

National

Haig to head U.S. delegation

Reagan won't attend funeral

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan Wednesday designated Secretary of State Alexander Haig to head a U.S. delegation, which may include three former presidents, to attend the funeral of slain Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon all were asked to join the delegation, a White House official said.

David Gergen, White House communications director, said Reagan — on the unanimous re-

commendation of government security agencies — will not attend the funeral. He said the same safety considerations will keep Vice President George Bush from going.

"We're not going to discuss on what precise grounds the security agencies made their recommendations," Gergen said, but he indicated the White House had been in touch with the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

Gergen said Carter and Nixon already have said they will join the

delegation, but a formal acceptance has not yet been received from Ford.

Haig told a news conference Wednesday that Ford might have some scheduling problems.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former Middle East mediator Sol Linowitz have also been invited.

Other dignitaries invited to attend the funeral as members of the U.S. delegation are: Senate Republican leader Howard Baker; Democratic Senate leader Robert

Byrd; Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; House Speaker Thomas O'Neill; and House Republican leader Bob Michel.

Among those representing the administration are Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and U.N. Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick. Joseph Canzeri, a presidential assistant also is included in the delegation.

There was no word on when the delegation would depart.

Reagan watching Mideast

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan has sent cables to allies and Middle East leaders to express "his strong feelings" about the assassination of Egypt's Anwar Sadat and pledge a close U.S. watch on the area, an aide said Wednesday.

Reagan was briefed on developments in the region Tues-

day and Wednesday by Richard Allen, his adviser on national security matters.

There were indications that the president wanted to attend Sadat's funeral, but was discouraged by aides because of security constraints.

Former Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter have all been asked to fly

to Cairo for the burial.

Larry Speakes, White House deputy press secretary, said Reagan "sent cables to a number of allies and other regional leaders which expressed his feelings, and in addition stressed the continued U.S. close relationship with Egypt and the feeling that the Camp David process should and would continue."

House coalition dispatches message to budget cutters

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A bipartisan House coalition has defeated efforts by Republican leaders to cut deeper into social programs, sending a message to the White House that proposals for more spending reductions are in trouble.

Thirty-nine Republicans joined 210 Democrats Tuesday to rebuff the GOP leaders and President Reagan's plan to further reduce fiscal 1982 spending.

They rejected a procedural motion that would have led to the deeper cuts Reagan has requested for the departments of Education, Health and Human Services and Labor.

Moderate Rep. William Green, R-N.Y., who voted against the motion, said it was a "message to the budget cutters ... that the House doesn't want the safety net cut to shreds."

After eight hours of debate, the House voted 249-168 against the motion by Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio. It would have returned the measure to the Appropriations

Committee for more budget cutting.

The House then approved the bill by voice vote, but Republican leaders said they had enough votes to sustain a presidential veto. They said the measure was a "candidate for veto" since it didn't meet Reagan's latest requests for the deeper cuts.

Assistant Republican leader Trent Lott of Mississippi said it was their "judgement call" that the GOP could not muster sufficient votes to defeat the bill on the final passage vote.

"The important thing was we got 168 votes," he said, adding it was "clearly evident there are sufficient votes with room to spare for sustaining a veto."

The Senate still must consider its own version of the funding bill.

In the House, 28 Democrats crossed party lines to support the Republicans, much as they have in previous budget votes. But the GOP defections in support of the Democratic bill were the largest this year.

On a 383-30 vote earlier in the day, the House trimmed \$74 mil-

lion from the bill in a committee-sponsored attempt to bring it in line with budget targets set by Congress this summer.

But GOP leader Bob Michel of Illinois said the bill was "excessive and the president will surely consider it unacceptable."

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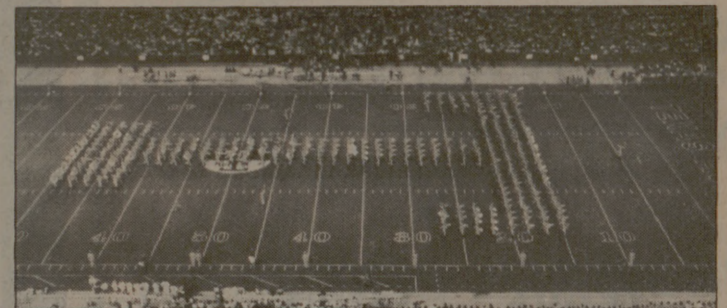
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