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## THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S SECRET ARMS DEAL

# Moynihan to Reagan: 'Out With All the Malefactors'

Associated Press

*The statement on Iran yesterday by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) in the Democratic Party's weekly radio address:*

Fellow Americans, good afternoon. This is Sen. Moynihan of New York. I've been asked to deliver what has become known as the Democratic response to the president's weekly radio broadcast. And for certain, I am a Democrat and yet I was also a member of the Cabinet of President Reagan's two immediate Republican predecessors. And it is in somewhat that role that I would speak today.

This is no occasion on which to respond to the president. This is a time to talk with him. Mr. President, I listened to you at noon. I pray you are listening to me now. Your presidency, sir, is tottering. It can be saved, but only you can save it and only if you will talk with us, the Congress. Washington is awash with rumor, intrigue, treachery. Out there in the Santa Ynez Mountains, you can't know how bad it is, for you've never been through anything like it. I have. I tell you, it is deeply dangerous. Mind, we do not yet have a constitutional crisis and as yet, there is not an international crisis. But either or both could come unless you act and act now.

Laws have been broken, that must be assumed. Men have betrayed your trust. Very well, let it all come out, in the open with greater than deliberate speed, immediately, regardless. You've made one excellent move. The FBI is on the case. They will carry out an investigation by the book. They will get the facts and why not tell them, this minute and in public, to get them all.

But it can't stop at that. There is an institutional crisis between the executive branch and the legislative branch which has to be resolved. Staff can't do it for you; staff can't do it for us. This is one of those moments when the most important fact to know about Washington is that

there are only 537 persons in this capital who were elected by the people and sent here to govern. This is the moment of truth. The issue is not that difficult.

For some years now, presidents have been coming to the Congress asking for additional staff resources under their personal direction. The National Security Council staff is an example, created in 1947 to assist you as presiding officer of the council. It is responsible to you and, in all truth, to no one else. It is there to help you. Congress put it there. This is the essential fact. In doing so, we chose to trust the president to use the help wisely. It was unthinkable in 1947 and it is unthinkable today that the staff of the National Security Council would commence to act as a State Department, a Defense Department and a CIA, all on its own or in conjunction with secret agencies in other agencies. We gave you the staff to help you direct the other departments, not to evade or undermine them, not to roam about the world setting off wars, revolutions, panic, pandemonium and, most emphatically and fundamentally, Mr. President, not to break the laws Congress has enacted.

For in the end, that undermines you, you who are responsible for executing the laws. This nation does not want and does not need another destroyed presidency. And so I plead, Mr. President, clean house, out with all the facts, out with all the malefactors. Come to the Hill and talk, elected official to elected official. We are your friends. We share this brief of sacred authority given by the American people. We want you to save your presidency, our presidency, and as you would say, thank you and God bless you.