



Madeleine Albright, former US **Secretary of State**, died last week at the age of 84. Albright fled the Nazis as a child from Czechoslovakia during World War II, and she then became the first female US Secretary of State.

She was America's top diplomat during the Clinton government until 2001. In her late years, she became an icon to young women for opportunity and respect in the workplace.

She was a tough-talking diplomat in a government that hesitated to involve itself in the two biggest foreign crises of the 1990s: the **genocides** in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 2000, she traveled to Pyongyang to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, which made her the highest-ranking US official to visit the Communist country. Just a month ago, Albright returned to the public **spotlight**, to speak against Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom she met after he took office in 2000.

**Difficult words:** **Secretary of State** (the head of the government department that deals with foreign matters), **genocide** (the killing of people from a certain country or ethnic group), **spotlight** (attention).

## Discussion Questions

**Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *Secretary of State*, *genocide* and *spotlight*
2. Who was Madeleine Albright?
3. Was she an American-born citizen?
4. Until when did Madeleine Albright serve as US Secretary of State?
5. Why was Albright known as a tough-talking diplomat?
6. What made Madeleine Albright return to public spotlight recently?
7. When did Albright first meet Russian President Vladimir Putin?
8. At what age did Madeleine Albright pass away?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Who is the current Secretary of State in your country?
2. Is there anyone in your country you can compare with Madeleine Albright?
3. Would you be interested in the job of a Secretary of State? Why or why not?