

Embassy to Nicaragua

The President's Personal Representative

Secretary Babbitt began the new year with a unique international assignment. As President Clinton's Personal Representative, the Secretary and his wife, Hattie Babbitt, the U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States, represented the United States at the inauguration of Nicaragua's new President on January 10.

The Secretary and Ambassador Babbitt conveyed the United States Government's support for democratic institutions in Nicaragua, praised the free, fair, and transparent election in October that chose President Arnaldo Aleman and the peaceful and democratic transition of executive power that the inauguration symbolized.



Secretary and Ambassador Babbitt arrive at Managua International Airport via Presidential jet. They are greeted by U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Lino Gutierrez.



The Secretary and Ambassador Babbitt, above, are escorted by U.S. and Nicaraguan officials immediately following their arrival. At left, the Secretary makes brief remarks to media representatives at Managua International Airport.



Secretary and Ambassador Babbitt greet the newly inaugurated President of Nicaragua, Dr. Arnoldo Aleman, at an evening reception at the Presidential Offices in Managua.



During a courtesy call on President Aleman, Secretary Babbitt and U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Lino Gutierrez listen as President Aleman discusses plans for his administration. Secretary Babbitt, who speaks Spanish fluently, conversed with the President in that language, conveying President Clinton's congratulations and regards.

Secretary and Ambassador Babbitt, and Ambassador Gutierrez conveyed to President Aleman the United States Government's strong support for democratic processes and institutions in Nicaragua and the peaceful transition of power represented by the recent presidential election there.

