

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

leaders indicating their willingness to help Nicaragua clear its arrears with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank as soon as possible. The United States is prepared to make a substantial contribution to this effort, and so is Venezuela. Spain, Mexico, and other countries are also offering very generous contributions. We hope that with this assistance, Nicaragua will be able to move forward with its economic reform program.

Both Presidents reaffirmed their strong commitment to democracy and pluralism in Haiti. Ori Suriname, the President and President Perez also set forth their strong support for civilian democratic rule; both agree that the May 25 elections will be a fundamental test of the Surinamese military's willingness to permit a genuine demo-

cratic process.

Finally, the two Presidents discussed international oil issues. President Perez briefed the President on a proposal for a multilateral consumer-producer dialog. The President reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to strengthened bilateral energy cooperation and consultations, including our excellent consultations with Venezuela. He reaffirmed the U.S. position that price, production levels, and related issues should be determined by market mechanisms, not by multilateral negotiations.

Following their meeting, President Perez left for Houston, TX, Tulsa, OK, and Palo Alto, CA. He will be honored at the graduation ceremony of the University of Tulsa on Saturday.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Disaster Assistance to Bangladesh

May 3, 1991

The President has sent a message to Prime Minister Zia of Bangladesh expressing his condolences and those of the American people on the horrible devastation caused by the recent cyclone. Our hearts go out in particular to the families of the numerous victims of this terrible tragedy.

We also have assured the government of Bangladesh that the United States stands ready to assist in the tasks of relief and reconstruction. The U.S. Government already has provided \$2.1 million in disaster assistance for medical supplies, water purification tablets, and funds to support the pro-

curement and distribution of other high priority relief items by nongovernment agencies.

We are looking into other means to help Bangladesh obtain its highest priority needs for clean water, dry food, helicopter transport, clothing, and temporary shelter.

We will be providing additional U.S. Government assistance and we call upon individual Americans and indeed all members of the international community to be as generous in providing aid and comfort to the people of this disaster-stricken nation.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Establishment of the George Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas

May 3, 1991

Pursuant to the provisions of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955, the President has accepted a proposal that a library to house the official records of his Administra-

tion be constructed at Texas A&M University. This decision follows an extensive review of the various library proposals by the Archivist of the United States, Don W. Wilson.