President Ronald Reagan
Oral History Project

Briefing Materials

George P. Shultz
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1955  Shultz takes a leave of absence from MIT to serve as senior staff economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisers during the Eisenhower administration.

1969-1970  Shultz serves as Secretary of Labor during the Nixon Administration.

1970-1972  Shultz is named director of the Office of Management and Budget under Nixon.

1972-1974  During his tenure as Nixon’s Secretary of the Treasury, Shultz is regarded as “a key figure in keeping the government running as the Watergate scandal engulfs the presidency.” (The New York Times, 6/26/1982)

1980  Shultz is an advisor to Reagan’s 1980 presidential campaign. He is chairman of the campaign’s Economic Policy Coordinating Committee, a group designed to develop a transition program for a potential Reagan administration. Shultz’s name is frequently mentioned in the press as a possible Secretary of State nominee. (The New York Times, 10/5/1980)

November  Ronald Reagan defeats incumbent Jimmy Carter, becoming the 40th President of the United States.


1981  Reagan announces the creation of the Economic Policy Advisory Board, an outside group comprised of 12 prominent Republicans, most of whom have held high-level government economic posts. Shultz is named chairman of the group, which will consult with the White House on domestic and international economic policy. (The New York Times, 2/11/1981)

In an address to a joint session of Congress, Reagan proposes increases in defense spending, decreases in domestic spending, and lower taxes. (Levy, p. 397)

April  The Reagan administration announces plans to withhold further economic aid to Nicaragua because of alleged Nicaraguan arms shipments to insurgent guerrilla forces in El Salvador. (The Washington Post, 4/2/1981)
November  The U.S. and China begin holding secret talks on U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. The talks will culminate in an August 1982 joint communiqué. (CQ Almanac 1982, p. 140)

December  Reagan declares sanctions against the Soviet Union and Poland after the Polish government declares martial law. The most important element of the sanctions prohibits the export of U.S. materials for use in constructing a natural gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe. (CQ Almanac 1982, p. 130)

Reagan reportedly signs an executive order authorizing covert actions by the CIA to disrupt arms shipments into Nicaragua and to harass the support structure of the Sandinista regime. (CQ Almanac 1982, p. 129)

1982

January  The Reagan administration certifies that El Salvador is making progress in protecting human rights, a requirement for continued military aid. Critics of the certification contend that little progress has been made. Amnesty International, for example, argues that El Salvador is home to “a systematic and brutal policy of government-sponsored intimidation and repression” that constitutes “a gross and consistent pattern of human rights abuses.” (CQ Almanac 1982, pp. 138-39)

Reagan refuses a Taiwanese request to purchase advanced U.S. fighter planes because the administration concludes Taiwan has no need for such advanced weaponry. However, the U.S. will continue to supply Taiwan with less-advanced aircraft. The move meets with resistance from conservatives within the party. (CQ Almanac 1982, pp. 140-41)

June  Reagan again certifies El Salvadoran human rights efforts. Critics continue to argue that certification is undeserved. (CQ Almanac 1982, pp. 137-39)

Reagan expands sanctions against the Soviets to include pipeline-related exports by foreign subsidies of U.S. firms or foreign firms holding U.S. licenses. The move angers allied leaders, who order their firms to fulfill Soviet equipment orders in spite of the changed policy. (CQ Almanac 1982, p. 130)

Against U.S. objections, Israel invades southern Lebanon to create a buffer zone free of Palestinian guerrillas. Israeli forces move as far north as Beirut, but then withdraw southward. An international peacekeeping force is installed to stabilize the area near Beirut. (CQ Almanac 1982, p. 130)

Alexander Haig resigns as Secretary of State following policy disputes with Caspar Weinberger and other Reagan advisors. Shultz is nominated as his
successor. Schultz’ expected policy style is regarded as a noticeable departure from Haig’s “aggressive rhetoric.” (Levy, pp. 183-84; CQ Almanac 1982, p. 128)

**July**

Shultz is confirmed by the Senate, 97-0. His hearings and vote are expedited due to turmoil in the Middle East. (CQ Almanac 1982, p. 19-A)

Press reports indicate that State Department officials believe that U.S. relations with Western Europe are at their lowest level since the middle of the Carter administration, primarily due to Reagan’s decision to block equipment from American subsidiary companies to the Soviet-West Europe gas pipeline. Western Europeans are also upset because the U.S. is urging trade sanctions against Moscow while continuing to sell grain to the Soviets. (The Christian Science Monitor, 7/15/1982)

Shultz works to formulate a new U.S. policy towards the Middle East. Shultz’s efforts seek to recast the policy focus away from an East-West dimension towards trying to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute. Haig’s policy had tried to build an anti-Soviet “strategic consensus” among the U.S., Israel, and moderate Arab states. (The New York Times, 7/18/1982; CQ Almanac 1982, p. 128)

**August**

Reagan issues a joint communiqué with China declaring an accommodation on the issue of U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. The communiqué says the U.S. will limit the quality and quantity of future arms sales to Taiwan. (CQ Almanac 1982, p. 140)

U.S. Marines are sent to Lebanon as part of a multinational force monitoring the withdrawal from Beirut of Palestinian guerrillas trapped there by the Israeli forces. (The New York Times, 8/26/1982)

**September**

Shultz’s new approach to the Middle East culminates in a speech given by Reagan on the 1st. In the speech, Reagan forwards detailed proposals for solutions to Middle East issues, such as halting Israeli settlements in the West Bank and proposing a governing association between Palestinians and Jordan for the West Bank. Reagan’s comments infuriate Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, whose rejection of the initiatives signals a “new low point” for U.S.-Israeli relations. (CQ Almanac 1982, p. 130)

The Marines stationed in Lebanon withdraw after about 14,000 Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) troops are evacuated. (CQ Almanac 1982, p. 169)

The House seeks to undo Reagan’s sanctions against the Soviets due to the financial and diplomatic strain it has caused the U.S. The effort is unsuccessful, as the measure is “gutted” in a key vote that narrowly passes, 206-203. Shultz lobbies hard against the House action, arguing it “would severely cripple the president’s ability” to carry out foreign policy. (CQ Almanac 1982, pp. 130, 164)
At the request of the Lebanese government, Reagan again deploys troops to help stabilize the situation around Beirut so that Israel, Syria, and the PLO will have enough confidence to withdraw their occupying forces. The situation in Lebanon had deteriorated following the U.S. withdraw and the assassination of the Lebanese president-elect. (*CQ Almanac 1982*, p. 168)

**November**  
Democrats gain 26 seats in the House in mid-term elections. The balance in the Republican-controlled Senate does not change. (Levy, p. 400)

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev dies and is replaced by Yuri Andropov, a former head of the KGB. (*CQ Almanac 1982*, p. 130)

Reagan lifts the pipeline-related sanctions on the Soviets, saying the sanctions had accomplished their purpose of demonstrating concern over Soviet pressure on Poland. (*CQ Almanac 1982*, p. 163)

**December**  
Shultz visits Western Europe on a two-week tour in search of a new agreement on joint economic policy toward the Soviet Union. Shultz says he plans to focus on developing desire for more constructive American-Soviet relations. During his trip, NATO members agree to combine a policy of firmness toward the Soviet Union with a heightened willingness to reach accords with the new Soviet leader. Shultz says the agreement will help “to solve problems and work constructively for better relations.” (*The New York Times*, 12/7/1982, 12/10/1982, 12/18/1982)

**1983**

**January**  
Top Reagan administration officials are reportedly in the middle of a major reassessment of the administration’s China policy in advance of Shultz’s February trip to Peking. They are reportedly concerned about recent Soviet overtures to China that could alter the existing balance of power between the three states. U.S.-China relations are also strained over disagreement on some textile issues. (*The Washington Post*, 1/9/1983)

**February**  
Shultz visits China for four days of talks. No substantive progress was expected at the talks, and at the end of talks Shultz says that a new atmosphere of mutual trust had been established that will “set the stage for renewed advances” in relations, which were strained in the late years of the Carter administration. Plans for a meeting between Reagan and Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang in the United States later in the year are also announced. (*The New York Times*, 2/6/1983)

Shultz announces the creation an advisory panel to review the government’s foreign aid and military assistance programs, to be headed by former Deputy Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci. The panel is an effort to devise a new political strategy for getting foreign aid legislation through Congress. Critics of the

**April**

Several Congressional committees look into the U.S. relationship with the Nicaraguan Contras, to see if administration actions are in violation of the Boland Amendment, a 1982 law prohibiting U.S. covert action for the purpose of toppling the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua or provoking military clashes between Nicaragua and Honduras. *(CQ Almanac 1983, pp. 125-26)*

**May**

The world’s leading industrial democracies pledge to reduce the risk of war and call on the Soviet Union to “contribute constructively” to negotiations to remove nuclear missiles from Europe. However, the joint declaration says that if the Americans and Soviets fail to reach agreement on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, “the countries concerned will proceed with the planned deployment” of new U.S. missiles in Western Europe in December. Shultz calls the declaration “strong, positive” and “very important,” and indicates it is an authoritative response to recent Soviet threats to put new missiles in Eastern Europe if new U.S. missiles are deployed. *(The Washington Post, 5/30/1983)*

**June**

Following Congressional approval for MX missile testing and basing, Reagan announces changes in his position in START negotiations with Moscow. Reagan retains his proposed limit on strategic missile warheads, but increases the proposed limit on the number of missiles, so that the U.S. proposal would require a less radical cut in the existing Soviet missile force. *(CQ Almanac 1983, p. 200)*

For nearly a year, news reports have been revealing the extent of U.S. backing for the Nicaraguan Contras. What began as “small-scale harassment” has mushroomed into a war with about 10,000 rebels battling the 25,000-man Nicaraguan army. By summer 1983 Contra rebels are launching air and naval attacks at major Nicaraguan oil storage installations. *(CQ Almanac 1983, p. 111)*

**July**

The U.S. begins a series of military maneuvers in Honduras and off the coast of Central America. The maneuvers lead to speculation that Reagan is planning an expanded, long-term military presence in the region. *(CQ Almanac 1983, p. 110)*

**September**

The Soviets down a Korean Air Lines plane carrying 269 people, including U.S. Representative Larry McDonald (D-GA). Reagan condemns “the Korean airline massacre” and announces new limitations on cultural, scientific and diplomatic exchanges with the Soviets. However, Reagan also says “we must not give up our effort to bring (the Soviets) into the world community of nations.” *(The New York Times, 9/6/1983; CQ Almanac 1983, p. 111)*

Days after the downing of the Korean jet, Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko meet at a previously scheduled conference. Shultz charges, “the Soviet Union defines its security in a way so absolute, self-centered and cynical that it poses a danger to all other countries.” Gromyko defends Soviet actions, a

The White House and Congress are engaged in a battle over Lebanese aid and troop deployment there. Congress is trying to influence policy decisions under the auspices of the War Powers Resolution of 1973. Shultz says that Reagan “has no intention of turning over to Congress his constitutional responsibilities as commander in chief.” In the end, a compromise is reached requiring Reagan to sign a joint resolution imposing an 18-month limit on troop deployment that invokes the War Powers Resolution, while allowing Reagan to retain the prerogative to declare that he does not recognize the resolution’s constitutionality. (CQ Almanac 1983, pp. 116-18)

Congress passes fiscal 1984 defense authorizations, which include secret provisions for closer military ties between the U.S. and Jordan. Only a few Congressional members are aware of the provisions for Jordanian military aid. (CQ Almanac 1983, p. 134)

October

A truck carrying more than 10,000 pounds of explosives rams into a building at the Beirut airport, killing 241 U.S. soldiers inside. The event claims the biggest single day casualty of U.S. military forces since Vietnam. (CQ Almanac 1983, p. 110)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xuegian visits Washington to try to improve relations, which were further strained by a U.S. decision to grant a Chinese tennis player political asylum in April. The talks produce agreement to resume cultural exchanges. There is also incremental progress toward a nuclear cooperation pact and an agreement on providing China with improved access to U.S. high technology. (The Washington Post, 10/14/1983)

News reports begin to illuminate the secret enactment of a new military relationship with Jordan. An uproar develops in Congress, which ultimately results in two appropriations committees writing legislation to reject the funding. (CQ Almanac 1983, p. 134)

On the 25th, Reagan lands military troops in Grenada in order to protect Americans there and displace the ruling leftist regime. (CQ Almanac 1983, p. 112)

November


Israel’s new Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, travels to Washington two months after Menachem Begin’s resignation. In a meeting with Shamir, Reagan proposes a closer military relationship between the two countries and offers
economic incentives, including expanded military aid and a free-trade zone. The overtures help to restore the strained relationship between the U.S. and Israel. 

*(CQ Almanac 1983, p. 110)*

The Carlucci Commission issues its report on foreign aid legislation to Shultz. The report recommends a new agency to administer economic and military assistance. Another central recommendation is that “economic and military assistance must be closely integrated.” The report also calls for "significant increases" in the amount spent on foreign aid, which it says has relatively declined by 21 percent in recent years. *(The New York Times, 11/22/1983)*

The Soviets walk out of intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) talks after West Germany reaffirms its willingness to accept U.S. missiles. The Soviets state their intentions for new missile deployments to counterbalance the impending U.S. deployment. *(CQ Almanac 1983, pp. 206-07)*

**December**

A meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels ends in a communiqué challenging the Soviets to “an open, comprehensive political dialogue” as new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles are being deployed in Western Europe. The statement comes in advance of a meeting next month between Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. *(The Washington Post, 12/10/1983)*

U.S. forces in Lebanon encounter their first direct military clash with Syrian forces. *(CQ Almanac 1983, p. 110)*

Reagan signs a bill appropriating $24 million in aid to the Contras, less than the $35 to $50 million sought by the White House. *(CQ Almanac 1983, p. 123)*

Regan vetoes a bill that would have extended a 1981 requirement for semi-annual certification to Congress that El Salvador is making the progress necessary on human rights for continued economic and military aid. Shultz explains that Reagan’s veto was due to the fact that he would not have been able to sign such a certification at the end of 1983. *(CQ Almanac 1983, p. 111)*

**1984**

**January**

Shultz and Reagan meet with Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang in Washington. At the talks, officials work to further negotiations on a treaty for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the two countries. The visit is the latest in a series of high-level Chinese-American meetings and will set the stage for Reagan’s April trip to China, the first visit by an American president since formal diplomatic relations were established in 1979. *(The New York Times, 1/10/1984)*

In an effort to convince Congress that the administration is genuinely concerned about human rights abuses in El Salvador, the State Department issues a report outlining the “continued abuse of human rights” there. In February, Shultz tells a
Senate committee that the Salvadoran government is taking steps to improve human rights due to the increased U.S. pressure. (*CQ Almanac 1984*, pp. 74-75)

Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko meet to discuss virtually every issue that divides the two countries. The two diplomats have not discussed such a wide range of topics since September 1982. The meeting produces no resolution on any outstanding issues, but it is notable for its non-polemical tone and the readiness of the two men to discuss their differences. (*The New York Times*, 1/19/1984, 1/22/1984)

**February**


By February, over 260 U.S. military and diplomatic personnel have been killed in Lebanon and the remaining Marines are holed up in bunkers at the Beirut airport. As the House prepares to pass resolution calling for the “prompt and orderly withdrawal” of the Marines, Reagan announces that the Marines will be “re-deployed” to offshore ships. White House officials indicate that Reagan’s decision is based on advice from Weinberger, Bush, and Baker, over Shultz’s objections. Within a few months the vast majority of the Marines will have left their offshore positions, effectively completing a U.S. withdrawal from Lebanon. (*The New York Times*, 3/22/1984; *CQ Almanac 1984*, p. 71)

**March**

Amid growing criticism from Israel and its Congressional supporters, the White House backs off a proposal to sell Jordan and Saudi Arabia portable anti-aircraft missiles. Reagan says he is acting on the recommendation of Shultz and other senior advisors. (*The New York Times*, 3/22/1984; *CQ Almanac 1984*, p. 71)

**April**

Shultz says Western countries have to consider pre-emptive action against “known terrorist groups” and face up “to the need for active defense against terrorism.” He identifies Iran, Syria, Libya and North Korea as countries involved in state-supported terrorism and says “we have no choice but to address ourselves boldly” to ways of halting the rise of this “form of warfare.” (*The New York Times*, 4/4/1984)

The CIA played a direct role in the underwater mining of Nicaraguan ports that damaged various ships over the past two months, according to news reports. The reports indicate that Reagan approved the plan on the recommendation of the Pentagon and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane. Shultz reportedly expressed “very profound misgivings” about the policy but never formally objected to it. (*The Washington Post*, 4/7/1984, 4/11/1984)

Reagan’s trip to China produces no diplomatic breakthroughs and no visible shifts in either side’s foreign policy positions. However, Shultz says the meetings “legitimized” the developing ties between the two countries, particularly in the economic field. Nonetheless, Chinese leaders prove balky toward Reagan’s
efforts to draw them into a common posture against the Soviets. The Chinese are also critical of Reagan’s policies in Central America and Western Europe and are at loggerheads over the touchy issue of Taiwan. (The New York Times, 5/1/1984)

May

In U.S.-backed elections boycotted by leftist politicians, El Salvador elects a moderate president, Jose Napoleon Duarte. Duarte’s election breaks a stalemate in Washington over Salvadoran aid, and Reagan is able to win Congressional support for his requested military aid for fiscal 1984. (CQ Almanac 1984, p. 73)

June

A delegation of Soviet journalists cancels a scheduled meeting with Shultz as a public protest after Shultz remarks that the “Soviets use terrorist groups for their own purposes and their goal is always the same: to weaken liberal democracy and undermine world stability.” (The Washington Post, 6/27/1984)

September

Shultz and Reagan meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in an attempt to further repair strained American-Soviet relations. Afterwards, Shultz tells Reagan the talks have “established a necessary milestone on the way to more stable relations.” (The Washington Post, 9/30/1984)

October

Congress passes an omnibus spending bill that includes $16.7 billion in foreign economic, military, and development aid. During Reagan’s first term, monies allocated for foreign aid have substantially increased from the $9.4 billion authorized in President Carter’s final budget. The bulk of the increased aid has gone to Central America (especially El Salvador) and the Middle East (especially Israel). (CQ Almanac 1984, pp. 72, 103)

November

Reagan is re-elected in a landslide victory over Walter Mondale. Republicans maintain their control over the Senate, and Democrats remain in charge of the House. (Levy, p. 403)

Following Reagan’s re-election, Shultz calls on the Soviet Union to undertake “concrete deeds” in order to start momentum toward improved superpower relations. The Soviets respond by expressing interest in wide-ranging talks between Shultz and Foreign Minister Gromyko on arms-control issues, possibly leading to resumption of full-scale negotiations on limiting nuclear weapons. (The Washington Post, 11/8/1984, 11/9/1984)

NATO allies are divided over potentially freezing current levels of medium-range missiles in Europe. Britain and West Germany are opposed to a moratorium on the deployment that began last December, while Italy and Belgium face domestic opposition to the missiles. Within a few weeks, NATO formally endorses the upcoming U.S.-Soviet talks. Shultz says the allies are willing to halt deployment if a viable arms agreement is reached, but will continue deployment in the absence of such a pact. (The Washington Post, 11/29/1984, 12/15/1984)
December

Daily protests begin at the South African embassy in Washington over the apartheid regime and Reagan’s policy of “constructive engagement” towards it. (CQ Almanac 1985, p. 39)

1985

January

Shultz holds arms negotiations with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in Geneva. The talks are mostly “procedural and philosophical,” lacking substantive exchanges on specific issues, but officials hope they will set the stage for future negotiations and an improvement in overall relations. Afterwards, Shultz says: “We can’t be sure where these negotiations will lead and, clearly, we have a long road ahead of us. There are many tough and complicated issues still to be resolved, but we have here in Geneva agreed on the objectives for new negotiations on nuclear and space arms.” (The New York Times, 1/9/1985)

The New York Times reports that El Salvador, Honduras, and Israel have increased their aid to the “Contra” rebels in Nicaragua as U.S. aid has diminished. The reported support has raised questions in Congress over whether American arms sold or given to its allies are being diverted to the rebels, a diversion that is barred by law. (The New York Times, 1/9/1985)

February

Shultz’s increasingly tough stance towards Nicaragua touches off an angry exchange with two Democratic Congressmen. The exchange began when Shultz repeated the administration’s contention that Nicaragua was involved in international drug trafficking, which led to charges that the administration was distorting facts in an effort to win support for its anti-Sandinista policy. (The New York Times, 2/28/1985)

March

Soviet leader Chernenko dies, and Mikhail Gorbachev becomes new Soviet leader. Shultz and Vice President Bush attend Chernenko’s funeral in Moscow. (The Washington Post, 3/12/1985)

American and Soviet officials resume arms negotiations in Geneva. (Levy, p. 404)

April

Shultz calls for an American consensus on policy toward South Africa, saying that “South Africa’s denial of political rights to the country’s majority – apartheid – is not only morally indefensible, it is in the long run unsustainable.” Shultz’s speech occurs after escalating repression in South Africa and in the face of growing Congressional momentum to act on the subject. (The New York Times, 4/19/1985)

May

**June**

Shultz travels to Portugal to meet with NATO foreign ministers. At the meetings NATO endorses U.S.-Soviet arms negotiations in Geneva, but France blocks a potential NATO endorsement of Reagan’s research into Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI, or “Star Wars”). Despite French objections, Shultz says, “[i]t would be a great mistake to take from this the view that there is anything but widespread support from our allies on doing this research.” (*The Washington Post*, 6/8/1985)

The House passes a bill imposing sanctions on South Africa, and, in July, the Senate passes a milder version of the House bill. A conference bill is agreed upon, but several Senate Republicans block action on the bill before the August recess. (*CQ Almanac 1985*, pp. 39-40)

Lebanese radicals hijack a TWA jet in Beirut and hold 29 passengers hostage. Reagan announces he would not negotiate with the terrorists and threatens to retaliate. As the days drag on, Reagan’s threats produce no response from the terrorists, and the administration eventually negotiates with Syria for the release of the hostages. (*CQ Almanac 1985*, p. 38)

**July**

The U.S. and China sign a formal agreement that allows the U.S. to sell nuclear fuel, equipment, and technology for Chinese nuclear power plants for the next 30 years. The nuclear agreement is the first between the U.S. and a communist country. Critics claim the agreement does not adequately ensure that the Chinese will not contribute to the spread of nuclear weapons. Congress approves the agreement in December. (*CQ Almanac 1985*, pp. 110-11)

Shultz reportedly becomes a target of conservatives wanting him to resign. They believe he has handled terrorism too gingerly and been too soft in dealing with the Soviet Union. A White House spokesperson says the “President has full confidence in the Secretary, 100 percent.” (*The New York Times*, 7/28/1985)

Shultz meets with new Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Helsinki and formally begins planning a Reagan-Gorbachev summit in November. The new Foreign Minister reportedly has a more amicable style towards the U.S. (*The New York Times*, 8/2/1985)

**September**

Reagan announces economic sanctions against South Africa and abandons his plan of “constructive engagement.” Reagan acts just before the Senate is poised to act on their tougher legislation. (*CQ Almanac 1985*, p. 40)

Shultz meets with Shevardnadze but reportedly fails to narrow the gap between the two countries on arms control issues. Much of the November summit is expected to center on nuclear arms reductions and American plans to pursue a “Star Wars” defense system. The two sides have also agreed to discuss regional issues, such as Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Central America. (*The New York Times*, 9/26/1985)
October  
Palestinian hijackers take control of the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro* in the Mediterranean. A negotiated settlement is reached that allows the hijackers to surrender to Egyptian authorities and be routed to Tunisia. En route to Tunisia, U.S. warplanes intercept the hijackers and force their plane to land in Italy. Italian authorities put the hijackers on trial but allow their leader to escape, which causes a brief rift in U.S.-Italian relations. (*CQ Almanac 1985*, p. 38)

Shultz meets with European allies to coordinate strategy for the American-Soviet summit next month. Shultz assures NATO ministers that Reagan intends to adhere to a relatively narrow interpretation of a 1972 antiballistic missile treaty. Some European leaders were concerned that the U.S. had adopted a legal position on SDI that would undermine the ABM treaty. (*The New York Times*, 10/16/1985)

November  

On the 19th and 20th Reagan and Gorbachev hold their first summit in Geneva. At the summit they agree on a broad principle for a 50 percent cut in nuclear weapons, accelerating a new rounds of talks, and holding follow-up summits in 1986 and 1987. (*CQ Almanac 1985*, p. 40, 85)

December  
Americans are again victimized by terrorism, this time in attacks on Israeli airline counters in Rome and Vienna. Of the 19 persons killed, five are Americans. Reagan charges Libya with aiding the terrorists and places a complete trade embargo on Libya in January. (*CQ Almanac 1985*, p. 38)

The White House indicates that government employees with access to sensitive information will be subject to polygraph tests. Shultz publicly states he has “grave reservations” about the policy and would resign “the minute in this government I am told that I’m not trusted.” The White House subsequently changes its position, stating that polygraphs should be used as a tool limited to investigation of espionage cases. (*The New York Times*, 12/20/1985, 12/21/1985)

1986

January  
In events that will become known during the Iran-Contra scandal, Shultz reportedly argues that proposed arms sales to Iran are “illegal and unwise.” Reagan reportedly goes against Shultz’s advice and signs an executive order allowing such sales to commence. Shultz is not informed about the authorization for ten months. (*CQ Almanac 1987*, p. 89)

February  
Reagan asks for $100 million in military and non-military aid for the Contras. Congress has banned such military aid since 1984, although $27 million in non-military supplies was allowed in 1985. (*CQ Almanac 1986*, p. 355)
March

The House rejects the $100 million Contra aid request by Reagan in a narrow vote. However, the Reagan administration is able to persuade the House to reverse their vote in June—an important policy victory for the White House. (*CQ Almanac 1986*, p. 355-56)

Shultz and Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov meet in the first high-level assessment of U.S.-Soviet relations since the Geneva summit and express disappointment with the lack of progress in fulfilling the agenda outlined there. Shultz says that the two “agreed neither of us is satisfied with developments since that time.” (*The Washington Post*, 3/16/86)

April

Reagan orders a military strike against Libya after being told of “irrefutable” evidence linking Libya to the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque. Shultz, National Security Advisor John Poindexter, and Vice President Bush were reportedly “determined” to secure a military response to the bombing. Shultz also advocates the use of “disruptive” covert action to potentially engineer a regime change in Libya. (*The Washington Post*, 4/15/86; *The New York Times*, 4/28/1986)

May

At a meeting of NATO foreign ministers, Shultz says the unratified SALT II arms treaty has ceased to be an effective vehicle for averting nuclear confrontation and should be replaced. Shultz reportedly argues that Soviet violations of SALT II are placing the U.S. at a strategic disadvantage. NATO allies, particularly Britain, West Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, are opposed to the U.S. position because they face heavy domestic pressure from decisions to deploy medium-range U.S. nuclear missiles. (*The Washington Post*, 5/30/1986)

July

Shultz denounces a plan sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-KS) to subsidize U.S. wheat exports to the Soviet Union, calling it “ridiculous.” The Dole proposal is intended to help the ailing Midwest farm economy. Reagan overrules Shultz’s objections and signs the bill in early August. (*The Washington Post*, 7/26/86, 8/2/1986)

August

Following the lead of the House in June, the Senate passes an administration request to give the Contras $100 million in aid. (*CQ Almanac 1986*, pp. 355-56)

September

U.S.-Soviet relations are strained as a result of the “Daniloff Affair.” Soviet officials arrested an American journalist, Nicholas Daniloff, on espionage charges in late August, arguably in response to the American arrest of a Soviet individual on similar charges. Shultz and Shevardnadze are the primary negotiators working to resolve the affair, which impedes progress on planning a new summit between Reagan and Gorbachev. As a negotiated resolution is reached, Gorbachev proposes a summit in Iceland. (*CQ Almanac 1986*, p. 460)

The Senate passes economic and political sanctions against South Africa beyond those imposed by Reagan in 1985. Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) works to help
the measure pass in the House as well. Shultz says he does not believe sanctions “will hasten the end of apartheid.” Reagan vetoes the measure, arguing it is too austere. (CQ Almanac 1986, pp. 356, 363)

October
Reagan and Gorbachev meet in Reykjavik, Iceland as a follow up to their November 1985 summit in Geneva. U.S. and Soviet officials nearly reach an agreement that would have reduced nuclear arms and eventually banned nuclear tests. However, the two sides could not compromise on Reagan’s proposed SDI, and the talks end without an agreement. Shultz expresses his disappointment in failing to realize the “potentially tremendous achievements” in “the agreement that might have been.” (CQ Almanac 1986, pp. 460-61; The Washington Post, 10/17/86)

The Senate votes 78-21 to override Reagan’s veto of new South African sanctions, following a similar veto override in the House. The override is the first on a foreign policy issue since 1973, when Congress enacted the War Powers Resolution over Nixon’s objections. (CQ Almanac 1986, p. 356)

November
Shultz and Shevardnadze meet in Vienna as a follow-up to October’s summit. They hint at the possibility of a working group on arms control, but still appear to be separated on key issues. The Soviets are opposed to Reagan’s SDI plans, but Shultz says that the West needs SDI as “an investment in and an insurance for a more stable strategic balance.” (The Christian Science Monitor, 11/6/1986)

Democrats score big gains in the midterm election, taking control of the Senate and enlarging their majority in the House. (Levy, p. 405)

In early November, the press begins to report details of what will become known as the Iran-Contra affair. Allegedly, the U.S. sold arms to Iran in exchange for the release of hostages in Lebanon. Former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane and Oliver North, a Deputy Director of the National Security Council staff, are identified as having prominent roles in the operation. North is also identified as having played a lead role in aid to the Contra forces in Nicaragua. Sources also indicate that Shultz protested to Reagan that such a secret plan contradicts U.S. policy against negotiating with terrorist states. (The Washington Post, 11/7/1986)

After initially denying reports of the arms sales to Iran, on the 13th Reagan acknowledges that he had allowed shipments of a “small quantity” of “defensive” weapons to Iran. Afterwards Shultz reportedly has a “long, tough” talk with Reagan and tells him that he made “wrong and misleading” statements to the public. (CQ Almanac 1986, p. 355; CQ Almanac 1987, p. 89)

Reagan announces the resignation of NSA John Poindexter and the firing of North, following a disclosure that profits from Iranian arms sales were diverted to the Contras. Reagan says he “was not fully informed” about all “activities
undertaken” in weapons shipments. Shortly after Reagan’s announcement, a State Department spokesman announces that Shultz had prevailed in his effort to gain control of future U.S. policy toward Iran and help Reagan reach out to various factions there. Many speculated that Shultz would resign due to opposition to the arms sales. (The Washington Post, 11/26/1986)

On the 26th, Reagan appoints the so-called Tower Commission to conduct a “comprehensive review” of the scandal. The Commission is comprised of former Senator John Tower (R-TX), former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, and Brent Scrowcroft, Ford’s National Security Advisor. (CQ Almanac 1986, p. 415)

In early December, both houses of Congress establish select committees to investigate the Iran-Contra affair. (CQ Almanac 1986, p. 425)

NATO distances itself from Reagan's goal of eliminating all American and Soviet ballistic missiles through an arms-control accord. Diplomatic sources indicate that Britain and France believe such an accord would undermine the United States’ ability to provide nuclear deterrence in Europe. (The New York Times, 12/13/1986)

Shultz is called before the House Foreign Affairs Committee to testify about the Iran-Contra Affair. In the inquiry, Shultz reveals that the administration conceived of policy towards Iran on an ad hoc basis without the involvement of major policy makers. For instance, Shultz had not been told about the executive order that authorized direct arms shipments to Iran and had only “sporadic and fragmentary” knowledge about the arms sales. Shultz also asserts that he did not know proceeds were being diverted to the Contras. (CQ Almanac 1986, pp. 427-28)

A special prosecutor, Lawrence Walsh, is named to investigate the Iran-Contra affair. His investigative charter is much broader than what the Reagan administration had sought, enabling him to look into possible irregularities dating from 1984. (CQ Almanac 1986, p. 415)

1987

February  The Tower Commission’s report is issued and finds no criminal wrongdoing by Reagan officials, but does say Reagan lost control of his foreign policy team. Among other findings, the report says that Shultz should have done more than just distance himself from the decisions being made. The report leads to the resignation of White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan. (CQ Almanac 1986, pp. 415-16; CQ Almanac 1987, p. 60)

March  Shultz visits China and urges the communist leadership to continue pursuing economic reforms and openings to the West despite recent uncertainty about the country’s future political course. Shultz’s trip is the first by a ranking western
official to meet leader Deng Xiaoping since a wave of student unrest in December 1986. (*The New York Times*, 3/1/1987)

A legislative battle over the State Department’s fiscal 1988 budget begins. Although usually uncontentious, the spending authorization provides Congress an opportunity to expound its views on foreign policy issues. An initial spending bill reported from a House committee allocates $3.9 billion for the department, much less than the $4.7 billion requested by the White House. (*CQ Almanac 1987*, p. 145)

**April**  
Shultz and Shevardnadze meet to discuss arms control on short- and medium-range ballistic missiles in advance of a potential Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington. After meeting with Shevardnadze, Shultz goes to Brussels to discuss the potential accord with NATO allies. The allies are afraid that the abolition of such missiles would undermine the policy of “flexible response,” which permits an allied response to a Soviet attack in Europe without necessarily resorting to full-scale nuclear war. (*CQ Almanac 1987*, p. 139; *The New York Times*, 4/17/1987)

**May**  
The Iran-Contra committees begin holding nationally televised hearings, which last until early August. (*CQ Almanac 1987*, p. 61)

**June**  
Disagreement over the State Department spending bill causes friction between the White House and Congress. In late June, the House and Senate pass spending bills that offer considerably less spending that sought by Reagan and Shultz. State Department officials suggest Reagan might veto the bill if such low spending levels are retained in the conference report. (*CQ Almanac 1987*, p. 145)

**July**  
Congressional committees investigating Iran-Contra are told that Reagan did not know of the diversion of profits to the Contras. The climax of the inquiry is in mid-July when Oliver North testifies. North defends his actions and claims that he will be the “fall guy” of the investigation. He describes heavy involvement from Poindexter, McFarlane, and Director of Central Intelligence William Casey. North also says Shultz was aware of his efforts. Shultz issues a denial of North’s assertion. (*CQ Almanac 1987*, pp. 87-88)

With a new Democratic majority in the Senate, debates over the Reagan administration’s policy towards Nicaragua and the Contras become “bruisingly partisan.” In mid-July, the White House approaches the Democratic leadership in Congress and proposes crafting a “bipartisan” statement on Central America. The two sides begin to work towards that goal. (*CQ Almanac 1987*, p. 58)

Shultz testifies before Congressional investigators, saying that Reagan’s aides deliberately tried to mislead the President on his Iran arms program. Shultz also recounts the ways in which he was kept in the dark about details of the secret operation. Shultz testifies that the CIA and Casey skewed intelligence
assessments to support White House policies. He also says that Casey tried to keep the initiative alive even after it had been revealed to the American public. Shultz contends that Poindexter likely withheld information from Reagan in order to get approval for the operation. Committee Vice Chairman Warren Rudman (R-NH) calls Shultz a “hero.” A conservative minority on the committee dissents from Rudman’s view. *(CQ Almanac 1987, p. 89)*

**August**

In early August, Reagan and House Speaker Jim Wright (D-TX) announce a Central American peace plan calling for a halt to military intervention in Nicaragua by both the U.S. and the Soviets. White House officials are hoping that the Nicaraguan Sandinistas will not forswear Soviet aid, thus allowing continued U.S. aid to the Contras. *(CQ Almanac 1987, p. 58)*

The Reagan-Wright peace plan has an unintended consequence. Two days after its announcement, five Central American presidents sign their own peace accord. The accord calls in part for the end of all outside backing of insurgent groups in the region, meaning U.S. aid to the Contras and Soviet aid to guerrillas in El Salvador and Guatemala. *(CQ Almanac 1987, p. 58)*

**September**

Shultz and Shevardnadze again meet and negotiate towards an arms agreement. After four days of meetings, officials announce that they have reached an agreement in principle to ban short- and medium-range nuclear missiles. Reagan and Gorbachev are scheduled to meet later in the year to complete the pact. *(The New York Times, 9/19/1987)*

The White House and Congress are engaged in a protracted battle over aid to the Contras. A year after approving $100 million in aid to the Contras, Congress is reluctant to approve anything more than short-term humanitarian aid. *(CQ Almanac 1987, p. 112)*

**November**

House Speaker Jim Wright (D-TX) continues to assert himself in shaping U.S. foreign policy towards Central America. In mid-November he meets with Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega, which prompts the White House to accuse Wright of meddling in foreign policy and setting back the peace process. Shultz works as the primary liaison to resolve the rift between Wright and the White House. A few days later, Wright and Shultz defuse the situation by making a joint reconciliatory statement. Afterwards Shultz says that he and Wright have put their “little tiff” behind them. *(CQ Almanac 1987, pp. 130-31; The Washington Post, 11/18/1987)*

On the 18th, a bipartisan report released by the Congressional select committees investigating Iran-Contra says that Reagan must bear ultimate responsibility for the affair because he allowed a “cabal of zealots” to take over key aspects of U.S. foreign policy. *(CQ Almanac 1987, p. 60)
December  The White House and Congress come to an agreement on State Department spending—$4.2 billion for fiscal 1988. Although the White House wanted greater funding, the final bill provides a larger budget than the initial House and Senate bills. (CQ Almanac 1987, p. 145)

Reagan and Gorbachev hold their third summit in Washington and sign the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which requires the elimination of all missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,000 miles. The agreement is reached after both sides agreed to verification procedures under which each side will be able to inspect the other’s missile sites. After the agreement, Shultz says, “We must seek steady progress toward a more open, more predictable, more stable and constructive relationship.” (CQ Almanac 1987, p. 139; The Washington Post, 12/10/87)

Violence erupts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with scores of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces. Following the riots, the administration begins considering re-igniting the Middle East peace process. (CQ Almanac 1988, p. 512)

1988

February  A U.S. grand jury indicts Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega on charges related to drug trafficking. Shultz had previously encouraged the military dictator to “step back” from power and allow “a greater sense of civilian control.” During the year, the White House tries to oust Noriega with political pressure, economic sanctions, and threat of military intervention. (CQ Almanac 1988, pp. 459, 550)

Reagan requests $36 million in new military and non-military aid for the Contras. Although Reagan had identified such aid as one of his top foreign policy goals, the House rejects the proposal by a vote of 211-219. Their action is considered “one of the harshest rebukes ever to the president.” (CQ Almanac 1987, p. 112)

Shultz travels on an extended diplomatic mission to the Middle East. During his visit, Shultz outlines a peace plan calling for several negotiating phases with “interlocking” steps. His plan has three primary phases: preliminary U.N.-sanctioned negotiations between regional states and the U.N. Security Council, intermediate talks between Israel and Jordanian-Palestinian delegates toward a “transitional” plan, and finally talks on the permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza based on existing U.N. Security Council resolutions. Shultz acknowledges the difficulties facing the ambitious plan, but says that “the status quo is not going to last.” (CQ Almanac 1988, pp. 512-13)

March  Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejects the portion of Shultz’s plan that calls for an international conference in which U.N. Security Council members would oversee preliminary talks between the Israelis and Jordanian-Palestinian delegates. (CQ Almanac 1988, p. 512)
In testimony before the House committee on foreign appropriations, Shultz calls on Israel to accept the administration’s peace plan because it would create “a more stable, more assured, more constructive and open set of arrangements.” *(CQ Almanac 1988, p. 514)*

Oliver North, John Poindexter, and two other key participants in the Iran-Contra affair are indicted on charges of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. by illegally providing the Contras with profits from the sale of American weapons to Iran. The indictment is the most sweeping criminal action against former White House officials since the Watergate scandal. *(The New York Times, 3/17/1988)*


Shultz and Shevardnadze meet in Washington in advance of a May summit between Reagan and Gorbachev in Moscow. The two discuss various issues surrounding a potential Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. *(CQ Almanac 1988, pp. 467-70)*

In the wake of Congress’ gesture not to intervene in Nicaraguan affairs by rejecting Reagan’s funding proposal in February, the Sandinistas and Contras begin talks towards a peace settlement. A cease-fire is enacted in late March. The sides nearly reach a formal agreement, but negotiations break down in the final stages in early June. *(CQ Almanac 1988, p. 458)*

In response to the cease-fire in Nicaragua, Congress releases humanitarian aid to the Contras in March and August. The White House does not push for any new military aid. *(CQ Almanac 1988, p. 470)*

*April*

Shultz travels to the Middle East in an effort to revive the peace process. *(The Washington Post, 4/5/1988)*

The United Nations brokers an agreement providing for the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. Shultz calls the accord “a major step forward.” Soviet troops begin a withdrawal in May and complete it by February 1989. *(CQ Almanac 1988, p. 467)*

*May*

The Senate ratifies the INF Treaty by a vote of 93-5. The INF treaty becomes the first ratified U.S.-Soviet arms accord since 1972. *(CQ Almanac 1988, p. 379)*

Reagan and Gorbachev meet in Moscow for their fourth summit. The highlight of the summit is the exchanging of documents ratifying the INF treaty. The leaders make only limited progress towards a broader strategic arms reduction treaty
In lieu of a START pact, Shultz and Shevardnadze sign two minor arms accords during the summit. The accords require each country give the otheradvance notice of test launchings of ballistic missiles and outline procedures formeasuring underground nuclear tests in each country in accordance with theunratified 1974 Threshold Test Ban Treaty. (*CQ Almanac 1988*, p. 461)

**June**

Shultz leaves Moscow and travels to the Middle East for another round of shuttle diplomacy. He calls on Israel and its Arab adversaries “to confront reality and shed illusions” standing in the way of peace. Shultz says he does not intend to make any changes in the U.S. peace plan, which is based on the concept of Israeli transfer of control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Jordan in exchange for Arab recognition of Israel’s right to exist. (*The Washington Post*, 6/4/1988)

**July**

Shultz travels to China and urges Chinese leaders to curb the sale of missiles to the Middle East. The Reagan administration asserts China has recently made and is planning to make secret sales of ballistic missiles to the region. Shultz’s meetings end without assurances to curb such sales. (*The New York Times*, 7/16/1988)

**August**

Shultz meets with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to try to restart Nicaraguan peace talks. Shultz is reportedly trying to demonstrate Washington’s two-track policy towards Nicaragua: encouraging negotiations while maintaining military pressure through the Contras. Neither side joins negotiations. (*CQ Almanac 1988*, p. 492)

**September**

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approves harsh sanctions against South Africa that would effectively force all U.S. firms to terminate business operations there. Their action follows House passage of a similar measure in August that is considerably stronger than the 1986 law Congress passed by overriding Reagan’s veto. However, the likelihood of a Senate filibuster and an executive veto causes the bill to die on the Senate floor. (*CQ Almanac 1988*, p. 525)

**November**

George Bush defeats Michael Dukakis in the presidential election, but Democrats remain in control of both Congressional bodies. (Levy, p. 409)

**December**

Gorbachev announces a series of decisions to restructure the Soviet military, a move that could force the U.S. and NATO reassess their military forces, strategies, and budgets. Some call the move the “most significant step since NATO was founded.” Shultz says the reductions “are a welcome and significant step in the right direction.” (*The Washington Post*, 12/8/1988)

In the final major foreign policy effort of the Reagan administration, Shultz announces the U.S. is ready to begin a “substantive dialogue” with the PLO after its Chairman, Yasir Arafat, makes conciliatory statements accepting U.N. resolutions on Middle East peace, recognizing Israel’s right to exist, and renouncing terrorism. Shultz says the next obstacle is “how you bring about direct
negotiations between the key parties, to find your way to peace and how to structure that and how the Palestinians will be represented.” (CQ Almanac 1988, p. 512; The New York Times, 12/16/1988)

1989

January

Shultz receives the Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

During the next few years, former Reagan administration officials are convicted of charges stemming from the Iran-Contra affair. Included are prominent former officials such as Robert McFarlane, John Poindexter, and Oliver North. In December 1992, George Bush pardons Caspar Weinberger and other officials in their connection with the Iran-Contra affair. (Levy, pp. 237-39, 263-65, 387-89, 409-15)
GEORGE P. SHULTZ SUGGESTED TOPICS
Prepared By Ryan Saylor
Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 8/22/02

Joining the Reagan Administration
• Discuss your decision to join the 1980 presidential campaign. What were your responsibilities as Chairman of the Economic Policy Coordinating Committee?
• Discuss your decision to withdraw from consideration for Secretary of State during the transition in 1980. What were the circumstances surrounding your appointment as Chairman of Reagan’s Economic Policy Advisory Board? What were duties on the Board?
• Why did you accept the nomination as Secretary of State in 1982? What changed between 1980 and 1982? What kinds of discussions and understandings did you have with the President and others about your role as Secretary of State? Discuss your confirmation process.

Department of State
• Discuss your relationship with the administration’s foreign policy team, including National Security Advisors John Poindexter and Robert McFarlane, Defense Secretaries Caspar Weinberger and Frank Carlucci, Director of Central Intelligence William Casey, and others. Describe intra-administration disagreements on substantive issues, such as Central America and the Middle East.
• Describe your interactions with members of the cabinet, Vice President George Bush, Donald Regan, James Baker, III, Edwin Meese, III, and others.
• What was your relationship with overseas diplomats and staff at State Department, including Undersecretary for Political Affairs Lawrence Eagleburger, Executive Assistant M. Charles Hill, and others? Did your relationship with the State Department staff change over the course of your tenure?
• Discuss your relations with Congress, including debates over the State Department budget, especially the fiscal year 1988 budget. How would you characterize the influence of Congress on the “Star Wars” initiative? Describe your strategy to win Congressional approval for foreign aid requests and the “Carlucci Commission.” Describe your relations with conservative members of Congress, particularly their resignation demands.
• Discuss your role and responsibilities during the 1984 Presidential Campaign.

Foreign Policy Initiatives
• U.S.S.R. Relations. Leadership changes and their impact on bilateral relations (Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko, Gorbachev). Did the change in Soviet Foreign Ministers (from Andrei Gromyko to Eduard Shevardnadze) substantively affect bilateral negotiations? Disappointment at Reykjavik in October 1986. Negotiating the INF Treaty. The legacy of the Reagan administration for U.S.-Soviet relations and the Cold War.
• Central America. Efforts to win Congressional approval for foreign aid, especially funding for the Nicaraguan contras. Decision to mine Nicaragua’s harbors. Administration relations with Honduras.
• Iran-Contra Affair. Level of contact with Oliver North. Learning of Reagan’s executive order to sell arms to Iran. Discussion with Reagan after his disclosure of U.S. arms sales to Iran, November 1986. Reaction to the developing scandal. Testifying before Congress. Bush’s pardon of Weinberger.

1
• **Middle East.** Formulating a new administration policy toward the Middle East in 1982. Deciding to withdraw the Marines from Beirut. The intersection of terrorism concerns and other strategic interests in the region. Efforts in 1988 to re-start the peace process.

• **NATO and Western Europe.** Rift over pipeline-related sanctions imposed on the Soviets in 1981. Decision to lift sanctions. Intra-NATO divisions over the deployment of medium range missiles in Europe, December 1983.


• **South Africa.** Policy of “constructive engagement.” Decision to impose sanctions. Congressional override of Reagan’s veto, October 1986.

**The Reagan Presidency in Retrospect**

- What do you consider your greatest accomplishments as Secretary of State?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Reagan presidency? What features of the Reagan presidency (and your role in it) were overlooked or misunderstood by the press?
- How did foreign diplomats and heads of state view Reagan? Were there any common misconceptions?
- Discuss your observations of Reagan’s decision-making style and grasp of policy. How effective was Reagan as a public leader, a legislative leader, a foreign policy leader, and a party leader?
- How should the Reagan presidency be viewed in history?
TIMELINES

- George P. Shultz Timeline, prepared by Ryan Saylor, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 8/21/2002.

SELECTED WRITINGS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GEORGE P. SHULTZ


NEWS PROFILES


FOREIGN POLICY IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION


U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS


THE MIDDLE EAST


WESTERN EUROPE


MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

Central America

China

Terrorism

Iran-Contra Affair