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# *With Hussein, Toasting a New Beginning*

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Beneath all the restrained optimism was an unmistakable note of urgency.

"This journey will have many obstacles," said Secretary of State George Shultz, toasting King Hussein of Jordan last night at the State Department, "but I am convinced the time is right for us both."

Responded Hussein, raising his glass to an absent President Reagan: "Conditions exist now that may not be with us for very long, and the challenge must be met."

So wound up the day which found the king at the White House telling Reagan that the Palestine Liberation Organization is ready to negotiate with Israel on conditions that recognize its right to exist with secure boundaries.

"We have discussed some of the thorniest issues that plague the Middle East," Shultz told his 200 black-tie guests in the Benjamin Franklin Room, "and we've seen progress."

\* \* \* \* *EXCERPTED*

Earlier, Cabinet officers, members of Congress, and representatives of U.S. business sauntered onto the eighth-floor terrace overlooking the Potomac to sip their cocktails. Among them were CIA Director William Casey, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, Agriculture Secretary John Block, Sen. Paul Trible (R-Va.), Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman John Vesey and international investor David Rockefeller.



CIA Director William Casey.

\* \* \* \* *EXCERPTED*