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Reagan, After Geneva Talks, Plans an Address to Congress

FILE ONLY

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 — President Reagan plans to address a joint session of Congress on the night he returns from the Geneva meeting with Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, White House officials said today.

Mr. Reagan also wants to meet with leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels on his way home from Geneva, Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said.

"The purpose would be to provide an immediate and firsthand briefing on his meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev and to consult with allies on East-West relations," Mr. Speakes said.

A formal reply has not yet been received from NATO about the Brussels meeting, but White House officials said they expected the session to take place on Nov. 21, hours after Mr. Reagan's departure from Geneva.

Waiting for an Invitation

Although Mr. Speakes said Mr. Reagan was waiting to be invited by Congress to address a joint session, another White House official said it was virtually certain that the President would speak to Congress on the night of Nov. 21, shortly after his return from Europe.

"The idea is that the first thing he ought to do is report to the American people his impressions and conclusions and the nature of his meetings with Gorbachev," a White House official said. The summit meeting is to be held in Geneva on Nov. 19 and 20.

Mr. Reagan's plan to address Congress is similar to President Nixon's return from abroad on June 1, 1972, after he signed a treaty in Moscow limiting antiballistic missile systems and an interim accord on offensive weapons. Mr. Nixon flew by helicopter from Andrews Air Force Base to the Capitol to address Congress.

On another matter, White House officials said Mr. Reagan would decide in the next day or two about a possible interview with Tass, the Soviet press agency. Officials said that in the next few weeks Mr. Reagan planned to discuss the summit meeting in interviews with European journalists and in radio speeches to the American public.

Uneasy about the publicity accorded Mr. Gorbachev and his proposal for a 50 percent reduction in Soviet and American nuclear weapons that can hit each other's territory, Mr. Reagan and his staff have decided to step up White House efforts to counter the Soviet public relations drive. Officials said an American counterproposal to the Soviet offer would probably be issued before the summit meeting.

Meeting With Hostage Families

Meanwhile, Mr. Reagan met late this afternoon with the families of four of the six Americans listed as kidnapped

or missing in Lebanon. Asked what he intended to tell the group, Mr. Reagan said at a Rose Garden ceremony, "All the things that we continue to do to try to bring about their return."

The President met with relatives of the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, a Roman Catholic priest kidnapped on Jan. 8; Terry A. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press when he was abducted on March 16; David Jacobsen, director of the American University Hospital in Beirut, kidnapped on May 28, and Peter Kilburn, a librarian at the American University, who has been missing since Dec. 3, 1984.

The family of a fifth American, Thomas M. Sutherland, is in London and could not be reached by the White House, Mr. Speakes said. Mr. Sutherland, the dean of agriculture at the American University, was kidnapped on June 9.

The other missing American, William Buckley, a political officer at the United States Embassy in Beirut, has no immediate family, officials said. There have been unconfirmed reports that Mr. Buckley, who was kidnapped on March 16, 1984, has been killed.

Relatives Remain Hopeful

After a 15-minute meeting with the President and a session with Robert C. McFarlane, the White House national security adviser, that lasted more than 90 minutes, the families said tonight that they remained hopeful that the hostages would be released.

"What we'd like to say about the meeting," said Paul Jacobsen, son of David Jacobsen, "is that although our loved ones are still over there — and it's a source of pain to us, it's a very hard burden for us to live with — we do feel the meeting was very constructive.

"We do feel that President is committed to getting these men out," Mr. Jacobsen added. "We feel he does understand the pressures that are on us."

He said the group had presented a yellow ribbon to Mr. Reagan "as a symbol of this American commitment to get these men back home where they belong."