UN peacekeeping forces with Nobel Peace Prize

The United Nations peacekeeping forces around the world are the winners of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel committee praised the forces for building world confidence in the United Nations by keeping a lid on tensions in Cyprus, the Middle East, and in the Indian-Pakistan border. The decision was seen as many as an indirect award to UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Perez de Cuéllar, who was ineligible for the award since he was nominated after the Feb. 1 deadline, mediated the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq and helped in arranging the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The chairman of the Nobel committee in Oslo, Norway, said President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had been "seriously considered" for the prize. The official indicated that the presidential election may have been a factor in passing over the leaders who signed a joint declaration to have no chance in Congress.