

Bush and Truman Just Don't Match Up

By Al Kamen

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Unlikely Diplomatic Look-Alikes

Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy *Karen Hughes* says she's "really enjoying my new role," though she's "still adjusting a little."

"I'll be walking through the airport or the grocery store and somebody will say 'Ambassador,' and I sort of look around for who they're talking to," she said Friday at a luncheon of the Women's Foreign Policy Group.

"But you don't have to worry about any recognition going to my head," she assured the crowd. "I was on a little commuter plane in California not too long ago," she noted, "and the pilot . . . [of] this very, very small airplane, came back, and he was so excited when he saw me, and he said 'I'm so glad to see you.' He said 'I never thought I'd have *Madeleine Albright* on my airplane!' " The crowd laughed. The former secretary of state is much shorter.

She recounted her "all-time favorite recognition story," which occurred on a Caribbean cruise earlier this year on the ship's elevator.

"Two kind of elderly ladies got on the elevator, and one of them looked at me, and then she looked away. And then she looked at me and stared, and she elbowed her friend in the ribs. And in a loud stage whisper she said ' *Condi Rice* is on this elevator!' That one brought the house down. 'Condi loves that story,' " Hughes said. The secretary of state has darker hair.

