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# REAGAN DECLARES WAR ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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WASHINGTON — President Reagan last night warned terrorists to "be on notice: we will fight back against you."

Reagan spoke on nationwide television as a U.S. transport jet carried the 39 American hostages held in Beirut for 17 days to freedom.

"The United States gives terrorists no rewards and no guarantees. We make no concessions. We make no deals," Reagan said.

"We will fight back against your cowardly attacks on American citizens and property."

Reagan and his advisers were preparing to call on U.S. allies to join him in a "declaration of war on international terrorism," through a series of tough military and diplomatic moves against terrorist organizations and the nations that support them.

The moves include closing the Beirut airport — which Secretary of State George Shultz described last night as a haven for skyjackers and is used in more than 15 percent of overseas hijackings.

Other actions planned include launching a worldwide campaign to isolate nations such as Iran and Libya, which harbor and encourage terrorism; upgrade security at airports and U.S. government installations; improve U.S. intelligence capabilities; and improve ways to launch pre-emptive strikes against terrorists.

Although Shultz and other senior U.S. officials refused to rule out military retaliation against those responsible for the TWA hijacking, a major strike appeared to be unlikely — especially while seven kidnaped Americans remain in the custody of Shiite fanatics in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

But Reagan and Shultz made clear that the U.S. would make every effort to bring to justice the two Shiite fanatics who hijacked TWA Flight 847 and who murdered Navy diver Robert Stethem.

Sources said that the U.S. would seek to bring the two hijackers to justice through international legal means.

But if those efforts fail, the U.S. would be prepared to use "covert," means of capturing the two terrorists and those who helped them.

This would involve a kidnap operation by either the CIA, Israeli or Lebanese Christian commandos.

The FBI is also prepared to issue a large reward for information leading to the capture of the two hijackers, law enforcement sources said.

Reagan and his tired advisers were clearly relieved that the 17-day crisis was behind them.

The President, who had been closely monitoring the weekend's tense events from the White House, telephoned the hostages at 5:31 p.m. aboard the C-141 transport jet — shortly after it took off from Damascus en route to West Germany.

Reagan told Air Force Major Bill Edwards, in charge of the transport jet:

"I would appreciate your passing on to your passengers how proud I am of their strength and courage and that I look forward to their

being reunited with their families

Reagan planned to meet the hostages when they finally return to the U.S. later this week.

In his speech last night, Reagan said he and his wife Nancy had been "praying for what now has taken place."

"And like you, we thank God and wait with bated breath their final arrival at our shores."