



# **William J. Clinton Presidential History Project**

## **Briefing Materials**

**Madeleine K. Albright**

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**Prepared by Jeff Chidester, Research Assistant**  
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## MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT TIMELINE

*Prepared by Jeffrey L. Chidester*

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- 1959** Albright earns a B.A. in Political Science from Wellesley College.
- 1968** Albright completes her Master's degree at Columbia University.
- 1976** Albright receives her Ph.D. from the Department of Public Law and Government at Columbia University.
- 1976-1978** Albright serves as Chief Legislative Assistant to Senator Edmund Muskie (D-ME).
- 1978-1981** Albright works as a staff member on the National Security Council.
- 1981-1982** Albright is a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.
- 1982-1993** Albright serves as a Research Professor of International Affairs and Director of the Women in Foreign Service program at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.
- 1988** Albright meets Governor Bill Clinton (D-AR) for the first time while working on the presidential campaign of Governor Michael Dukakis (D-MA). Clinton travels to Boston to help Dukakis prepare for an upcoming debate. (Madeleine Albright, *Madame Secretary*, New York: Miramax Books, 2003, p. 128)
- 1989-1992** Albright is named President of the Center for National Policy, a non-profit public policy organization.
- 1992**
- November* William J. Clinton defeats President George H.W. Bush to become the 42<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States.
- Albright is named National Security Council coordinator for the transition team. (*The Washington Post*, 11/25/1992)
- President Clinton selects Albright to be the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, a post that will be elevated to Cabinet-level status in his Administration. Clinton also announces the rest of his foreign policy team, which includes Warren Christopher as Secretary of State, Les Aspin as Secretary of Defense, James Woolsey as

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Director of Central Intelligence, and Anthony Lake as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 12/22/1992)

### **1993**

*January* In the first foreign policy action of his tenure, President Clinton issues a directive establishing the national security decision-making system of his Administration. The major innovation of the directive is the addition of Albright, Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, and National Economic Council Director Robert Rubin to the National Security Council. (*The Washington Post*, 01/22/1993)

On the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approves the nomination of Albright by voice vote. Hours later, the full Senate confirms Albright's nomination by voice vote. (*Chicago-Sun Times*, 01/26/1993)

*February* The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously passes a measure establishing an international tribunal to punish all war criminals found guilty of "ethnic cleansing" and other atrocities in the Yugoslav civil war. "The Nuremberg principles have been reaffirmed," says Albright, in praise of the UN's show of commitment to international law. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 02/23/1993)

*March* North Korea announces its intention to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in protest of international pressure for inspections of suspected clandestine nuclear sites. Albright urges Pyongyang "to withdraw its declaration immediately." (*Financial Times-London*, 03/13/1993)

*April* Twelve of the State Department's top experts on the Balkans send Secretary of State Warren Christopher a letter declaring Western diplomacy in the region a failure and reminding the Administration of its moral obligation to save the Bosnian Muslims from genocide. Albright sends a separate memorandum to the White House advocating air strikes to protect Muslim areas under siege by Serbian nationalist forces. Albright argues that the U.S. can not "turn our back on our international responsibilities," and that a successful strike would reduce the threat to the relief effort underway, slow the supply of arms to the Bosnian Serbs, and demonstrate American resolve. (*The New York Times*, 04/23/1993)

*May* The UNSC votes unanimously to designate Sarajevo and several Muslim towns under siege by Bosnian Serbs as "safe havens" to be protected by UN forces. Albright says the measure is meant to ease the current volatile

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situation, and warns the Bosnian Serbs that stonewalling the peace process will lead to “new stronger and tougher measures.” (*Financial Times*-London, 05/07/1993)

### *June*

Albright signs the Convention on Biological Diversity, reversing the decision of the George H.W. Bush Administration not to sign the centerpiece of the 2002 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (*Financial Times*-London, 06/05/1993)

In a speech to the Foreign Policy Association in New York, Albright announces the Administration’s support for expanding the UNSC to include Japan and Germany. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 06/10/1993)

Albright endorses the concept of multilateral peacekeeping operations in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, but strongly criticizes UN peacekeeping efforts over the past five years as containing a “near-total absence of contingency planning,” and a “Byzantine and drawn-out budgetary decision-making process.” (*The New York Times*, 06/21/1993)

Responding to an April 14, 1993 assassination attempt on former President George H.W. Bush by the Iraqi government, the Clinton Administration orders military strikes against the Iraqi Intelligence Service headquarters in Baghdad. Albright announces the operation at an emergency session of the UNSC, citing Article 51 of the United Nations Charter as justification for the action. (*The New York Times*, 06/28/1993)

### *July*

During a trip to Kismayu and Mogadishu, Somalia, Albright criticizes warring faction leaders for ruining their country and preventing the UN from assisting in peacekeeping and reconstruction efforts. Coming just days after Somali gunmen kill three Italian peacekeeping troops in an ambush, Albright warns, “The warlords had better get their act together.” (*The New York Times*, 07/04/1993)

The top national security officials in the Clinton Administration approve the final draft of Presidential Decision Directive 13, which supports multinational peacekeeping operations “politically, militarily and financially,” and calls for the “rapid expansion” of UN peacekeeping missions around the world. (*The Washington Post*, 08/05/1993)

The UN brokers the Governors Island Agreement, whereby Haitian military junta leader General Raoul Cédras agrees to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions against the island nation. (Albright, p. 156)

### *September*

Speaking at the National War College, Albright says the UN’s decision-making process in sending peacekeeping troops abroad must be

## ***Albright: 1993-1994***

“overhauled” in order to avoid putting soldiers “in harm’s way without a clear mission, competent commanders, sensible rules of engagement and the means required to get the job done.” Albright also reaffirms America’s right to act unilaterally where its national interests are at stake. (*The Washington Post*, 09/24/1993)

*October* President Clinton announces the deployment of at least 1,500 more U.S. soldiers to the peacekeeping operation in Somalia, but pledges to end American participation in the mission by March 31, 1994. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 10/07/1993)

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the USS *Harlan County*, carrying a contingent of American and Canadian army engineers, is met at the dock of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, by angry mobs who force the ship to leave two days later. Albright later says, “The sight of the U.S. military retreating in the face of an unfriendly mob was a low point in Clinton Administration foreign policy.” (Albright, p. 156)

In an appearance on NBC’s *Meet the Press*, Albright says the Administration has not ruled out the possibility of military action in Haiti to protect American citizens on the island and to restore democratic rule. (*The New York Times*, 10/18/1993).

*November* The Clinton Administration announces it will not grant amnesty to accused war criminals from the former Yugoslavia and will urge sanctions against nations that do not hand over suspected criminals to the new UN war crimes tribunal. Albright, recognizing the difficulties the UN body will face in achieving success, says, “Realism about the tribunal’s prospects must not lead to cynicism about its importance.” (*The New York Times*, 11/03/1993)

*December* The United Nations creates the position of High Commissioner for Human Rights to monitor human rights violations around the world. Albright, who lobbied hard on behalf of the Administration for the post, calls its creation “a major milestone for world human rights.” (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 12/17/1993)

## **1994**

*January* Albright and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Shalikashvili lead a diplomatic mission to Central and Eastern Europe to garner support for the Administration’s Partnership for Peace initiative, which is to be presented at the NATO summit in Brussels later in the month. Also during the trip, Albright warns the Croatian government to stay out of the war in Bosnia or else run the risk of economic sanctions. (*The Washington Post*, 01/06/1994, 01/08/1994)

## *Albright: 1994*

On the 10<sup>th</sup>, NATO leaders formally approve the Partnership for Peace initiative. (Albright, p. 169)

*February* The UNSC formally declares its support for NATO's threat of air strikes around Sarajevo if Bosnian Serb forces refuse to place their arms under UN supervision. Albright says, "Cooperation between NATO and the UN is essential . . . for the precedent it will set for the future of collective security." (*The New York Times*, 02/15/1994)

*March* Albright and Shalikashvili travel to Sarajevo to show their support for the Muslim Bosnian government, and to offer economic aid and possibly ground troops to ensure that the peace agreement is adhered to by both sides. (*The Washington Post*, 03/31/1994)

*April* On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Albright announces that the U.S. is seeking the withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping mission in Rwanda, citing the inability of the operation to remain viable in such an "untenable situation." Albright disagrees with the American position and urges the NSC to revise the Administration's demands. (Albright, p. 150)

*May* The Clinton Administration releases its new policy regarding UN peacekeeping operations on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The policy, which is the first comprehensive framework for peacekeeping operations in the post-Cold War era, states that such operations "are not and cannot be the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy." The directive also contains provisions to make more "disciplined and coherent choices" about where to get involved, and to reduce America's financial burden for these missions from 36 percent to 25 percent of the UN budget. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 05/06/1994)

The UNSC votes to impose a nearly total trade embargo on Haiti in an effort to force the military junta from power. Albright notes that tightening the "sanctions noose" was "a step we did not want to have to take." (*The Washington Post*, 05/07/1994)

The UNSC delays the dispatch of a 5,500-man peacekeeping force to Rwanda after the Clinton Administration, operating for the first time under its new, stricter guidelines for peacekeeping operations, argues that the UN plan has little chance of achieving its objectives. Albright says, "If we do not keep commitments in line with capabilities, we will only further undermine UN credibility and support." UN General Secretary Boutros Boutros-Ghali calls the delay "a scandal." (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 05/25/1994, 05/26/1994)

*June* North Korea withdraws from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), prompting the Clinton Administration to call for sanctions that

## *Albright: 1994*

would impose an arms embargo and UN restrictions on cargo flights. After negotiating the proposal with the UNSC, Albright says the sanctions are “a tool to deliver a political message that it (North Korea) needs to make an adjustment in its behavior. The more they break the rules, the tougher the sanctions.” (*The Washington Post*, 06/16/1994)

The day after the U.S. introduces the sanctions proposal to the UNSC, North Korea agrees to allow IAEA inspectors to remain at its nuclear sites. In response, President Clinton says the U.S. will consider resuming high-level talks with Pyongyang “if today’s developments mean that North Korea is genuinely and verifiably prepared to freeze its nuclear program.” (*Financial Times*-London, 06/17/1994)

In an address at Harvard University, Albright criticizes Russian military intervention in the war-torn republics of Moldova, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. Albright urges Moscow to gain legitimacy for these operations through the UN rather than continuing its “go-it-alone strategy.” (*The Washington Post*, 06/21/1994)

*July* Albright urges the UN to adopt a resolution authorizing “all necessary means” to restore Aristide to power in Haiti. After encountering opposition to the plan from General Secretary Boutros-Ghali, Albright proposes a revised plan which would authorize a U.S.-led coalition to oust Cédra and establish stability, to be followed by a smaller UN peacekeeping force. Noting the American leadership in an operation so close to U.S. soil, Albright calls the mission “sphere-of-influence peacekeeping.” (*The Washington Post*, 07/21/1994, 07/30/1994)

*August* The UNSC approves a resolution to allow a U.S.-led multinational force to drive the Haitian military junta from power and restore Aristide to the presidency. Following the vote, Albright warns Cédra, “You can depart voluntarily and soon, or you can depart involuntarily and soon. The sun is setting on your ruthless ambition.” (*The Washington Post*, 08/01/1994)

*September* Albright announces qualified U.S. support for Russia’s peacekeeping role within the Commonwealth of Independent States. Albright notes that Russian troops should withdraw from the peaceful republic of Moldova, but are acceptable in the more unstable regions of central Asia, such as Chechnya and Nagorno-Karabakh. However, she warns that “Russian policies and actions must reflect the fact that it is no longer surrounded by vassals, but by independent, sovereign states.” (*Financial Times*-London, 09/07/1994)

*October* The U.S. sends 54,000 troops to the Persian Gulf after Iraq assembles 60,000 to 70,000 troops and a unit of tanks near the border of Kuwait. Albright says the move by Baghdad indicates “hostile intent,” and warns

## ***Albright: 1994-1995***

that any attack on Kuwait would be answered by the U.S. On CNN's *Late Edition*, she says, "The main message . . . to Saddam Hussein is: 'Do not make a mistake. Do not cross that border. Do not create circumstances that will force us to act'." (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 10/10/1994)

The UNSC unanimously approves a resolution condemning the Iraqi troop build-up near the Kuwaiti border. Following the vote, Albright says, "Let Iraq be warned and let it fully understand that it should not miscalculate the firmness, unity and resolve of the Council." She also maintains America's authority under UN law to use military force in the event of more aggression by Iraq. (*The New York Times*, 10/17/1994)

The media reports that Albright is on the short-list of possible candidates to replace Secretary of State Christopher, who sources say may leave the Administration at the end of the year. (*The Washington Post*, 10/28/1994)

Albright introduces a resolution to the UNSC to lift the UN arms embargo against the Bosnian government so that, in the absence of an end to the civil war, they may adequately defend themselves against the better-equipped Bosnian Serbs. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 10/29/1994)

*November* After failing to sway enough members of the UNSC to support an end to the arms embargo against the Bosnian government, the Clinton Administration announces it will no longer enforce the UN embargo. (*The Washington Post*, 11/11/1994)

The UNSC votes to continue sanctions against Iraq, even after Iraq announces its recognition of Kuwait as a sovereign state within UN-drawn borders. In response to charges that sanctions have left Iraq unable to feed its people, Albright criticizes Saddam Hussein for continuing his lavish spending on palaces for himself and other top government officials. (*The New York Times*, 11/15/1994)

## **1995**

*January* Republican leaders in the House and Senate introduce legislation to cut U.S. funding of more than a dozen UN peacekeeping operations throughout the world. The proposal would reduce America's annual payments to the UN by about \$1 billion and would remove about one-third of the UN's \$3.6 billion annual budget for peacekeeping operations. Appearing before the House International Relations Committee, Albright criticizes the GOP plan as inviting "chaos" and opening the door to "budgetary anarchy" at the UN. Albright advises President Clinton to veto the bill. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 01/23/1995; *The Washington Post*, 02/04/1995)



## *Albright: 1995*

Top Clinton Administration officials fail to come to an agreement on whether the U.S. should retain the option of withdrawing from the global ban on nuclear tests. Shalikashvili and Secretary of Defense William Perry support keeping the option, while Albright, Lake, deputy national security advisor Samuel Berger, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Director John Holum, and White House Science Adviser John Gibbons advocate dropping the easy-out provision. (*The Washington Post*, 01/28/1995)

*February* Albright embarks on an eight-day trip to Europe, the Middle East, and South America to convince several nations with seats on the UNSC to maintain sanctions against Iraq after France and Russia express a willingness to ease the sanctions. The UNSC votes to continue sanctions on March 13<sup>th</sup>. (*The Washington Post*, 03/03/1995)

*May* In a major victory for the Clinton Administration, 175 nations agree to make the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty permanent. Albright praises the participating nations for taking advantage of "this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." (*The Washington Post*, 05/12/1995)

In a commencement address at Barnard College, Albright warns of the "trend toward isolationism that is running stronger in America than at any time since the period between the two world wars," and cautions against ignoring global problems which "if left unattended, will all too often come home to America." (*The New York Times*, 05/17/1995)

*July* After four years of denying that it ever had an offensive biological warfare program, the Iraqi government admits that it secretly manufactured enough deadly bacteria before the 1991 Gulf War to kill millions of people. In response, Albright says, "They shot themselves in the foot when they denied they had all this. It makes everybody doubt the veracity of what they say. It makes logical people wonder what else there is." (*The Washington Post*, 07/06/1995)

*August* The Clinton Administration resists a Republican-led effort to boycott or limit U.S. participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. Albright, who is slated to head the American delegation, says, "Let there be no doubt, the United States will be there." (*The New York Times*, 08/06/1995)

*September* Albright serves as the head of the American delegation at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. During her speech to the conference delegation, Albright says, "Freedom to participate in the political process of our countries is the inalienable right of every woman and man. Deny that, and you deny everything." (*The New York Times*, 09/07/1995)

## ***Albright: 1995-1996***

*November* On the 10<sup>th</sup>, the Nigerian government executes nine human rights activists, including playwright and Nobel Peace Prize Candidate Ken Saro-Wiwa. Albright denounces the action at a meeting of the UNSC and proposes punitive action against Lagos. Five weeks later, the UN General Assembly passes a resolution condemning the hangings, but levies no sanctions, making the measure effectively powerless. (*The New York Times*, 12/27/1995)

## **1996**

*January* Albright travels to the African nations of Angola, Rwanda, Burundi, and Liberia on a fact-finding mission for President Clinton. (*The New York Times*, 01/22/1996)

*February* On the 24<sup>th</sup>, two Cuban MiG jets shoot down two Cessna planes, killing four members of Brothers to the Rescue, a humanitarian group dedicated to rescuing Cuban citizens attempting to flee the island by boat. Speaking at the UN, Albright calls the “cold-blooded murder” an act of “cowardice” on the part of the Cuban government. Albright then attends a memorial service for the victims in Miami where she is lauded for standing up to the Havana government. (Albright, pp. 202-205)

*March* Albright announces that the Administration’s budget proposal will include a five-year plan to pay \$1.2 billion in arrears to the UN. In an effort to earn GOP support for the appropriation, Albright says the Administration will also ask the UN to reduce the U.S. contribution to its budget from 25 percent to 20 percent. (*The New York Times*, 03/05/1996)

Albright travels to Vukovar, Croatia, to speak with local Croatian Serb officials about returning the region of east Slavonia to Croatia. During the trip, rebel Serbs hurl insults at Albright and throw stones at her motorcade, causing her to quickly leave the town, but no one is hurt in the incident. (*The Washington Post*, 03/22/1996)

After witnessing the destructive capability of land mines during a trip to Angola, Albright asks Shalikashvili and Perry to review the U.S. policy on mines. (*The New York Times*, 03/25/1996)

*August* After holding up final approval for weeks in order to ensure stringent compliance and monitoring guidelines, the U.S. agrees to partially lift UN sanctions on Iraq. Under the plan, Iraq is permitted to sell up to \$2 billion in oil every six months to pay for emergency supplies for its citizens. Albright says, “What we have wanted to do all along is assure ourselves that all the procedures that go along with this are appropriate, and we will

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make sure that they are carried out very vigorously to get the assistance to the right people and not in any way to abrogate the sanctions regime.” (*The New York Times*, 08/06/1996)

*September* The United Nations General Assembly approves the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty by a vote of 158 to 3, with India, Bhutan, and Libya dissenting. Albright calls the passage of the treaty “a milestone in our transition from the Cold War era to a new and safer time.” (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 09/11/1996)

*November* Albright introduces a UN resolution calling for an international treaty banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of land mines. Albright says, “We must work together to end the terror caused by anti-personnel land mines.” (*Financial Times*-London, 11/05/1996)

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Albright vetoes a UNSC resolution giving Boutros-Ghali a second term as UN General Secretary. Although the vote is 14 to 1 in favor of a second term, the American veto assures that Boutros-Ghali will not extend his tenure. Albright begins to quietly lobby for UN Undersecretary General for Peacekeeping Kofi Annan to take the post. (*Financial Times*-London, 11/21/1996)

*December* President Clinton nominates Albright to be Secretary of State on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Clinton also announces the nominations of William Cohen as Secretary of Defense, Anthony Lake as Director of Central Intelligence, and Samuel Berger as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 12/05/1996)

## **1997**

*January* The Senate Foreign Relations Committee holds hearings on the nomination of Albright as Secretary of State on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Speaking before the panel, Albright defends NATO expansion, advocates paying UN dues, and urges Congress to give the Clinton Administration the tools it needs to conduct “first class diplomacy.” (*Financial Times*-London, 01/09/1997)

On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Senate votes 99 to 0 to confirm Albright’s nomination as Secretary of State. (Albright, p. 227)

Albright covers a range of foreign policy issues during a news conference on her first full day as Secretary of State. She promises to be firm with China on human rights and relations with Hong Kong, but cautions against Sino-American relations being “held hostage to any one issue.” She labels Iran and Iraq “rogue states” and demands that they “stop supporting state terrorism.” Albright also discusses the Middle East, Cuba, NATO enlargement, Bosnia, and Sudan. (*The Washington Post*, 01/25/1997)

## ***Albright: 1997***

In an interview on NBC's *Meet the Press*, Albright says she hopes to build good relations with the Republican-led Congress and to create a bipartisan foreign policy similar to the one that existed in the years following World War II. (*Financial Times*-London, 01/27/1997)

- February* On the 16<sup>th</sup>, Albright begins her first foreign trip as Secretary of State, a ten-day, nine-nation tour through Europe and Asia. She holds talks on NATO enlargement and European security with Italy, Germany, France, Belgium and Great Britain. In Russia, she ensures the Moscow government that NATO enlargement is "not adversarial," and seeks ways to improve NATO-Russian ties. She discusses human rights and weapons sales with government leaders in China. Also during her visit to Beijing, longtime leader Deng Xiaoping dies. Albright meets with Japanese and South Korean officials to talk about trade and security issues. (*The New York Times*, 02/18/1997, 02/21/1997, 02/23/1997)
- March* In the first mini-crisis of her tenure, Albright suggests sending a large NATO military force to Albania to protect U.S. forces evacuating the Albanian capitol of Tirana. The option is rejected after opposition from Cohen and senior military officials, and the evacuation begins again after a brief suspension. (*The New York Times*, 03/21/1997)
- April* Albright appears on NBC's *Meet the Press* to urge undecided senators to vote in favor of the Chemical Weapons Convention. She says the vote is "a leadership question" for the United States and its role in the world. The Senate approves the treaty, 74 to 26, on the 25<sup>th</sup>. (*USA Today*, 04/21/1997; *The New York Times*, 04/25/1997)
- May* Albright holds two days of talks in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov to discuss the unsettled military issues needed to complete a NATO-Russian charter by the May 27 target date. Both sides remain far apart after the first day, but on the second day Primakov surprises many by dropping a major demand limiting NATO's military power. This removes a key obstacle to progress on a final charter. (*The New York Times*, 05/02/1997, 05/03/1997)
- Albright announces that the U.S. has imposed sanctions against two Chinese corporations and a group of Chinese executives for assisting Iran in building a chemical weapon. Albright says the U.S. has no evidence that the Beijing government had any involvement in the exchange. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 05/23/1997)
- June* In a trip through the Balkans, Albright scolds Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic for not complying with the Dayton Peace Accords. Albright warns both men that their

## *Albright: 1998*

countries will face stiff penalties if they refuse to turn over indicted war criminals and allow the safe return of refugees. (*The Washington Post*, 06/01/1997)

Albright delivers a major foreign policy address at Harvard University where she lays out her vision for America's role in the post-Cold War world. She warns of the dangers of isolationism and indifference to international affairs, and suggests that America "must heed the lessons of the past, accept responsibility and lead." (*The New York Times*, 06/06/1997)

President Clinton says the U.S. needs to "stop talking about what date we're leaving on" and become more active in Bosnia to capture war criminals and protect refugees during their return. The announcement is seen as a victory for Albright, who, in contrast to Cohen, has long favored a more active American mission to revive stagnant U.S. policy in Bosnia. (*The New York Times*, 06/12/1997)

### *July*

On the 1<sup>st</sup>, Albright represents the U.S. at ceremonies in Hong Kong marking the return of the British colony to Chinese rule. (*The Washington Post*, 06/07/1997)

Albright delivers a speech at the annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) calling for pressure for democratic change in Cambodia and Myanmar, and non-proliferation efforts in North Korea. The nine-member organization politely receives Albright, but remains cold on the U.S. proposals. (*The New York Times*, 07/28/1997)

### *August*

In a speech before the National Press Club, Albright announces a shift in strategy toward the Middle East which will lead the U.S. to press the Israelis and the Palestinians to move more quickly on the details of a final peace settlement. The shift is an attempt to regain momentum lost between the two parties during disputes over interim measures. (*The Washington Post*, 08/07/1997)

### *September*

Albright travels to Israel and the Palestinian territory to hold talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. During the trip, Albright reaffirms America's close relationship with Israel, but calls on Netanyahu to halt settlement activity and other actions the Palestinians may find provocative. She tells Arafat that the PLO must do more to root out and punish terrorists. After making little progress at the talks, Albright says she will not return to the region until both sides make "the hard decisions" to bring the talks back on track. (*The New York Times*, 09/11/1997, 09/12/1997, 09/13/1997)

## ***Albright: 1997***

*October* Albright breaks away from President Clinton's trip through South America to visit Haiti and discuss with lawmakers ways to reach an agreement on a new Prime Minister. The island has been without a functioning government since Prime Minister Rosny Smarth resigned on June 9 after complaints that the elections were flawed. (*The Boston Globe*, 10/18/1997)

*November* After a meeting with Clinton, key Cabinet members, and leading members of Congress, Albright says "a consensus is developing" between the Administration and Congress that withdrawing U.S. forces from Bosnia by the June 1998 target date could damage American credibility and regional stability. She becomes the first top-level Administration official to say that U.S. troops will be needed in Bosnia after June. (*The Washington Post*, 11/06/1997)

In a joint news conference with Netanyahu, Albright urges the Israelis and the Palestinians to move the peace process forward with "a greater sense of urgency." Albright reiterates this message to Arafat the next day during talks in Bern, Switzerland. (*The New York Times*, 11/15/1997)

Albright meets with Arab leaders in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia during a brief tour meant to garner support for a united stand against Iraq. (*The New York Times*, 11/16/1997)

*December* President Clinton announces his decision to keep U.S. troops involved in the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia for an indefinite period following the June 1998 deadline. The State Department plays a key role in convincing Clinton to keep U.S. forces involved in the peacekeeping mission after the deadline. (Albright, p. 271)

Albright makes a weeklong visit to sub-Saharan Africa. During the trip, she admits that the U.S. and other nations share in the blame for the massacres that have occurred in Central Africa. Albright praises the leadership of Congolese President Laurent Kabila and pledges to increase U.S. aid to the country. She also holds up America's relationship with South Africa as the desired model for U.S.-African ties. (*The New York Times*, 12/11/1997, 12/13/1997, 12/14/1997)

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic sign agreements with NATO member states to bring the three countries into the alliance. During the event, Albright urges the body to formulate a broader strategy to deal with the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. (*The Washington Post*, 12/17/1997)

## ***Albright: 1998***

### **1998**

#### ***January***

The press reports that Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr has broadened his inquiry of President Clinton to investigate whether he asked Monica Lewinsky, a 24-year-old White House intern, to lie on his behalf in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit. The Administration continues to push its agenda, but the story becomes a major distraction for the President over the next thirteen months. Albright later says the scandal “didn’t prevent us from doing our jobs, but the uproar was impossible to block out.” (Albright, p. 350; *The Washington Post*, 01/21/1998)

Speaking at a news conference before a one-week diplomatic mission to Europe and the Middle East, Albright emphasizes that the U.S. is prepared to act unilaterally to stop Iraq from developing chemical and biological weapons. She says, “I am not going anywhere to seek support. I am going to explain our position.” (*The Boston Globe*, 01/29/1998)

#### ***February***

Albright criticizes Israeli and Palestinian leaders during a news conference for stalling on the key issues necessary to restart peace negotiations. Albright says the two sides have been “negotiating the same issues for a long time—frankly, far too long.” (*The Washington Post*, 02/02/1998)

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, Albright, Berger, and Cohen travel to Ohio State University to make the case for military action against Iraq, but are booed and interrupted by many in the raucous crowd who disagree with the Administration’s policy. Albright calls the appearance “my roughest day in office to that point.” (Albright, p. 283; *The Washington Post*, 02/19/1998)

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) criticizes the Clinton Administration for considering a UN-brokered plan to bring weapons inspectors back to Iraq. Albright urges Republicans to withhold judgment until the plan is further clarified. (*Financial Times*-London, 02/26/1998)

#### ***March***

Albright travels to the Vatican to visit with Pope John Paul II and discuss America’s Cuba policy. She compares the Pope’s recent visit to Cuba to his 1979 trip to Poland and its effect on communist rule in the region, and expresses hope that his Cuba visit could be a similar “point of departure.” (*The New York Times*, 03/20/1998)

In a meeting with the Contact Group, a body of six nations—France, Russia, Germany, Britain, Italy, and the U.S.—created to monitor developments in the former Yugoslavia, Albright urges “strong measures” in response to Serbia’s aggression in the province of Kosovo. Albright asserts, “We are not going to stand by and watch the Serbian authorities do

## *Albright: 1998*

in Kosovo what they can no longer get away with doing in Bosnia.” (*The New York Times*, 03/08/1998)

### *April*

After Japan expresses its displeasure at President Clinton’s decision not to visit the nation during his upcoming trip to China, Albright makes a stop in Japan on her way to China and stresses the strength of U.S.-Japanese ties. (*The New York Times*, 04/29/1998)

Albright holds two days of talks with Chinese leaders in preparation for Clinton’s June visit. Following the meetings, Albright says the two nations have gone a long way toward building good relations, but still have differences over issues such as human rights, Tibet, and weapons sales to Iran and Pakistan. (*The Washington Post*, 04/30/1998)

### *June*

Albright delivers a speech to the Asia Society in New York on relations with Iran. During the speech, Albright praises the growing reform movement in Iran and says that the United States is prepared to sit down with the government of President Mohammad Khatami and get on the path toward normal relations. (Albright, p. 320)

In an address to the Henry L. Stimson Center, Albright says the potential for “disaster is high” in India and Pakistan following recent nuclear explosions by both nations, and calls for an American-led effort to halt the production of fissile materials. (*The New York Times*, 06/11/1998)

### *July*

Albright makes another stop in Japan on the way back from Clinton’s nine-day tour of China, and again stresses the “unshakable friendship” between the U.S. and Japan. Albright also urges Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to take actions to bolster the faltering Japanese economy. (*The Washington Post*, 07/05/1998)

### *August*

On the 7<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, are bombed by terrorists, killing 220 people, including 12 Americans, and injuring nearly 5,000 civilians. Albright travels to Africa and visits both embassies shortly after the bombings. She later describes the event as “my worst day as Secretary of State.” Albright promises that the U.S. will find the terrorists no matter how long it takes. “The memory of the United States is very long, and our reach is very far,” she says. (Albright, p. 361; *USA Today*, 08/10/1998)

President Clinton orders air strikes on a chemical plant in Sudan and terrorist camps in Afghanistan in response to the terrorist attacks in Kenya and Tanzania. “Our target was terror,” President Clinton says in an



## ***Albright: 1998-1999***

address to the nation following the attacks. Albright declares, “This is, unfortunately, the war of the future.” (*USA Today*, 08/21/1998; *The New York Times*, 08/23/1998)

*October* In a speech to the U.S.-Russia Business Council, Albright expresses her disappointment at the direction the Russian economy has taken over the past year. She says, “We can only wonder if some members of (Prime Minister Yevgeny) Primakov’s team understand the basic arithmetic of the global economy.” (*The New York Times*, 10/03/1998)

Albright travels to the Middle East for two days of talks with Netanyahu and Arafat. Following the meeting, Albright says that “significant and substantial progress” has been made toward an interim peace accord, and announces that a summit attended by Netanyahu, Arafat, and Clinton will be held on October 15 at the Wye Plantation in Maryland. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 10/08/1998)

*December* The U.S. military conducts a series of air strikes in Iraq. Before the bombing campaign begins, Albright contacts 16 foreign ministers from the UN Security Council countries, and European and Arab allied nations to inform them of the decision to use force. Shortly after the air strikes are completed, Albright maintains, “we reserve the right to use force again.” (*The New York Times*, 12/17/1998, 12/21/1998)

## **1999**

*January* Albright hints for the first time that the Administration is open to the use of U.S. ground troops as part of a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. (*USA Today*, 01/27/1999)

*February* Albright travels to Rambouillet, France, to attend a peace conference on the situation in Kosovo. After two and a half weeks of little progress, the ethnic Albanian delegation prevents the talks from collapsing by agreeing to sign the peace agreement. The agreement still falls short of what the Clinton Administration hoped for to place enough pressure on Milosevic to force his retreat from Kosovo. (*The New York Times*, 02/24/1999)

*March* During her visit in Beijing, Albright strongly criticizes China’s record on human rights, but maintains that the Administration will not seek to link trade agreements with human rights improvements. Albright also speaks about possible Chinese entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO). (*The Washington Post*, 03/02/1999)

In a signing ceremony at the Truman Presidential Library, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic formally join the NATO alliance. During her remarks at the ceremony, Albright pledges, “The nations entering our

## ***Albright: 1999***

alliance today are the first new members since the Cold War's end, but they will not be the last." (*The Washington Post*, 03/13/1999)

*May* Albright meets with a group of Iraqi opposition leaders, signaling the Administration's intentions to bolster those opposed to the current Iraqi government. On the day of the meeting, the State Department announces it will begin giving "nonlethal" aid to these groups. (*The New York Times*, 05/25/1999)

*July* In the first high-level meeting since the U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Albright meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan. After the meeting, Albright says the two nations achieved an "easing of tensions" and "the restoration of communication over a very friendly lunch." (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 07/26/1999)

Albright delivers an address to thousands of cheering Kosovar Albanians in Kosovo's capital city, Pristina. During the speech, Albright tells the crowd they will no longer have to fear Serbian aggression, but cautions that the new Kosovo government must be "based on tolerance, law and respect for human rights." (*The Washington Post*, 07/30/1999)

*September* Albright travels to the Middle East to meet with Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and newly-elected Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and to preside over a signing ceremony in Egypt for a new Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. After failing to complete the accord during the first day of talks, the two parties reach a critical agreement the next day which calls for a completion of the land-for-peace deal made in Maryland last year. (*The New York Times*, 09/03/1999, 09/04/1999)

Albright attends the formal commissioning of the new U.S. consulate in Saigon, Vietnam. (*The New York Times*, 09/08/1999)

Albright tells reporters at the opening ceremony of the UN General Assembly that the U.S. is losing its influence in the organization by failing to pay \$1.6 billion in past UN dues. She says, "They resent us deeply because we are not paying, and we are the backbone of the UN." (*The New York Times*, 09/23/1999)

*December* Albright meets with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in Damascus in an effort to restart peace talks between Syria and Israel. Two days later, President Clinton announces that the two nations will begin high-level peace negotiations the following week. (*Financial Times-London*, 12/09/1999)

Albright blocks a \$500 million Export-Import Bank loan to Russia after discovering that the loan was to go to a state-affiliated oil company. U.S.

## ***Albright: 1999-2000***

officials argue that this type of loan is an example of Russia's opposition to economic reform. (*The Washington Post*, 12/22/1999)

### **2000**

*February* During a trip to Croatia, Albright praises the country's new democratic government and promises U.S. support for the integration of Croatia into NATO, the European Union and the West. (*The New York Times*, 02/03/2000)

Albright sends a memo to President Clinton advocating U.S. recognition of the positive steps Iran has taken toward greater liberalization and suggesting increased engagement with the Tehran government. (Albright, p. 324)

*March* Albright announces the end to a series of economic sanctions against Iran and promises an American commitment to take steps to reduce hostility between the two nations if Iran indicates a similar desire. (*The Boston Globe*, 03/18/2000)

*April* A laptop computer containing classified information on arms proliferation vanishes from the State Department's intelligence bureau. In response, Albright orders an overhaul of security at the State Department. (*The Washington Post*, 04/25/2000)

*June* Albright makes a three-day visit to the Middle East to create a new sense of urgency in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. "The moment of truth is fast approaching," Albright says during her first stop in Jerusalem. During her visit with Mubarak and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa, she encourages peace talks between Israel and Syria, but says that the Administration's central focus for the remainder of the second term is an Israeli-Palestinian accord. (*The New York Times*, 06/06/2000, 06/08/2000)

*July* From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, Clinton, Barak, and Arafat lead their nations' delegations at the Middle East peace summit in Camp David. President Clinton leaves the summit after ten days to attend the G-8 meeting in Japan, but Albright remains at Camp David to head the U.S. delegation. Clinton returns to the talks three days later, but after two weeks of negotiations he announces that no deal has been reached. Both sides are unable to reconcile their differences on the emotional issue of Jerusalem. (*The New York Times*, 07/20/2000; *San Francisco Chronicle*, 07/26/2000)

*September* Speaking to reporters after a speech to the UN General Assembly, Albright says the U.S. will not use military force to get Saddam Hussein to agree to resume weapons inspections. Albright does leave the door open

## ***Albright: 2000-2001***

to military reprisals if Iraq restarts its weapons programs or makes aggressive moves to the Kurdish population in northern Iraq. (*The New York Times*, 09/13/2000)

*October* Albright publicly criticizes Governor George W. Bush's proposal to withdraw U.S. peacekeeping forces from the Balkans, saying the move could lead to regional instability and eventually the possible dissolution of NATO. (*The New York Times*, 10/22/2000)

Albright holds talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in the capitol city of Pyongyang. Following their meeting, Albright announces that "important progress" has been made on the key issues of missile development, testing, and exporting, but a final agreement on these issues will have to be completed in later discussions between the two governments. (*The Washington Post*, 10/25/2000)

Russia informs the U.S. of its intention to withdraw from a 1995 arms agreement negotiated by Vice President Al Gore which limited the sale of weapons to Iran. Albright tells Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov that weapons sales to Iran could lead to U.S. sanctions against Russia. (*The Washington Post*, 11/23/2000)

## **2001**

*January* Albright announces that she will become Chairwoman of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington, DC, after leaving office. (*The New York Times*, 01/12/2001)

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## **MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT SUGGESTED TOPICS**

*Prepared by Jeffrey L. Chidester*

*Miller Center, University of Virginia, 05/07/2005*

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### ***Joining the Administration***

- How did you come to meet Bill Clinton? What were your early impressions of him? How often did you stay in contact after the 1988 presidential election?
- What was your involvement in the 1992 presidential campaign? What were the key foreign policy issues of the campaign? Comment on your role as NSC Coordinator for the transition team.
- Discuss your appointment as United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Did you have any discussions with President Clinton before you took the job about your duties in this position?

### ***United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations***

- Discuss your role and responsibilities as UN Representative. What issues most occupied your time?
- How was the office of the UN Representative organized under President Clinton? How did this differ from previous administrations?
- Discuss the interaction between the UN Representative and major White House offices (Legislative Affairs, Communications, Political Affairs, etc.) and executive departments (State, Defense, CIA, etc.).
- With whom did you work most closely on the Clinton foreign policy team during the first term? Evaluate your relationship with senior officials on the foreign policy team and with key members of the White House staff.
- Describe your interactions with Congress. How did this relationship change after the 1994 midterm elections? What issues and events proved most contentious? With whom did you work most closely on the Hill?
- Evaluate the Administration's policy on UN peacekeeping efforts. Discuss the conflict with the UN over U.S. financial obligations to the organization. Why did the Administration oppose the selection of UN General Secretary Boutros Boutros-Ghali?
- Comment on your efforts to create consensus with other nations over actions in Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia and Iraq. Discuss the level of coordination between your office and the White House during these events.
- Discuss the Administration's position on key issues of global concern (environmental protection, weapons proliferation, human rights, terrorism, etc.).

### ***Secretary of State***

- Discuss your appointment as Secretary of State. How did your relationship with President Clinton change in this position?
- How was the State Department organized during your tenure? What role did you play in the selection of senior State Department officials?

- Comment on your relationship with other members of the Clinton foreign policy team during the second term. Describe your relationship with key members of the White House staff.
- How did you go about setting priorities for the foreign policy agenda? How did you engage President Clinton in this process? What role did Clinton's aides play in setting the foreign policy agenda?
- Which foreign policy issues engaged President Clinton the most?
- Discuss the impact of economic policy on foreign policymaking.
- Discuss your travels with President Clinton. Did Clinton enjoy meeting with foreign leaders? Comment on Clinton's negotiating skills, particularly in dealing with China, Russia, Northern Ireland, and the Middle East.
- Evaluate Clinton's decision to use military force in Iraq and Kosovo. Describe the debate among senior Administration officials in taking action in these two areas.
- Describe the Administration's approach to issues of global security (terrorism, weapons proliferation, etc.). How did events (India/Pakistan nuclear tests, embassy bombings, etc.) shape the Administration's policies?

### ***The Clinton Presidency in Retrospect***

- What do you consider your greatest accomplishments as UN Representative? As Secretary of State?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Clinton Administration in the realm of foreign affairs? How would you rate the President as a strategic thinker?
- What features of the Clinton Administration were missed or misunderstood by the press?
- Comment on President Clinton as a foreign policy leader, a popular leader and a legislative leader.
- How should the Clinton Administration be viewed by future historians? What is the legacy of President Clinton's foreign policy?
- Evaluate President Clinton as a world leader. How did foreign diplomats and heads of state view Clinton? Were there any common misconceptions?