

President Franklin Roosevelt

A Day in the Life of President Franklin Roosevelt

President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933 during the nation's worst economic crisis, the Great Depression. In 1933, some 13 million Americans—nearly one-fourth of the workforce—were unemployed. This unemployment had a cascading effect. The unemployed had little to spend, so many business lost customers and had to close—increasing unemployment. In addition to losing their jobs, many people lost their savings and homes. Soup kitchens and breadlines became a common sight in most cities. Promising a New Deal that would help the needy and promote recovery, Roosevelt entered the White House in a landslide victory.

On March 5, 1933, President Roosevelt got to work solving the nation's economic crisis. He focused his first day in office on dealing with problems in the financial sector. Loss of public confidence in the ability of the banking industry to safeguard people's money had caused periodic bank runs. Panicked depositors lined up in front of banks to try to withdraw their money. Those first in line got their money out. But once a bank ran out of cash, it closed its doors. By 1933, one-fifth of the banks that had been in business in the United States in 1930 had failed, and 9 million people had seen their savings vanish.

Roosevelt spent most of his first day in meetings with his cabinet and selected members of Congress. He “concluded that forty-eight different methods of handling the banking situation [were] impossible.” After checking with his attorney general about his power to act in this situation, the president decided to proclaim a national banking holiday. This holiday would close all banks temporarily, stopping the steady withdrawal of funds. He also called Congress into a special session to pass the Emergency Banking Act. This law, passed on March 9, reformed the banking system and gave the federal government more power to supervise banks.

Roosevelt would explain all of his actions to the American people in his first fireside chat on the night of March 12. He hoped to restore their confidence in the banking system, and he urged Americans to do their part as well.

Appointments in President Roosevelt's Daily Diary**Location**

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C

Date MARCH 5, 1933**Day** SUNDAY**TIME****ACTIVITY**

9:00 a.m.

The President and his family attended services at St. Thomas' Church.

11:00 a.m.

The President attended a luncheon at the White House with his family and friends.

2:30 p.m.

The President met in the Oval Office with members of the Cabinet, the Vice President, and the Speaker of the House to discuss the banking situation.

3:30 p.m.

The President met with Congressional leaders to discuss calling Congress into special session so he could introduce legislation to address the banking situation.

4:45 p.m.

The President issued a proclamation calling Congress into special session.

6:00 p.m.

The President, Attorney General, Secretary of the Treasury, and other advisers worked on a proclamation to declare a national banking holiday.

7:30 p.m.

The President had supper with his sons.

9:45 p.m.

The President spoke with representatives of the four Press Associations to explain the banking holiday.

11:30 p.m.

The President gave a five minute radio address to the American Legion [an organization for American veterans].

11:36 p.m.

The President met with the Secretary of State about foreign policy issues, including the success of the Nazi Party in the German elections.

Source: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.

President Roosevelt Document 1

Proclamation No. 2038
Calling Congress into Extraordinary Session
March 5, 1933

Whereas public interests require that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at twelve o'clock, noon, on the Ninth day of March, 1933, to receive such communication as may be made by the Executive;

Now, Therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the Capitol in the City of Washington on the Ninth day of March, 1933, at twelve o'clock, noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the United States.



Source: The American Presidency Project.

President Roosevelt Document 2

First Fireside Chat, March 12, 1933

I want to talk for a few minutes with the people of the United States about banking . . . I want to tell you what has been done in the last few days, why it was done, and what the next steps are going to be . . .

What, then, happened during the last few days of February and the first few days of March? Because of undermined confidence on the part of the public, there was a general rush by a large portion of our population to turn bank deposits into currency or gold—a rush so great that the soundest banks could not get enough currency to meet the demand . . . By the afternoon of March 3d scarcely a bank in the country was open to do business . . .

It was then that I issued the proclamation providing for the nationwide bank holiday, and this was the first step in the Government's reconstruction of our financial and economic fabric.

The second step was the legislation promptly and patriotically passed by the Congress confirming my proclamation and broadening my powers so that it became possible . . . to extend the holiday and lift the ban of that holiday gradually . . .

This bank holiday, while resulting in many cases in great inconveniences, is affording us the opportunity to supply the currency necessary to meet the situation . . .

We had a bad banking situation. Some of our bankers had shown themselves either incompetent or dishonest in their handling of the people's funds. They had used the money entrusted to them in speculations and unwise loans. This was, of course, not true in the vast majority of our banks, but it was true in enough of them to shock the people for a time into a sense of insecurity . . . It was the Government's job to straighten out this situation and do it as quickly as possible. And the job is being performed.

I do not promise you that every bank will be re-opened or that individual losses will not be suffered . . . We [the government] shall be engaged not merely in reopening sound banks but in the creation of sound banks through reorganization.

It has been wonderful to me to catch the note of confidence from all over the country. I can never be sufficiently grateful to the people for the loyal support they have given me . . .

After all, there is an element in the readjustment of our financial system more important than currency, more important than gold, and that is the confidence of the people. Confidence and courage are the essentials of success in carrying out our plan. You people must have faith; you must not be stampeded by rumors or guesses. Let us unite in banishing fear. We have provided the machinery to restore our financial system; it is up to you to support and make it work.

It is your problem no less than it is mine. Together we cannot fail.

Transcript of President Roosevelt Audio Clip

Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933

President Hoover, Mr. Chief Justice, my friends: This is a day of national consecration, and I am certain that on this day my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a candor and a decision which the present situation of our people impels. This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive, and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is . . . fear itself . . .

Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. [applause] This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the Government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing great greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our great natural resources.

Hand in hand with that, we must frankly recognize the overbalance of population in our industrial centers and, by engaging on a national scale in a redistribution, endeavor to provide a better use of the land for those best fitted for the land.

I am prepared, under my constitutional duty, to recommend the measures that a stricken nation in the midst of a stricken world may require. These measures, or such other measures as the Congress may build out of its experience and wisdom, I shall seek, within my constitutional authority, to bring to speedy adoption.

But, in the event that the Congress shall fail to take one of these two courses, in the event that the national emergency is still critical, I shall not evade the clear course of duty that will then confront me. I shall ask the Congress for the one remaining instrument to meet the crisis—broad Executive power to wage a war against the emergency, as great as the power that would be given to me if we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe. [applause]

For the trust reposed in me, I will return the courage and the devotion that befit the time. I can do no less.

Source: The American Presidency Project.

President Lyndon Johnson

A Day in the Life of President Lyndon Johnson

President Lyndon B. Johnson took office in 1963 after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The former vice president promised to carry on Kennedy's idealistic vision for the American people. He spoke of moving toward a Great Society, where there was abundance and liberty for all and an end to poverty and racial injustice. Johnson promoted this Great Society by declaring the War on Poverty. He introduced a number of legislative initiatives aimed at improving the economic welfare of Americans. He also voiced strong support for the civil rights movement and signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On August 4, 1964, President Johnson continued his commitment to the Great Society by meeting with various members of Congress to discuss his legislative proposals. At 11:06 A.M., he received a telephone call that prompted a dramatic shift in his priorities. In the middle of a meeting with Congressman George Mahon, Johnson was interrupted by an urgent call from Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. According to McNamara, U.S. ships in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of North Vietnam were under attack. This was especially unsettling news, as an attack had occurred only two days prior. It seemed that the North Vietnamese had ignored Johnson's warning that an unprovoked attack on U.S. ships would have serious consequences. Johnson and his advisers set to work in a series of meetings that would last most of the afternoon and into the evening.

Johnson had a difficult decision to make on this day. For the United States, it seemed that the situation in Vietnam had reached a crisis point. Johnson had inherited the growing problem in Vietnam from Kennedy. Though the United States wanted to contain communism in Southeast Asia, Kennedy did not want to send U.S. troops overseas to help the South Vietnamese fight an insurgency supported by communist North Vietnam. Kennedy had sent weapons, equipment, technicians, and advisers, but the South Vietnamese were still losing. Johnson had increased U.S. support by authorizing covert attacks on radar stations along North Vietnam's coast. U.S. Navy warships located the stations, but the South Vietnamese carried out the attacks. Johnson had hoped to disrupt the flow of military aid into South Vietnam from North Vietnam. On August 2, the North Vietnamese had fired machine guns and torpedoes at a U.S. destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin. Now, just two days later, reports indicated that a second attack had occurred.

Johnson decided to retaliate by ordering air strikes against naval bases in North Vietnam. He asked Congress to grant him authorization for these air strikes as well as the power to deal with any future attacks. At 11:34 P.M.—only 12 hours after first hearing about the attack—Johnson addressed the nation with news of the Gulf of Tonkin attack. It was later discovered that a second attack had never actually taken place.

Appointments in President Johnson's Daily Diary

Location		Date	AUGUST 4, 1964
THE WHITE HOUSE		Day	SUNDAY
WASHINGTON, D.C.			
TIME	ACTIVITY		
10:34 a.m.	The President met with S. K. Patil, the Indian Railway Minister, and his translator.		
10:40 a.m.	The President met with Congressman George Mahon to discuss the status of his proposed legislation.		
11:06 a.m.	The President took a call from Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. The Secretary reported that U.S. ships in the Gulf of Tonkin had been attacked by the North Vietnamese.		
12:35 p.m.	The President went to the Cabinet Room for a National Security Council meeting to discuss the situation in North Vietnam.		
2:35 p.m.	The President joined Mrs. Johnson's tea group. He stayed for eight minutes and shook hands with the group.		
2:43 p.m.	The President sent flowers with a card to Senator Daniel Brewster in Bethesda Naval Hospital and to Senator Vance Hartke's daughter at George Washington University Hospital.		
3:17 p.m.	The President sent two judicial nominations to the Senate.		
6:16 p.m.	The President went to the Cabinet Room for a National Security Council meeting to discuss the situation in North Vietnam.		
8:01 p.m.	The President took a call from FBI Assistant Director Cartha D. DeLoach. DeLoach delivered news of the finding of the bodies of three Mississippi civil rights workers.		
11:34 p.m.	The President appeared before live television cameras to make a media statement about the action in Vietnam.		
11:59 p.m.	The President spoke with Ambassador Averell Harriman about the President's upcoming visit to Syracuse to help the campaigns of Democratic candidates.		

Source: Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

President Johnson Document 1**Status of Bills
August 4, 1964**

Poverty bill - Passed Senate -- On House floor for Wednesday. Open rule, 6 hours debate

Wilderness bill - Expected to go to conference shortly

Food Stamp bill - In Rules Committee for House to recede and concur on Senate amendments - possibility of Rules Committee action on Thursday

Housing bill - Passed Senate - House Committee to consider tomorrow -- possibility of floor action sometime next week

Nurses training bill - Passed House - Senate Labor Subcommittee will schedule as soon as Senator Hill completes HEW appropriation

Immigration legislation - Still in Committee

Food for Peace - House Subcommittee has marked-up bill - Full Committee may consider on Friday - to Rules early next week -- Senator Ellender hopes to consider week of August 10

Foreign aid bill - Passed House -- On Senate floor for debate

International Coffee Agreement - Passed both Houses - Question, to concur in Dirksen amendment or conference

Water pollution control bill - Passed Senate - House Committee expected to report Senate passed bill this week

Land conservation fund - Passed House - Senate Committee expected to report out today

Social Security amendments of '64 - Passed House - Senate Committee to meet today to discuss hearings procedure

Source: Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

President Johnson Document 2**Summary Notes of the 538th National Security Meeting**

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

August 4, 1964

FORTHE PRESIDENT ONLY

6:15 to 6:40 p.m.

Secretary of Defense McNamara: The North Vietnamese PT boats have continued their attacks on the two U.S. destroyers in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin. No enemy aircraft was involved...

Secretary of State Rusk: An immediate and direct reaction by us is necessary. The unprovoked attack on the high seas is an act of war for all practical purposes... We are informing NATO, SEATO, and the UN... This second attack was a more serious decision for the North Vietnamese than...the first attack.

McNamara: We have agreed to air strikes on two bases in the north of North Vietnam and two base complexes in the south of North Vietnam...

CIA Director McCone: The proposed U.S. reprisals will result in a sharp North Vietnamese military reaction, but such actions would not represent a deliberate decision to provoke or accept a major escalation of the Vietnamese war...

President: Do they want a war by attacking our ships in...the Gulf of Tonkin?

McCone: No. The North Vietnamese are reacting defensively to our attacks on their off-shore islands. They are responding out of pride and on the basis of defense considerations. The attack is a signal to us that the North Vietnamese have the will and determination to continue the war...

President: Are we going to react to their shooting at our ships over 40 miles from their shores? If yes, we should do more than merely return the fire of the attacking ships...

USIA Director Rowan: Do we know for a fact that the North Vietnamese provocation took place? Can we nail down exactly what happened? We must be prepared to be accused of fabricating the incident.

McNamara: We will know definitely in the morning. As of now, only highly classified information nails down the incident. This information we cannot use and must rely on other reports we will be receiving.

Rusk: We should ask the Congressional leaders whether we should seek a Congressional resolution...

McNamara: In addition to the air strikes, we plan to send major U.S. reinforcements into the area. These include ships, men and planes...

A draft statement for the President was revised. It is to be made public by the President as soon as the U.S. attack planes are over target.

Source: Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

Transcript of President Johnson Audio Clip

Telephone Conversation with FBI Assistant Director Cartha DeLoach

August 4, 1964 8:01 P.M.

President Johnson is meeting about attacks in the Gulf of Tonkin at the time of the call.

DeLoach: Mr. President?

Johnson: Yeah.

DeLoach: Mr. [J. Edgar] Hoover wanted me to call you, sir, immediately and tell you that the FBI has found three bodies six miles southwest of Philadelphia, Mississippi, the six miles west of where the civil rights workers were last seen on the night of June 21st. A search party of agents turned up the bodies just about 15 minutes ago while they were digging in the woods and underbrush several hundred yards off Route 21 in that area. We're going to get a coroner there right away, sir, and we're going to move these bodies into Jackson, Mississippi, where we hope they can be identified. We have not identified them as yet as the three missing men. But we have every reason to believe that they are the three missing men. They were under a—they were at the site of a dam that had been constructed near Philadelphia, Mississippi. Wanted to let you know right away, sir.

Johnson: When you gonna make the announcement?

DeLoach: Within ten minutes, sir, if it's all right with you.

Johnson: Well, how are you going to make it? Where? From there? From—?

DeLoach: I plan to make it from Washington here, sir.

Johnson: All right, all right.

DeLoach: Just indicate that the FBI has found three bodies, but not identified them.

Johnson: [sigh] Okay. If you can hold it about fifteen minutes, I think we ought to notify these families.

DeLoach: Well, Mr. President, the only thing I—suggestion—I'd have there is do you wish to do that prior to the time that they are identified? We think they're the ones, but—

Johnson: Well, I think we could tell them that we, we don't know, but we found 'em and that, that'd kinda ease it a little bit.

DeLoach: Yes, sir. All right, sir. Shall I wait until I hear—?

Johnson: Yeah. I'll get right back to you.

DeLoach: Very good, sir.

Source: Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

President Richard Nixon

A Day in the Life of President Richard Nixon

In July 1971, President Richard Nixon made an announcement that would dramatically change U.S. relations with China. In a national address, Nixon accepted an invitation to visit the People's Republic of China the next year. When Nixon took office in 1969, the United States did not have diplomatic relations with China. Nor did it officially recognize the communist government that had ruled mainland China since 1949. After years of isolating China, Nixon believed it was in the best interests of the United States to improve its relations with the communist country.

On February 21, 1972, President Nixon made his historic trip to China. He left that morning from Guam International Airport, arriving in Shanghai, China, at 9 A.M. He was accompanied by Secretary of State William Rogers and top advisers H. R. Haldeman and Henry Kissinger, along with his wife and his press secretary. Upon deplaning, the presidential party was greeted by an official Chinese delegation. From there, the presidential party flew to Peking (Beijing), where they were welcomed by Premier Chou En-lai (Zhou Enlai) and other government officials. After a televised arrival ceremony and a tea ceremony, Nixon and his wife were escorted to their guest house.

Nixon participated in several meetings throughout the afternoon with various high-ranking officials in the Chinese government. He met with Chairman Mao Tse-tung (Mao Zedong), the leader of the People's Republic of China. Nixon was also honored at a special banquet that evening. At many of these events, the press and a White House photographer documented this diplomatic milestone. While in China, Nixon pledged to establish diplomatic relations between the United States and China.

Nixon spent a week in China. In addition to diplomatic meetings with Chinese government officials, Nixon attended the ballet, a sports exhibition, and banquets. He toured the Great Wall, the Ming dynasty tombs, and the Forbidden City.

Appointments in President Nixon's Daily Diary

Location		Date FEBRUARY 21, 1972
PUGH RESIDENCE		Day MONDAY
AGANA, GUAM		
TIME	ACTIVITY	
6:45 a.m. (Guam time)	The President and the First Lady motored from the Pugh residence to Guam International Airport.	
7:11 a.m.	The President and the First Lady flew to Hung Chiao Airport, Shanghai, People's Republic of China (PRC). The President met with his assistants, H. R. Haldeman and Henry Kissinger.	
9:00 a.m. (China time)	The President and First Lady deplaned. They were accompanied by the Secretary of State, Mr. Haldeman, Mr. Kissinger, and the Press Secretary. The Presidential party was greeted by an official delegation of the PRC. The party had tea and toured the airport terminal with the Chinese delegation.	
9:51 a.m.	The Presidential party flew to Capital Airport, Peking, PRC.	
11:30 a.m.	The Presidential party was greeted by Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the PRC and other PRC officials. The party participated in an arrival ceremony.	
11:44 a.m.	The President, the First Lady and Premier Chou motored from Capital Airport to the Peking guest house. They had tea with U.S. and Chinese officials.	
2:42 p.m.	The President and Premier Chou motored to the residence of Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Politburo of the PRC. The President met with Chairman Mao.	
5:42 p.m.	The President motored to the Great Hall of the People. The President and Premier Chou met with U.S. and Chinese officials. Members of the press were in attendance.	
7:42 p.m.	The Presidential party attended a welcoming banquet hosted by Premier Chou.	
10:27 p.m.	The President signed Senate Joint Resolution 197, an arbitration settlement procedure for the West Coast dock strike.	

Source: Nixon Presidential Library and Museum.

President Nixon Document 1

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 4, 1972
6:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR: MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY
FROM: DWIGHT L. CHAPIN
SUBJECT: China -- 1972

Throughout China you will find sayings from Chairman Mao. Many of the Chairman's sayings center around "practice".

Borrowing from the Chairman the old "Practice makes perfect", I suggest you become acquainted with using the enclosed chopsticks.

Source: Nixon Presidential Library and Museum.

President Nixon Document 2

Statement on Signing a Bill to Arbitrate Settlement
of the West Coast Dock Strike
February 21, 1972

THE SECRETARY of Labor has informed me today that an agreement has now been reached in the west coast dock strike and the workers have returned to their jobs.

While this contract will still be subject to approval... the entire Nation can be gratified by the willingness of the parties to settle their differences voluntarily. For thousands of Americans whose livelihoods have been threatened, this strike has been a painful experience and its end is most welcome.

For several days, I have delayed action on S.J. Res. [Senate Joint Resolution] 197, a bill to end the strike by arbitration [negotiation by a third party], in the hope that the pending legislation would encourage the parties to reach a voluntary accord. Today, as this legislation takes effect with my signature, I am pleased to note that the arbitration machinery will no longer be needed...

Repeatedly over the past 2 years I have urged the Congress to act on a comprehensive measure to avoid future strikes of this kind, and yet the Crippling Strikes Prevention Act still awaits action. The Congress did approve special legislation for this west coast strike, and I appreciate the significance of that action. The other shoe must now drop, however, or the Nation can only hobble into the future.

Source: The American Presidency Project.

Transcript of President Nixon Audio Clip

Oval Office Meeting January 26, 1972

In attendance are Richard Nixon, Barend Biesheuvel, Alexander Haig, and J. William Middendorf.

Nixon: Uh, we do believe that by starting the long process of some sort of contact, there will—I will say, obviously, it will not come to recognition on our part—

Biesheuvel: No.

Nixon: —because it cannot, since we still recognize Taiwan and will continue to honor our treaty commitments. They know this will not come out. What may come out of it will be, uh, however, uh, uh, some method of communication in the future, uh, some contact in the future, uh, and perhaps reducing the chance in the immediate future of a confrontation between the United States and the PRC in Asia, such as we had in Korea, and such as we had indirectly in Vietnam. And looking further in the future, uh, when they become a super power, a nuclear super power, uh, to be in a position that at that time, uh, we will have such relations with them that, uh, we, uh, can discuss differences and, and not inevitably have a clash. Now, also, no one can look at Asia, uh, and take 750 million Chinese out of it and say you can have any policy in the Pacific that will succeed in preventing war without having the Chinese a part of it. It's just as cold-blooded as that.

Source: Nixon Presidential Library and Museum.

President George H. W. Bush

A Day in the Life of President George H. W. Bush

President George H. W. Bush had a busy plan for early November 1989. In addition to his daily routine of attending intelligence and national security briefings, he was scheduled to receive President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines. Bush welcomed the president with an official ceremony that included a review of troops and a photo session. U.S. and Philippine officials met in the Oval Office and the Cabinet Room for an hour. Later that evening, Bush hosted an official state dinner to honor President Aquino and her delegation. The four-hour affair included toasts, dinner, and dancing.

But November 9, 1989, was no ordinary day for the president and the world. After years of physical separation between East and West Berlin (Germany), the gates of the Berlin Wall were opened. Built by the East Germans, the wall was by far the most well-known symbol of the Cold War. Twelve feet tall and over 100 miles long, it divided the city and encircled West Berlin. Its 14,000 guards, aided by more than 6,000 tracking dogs, were under orders to shoot anyone who tried to escape to the West. As the news spread, hundreds of thousands of people rushed to the wall. Strangers hugged and kissed, while others cheered, danced, and set off fireworks. Then the crowd began to dismantle the wall by hand. This momentous event was televised all over the world.

Bush met with his press secretary, who suggested they call an impromptu press conference in the Oval Office. In the crowded room, Bush participated in a question-and-answer session about the events taking place in Berlin. He knew how important his responses would be, and he knew he needed to be diplomatic. He wanted to celebrate the historic moment, knowing what this meant to the people participating and watching this event. He also remained cautious to avoid provoking a Soviet response.

Bush worked with the Germans in the weeks that followed to support their effort to reunify not just Berlin, but also East and West Germany as one country.

Appointments in President Bush's Daily Diary**Location**

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Date NOVEMBER 9, 1989**Day** THURSDAY**TIME****ACTIVITY**

6:00 a.m.	The President and the First Lady had breakfast.
8:26 a.m.	The President met for a national security briefing.
10:01 a.m.	The President and the First Lady participated in an arrival ceremony in honor of the President of the Republic of the Philippines Corazon C. Aquino.
11:00 a.m.	The President met with U.S. and Philippine officials.
11:39 a.m.	The President went to the horseshoe pitching court and pitched horseshoes.
1:15 p.m.	The President participated in a photo opportunity with members of the country music group "Alabama."
3:22 p.m.	The President participated in a question and answer session with members of the press on the opening of the borders between East and West Berlin.
3:52 p.m.	The President participated in a message taping session for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the United Negro College Fund, congratulations for Sammy Davis, Jr., and the Port of Houston 75th Anniversary.
4:17 p.m.	The President met with his Chief of Staff to issue executive nominations and appointments.
6:28 p.m.	The President was telephoned by his Assistant for Legislative Affairs.
7:02 p.m.	The President and the First Lady hosted a State Dinner in honor of President Aquino. The evening included a receiving line, an exchange of toasts, dinner, a performance from opera singer Simon Estes, and dancing.
11:02 p.m.	The President and the First Lady returned to the second floor Residence.

Source: George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

President Bush Document 1

Nomination of Susan J. Crawford to Be
Inspector General of the Department of Defense
November 9, 1989

The President today announced his intention to nominate Susan J. Crawford to be Inspector General of the Department of Defense. She would succeed June Gibbs Brown.

Since 1983 Mrs. Crawford has served as the General Counsel of the Department of the Army. Prior to this, she served as Principal Deputy General Counsel of the Department of the Army at the Pentagon, 1981 - 1983; partner with a law firm in Oakland, MD, 1979 - 1981; and an associate with the same firm, 1977 - 1979.

Mrs. Crawford graduated from Bucknell University (B.S., 1969) and received a law degree from the New England School of Law in 1977. She was born April 22, 1947, in Pittsburgh, PA. Mrs. Crawford is married, has one child, and resides in Falls Church, VA.

Source: The American Presidency Project.

President Bush Document 2

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Helmut Kohl, Chancellor,
Federal Republic of Germany

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Chancellor Helmut Kohl
Notetaker: Robert M. Gates

DATE, TIME November 10, 1989, 3:29 - 3:47 PM

AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: I'm very interested in the GDR [East Germany].

Chancellor Kohl: I've just arrived from Berlin. It is like witnessing an enormous fair. It has the atmosphere of a festival. The frontiers are absolutely open. At certain points they are literally taking down the wall and building new checkpoints. At Checkpoint Charlie, thousands of people are crossing both ways. There are many young people who are coming over for a visit enjoying our open way of life. I expect they will go home tonight. I would cautiously tell you that it appears that the opening has not led to a dramatic increase in the movement of refugees... This is a dramatic thing; an historic hour... The overall spirit was optimistic and friendly. When I thanked the Americans for their role in all of this, there was much applause. Without the US this day would not have been possible...

The President: First, let me say how great is our respect for the way the FRG [West Germany] had handled all of this... I want to tell the US press of our talk, that you gave me a thorough briefing, and that you did publicly acknowledge the role of the US, and that you and I agreed to talk later next week.

Kohl: Excellent.

The President: Take care, good luck. I'm proud of the way you're handling an extraordinarily difficult problem.

Kohl: Thank you. Give my best to Barbara [First Lady Barbara Bush]...

Source: George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Transcript of President Bush Audio Clip

Remarks to the National Association of Realtors Dallas, Texas

November 10, 1989

Before going into my main remarks, let me just say a word about the momentous events in East Germany. I was moved, as you all were, by the pictures of Berliners from East and West standing atop the wall with chisels and hammers celebrating the opening of the most vivid symbol of the Iron Curtain. And then today, just on the plane coming down, I read a report where 18 new border crossings would be made in the wall in the, in the near future.

And to be honest with you, I doubted that this would happen in the very first year of this administration. Twenty-eight years after the desperate days of 1961, when tanks faced off at Checkpoint Charlie and that terrible barrier was built, now the East German government has responded to the wishes of its people. And while no one . . . [applause] And while no one really accurately predicted the speed of the changes underway in Eastern Europe—and certainly I didn’t—but last May, right here in Texas, over at Texas A&M, I noted hopeful, indeed, remarkable signs of a Soviet break with the cycles of the past. And I called upon the Soviet Union to support self-determination for the nations of Eastern and Central Europe and to tear down the Iron Curtain. And now we’re seeing it happen. And when I visited Poland and Hungary in July, I sensed that historically important events there held the seeds for even more dramatic change.

And this played a big part in the decision last July made, really, at the G-7 meeting in Paris, and on the way back, I proposed a face-to-face meeting with President Gorbachev [of the Soviet Union] before the next spring’s summit. And the Malta meeting, given recent events, takes on, I think, even more importance than when I conceived the idea three and a half months ago.

The changes in recent months make clear that the process of reform initiated by the Eastern Europeans and supported by Mr. Gorbachev and by America and by our allies is real, offers us all much hope, and deserves our continued encouragement. We’re living in fascinating times, and we will seize every opportunity to contribute to lasting peace and to extend democracy. And in doing so, I will conduct the foreign policy of this great country with the prudence that these fascinating times, times of change, demand—and with the imagination. The 1980s has been the decade of American renewal. And I believe that around the world, the 1990s will inevitably be the decade of democracy.