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Three ways to slash militaryjspending
being mulled over in Congress: Force '1

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the Pentagon to choose which neW1 â\200\234
weapons systems to, buy,â\200\230 stretch out â\200\230
programs over a longer period, and 1
cut noncombat personnel and costly
topâ\200\224ranking officers who lead them.

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A Reagan--Golâ\200\230bachev summit soon?
Definitely not. White House aides
predict it will be months before the
new Soviet leader feels secure
enough to take 'up the Presidentâ\200\231s
open invitation No Chance is seen forâ\200\230
a gettogether during Reaganâ\200\231 s trip to
the economic summit in Germany in
MawRWhat about at convening of the
United Nations General Assembly in
September? Maybe.

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_ Some U. S experts say that the Krem-
1111s new leader, although a peppy
54,15 1101 as robust as he looks and
' may suffer from high blood pressure

and diabetes.

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What did Vice President 'Bush talk
' about with world 'leaders during his
visit to Moscow for Chern'enko's fu-
neral? With Britain's Thatcher, it was
her impression of Gorbachev; with
: Japan's Nakasone, trade problems;
with West Germany's Kohl, the re-
newed arms talks; with India's Gan-
dhi, his trip to the United States in
June, and with Pakistan's Zia, the war
in Afghanistan.

About those threats by White House
aides that the President was to cam-
paign next year for Republican mem-
bers of Congress who do not back
him on key issues: Not so. The reassur-
ing word from on high that Rea-
gan will aid any Republican incumbent
who needs help in 1986.

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'1986's?

Why did Fidel Castro skip Chernenko's
funeral? Those who know the
Cuban leader best give two reasons:
The haughty Castro didn't want to
play second fiddle to leaders of bigger
powers in Moscow, and he was trying
to show that he is not a puppet of the
Kremlin as the U.S. always charges

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Clarence Pendleton, despite a sup-
portive telephone call from the Presi-
dent, is being urged by senior White
House officials to cool his feud with
black leaders. The Chairman of the
Civil Rights Commission, who is
black, was told that more angry
words would only hurt both the ad-
ministration and the minority ties.

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Vice President Bush and New York's
: Governor Mario Cuomo will compete
{01â\200\230 the Presidency 1'n 1988â\200\2241f'al'des
' to House members know. their p0112
tics. A p011 of the assistants showed
Bush outdistancing Representative
Jack Kemp of New York {01â\200\230 the Re-
publ'can nomination and Cuomo with
a "healthy margin over Senator Gary
, 11HÃ©ft of Colorado among Democrats. â\200\230

Opponents of the MX missile are stag-
ing a tactical retreat in Congress. Fore-
seeing that Reagan is gaining the votes
he needs to authorize production of an
additional 21 weapons, they are map-
ping plans for a make-or--break stand
next autumn on the third and final
segment that would bring the program
up to its full 100-missile strength.

A surcharge on imports is growing '
steadily more popular'111 Congress as
the safest way-out of the deficit
CrunchBackers say it would raise
tens of billions of dollars a year 1'11
- fresh revenue, please businesses and 1
1 unions and put the squeeze on Japan
v to ease barriers against U.S. goods

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Republicans see a chance to, upset a
1 pair of Democratic senators as well as
pick up opposition seats being vacated
ed next year- in Louisiana, Mississippi
and perhaps Colorado They insist 'thâ\200\230j
that incumbents Alan Cranston of
, California and Patrick Leahy of Vermont
are vulnerable.

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The House of Representatives 111a
be headed for one of its biggest turns

overs 1'11 years. More than 50lawmakwjj
ers already are considering qultt111g 1
or seeking other Offices in 1986, 'X
Compared with the 22 members [who
dropped out in 1984.

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For the first time, U. S. military offi- â\200\230 -__..
cers in the Philippines are seriously
talking of glving up Clark Air Base .
and the Subic Bay Naval Base. They 1â\200\230
warn that unless President Marcos '
stabilizes the nation quickly, the U S.
had better look for alternatives, such
as Guam. The lease for Philippine
facilities runs out in 1991.

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Congressional Investlgators have 1111-" i " , '.

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1 Covered one reason the Pentagon
keeps needing moire money. When

NaVy brass ran out of funds to pro-
1'ng build a nuCIear-powerplantin

1. uce a new fighter plane, they simply
South Africa. State Department offi-
â\200\230 Â«What's. the fastestway to aggtaVat
00k 310 1111111011 dollars earmarked ;

Cla15â\200\224-sensltiVe to protests against
Donald Regan, the new White House

{01â\200\230 the pIanes support equipment 1
South Africaâ\200\2315 add p011'C1'esâ\200\224are1
Chief of staff? Just hint that the for-

and used it to pay {or the aircraft â\200\230
'
_ pressing the Energy Department to
met Treasury Secretary and Wall

itselfâ\200\224then asked la wmakers tore- â\200\230 .â\200\230 â\200\234
l deny special work permits to the

Street executive is more naive about
Iaee that money without evet admit-

Americans, and Energy is throwing
Washington politics than predecesso
ting the cost overrun.-
the Whole thing in the Presidentâ\200\231s lap.

,
James Baker.

- u.\$.N.EW\$ & WORLD REPQRT, March'251'1985

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