

# Hostages Free, At U.S. Hospital In Germany; Reagan Sworn In

## Pledges No Compromise On Economy

WASHINGTON — Ronald Reagan assumed office as the nation's 40th president Tuesday with a passionate call for an "era of national renewal" and a pledge not to compromise on his promises to cut taxes and reduce the size of the federal government.

In his first official act as president, less than an hour after being sworn in, the former California governor signed an order imposing a federal hiring freeze that he said "will eventually lead to a sizable reduction in the federal work force."

"It is time for us to realize that we are too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams," Reagan declared in his inaugural address. He had charged during the 1980 campaign that President Carter had too limited a view of the nation's potential.

"We're not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline," he said. "I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing. So with all the creative energy at our command, let us begin an era of national renewal."

Inaugurated as the American hostages were being freed in Iran, Reagan also had a warning for international terrorists. He declared that no weapon against them is so formidable as one employed by Americans — "the will and moral courage of free men and women."

"Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors."

Reagan made no direct reference to the hostages in his forcefully delivered, 15-minute inaugural address. But the high drama of their release dominated the conversations of many of the thousands who turned out to watch the inaugural ceremonies and parade under cloudy skies and in almost spring-like weather.

The planes carrying the hostages to freedom took off from Tehran just a few minutes after the new president completed his speech.

Carter, who blames the hostage crisis for crippling his presidency and burying his re-election effort, had held out hope until just before the inauguration ceremonies that he would be able to announce the release before he left office. As it was, he returned to a homecoming celebration in Plains, Ga., with the knowledge that the feverish activities in the final days of his presidency had paid off. It was said that he hoped people will think the outcome vindicated his policy of patience.

(See Reagan: A-7, Col. 3)



Three unidentified ex-hostages leave jetliner at Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt, West Germany, early today

## 52 Americans End Captivity, In U.S. Control

The Associated Press

Fifty-two freed American hostages arrived in West Germany early today, ending a 44-day ordeal as prisoners of Iranian revolutionaries and a 12-hour flight from Tehran via Athens and Algiers.

At a stopover at Algiers' wind-swept airport, Algerian officers, acting as intermediaries, formally turned the former captives over to U.S. authorities in a brief and joyous ceremony.

The Americans, one flashing a V-for-victory sign and another shouting "God bless America," then flew aboard two U.S. medical evacuation planes to West Germany for a period of rest and "decompression" at a U.S. Air Force hospital.

The medical evacuation DC-9s touched down at the Rhein-Main Air Base near Frankfurt at 6:45 a.m. local time (12:45 a.m. EST) on the last leg of the hostages' journey from Tehran — with the next trip to the United States and home.

They had flown out of Tehran aboard an Algerian airliner 25 minutes after Ronald Reagan succeeded Jimmy Carter as president at noon Tuesday in inauguration ceremonies in Washington. And as they were led to the plane, one at a time, a group of Iranian revolutionary guards crowded around, waving their fists and chanting, "Death to America" and "God is great!"

Ali Abdelaziz, an Algerian protocol officer who was on the flight from Tehran, said when the hostages were safely aboard the plane "they let their joy explode. They began to shout, to sing."

A cheer rose from hundreds of U.S. military personnel and civilians gathered at the Rhein-Main base as the freed hostages left the DC-9s and boarded buses for the 20-mile trip to the Air Force hospital at Wiesbaden.

A delegation led by former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who headed the State Department when the U.S. Embassy and hostages were seized on Feb. 4, 1979, and Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel formed a receiving line to greet the 52.

Carter, unable to win the hostages' freedom in the closing hours of "his watch" because of last-minute delays, was scheduled to fly to Wiesbaden later in the day as President Reagan's envoy.

"USA, USA, USA" cheered the throng at the West German air base, with many people waving small American flags. The former prisoners had been served an American dinner of Thanksgiving turkey on the 1,250-mile flight from Algiers to Frankfurt.

They had left Tehran at 8:55 p.m. Tehran time Tuesday (12:25 p.m. EST) and after a refueling stop in Athens, Greece, their Algerian Boeing 727 landed in Algiers about 7½ hours later. A second Boeing 727 that carried the Americans' luggage and a smaller jet with the Algerian diplomats who had served as go-betweens in the long and often frustrating negotiations completed the three-plane mission.

In 95 hectic minutes disembarked back to the United States, the freed captives unbarred from the Algerian craft and were greeted with hugs and tears, closing the final chapter in a hostage-holding episode without precedent in modern diplomatic history.

(See Freedom: A-4, Col. 3)

## America Freed From Ordeal As Hostages Are Liberated

### An Analysis

By HAYNES JOHNSON  
L.A. Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON — More than the hostages have been freed in Iran, America has been liberated, too — freed of pent-up feelings of rage and helplessness, of weariness and despair, of hopes suddenly rising and cruelly being dashed.

The last long act in this interminable drama of endless frustration was in keeping with the entire extraordinary episode. Once more, Americans were held emotionally in thrall as they awaited the final release. Once more, that agonizing wait turned into more hours of delay and disappointment. But, at last, there was a happy ending.

Of the hostage saga it now can be said that it ended as it began: with news bulletins followed by numbing hours of uncertainty, suspense and anxiety still to be endured by Americans everywhere before it was really over. When the wheels finally went up on that plane lifting off from Tehran, producing a collective sigh of relief across the country, they brought to a close an epic tale of an entire nation literally and figuratively held captive alongside fellow citizens in a far-off land some Americans barely knew existed before Nov. 4, 1979 — a date that will live in memory, if not certainly in history.

No event in modern times preoccupied the nation so long and so personally, none ever bred such

national frustration. Short of our wars and perhaps the Watergate scandal, the ordeal of the hostages became the single most consuming episode in American history.

It dominated our news, defined our politics, determined our presidency, diverted our attention from critical problems at home and abroad. It swept aside such worldwide events as the march of the Soviets into Afghanistan or the Poles' brave struggle for freedom, and it affected our national psyche in ways both profound and infathomable. To a country supposedly divided politically, the hostages became the unifying element. To a generation thought to be too disinclined to fight, the hostages became a rallying cry for action. To a society said to be too sophisticated to heed old exhortations about national honor, the hostages brought a surge of patriotism unmatched since the attack on Pearl Harbor 40 years ago.

The hostages took hold of American emotions so powerfully for another special reason — television. Among the historians, novelists and playwrights we had their say, the hostage story likely will be remembered as our first long-run, real-life television drama.

It was television that enabled us to identify so personally with those 52 Americans; that made us feel they and their families were part of our own

(See Nation Freed: A-4, Col. 3)

### Inside

- What is store for relations between the United States and Algeria — A-3.
- Comments from the hostages on their arrival in Algiers — A-4.
- Doctors speculate on the mental condition of the hostages — A-4.
- Tar Heels elated over the hostages' release — A-5.
- Iran has received \$2.9 billion of \$12 billion it has coming — A-5.
- The hostages' families are rejoicing — A-5.
- A look at the 44 days of the crisis — A-6.
- Profiles of all 52 American hostages — A-6.
- An editorial — A-8.



Chief Justice Warren Burger administers oath of office to President Reagan

Related stories and pictures are on A-2 and A-7; a text of the inaugural address is on A-14

## As Private Citizen, Carter Says Thanks

L.A. Times-Washington Post News Service

PLAINS, Ga. — Jimmy Carter came home a private citizen Tuesday and gave the speech he hoped to give as president. He thanked God for His help — and America for its patience — that the hostage crisis that had helped wreck his presidency had finally been settled.

"Our nation acted as a great nation ought to act, not only with justified outrage at a despicable and illegal act, not only with courage and conviction, but with constant purpose and constant restraint in the face of severe provocation," he said.

He stood on a platform outside the old train depot, a peanut farmer turned president turned peanut farmer again, beneath a "Welcome Home, Jimmy" banner in a cold, hard rain, his voice cracking with emotion. The "last few hours" had been among the most emotion-packed of his life, he said, as he struggled to bring the 14-month hostage crisis to an end during his term as president. He had gone without sleep for the last two nights, signed all the documents required by Iran, only to have that country hold

the hostages until Ronald Reagan was inaugurated, spilling Carter's last moments as president.

But he didn't sound like a man with spoiled dreams. He seemed exhausted but elated, and flanked by his wife, Rosalyn, his children, trusted aides and a sea of 2,500 friends, neighbors and well-wishers, he said he had learned just before landing at Warner Robbins Air Force Base near Plains that the "aircraft carrying the 52 hostages had cleared Iranian air space on the first leg of the journey home and that every one of the 52 hostages was alive and well and free."

They whooped and cheered at this final accomplishment, but many who brought covered dishes of potato salad, butter beans and fried chicken for a down-home celebration on Main Street said they would have been proud of him, no matter what.

"That's why people are here, to show him they love him — and to drink beer at Billy's," said Rowe Nyland, an unemployed Carter campaign worker who came down from South

(See Private: A-18, Col. 1)

### Cloudy. Rain

Expected High Today, 43  
Tuesday Temperatures  
High 50, Low 28  
More Data On A-2

### Index

	Section Page
Ann Landers	A 16
Bridge	A 16
Business & Finance	B 4-6
Classified	B 10-15
Comics	A 19
Crossword Puzzle	A 19
Editorials	A 8
Obituaries	B 3
People In The News	A 17
Sports	B 7-10
Tar Heel Living	A 16
Theaters	A 17
Television	A 18
Weather	A 2

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### Today's Chuckle

The U.S. might be in better shape if the Indians had had stricter immigration laws.