At the Princely Palace, on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 in late morning, took place the ceremony of Credentials of H.E. Craig Roberts Stapleton, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco.

H.E. Stapleton was accompanied for the occasion by Mr. Philip Breeden, Consul General of the United States in Marseille.

After being greeted in the courtyard of the Palace by the guard of honor of the Carabinieri Corps under the orders of Colonel Yannick Bersihan, Senior Commander of the Police Force, Ambassador Stapleton was taken to the Hall of Mirrors by Colonel Luc Fringant, H.S.H. the Prince’s Chamberlain.

H.E Stapleton then handed over his letters of credence to H.S.H. the Sovereign Prince, who was accompanied by Mr. René Novella, Secretary of State, Mr. Georges Lisimachio, Head of H.S.H. the Prince’s Cabinet and Mr. Claude Cottolorda, Director General of the Department of External Relations.
After the ceremony, the Prince held a private audience with the Ambassador in the Family Drawing Room.

A few days earlier, on December 8, 2006, the ceremony of accreditation of the first Ambassador of the Principality of Monaco to the United States took place in Washington, D.C, in the Oval Office of the White House. After the honors rendered by the officers of the Presidential Guard, Ambassador Noghès arrived in a black limousine at the entrance of the White House, where floated the flag of Monaco.

As a practice encouraged by President Bush, His Excellency Gilles Noghès was accompanied by members of his immediate family.

In his address to the President, the Ambassador recalled the many ties that have been existing between the U.S. and the Principality. Already in 1913, Prince Albert I was the first European Head of State to visit America.

In response, President Bush welcomed the new diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Monaco and sustained cooperation by both countries in the fight against terrorism.