

The Honorable Lawrence S. Eagleburger

62nd United States Secretary of State

Secretary Lawrence S. Eagleburger capped a brilliant twenty-seven year career in the State Department when he was named Secretary of State by President George H.W. Bush in 1992. He helped chart and guide U.S. foreign policy through the turbulent end of the Cold War, the conflict in the Balkans, the confrontation in the Persian Gulf and through revolutionary changes in the former Soviet Union.



After his 1957 entry into the Foreign Service, he served in Brussels at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Honduras, and Yugoslavia. In 1963, after a severe earthquake in Macedonia, Yugoslavia, he led the U.S. government effort to provide medical, temporary housing, and other assistance. In 1965, he was assigned to Washington, D.C. - first to the Secretariat staff dealing with European affairs and then as special assistant to Mr. Dean Acheson, adviser to the President on Franco-NATO issues. In August 1966, he became acting director of the Secretariat staff. Mr. Eagleburger became a member of the National Security Council in October 1966, working on European affairs, and in October 1967 he was assigned as special assistant to Under Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach.

In November 1968, Mr. Eagleburger was appointed as Dr. Henry Kissinger's assistant during the Nixon presidential transition. In January 1969, he became executive assistant to Dr. Kissinger at the White House, where he helped Dr. Kissinger set up the National Security Council staff. In September 1969, he was assigned as Political Adviser and Chief of the Political Section of the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels. He became Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense in August 1971 and two years later he became Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. The same year, he returned to the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Operations. He subsequently followed Dr. Kissinger to the State Department, becoming Executive Assistant to the Secretary of State. In 1975, he was made Deputy Under Secretary of State for Management.

Diplomatic relations between the United States and China were in their nascent stages during the Nixon Administration. The first Chinese Chief of Mission, Huang Chen, and his wife headed a Mission of less than two dozen personnel. Escalation from a Mission to an "Embassy" with a Chief of Mission identified as an "Ambassador" came later. While serving as Dr. Kissinger's assistant, Mr. Eagleburger was assigned to accompany General and Mrs. Huang to President Nixon's California home, where they would meet the President, Mrs. Nixon, and Dr. Kissinger. Mr. Eagleburger developed a personal relationship with the Huangs that lasted for the duration of their time in Washington, and the Eagleburgers and their two young sons were often invited to informal dinners at the Chinese Mission. Secretary Eagleburger traveled to the People's Republic of China many times on official business, often with Dr. Kissinger but sometimes on his own. He and Brent Scowcroft met with Deng Shao Ping, the Last Emperor of China, and he has met with the Chinese Foreign Minister and numerous other officials on his various trips.

In June 1977, President Carter appointed Mr. Eagleburger Ambassador to Yugoslavia, where he served for 3 years. In early 1981, Mr. Eagleburger was nominated by President Reagan to be Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs. In February 1982, he was appointed Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, the third-ranking position in the Department. He retired from the Foreign Service and the Department of State in 1984 but returned in 1989 as Deputy Secretary of State, the second-ranking position in the Department. President George H.W. Bush named Mr. Eagleburger Secretary of State in 1992. He is the only Foreign Service officer ever to hold this position.

Mr. Eagleburger was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal by the Department of Defense in 1978 and the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service in 1976. In 1984, the Department of State gave him the Wilbur J. Carr Award, which is presented to retiring career officers who have performed with unusual distinction at senior levels for 25 years or more - and the Distinguished Honor Award, then the Department's highest honor. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Citizens Medal. In 1992, he received the Department of State's Distinguished Service Award, the Department's highest honor. In 1994, he received an honorary knighthood from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Following his 1993 departure from the Department of State, he served on several corporate boards and from 1995 to 2004, he was Chairman of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, an organization that identified and then collected funds owed to Holocaust victims from European insurance companies (approximately \$300 million).

A career diplomat, Secretary Eagleburger held numerous, high-ranking positions in both Republican and Democratic presidential administrations. He is known in Washington to be a strong advocate of a closer relationship between the United States and China, and--both in and out of government--has worked hard toward that end.

About Peter Max

Peter Max is one of the most important artists of our time. European born, he was raised in Shanghai, China. From visionary pop artist of the 1960s, to master of dynamic neo-Expressionism, Mr. Max and his vibrant colors have become part of the fabric of contemporary American culture. He has been designated Official Artist for the Grammy Awards, the New Orleans Jazz Festival, the Woodstock Music Festival, five Super Bowls, the Soccer World Cup, the U.S. Tennis Open, and the NHL All-Star Game.

Mr. Max has painted portraits, posters, and installations for six U.S. Presidents - Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and Obama. In 1991, his one-man retrospective at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg drew the largest turnout for any artist in Russian history. The following year he created two 150 foot murals for the U.S. Pavilion at the World's Fair in Seville, Spain. Mr. Max has exhibited in over 40 international museums, over 50 galleries, and his work can be found in many prominent museum and private collections around the world. The Institute for Education is honored to present Ambassador Zhou with a Peter Max portrait for the 2009 Civility Award.