US attacks Iranian oil platforms

The United States yesterday destroyed two Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and boarded a third platform to destroy its radar and communications gear in the aftermath. Earlier in the day, from which blazed a patch of oil platforms that US officials said had been used as bases for Iranian attacks on shipping. Yesterday's action was in retaliation for the Iranian attack that damaged a US-flagged Kuwaiti tanker Friday.

Following the attack on the first two platforms, Iran's president fired back with rhetoric, promising decisive retaliatory action. All Khanbhai said President Reagan had made a "big mistake." Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the United States isn't seeking further confrontation with Iran, but is ready to strike again if Iran does retaliate.

President spokesman Mr. Fitzwater said the US actions make an important military and political point, while avoiding escalations that might have resulted from an attack on Iranian-occupied sites in Iraq. He said the United States will not allow Iran to get away with attacks on ships flying the American flag.

Reagan said the United States is at war with Iran and called the attack an "appropriate and proportional response.

Initial reaction: from both Democrats and Republicans has been supportive of yesterday's action.

Irish seized Stinger

An Afghan resistance leader said Iran seized nine American-made Stinger missiles in a skirmish with Afghan guerrillas in May. That would support reports circulating in Washington that Iran had acquired the shoulder-fired anti-aircraft weapons. Iran forces first appeared to be a Stinger at a US helicopter in the Persian Gulf this month.

New Japanese premier chooses

Japan is getting a new prime minister. Noboru Takeichi has been chosen to succeed Yushio Nakasone as prime minister and head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party. The former finance minister will serve for the remainder of President Nakasone's term of office, which expires in four years.

Waite's release sought

The Church of England has revealed its latest effort to help secure the release of Terry Waite and other hostages in Lebanon. A spokesman said on Sunday that the Archbishop of Canterbury's secretary for foreign affairs recently visited Syria and Lebanon to help in the negotiations, like Waite himself is stepping out of the war, as it would be foolish to be optimistic.

Palestinian leaders boycott Shultz

Palestinian leaders in Beirut boycotted a meeting Sunday with Secretary of State George P. Shultz Press Release. They were protesting a US decision to close a Palestinian Liberation Organization office in Washington. Shultz is in the Middle East to help restart the stalled peace process.

Billy Martin returns again

It is said truth is stranger than fiction. The New York Yankees reaffirmed that many years ago, when the team announced Billy Martin will return as manager for the 1985 season.

It will be Martin's fifth return as manager of the Yanks and Martin will be the 15th manager to lead the team. The team was bought by George Steinbrenner in 1973. To make room for Martin, Steinbrenner moved Tom Pini from the bench upstairs to other management.

Martin returns to managing with a career record of 1212-900. Martin's resume includes a World Series title with the Yankees in 1977.

Electric's leader: Conns

The latest Associated Press college football poll was released last night. There is no change at the top, or among the top four for that matter. But elsewhere there has been some excitement among teams.

While Oklahoma, Nebraska, Miami and Florida State remain entrenched in spots one through four respectively, Syracuse has broken into the top 10 for the first time since 1968. It will be a few years, however, before any team can come close to the top 20 for the first time since 1967.

Returnees to this week's poll are 17th ranked Alabama and 20th ranked Michigan. The Tigers will be ranked 12th in the New Orleans area because they were not ranked.

NFL players return to work

The dreams of most of the players who have been the stewards of the National Football League, and for the past three weeks came crashing down yesterday. As the regular season players reported back to work, a bulk of the substitutes were let go. There were no reports of friction as the substitutes crossed paths with the striking players at stadiums around the NFL.

Enjoy it while it lasts

It looks as if we may get another nice day today. By tonight, however, our weather conditions will deteriorate as a cold front approaches our region. We can expect wet weather early Wednesday. The skies will be mostly to mostly sunny with high temperatures near 75°F. Winds will shift to become northwest, and much cooler weather last Wednesday through Thursday as cold Canadian air pushes into our region.

Today: Skies will be mostly to mostly sunny with high temperatures near 75°F. Winds will shift to become northwest at 5-10 mph.

Tonight: Increasing cloudiness with lows near 50°F. Winds will shift to become northwest.

Wednesday: Clouds and showers will give way to mostly sunny with high temperatures near 75°F. Winds will shift to become northwest.


Forecast by Robert Black

Compiled by Niraj S. Desai