DEFENSE DIALOG

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FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1980 (BROADCASTS OF THURSDAY, JUNE 5)

SUMMARY OF BROADCAST NEWS IN THIS ISSUE

PENTAGON COMPUTER MALFUNCTION: The Pentagon announced today that NORAD experienced a computer malfunction early Tuesday morning resulting in the alerting of the Strategic Air Command of a missile attack on the United States by the Soviet Union. This was the second such computer malfunction to occur in the last seven months. Reports from John Chancellor and Hilary Brown, NBC, Walter Cronkite and Ike Pappas, CBS, and Frank Reynolds and John McWethy, ABC.

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IRAN SITUATION UPDATE: Iranian President Bani-Sadr proposed a tentative plan for the release of the American hostages. He wants a commission formed to document the crimes of the United States in Iran, withdrawal of American support from the Shah's family, assurances that American projects started in Iran will be completed, and assurances that the United States will not interfere in the affairs of Iran. Reports from John Chancellor, NBC, and Walter Cronkite, CBS.

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION UPDATE: Today was the anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Israeli troops attacked Palestinian guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon, and were on full alert on the West Bank against possible reprisals for this week's bombing attacks against two pro-Palestinian mayors. Reports from John Chancellor, NBC, Walter Cronkite and Bob Simon, CBS, and Peter Jennings, ABC.

CHINA VICE CHAIRMAN TO RESIGN: China's Vice Chairman Teng Hsiao-ping announced he will resign his position sometime this summer. He will maintain his post as number two in the Communist Party. Report from Peter Jennings, ABC.

SOVIET SPACE LAUNCH: The Soviet Union launched a sophisticated two-man spacecraft today, the Soyuz T-2, which is expected to dock with their Salyut space station. Reports from Frank Reynolds, ABC, and Walter Cronkite, CBS.

PREPARED BY THE AIR FORCE (SAFAA) AS EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF KEY DOD PERSONNEL MATTERS WITHIN THEIR OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

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NBC NIGHTLY NEWS NBC TV
6:30 PM JUNE 5

Pentagon Computer Malfunction

JOHN CHANCELLOR: Earlier this week, for a few minutes it looked as though the United States were about to be attacked by Soviet missiles. A military alert signal went out to the armed forces. Engines on American planes were started. One command aircraft crew was scrambled and sent aloft. All a computer mistake, it turns out, early on Tuesday morning, but no laughing matter. Hilary Brown has the details from the Pentagon.

HILARY BROWN: According to the Pentagon, the false alarm started with what it called a technical problem in a computer at NORAD, the North American Air Defense Command, in Colorado Springs in the early hours of Tuesday morning. This brought up visual displays at the Strategic Air Command in Omaha and at the Military Command Center at the Pentagon indicating Soviet missile launches from land and sea against the United States. Warplanes of the Strategic Air Command, B-52 bombers and F-111s, like these, were manned immediately and their engines were started. One command-and-control aircraft, of the type shown here, actually took off from its base in Hawaii.

But defense officials say that even as the planes were starting up, it was clear there was no attack.

THOMAS ROSS: We thought from the beginning that it was false. We knew in quick order that it was a computer malfunction and not an actual attack underway.

BROWN: Only seven months ago, NORAD went on a similar alert when simulated attack data were accidentally fed into the computers. An immediate investigation has been ordered to find out what happened this time.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown said today that because the alarm was found to be false within three minutes, this shows how the nation's defense monitoring system really works. It also seems to show how quickly the superpowers could be brought to the brink of war.

Iran Situation Update

CHANCELLOR: Iran's President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr has a plan for the release of the American hostages. He wants what he calls American support for the family of the Shah to come to an end, guarantees that projects the United States began in Iran will be finished, and assurances that the United States not interfere in Iranian affairs. The plan is remarkably free of the usual bombast, but no one is certain if it would be acceptable to the Ayatollah Khomeini.

Israeli Situation Update

CHANCELLOR: Today is the anniversary of the famous 1967 Six Day War in the Middle East, when Israel defeated Syria, Jordan and Egypt, and transformed the map of the Middle East.

Today, 13 years later, there were threats from the Palestinians, the Israeli Army was put on full alert, Israeli troops attacked Palestinian guerrilla positions in southern Lebanon, and the United Nations Security Council condemned the attacks on Arab mayors of towns in the territories occupied during the 1967 Six Day War.

CBS EVENING NEWS CBS TV
7:00 PM JUNE 5

Pentagon Computer Malfunction

WALTER CRONKITE: For the second time in seven months, a computer malfunction at the nation's missile warning center recently indicated that the United States was under attack by the Soviet Union. Last November's false alarm lasted six minutes. This week's was half as long. Ike Pappas reports.

IKE PAPPAS: Deep inside a mountain near Colorado Springs, Colorado, the North American Air Defense Command keeps track of Soviet missile launches by way of satellite linked to an elaborate computer network. Early Tuesday, the NORAD computer flashed a warning that the United States was under nuclear attack by the Soviet Union.

American strategic bombers and missiles immediately went on stepped-up alert. Three minutes later, the alert was cancelled, however, when it was discovered that technical problems in the computer system had caused another false alarm. No bombers were launched, but one radar plane did take off from Hawaii. Neither Defense Secretary Harold Brown nor President Carter was informed of the latest incident. Brown telling reporters on Capitol Hill that such false alarms occur from time to time.

SECRETARY BROWN: There have been individual missile launches which have raised these questions, and computer malfunctions that have raised these questions periodically over the years; and there are going to continue to be. The system operates, as it's supposed to operate, with people in the loop to assure that we do not make these decisions by computer.

PAPPAS: The Pentagon has launched an investigation, and should know within a week what caused the computer glitch.

Soviet Soyuz Launched

CRONKITE: The Soviet Union continued to accelerate its space program today, with its second launching in ten days. A Soyuz T-2 was sent up to link with their orbiting Salyut-6 space station. This was the first manned mission for the two-man T-2, described as an improved version of earlier Soyuz craft.

Middle East Situation Update

CRONKITE: Israeli troops today attacked Palestinian guerrilla bases near the Lebanese port town of Sidon. The military command said several guerrillas were killed or wounded.

Israeli troops also were active in the occupied West Bank, on alert for reprisals for this week's car-bomb attack that maimed two Palestinian mayors.***

Iranian Hostage Release Plan

CRONKITE: Iranian President Bani-Sadr reportedly has come up with a three-point plan to end the protracted Iran hostage crisis. But because the plan does not call for the return of the deposed Shah, as demanded by the hard-line Islamic fundamentalists, it's not clear whether Ayatollah Khomeini, the final authority, would accept it.

According to Iran's official news agency, the plan calls for an end of US support for the Shah's exiled family, guarantees that the United States would complete projects in Iran, and provide spare parts for US equipment, presumably including military equipment, and assurances that the United States would not interfere in Iran's affairs.

Another report, in the Boston Globe, said that show trials for some of the American hostages would lead to a resolution of the

crisis and safe return of them all.

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT ABC TV
7:00 PM JUNE 5

Chinese Vice Chairman to Resign

PETER JENNINGS: In China today, news of the Vice Premier, Teng Hsiao-ping. Teng again said he's resigning as Vice Premier, towards the end of the summer. He will remain at his key post of number two in the Communist Party.

Teng also said today that China was satisfied at her reported tilt by the United States away from Moscow towards Peking. He was commenting on remarks at the State Department which pointed out that Washington was no longer following an evenhanded policy towards the two Communist capitals.

Soviet Space Launch

JENNINGS: Yet another Soviet space flight began today. Two cosmonauts, flying a new, more sophisticated model of Soyuz, went into orbit. It's likely they will link up with the already orbiting Soviet space station.

NORAD Alert

FRANK REYNOLDS: It was disclosed today that earlier this week, for a few anxious minutes, there were indications that Soviet technology was being used in a rather more sinister way. But it soon became evident the problem was with American technology. Pentagon correspondent John McWethy has the story.

JOHN MCWETHY: Before dawn on Tuesday morning, computers at the Strategic Air Command Center in Omaha, Nebraska sounded an alert: an ICBM attack from the Soviet Union and its submarines had been launched. In response, readiness of America's missile force was increased, and B-52 and F-111 bombers carrying nuclear weapons were scrambled. Pilots were in the planes,with engines running, before the alert was called off. It was a false alarm, it turned out, generated by the computer. It took three minutes to verify by satellite that no Russian attack had been launched, and another 20 minutes to fully call off the alert.

This is the second such false alarm in this system in seven months, a source of growing concern here at the Pentagon, where the margain of error is measured in minutes, and mistakes, if not detected early, could touch off a nuclear war.

Middle East Situation Update

JENNINGS: Israeli forces, before dawn, once again attacked south Lebanon. The Israelis say it was Palestinian guerrilla targets. The residents of Sidon say one civilian was killed and three others wounded.

In the occupied territories today, the Mayor of Bethlehem said West Bank Palestinians have reached a dead end of isolation, subjugation, and humiliation. Two other mayors were maimed this week by car bombs. Today the condition of one is worse.***

The following transcripts are available for viewing on the premises at SAF-AAR:

Military Buildup in Response to Iran and Afghanistan.
News, MBS Radio Network, June 1, 5:30 PM. TR-057

Benefits for the Armed Forces.
Congressional Backgrounder, WTOP Radio, June 1, 5:55 PM. TR-058

Fighting Against Higher Defense Spending.
Capitol Cloakroom, CBS Radio Network, June 1, 6:30 PM. TR-059

Interview with Eugene Eidenberg.
Good Morning America, ABC TV Network, June 3, 7:00 AM. TR-060

Congress and the U.S. Foreign Policy Decision-Making.
The Rowan Report, WHUR Radio, June 3, 5:55 PM. TR-061

Cuban Refugees at Fort Chaffee.
The World Tonight, CBS Radio Network, June 3, 6:00 PM. TR-062

Reducing Youth Unemployment with Military Recruiting.
The Daily Drum, WHUR Radio, June 3, 6:00 PM. TR-063

American-Made Weapons Pouring into Afghanistan.
The Daily Drum, WHUR Radio, June 3, 6:15 PM. TR-064

Plans to Build a Joint Reserve Training Center.
Jack Anderson, MBS Radio Network, June 4, 6:23 Am. TR-065

Bargain for the Pentagon.
Jack Anderson, MBS Radio Network, June 4, 6:23 AM. TR-066

Israeli Plan for Hostage Rescue.
Morning Edition, NPR Radio Network, June 4, 6:55 AM. TR-067

Vietnam and Iran.
Editorial, WRC Radio, June 4, 8:40 AM. TR-068

The Chinese as a Military Ally.
News 7, WJLA TV, June 4, 6:00 PM. TR-069

Quotes General Jones.
Eyewitness News, WDVM TV, June 4, 6:00 PM. TR-070

Money for the Draft.
The Ten O'Clock News, WTTG TV, June 4, 10:00 PM. TR-071

America's Military Might Examined.
MetroNews, KTTV TV, May 23, 10:53 PM. LA-1

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