

Mar. 18 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

Bolten was in private practice in international trade law with the Washington, DC, office of O'Melveny & Myers. From 1981 to 1984, he worked in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the Department of State, providing legal counsel primarily to the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs. He also served as executive assistant to the Director, Kissinger Commission on Central

America. During 1980–81, Mr. Bolten served as a law clerk at the U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

Mr. Bolten received his undergraduate degree in 1976 from Princeton University. He graduated in 1980 from Stanford Law School, where he was an editor of the Stanford Law Review.

Appointment of Kim Fogal McKernan as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

March 18, 1992

The President today announced his intention to appoint Kim Fogal McKernan, of Pennsylvania, to be Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs (House). She would succeed Frances M. Norris.

Since October 1990, Ms. McKernan has served as executive assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Prior to this assignment, she served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management and Personnel. Ms. McKernan came to the Pentagon as part of Secretary Cheney's transition team in March 1989. She was then appointed assistant to the Secretary of Defense for political and intergov-

ernmental affairs. Prior to her appointment at the Pentagon, Ms. McKernan served as associate director in the House Republican whip and House Republican conference organizations. From 1985 to 1987, she was the administrative assistant to Congressman Beau Boulter (R-TX). She began her career in the U.S. House of Representatives with Congressman Robert S. Walker (R-PA) in 1979, where she served as senior legislative assistant.

Ms. McKernan graduated from Shippensburg University (B.S., 1978). She and her husband, Robert T. McKernan, reside in Washington, DC.

Statement on Signing the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992

March 19, 1992

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 2184, the "Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992."

S. 2184 is a tribute to Mo Udall's long and admirable service to the Nation. He was a thoughtful and creative Member of Congress for 30 years. I respect him greatly and count him among my friends. This bill honors Mo by creating a foundation that will support programs involving the environ-

ment and issues related to Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

Regrettably, I must note a serious deficiency in the bill. S. 2184 purports to set qualifications, including requirements as to political party affiliation, for the trustees who will administer the foundation created by the bill. Under the Appointments Clause of the Constitution, article II, section 2, clause 2, congressional participation in such

appointments may be exercised only through the Senate's advice and consent with respect to Presidential nominees. Accordingly, I will treat these provisions as precatory.

One other point deserves mention. S. 2184 purports to "repeal" S. 1176, passed in the last session of the Congress and presented to me in December. Because the bill came to me during an adjournment of the Congress and I withheld my signature,

S. 1176 never became law. Therefore, the section of S. 2184 purporting to repeal S. 1176 can have no effect.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
March 19, 1992.

Note: S. 2184, approved March 19, was assigned Public Law No. 102-259.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Meeting With Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh

March 19, 1992

The President and Prime Minister Zia of Bangladesh met for approximately one hour in the Oval Office and the Cabinet Room.

The President reaffirmed our strong commitment to strengthening democracy and promoting economic development in Bangladesh. The two leaders recalled Bangladesh's contribution to the successful fight against Iraqi aggression. The President said we will continue to provide economic assist-

ance and food aid to Bangladesh.

The President and Prime Minister Zia also deplored the actions of the Government of Myanmar (Burma) that have led to the massive recent influx of Burmese refugees into Bangladesh. The President announced that the United States will provide \$3 million in funding from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Funds to help Bangladesh with the refugees.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Telephone Conversation With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

March 19, 1992

The President spoke with Russian President Boris Yeltsin for nearly one-half hour this morning. The two leaders discussed developments in Russia and the reform effort launched by President Yeltsin. The President expressed strong U.S. support for Russia's application for membership in the

International Monetary Fund and for the reform effort in general. They also exchanged views on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and agreed that both Russia and the U.S. would work toward a peaceful resolution of that conflict.