

May 2 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

Nomination of Sally G. Cowal To Be United States Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago

May 2, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate Sally G. Cowal, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. She would succeed Charles A. Gargano.

Currently Ms. Cowal serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs in Washington, DC. Prior to this Ms. Cowal served as Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, 1985–1989, and as Deputy

Counselor for Political and Security Affairs at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, 1983–1985. In addition Ms. Cowal served in overseas assignments including: Tel Aviv, Israel; Bogota, Colombia; and New Dehli, India. Ms. Cowal is a member of the Senior Foreign Service.

Ms. Cowal graduated from De Pauw University (B.A., 1966) and George Washington University (M.P.A., 1969). She was born August 24, 1944, in Oak Park, IL. Ms. Cowal is married, has three stepchildren, and resides in Washington, DC.

Exchange With Reporters on Reports of a 1980 Hostage Agreement

May 3, 1991

Q. Mr. President, would you object to an investigation of the October supplies——

The President. I don't take any questions.

Q. Were you ever in Paris in 1980, sir?

The President. Was I ever in Paris in 1980? Definitely, definitely no!

Q. Did you ever meet with any Iranians?

The President. That's all I'm going to tell you. That's all. Please print it. And let's try to stop this rumor-mongering that's going on. Stop repeating rumors over and over again.

Q. How about Casey and everybody else?

Q. Nothing to it, then, sir, eh?

Q. You mean that nobody in the Reagan campaign went to Paris to meet any Iranian official?

Note: The exchange began at 9:48 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House, prior to President Bush's meeting with President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela. Questions referred to reports of an effort by the Reagan-Bush campaign to keep Iran from freeing 52 American hostages just before the 1980 election. William J. Casey was President Reagan's campaign chairman. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on President Bush's Meeting With President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela

May 3, 1991

The President met today with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who is on a private visit to the U.S. The two leaders discussed the peace process in El Salvador, expressing their satisfaction over the agree-

ment reached last weekend by the Government of El Salvador and the guerrillas. The President praised President Perez' efforts on behalf of peace in El Salvador.

They also discussed Nicaragua, with both