

# LISTENING IN

## The U.S. Elections

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*Below, some international eavesdropping—transcripts of radio broadcasts, news agency handouts, and newspaper and periodical items culled from daily reports of the U.S. Government's Foreign Broadcast Information Service.*

### Bahrain

(*Manama Akhbar Al-Khalij in Arabic, Nov. 7*) ...Information Minister Tariq al-Mu 'ayyad said:....It would be a great mistake to begin by attacking Reagan. It would be a great mistake to consider his victory a Zionist victory. We must be clear in our relations. Why [does] everyone give their blessings—and the information media applaud—when an Arab country signs a treaty with the Soviet Union, while we hear criticism and vituperation when a country concludes an arms—or other—deal with the United States?

I believe that neither the Russians, the Americans, or the entire West will be of any use to us if we do not know what we want and where our interests lie. We should realize that if the West, the United States, or the entire world needs our oil, we in turn need oil. It is our principal—if not the only in some oil-producing countries—source of revenue, and it is the source of our growth, progress, and development. In my opinion, talk about blowing up oilfields is irresponsible and illogical.

### Israel

(*Tel Aviv, IDF Radio in Hebrew, Nov. 9*) ...It again emerged from the foreign minister's review at the Cabinet session today, that Israel is looking forward to Ronald Reagan's term at the White House. Minister Shamir again reviewed for the ministers the declarations made by Ronald Reagan during the election campaign....The foreign minister pointed out Reagan's firm policy which should be expected in any issue related to the Soviet Union. Israel may very well be of great and primary assistance in this policy. Reagan's declarations have given rise to the hope and the understanding that he has adopted the position according to which Israel is considered a first-rate strategic asset in the region. Perhaps we are on the verge of a situation in which the U.S. official position toward Israel is first and foremost based on Israel's strategic value. We should emphasize this line—ministers said—rather than trust sentimental motives or the Jewish vote....

...Israel must direct a great effort toward the new administration. One should be careful not to adopt a posture of tranquillity and security lest we wake up too late. The people surrounding the president-elect should be studied, including the Jewish ones. We must reach the target first, one of the ministers told us....

### India

(*New Delhi National Herald in English—editorial, "Over to Reagan" Nov. 7*) ...So far as India is concerned, President Carter has been a sober, friendly, and considerate person. On world issues there had been a good deal

of similarity in approach between Mr. Carter and Mrs. Indira Gandhi. We do hope that Mr. Reagan will not deviate from the path shown by Mr. Carter, at least in the subcontinent. In any case, New Delhi has to keep its fingers crossed, since Republican administrations in the USA are known for the pro-Pakistan tilt. Things could be different this time because of the changed geo-political situation in Asia and elsewhere. What the Third World countries want from Mr. Reagan is proper understanding of their problems and mutual cooperation for building a new economic order based on equality, justice, and fairplay....Any adventurist course in the global power game would be counterproductive.

### Czechoslovakia

(*Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak, Nov. 9*) ...The new president is Ronald Reagan, well known in the film industry but in major politics so far an empty page. All those strong words he uttered during the election campaign and all those promises he gave to his voters will undergo within a comparatively short period the most difficult test of naked reality and will encounter realities that have compelled more than one of his predecessors to change his views. In politics as in life the dictum that "the desired is something different from the possible" fully applies....

...Let us not forget that the entire election campaign began almost as a race of which candidate intended to increase armaments and to take a tougher line against the Soviet Union, but that it ended almost as a trial of prudence in statesmanship. The candidates did not change; they merely understood that they deterred voters by their war cries. The high percentage of nonvoters already mentioned earlier shows that they really deterred them, and Reagan will not be able to ignore this fact either....

### Greece

(*Athens Akropolis in Greek—from the "Laconic" column, Nov. 8*) Let us not delude ourselves. U.S. policy toward Greece and Turkey will not change substantially under the new president. It should not be precluded that efforts may be made to end the Aegean crisis and solve the Cyprus problem, but these will be in the nature of mediation or backstage dealing through diplomatic channels. As in the past, any act that may displease one of the two parties will be avoided. Washington will not act like a court of law. It will not seek perpetrators and victims, guilty or innocent people; it will not dispense justice. Already, in a very cautious statement, Reagan has said that "Turkey and Greece are valuable allies which constitute the southeastern NATO wing. They have some problems between them which I would like to understand and help in order to reduce tension between them." Naturally, had we not returned to the NATO military organization or, even worse, had abandoned the alliance, the new U.S. president would not have been so careful about being impartial. Perhaps without much hesitation he could have favored Turkey and, at least from this perspective, we can benefit substantially from our return.

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