

Currently Ambassador Wells serves as the United States Ambassador to the People's Republic of Mozambique. Prior to this, Ambassador Wells served as director of the IMPACT Program in Geneva, Switzerland, 1982–1986; resident representative of the United Nations Development Program and special representative to the United Nations Secretary-General for relief operations in Uganda, 1979–1982; U.S. Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, 1977–1979; U.S. Ambassador to Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, 1976–1977; and commercial counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil, 1975–1976. She has also served as deputy director for major export projects at the Department of Commerce in Washington, DC, 1973–

1975; chief of the business relations branch in the Bureau of Economic Affairs, 1972–1973; personnel officer for the Board of Examiners, 1971–1972; and economic officer at the U.S. Embassy in London, England, 1966–1970. Ambassador Wells has also served as an economic officer at the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France, 1964–1966. From 1958 to 1961, Ambassador Wells served in several capacities at the Department of State.

Ambassador Wells graduated from Georgetown University (B.S., 1956). She was born November 18, 1932, in Tallinn, Estonia. Ambassador Wells is married and has two children.

## Remarks on the Persian Gulf Conflict and the Baltic States and an Exchange With Reporters

January 21, 1991

*The President.* Let me just say a quick word about the brutal parading of these allied pilots. I was talking to Speaker Foley about this coming down, and it is very clear that this is a direct violation of every convention that protects prisoners. The International Red Cross, I understand, certified to that today.

In the first place, this is not going to make a difference in the prosecution of the war against Saddam. It's not going to make a difference. I've said that before. I said that when he brutally held hostages that numbered up into the thousands. And it's not going to make a difference. But I would make the strongest appeal that these people be treated properly and that they be given the treatment that is accorded to them under the international conventions—and they are not being. And America is angry about this, and I think the rest of the world is, because this morning I talked to more of our coalition partners. So, it is backfiring. If he thought this brutal treatment of pilots is a way to muster world support, he is dead wrong. And I think everybody is upset about it.

Speaker, I won't put words in your mouth, but——

*Speaker Foley.* I concur absolutely with what the President said. It's a clear violation of the Geneva provisions for the protection of prisoners of war, and it will have very, very strong repercussions not only throughout the United States but throughout the world if these violations continue.

*Q.* Mr. President——

*The President.* No, I can't do a press conference. I do want to say something, though, about the Baltic States. I am increasingly concerned. We had a statement on that yesterday. I would again appeal to the Soviet Union leaders to resist using force. And we've heard European countries speaking out on this now, and the world is very much concerned about that as well.

So, thank you all very much.

### *Persian Gulf Conflict*

*Q.* ——war crimes, sir?

*Q.* Will he be held accountable, Mr. President? Will he be held accountable?

*The President.* You can count on it.

*Note: President Bush spoke at 11:58 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, upon his return from Camp David, MD. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.*

## Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Designation of the Arabian Peninsula as a Combat Zone

*January 21, 1991*

The President today signed an Executive order designating the Arabian Peninsula areas, airspace, and adjacent waters as a combat zone. This designation means that for Federal tax purposes military pay received by enlisted personnel while serving in the combat zone will be exempt from income tax. For commissioned officers in the combat zone the exclusion is limited

to \$500 a month.

In addition, members of the armed forces in the combat zone will not have to file their income tax returns until at least 180 days after they depart the Persian Gulf.

*Note: The Executive order is listed in Appendix E at the end of this volume.*

## Remarks to Participants in the March for Life Rally

*January 22, 1991*

Once again, it is my distinct honor to address Nellie Gray and those courageous and determined Americans gathered on The Mall for the Rally for Life. January has become—in large part due to the dedication and hard work of the March for Life—a time of reflection, a time of rejuvenation for pro-life forces. And so, I'm pleased that my voice is part of the growing chorus that simply says, "Choose Life."

As I look back at past years' Rally for Life, I am encouraged by the progress which has taken place. Attempts by Congress to expand funding—Federal funding—for abortions have been defeated, and the Supreme Court has taken welcome steps toward reversing its *Roe versus Wade* decision.

Despite these successes, much remains to be done. Abortion on demand continues unabated in this country. And as I have said in the past, this prevalence calls into

question our respect for the fundamental right to life. Government and private sector must be more involved in encouraging alternatives such as adoption.

And you, the thousands of tireless volunteers who have gathered here from across the United States, must make it your goal to keep this issue alive and predominant in the Halls of Congress, the courts, and in the minds of the American people.

Thank you for your commitment, and God bless you.

*Note: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House, via an electronic hookup with the rally site. Participants had gathered on the Ellipse for a march to the Supreme Court on the 18th anniversary of the Court's decision of *Roe v. Wade* which legalized abortion. Nellie Gray was president of March for Life.*