

CIA Deputy Director David Cohen Tribute to Bill Martin
at ceremony of receiving the Order of the Rising Sun
Embassy of Japan to the United States
October 4, 2018

A short background sentence---MIT, IEA, State Office of Economic Affairs, National Security Council, Director of International Economic Affairs, National Security Council Executive Director and then Deputy Secretary of Energy

Now this is a man who came out of the Oklahoma oil patch to then spend much of his professional life trying to replace oil with other stuff, especially nuclear stuff...what a guy, and what a patriot

I first met Bill in the late 1970's when he was at MIT I was heading CIA's economic program which included energy---oil. CIA did an Oil Market Outlook Assessment forecasting \$35 oil within 2 years... when the price was \$11...

Bill did one at MIT that we liked a lot because it agreed with us. When I briefed Paul Krugman at the CEA what we saw ahead he called both of us stupid...

Krugman also forecast a US economic calamity if Donald Trump gets elected. Oil prices hit \$35 and a lot more within 2 years.

Bill's secret weapon during his NSC career was his penetration of CIA...yup, he virtually picked Bill Casey's pocket by recruiting our entire energy program---the best in the USG--- to focus on how to minimize West Europe's dependence on soviet gas. Now this was in 1982....

Bill drove us hard to find options... we did found---a Norwegian gas pipeline--- that would never have been pursued were it not for Mr. Martin. Like President Reagan, Bill Casey fell in love with Bill Martin for leading the way on that all important geopolitical matter.

Looks like we need him again as Germany buys into more dependence on Russia than ever. History does repeat itself.

Bill is both a risk taker and a tough task master. Two years ago he forecast a Republican presidential victory for 2016. Long before most or any others did. He knew things would need to be put on paper to pave the foreign policy way ahead.

So he calls me up —I'm NYC— and says "Dave we need a foreign policy road map for a new Republican administration....this is at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon..... he then says ...we need 12 issues, 3 bullets under each issue ---like arteries off route #95 ... and 3 words with each bullet...like side streets off the arteries....and ...oh...can you get it to me by 6 o'clock?..."

Well it got done and by 21 January 2017 the "roadmap" was being hung on the walls or laying on the tables of virtually every foreign policy making component of the new Administration.

Bill has always been gutsy when dealing with the highest levels of authority---sometimes putting his life at risk.

There was the time he was overseeing a white house visit by Jordan's King Hussein...after a few hours of meetings in the Old Executive Office Building Treaty Room, he leads President Reagan, King Hussein and several in the audience here today for lunch in the President's personal White House dining room---upstairs in the residence.

On the way, he gets a call from Nancy Reagan saying "who do you think you are scheduling my dining room without asking me...it's already going to be used by me"...

Bill, unfazed, essentially says, ma'm...if we can't use your dining room or we have to go to Ebbits Grille. Only because she likes Bill, Mrs Reagan relented and said---"well..ok...tell the King I'm asking for him"....sk-taking...getting into light hearted squabbles with Nancy Reagan.

And, of course, there is the time President Reagan gave Bill a birthday party---it was 1985...The President gave Bill a small present and said..."Bill, usually I don't trust anyone under 70, but at least you're half way there now that you're 35 years old"... Well, Bill is now 68, he's almost there ...and today... 4 October... is his birthday.

An intensely serious man, since leaving government service after helping run the US Department of Energy as Deputy for several years, Bill has devoted his passions to the issue of nuclear energy---the opportunities, the risks and how to make its use safe, secure and affordable.

He is a world class champion in this regard, bringing all his skill to bear---from how to deal effectively with people---something he first learned in the Oklahoma oil patch---to the intricacies of the technology, including how to minimize risks while maximizing use.

He's a true hero and one of a kind in this respect. But, as when he recruited CIA to work side by side with him, he needed a partner he could turn to and rely on. Once again, with nuclear energy on his mind...he looked and found his own nuclear power plant...who is now his wife Paul...she is as amazing as Bill is and is, in my view and those who meet her, walking fissionable material...YEA Paul.

Finally, I want to congratulate the Government of Japan for having the wisdom to tap into Bill's knowledge and experience and to award him this remarkably important recognition. Thank you and congratulations Bill!!!!