

DAILY BULLETIN

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BUSH PROCLAIMS "NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING" FOR REAGAN

Invites people of the world to join in "this solemn observance" June 11..... 1

WHITE HOUSE REPORT, JUNE 5: FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN DIES

Reagan, 93, suffered from Alzheimer's disease for a decade 2

G8 TO URGE STRONG MIDDLE EAST REFORM, RICE SAYS

National security adviser previews initiatives expected at Sea Island summit..... 4

BUSH, CHIRAC COMMEMORATE D-DAY AT NORMANDY CEMETERY

U.S., French leaders salute allied veterans at Colleville-sur-Mer, France..... 4

BUSH PROCLAIMS "NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING" FOR REAGAN

Invites people of the world to join in "this solemn observance" June 11

President Bush issued a proclamation June 6 officially announcing the death of Ronald Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, and designating Friday, June 11, the day of Reagan's funeral service at Washington's National Cathedral, as a National Day of Mourning for the late leader.

"Through his courage and determination, he enhanced America's security and advanced the spread of peace, liberty, and democracy to millions of people who had lived in darkness and oppression. As America's President, Ronald Reagan helped change the world," Bush said.

Following is the text of President Bush's proclamation:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Sea Island, Georgia)
June 6, 2004

ANNOUNCING THE DEATH OF RONALD REAGAN

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

It is my sad duty to announce officially the death of Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States, on June 5, 2004.

We are blessed to live in a Nation, and a world, that have been shaped by the will, the leadership, and the vision of Ronald Reagan.

With an unshakable faith in the values of our country and the character of our people, Ronald Reagan renewed America's confidence and restored our Nation. His optimism, strength, and humility epitomized the American spirit. He always told us that for America the best was yet to come.

Ronald Reagan believed that God takes the side of justice and that America has a special calling to oppose tyranny and defend freedom. Through his courage and determination, he enhanced America's security and advanced the spread of peace, liberty, and democracy to millions of people who had lived in darkness and oppression. As America's President, Ronald Reagan helped change the world.

President Reagan has left us, but he has left us stronger and better. We take comfort in the knowledge that he has left us for a better place, the shining city that awaits him. NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, in honor and tribute to the memory of Ronald Reagan, and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff at the White House and on all buildings, grounds, and Naval vessels of the United States for a period of 30 days from the day of his death. I also direct that for the same length of time, the representatives of the United States in foreign countries shall make similar arrangements for the display of the flag at half-staff over their Embassies, Legations, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and stations.

I hereby order that suitable honors be rendered by units of the Armed Forces under orders of the Secretary of Defense.

I do further appoint Friday, June 11, 2004, as a National Day of Mourning throughout the United States. I call on the American people to assemble on that day in their

respective places of worship, there to pay homage to the memory of President Reagan. I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this solemn observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

WHITE HOUSE REPORT, JUNE 5: FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN DIES

Reagan, 93, suffered from Alzheimer's disease for a decade

Washington -- Ronald Wilson Reagan, 40th president of the United States, died June 5 at his California home in Los Angeles after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 93.

Reagan was born February 6, 1911, in Tampico, Illinois. He served two terms in the White House from 1981-1989.

He was a successful Hollywood actor before turning to politics and serving two terms as governor of California from 1967 to 1975.

His family -- wife, former First Lady Nancy Reagan, and children Patty Davis and Ronald Reagan Jr. -- were at his bedside. He also has a deceased daughter Maureen, who died of cancer in 2001, and an adopted son, Michael.

In Paris, President Bush was notified of Reagan's death by his Chief of Staff Andy Card, White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan said. The United States flag over the White House was lowered to half staff within an hour.

"This is a sad hour in the life of America. A great American life has come to an end. I have just spoken to Nancy Reagan. On behalf of our whole nation, Laura and I offered her and the Reagan family our prayers and our condolences. Ronald Reagan won America's respect

with his greatness, and won its love with his goodness,” Bush said during brief remarks at the U.S. Ambassador’s Residence in Paris.

“He had the confidence that comes with conviction, the strength that comes with character, the grace that comes with humility, and the humor that comes with wisdom. He leaves behind a nation he restored and a world he helped save.

“During the years of President Reagan, America laid to rest an era of division and self-doubt. And because of his leadership, the world laid to rest an era of fear and tyranny. Now, in laying our leader to rest, we say thank you.”

Secretary of State Colin Powell said of Reagan that he “fueled the spirit of America. His smile, his optimism, his total belief in the ultimate triumph of democracy and freedom, and his willingness to act on that belief, helped end the Cold War and usher in a new and brighter phase of history.”

Reagan, who has lived longer than any other U.S. president, has been out of the public eye since it was disclosed in 1994 that he had Alzheimer’s disease. In a note on November 5, 1994, Reagan said, “I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead.”

Reagan viewed with satisfaction the achievements of his presidency that became known as the Reagan Revolution, which aimed to reinvigorate the American people and reduce reliance on the federal government. Reagan said at the time that he felt he had fulfilled his campaign pledge of 1980 to restore “the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism.”

In his farewell address to the nation, Reagan said:

“We’ve done our part. And as I walk into the city streets, a final word to the men and women of the Reagan Revolution, the men and women across America who for eight years did the work that brought America back. My friends: We did it. We weren’t just marking time. We made a difference. We made a city stronger. We made a city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all.”

Reagan, who was born to Nelle and John Reagan in Tampico, Illinois, attended high school in nearby Dixon and

then worked his way through Eureka College. He began his career in radio in 1932, but a screen test in 1937 won him a contract to a movie studio in Hollywood. During the next two decades he appeared in 53 films.

In 1966 he was elected governor of California and was re-elected in 1970.

Reagan won the Republican presidential nomination in 1980 and chose as his running mate former Texas Congressman and United Nations Ambassador George H.W. Bush, father of the current president. He defeated incumbent President Jimmy Carter.

At 69, Reagan was the oldest man ever elected president on November 4, 1980. On January 20, 1981, Reagan took office. Only 69 days later he was shot by a would-be assassin, but quickly recovered and returned to duty. His grace and wit during the dangerous incident caused his popularity to soar.

When wife Nancy asked him what happened, Reagan with his customary dry wit said, “Honey, I forgot to duck.”

In foreign policy, Reagan sought to achieve “peace through strength.” During his two terms he increased defense spending 35 percent, but sought to improve relations with the Soviet Union. In dramatic meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, he negotiated a treaty that would eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Reagan declared war against international terrorism, sending American bombers against Libya after evidence came out that Libya was involved in an attack on American soldiers in a West Berlin nightclub.

By ordering naval escorts in the Persian Gulf, he maintained the free flow of oil during the Iran-Iraq war. In keeping with the Reagan Doctrine, he gave support to anti-Communist insurgencies in Central America, Asia, and Africa.

G8 TO URGE STRONG MIDDLE EAST REFORM, RICE SAYS

National security adviser previews initiatives expected at Sea Island summit

U.S. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice has taken issue with press reports describing as weak the forthcoming G8 statement on Middle East reform.

The statement "will be a very strong affirmation of the need for reform and change in the Middle East," Rice said, "for the need for modernization in the Middle East, because, in fact, you cannot have the kind of economic renaissance that needs to take place in the Middle East without doing something to enhance the creativity of your people, the ability of women to participate in life, the ability of people to pursue their own dreams and aspirations."

Rice made the comment at a June 7 briefing in Savannah, Georgia, where the press is located for the June 8-10 G8 summit at Sea Island, Georgia. The G8 comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

She said she could not comment directly on a statement reportedly made by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat committing to reforms of Palestinian security forces. She reiterated President Bush's statement urging all parties in Israel and Palestine to carry out their obligations, including unification of Palestinian security forces.

"And that means to have security forces that are united, not several different security forces under all kinds of different commands in various states running the streets with weaponry," Rice said.

She said she expected adoption soon at the United Nations of a resolution approving transfer of sovereignty to an interim government in Iraq.

She previewed a number of initiatives G8 leaders were expected to adopt on the Middle East, international cooperation against terrorism, global peacekeeping, economics and trade, poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS and other illnesses, and the environment.

The G8 leaders will also meet with leaders from countries in the Middle East and North Africa and from sub-Saharan Africa.

BUSH, CHIRAC COMMEMORATE D-DAY AT NORMANDY CEMETERY

U.S., French leaders salute allied veterans at Colleville-sur-Mer, France

In ceremonies in Normandy, France, June 6 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day, President Bush paid tribute to all those who fought to liberate Europe from Nazi rule and to the transatlantic alliance that has endured to this day.

"In the trials and total sacrifice of the war, we became inseparable allies," he said. "The nations that liberated a conquered Europe would stand together for the freedom of all of Europe. The nations that battled across the continent would become trusted partners in the cause of peace. And our great alliance of freedom is strong, and it is still needed today." Bush said the veterans of Normandy and their fallen comrades fought in the noblest of causes and said "America would do it again for our friends."

Also making remarks at the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer was French President Jacques Chirac. He said the young men buried there "are now our sons also" and that France would never forget June 6, 1944 -- "the day hope was reborn and rekindled."

"She will never forget those men who made the ultimate sacrifice to liberate our soil, our native land, our continent from the yoke of Nazi barbarity and its murderous folly," Chirac said. "Nor will it ever forget its debt to America, its everlasting friend, and to its allies -- all of them -- thanks to whom Europe, reunited at last, now lives in peace, freedom and democracy."

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select "Washington File" from the drop-down menu under "News."

