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Bloomberg Heads to D.C. to Meet Leaders

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Today, Mr. Bloomberg goes to Washington.

The future mayor plans to board a commercial flight in New York and spend most of the day schmoozing with federal movers-and-shakers in the nation's capital.

The itinerary for Michael Bloomberg includes a stop at the terrorism-scarred Pentagon, a private meeting with Vice President Dick Cheney, lunch with New York lawmakers and a string of meetings and appearances with House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (D-Mo.), Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott (D-Miss.).

Bloomberg will also meet Washington Mayor Anthony Williams, said Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler.

The wealthy Republican, who takes office Jan. 1, is a media mogul with no background in politics. His first out-of-town trip as mayor-elect is intended to help him cultivate ties with powerful people and make the case for federal disaster aid for New York City.

With just over a month to go before his inauguration, Bloomberg has already made one major appointment to his administration. On Tuesday, Bloomberg named Ray Kelly police commissioner. Kelly had the job in the Dinkins' administration.

Meanwhile, the head of Bloomberg's transition team, former Lincoln Center president Nathan Leventhal, and a campaign adviser, Vinnie LaPadula, met for less than an hour with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's four deputy mayors at City Hall.

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