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TUESDAY

23 August 1988

SUMMARY OF MAJOR MEDIA ITEMS ON INTELLIGENCE

1. Dukakis Gets National Security Briefing; To Continue State Trip.
John King reports "Michael Dukakis brought CIA Director William Webster into his home for a briefing on national security and foreign affairs, topics Dukakis said he'd like to address in a debate with Republican challenger George Bush. Also at the briefing Monday night were Deputy CIA Director Robert Gates; Texas Sen. Lloyd Bensen, Dukakis' vice presidential running mate; House Intelligence Committee Chairman Louis Stokes of Ohio; Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana, its former chairman, and three Dukakis-Bensen campaign aides. Participants refused to comment on the session." (AP, 23 Aug)

2. The Two Faces Of Muammar Qaddafi. E. Wayne reports "since early this year, Col. Muammar Qaddafi has multiplied his efforts to end Libya's diplomatic isolation and defuse discontent at home. This charm offensive as one top US official calls it, is seen as tactical. The consensus among United States specialists is that it has been forced on Colonel Qaddafi by threats to his regime. US observers agree that the initial moves at home were popular. But more recent reports suggest that his domestic reforms have reached their limits and that people are still dissatisfied." (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 23 Aug, pg. 1)

3. Six Charged For Aiding Contras. Michael Hedges reports "six Cuban-born Americans were charged with running a commando camp in Naples, Fla., where troops were trained for missions against the Nicaraguan Sandinista government, according to a federal indictment unsealed in Fort Lauderdale yesterday. According to Mark Schnapp, head of the U.S. Attorney's Office criminal investigations division, the defendants graduated about 60 men from the camp located near the Everglades in Western Florida between June 1983 and September 1986. The FBI began investigating the group in July 1985, after reports that five mercenaries were arrested in Costa Rica in a resistance camp near the Nicaraguan border." (WASHINGTON TIMES, 23 Aug, pg. A-4)

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WEDNESDAY

24 August 1988

SUMMARY OF MAJOR MEDIA ITEMS ON INTELLIGENCE

1. Presidential Candidates Differ on How to Deal With the Soviet Union. Gerald Seib and John Walcott report that "Michael Dukakis thinks he knows what's propelling the Soviet Union to negotiate on issues ranging from arms control to regional hot spots. 'They are in such serious trouble economically that I think that's what's driving the process.' George Bush begs to differ. 'I don't think that everything is being driven by their economics.' Instead he credits the Reagan era military buildup with bringing the Soviets around. In Mr. Dukakis's view, Moscow's own economic predicament has created a historic opening to challenge the Kremlin diplomatically to cut conventional forces, stop arming Nicaragua, help achieve Middle East peace--and even to begin working jointly on such problems as the environment and space exploration. Mr. Bush, by contrast, talks more skeptically of a 'watch and see period' in US-Soviet relations. Mr. Bush says he would continue supporting anti-Communist rebels while looking for improved Soviet behavior in Central America. As Mr. Bush and his aides note, Central Intelligence Agency Director William Webster and other senior military and intelligence officials share his skepticism: they say they haven't seen evidence that Moscow has adopted a purely defensive military doctrine or slashed military aid to major Third World clients." (WALL STREET JOURNAL, 24 Aug, pg. 1)

2. New Round of Talks Opens on Southern Africa Agreement. David Ottaway reports "negotiators from the United States, Cuba, Angola and South Africa met yesterday in the Congolese capital of Brazzaville to open a fifth round of talks that is expected to determine whether an accord can be reached on a southern Africa peace settlement before the end of the Reagan administration. The current round is expected to involve hard bargaining over a compromise on this issue and to test the intentions of all the parties in the negotiations. Another issue that could upset an overall agreement is the fate of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the US- and South African-backed rebel group fighting the Angolan government. UNITA is not involved in the US-mediated talks and has refused to accept the cease-fire negotiated by Cuba, South Africa and Angola. Crocker has said US covert military aid to UNITA will continue until the Angolan government reaches a political settlement with it." (WASHINGTON POST, 24 Aug, pg. A-18)