

Common purpose and yawns end conference

Economic talks successful

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan says allied leaders completed the Ottawa economic summit talks "with a true sense of common understanding and common purpose." There also were some yawns.

Reagan dozed off Tuesday during the delivery of final statements at the close of the three-day, seven-nation conference on economic and political matters. He was not alone in his weariness.

At times, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki slowly nodded with their eyes closed. Secretary of State Alexander Haig yawned widely.

In his own closing remarks, Reagan told the leaders of Canada, France, Great Britain, West Germany, Italy and Japan:

"We leave with a true sense of common understanding and common purpose. Economic unity and political unity are two great goals, and we must continue to pursue them."

But there was controversy, too — most of it centered on record high U.S. interest rates and Reagan's tight money policies, which have hurt the Western European nations.

But Reagan held his ground against the high-level criticism, insisting the high interest rates were a legacy from the "economic mess" he inherited. He predicted they would decline.

The president won strong backing for his initiative to curb trade with the Soviet Union as long as the Russians pursue expansionist policies and a military buildup.

Afterward, White House communications director David Gergen acknowledged the "long nights" and rigorous schedule at the summit had wearied Reagan somewhat.

But noting Reagan's ability to deal with the flurry of international subjects, he said, "I think it was an excellent debut for him on the international stage."

He said Reagan's personality "bridged the gap" and the president approached the get acquainted meetings in an "even-tempered," relaxed style.

Gergen also said Reagan was "well prepared on the issues" and any apprehensions he might have had before attending his first summit quickly disappeared.

Said Reagan: "I was particularly grateful to the other leaders for

their degree of understanding and support for the economic policies we are embarked on in the United States."

He said the meetings were "filled with candid but always friendly talks" and ended with "fresh confidence and optimism about the future of democratic values in our societies."

White House counselor Edwin Meese told reporters on the flight back to Washington that Reagan and France's socialist President Francois Mitterrand got along well and Reagan agreed with Mit-

terrand's hope that the next summit would have "less people, less paper and shorter communiques."

In Ottawa, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan told reporters U.S. interest rates proved to be the touchiest subject on the agenda. But he said there was "no table thumping."

The Treasury secretary praised Reagan's performance and said the other leaders "recognized his strength and determination — and there was dead silence" when he defended his economic program.

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