

World & Nation

Bush opposes abortion, favors Reagan policies on Nicaragua

By Julie Asher

New Orleans (NC) — In nominating George Bush for president August 17, the Republicans chose a man who opposes abortion, strongly supports a federal death penalty, favors aid to Nicaraguan Contras, and advocates rapid research and deployment of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

The 64-year-old Bush, who is Episcopalian, favors continuation of President Reagan's policies of a strong defense, limited government, creating jobs and solving the country's deficit by restraining spending, not raising taxes.

Bush supported the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty signed last December by Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

In a written interview with NC News Service earlier this year he said, however, that we must "always deal with the Soviets from a position of strength" and "maintain a strong balance in nuclear capabilities and

conventional forces."

Like Reagan, he favors aid for the Nicaraguan contras.

The U.S. bishops have said such aid by any country "cannot be justified."

Bush told NC News that the objective in Central America "is not a peace that merely stops the shooting and entrenches a Soviet beachhead" but helping form democratic governments.

Early in his campaign, Bush declared he wanted to be the nation's "education president."

He has long supported tuition tax credits or a voucher system for parochial and private school students, which have been called for by the U.S. bishops.

On other family issues, the nominee has proposed giving a \$1,000 "toddler tax credit" for child care for lower-income, working parents.

"I'm excited to support a man for president like George Bush," said Joe Zappala a Catholic delegate to the convention from St. Petersburg, Fla. "He's a family man, a religious man, a man who does not believe in abortion."

Asked if a wealthy, prep-school-trained, Yale-educated nominee like Bush could appeal to black and Hispanic voters, Zappala said he did not believe the theory that "if you have wealth you lack compassion. (Bush's)

record on civil rights had been established for over 20 years. Social issues are priorities."

Some in his party have questioned whether Bush is a "true conservative." His closest friends, whom Bush has known for 40 years from his days at Yale, have described him as a solid moderate.

Bush once supported the Equal Rights Amendment but dropped his support in 1980 after being elected vice president.

Some pro-lifers have not agreed with the exceptions Bush would place on the prohibition of abortion. The vice president would allow abortions when the life of the mother is threatened or in cases of rape or incest, but he opposes federal funding of the procedure.

Bush strongly supports a human life amendment, agreeing with the U.S. bishops' position.

The vice president has had a varied career in public service.

Born June 12, 1924, in Milton, Mass., he distinguished himself during World War II as a Navy pilot when on September 2, 1944, the plane he was piloting was shot down during a bombing run. Bush bailed out, but his two crewmen died.

In 1966 he was elected from Texas to the U.S. House of Representatives. He served on the Ways and Means Committee, worked on issues of the environment, supported the Vietnam War, was a fiscal conservative but

voted for fair housing legislation.

In a 1970 race for a Texas Senate seat, Bush lost to the 1988 Democratic vice presidential nominee, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen.

Bush was appointed in 1971 by President Richard Nixon to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. In 1974, he went to China to spend a year as head of the U.S. Liaison Office.

He was director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1976 to 1977, then geared up to run for the Republican nomination for president in 1980, which he lost to Reagan.

His financial disclosure forms indicate that his net worth is \$2 million to \$3 million — more than his opponent, Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, whose worth is estimated at about \$500,000.

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Walesa wins pledge to discuss legalizing outlawed Solidarity

Warsaw, Poland (NC) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Lech Walesa won the right to discuss legalization of the outlawed trade union, Solidarity, after three hours of negotiations August 31 involving government and Catholic Church representatives.

As part of a compromise arising from the talks, he called for an end to more than two weeks of strikes in Polish mines, steelworks and shipyards.

The Warsaw meeting involved Walesa; General Czeslaw Kiszczak, Poland's interior minister; Stanislaw Ciosek, a member of the Politburo; and Auxiliary Bishop Bronislaw Dabrowski of Warsaw.

Kiszczak was the official who signed the order for Walesa's imprisonment in 1981, after Solidarity was declared illegal.

The four agreed to round-table discussions, scheduled to begin in October, on labor issues, including legalizing Solidarity. The government outlawed the independent trade union in December 1981, when martial law was declared.

In Washington September 1, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley called the meeting a "welcome and significant step forward."

A statement issued by the Catholic Church said that during the discussions, Walesa presented as the most important issue the "implementation of the principle of union pluralism, and among them the place of Solidarity."

"The participants in the discussion announced that all matters under discussion on the trade union movement will be discussed at the round table," which will include representatives of the government and officially sanctioned groups, the statement said.

"There are no taboo subjects," it added.

A Polish Politburo member, Communist Party Central Committee Secretary Wladyslaw Baka, said he could not "exclude" the legalization of Solidarity. "It probably will" happen, he said.

Walesa kept in constant touch with Church leaders as events unfolded. After leaving the Lenin shipyard where he had participated in a strike since August 22, Walesa, an electrician, met with Bishop Tadeusz Goclowski of Gdansk at St. Brygida's Church, a traditional Solidarity meeting place.

He also met with Church advisers at the headquarters of the Polish bishops' conference before and after the August 31 negotiations. He then returned to Gdansk for meetings at the shipyard and St. Brygida's.

A priest at St. Brygida's, Father Henryk Jankowski, helped lead strikers out of the shipyard September 1 as the strike ended.

Some Poles in Gdansk said they thought Walesa had sold out the union by agreeing to end the strike without guarantees that Solidarity would be legalized. Others noted it was the first time the government agreed to formal talks with Walesa since Solidarity was banned.

It was not clear whether strikes in other Polish cities had ended.

On August 26, Pope John Paul II criticized Poland's one-party rule. "In a state, one group or one party cannot be sovereign at the expense of all the people and their rights," he said during a Mass at his summer villa for Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland's patroness.

The same day, Poland's bishops urged the government to allow "union pluralism."

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