specific retaliation against these hijackers and was going to look in terms of military reprisals instead at attacking the root causes of terrorism. Is that what you all mean to say?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, there's quite a body of comment out there from yesterday that outlines, I think, very well U.S. policy on terrorism, the President, Secretary Shultz and Bud McFarlane. And I think you should take it in its entirety and make your judgments from that.

Q McFarlane talked about strategic targets. He said there are two or three of them.

MR. SPEAKES: That's true.

Q And he implied quite strongly that we intended to attack them.

Q In that connection, Larry --

Q Wait. Do you want to tell us where they are?

MR. SPEAKES: Do you want me to tell you when and where?

Q Well, where.

Q Larry, in that connection --

Q The other question I had is are you going to do any readout on the Cabinet meeting? Or would that all come from Armacost?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think so. I'm not -- I don't think Armacost is going to be here for the Cabinet meeting, but I think it will be essentially what you have heard from our people here yesterday.

Q So you don't expect decisions to be made at the Cabinet meeting in terms of Presidential actions?

MR. SPEAKES: No. This is merely a report to the Cabinet.

Andrea.

Q Would it be logical to assume that whatever McFarlane was talking about in terms of strategic targets would not be something that would be short term and would perhaps not be done while the seven are still there? Or is it unrelated to the seven?

MR. SPEAKES: I just wouldn't comment about timing.

Bernie. I'll work all the way to the back.

Q Is there any concern or upset about some of the comments that Allyn Conwell and some of the other hostages have been making?

MR. SPEAKES: Secretary Shultz was asked essentially that same thing and I think we would reserve our judgment as to their comments until they have an opportunity to comment under less trying circumstances. And certainly they're free to say whatever they wish.

Frank.

Q In talking about the seven a moment ago, you said, "We certainly had hope." Do you still have hope --

MR. SPEAKES: Sure.

Q -- that a release is --

MR. SPEAKES: Possible.

Q Soon.

Q Possible.

MR. SPEAKES: I won't set a timetable.

Rick.

Q A lot of administration officials, yourself included, have referred to "those detainees over in Israel." Without indicating whether or not -- Israel's plans to release, you were referring to all of them? Some of them? All of them? Most of them? And when you say "those," do you mean all of them?

MR. SPEAKES: Bob, there's a distinction there.

MR. SIMS: I think they've said they would review the cases in the courts with Israeli law and the security situation in Southern Lebanon. And I don't have a better definition -- what they've said than that. You just have to ask them.

Q But is it our understanding that they were going to release, under their own procedures, all of them?

MR. SIMS: I don't --

MR. SPEAKES: Once again, there is a distinction --

MR. SIMS: Our understanding is based on their public statements and I'd refer you to what they've said, not what --

Q Well, Peres said the other day on Israeli television they were going to release more than 500 which is not all of them. That's the reason I asked the question.

MR. SPEAKES: Rick, we would have to really look at their public statements, which is all we're going on, and I realize there is some distinction there among those held and, rather than make a public comment on it, I'd like to look into it a little closer.

Q My --

Q Larry?

Q My understanding from the reports, both from there and here, is that we did have diplomatic exchanges with them asking them what were their intentions.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, we did.

Q Okay. And what did they tell us about this issue on that?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. I would have to go back to the record and look, Rick, rather than make a comment.

Q Can you check that and let us know?

MR. SPEAKES: Sure.

Mary?

Q Does the President have any views about the television coverage of the hostage crisis? Does he think that it helped or hurt?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm sure he does. In due course he may want to express them publicly. I do not wish to convey them at the moment and he may reserve comment on them, so I'd -- rather not. I don't have any that I wish to pass on either. (Laughter.)

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Let me get to the back, Mike.

Q Is there still discussion of closing or organizing a boycott of the Beirut airport?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. That is -- Secretary Shultz discussed that yesterday afternoon and it was discussed again this morning.

So -- Jane?

Q What is our latest status report on the seven hostages? Do we know, in fact, that they are still alive and well?

MR. SPEAKES: We are -- have information on them. We're trying to get more information -- trying to work closely with our intelligence sources to develop this information, but I don't think I can comment on it any further.

Paul?

Q I'd like to follow up on Joe's question about the sanctions. Aside from the Beirut airport option remaining open, what about the other options -- the economic sanctions, pipeline disruption --

MR. SPEAKES: As we stated -- I don't think we went into pipeline disruptions -- but we stated in the past that we have a number of options. I'm not going to be specific on the.

Q Are those still viable options? They haven't put -- aside now that we've gotten the 39 hostages back?

MR. SPEAKES: As I say, there a number of opportunities out there that we've discussed in the future, but I'm not going to be specific on them.

Miles?

Q Is the President planning to invite Assad to come to the United States for a meeting to vote on this new --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know of any plans for an invitation. So --

Peter?

Q Yes. I wanted to follow up an earlier question about the remedial measures being taken to prevent such an incident in the future. A suggestion was made that an increase or reallocation of intelligence resources would prevent such an event. What is the President being told about this -- about the level of resources he's going to have to -- to stop such a thing in the future and how long does he think it's going to take to make the American people free from such a repetition of this event?

MR. SPEAKES: There are a number of things being done, including development of intelligence sources and capabilities, cooperation with other countries. The Vice President has had meetings on it in Europe. All of those things -- training, airline safety increases -- but I cannot set a timetable for this. As you know, terrorism in a number of countries



in the world is very sophisticated and increasingly sophisticated. Training goes on day-in and day-out in several locations around the world. So I cannot set a timetable for it, but it certainly does not deter us from moving as quickly as we can to meet the challenge.

Q Without respect to the timetable, was the President being told that if enough resources are put into this, at some point, he should be able to stop all of these events in the future?

MR. SPEAKES: Peter, I don't -- as I say, it is a complex and changing situation in the world and one that is of increasing sophistication as time goes by. So I don't think the President has been given any estimate about the number of people or steps it would take to do this.

So, Jim. Hold on, Lester. I'll get you when I come back to the front.

Q Do you know now whether Nabih Berri's original intervention in this whole matter came at the request of U.S. diplomats?

MR. SPEAKES: At the request of U.S. diplomats?

Q Yes. One of the hostages --

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't know that, Jim. I do not know as to whether -- when he first got into it.

Paul?

Q Please forgive me, if you've answered this already, would you mind doing it one more time? Has there been a shift in the focus of the U.S. towards the Middle East in policy or the same policy --

MR. SPEAKES: You mean overall Middle East policy? No, it's still based on the President's 1982 address and our efforts there. That has not changed, the sense has not changed.

David?

Q Yesterday, Secretary Shultz left the impression that if the hostage takers could not be apprehended by legal means and punished, that the United States may take extra-legal methods to get them. Is that a fair reading of the impression that he left? And what kind of extra-legal means might we be contemplating?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think he said that. I think he really left it largely in the area of legal means.

Q He also -- he also said that, yes, we would like to do it by legal methods and we will pursue that. He also said that they must be punished.

MR. SPEAKES: That's still our judgment and I would like to leave the Secretary's words right there with that little question mark in your mind and the others.

Q In other words, you would like to leave that as a question mark?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not going to expand on the Secretary's words.

Leo.

Q Larry, what was meant in the chronology that Stethem's death may have been occasioned by tardy intervention by Amal?

MR. SPEAKES: Bob?

Q What was the question?

MR. SIMS: I don't think that there was a -- I'd have to review the wording. I think it just says there was a request, and following that, he was --

Q Who made the request? Did we or did Berri, or who?

MR. SIMS: My understanding was that those people on the plane, the hijackers, made the request for an Amal representative. None came forth, and the shooting took place. That's just the sequence of what happened.

Q The people who did not kill Stethem asked Amal to come in, because they realized one of their companions might be up to something?

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q You say the hijackers asked Amal to come in and they came in late.

MR. SPEAKES: We're kind of pulling at threads here and it's about five minutes before the Cabinet meeting, if you want me to be in there.

Would you like to shift to another subject, or do you want to pull threads?

Q Yes.

Q Yes. What are you all saying at this point about a summit between Reagan and Gorbachev?

MR. SPEAKES: We are saying, both here and at the State Department, which has already said it, both leaders want a summit meeting, and we remain in touch on venue and timing through diplomatic channels.

Q Well, what about Geneva in November? What's that?

MR. SPEAKES: Don't have anything further for you.

Q Is that -- has that been tentatively suggested -- agreed to?

MR. SPEAKES: This is my only sentence on that subject.

Q Larry?

Q Do we get a blackout on that too?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, this is what we want to say -- Lester, when I'm talk --

Q David has a follow-up --

MR. SPEAKES: I know, but, did your mama raise you to interrupt?

Q I thought you were finished, Larry.

MR. SPEAKES: I was talking, Lester. At the very moment, you were yelling.

Q Well, I'm sorry. I thought you were finished. You said -- I thought you --

MR. SPEAKES: Why don't you just back up and cool it down a minute.

Q I'm not the only one here who has interrupted you, Larry, as you know.

MR. SPEAKES: David?

Q In his Saturday radio address, the President suggested that the United States would reduce the number of Soviets in this country commensurate to the -- can you tell us, are there any specific plans to do anything -- what was he suggesting, and how can we find out what he plans to do?

MR. SPEAKES: He is -- those plans are being developed,

David, and that is also -- the radio address is one subject for the Cabinet meeting today -- espionage and how the Cabinet can be directed to become involved, but I really don't have specifics on that, so let's get Lester out of the way.

Q Larry, in Pennsylvania on Saturday, Senator Arlen Specter said that he believes that the President's very strong words about unjust and deeply wrong ideological assault on William Bradford Reynolds -- that the President's words were directed to the Democrats on the Judiciary Committee, but not to him. Did the President direct his concern about the vote against Reynolds only to the Democrats, and not to Specter and Mathias? I have one follow-up.

MR. SPEAKES: Well I have to fall back on the words of the late great Mort Allen, who said, "They know who they are."

Q They know who they are. So you would not agree with Specter -- that he --

MR. SPEAKES: Of course not -- Soviet Union.

Q That's right. You would not agree with Specter's contentions if the President wasn't directing those -- that concern towards him, would you?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not going to pass judgement on Specter.

Q Okay. The other question is, tomorrow afternoon, Ambassadors Funderburk, Lechenstein and Winsor (sp?) will participate in a Heritage Foundation panel entitled, "How the State Department" -- this is a quote, "How the State Department undermines the President's foreign policy."

Q Yes!

Q Will you have anybody there from the White House, Larry, or do you want to --

MR. SPEAKES: Are they serving Ambassadors, or formers?

Q No, these are former. As I say, they still have the rank. Now, the question is, does the President know about this, or what?

MR. SPEAKES: Why don't you go and represent me there?

Q All right. I'll be glad -- it's on the record.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, I did. Yes.

Okay, yes?

Q The Supreme Court today struck down two programs of aid to parochial schools. Do you have any comment on this?

MR. SPEAKES: Not really. I didn't know they had struck, so --

Q Will you have a comment later?

Q Comment anyway.

MR. SPEAKES: I would doubt it, until we look at it.

Q When do you think you'll know the President's plans about tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKES: I would guess before the end of the day, and we'll post something.

Q Jesus, I hope so.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we've got to be firm -- when they're going to be there. We don't want to go when they ain't there, do we?

Q Did you have any kind of comment on --

Q Larry, what now becomes the focus of the President's attention? Does he try and keep tax reform on the track? Does he have to deal with the budget snarls? Where can we expect to see him hitting these things?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I think you will see him all of the above. I think you will see him concentrating to some extent on worldwide terrorism. You will see him concentrating on the budget and the supplemental. There are a number of other congressional items, and you will see him concentrating on tax reform.

Q -- this a decision-making meeting?

Q -- successful -- Larry, obviously you take this as a successful conclusion. Do you think that strengthens his hand in any particular way with other matters -- Congressional matters?

MR. SPEAKES: I am not in a position to make those kind of judgements, or whether it translates in any fashion. We did what we had to do in the hijacking situation, and, you know, let the chips fall where they may, as far as --

Dave?

Q Or as Rambo would say, "kill 'em."

Q Does the President have an reaction to Stockman or has he had any communication with Stockman since Stockman's speech in New York last week?

MR. SPEAKES: Didn't you get a copy of Stockman's speech? You should, because in it he didn't say what Times. Forgive me -- said it -- so look at it.

Leonard -- let me get Leonard and Mike, and then I've got to go.

Q Larry, follow-up to Mary's question.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes?

Q Do you think it would be a good idea in this case -- such an event of this -- in terms of the future, it might be a good idea for the networks and other media to get together and establish some kind of ground rules for the coverage?

MR. SPEAKES: That would -- I'd leave that for them -- for Sam and Roone to decide, and then tell us what they've decided.

Q You mean, you're not about to call for a halt on hostage interviews on the networks?

MR. SPEAKES: Did they pay for any of that?

Q Pardon?

MR. SPEAKES: Did anybody pay?

Q I have some views of the television coverage, but none I wish to transmit to you. (Laughter.)

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

#1477-07/01  
1:58 P.M. EDT