

establishment of a new and precious relationship between our two nations. The genuine friendship extended by a noble country such as the United States deserves in turn the friendship of democratic governments that respect the rights of their people. For only in this manner can there exist a sincere relationship between both nations.

As we meet today, Mr. President, it is our responsibility as leaders of two democratic nations to begin fertilizing the seed of a new friendship, a friendship based on our shared belief in democracy and mutual respect.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the people and Government of the United States of America for the assistance they have provided to Nicaragua. That assistance was a decisive factor during my first year in office. And now Nicaragua has begun to recover from the years of political instability and continuous conflict.

I must conclude by reiterating my government's firm commitment to the sacred principles of democracy shared by our peoples.

This commitment is, and will continue to be, to work towards consolidating peace, strengthening our democratic institutions, respecting human rights, and putting our economy in order.

I shall work toward achieving this goal without wavering, because I have adopted as my own those universal truths which Abraham Lincoln bequeathed to mankind: "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

God bless and protect the peoples and governments of the United States and Nicaragua. Thank you.

Note: President Bush spoke at 10:15 a.m. at the South Portico of the White House, where President Chamorro was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Chamorro's late husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. President Chamorro spoke in Spanish, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter. Following the ceremony, the two Presidents met in the Oval Office.

Nomination of Gordon R. Sullivan To be Chief of Staff of the United States Army

April 17, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate General Gordon R. Sullivan to be Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He will succeed General Carl E. Vuono, who is retiring.

General Sullivan is currently serving as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. Previously he was Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, United States Army/Army senior

member, military staff committee, United Nations (1989–1990). He has served in the U.S. Army for over 31 years.

General Sullivan graduated from Norwich University (B.A., history) and the University of New Hampshire (M.A., political science). He was born on September 25, 1937, in Boston, MA.