World

US role in Sinai draws criticism - Egyptian officials have said earlier this week that they are not opposed to the surge of American troops in the multi-national peace-keeping force to be stationed in the Sinai. The announcement came three days before Secretary of State Alexander Haig's first visit to the Middle East. Egypt has said it has commitments from a half-dozen other nations to serve on the force should the Sinai cease fire motion in the UN, as seems likely. The force was mandated by the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Nicaraguan invasion planned - Right-wing Nicaraguan exiles, confident of support from the Honduran army and hoping for a go-ahead from Washington, are preparing to invade their homeland in order to bring down the left-wing Sandinista Government. Rebel leaders claim that a 600-man freedom force stationed in Nicaragua would soon be joined by thousands of sympathizers, some from Miami. "We'll be ready for a 200,000 rebel army," a spokesman said. In a possibly related action, the US announced its termination of the remaining $15 million in aid to the country that it had already set aside.

Status of Thai coup questioned — General Prem Tinsulanonda, whose government was declared ousted in a coup early Wednesday, said he was still Prime Minister and has the support of King Aduladej, General San. All Chiphuns, leader of the rebel forces, denied Tinsulanonda's claim that the rebels represent only a small fraction of the armed forces, saying that he is in control.

Russian-US war escalates — In a move cleared with Secretary of State Haig, the US State Department has refused to extend a visa granted to the Soviet Union's leading US expert, Georgi Arbatov was to have appeared in a Soviet-American debate on a broadcast of "Bill Moyers' Journal." The denial was in direct response to the Soviet's repeated refusal to allow US charge d'affaires Jack Matlock appear on Soviet TV.

Nation

Reagan doing well with reduced schedule — President Ronald Reagan is continuing to make an "amazing" recovery from the chest wound he suffered in Monday's assassination attempt. The president ate some gelatin Wednesday morning. This is the first step in a switch from a liquid diet to solid food. While the President has been working from his hospital room, the White House has reduced his schedule in order to avoid tiring him and because he is expected to be in some pain. Presidential press secretary James Brady, although he is expected in good condition, is making an extraordinarily rapid recovery from the bullet wound he received in the head during Monday's attempt. Brady is now able to speak and breath without a respirator, and while doctors are guardedly optimistic that he will recover all his mental capacities, they point out that the final status of his condition will not be known for a number of months.

Heart drug cuts death rate — A large-scale study has determined that heart attack patients who were given a drug called timolol have a much lower risk of death, according to a report published in the New England Journal of Medicine Wednesday. Use of the drug reduced the patients' overall risk of death by about 45 percent and cut almost in half the death rate of those who were classified as high-risk patients after their attacks. The Food and Drug Administration is currently evaluating the drug for possible use; it is currently in use only on an investigational basis.

College grant freeze ending — A spokesman for Secretary of Education T. H. Bell said that the department plans to resume processing Federal grant applications early next week. Under a compromise reached by the Department of Education and key members of Congress, funding for the so-called Pell grants for the forthcoming school year has been reinstated. An estimated 1.5 million college students are each expected to receive grants ranging from $200 to $1,800, depending on need.

Weather

Mostly sunny and warm today with southwest winds and highs reaching near 70 today. Mild tonight with a few high clouds and lows near 50. Warmer again Saturday but with more cloudiness. Highs will be in the low to middle 70's. Becoming mostly cloudy late Saturday with showers and occasional thunderstorms breaking out in the evening. Lows in the low 50's.

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