

OIJA 81-132 C

OFFICIAL GREETING -- President Reagan welcomes home the 52 Americans who were held hostage in Iran for 444 days. The emotion-filled ceremony at the White House in Washington followed spontaneous public demonstrations of affection and pride that started with their safe exit from Tehran to Algeria a week earlier, and that continued during their brief stay for medical check-ups at a U.S. military hospital in West Germany and during private reunions with their families at West Point (New York). An estimated half-million Washingtonians lined the streets waving flags and yellow ribbons during the drive in from a suburban airport. A yellow ribbon, symbolizing love for someone held captive elsewhere, graces a column of the Executive Mansion. (81-132-C)

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2532, 159