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Read my Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection Exhibition Opens on July 11 at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, Yorba Linda, California

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to Visit on July 21

Yorba Linda, CA (July 09, 2015) The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum will host an exhibition of over 200 pins and brooches from the collection of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. The exhibition *Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection*, will be on display from July 11 to September 27, 2015 in the Library's Hall gallery, and will be punctuated by a public event with Secretary Albright at the Library on July 21. The exhibition showcases the distinctive pins worn by Secretary Albright to communicate various messages during her diplomatic tenure.

Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection illustrates how jewelry conveys meaning in a diplomatic, political and social setting. The exhibition examines the collection for its historic significance as well as the expressive power of jewelry and its ability to communicate through a style and language of its own.

In 1997, Madeleine K. Albright was named the first female Secretary of State, and became at the time, the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. While serving under President Bill Clinton, first as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and then as Secretary of State, Albright became known for wearing brooches that purposefully conveyed her views about the situation at hand. "I found that jewelry had become part of my personal diplomatic arsenal," Secretary Albright has said. "While President George H.W. Bush had been known for saying 'Read my lips,' I began urging colleagues and reporters to 'Read my pins.'"

The collection that Secretary Albright cultivated is distinctive and democratic—sometimes demure and understated, sometimes outlandish and outspoken—spanning more than a century of jewelry design and including fascinating pieces from across the globe. The works on view are chosen for their symbolic value, and while some are fine antiques, many are costume jewelry. *Read My Pins...* explores the stories behind these works and their historical and artistic significance. The exhibition is accompanied by a book, *Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat's Jewel Box*, published by HarperCollins.

According to Michael Ellzey, Director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, "Secretary Albright's collection is deep in overtones and nuances, which collectively demonstrates her profound thoughts regarding diplomacy. Her collection encompasses jewelry from the exquisite to the unsophisticated, but all of the pieces have subtle meanings which grew from a diplomatic point of view or from the personal side." He adds, "We are delighted to show Secretary Albright's pin collection and share the meaning of these personal items with our visitors."

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As part of her public persona, Secretary Albright's pins chart the course of an extraordinary journey, carving out a visual path through international and cultural diplomacy. The event that started Secretary Albright's unusual use of pins as tools in her diplomatic arsenal, happened after Saddam Hussein's press referred to her as an "unparalleled serpent." Secretary Albright wore a golden snake brooch pinned to her suit for her next meeting on Iraq. *Read My Pins...* will feature the famous snake brooch among many other pins with similar stories—some associated with important world events, others gifts from international leaders or valued friends.

The exhibition will also showcase a group of Americana, which is at the center of the Madeleine Albright collection. From a prior exhibition at the Museum of Art and Design, *Brooching It Diplomatically*, is a pin made for her specifically for that occasion. The silver brooch shows the head of Lady Liberty with two watch faces for eyes, one of which is upside down—allowing both her and her visitor to see when it is time for an appointment to end. As demonstrated in this clever work, *Read My Pins* explores Albright's ongoing impact on the field of jewelry design and collecting.

Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection was organized by the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. Support for the original exhibition was provided by Bren Simon and for the exhibition catalogue by St. John Knits.

CONVERSATION WITH FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE ALBRIGHT

On July 21, 2015, Secretary Albright will participate in a public conversation with Library Director Michael Ellzey. The discussion will cover topics regarding Dr. Albright's experiences as the first female Secretary of State in this nation's history as well as the unique role her pins played in conveying important diplomatic messages. This event will also include a question and answer session to be followed by a reception for the former Secretary of State and a book signing. This event is free and open to the public.

ABOUT MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

Madeleine K. Albright is Chair of Albright Stonebridge Group, a global strategy firm, and Chair of Albright Capital Management LLC, an investment advisory firm focused on emerging markets. She was the 64th Secretary of State of the United States. Dr. Albright received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Obama on May 29, 2012.

In 1997, Dr. Albright was named the first female Secretary of State and became, at that time, the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. As Secretary of State, Dr. Albright reinforced America's alliances, advocated for democracy and human rights, and promoted American trade, business, labor, and environmental standards abroad. From 1993 to 1997, Dr. Albright served as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations and was a member of the President's Cabinet. From 1989 to 1992, she served as President of the Center for National Policy. Previously, she was a member of President Jimmy Carter's National Security Council and White House staff and served as Chief Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Edmund S. Muskie.

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Dr. Albright is a Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. She chairs both the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the Pew Global Attitudes Project and serves as president of the Truman Scholarship Foundation. She serves on the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Policy Board, a group tasked with providing the Secretary of Defense with independent, informed advice and opinion concerning matters of defense policy. Dr. Albright also serves on the Boards of the Aspen Institute and the Center for American Progress. In 2009, Dr. Albright was asked by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen to Chair a Group of Experts focused on developing NATO's New Strategic Concept.

Dr. Albright is the author of five New York Times bestsellers: her autobiography, *Madam Secretary: A Memoir* (2003); *The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs* (2006); *Memo to the President: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership* (2008); *Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat's Jewel Box* (2009); and *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948* (2012).

Dr. Albright received a B.A. with Honors from Wellesley College, and Master's and Doctorate degrees from Columbia University's Department of Public Law and Government, as well as a Certificate from its Russian Institute.

CATALOGUE

Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection will be accompanied by a beautifully illustrated book *Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat's Jewel Box* by HarperCollins publishers. The publication, authored by Secretary Albright, reveals the full story behind the collection, and illustrates its best examples.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND CREDITS

This exhibit was originally organized by the Museum of Arts and Design.

Generous support for this exhibition was provided by Bren Simon and for the exhibition catalogue by St. John Knits.

The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum is one of 13 Presidential Libraries operated by the National Archives and Records Administration. The Nixon Library is located at 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., CA, and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The Museum is fully handicapped accessible. For more information call 714-983-9120 or go to www.nixonlibrary.gov.

The Richard Nixon Foundation is a privately supported, non-profit institution dedicated to educating the public about the life, legacy, and times of the Thirty-Seventh President. For more information, call 714-993-5075 or go to www.nixonfoundation.org.

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