

*"At the end of his life, he had arrived at a new approach
that held great promise..."*

-Vice President Gore,

Eulogy for Mickey Leland, November 21, 1989

The Honorable J. Brian Atwood
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development

cordially invites you to join

Vice President Al Gore

at a public launch of

THE LELAND INITIATIVE:
Empowering Africans in an Information Age

Wednesday, June 5, 1996 at 11:00 a.m.
The Old Executive Office Building
Room 450
Washington, D.C.

In response to Vice President Gore's request to bring the benefits of the U.S. information revolution to Africa, this Initiative will connect 20 countries in Africa to both the Internet and other Global Information Infrastructure (GII) technologies. This innovative program commemorates the late Mickey Leland, a tireless advocate for African development.

We request that you arrive no later than 10:30 a.m. to be cleared into the Old Executive Office Building. To RSVP for this event, please call Ms. Tracy Scrivner at (202) 647-8440 and provide your name and date of birth. You may also fax this information to Ms. Scrivner at (202) 647-8321. Please note that information will be needed for White House clearance no later than Tuesday, June 4, 1996, 12:00 p.m.



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FACT SHEET
THE LELAND INITIATIVE

THE NEW USAID PRESS OFFICE
WASHINGTON, DC 20523
(202) 647-4274
CONTACT:
LEAH LEVIN OR JAY BYRNE

May 1996

Africa Goes On Line

Leland Initiative connects continent to the world

The goal of U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Leland Initiative is to supplement and improve sustainable development in Africa through the use and exchange of electronic information and technologies. Named for Congressman Mickey Leland, founder of the House Select Committee on Hunger and killed during a food relief mission to Ethiopia in 1989, the Leland Initiative will provide 20 African nations with access to the Internet. By enhancing the ability of Africans to access, produce and use information, this project will place powerful tools at their fingertips.

Information, with its ability to transform economic and social structures, is a critical strategic resource for all countries, regardless of their levels of development. Africa is the last region of the world with minimal connections to telecommunications.

With strong support from Vice President Al Gore, the five-year, \$15 million USAID program will be one of the main elements connecting Africa to the Global Information Infrastructure.

Internet access will be made available to all sectors of the African development community including: private voluntary organizations, non-government relief organizations, government agencies, private developers and individuals. Additionally, international donor organizations such as the World Bank and the Red Cross will be able to monitor the progress of various assistance programs in Africa via the Internet.

The Leland Initiative will accelerate and bolster sustainable development efforts in African nations by helping them to help themselves. For example:

- With accurate and up-to-date market information, factory managers are better able to prosper and contribute to overall economic growth in their region.
- Village health workers can get instant medical diagnosis and advice from distant capitals, reaping the benefits of lessons learned from others' experience in similar situations.
- School children and their teachers can reach beyond their classroom walls to unlimited information sources and real life exchanges available through the Internet.

-- more --

- Democracy is reinforced as citizens better communicate interests and reactions to policies among each other and to their government representatives.

- Potential food shortages, drought and other broad environmental emergencies are more easily overcome when governments and relief workers have reliable, readily accessible information.

USAID, in cooperation with technicians from NASA, the U.S. Navy, the State Department and the private sector, has begun country-by-country configuration and installation of Internet service in Africa. Applications will be designed to suit each country's specific technology and development needs, incorporating existing systems and efforts already underway by other donors like the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program.

In order to ensure the long-term viability of this program, USAID will work with partner governments on policy reforms aimed at encouraging private service providers to develop the Internet user base. This includes identifying and training Internet service providers, making relevant information available in a useful format, working with the business community to effectively market the information and increasing the ability of Africans to use the new information.

USAID is the government agency that administers humanitarian and economic assistance to over 70 countries worldwide.

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Talking Points of
J. Brian Atwood
Leland Initiative Launch
Opening

Washington, D.C.
June 5, 1996

-- Good morning. Welcome to the launching of the Leland Initiative. I would like to offer a special greeting to our friends in Ghana. Among others, we are joined by Dr. Charles Mensa [MEN-SAH] of the Institute of Economic Analysis. Dr. Mensa, welcome.

[Dr. Mensa responds for about 30 seconds]

-- We are also fortunate to have in the audience today Representative Jack Fields, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance of the House Commerce Committee. Jack has really been of tremendous help to us in getting this initiative up and running, and I would like to invite him to come up here and share a few words with us today.

[Rep. Fields comes to the podium, offers remarks for two minutes, then returns to his seat in the first row]

-- This launch coincides with the Fifth U.S.-Africa Telecommunications and Broadcasting Conference. The conference brings together key players in the telecommunications community from both the U.S. and Africa. More than 20 conference participants are here today, including two from Ghana -- Minister Edward Salia [SAH-LEAH] from the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and Minister Kofi Totobi Quakyi [KOF-EE TOTO-BEE KWATAY], the Minister of Information. We're also honored to have members of the African diplomatic community here today.

-- I am also very pleased to welcome our partner agencies in this initiative -- the Department of State, the Navy and NASA. This really has been a joint effort among our agencies, and together we are committed to making it a success.

-- It is always nice -- particularly these days -- to have a chance to celebrate. And today, we do have a great deal to acclaim:

- We have an occasion to celebrate an initiative that will help connect 20 African nations to the best telecommunications technology the world has to offer.
- We have an opportunity to honor Mickey Leland -- a man who was truly a champion of Africa -- and to recommit ourselves to his vision.
- And we have a chance -- hopefully -- to see this technology at work before our eyes. We will be sharing this experience with our friends in Ghana and hearing about what the Leland Initiative means to them.

-- Who better to demonstrate this Internet technology than our young friends here, who will be interacting with Ghanaian students. These are our future leaders, and I am sure some of them could teach us all a few tricks on the computer.

- The Leland Initiative is our response to the Vice President's request to bring the benefits of the information revolution to Africa. We have already started this work.

- The initiative is emphasizing a public-private partnership to bring full internet connectivity to 20 nations in Africa. The project will open doors through policy reform, demonstrating the effectiveness of appropriate hardware and software, and identify and train local private sector Internet providers. Testing and planning activities in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mali are almost complete. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, both in the public and private sectors.

- As I mentioned, this initiative is named for Mickey Leland, who worked tirelessly on behalf of Africa. His work was vital in assisting Ethiopia during the time of its most dire need. But Mickey's efforts also reached well beyond Ethiopia. Working with Africans, working as a real partner, Mickey was driven to help unlock the incredible potential of Africa. Mickey knew that the answer wasn't always more money or bigger programs; he knew the key was giving

Africans the knowledge and the resources they needed to solve their own problems. He knew the power of information.

- Today we want to honor the memory of Mickey Leland and those who are carrying on his work. We want to honor those who, along with Mickey, also gave their lives in the service of the United States and in the cause of bettering Africa. These people included USAID and State Department personnel, representatives of the private sector, Congressional staff, and Africans themselves.

- We must recommit ourselves to carrying on the work of our fallen colleagues by making this initiative a reality and by redoubling our commitment to Africa. The one thing I know our colleagues would not accept is seeing their work left undone. That is why I am particularly pleased that the Vice President has chosen to join us today in this celebration. Vice President Gore epitomizes the strength of U.S.-African relations, and he remains a leading voice in pursuing an American foreign policy that makes for a stronger Africa and a stronger America.

-- Ladies and gentlemen, the Vice President of the United States, Al Gore.

-- end --

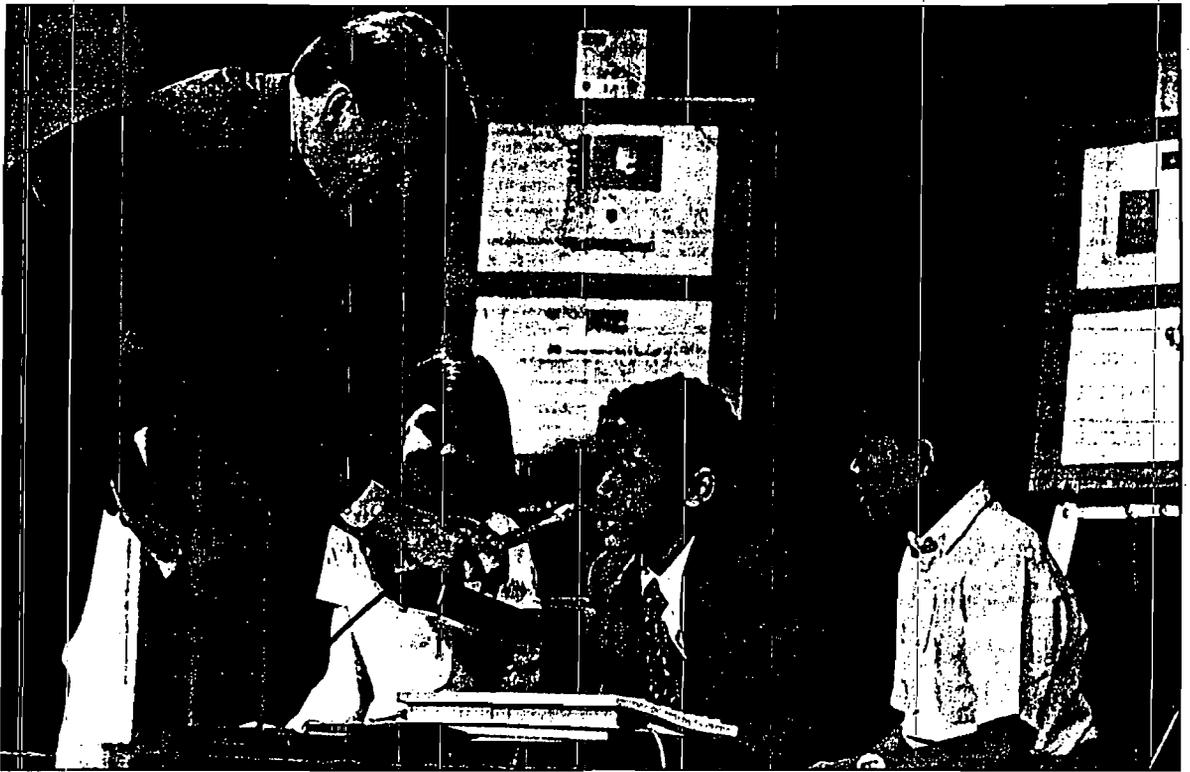
John Norris Draft from RRussell (Final redraft by Gary Bombardier based on late changes in the Leland launch event)

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Houston Chronicle

Thursday, June 6, 1996

AN AFRICAN 'NET



Cameron Craig / Special to the Chronicle

Vice President Al Gore talks to, from left, Kamala Smith, 10, of Silver Spring, Md., Jarrett Leland, 10, of Houston, and Rabi Smith, 11, of Silver Spring during an Internet meeting Wednesday with students in Ghana. Leland is the son of the late Rep. Mickey Leland.

Leland project links continent to U.S.

By LESLEY HENSELL
Houston Chronicle

The young students surfed the 'Net, chatting via satellite with new friends across the Atlantic and sharing the addresses of neat Web sites.

The technology was commonplace to the children on this side of the ocean. But for their counterparts, Wednesday's cyber-meeting was a first look at a powerful new link that is bringing the Internet to

20 African countries.

Vice President Al Gore, with the help of Jarrett Leland, 10, and Rabi and Kamala Smith, 12 and 10, chatted Wednesday from Washington with seventh-graders in Accra, Ghana.

The demonstration launched the Leland Initiative, a project to help Africans access, produce and use the Internet. Of the populated regions in the world, Africa has the least telecommunications connections.

The five-year, \$15 million program

was shepherded through Congress by Gore and U.S. Rep. Jack Fields, R-Humble. It takes its name from former U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, a Houston Democrat killed in a plane crash in 1989 while on an aid mission to Ethiopia.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which is overseeing the initiative, hopes to provide Internet access to 20 developing African nations in the next 14 months.

See LELAND on Page 14A.



Rep. Mickey Leland died in a plane crash during an aid mission to Ethiopia in 1989.

Leland

Continued from Page 1A.

Lane Smith, project officer for the initiative, said one of the program's most promising applications is a municipal management training program currently taught by USAID on a face-to-face basis. It is estimated that Africa will need 10 million to 20 million municipal officials in the next decade, and placing the training program on the Internet will allow more of these employees to receive instruction than ever before.

"This will allow us to put solutions to Africa's problems in Africans' hands," Smith said.

Although many poor people still will not be able to access the Internet, Smith hopes that an information center system will spring up in cities and villages across Africa. Entrepreneurs could make a business out of getting information in a useful form to people in their towns, Smith said.

Schools are another promising

area for computer technologies, and USAID is looking for ways that U.S. schools can share information and technology with schools in Africa, Smith added.

In addition, African businesses now will be able to access market and technical information from other countries. USAID officials also hope the Internet will facilitate the growth of democracy by allowing Africans better access to their representatives and other nations.

"As an example, people in a town in Uganda trying to set up a tax system could access the tax system in some town in Massachusetts that is applicable," said Leah Levin, a USAID spokeswoman.

USAID teams now are in Mali and Ghana setting up systems and training technicians.

"The primary result will be Africans accessing valuable tools and information that they haven't been able to before," Levin said.

Gore attributed the project's success to Mickey Leland. Leland had invited Gore to accompany him on his last trip to Ethiopia. Gore, who at

the time was a U.S. senator, had planned to go but canceled when his 6-year-old son was hit by a car.

Gore said his friendship with Leland, combined with his resolve to continue Leland's work, led him to strive to make a difference in Africa.

Jarrett Leland, the former congressman's son, may be chatting with his new African friends again soon. His school, River Oaks Elementary, is attempting to establish a link with the Ghana school in the fall. This would be similar to a pen-pal program River Oaks had this year with a London school.

"It's a great experience for children to learn about children in other countries," said Alison Brisco, a Houston investment banker and Mickey Leland's wife at the time of his death.

"This will allow important resources and technology to be shared internationally and make information and news available to so many more people. It's a way of tying the world together."

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 19, 1998

VIDEOTAPED REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA

THE PRESIDENT: To all our friends in Africa, let me say how very much I'm looking forward to my upcoming trip. I'll travel to Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Botswana, and Senegal. It will be a real privilege for me to be the first American President to visit those countries.

This journey will be my opportunity, and yours, to help to introduce the people of the United States to a new Africa -- an Africa whose political and economic accomplishments grow more impressive each month. I want to see for myself what America can learn from Africa and how we can work with you as partners to build a better future for all our children.

As I visit your countries and meet your leaders and citizens, I'll have in mind four central goals for us to work toward together. First, we want to support Africa's democracies -- those with long and proud histories, and those that are newly emerging. Together we can create a global community of nations that respect and promote human rights, tolerance, and broad participation in public life.

Second, we want to increase trade and investment with Africa. When it comes to economic development, America and Africa can help each other, opening markets, building businesses, creating jobs on both continents. A prosperous future awaits us if we strengthen the economic ties between our countries and give all our people the education and training they need to succeed in this new global economy.

But democracy and prosperity are threatened where there is violence, so our third goal is to look for ways to work in partnership with the nations of Africa to prevent armed conflict. Ethnic and political violence continues to plague parts of Africa. Together we can, and we must, find solutions.

Fourth, the United States wants to play a role in preserving Africa's majestic natural beauty and wildlife, and ensuring sustainable development of Africa's natural resources. The nations of the world must continue to cooperate and avoid environmental destruction and to leave a rich heritage to our children.

There are many other areas where we can progress as partners -- improving nutrition and health care, eradicating diseases like AIDS and malaria, empowering women, fighting crime and drugs, expanding civic and cultural ties across the ocean. With the 21st century fast approaching, Africa, the cradle of human civilization, is forging a vibrant future for itself with new leaders, new opportunities, and new hope. The core values that are driving Africa's renaissance -- democracy, diversity, free enterprise -- those are the values that the United States shares.

My wife Hillary, my daughter Chelsea, the entire United States delegation and I look forward to being with you and sharing our experience with the American people.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Accra, Ghana)

For Immediate Release

March 23, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT TECHNOSERVE PEACE CORPS PROJECT SITE

Accra, Ghana

4:05 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Alicia, you did a wonderful job. She said she was nervous, but she hid it well. Give her another hand.

Let me thank you again President and Mrs. Rawlings for their wonderful welcome. And I want to thank the President for his leadership for democracy, for economic reform, for the economic empowerment of women and the education of children and for being willing to take a stand for peace in this area. For all those things I thank him.

I thank Ambassador and Mrs. Bryan and the distinguished representatives of the government of Ghana. I'd also like to, if I might, introduce the people who came with Hillary and me today -- at least some of them I see there. First, the members of the United States Congress -- Charles Rangel, Ed Royce, Jim McDermott, Maxine Waters, Donald Payne, and William Jefferson. I think that's all of them. Thank you very much for being here. And members of the President's Cabinet -- Secretary of Commerce Bill Daley, Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater, and our AID Director Brian Atwood. And my Special Envoy to Africa, Reverend Jesse Jackson. And the man who keeps people all over the world entertained, the owner of Black Entertainment Television, Bob Johnson is here.

You know, I have traveled all over the world on behalf of the people of the United States and I think I can say two things without fear of being wrong. The welcome I received in Independence Square today is the largest welcome I have ever

received anywhere. And all day long this is clearly the warmest welcome I have ever received.

I am now on my second suit. At this rate, when I get off the airplane in Botswana, I'll be in my swimming trunks. And you will say, the President has taken African informality too far.

I want to thank all of you for taking the time to teach us about your accomplishments. TechnoServe celebrates its 30th birthday this year. Just like the Peace Corps, it also established its first field operation here in Ghana. The reason I wanted to be here is because both TechnoServe and our Peace Corps volunteers are working to help Africans help themselves to become healthier, better educated, more prosperous -- simply speaking, better equipped to dream their own dreams and to make them come true.

You should also know that I strongly believe that the investments we make here are investments in America's future as well, because stronger and more dynamic African communities and African nations will be better partners for Americans in meeting the challenges and reaping the opportunities of this great new century that is just before us.

The friendships formed between Americans and Africans across the gaps of geography and culture benefit both of us and will do so even more as our Earth gets smaller and smaller and more and more interdependent.

Alicia mentioned that two years ago at the White House I had the pleasure of welcoming back many of the Peace Corps volunteers, including many who are serving here today. Now more than 3600 Peace Corps volunteers have lived and learned in Ghana, and 57,000 in Africa. I want to say all of you, your President and your country are proud of you and grateful to you. I thank you very much.

The Peace Corps volunteers, the TechnoServe workers, their Ghanaian partners, all of you demonstrate what we can do when we work together. I also want to say a special word of appreciation to Brian Atwood and to the people here in Ghana who worked for our Agency for International Development.

Our total assistance to Ghana this year is more than \$50 million. But if our aid is going to have its greatest impact, we must also have more trade and investment. Today,

opportunities are opening up for investors large and small. Projects like the ones I saw today can help new entrepreneurs, including women, master the skills to make the most of these opportunities.

I will say again, education will be more important to Africa in the 21st century than it was in the 20th century. And I especially commend TechnoServe for helping women learn the math and reading skills they need to run good businesses. I also want to thank the Peace Corps volunteers I saw teaching the science experiment to the young people. They understood it, even if I didn't.

Let me also say the President and I had a sobering, but important visit today about the energy shortage that the drought has caused here in Ghana and the impact it can have on business, agriculture and economic health and the stability of the society.

A generation ago, the vision of President Kennedy and President Nkrumah led to the construction of the Akosombo Dam that helped to power Ghana's growth. Today, President Rawlings and I discussed how our two countries can work together to develop a comprehensive strategy for Ghana that will give you the environment that is so important to the future of the people here.

I am pleased to announce that we will guarantee a \$67 million loan to the Ghanaian government for the purchase of two barge-mounted power plants built by Westinghouse. I also want to assure that we will continue to promote the spirit of service that strengthens both our countries when you permit Americans to come here and work among you.

Now more than one generation of Peace Corps volunteers has returned, carrying a lifelong awe for this continent and its people. And their service does not end when they come home. Now there are Peace Corps volunteers who are in the President's Cabinet, in our Congress, leading communities all across America. My own secretary, Betty Currie, who is here with me on this trip, used to work for the Peace Corps for the Director of the Africa Division. So I would say based on my personal experience that it's pretty good on-the-job training for the rest of life.

Last month, as Alicia said, I did ask the Congress to join me in putting 10,000 Peace Corps volunteers abroad by the year

2000. That's a more than 50-percent increase from today's levels. Again I say, by extending a helping hand throughout the world, we lift the lives of Americans at home.

Let me say one final thing that I said to the President and Mrs. Rawlings and the others who hosted us at lunch. This is a great day for me and for Hillary. My wife has been so interested in Africa, and she and our daughter made a wonderful trip to Africa not so long ago.

It's a great day for the members of Congress like Congressman Royce, a Republican from California; and Congressman McDermott from Washington, who himself worked in the Peace Corps in Africa many years ago.

But I don't think you can possibly imagine what this day means to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to the African-American members of my Cabinet, and those who hold senior positions in the White House and in the departments of government. It wasn't so very long ago in the whole sweep of human history that their ancestors were yanked from the shores of western Africa as slaves. Now they come back home to Africa and to Ghana as the leaders of America, a country that hopes to be a better model than we once were for the proposition that all men and women are free and equal, and that children ought to have an equal chance. And we hope that their successes will play a role in our common trumps, the United States and Africa, the United States and Ghana, in the years ahead.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

4:16 P.M. (L)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Accra, Ghana)

For Immediate Release

March 23, 1996

FACT SHEET

President Clinton's Trip to Ghana

As a leader in Africa in promoting economic reforms and political stability, Ghana is a key ally of the United States. In an effort to strengthen the partnership between the United States and Ghana, President Clinton today announced the following initiatives:

Strengthening Energy Capacity Due to a severe drought, energy production in Ghana has been reduced by 50 percent and much of the country is experiencing regular power outages of 12 hours a day. In the spirit of partnership and to help Ghana cope with this energy and power crisis, the United States will guarantee a \$67 million loan from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to the Ghanaian government for the purchase of two barge-mounted power plants. Using funds available under the Title 11 Loan Guarantee Program, DOT will use natural gas that is a by-product of Ghana's National Petroleum Corporation operation to generate 130 megawatts of electricity. This project represents the finest example of international cooperation in which a US loan support program is used to create jobs for Americans at the Westinghouse Corp. And in turn assist the Ghanaian government help its population maintain their electric power needs and improve their quality of life.

Promoting Democracy. As part of Ghana's ongoing progress in support of democratic principles, the United States will donate \$500k under the International Criminal Investigative and Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) to assist the Ghanaian police force in improving and strengthening their non-lethal crowd control capabilities, help further professionalize the officer corps, and enhance the organization, structure and resource management of the police force. ICITAP helps countries train and educate police forces by running such educational programs as "The Role of the Police in a Democracy; Community Policing; and Human Dignity." This effort in Ghana will further

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efforts to promote human rights and strengthen the confidence and relationship between the Ghanaian police and its citizens.

Technology and Education. President Clinton and President Rawlings discussed the importance of education as a means to improving the lives of all Ghanaian people, particularly women. Towards that end, the United States will provide:

- School to school partnerships. The United States will donate \$1 million over the next three years as part of AID's Technology for Education program to link 1,000 African primary schools to sister schools in the United States. As part of the Leland Initiative, named after former Congressman Mickey Leland, this effort is aimed at bringing Internet connectivity to African schools and helping them establish educational partnerships with their American counterparts in the US. One of the first links is Between Piney Branch Elementary School in Takoma Park, Maryland and St. Martin de Pores School in Accra.
- Internet hookup for the Ghanaian's Association of Women Entrepreneurs (GAWB). Will strengthen the business associations ability to use the Internet to bring customers, market information, investors and business assistance to its membership.
- Access to Globe Network. The President announced the establishment of the "Globe Initiative" for the Ghana education system which designed to enhance the environmental awareness and scientific understanding of the earth by linking schools all around the world. Currently over 4,000 schools with over 70,000 students are participating in the Globe program and Ghana marks the 65th country to participate in this program.
- PowerNet. Creating electronic bridges -- web pages, on-going electronic conversation and conferences -- to link women from the United States and Africa, PowerNet will provide innovative ways for women to share success and strategies for the future to resolve conflicts, to create micro-enterprises, discuss ways to raise healthy families, and improve education for young girls.

Support for Peacekeeping. In support of Ghana's role in peacekeeping efforts, the United States finalized an agreement with the Ghanaian government to receive six modern military helicopters in 2000 for the Ghanaian armed forces under the

excess defense articles program. As part of this program, the President is authorized to transfer excess defense equipment to countries that exhibit a positive and constructive regional role in supporting peacekeeping efforts. Ghana will pay for transport and other related transit costs.

Protecting the Environment. To assist Ghana with its efforts to maintain the country's natural beauty and heritage, the President pledged a \$2 million endowment to preserve and conserve important biodiversity sites in Ghana. The grant agreement with the Ghana Heritage Conservation Trust establishes an endowment to fund the long-term management of the Kakum National Park and three historic monuments. This endowment will strengthen natural resource management of the National Park, and the cultural heritage of the monuments, but also the economic growth and development of the Ghanaian tourism industry.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Accra, Ghana)

For Immediate Release

March 23, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PEOPLE OF GHANA

Independence Square
Accra, Ghana

11:40 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. President and Mrs. Rawlings, honorable ministers, honorable members of the Council of State, honorable members of Parliament, honorable members of the Judiciary, nananom and the people of Ghana. (Applause.) Mitsea mu. (Applause.) America fuo kyia no. Now you have shown me what akwaaba really means. Thank you, thank you so much. (Applause.)

I am proud to be the first American President ever to visit Ghana. (Applause.) And to go on to Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana, and Senegal. It is a journey long overdue. America should have done it before, and I am proud to be on that journey. Thank you for welcoming me. (Applause.)

I want to listen and to learn. I want to build a future partnership between our two people, and I want to introduce the people of the United States through my trip to the new face of Africa. From Kampala to Cape Town, from Dakar to Dar-Es-Salaam, Africans are being stirred by new hopes for democracy and peace and prosperity.

Challenges remain, but they must be to all of you a call to action, not a cause for despair. You must draw strength from the past and energy from the promise of a new future. My dream for this trip is that together we might do the things so that 100 years from now, your grandchildren and mine will look back and say this was the beginning of a new African renaissance. (Applause.)

With a new century coming into view, old patterns are fading away. The Cold War is gone; colonialism is gone; apartheid is gone. Remnants of past troubles remain, but, surely, there will come a time when everywhere reconciliation will replace recrimination.

Now, nations and individuals finally are free to seek a newer world where democracy and peace and prosperity are not slogans, but the essence of a new Africa. Africa has changed

MORE

so much in just 10 years. Dictatorship has been replaced so many places. Half of the 48 nations in sub-Saharan Africa choose their own governments leading a new generation willing to learn from the past and imagine a future. Though democracy has not yet gained a permanent foothold even in most successful nations, there is everywhere a growing respect for tolerance, diversity and elemental human rights.

A decade ago, business was stifled. Now Africans are embracing economic reform. Today from Ghana to Mozambique, from Cote d' Ivoire to Uganda, growing economies are fueling a transformation in Africa. For all this promise, you and I know Africa is not free from peril -- the genocide in Rwanda; civil wars in Sierra Leone, Liberia, both Congos; pariah states that export violence and terror; military dictatorship in Nigeria; and high levels of poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, and unemployment. To fulfill the vast promise of a new era, Africa must face these challenges. We must build classrooms and companies, increase the food supply and save the environment, and prevent disease before deadly epidemics break out.

The United States is ready to help you. (Applause.) First, my fellow Americans must leave behind the stereotypes that have warped our view and weakened our understanding of Africa. We need to come to know Africa as a place of new beginnings and ancient wisdom from which, as my wife, our First Lady, said in her book, we have so much to learn. It is time for Americans to put a new Africa on our map. (Applause.)

Here in Independence Square, Ghana blazed the path of that new Africa. More than four decades ago, Kwame Nkrumah proposed what he called a "motion of destiny" as Ghana stepped forward as a free and independent nation. Today Ghana again lights the way for Africa. Democracy is spreading. Business is growing. Trade and investment are rising. Ghana has the only African-owned company today on our New York Stock Exchange. (Applause.)

You have worked hard to preserve the peace in Africa and around the world -- from Liberia to Lebanon, from Croatia to Cambodia. And you have given the world a statesman and peacemaker in Kofi Annan to lead the United Nations. (Applause.) The world admires our success. The United States admires your success. We see it taking root throughout the new Africa. And we stand ready to support it.

First, we want to work with Africa to nurture democracy, knowing it is never perfect or complete. We have learned in over 200 years that every day democracy must be defended, and a more perfect union can always lie ahead. Democracy requires more than the insults and injustice and inequality that so many societies have known and America has known. Democracy requires human rights for everyone, everywhere. For men and women, for children and the elderly, for people of

different cultures and tribes and backgrounds. A good society honors its entire family.

Second, democracy must have prosperity. Americans of both political parties want to increase trade and investment in Africa. We have an African Growth and Opportunity Act now before Congress. Both parties' leadership are supporting it. By opening markets and building businesses and creating jobs, we can help and strengthen each other. By supporting the education of your people, we can strengthen your future and help each other. (Applause.)

For centuries, other nations exploited Africa's gold, Africa's diamonds, Africa's minerals. Now is the time for Africans to cultivate something more precious: the mind and heart of the people of Africa through education. (Applause.)

Third, we must allow democracy and prosperity to take root without violence. We must work to resolve the war and genocide that still tear at the heart of Africa. We must help Africans to prevent future conflicts.

Here in Ghana you have shown the world that different peoples can live together in harmony. You have proved that Africans of different countries can unite to help solve disputes in neighboring countries. Peace everywhere in Africa will give more free time and more money to the pressing needs of our children's future. The killing must stop if a new future is to begin. (Applause.)

Fourth and finally, for peace and prosperity and democracy to prevail, you must protect your magnificent natural domain. Africa is mankind's first home. We all came out of Africa. (Applause.) We must preserve the magnificent natural environment that is left. We must manage the water and forest. We must learn to live in harmony with other species. You must learn how to fight drought and famine and global warming. And we must share with you the technology that will enable you to preserve your environment and provide more economic opportunity to your people. (Applause.)

America has good reason to work with Africa: 30 million Americans, more than one in ten, proudly trace their heritage here. The first Peace Corps volunteers from America came to Ghana over 35 years ago; over 57,000 have served in Africa since then. Through blood ties and common endeavors, we know we share the same hopes and dreams to provide for ourselves and our children, to live in peace and worship freely, to build a better life than our parents knew, and pass a brighter future on to our children. America needs Africa, America needs Ghana as a partner in the fight for a better future. (Applause.)

So many of our problems do not stop at any nation's border -- international crime and terrorism and drug trafficking.

the degradation of the environment, the spread of diseases like AIDS and malaria, and so many of our opportunities cannot stop at a nation's border. We need partners to deepen the meaning of democracy in America, in Africa and throughout the world. We need partners to build prosperity. We need partners to live in peace. We will not build this new partnership overnight, but perseverance creates its own reward.

An Ashanti proverb tells us that by coming and going, a bird builds its nest. We will come and go with you and do all we can as you build the new Africa, a work that must begin here in Africa, not with aid or trade, though they are important but first with ordinary citizens, especially the young people in this audience today. (Applause.) You must feel the winds of freedom blowing at your back, pushing you onward to a brighter future.

There are roughly 700 days left until the end of this century and the beginning of a new millennium. There are roughly 700 million Africans in sub-Saharan Africa. Every day and every individual is a precious opportunity. We do not have moment to lose and we do not have a person to lose.

I ask you, my friends, to let me indulge a moment of our shared history in closing. In 1957, our great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, came to Accra to help represent our country as Ghana celebrated its independence. He was deeply moved by the birth of your nation.

Six years later, on the day after W.E.B. DuBois died here in Ghana, in 1963, Dr. King spoke to an enormous gathering like this in Washington. He said these simple words: "I have a dream, a dream that all Americans might live free and equal as brothers and sisters." His dream became the dream of our nation and changed us in ways we could never have imagined. We are hardly finished, but we have traveled a long way on the wings of that dream.

Dr. DuBois, a towering African American intellectual, died here as a citizen of Ghana and a friend of Kwame Nkrumah. He once wrote, "The habit of democracy must be encircle the Earth." Let us together resolve to complete the circle of democracy; to dream the dream that all people on the entire Earth will be free and equal; to begin a new century with that commitment to freedom and justice for all; to redeem the promise inscribed right here on Independence Arch. Let us find future here in Africa, the cradle of humanity.

Madase, America dase. Thank you and God bless you
(Applause.)

END

11:57 A.M. (1)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)

For Immediate Release

March 23, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE COMMUNITY OF KISOWERA SCHOOL

Mukono, Uganda

4:25 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you and good afternoon. President Museveni, Mrs. Museveni, Ms. Vice President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, to Education Minister Mushega, to their Highnesses, the distinguished Kings here, the religious leaders and other distinguished leaders of Uganda; members of our United States Congress, my Cabinet and other important citizens and public servants from the United States. And most of all, I want to thank the principals, the teachers, the students for showing me this wonderful school, the wonderful young people who walked down with us today, and the wonderful dancing exhibit we saw here today. Let's give them a big hand, I though they were quite wonderful.

As Hillary said, she and our daughter, Chelsea, came to Africa and to Uganda last year. I have heard a great deal about Uganda since then -- over and over and over again. In selecting countries to visit, I almost felt I didn't need to come here because I knew enough anyway from talking to Hillary about it. She has, I think, become your unofficial roving ambassador to the world.

But let me say I am profoundly honored to be here, honored to be on this continent, honored to be in this country, honored by the progress that has been made in these last few years in improving economic conditions, in improving political conditions. Thank you for what you have done, Mr. President, and to all of you.

Earlier today we talked about trade and investment. And President Museveni wants more of both, and he should. We talked about political cooperation and how we could work together for the future. And I listened very carefully to what the President said about the history of Africa, the history of Uganda, the future, what mistakes had been made in the past.

It is as well not to dwell too much on the past, but I think it is worth pointing out that the United States has not always done the right thing by Africa. In our own time, during the Cold war, when we were so concerned about being in competition with the Soviet Union, very often we dealt with countries in Africa and in other parts of the world based more on how they stood in the struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union than how they stood in the struggle for their own people's aspirations to live up to the fullest of their God-given abilities.

And, of course, going back to the time before we were even a nation, European Americans received the fruits of the slave trade. And we were wrong in that, as well -- although, I must say, if you look at the remarkable delegation we have here from Congress, from our Cabinet and administration, and from the citizens of America, there are many distinguished African Americans who are in that delegation who are making America a better place today.

But perhaps the worst sin America ever committed about Africa was the sin of neglect and ignorance. We have never been as involved with you, in working together for our mutual benefit, for your children and for ours, as we should have been. So I came here to listen and to learn, to offer my help and friendship and partnership. And I came in the hope that because all these good people up here in the media came with me and they're telling the American people back home what we're doing -- it's not raining, is it? It's been cold and cloudy in Washington, I need a suntan.

I came here in the hope that the American people would see you with new eyes -- that they would see the children dance, see the children learning, hear the children singing, and say, we should be part of the same future.

Today I want to talk very briefly about that future for our children. President Museveni and Education Minister Mushega have made education a top priority, especially through the Universal Primary Education Program, and I loved hearing the children sing about it.

But you leaders have done more than talk and sing; they have acted. In five years, education spending in Uganda has tripled and teacher salaries have gone up 900 percent. I hate to say that; back home, they'll wonder why I'm not doing better. And, more importantly, your getting something for your investment: better-trained teachers, higher test scores, improved performance in school attendance from girls. I know that Kisowera School is proud that it graduates as many girls as boys, because we want all our children to learn so that all of them can succeed and make us all stronger. In most African countries, however, far fewer girls than boys enroll in school and graduate. One-half the primary school-age children are not in school, and that has led in many nations to a literacy rate among adults below 50 percent.

Africa wants to do better, Uganda is doing better, the United States wants to help. Through a new initiative, Education For Development and Democracy, we want to give \$120 million dollars over the next two years to innovative programs to improve education. We want to widen the circle of educational opportunity as is already happening here in Uganda. We want to make investments in primary education for those who will educate boys and girls, because that is critical to improving health, reducing poverty, raising the status of women, spurring economic growth.

We want to promote girls' education with leadership training and scholarships, nutrition training, and mentoring. We also want to support efforts to reach out-of-school youths. This is a huge problem in parts of Africa, where there are children who were soldiers and are now adrift and without hope.

Second, we want to help create community resource centers with schools that are equipped with computers linked to the Internet, along with books and typewriters and radios for more long distance learning. We want them to be staffed by Africans and American Peace Corps volunteers.

Third, we want more new partnerships among African schools and between American and African schools, so that we can learn from and teach each other through the Internet. We do this a lot now at home.

Let me give you an idea of how it might work. A student here in Mukono could make up the first line of a story and type it in to the Internet to a student in Accra, Ghana, who could then add a second line and they could go on together, back and forth, writing a story. A teacher in New York could give five math problems to students in Kampala, and they could send the answers back. One of the very first partnerships will link this school -- Kisowera -- with the Pinecrest Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. I want more of them.

Fourth, we want to support higher education with the development of business, health care, science, math and engineering courses. These are absolutely essential to give Africans the tools they need to

compete and win in the new global economy, and we want to help do that.

Finally, we want to build ties between associations and institutions within Africa and in America so that groups in your nations and ours concerned with trade and investment, consumer issues, conflict resolution, or human rights can connect with distant counterparts and learn together and work together. This will empower citizens on both continents.

This initiative will help more Africans, all right, to start school, stay in school, and remain lifelong learners. But Americans will learn a great deal from it as well.

We also want to support your efforts in health and nutrition. Uganda has suffered so much from AIDS, but President Museveni launched a strong education campaign with frank talk and he has made a huge difference, as have all of you who have worked to turn around the AIDS problem in Uganda.

We will continue to combat it with global research and health care and prevention efforts. But these efforts are also essential to combat malaria, an even greater killer of Africans. Nearly 3,000 children every day -- a million each year -- are lost to malaria. By weakening as well as killing people, malaria contributes to poverty and undermines economic growth. Ninety percent of all malaria cases arise on the continent of Africa, but with increasing globalization we are all at risk. We now fund in the United States half the research on malaria, but we want to do more.

This year, we've committed \$16 million more to help African nations fight infectious diseases, including malaria, with an additional million dollars to the West African Malaria Center in Mali. We also want to support good nutrition. There are troubling signs that without concerted efforts, Africa could face a major food and nutrition crisis in the coming years because of natural causes and social unrest. Children cannot learn if they are hungry. So we have proposed a food security initiative for Africa to ensure that more African families can eat good meals and more African farmers can make good incomes.

Over the next 10 years, we want to stay with you and work at this. In the next two years we propose to spend over \$60 million in Uganda, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique and Ethiopia to increase food production, enhance marketing, expand agricultural trade and investment.

I've learned a lot since I've been here about Ugandan bananas, Ugandan coffee. I will be an expert in all these matters when I go home.

I want you to understand again what I said at the beginning. We want to do these things in education, in health care and agriculture and nutrition because they will help you, because we want to see the light that is in these children's eyes forever, and in the eyes of all other children.

But make no mistake about it. The biggest mistake America ever made with Africa over the long run was neglect and lack of understanding that we share a common future on this planet of ours that is getting smaller and smaller and smaller. We do these things, yes, because we want to help the children. But we do it because we know it will help our children. For we must face the challenges and seize the opportunities of the 21st century together. The next century, in a new millennium, will be the brightest chapter in all of human history -- if, but only if, it is right for all of our children.

Thank you and God bless you.



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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)

For Immediate Release

March 24, 1998

FACT SHEET

Investing in the Future of Africa's Children

President Clinton announced a series of initiatives designed to underscore the new US-African partnerships, particularly the desire of African nations to invest in a better and healthier future for its children. Included in today's announcement are three new initiatives intended to improve educational standards and access to technology, ensure adequate food and agricultural production for proper nutritional balance, and fight deadly infectious diseases that claim the lives of too many African children.

PROMOTING BETTER EDUCATION

The Education for Development and Democracy Initiative seeks to boost African integration into the global community by improving the quality of, and technology for, education in Africa. The President's announcement calls for approximately \$120 million in FY'98 and '99 funding and is centered around three principal strategies: community resource centers, public-private partnerships, and educating and empowering girls. Key components include:

Primary and Secondary Education

- Pilot schools will be selected as community resource centers to provide educational materials and serve as bases to improve local teachers preparation and training for out-of-school youth. Centers will provide computers with access to the Internet, CD-ROM resources, better educational material, in-teacher training and desktop publishing capability. Peace Corps volunteers will provide staffing and continuity at the centers.
- School-to-school partnerships between the United States and Africa and among African schools will be promoted through

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access to computer technology and from exchanges. Education Initiative efforts will be coordinated and integrated with Leland and HDBE and other efforts in this area.

- Improving girls' education through leadership identification and scholarships, raising community awareness and support for educating girls, strengthening school nutrition and lunch programs and monitoring by older girls and women.

Higher Education

- U.S.-African linkages at the university-to-university level will be built through assistance with curriculum development aimed at training in labor-market relations, business, health, science, math, technology and engineering studies. In addition, there will be a strong focus on improving teacher training, linking universities and their local communities, appropriate skills training, and encouraging stronger community college resources.

Professional Training and Civil Education

- The education initiative will fund partnerships between U.S. and African government institutions and civil society organizations. The exchanges are designed to better promote understanding, cooperation and integration of public-private efforts through NGOs, independent media, rule of law programs, and health and science organizations. Exchanges will be supplemented by in-country training projects to enhance policy and operational skills and promote networking across the political and civil society spectrum.

ENSURING BETTER NUTRITION

A key part of the President's announcement today is ensuring that while we improve the educational standards of Africa's children we also ensure adequate and proper nourishment and provide assistance to enhance agricultural production.

Current food security trends project that by the year 2020, 25 percent of Africa's children will suffer from malnutrition, already the cause of over a third of deaths of children under the age of five in Africa.

The Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI) is designed to assist African nations to strengthen and protect agriculture and food security in a number of key areas, including:

- ensuring healthy and alternative crop production;
- better market efficiency and distribution of existing crops;
- increased trade and investment in agricultural industries;
- attacking crop diseases;
- and increasing access to modern agricultural technology systems to assist with increased crop production and distribution.

The pilot budget for the first two years of the initiative will be \$61 million, which compliments USAID's current investments in these efforts. Funds will be channeled to the appropriate government and private sector organizations.

PROMOTING STRONGER HEALTH CARE

The third element of the President's program of investing in the future of Africa's children is combating the infectious diseases that claim so many young lives.

- To help combat malaria, which accounts for 1.5 - 2.5 million deaths per year, the President announces an additional \$1 million grant to the National Institutes of Health in order to provide further assistance to the Multilateral Initiative on malaria (MIM). The grant will focus on continuing educational seminars and will support the Regional Malaria Lab in Mali to reinforce its position as a regional center of excellence in Africa. This effort will complement an ongoing FY'90 \$10 million Infectious Disease Initiative for Africa that focuses on surveillance, response, prevention, and building local resistance capacity for infectious diseases throughout the continent.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)

For Immediate Release

March 24, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH
VILLAGE BUSINESS OWNER

Foundation for International Community Assistance
Wanyange, Jinja District, Uganda

THE PRESIDENT: You know, one thing I did not say in my remarks I think I should point out here, just because of the press here, in explaining this to people -- all these people who get these loans, they don't have balance sheets, most of them. They don't have an asset and liability sheet for which they could get a normal commercial loan. What they have is proven skills and a good reputation for being responsible.

The repayment rate in this FINCA program and throughout all these programs across the world is 98 percent -- 98 percent of these loans are paid back on time. And that's why I say we do \$2 million -- I wish we were doing \$100 million. I mean, I can't think of anything else where we have invested money that has a 98 percent success rate. It's a stunning thing, just because of this fine woman and people like her all around the world. It's an amazing thing.

Good for you.

We want to see your baby. (The baby is named after the President.)

MRS. CLINTON: Will you bring your baby down?

MRS... MUSEVENI: How old is he?

MOTHER: Two days.

THE PRESIDENT: My boy, Bill. Oh, he's beautiful. Look at all this hair. I was completely bald until I was two.

Your fourth child? Thank you for doing this. Why did you name this child after me?

MOTHER: I was expecting two things this month, the baby and the visit of the President. And I got both.

THE PRESIDENT: Look how beautiful he is. He just woke up. The smartest person here.

Q Mr. Clinton, what else has impressed you today?

THE PRESIDENT: About this stop? Well, the income that -- these are people that start out borrowing \$50 in American money. They pay it back, they get another loan; they pay it back, they get another loan. It's like they're making all these markets -- or entrepreneurs -- you can turn a

country around doing this if you have enough. But it really proves that people should not be written off just because they happen to be born and grow up in a poor area.

It proves that they are people of intelligence and energy and character, everywhere in the world. All they need is a chance. And insofar as we give them a chance, we strengthen nations and we strengthen our future. And in our case, the American people are better off. It's a fabulous thing. And I got a little boy out of it.

He's beautiful. Thank you so much.

Q Mr President, we haven't yet had the opportunity to ask you about your decision to invoke executive privilege, sir. Why shouldn't the American people see that as an effort to hide something from them?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, that's a question that's being asked and answered back home by the people who are responsible to do that. I don't believe I should be discussing that here.

Q Could you at least tell us why you think the First Lady might be covered by that privilege? Why her conversation might fall under that?

THE PRESIDENT: All I know is -- I saw an article about it in the paper today. I haven't discussed it with the lawyers. I don't know. You should ask someone who does.

Q There is speculation, sir, you're glad to be out of Washington for a couple weeks. Is that the case?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm glad to be doing the business of the United States and the people. I've looked forward to this for years. And I think most Americans want me to do the job I was elected to do. And so I'm going to try to do what most people want me to do.

Q What was your reaction to the crowd yesterday? We saw -- the pictures were pretty dramatic.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought it was wonderful. I've never seen so many people at an event. But what I was concerned about, there were two people there who were just wedged between the crowd and the barrier, and I was afraid they would be hurt or perhaps even killed, if we didn't get room for them. And they got them out and it was fine. It was a wonderful day. I loved it. Q Have you talked to Boris Yeltsin, Mr. President? THE PRESIDENT: No.



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**THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)**

For Immediate Release

March 24, 1998

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT FINCA WOMEN'S VILLAGE
Jinja, Uganda**

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I will try to say this right: Kodeyo. Thank you. I must say it is a great honor for me to be around a group of women who say they are willing to give jobs to me. Thank you very much.

It is a great honor for me to be here with the President and Mrs. Museveni. My wife and I like these loan programs very much. And Florence, we thank you for the fine job you did being the leader of this program today. I want to thank Milli Mukyala and Robinah Balidawa, thank you very much for being an example to women, not only throughout Uganda and, indeed, Africa, but throughout the world. That United States is proud to support FINCA in these efforts. FINCA now has set up 3400 banking groups like the two of which you're a part, in Africa, in Latin America, in the former Soviet Union.

The United States, just in the last two years, has increased its support for such programs through our AID program; and now we are making over 2 million loans every year to people just like you -- over 2 million. What that means is that women in villages like this all across the world are going to be able to meet the needs of their children, as Milli so eloquently describes; are going to be able to build the economies of their villages; it will make their nations stronger, and they will make the world a better place.

So the song you sang today is a song for children everywhere. It's a song for women everywhere. It's a song for the future of the world everywhere. We will continue to support these programs as long as I am President.

I want to say a special way of appreciation to my wife, who introduced me to these programs now over 12 years ago. Twelve years ago she came to me and told me about what was happening in a far away country in Asia -- Bangladesh. And she said this could be done everywhere. And you have shown through your media and ours -- today you have shown the whole world -- what can be done in villages everywhere. So you have done a great service, not only to yourselves and your own children but for women just like you all across the globe. And we thank you very, very much.



*To comment on this service,
send feedback to the Web Development Team.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

Entebbe Airport
Entebbe, Uganda

11:05 A.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Just before I left the hotel this morning, I talked to the Governor of Arkansas and extended my personal condolences and sorrow about the terrible incident in Jonesboro yesterday. I attempted to call the mayor, who is an old friend of mine, but I haven't reached him yet.

I just want to say again how profoundly sad I am and how disturbed I am. I've been thinking about this for the last several hours. This is the third incident in the last few months involving young children and violence in schools, and I'm going to ask the Attorney General to find whatever experts there are in our country on this and try to analyze this terrible tragedy to see whether there are any common elements in this incident and the other two, and whether it indicates any further action on our part.

Today the people in my home state and a town I know very well are grieving. They're suffering losses. And we should focus on that. But I do think in the weeks to come we have to analyze these incidents and see whether or not we can learn anything that will tell us what we can do to prevent further ones.

Q Do you have any thoughts about how to stop this? I mean, if you've been thinking about it, anything come to mind, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to say too much until we have a chance to analyze them. I don't know enough about the facts

of this incident. The facts of this incident are just now coming out. I've read, obviously, all the latest wire reports I can get, and frankly I'm not sure I know enough about the other two to draw any conclusions.

I don't want the American people to jump to any conclusions, but when three horrible tragedies like this involving young people who take other people's lives and then in the process destroy their own, we have to see if there are some common elements. And we'll look and do our best to do the right thing.

Q Do you suspect that there are some common elements, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the circumstances certainly seem to have a lot in common. What we need to know is what's behind the circumstances. As I said, I think that the American people today should send their thoughts, their prayers, their hopes to the people in Jonesboro. But in the weeks ahead we need to look into this very closely and see what, if anything, we can find. And then if we do find some patterns, we ought to take whatever action seems appropriate.

Q Your trip to Rwanda, could you give us just a little advance word of what you hope to accomplish there, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Obviously, I hope that my trip there will help to avoid further killing along the ethnic lines, and bring the attention of the world to this in a way that will have an impact on ethnic conflicts in other parts of the world. And then I'm going to come back here to the regional meeting that President Museveni has agreed to host, and I hope we'll come out with a statement there that will allow us to make further progress.

Thank you.

END

11:08 A.M. (L)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT ENTEBBE SUMMIT FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel
Entebbe, Uganda

7:15 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: President Museveni, President Moi, Prime Minister Meles, President Bizimungu, President Mkapa, President Kabila, Secretary General Salim; to our distinguished guests, all. Let me, first of all, thank the representatives of all the governments who are here, and the leaders who have come to Entebbe to share a common vision of a brighter future for this region.

We seek to deepen the progress that has been made and to meet the tough challenges that remain. We came to Entebbe because we share a commitment to strengthen our cooperation, to build a partnership for the 21st century that will benefit all our people.

We understand, and the last statement I made at our meeting was that these goals will not be met in one meeting or one day or one year, but we have formed a solid foundation for progress in the future. Our challenge as we leave Entebbe is to bring to life the commitment in the remarkable document we have just signed. (Applause.)

What is in the document? First, we have agreed to deepen our efforts to promote democracy and respect for human rights, the precious soil in which peace and prosperity grow. When men and women alike are treated with dignity, when they have a say in decisions that affect their lives, societies are better equipped to seize the opportunities of the future.

We have emphasized the importance of freely elected, accountable governments; affirmed the vital role of civic organizations in building strong and vibrant societies; and pledged to uphold humanitarian principles, including the protection and care of refugees.

MORE

America knows from our own experience that there is no single blueprint for a successful democracy. We're still working in our country to create what our founders called a more perfect union. We've been at it for 222 years now. But we also know that while there is no single blueprint, freedom, nonetheless, is a universal aspiration. Human rights are not bestowed on the basis of wealth or race, of gender or ethnicity, of culture or region. They are the birthright of all men and women everywhere.

If we work together to strengthen democracy and respect human rights, we can help this continent reach its full potential in the 21st century -- its true greatness, which has too long been denied. We can deepen the ties among our peoples. We can be a force for good together, and all our nations can be proud.

Second, we have agreed to work together to build a new economic future, where the talents of Africa's people are unleashed, the doors of opportunity are opened to all, and countries move from the margins to the mainstream of the global economy. We committed to work on finding new strategies to hasten Africa's global integration. We pledged to speed the regional cooperation that is already underway, to encourage common standards for openness and anticorruption, to continue to be responsive to the burden of debt.

A key part of our effort is expanding the ties of trade and investment between our countries so that African development and Asian growth -- and American growth, excuse me -- reinforce one another. We want to reward each other for working together. Before I left for Africa I told the American people that it was in our interest to help Africa grow and blossom and reach its full potential. (Applause.) I believe that. (Applause.)

I want to thank the members of the United States House of Representatives who are on this trip with me for their leadership in the passage in the House of the African Growth and Opportunity Act. I am committed to the swift passage of that act in the United State Senate and to signing it when I return home. I am very pleased that our Overseas Private Investment Corporation will be targeting half a billion dollars for infrastructure investment in sub-Saharan Africa. (Applause.)

Third, we have agreed to work together to banish genocide from this region and this continent. Every African child has the right to grow up in safety and peace. We condemn the perpetrators of the continued atrocities in Rwanda, and pledge to work together to end the horrors of this region. That means reviving the U.N. Arms Flow Commission, acting on the recommendations of the OAU study on the Rwandan genocide and its aftermath; encouraging accelerated progress in bringing criminals against humanity to justice; denying safe havens or services to

MORE

extremist organizations; and developing durable justice systems that are credible, impartial, and effective. Our efforts come too late for yesterday's victims. They must be in time to prevent tomorrow's victims. (Applause.)

Here today - and this is very important -- we have pledged to find new ways to work together to solve conflicts before they explode into crises and to act to stop them more quickly when they do.

We have pursued our discussion in a spirit of candor and neutral respect, and I want to thank all the participants for being honest and open in our conversations. America shares a stake in Africa's success, as I said. If African nations become stronger, as they surely will, if they become more dynamic, as they clearly are, we can become even better partners in meeting our common challenges. Your stability, your security, your prosperity will add to our own. And our vitality can and must contribute to yours.

I've learned a lot here in Entebbe today, listening -- and will carry back to Washington, as I'm sure the rest of our delegation will. We've agreed to build on this summit with regular, high-level meetings. We will look for results of our efforts not only in statements like this one today, with very high visibility, but in quiet places far from the halls of government; in communities and households all across our countries, where ordinary men and women strive each day to build strong families, to find good jobs, to pass on better lives for their children. They are the reason we are here. And it is because of them that we all leave Entebbe determined to put our partnership into practice, to make our dreams and ideals real.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

7:22 P.M. (L)

COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED AT THE END OF

**ENTEBBE SUMMIT FOR PEACE
AND PROSPERITY**

25TH MARCH 1998

ENTEBBE, UGANDA.

ENTEBBE SUMMIT FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

Joint Declaration of Principles

The Entebbe Summit of Heads of State and Government

At the joint invitation of H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda and H.E. President William Jefferson Clinton of the United States of America, their excellencies Mr. Daniel T. arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Pasteur Bizimungu, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Laurent Desire Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, met on Wednesday 25 March, 1998 at Entebbe, Uganda.

The exchange of views between the African leaders and the President of the United States marks a new beginning, launching a process of defining and building a U.S.- Africa partnership for the 21st Century. The Heads of State and Government reaffirm the historical bonds between the people of America and Africa. We pledge to deepen these ties through a lasting partnership rooted in common values and recognition of our interdependence, and built upon mutual respect and the sovereign equality of nations. The Leaders commit themselves to honor and execute agreements mutually concluded by all the parties to rigorously pursue Africa's economic growth and transformation, and full integration into the global economy.

Putting Partnership into Practice:

The Heads of State and Government recognize that to effect this new, genuine and transparent partnership, there is a need to commit ourselves to the identification and acknowledgment of both our mutual and divergent interests, the pursuit of free and frank discussions, and a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

A Partnership Built on Principle and a Shared Vision:

The Heads of State and Government recognize that a lasting partnership must be built on the principles of shared ownership, joint responsibility, and full transparency.

The Heads of State and Government further acknowledge a shared vital interest in long-term meaningful engagement. We affirm that Africa and the United States hold a mutual interest: in fostering Africa's economic and political transformation and full integration into the global economy, and in promoting democratic participation and respect for human rights. We affirm that social, economic and political inclusion is the foundation for lasting peace and stability. The Leaders declare that African and American security interests alike will be advanced by a joint attack on the transnational problems of terrorism, disease, proliferation of weapons, drug trafficking and environmental degradation.

On Building a New Economic Future:

Recognizing that Africa's stability, and democracy's viability, are rooted in the alleviation of poverty and the achievement of sustainable economic development, the Heads of State and Government commit themselves to a series of measures designed to speed Africa's transformation and full integration into the global economy, and to expand mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities:

- The Leaders commit themselves to fostering an expanded African and international dialogue, aimed at defining strategies to facilitate Africa's global integration that are as flexible and creative as those applied to post-war Europe and Asia;
- The Heads of State and Government reaffirm the importance of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development and East African Cooperation initiatives to facilitate regional economic integration and create a larger regional market, and commit themselves to identifying ways and means to accelerate these and other efforts;
- Endorsing the conclusions of the World Bank Summit convened in Kampala in January 1998, the Leaders agree to target their own efforts in four critical areas, and to encourage the multilateral institutions to also fully support:
 - ⇒ the development of a sustained international dialogue, based on mutual respect, on how to ensure that mandated economic reform programs reflect the specific circumstances of individual countries;
 - ⇒ the expansion of external resource flows, directed, in particular, at human resource development, infrastructure, rural development and research;

⇒ increased investment in the physical infrastructure required to sustain regional trade and integration;

⇒ building African capacity to lead the economic reform process through transparent and accountable political and economic institutions.

- The United States affirms the priority it attaches to speedy implementation of President Clinton's Partnership for Economic Growth and the enactment of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, legislation that will permit broader market access for African goods;
- The Heads of State and Government affirm the African Growth and Opportunity Act as a major step forward in U.S.-African economic relations, but acknowledge that this effort to provide greater market access for African goods must be complemented by efforts to increase African capacity to diversify economies and produce exportable goods;
- The Heads of State and Government pledge to work together to explore ways and means of ensuring that this Act, and other measures including but not limited to initiatives of the multilateral financial institutions, reflect and build upon the diversity, in both circumstances and approach, of Africa's national economies;
- The Heads of State and Government also emphasize the critical need to further strengthen, in particular, agricultural production and processing, including through the transfer of technologies;
- The Heads of State and Government welcome the decision of the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), to target \$500 million for infrastructure investment in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- In the interest of further expanding U.S. private investment in the region and across Africa, the Heads of State and Government are committed to undertaking concrete measures aimed at promoting African investment opportunities, and to building African capacity to further enhance the economic policy environment;
- In recognition of the African desire for increased self-sufficiency and the dangers of aid dependency, the Heads of State and Government agree that an accelerated effort should be made to use foreign assistance as a tool for the enhancement of trade, investment and capital formation, as well as for sustainable economic development;

- The Heads of State and Government recognize the continuing obstacle that the debt burden poses to Africa's economic transformation, and reaffirm their collective determination to fully implement innovative approaches to the management and lessening of the debt burden;
- The Heads of State and Government commend ongoing African efforts, as well as those of Africa's partners, to increase transparency, fight corruption and support better business practices, and welcome regional and continental efforts to further these aims.

On Condemnation of Acts of Genocide

The Heads of State and Government recognize the accomplishment of the Government of Rwanda in halting the 1994 genocide, condemn all acts of genocide and pledge to undertake a concerted effort to prevent its resurgence. To this end:

- All Heads of State and Government condemn the continued atrocities of the ex-FAR, the Interahamwe and their allies, pledge to work together to prohibit future atrocities in the Great Lakes region, including those aided and abetted by external arms suppliers, call for the revitalization and expansion of the UN Arms Flow Commission, and are committed to publicize and duly consider its findings;
- African Heads of State and Government pledge to deny extremist networks the use of their territory, postal services, airports, financial institutions, passports, road networks and communications systems. The Summit calls upon all states to implement tight controls over these networks abroad;
- All Heads of State and Government pledge to support the efforts of the OAU Eminent Personalities Study of the Rwanda Genocide and the Surrounding Events, and to duly consider its findings and recommendations;
- The United States commits itself to working with regional partners and others to begin exploring, within one month's time, the creation of an international Coalition Against Genocide, the aims of which might include: fostering international coordination in support of regional efforts to enforce anti-genocide measures; providing a forum for high-level deliberations on long-term efforts to prevent genocide in the future; and ensuring international support for the findings of the OAU Study;

- The Heads of State and Government commend the Government of Rwanda for its efforts to render justice for the victims of the genocide and to prevent acts of revenge. We call upon the international community to redouble its efforts to work with the Government of Rwanda to achieve these goals;
- The Heads of State and Government recognize recent progress made by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, but express their concern about the slow pace with which the Tribunal's work has proceeded, urge the ICTR to do everything within its power to accelerate the processing of its cases, and call on all nations to cooperate fully and expeditiously with the Tribunal;
- The Heads of State and Government affirm that the restoration of regional peace and stability requires an end to the culture of impunity and the restoration of the rule of law, and pledge their best efforts to strengthening national systems of civilian and military justice. The United States commits itself through the Great Lakes Justice Initiative, to an expanded effort to help the public and private sectors in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo develop justice systems that are impartial, credible, and effective, and to support efforts to promote inclusion, coexistence, cooperation and security;

On Fostering Democratic Participation, Human Rights and Regional Stability:

The Heads of State and Government affirm that the destiny and security of Africa rest primarily in the hands of Africans themselves. The Leaders pledge to seek additional resources and, in consultation with the OAU and UN, to build upon ongoing efforts, both regionally and internationally, to strengthen and sustain regional security and African peacekeeping capacity. The Leaders condemn, and pledge continued cooperative efforts to resist, all forms of cross-border terrorism directed against civilians.

Recognizing that the stability of the region also depends on the sustainability of African democratization, the Heads of State and Government endorse the core principles of inclusion, the rule of law, respect for human rights, the equality of all men and women, and the right of citizens to regularly elect their leaders freely and to participate fully in the decision-making which affects them. Further:

- The Heads of State and Government pledge to pursue a dialogue on democratization that: accepts these core principles; recognizes that there is no fixed model for democratic institutions or transformation; explores alternative approaches to the democratic management of cultural diversity; and takes into account differences in historical experience;

- The Heads of State and Government recognize the central role of freely-elected governments in leading Africa's economic and political transformation, the need to ensure that those governments attain the capacity to lead effectively and transparently, and the need to foster a healthy and mutually-accountable relationship between elected governments and a vibrant and responsible civil society;
- The Heads of State and Government affirm the vital role national organizations of civil society can play in easing the transition from conflict and authoritarian rule to participatory democracy, and in contributing to the region's social, political and economic development;
- Recognizing the critical roles local and national institutions of government play in providing a foundation for democracy, the Heads of State and Government urge all concerned that increased emphasis be given to building the capacity of these institutions;
- The Heads of State and Government underscore a shared commitment to respect for human rights, as articulated in the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights;
- The Heads of State and Government urge the international community to take note of the lessons learned from the region's tragic past. We pledge to uphold humanitarian principles, including the right of civilians to assistance in situations of conflict, and the protection of refugees and non-combatants. We call on the international community and host countries to prevent any future delivery of humanitarian assistance to armed combatants; to work to insure that refugees are not subjected to political intimidation; and to work closely with regional actors, both governmental and non-governmental, to insure access by humanitarian providers to all populations in need;
- The Heads of State and Government applaud the commitment and effort made by the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, and by emerging sub-regional bodies, such as the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, to foster African-led approaches to conflict prevention, management and resolution and pledge to work towards building further international support for these efforts.

On Pursuing the Partnership into the Future:

The Heads of State and Government unanimously agree to explore mechanisms for regular consultations and encounters at the highest level between African and U.S. leaders. Noting the importance of mutual understanding between African and American citizens, we call for expanded cultural and educational exchanges.

The African leaders noted with appreciation President Clinton's historic visit to Africa and express the hope that his presence on the continent has opened a new chapter in Africa-U.S. relations. The Heads of State and Government recognize that the development of a lasting partnership, characterized by shared ownership and meaningful engagement, will require commitment, time and patience. The Leaders commit themselves to pursue this objective in the spirit of mutual respect, to deepen a frank and honest dialogue, to evaluate jointly progress made in the months ahead, and to secure a meaningful and lasting partnership for the 21st Century.

The President of the U.S.A. and the African Heads of State and Government express deep appreciation to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Government and the people of Uganda for the warm hospitality accorded to them during their visit to Uganda.

Done at Entebbe, Uganda on Wednesday 25th March, 1998.

Signed:

.....
WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

.....
YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.

.....
DANIEL T. arap MOI,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA.

.....
PASTEUR BIZIMUNGU,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA.

.....
BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.

.....
LAURENT DESIRE KABILA,
PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

.....
MELES ZENAWI,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF ETHIOPIA.

ENTEebbe. UGANDA

25 MARCH. 1998

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Kigali, Rwanda)

For Immediate Release

March 26, 1998

FACT SHEET

Countering Genocide and Promoting Human Rights

With its history of genocide, armed rebellions, protracted internal conflicts, and mass population displacement, the Great Lakes region has been the most crisis prone on the African continent. In Rwanda, for example, up to one million people were massacred in less than four months as a result of the genocide that swept through the country. The absence of justice -- both political and socio-economic -- has been a key contributing factor to the region's crises.

Without justice, the prospects for sustainable peace, economic development and inclusive governance are bleak. However, the Great Lakes region also possesses tremendous promise. New leaders and vibrant civil societies are committed to the search for pragmatic and collaborative solutions to the region's ills.

Today's announcement complements the United States' ongoing effort to support the Rwanda War Crimes Tribunal, including \$26.6 million in funding since 1994 and a projected assessment of \$15.9 million in 1998.

Today's announcements include:

- Through President Clinton's \$30 million Great Lakes Justice Initiative (GLJI), the United States will work together as a partner with both the people and the governments of the region to support judicial systems which are impartial, credible, effective and inclusive. This initiative will be pursued in conjunction with other U.S. efforts to address ongoing challenges in the region. Following a process of consultations with interested African governments and civil society organizations, this initiative will target the following sectors:

1. Strengthening judicial planning bodies, such as relevant Ministries of Justice and Interior;
2. Improving the functions of court systems, prosecutors, police and prison systems;
3. Technical and financial assistance for improving administrative and management information systems (personal, budgeting and procurement);
4. Workshops for high-ranking technically qualified national officials on strategic planning on specific problem areas (e.g. creation of civilian police forces, judicial budgets and administration, legal assistance, judicial selection and training, legal and institutional impediments to investment and economic development);
5. Support for police and judiciary for the development and implementation of training programs, personnel and resource inventories to identify needs, and some material and financial assistance for the provision of basic equipment;
6. Development of improved court administration systems through pilot projects and viable plans for their system-wide replication;
7. Assistance to bar associations, universities and commercial and professional organizations to develop support for reform, increase communication with governmental authorities, and formulate and promote laws and practices;
8. Human rights training for military personnel in support of the prosecution of abuses perpetrated by military personnel; and
9. Demobilization of irregular elements of standing armies and their reintegration into society and programs to demobilize child soldiers and provide them with treatment.

The U.S. will consult countries currently slated to participate -- Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi -- to further develop and target programs that will support this initiative.

- **Rebuilding Genocide Survivors Lives:** The United States will make the first contribution (\$2 million) to the newly established Genocide Survivors Fund to help survivors and

communities rebuild their lives through new homes, shelters, business, churches and schools. This will supplement our ongoing programs to support Rwanda's reconstruction and reintegration of returned refugees.

- **Institutional Support for African NGOs:** The First Lady announces in her speech today at the Human Rights Center at Makerere University in Kampala a \$10 million, five year program to build the capacity of indigenous African institutions to undertake activities to promote conflict prevention, mitigation and response. These resources are intended to strengthen the NGO community that forms the basis of any democratic society by funding organizations that focus on issues of reconciliation, human rights, democratic participation and freedom of the press.
- **Supporting Rehabilitation in Northern Uganda:** In an effort to support rehabilitation in Northern Uganda, the First Lady announces a \$2 million program over the next three years to provide jobs and economic opportunity to those affected by ongoing rebel activity in the North. The program will focus on rehabilitating roads, dams, schools and community clinics and helping the Ugandan people displaced by violence rebuild their lives and businesses. These U.S. resources will leverage resources from other donors, including a potential \$100 million investment from the World Bank in the reconstruction of Northern Uganda.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Capetown, South Africa)

For Immediate Release

March 26, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY
DURING VISIT TO VICTORIA MXENGE HOUSING PROJECT

Capetown, South Africa

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much. Applause.) I am so pleased to be back here. I cannot even believe with my own eyes all that you have done in the year since I have been here. Congratulations to all of you for all of the hard work. (Applause)

I'm delighted to be here with your mayor and so many distinguished officials. But I'm mostly glad to be here with the women and all of you who have helped to build these houses. I have been talking about what I saw ever since I returned to the United States. I have been telling my husband about all of the work that is being done in South Africa to build this country; And I particularly told him about what I had seen here in Capetown.

So when it came to be that he was able to come on this trip to Africa, of course he wanted to come to South Africa; and of course he wanted to come to Capetown; and of course he wanted to come with me to see what you have done. (Applause.)

Now, you may remember you gave me this pot last year. And you told me to go home and cook a meal in it or my husband. Now, I have to you that I live in a very big house with many people who cook for my husband. So they did not like the idea of my taking their work away. So I will save this pot to cook for my husband when he is not the President and longer. (Laughter and applause,)

But you know, I brought the pot back because it reminded me of what you have done here. There is a wonderful story about a traveler wh went from place to place with only an empty pot. And he would go into a village and he would get some water and he put a stone in the pot. And he would put the pot on the fire. And people would come by and they'd say, what is this crazy man doing? He is boiling a stone. And then after a while someone would say, but he has a very good pot, maybe we should add something to the stone. So someone would come and they would add things to this pot. And pretty soon what did they have? They had something that everybody in the Village could eat.

Well, that is what you have done here. You have taken your hard work, you have taken your motivation, your desire to have a house, and each of you has added something. We were just over helping put some of the blocks in the house. And now you have houses, you are building a community. I saw where the children are taken care of, where the store is.

So just like this empty pot, this was once empty land. But you have --each of you -- added something to this land so that now we all of these houses where these families can live. I hope that every one of you feels the kind of pride that I do in what you have accomplished. Nd as the Mayor said this is a real tribute to all of you.

Last year I asked you how many of you believed you would have a house. And everyone of you believed you would have a house. And every one of you raised you hands. This year I want to ask,

how many of you have a house? All of you. (Applause.) Nd way back over there.

Well, this has been a wonderful experience for me to see with my own eyes what you have built. But I am especially pleased that my husband could see with his eyes, as well. I wanted him to come, and it's the first thing that he's done since he came -- we arrive here very, very late. The Mayor was kind enough to meet us, it was about I guess 2:30 or 3:00 in the morning. But we wanted to come to see you, to tell you how grateful we are to have a chance to tell you in person how much you have accomplished.

So it gives me great pleasure to introduce my husband, to introduce someone who cares very deeply about what people can do fore themselves, and works very hard in our country to help people and wanted to see who the women were who gave him the hope of a good meal when he is no longer President. (Applause.)

So let me introduce my husband, Bill Clinton. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Madam Mayor, Patricia, thank you all for making us feel so welcome.

I really didn't have a choice about coming here because my wife said to me when she got home one year ago from South Africa, she said, you will not believe this housing project I visited. These women are building their own houses, they're saving their own money, they're moving out of shacks and shanty villages into nice neighborhoods with good houses and a good future for their children and they're helping themselves. And I want you to go and see it.

And perhaps you have this situation in your family, but when Hillary says she wants me to go and see something, that means; you are going to see this at the first moment. (Laughter.)

So we got in late last night and we got up this morning and we came out here. I thank Mrs. Mbeki back there for showing us her home. Thank you, ma'am, and congratulations to you on your nice home. (Applause.) And I thank the ladies who are here who let me visit their construction project. And I said almost 30 years ago I actually spent the whole summer building houses. And when I was out helping you I realized it's pretty hard work, and that's why I went into politics, so I wouldn't have to work so hard anymore. (Laughter.)

Let me also say, on a serious note, I believe what you are doing here -- building your homes, saving for them, taking a small amount of money and building a very nice house -- should be a model for people who don't have a lot of money all over Africa and all over the world. If you can do it here than in villages all over the world people can do the same thing.

And I came here today partly in the hope that through the coverage from --(gap in tape_ -- that all over the world people will see what you are doing in this neighborhood and say, I want my neighborhood to be like that, I want my children to live in good homes, I want them to have a good future, I want them to believe that they can do better with their lives. And we intend to support you.

Today, I'm pleased to announce that our United States AID program, which supports projects like this, will spend another \$3 million this year to try to help build more houses to make more success stories so we can see more people like Mrs. Mbeki and he family.

Thank you and God bless you all. Thank you. (Applause.)



**THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Cape Town, South Africa)**

For Immediate Release

March 26, 1998

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Chamber of the House of Assembly
Cape Town, South Africa

4:45 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Premier Molefe, for that fine introduction. Mr. President, Deputy President Mbeki, Madam Speaker, Mr. Chairman of the National Council of Provinces, Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honored to be the first American President ever to visit South Africa, and even more honored to stand before this Parliament to address a South Africa truly free and democratic at last. (Applause)

Joining my wife and me on this tour of Africa, and especially here, are many members of our Congress and distinguished members of my Cabinet and administration, men and women who supported the struggle for a free South Africa, people of all different backgrounds and beliefs.

Among them, however, are members of the Congressional Black Caucus and African American members of my government. It is especially important for them to be here because it was not so long ago in the long span of human history that their ancestors were uprooted from this continent and sold into slavery in the United States. But now they return to Africa as leaders of the United States. Today they sit alongside the leaders of the new South Africa, united in the powerful poetry of justice.

As I look out at all of you, I see our common promise. Two centuries ago the courage and imagination that created the United States and the principles that are enshrined in our Constitution inspired men and women without a voice across the world to believe that one day they too could have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Now the courage and the imagination that created the new South Africa and the principles that guide your constitution inspire all of us to be animated by the belief that one day humanity all the world over can at last be released from bonds of hatred and bigotry.

It is tempting for Americans of all backgrounds, I think, perhaps to see too many similarities in the stories of our two countries, because sometimes similarities which appear to be profound are in fact superficial. And they can obscure the unique and complex struggle that South Africa has made to shed the chains of its past for a brighter tomorrow.

Nonetheless, in important ways, our paths do converge --by a vision of real multi-racial democracy bound together by healing and hope, renewal and redemption. Therefore I came here to say simply this: Let us work with each other, let us learn from each other, to turn the hope we now share into a history that all of us can be proud of.

Mr. President, for millions upon millions of Americans, South Africa's story is embodied by your heroic sacrifice and your breathtaking walk "out of the darkness and into the glorious light." But you are always the first to say that the real heroes of South Africa's transformation are its people, who first walked away from the past and now move with determination, patience, and courage toward a new day and a new millennium.

We rejoice at what you have already accomplished. We seek to be your partners and your true friends in the work that lies ahead --overcoming the lingering legacy of apartheid, seizing the promise of your rich land and your gifted people.

From our own 220-year experience with democracy we know that real progress requires, in the memorable phrase of Max Weber, "the long and slow-boring of hard boards." We know that democracy is always a work still in the making, a march toward what our own founders called a more perfect union.

You have every reason to be hopeful. South Africa was reborn, after all, just four years ago. In the short time since, you've worked hard deepen your democracy, to spread prosperity, to educate all your people, and to strengthen the hand of justice. The promise before you is immense -- a people unshackled, free to give full express to their energy, intellects and creativity, a nation embraced by the world, whose success is important to all our futures.

America has a profound and pragmatic stake in your success -- an economic stake because we, like you, need strong partners to build prosperity; a strategic stake because of 21st century threats to our common security, from terrorism, from international crime and drug trafficking, from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, from the spread of deadly diseases and the degradation of our common environment. These perils do not stop at any nation's borders. And we have a moral stake, because in overcoming your past you offer a powerful example to people who are torn by their own divisions in all parts of this earth.

Simply put, American wants a strong South Africa; America needs a strong South Africa. And we are determined to work with you as you build a strong South Africa. (Applause.)

In the first four years of your freedom, it has been our privilege to support your transition with aid and assistance. Now, as the new South Africa emerges, we seek a genuine partnership based on mutual respect and mutual reward. Like all partners, we cannot agree on everything. Sometimes our interests and our views diverge, but that is true even in family partnerships.

Nonetheless, I am convinced, we agree on most things and on the important things because we share the same basic values: a commitment to democracy and to peace, a commitment to open markets a commitment to give all our people the tools they need to succeed in the modern world, a commitment to make elemental human rights the birth right of every human child (applause.)

Over the past four years, we put the building blocks of our partnership in place, starting with the Binational Commission, headed by Deputy President Mbeki and our Vice President Al Gore. This remarkable effort has given high-level energy to critical projects, from energy to education, from business development to science an technology, cutting through red tape, turning good words into concrete deeds. We are deeply indebted to you, Mr. Mbeki, for your outstanding leadership, and we thank you for it. (Applause)

The BNC brings to life what I believe you call "Masahkane," the act of building together. (Applause) As we look toward the future, we will seek to build together new partnership in trade and investment through incentives such as OPEC's new Africa Opportunity Fund, already supporting two projects here in South Africa in transportation and telecommunications.

We will seek to expand joint efforts to combat the grave threat of domestic and international crime through our new FBI and Customs and Immigration offices here in South Africa. We will seek to strengthen our cooperation around the world, for already South Africa's leadership and extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and creating an Africa nuclear-free zone have made all our children's futures more secure.

I also hope we can build together to meet the persistent problems and fulfill the remarkable promise of the African continent. Yes Africa remains the world's greatest development challenge, still plagued in places by poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, and unemployment. Yes, terrible conflicts continue to tear at the heart of the continent, as I saw yesterday in Rwanda. But from Cape Town to Kampala, from Dar-Es-Salem to Dakar, democracy is gaining strength, business is growing, peace is making progress. We are seeing what Deputy President Mbeki has called an African Renaissance. (Applause)

In coming to Africa my motive in part was to help the American people see the new Africa with new eyes, and to focus our own efforts on new policies suited to the new reality. It used to be when American policy makers thought of Africa at all, they would ask, what can we do for Africa, or whatever can we do about Africa? Those were the wrong questions. The right question today is, what can we do with Africa? (Applause)

Throughout this trip I've been talking about ideas we want to develop with our African partners to benefit all our people -- ideas to improve our children's education through training and technology, to ensure that none of our children are hungry or without good health care; to build impartial, credible and effective justice systems; to strengthen the foundation of civil society and deepen democracy; to build strong economics from the top down and from the grass roots up; to prevent conflict from erupting and to stop it quickly if it does.

Each of these efforts has a distinct mission, but all share a common approach -- to help the African people help themselves to become better equipped, not only to dream their own dreams, but at long last, to make those dreams come true. Yesterday in Entebbe we took an important step forward. There, with leaders from eastern and central Africa, we pledged to work together to build a future in which the doors of opportunity are open to all, and countries move from the margins to the mainstream of the global economy; to strengthen democracy and respect for human rights in all nations; to banish genocide from the region and this continent so that every African child can grow up in safety and peace.

As Africa grows strong, America grows stronger. Through prosperous consumers on this continent and new African products brought to our markets, through new partners to fight and find solutions to common problems -- from the spread of AIDS and malaria to the greenhouse grass that are changing our climate. And most of all, through the incalculable benefit of new ideas, new energy, new passion from the minds and hearts of the people charting their own future on this continent.

Yes, Africa still needs the world, but more that ever it is equally true that the world needs Africa. (Applause.)

Members of Parliament, ladies and gentleman, at the dawn of the 21st century we have a remarkable opportunity to leave behind this century's darkest moments while fulfilling its most brilliant possibilities -- not just in South Africa, nor just in America, but in all the world. I come to this conviction well aware of the obstacles that lie in the path. From Bosnia to the Middle East, from Northern Ireland to the Great Lakes region of Africa, we have seen the terrible price people pay when they insist on finding and killing and keeping down their neighbors.

For all the wonders of the modern world, we are still bedeviled by nations that our racial, ethnic, tribal, and religious differences are somehow more important than our common humanity; that we

can only lift ourselves up if we have someone to look down on.

But then I look around this hall. There is every conceivable difference -- on the surface -- among the Americans and the South African's in this great Hall of Freedom. Different race, different religions, different native tongues, but underneath, the same hopes, the same dreams, the same values. We all cherish family and faith, work and community, freedom and responsibility. We all want our children to grow up in a world where their talents are matched by their opportunities. And we all have come to believe that our countries will be stronger and our futures will be brighter as we let go of our hatreds and our fears, and as we realize that what we have in common really does matter far more than our differences.

The Preamble to your constitution says, "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, unites in our diversity." In the context of your own history and the experience of the world in this century, those simple words are a bold clarion call to the future, an affirmation of humanity at its best, an assurance that those who build can triumph over those who tear down, that, truly, the peacemakers are blessed, and they shall inherit the Earth.

Thanks you, and God bless the new South Africa. (Applause.)



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Cape Town, South Africa)

For Immediate Release

March 27, 1998

PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT CLINTON
AND PRESIDENT MANDELA

Garden of Tuynhius
Cape Town, South Africa

12:08 P.M. (L)

PRESIDENT MANDELA: Thank you. Please sit down.

President Clinton, a visit by a foreign head of state to a country is, broadly speaking, one of the most significant developments in entrenched strong political and economic relations between the countries concerned. During this last four years, we have received a record number of heads of states and heads of government. They have come from all continents and practically from every country. They have come from the industrial nations; they have come from the developing world. Some have advanced democratic institutions; in others, such institutions are just developing, are only just developing; in others, there are none at all.

We have received all of them, and we have welcomes those visitors because that they have taught us things which we have not known before. We have democratic countries, but where poverty of the masses of the people is rife. We have had countries where there are no popular institutions at all, but they are able to look after their people better than the so-called democratic countries.

I have visited one which is a creditor nation, which has got one of the highest standards of living in the world, which is tax-free, which has gone one of the best schemes of subsidy and housing, for medical services, and where education is free and compulsory. And yet, the people in that country have no votes, they have no parliament. And yet they are looked after better than in so called democratic countries. We insist that even in those countries that people must have votes. Even though they may enjoy all the things which the masses of the people in other countries don't enjoy, democratic institutions are still critical.

So we have received heads of states and heads of government from all those countries. But the visit our country by President Clinton is the high-water mark. And I hope that the response of our parliamentarians yesterday has indicated that very clear.

Our people have welcomes President Clinton with open arms. (Applause.) And it is correct that that should be so, because President Clinton, as well as the First Lady, Hillary, they have the correct instincts on the major international questions facing the world today. Whatever mistakes that they may have made -- and we have made many -- but there is one thing that you cannot be accused of -- of not having the right instincts. And for that reason, I hold him, and almost every South African, in high respect. (Applause.)

The fact that we have high respect for him does not mean that we have no differences. But I would like to declare that when we have differed on an issue, at the end of that, my respect for him is

enhanced because I fully accept his integrity and his bona fides, but such differences are unavoidable.

One of the first heads of state I invited to this country was Fidel Castro. I have received in this country ex-President Rafsanjani of Iraq. I have also invited the leader Qaddafi to this country. And I do that because our moral authority dictates that we should not abandon those who helped us in the darkest hour in the history of this country. Not only did they support us in rhetoric, they gave us the resources for us to conduct the struggle and the will. And those South Africans who have berated me for being loyal to our friends, literally, they can go and throw themselves into a pool. (Laughter and applause). I am not going to betray the trust of those who helped us.

The United State is acknowledged far and wide as the world leader, and it is correct, that should be so. And we have, today, a leader, as I have said, whose instincts are always correct. I would like to draw attention to a very important provision in the United Nation's Charter, that provision which enjoins, which calls upon all member states to try and settle their differences by peaceful methods. That is the correct position which has influenced our own approach towards problems.

We had a government which had slaughtered our people, massacred them like flies, and we had a black organization which we used for that purpose. It was very repugnant to think that we could sit down and talk with these people, but we had to subject our blood to our brains, and had to say without these enemies of ours, we can never bring about a peaceful transformation in this country. And that is what we did.

The reason why the world has opened its arms to South Africans is because we are able to sit down with our enemies and to say let us stop slaughtering one another -- let's talk peace. (Applause.) We were complying with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. And the United States as the leader of the world should set an example to all of us to help elimination tensions throughout the world. And one of the best ways of doing so is to call upon its enemies to say let's sit down and talk peace. I have no doubt that the role of the United States as the world leader will be tremendously enhanced.

I must also point out that we are far advanced in our relations with the United States as a result of the efforts of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Vice President Al Gore. That Biennial Commission has achieved, has had a high rate of performance far beyond our dreams. And today American has become the largest investor in our country. (Applause.) Trade between us has increased by 11 percent.

And we have the president of the ANC, who carefully pushed me out of this position -- (laughter) -- and took it over -- the president of the ANC and the Deputy President of this country is one of those who, more than anybody else in this country, is committed to the improvement of relations between South Africa and the United States. I hope that when he succeeds in pushing me to step down from the presidency, and the country will put him in that position so that he can be in a position further to improve relations between us. And I have no doubt that we have no better person than him to complete this job.

President Clinton, you are welcome. This is one of our proudest moments, to be able to welcome you. You helped us long before you became President and you have continued with that help now as the President of the greatest country in the world. Again, welcome. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you and all the people of South Africa for the wonderful welcome you have given to Hillary and me, and to our entire delegation. We have felt very much at home here.

As I have said yesterday in my address to the Parliament, I was very honored to be the first

American President to visit South Africa on a mission to Africa to establish a new partnership between the United States and the nations of Africa, and to show the people of America the new Africa that is emerging -- an Africa where the number of democratic governments has quadrupled since 1990; where economies are beginning to grow; where deep-seated problems, to be sure, continue to exist, but where hope for the future is stronger than it has been in a generation.

It is in our profound interest to support the positive changes in Africa's life. Nowhere is this more evident than in the miracle you have wrought here in South Africa.

The partnership between our nations is only four years old, but already we are laying the foundation for a greater future. And I think everyone knows that the most important reason for our success is President Mandela. (Applause.)

His emergence from his many years on Robben Island is one of the true heroic stories of the 20th century. And more importantly, he emerged not in anger, but in hope, passion, determination to put things right in a spirit of reconciliation and harmony. Not only here, but all over the world, people, especially young people, have been moved by the power of his example.

Yesterday Mr. Mandela said that the only thing that disappointed him about our trip was that Hillary and I did not bring our daughter. (Laughter.) Last night our daughter called us and said the only reason she was really sorry not to have made her second trip to Africa was that she didn't get to see President Mandela.

I think that the impact he has had on the children of the world who see that fundamental goodness and courage and largeness of spirit can prevail over power lust, division, and obsessive small news in politics, is a lesson that everybody can learn every day from. And we thank you, Mr. President, for that. (Applause.)

Today we talked about how the United State and South Africa can move into the future together. We have reaffirmed our commitment to increasing our mutual trade and investment, to bringing the advantages of the global economy to all our people. South Africa is already our largest trading partner in Africa, and, as the President said, America is the largest foreign investor in South Africa. And we want to do more.

The presence here of our Commerce Secretary and leaders from our business community underscores, Mr. President, how important these ties are to us, and our determination to do better. Our Overseas Private Investment Corporation is creating there new investment funds for Africa which will total more than three-quarters of a billion dollars. The first of these, the Africa Opportunity Fund, is already supporting transportation and telecommunication projects here in South Africa. The largest of the funds, worth \$500 million, will help to build the road, the bridges, the communication networks Africa needs to fulfill its economic potential.

Increasing trade does not mean ending aid. I am proud that we have provided almost \$1 billion in assistance to South Africa since 1991. I am committed to working with Congress to return our aid for all of Africa to its historic high levels. We will target our assistance to investing in the future of the African people. If people lack the fundamentals of a decent life, like education or shelter, they won't be able to seize opportunity.

I announced in Uganada a new \$120-million initiative to train teachers, increase exchanges, bring technology into classrooms throughout Africa. We're also working to help provide better housing for those who have never had it. Yesterday Hillary, with me in town, went back a year later to visit the Victoria Mxenge housing project in Guguletu, where women are building their own homes for the first time. I'm proud that through our aid projects and our Binational Commission with Mr. Mbeki and Vice President Gore we are providing seed money and technical assistance for this

effort. And I want to do more of that throughout this country and throughout the continent.

President Mandela was also kind enough to speak with me at some great length about other nations in Africa and our common goals for Africa in the future. We are determined to help countries as they work to strengthen their democracies. We agree human rights are the universal birthright of all people. I also had a great chance to talk to President Mandela about the progress we made at the regional summit in Entebbe. And he had read the communique we put out, and I think that we both agree it was a remarkable document. And if we can make it real, it will change things in a profound way in all the countries that signed off on the statement.

We're also working on security issues, and let me just mention a couple. We are committed to preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, to strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention, because we both believe disease must never be used as a weapon of war. We are both at the forefront of the effort to eliminate the scourge of land mines. And now we are joining together to speed this work.

As I said yesterday, and I'd like to emphasize again, I am very pleased that our Department of Defense has decided to purchase new South African de-mining vehicles, called the Cubbies. The vehicles will help us to remove mines more quickly, more safely, and more effectively. And I might say, that's been a terrible problem the world over. Even in Bosnia where there are so many people, we're not taking enough mines out of the land every week. And the new South Africa technology will help us immensely.

Mr. President, for centuries the winds that blow around the Cape of Good Hope have been known for strength and danger. Today the winds blowing through Cape Town and South Africa, and indeed much of this continent, are winds of change and good fortune. I thank you for being so much the cause of the good that is occurring not only in your own country, but throughout this continent.

I am deeply pleased that we're committed to harnessing the winds of change together. And as we meet in your nation, which has seen such remarkable hope arise from the ashes of terrible tragedy, let me again thank you. And let me ask your indulgences as I close just to make a few personal remarks about the terrible tragedy we had in the United States, in my home state, where four children and a school teacher were killed and many others were wounded in a horrible shooting incident.

First of all, I have called the Governor, the Mayor, and last night I had quite a long conversation with the school principal, to tell them that the thoughts and prayers of people not only in our country, but indeed throughout the world we're with them. I hope, as I have said before, that all of us, including the federal authorities and the members of the press corps will give the people in Jonesboro the chance to grieve and bury those who have died.

And then after a decent period, after I return home, the Attorney General, I, and other have got to compare this incident with the other two that have occurred in the last few months in America to try to determine what they have in common and whether there are other things that we should do to prevent this kind of thing from happening. There is nothing more tragic, for whatever reason, than a child robbed of the opportunity to grow up.

Thank you, and thank you again, Mr. President, for everything (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, you expressed regret the other day that the United States supported authoritarian regimes in Africa during the Cold War. Today, we buy about 50 percent of the oil from Nigeria, propping up a regime the United States says is one of the most oppressive in Africa. -- what will the United States do --

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, first of all, let me restate what I said because I think it's worth saying again. I said that I did not believe the United States had ever been as good a partner to the African nations and the African people as we could have been, and that during the Cold War, when we and the Soviets were worried about the standoff that we had between us, we tended to evaluate governments in Africa and to pick and chose among them and to give aid to them based far more on how they stood in the fight of the Cold War than how they stood toward the welfare of their people. I stand by that. And I think now we're free to take a different course.

President Mandela and I actually talked at some length about this today, and I, frankly, asked for his advice. And Nigeria is the largest country in Africa in terms of population. It does have vast oil resources. It has a large army. It is capable of making a significant contribution to Regional security, as we have seen in the last several months. My policy is to do all that we can to persuade General Abacha to move toward general democracy and respect for human rights--release of the political prisoners; the holding of elections. If he stands for election, we hope he will stand as a civilian.

There are many military leaders who have taken over chaotic situations in African countries, but have moved toward democracy. And that can happen in Nigeria; that is, purely and countries, but have moved toward democracy. And that can happen in

Q President Clinton, I wonder was the Dow Chemical dispute discussed anywhere, and if so, has there been a resolution of the problem that affects South Africa in particular?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: We only discussed it very briefly. You know what American law is. It was passed by our Congress by almost 90 percent in both Houses, after two American planes and American citizens were illegally shot down in International waters by the Cuban Air Force, and basically says American companies can't do business there.

We are--the Pope's recent visit to Cuba gave us the hope that we might do more to help the welfare of the Cuban people and to promote alternative institutions like, the Church in Cuba, that would move the country toward freedom. And I hope that will happen. But the law is what it is.

Q On regret again, sir, why are you revisiting those who seek a formal apology from the United States for America's own shameful behavior?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, let me say, first of all, there are two different issues here on the slavery issue. Most of the members of the African community with whom I talk at home advise me to keep our race initiative focused on the future. (Applause.)

I don't think anybody believes that there is a living American--I don't think that anyone believes that any living American today would defend, feel proud of, or in any way stand up for the years where we had slavery or the awful legacy which it left in its wake. But we have moved through now in the last 130, almost last 140 years, the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments, a spate of civil rights legislation. We're now focused on what still needs to be done, and it's considerable. So at home we're looking to the future--to closing the opportunity gap, to dealing with the discrimination that still exists, trying to lift up those communities that have done better than others, as we become not primarily just a divided society between blacks and whites, but increasingly multi cultural, not only with our large Hispanic and Native American populations, but with people from all over the world.

Now, in addition to that, what I tried to do the other day in Uganda is to recognize that the role of Americans in buying slaves, which were taken out of Africa by European slave traders, had a destructive impact in Africa, as well as for the people who were enslaved and brought to America. And I think that was an appropriate thing to do. I don't think anybody would defend what we did in terms of its destructive impact in Africa. No American President has ever been here before, had a chance to say that.

And I think we want more and more African leaders to do what President Museveni did the other day when we were in Entebbe, and he said, I am not one of those leaders who blames everybody else for our problems. I think we've got--you know, you've got to quit going back to the colonial era, we've got to look to the future.

If you want to see more Africa leaders do that, which I do, than it seems to me that we have to come to terms with our past. And stating the facts, it seems to me, is helpful. I think we are going to be a good partner with people who are talking responsibility for their own future, we can't be blind to the truths of the past.

That's what--I think Mr. Mandela has done a remarkable job of balancing those two things here in South Africa. That's why I made the statement I did in Uganda, and I'm glad I did it. (Applause.)

Q President Clinton, I wonder whether you could tell us whether debt relief for Africa has been a topic in your discussions with President Mandela, and whether you will be taking South Africa's views on the subject back into the G-7 and into other international arenas to argue for such debt relief.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, the answer to that proposal in the sense that--if it's properly administered by the international authorities--for this reason. We supported the idea that people should be eligible for debt relief--more debt relief--if they were moving toward economic reform, but not saying that everybody had to reach the same point, because people start from--they start from different places, different countries do--different per capita incomes, different economic systems, different real possibilities.

So I think that the framework is there. Now, what I pledged to do after talking to all the people with whom I have met--President Mandela and the other leaders that I saw on the way down here--is to take a look at how this thing is going to work in fact, and see what I could do to make sure that we give as much aid as we possibly can under this proposal. But I do think it is legitimate to say--if you want debt relief to unleash the economic potential country so you take the burden off of it, then when it's all said and done there has to be--two policies that have to exist. Number one, you've got to have a set of policies that will produce better results in the future than you had in the past, in any country. Number two, if we did that, other people would be reluctant to loan money in the future because they would think they would never get any of their money back.

So I think the trick is to get enough debt relief to countries to get the debt burden down so they can grow and they're not crushed and kept from making any progress, but to do it in a way so that the debt relief produces long term prosperity. And that's my goal. And, yes, we're going to talk about it at the G-8 meeting in Great Britain. And I will stay on top of this to make sure that what we're trying to get done is actually accomplished. Everybody talked to me about it.

Q Mr. President, during this trip you've spoken about genocidal violence in Africa, but the sort of random killings you referred to in the Jonesboro killings has terrified people in the United States with alarming frequency. How do you explain that? What can you say now and what can you do now as America's leader to root out such violence from the culture?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, we worked on it very hard for five years, and the crime rates have gone down for five years--the violent crime rate has gone down for five years quite dramatically in many cities.

And I saw an analysis, actually, just before I left home in the documents that I read every Sunday--I saw an analysis of the declining crime rate which essentially said that, obviously, the improving American economy contributed to the crime rate going down because more people had jobs--and particularly with regard to property crimes it was more attractive to work than to steal--but the

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other reason was that policing and law enforcement and prevention is now better than it was five years ago. And crime is a problem that many societies, especially many more urbanized societies have.

And all I can tell you is that the violent crime rate is going down in our country--it's still way too high. What I'm concerned about in the Jonesboro case or in the Paducah case or in the Mississippi issue is whether we are doing enough to deal with the question of violence by juveniles and is there something else we can do to get it down even more.

Ask President Mandela a question. I'm tired. (Laughter.) PRESIDENT MANDELA: No personal questions. (Laughter.)

Q Not today, Mr. President. Mr. President, have you raised with President Clinton the question of the United States--Africa growth and opportunity--and the large number of conditionality clauses in that, and pointed out to him that this would appear to be in conflict with the United States? commitment to free trade? PRESIDENT MANDELA: Well, this matter has been fully discussed between President Clinton and our Deputy President Thabo Mbeki. And I faithfully endorse the point of view that was placed before the President by the Deputy President. These matters are the subject of discussions and they are very sensitive matters. And I appreciate the curiosity of the media, but it is sometimes merely to say that this is a matter over which we have serious reservations, this legislation. To us, it is not acceptable. But nevertheless, we accept each other's integrity and are discussing the matter in that spirit. Yes, we are taking that up.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: If I could say one thing about it though. If you all actually read this bill, I think you will find two things. First, and the most important thing is, if the bill becomes law, it will increase the access of all African nations to the American market, without conditionality. The bill opens up more of the American market to more African trade. The bill then says, for countries that make greater strides toward democracy, human rights and economic reform, it seemed to me to strike the right kind of balance.

I, myself, would not have supported it if it had gone in reverse, if it had imposed new burdens on some countries while giving new benefits to theirs.

Q --genocide in Rwanda, and you said the United States should have acted sooner to stop the killing. Do you think American racism, or what you have described as American apathy toward Africa played a role in its inaction? How have you grappled personally with that experience two days ago? And have you considered any specific policy changes, given that this isn't the first time this century that America has been slow to act, that would compel a faster American response in the future, besides early-warning systems?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Let me say, first of all, I do not believe that there was any--I don't believe there was any racial element in our slow response. I think that--keep in mind, I don't believe anybody on the outside was prepared for somewhere between 800,000 and a million people to die in 90 days. And I look how long it took the United States and Europe through NATO and then through the UN to put together machinery to go in and deal with the Bosnians--I don't

So I would just say to you, I think that--the point I was trying to make is I do believe that generally America has been--and the whole American policy apparatus has been less responsive and less involved in Africa than was warranted. I think that's a general problem.

But I think in the case of Rwanda, what I believe we have got to do is establish a system, hopefully through the United Nations, which gives us an early-warning system, that gives us the means to go in and try to stop these things from happening before they start, and then if it looks like a lot of people are going to die in a hurry, that kicks in motion some sort of preventative mechanism before

hundreds of thousands of people die.

I mean, if you look at the shear--the military challenge presented by those who were engaging in the genocide, most of it was done with very elemental weapons. If there had been some sort of multinational response available, some sort of multinational force available, to go in pretty quickly, most of those lives probably could have been saved. And we're going to have to work this out through the U.N. and then figure out how to staff it and how to run and whether it should be permanent or something you can call up in a hurry, how such people would be trained, what should be done. But my own view is, if we think it would be better if the U.N. has a means to deal with it in a hurry. And I would be prepared to support the development of such a mechanism.

Q That brings up the subject of the African Crisis Response Team, who is responsible, and I wondered how your discussions, both of you, went on that.

PRESIDENT MANDELA: We had a long program of very important matters to discuss and, unfortunately, we did not discuss this one. Our attitude toward this question is very clear. We support the initiative very fully. All that South Africa is saying is that a force which is intended to deal with problems in Africa must not be commanded by someone outside this continent. I certainly would never put my troops under somebody outside this continent. I certainly would never put my troops under somebody who does not belong to Africa. That is the only reservation I've had. Otherwise, I fully accept the idea. It's a measure of the interest which the United States takes in the problems of Africa, and the only difference is this one about the command of that force.

THE PRESS: Thank you.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Capetown, South Africa)

For Immediate Release

March 27, 1998

Interview of the President
By BET

Cape Grace Hotel
Capetown, South Africa

Q Mr. President, nice to see you. Thanks for talking to us. Let me start by asking you how you're holding up. I'm having -- it's my first time traveling in the White House press pool; I'm tired of trying to keep up with you. You must be tired.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I have a couple periods during the day still where I get a little tired or jet-lagged. We've been traveling at night a lot. But the trip is so exciting it kind of keeps the adrenalin flowing.

Q Let me ask you if I can, Mr. President, to share your impressions of Africa. You at this point have now visited three African countries, three quite diverse African countries. I'm wondering if you share your impressions, is Africa what you expected it to be upon your arrival?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it's what I expected it to be, but it's even more interesting, more fascinating than I thought it would be. It's a place that's just brimming with energy, and I think, basic goodwill on the part of the citizens of the country that I met. I think it's a place of great opportunity for the United States. I think it's a place we should be far more concerned about than we have been in the past, and a place that can be a good partner for us in dealing with the challenges of this new century we're about to enter.

Q And to move if I can from talking about the continent to the content of some of what you've had to say -- and I'm wondering specifically, Mr. President, how you think some of your remarks are going to play back home, particularly to those outside of the African American community. You've made some rather provocative statements; many African Americans have been pleased by those remarks. You said in Ghana that we all came out of Africa; folks were surprised to hear you say that to hear you say that. In Uganda, you said that everyone -- that European Americans, rather, had benefited from the fruits of the slave trade and that we were wrong in that as well. In Rwanda, you said we didn't move fast enough to deal with the genocide happening here. Some provocative statements, again, pleasing the African American community in large, I think, but how do you think those provocative statements are going to play outside the black community?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would hope that they would play well, at least I hope that they would prompt all my fellow Americans to think. What I said about us all coming out of Africa is, as far as we all know, absolutely accurate. That is, the oldest known species of humanity from all the archeological and anthropological studies are people who were in Africa. We just -- I just read an article about two people waling upright where they found footprints that are 2 million years old right near where we're doing this interview. So that's just a simple fact.

When I talked about the slave trade, I meant that, when I was in Uganda. The Europeans basically

organized the slave trade. They yanked Africans out of their lives and turned them into slaves. But Americans bought them, and therefore, we were part of the slave trade. Quite apart from the injury to the slaves that were in America, what we did to Africa was wrong. And I thought it was important to acknowledge that, that is wasn't just -- that Americans weren't just simply passive in that.

And finally, I think we all recognize that the world was not particularly well organized for the breathtaking speed of the genocide in Rwanda. Take it out of Africa -- if you look at what happened in Bosnia, where many, many people were killed and millions were dislocated, it took the international community more than two years to get organized enough for the U.N. to support a NATO action that NATO took, and then for NATO to come in with our allies -- Russia and the others, many other countries, two dozen other countries -- to stop the killing in Bosnia and effect a peace settlement.

In Rwanda, where you had a million people killed in 90 days, it is simply a fact that the United States, Europe, Japan and the Whole United Nations, the whole world community -- we were not organized for or prepared for the consequences.

I'm proud of what the United States did when we finally got to Rwanda. We saved hundreds of thousands of people's lives who were refugees -- children who might have died from dehydration and disease, for example. But I think this is the -- what happened in Rwanda should be a clear message to not just Americans, but to the World Community that these are things that we can stop from happening, and keep countries on a more positive course if we're well organized.

And it was particularly tragic in Rwanda because Rwanda is not a country that was created by European colonial map-makers. It was a coherent entity long before colonialism in Africa. And Hutus and the Tutsis lived together literally for centuries, speaking the same language, having the same religious practices, dividing their society on lines that were quite different from tribal lines. So it was a world-class tragedy.

Q Let me ask you whether or not these, as I termed them earlier, provocative comments that you made were planned. I talked to a lot of folks in the White House pool and no one will tell me that they had any idea that you were going to make the kinds of statements you've been making. I'm wondering whether or not, then, these statements were planned, or whether you got caught up in the moment where the emotion is overtaking you -- were they planned remarks?

THE PRESIDENT: One was planned, and two were remarks that I thought I ought to say to try to get the American people to identify more closely with Africa, and then to look to the future -- to a common future.

We clearly planned to acknowledge the deficiencies of the United States and the world community in dealing with the Rwanda genocide. The Secretary of State had already been here and done the same thing, and I thought it was important that I do it as well, to focus the attention of the world on what we have to do to keep things like this from happening in the future -- not just in Africa, but everywhere.

The comment about our involvement in the slave trade and what it did to Africa, as well as what it did to African Americans who became slaves, was a comment that I decided to make based on my feeling about the situation and my reading of what would be appropriate.

The comment about how we all came out of Africa was -- I think is just, to the best of our knowledge, is simply an anthropological fact and that Americans ought to know that. I don't think -- I got interested in this because Hillary spent a lot of time over the last two years studying the origins of humankind, and I learned a lot through her extensive reading and study. And I think that it's one

more way to make all Americans identify with Africa and with the common humanity we share with people across the globe.

Q I know you're leaving in just a moment to go speak to Parliament here in Cape Town, South Africa, so let me squeeze out a couple quick questions and I'll let you go. I'm wondering whether or not you think this trip is going to dispel negative stereotypes and myths about Africa. You've said repeatedly you want to put a new face on Africa for Americans.

My sense is that a lot of what's happening here, certainly much of what's happening here, in my own judgement is not being portrayed accurately by the American media, some things being taken out of context. I'm think now specifically of the incident in Ghana when the crowd lunged first. I know you were portrayed by the American media as accurately as it should have been. I'm wondering whether or not you think that the trip ultimately will dispel the myths about Africa that you're concerned about, or do you think that what you are trying to do, your efforts are in some way being overshadowed by some press people who insist on raising questions on other matters that have nothing to do with why you are here in Africa.

PRESIDENT: Oh, no, Well I think that the trip is getting, I think, basically constructive, positive and accurate coverage back home, as nearly as I can tell. Now, in Ghana, where we had a half-million people -- and more if you count the people who were right outside the square there -- there was a little metal fence dividing me from the people. And when I was shaking hands, the enthusiasm of the crowd was such -- and this has happened to me in America, not just in Ghana but it's the biggest crowd I've ever spoken with --- there were two women there who were -- and it was over 100 degrees. Keep in mind it was very hot and they had been out there a long time, and they couldn't breathe, they were literally being crushed against the fence. So what I was worried about was that just the crowd, the enthusiasm and the happiness, the ardor of the crowd would inadvertently cost those women their lives. And I was just trying to help them. But it was a wonderful, wonderful event.

I think basically this trip will end a lot of the stereotypes that the people have. I think people tend to think that -- who don't know much about Africa -- that all they ever read is when there are troubled tribal societies and they're fighting with each other, or there's one more military coup or one more failed democracy. And half the countries in sub-Saharan Africa have elected leaders of their own choosing. They're more and more interested in market economies. They're struggling to provide basic education and other service like health. And they're interested in being a part of the world of the 21st century. And the people are so energetic, and they're intelligent people who are looking to the future.

And what I want Americans to do is to imagine what we can do with Africa in the future as partners. I believe that this trip will contribute to that, and I certainly hope it will.

Q Let me ask you, finally, Mr. President -- I mentioned earlier that you are headed to speak to Parliament as soon as we leave here -- as soon as you leave here. I am told that you may, may, inn fact, speak to the issue of apartheid and America's complicity in that certainly for many, many years. How would you respond to particularly African Americans back home who ask of their President, respectfully, how he could address apartheid in Africa and not address America's vision of apartheid, the legacy of slavery and segregation, back at home.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would say that we are addressing the legacy of slavery back home, that this race -- we addressed apartheid with the Civil War, with the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments; later with all the civil rights legislation. I think it's plan that there is a deep determination in America to overcome the mistakes of our past and the injustice we did.

But the race initiative that I set up on America is focused on the future. I think the same thing

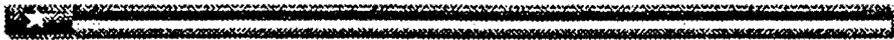
should be done here. While it is true that the American government for many years, in effect, was complicit in the apartheid here by the sanctions, the legislation that swept cities and states across the country that the Congress eventually put forward at the national level.

So I think Mr. Mandela would say that American of all racial and ethnic backgrounds had a lot to do with creating the international climate of opposition to apartheid in South Africa.

But what we need to be doing today in South Africa and in the United States is dealing with the legacy of apartheid here and slavery and racial discrimination there, insofar as it still needs to be stamped out, but our focus ought to be on the future. The only way we can liberate people from the problems of the past is to focus on tomorrow. And that's what I'm going to do in my speech today and what I'm trying to do with the race initiative back home.

Q Mr. President, thank you for your time. It's nice to see you.

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you. It's really good to see you.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Capetown, South Africa)

For Immediate Release

March 27, 1998

REMARKS BY
MR. KATHRADA, PRESIDENT CLINTON, AND PRESIDENT MANDELA
DURING VISIT TO ROBBEN ISLAND

MR. KATHRADA: Mr. President, your visit here highlights once again the universal symbolism of Robben Island. You are heading an increasing list of distinguished people from your country and from all over the world. If I may just mention some of the names from your country who have visited us --honored us with their visits: of course, the First Lady, about this time last year, and your very, very beautiful and talented daughter, Chelsea, who I will never forget, because she had read the autobiography so intelligently. And she remembered so much of it, and asked so many intelligent questions, I can never forget her.

Yesterday, Mr. President, you addressed the Parliament of the Democratic South Africa, and today you have come to see what preceded April '94, when democracy came into our country. Just a very brief background --a very brief background. The type of discrimination, the callousness of apartheid --apartheid applied in gradation. The first and best off were the whites. The second on the ladder were coloreds and Indians like myself. And at the bottom of the ladder were Africans, like the President.

When we arrived here in June of 1964, it was bitterly cold, raining, windy. And when we had to change into prison clothes, the President, Mr. Mbeki, Mr. Sisulu, who are all my seniors in age, and then were seven of us, they were all given short trousers to wear, according to the law. They were given no socks. I was given long trousers; I was given socks. The rationale behind the short trousers is that in South Africa in those years, and unfortunately it still persist to some extent, the rationale is all Africans, regardless of age, are boys or girls. And boys wear short trousers, so the President and others with him had to wear short trousers.

The same type of discrimination in the food. Whereas I would get two spoons of sugar, they would get one spoon of sugar. They would not get bread. I would get bread.

So from the start it was a struggle against apartheid, and "struggle" meant hunger strikes and so forth. The first victory was after a few years when we managed to equalize the clothing, and later, after many years, we equalized the food.

We were sentenced to hard labor. We had to work with pick and shovels for eight hours a day, work we had never done before. So the first month, it was bleeding hands and blisters, but that was the challenge, because that is what the other side had identified to crush our spirits. And it was a challenge that we dare not lose, and we did not lose. There was the brutality of the warden. I just want to cite one example of the mentality of the people who are supposed to look after us. We, of course, on this side of the prison were isolated from the political prisoners, completely isolated.

Now, the other prisoners on the other side, that is, the political prisoners, were working at the stone quarry and there was an altercation between a prisoner, Mr. Malumbo (phonetic), and a warden. They then asked the prisoner to dig a hole, and buried him up to here. It was a sweltering day, and

when the prisoner complained of thirst, they urinated on him. That was the type of mentality of these people.

You have, no doubt, come across the President's autobiography, "The Long Walk to Freedom", so I should just mention this wall. Where this wall is used to be the President's garden. And after the manuscript was written, in its completed form was given over to experts who transcribed it into small handwriting and smuggled it out of the country, we buried the manuscript here, the original.

And when they started building this wall through our garden, that manuscript was discovered and we were then punished, three of us. The President has brought me into a lot of trouble, even in jail --(laughter)--so we were punished and we were deprived of our studies for four years at that time.

PRESIDENT MANDELA: I must say that they were imprudent, because the method was, I would write and when I finished a chapter, I gave it to him. (Inaudible.) So then they would make corrections, and then I would rewrite the chapter. That's how we came into trouble, because (inaudible) was identified in that manuscript.

MR. KATHRADA: So 75 percent of more of what you read today in "The Long Walk of Freedom" was written here in prison by the President.

Robben Island was a test. In addition to the philosophy of our liberation organizations, we were taught that we were fighting against a system, not against a people. On Robben Island, on the one hand we had the callousness, the brutality, the sadism. All the authorities were hell-bent cracking our morale and our spirits. On the other hand, Robben Island symbolized a triumph --a triumph of the human spirit over evil, a triumph of good over oppression, in short a triumph of the new South Africa over the old.

The oppressors failed in their mission to induce a collective amnesia among the people of this country and the world, because we were told in so many words, in five years? time nobody will remember the name Mandela. And they did everything possible to induce that collective amnesia. They failed. They failed in their endeavors to crush the spirits of the prisoners. They failed to deprive the people of their dignity and their humanity and of their civilized values. They failed in every respect.

Mr. President, everything I have said here is symbolized in one person, and that is our president. It was his leadership, his courage, his wisdom, his foresight that guided us through the 18 years that we spent here and the rest of our sentences, which we spent in other prisons. So we owe that transformation that we talk of --the seeds were here.

And the other side, we called them the enemy at the time, set out to crush our spirits. And Robben Island was tailor-made to induce a spirit of hatred, a spirit of revenge, retribution. But thanks to the leadership of our President, thanks to the philosophy of the liberation movement, we did not fall into those emotions of hatred.

So the seeds of the negotiation process were here at Robben Island, because we realized, and we have maintained all the time, that there is no such thing as driving 5 million white people to sea. They are South African citizens. They may be on the opposite side. When freedom comes, we have to work together to build a new country. And again, we have to thank our President for that.

Robben Island is unique, I think, in the world. I think it is one place where from prison --almost literally from prison to Parliament, to President.

Mr. President, we are confident that when you leave Robben Island, you will leave as a friend of Robben Island, to carry the message of the triumph of Robben Island to your people and to people everywhere. And we have confidence that we can count on you in the future for your continued

moral support. And when we develop Robben Island, as we are planning to do, as a universal symbol, we hope we can count on you also for your material support.

I thank you very much, and welcome again to Robben Island. (Applause.)

MR. KATHRADA: Ladies and gentlemen of the media, this is not a press conference. You've had your share in Cape Town, and we don't believe in double features. (Laughter.) But what we want to do now is our President is going to hand over to President Clinton a quarry rock, with his little finger, authenticated by our President that this is a genuine quarry rock from the quarry where he worked for 13 years.

PRESIDENT MANDELA: It's a great honor and a pleasure because, as we have said on many occasions, our victory here is victory in part because you helped us tremendously. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you. (Applause.)

MR. KATHRADA: May I just say that this is not a press conference. Any question must be confined to Robben Island and Robben Island only, please.

Q We're just interested in your experience. We'd like to hear firsthand from you about your experiences in this cell.

PRESIDENT MANDELA: Well, there were pleasant --(laughter) --and unpleasant experiences, and it depends how you look at the situation. As you know, right down the centuries, and in many parts of the world, there are men and women who are able to turn disaster --what would crush many people --to turn that disaster into victory. And that is what these men here like Mr. Kathrada and others did.

And so when I come here, I call back into memory that great saga in which the authorities, who were pitiless, insensitive, and cruel, nevertheless failed in their evil intentions. They were responsible for that.

Q President Mandela, can we just ask you, is there --you've been back to the island many times --

PRESIDENT MANDELA: Let's come closer, please.

Q You've been back to the islands many times. Can you tell us what the special significance is of this particular visit with the American President.

PRESIDENT MANDELA: There is no doubt that, as I said at the press conference, that the visit by President Clinton is a high-water mark in relation to all the visits that we've held. And coming to Robben Island is something more important, with that significant achievement of coming to South Africa. And we appreciate that very much.

Q President Clinton, what are you feeling?

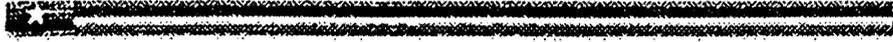
PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, my first thought was to thank God that the person who occupied this cell was able to live all those years in that way without having his heart turn to stone and without giving up on his dreams for South Africa.

The other thing that I would say is that I think this is a good object lesson in life for all young people. You know, 99.9999 percent of the people will never have a challenge in life like the one Mr. Mandela faces when he spent all these years in prison. But everyone has difficulties, everyone faces unfairness, and everyone faces cruelty. And the one thing that is beyond the control of anyone else is how you react to it, what happens to your own spirit, what happens to your own heart, what

happens to your own outlook on life.

And he is the world's foremost living example of that, and every young child I wish could think about his or her life that way, and there would be a lot more happiness in the world and a lot more generosity, because then no one would feel compelled to react in a certain way because then no one would feel compelled to react in a certain way because of what others said or others did. It's a very important thing about living.

THE PRESS: Thank you.



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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Cape Town, South Africa)

Embargoed For Release
Until 10:06 A.M. EST
Saturday, March 28, 1998

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

Cape Town, South Africa

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.. In the storefronts and shop windows of Jonesboro, Arkansas, there are signs that read, "Our hearts are with West Side Middle School." Even though Hillary and I are far away from our home state, our hearts, too, are with West Side, and with the grieving families whose loved ones were killed or injured in that tragic incident just four days ago.

This is the third time in recent months that a quiet town, and our nation, have been shaken by the awful specter of the families of Jonesboro and all America in mourning this terrible loss of young life -- life so full of promise and hope so cruelly cut short.

We mourn the loss of Natalie Brooke, of Paige Ann Herring, of Stephanie Johnson, of Brittany Varner, and of a heroic teacher, Shannon Wright, who sacrificed her own life to save a child. These five names will be etched in our memories forever, and linked forever with the names of Niccole Hadley, Jessica James, and Casey Steger, of Paducah, Kentucky; and Lydia Kaye Dew and Christian Menefee of Pearl, Mississippi. Our thoughts and our prayers are with all their families today.

We do not understand what drives children, whether in small towns or big cities, to pick up guns and take the lives of others. We may never make sense of the senseless, but we have to try. We have seen a community come together in grief and compassion for one another, and in the determination that terrible acts like these must no longer threaten our nation's children.

Parents across America should welcome the news reported just this month by Attorney General Reno and Education Secretary Riley that the vast majority of our schools are safe and free of violent crime. We've worked hard to make our schools places of learning, not fear; places where children can worry about math and science, not guns, drugs, and gangs. But when a terrible tragedy like this occurs, it reminds us there is work yet to be done.

I have directed Attorney General Reno to bring together experts on school violence to analyze these incidents to determine what they have in common and whether there are further steps we can take to reduce the likelihood of something so terrible reoccurring.

Already we've seen the remarkable difference community policing has made in our nation's streets. Now we have to apply that same energy and resolve to our schools to make the safer places for children to learn, play, and grow. At school there must be full compliance with our policy of zero tolerance toward guns, and at home there should be no easy access to weapons that kill.

Protecting our children from school violence is more than a matter of law or policy, at heart, it is a matter of basic values, of conscience and community. We must teach our children to respect others. We must instill in them a deep, abiding sense of right and wrong. And to children who are troubled, angry, or alone, we must extend a hand before they destroy the lives of others and destroy their own in the process.

We have to understand that young children may not fully appreciate the consequences of actions that are destructive, but may be able to be romanticized at a twisted moment. And we have to make sure that they don't fall into that trap.

Three towns: Jonesboro, Pearl, Paducah -- too many precious lives lost. The white ribbons that flutter today in my home state of Arkansas are a poignant and powerful challenge to all of us -- a challenge to come together for the sake of our children and for the future of our nation.

Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Johannesburg, South Africa)

Internal Transcript
March 28, 1998

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Johannesburg, South Africa

2:12 P.M. (L)

Q. Mr. President, I was in Uganda when you announced your African education initiative. It was very, very impressive. Is there a role for foundation and the private sector in helping us?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, absolutely. There's no way that just through government aid from the United States and other countries we can do all this. And a lot of operations like the Discovery Channel can even more efficiently hook up these schools, give them the basics that they need --a television set, a satellite, the VCRs. Then eventually we'll be able to come in with the computers and we'll be able to have interactive access to the Internet and even interactive communication across national lines.

But we have to begin to put in place a technological infrastructure in these schools. And since we can now leapfrog a lot of the early investments that schools would have had to make 10 or 12 years ago, we can actually do it more cheaply. In other words, they won't have to have a thousand volumes in their library that they could never afford, if we can do enough through educational television.

Q. You also talked about the relationship, in this case, between one school, I believe it's in Silver Spring, Maryland, and a school in Uganda.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q. Are there other things American kids can do to help here in Africa in terms of education?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. First of all, I think it's important to set up as many partnerships as possible. And if the children have access to the Internet in the African schools, if we can get that done, then they can actually communicate directly through the Internet.

But there are lots of other things we can do. If we have partnerships --children in American schools, for example, could have book drives and send books to children --a lot of children in African schools don't have access to any of the books that American kids take for granted. Then they could write back and forth and talk about the books they're reading. Or they could make sure they have a television and access to some of your Discovery tapes, and then they could write back and forth and talk about what they'd seen together. I think that this is the kind of thing that we want to promote more of.

Q. Great. And the last question, Mr. President. I think a lot of Americans would be surprised that in many of the African countries boys are treated differently than girls. Do you see a change coming there?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we're working hard to support that. But you see this in a lot of developing nations around the world, where boys and girls have a different role in traditional society and where girls have not traditionally been educated. Now, as they move to a more modern society, young girls have the same aspirations --they want to develop their minds, they want to go out and live their lives. And we've worked very hard to support education for young girls.

One of the things I like best about the Ugandan educational initiative is that they want universal primary education for all their children. And they're going out and recognizing the schools where the enrollment and the graduation rates are just as high for girls as for boys.

That's a big priority. But it's a big change for Africa, but Africa is not alone in that. That's a worldwide issue we have to keep working on.

Q. Thank you very much, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

2:15 P.M. (L)



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 28, 1998

FACT SHEET

The Ron Brown Commercial Center, operated and funded by the Department of Commerce, is one of the only four Commercial Centers worldwide. The center, in Johannesburg, will provide support for American companies looking to enter or expand into the sub-Saharan African market. It will promote export through a range of support programs. The Commercial Center also will serve as a base for other agencies such as the Export-Import Bank, the Trade Development Agency and USTR to expand their assistance to business. The Center is staffed by three Foreign Commercial Service officers, an American administrator and 17 local staff.

An internet-linked commercial information resource center is staffed to answer trade-related queries from U.S. and African businesses and will serve as a repository for economic and commercial reports from State Department officers stationed throughout Africa.

At the dedication of the Ron Brown Commercial Center, the President will announce several new initiatives and enhancements to his existing Partnership for Economic Growth and Opportunity. These include:

Greater Market Access -- all sub-Saharan African countries eligible for the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences program (GSP) will be able to avail themselves of several of the Partnership's programs; -- additional support will be provided to countries pursuing aggressive, growth-oriented economic reforms; -- further substantially enhanced access to the U.S. markets for products from Africa's strongest reformers will be granted through rapid passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which the President supports.

Targeted and Enhanced Assistance -- the President has requested an additional \$30 million for technical assistance and support programs; -- the Administration will work with Congress to restore development assistance to Africa to its historical high water mark; -- we will establish an endowment in conjunction with the Ronald H. Brown Foundation to help young Africans pursue internships with American companies and gain technical expertise.

Spurring Private Investment -- OPIC has established three funds for Africa -- a fund of \$120 million for southern Africa, a second fund \$150 million for all of Africa and a third infrastructure fund of up to \$500 million (for roads, ports, bridges, telecommunications and investment in women-owned businesses and micro-enterprises).

Enhanced Debt Relief -- the President has requested an additional \$35 million for bilateral concessional debt relief; -- we have secured, with our G-7 partners, a commitment from the World Bank to increase lending to Africa by \$1.1 billion this year and we will engage G-7 partners this year on African debt relief issues.

Increasing Bilateral Trade Ties -- the President will host an economic Summit for the heads of state of reforming nations; -- we will host the first annual ministerial-level Economic Cooperation Forum

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Johannesburg, South Africa)

For Immediate Release

March 28, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT OPENING OF THE RON BROWN CENTER

Ron Brown Center
Johannesburg, South Africa

6:42 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Matlana (ph), for the wonderful introduction, for the extraordinary example of your career, physician to President Mandela, leader in the struggle for South Africa's freedom, and most recently, one of the most successful businessmen in the new South Africa.

Thank you, Secretary Daley, Congressman Rangel, Secretary Herman, Secretary Slater, to our ambassadors, Mr. Berger, Reverend Jackson, and the members of Congress and the American business leaders here today, Minister Emanuel, Millard Arnold (ph), thank you for all the work you did on this. And to all the members of the South African community who are here, thank you for what you're doing to build a strong South Africa, and to build the bonds of commerce between our two nations.

Let me also say I'm pleased that a young member of my White House staff born in Johannesburg, Russell Horowitz, is here today, with his grandparents, Maurice and Phyllis Goldstein (ph). But I'm especially pleased that Alma Brown is here. This is... (APPLAUSE)

This has been an incredible trip to Africa, a trip which I was urged to make by Ron Brown starting before I became president. And I was just sitting here thinking that after all this time, Ron Brown can still draw a crowd. (LAUGHTER)

This has been a magical tour of this magnificent continent, and in each place, I've thought about Ron and how he would have reacted, to seeing a half a million people in Ghana, to talking to the president of Uganda first about the possibility of an American investment running into the hundreds of millions of dollars, and then walking into a little village and talking to women who got loans of \$50 to start their own businesses.

Meeting with the survivors of the Rwandan genocide. Coming here, and all the magnificent things that have happened, at the Mafanzela (ph) School today, and at the Peterson Memorial in Soweto. This has been an incredible trip. And in so many cases, it was inspired by the vision that Ron Brown had. Ron said that in this new era, and I quote, "Business opportunities in South Africa, once constricted by politics and struggle, will expand."

If we are fortunate, we will see the rooting of democracy and free economy whose branches will soon spread, so that other African nations would also benefit. We are here to dedicate a center in honor of Ron Brown, to commerce, but also to bear witness that his vision is coming true. As secretary of commerce, Ron Brown relentlessly promoted the idea that American businesses could

help themselves while helping to spur growth and opportunity and freedom in the rest of the world.

He believed that assistance was still needed for developing nations, but that self-perpetuating prosperity would never occur until we also had substantial amounts of trade and investment. Five times, Ron Brown came to Africa, to do business, to create opportunities, for Americans and for Africans. He came at the right time. South Africa emerging, and all around the continent, a new Africa taking shape, increasingly open to free markets, democracy, human rights.

Today, enterprising governments and entrepreneurs are taking Africa's future into their own hands, opening markets, privatizing industry, stabilizing currency, reducing inflation, and creating jobs. Small businesses are sprouting in cities and in villages. Modern telecommunications systems are spreading. There are now 15 African stock markets, and five more in the works. Average economic growth on this continent has been five percent, with some countries as high as 10.

Our trade with Africa is 20 percent greater than our trade with all the former Soviet Union. It supports 100,000 American jobs. The average annual return on investment -- I hope they're listening back in America -- the average annual return on investment is 30 percent. (APPLAUSE)

This is a good deal, folks! (APPLAUSE)

But there is more to do. Nearly 700 people live in sub-Saharan Africa, but only about one percent of our trade and one percent of our direct foreign investment is in Africa. There is new thinking in America and in Africa about how we can do better by building genuine partnerships. Partnerships with business owners who respect workers and workers who respect their companies. With governments that respect entrepreneurs and businesses. They accept laws necessary to protect workers, consumers, and the environment. And businesses that increasingly will accept responsibility for playing a role in solving the social problems of their nations.

And trade and investment across borders, built on common interests and mutual respect. Mutual respect, and shared benefit. These are the foundations Ron Brown laid for our partnership. As he well understood, and I reaffirm today, a new partnership in trade and investment should not come at the expense of development assistance when it is plainly still needed. Trade cannot replace aid, when there is still so much poverty, flooding, encroaching deserts, drought, violence, threatened food supplies, malaria, AIDS, and other diseases, with literacy below 50 percent in many nations. Because economies and businesses and individual workers cannot fulfill their potential when too many people cannot read, or are hungry, or ill. I will work with our Congress to restore our development assistance to Africa to its historic high level, but we must build on it... (APPLAUSE)

Nine months ago, in Washington, I announced our new plan, the partnership for economic growth and opportunity with Africa, intended to leverage the work of other industrialized countries, international institutions, and the nations and people of Africa itself. Our Congress is now moving forward with the legislation to forward that initiative. Already it has passed our House of Representatives. Soon I hope our Senate will pass it as well.

Among the members of the congressional delegation with me today, there are four of the bill's greatest proponents, Congressman Rangel, and Congressman Royce, Congressman McDermott, Congressman Jefferson, although with Congressman Crane, who is not here, and the other members of the congressional delegation that are here, let me thank them for their hard work and urge them to go get the Senate to follow suit. (APPLAUSE)

The plan we bring has five elements. First, we offer all African nations greater access to our markets. African countries aggressively pursuing economic reforms will be able to export almost 50 percent more products to America duty free.

In the future, we're prepared to negotiate free trade agreements with strong performing, growth-oriented economies, including, at appropriate times, with the countries in this region. Under our plan, all African nations will benefit. Those with the greatest commitment to reform to unlocking the potential of their people will benefit the most. Whether they are the richest in Africa or the poorest, our bonds will grow based not on wealth but on will. The will to pursue political and economic change so that everyone may have a role in the progress of tomorrow.

Second, we will target our assistance so that African nations can reform their economies to take advantage of the new opportunities. This means helping countries with creative approaches to finance, supporting the progress of regional markets, encouraging African entrepreneurs to look for new opportunities. In conjunction with the Ron Brown Foundation, we will help to establish an endowment through the Ron Brown Center to help young Africans to pursue internships with American companies to gain technical expertise and commerce trade and finance. We've named a new high-level trade representative whose only job is to deepen trade with Africa, Rosa Whitaker. Rosa, where are you? (APPLAUSE)

Stand up there. (APPLAUSE) Thank you. (APPLAUSE) And I've asked congress for another \$30 million this year to fund support programs for this endeavor. Third, we are working to spur private investment. Our overseas Private Investment Corporation has established three funds to help ventures be financed in Africa.

The newest of these will provide up to \$500 million for investments in roads, bridges, and ports. As well as microenterprise and women-owned businesses, to facilitate economic opportunity. And to serve as a hub for American investors interested in Africa, there is a new commercial center in which we are gathered. That's what we're here for

And let me say it again. The only name that this center could have is the Ron Brown Center. (APPLAUSE) Fourth, with our wealthy partners in the G-7, we have secured a commitment from the World Bank to increase lending to Africa by as much as \$1.1 billion in the coming year, with the focus on reforming countries. (APPLAUSE)

We want to speed that relief through the Highly Indebted Poorest Countries Program, which is now helping countries get out from under the crushing debt burdens that prevent growth. And I'll raise at the next G-7 meeting in England, early in May, the concerns that I've heard on this trip from African leaders about the debt issue.

I've also asked our Congress for enough debt-relief funding this year to wipe out all bilateral concessional debt for the fastest-reforming poor nations. (APPLAUSE) In total, our budget request this year would permit up to \$1.6 billion in bilateral debt relief for Africa. I challenge others in the industrial world to offer more relief, so that we can free up resources for health, education, and sustainable growth. And let me say again to the Americans back home this is not charity, this is enlightened self-interest. (APPLAUSE)

It is good for American business, the American economy, and American jobs to have a sensible growth policy. Finally, because of the growing importance of our economic ties to Africa, I intend to invite leaders of reforming nations to a summit meeting in Washington, so that we can lay specific plans to follow up on this trip and the announcements I have made on it. (APPLAUSE)

We will also invite the trade, finance, and foreign ministers to meet with their American counterparts every year to advance the cause of modernization and reform. Ron Brown understood and the leaders of democratic Africa understand that nations cannot become economic powers unless their people are empowered, unless citizens are free to speak their mind and create, unless there is a quality and the rule of law, and what the experts calls 'transparency.'

The African leaders have put a premium on improving government accountability and attacking corruption and other barriers to doing business. Those who have done that will be richly rewarded in the global market place.

The United States shares these goals. And we intend to work with African leaders who want to make progress on them. Taken together, the provisions of our plan: trade benefits, technical and continued development assistance, support for private investment, increased financing and debt relief, and high-level consultations to make sure there is follow-up and this trip is not a one-shot event. (APPLAUSE)

These will provide an environment in which private enterprise, Africans and Americans will thrive, creating jobs and prosperity. This is a good thing for the American people and for American business. It is a good thing for Africa.

Let me also say that nothing we do can supplant the important essential efforts that African leaders, not just political leaders, but business leaders take for themselves. We must do more to educate all the children, to provide decent shelter, to provide decent health care.

We must do more to work together to solve the continuing problems in every society on this continent. Nothing the American people can do will replace your efforts, but I have seen the energy, the determination, and the courage of the people in every country I have visited. They are worthy of our best efforts at partnership, and we intend to give it to them. (APPLAUSE)

The progress we make together is the best way possible to honor the legacy of Ron Brown. He died in the service of his country, on one of these missions, to a war-torn country in the hope of making peace.

He believed that economic progress was a moral good if it was fairly shared and everyone had a chance to live out their dreams, and fulfill their aspirations. He understood that the economy was about more than a few people making money, it was about organizing free people so that they could put their talents to work to help a society lift itself up, to solve problems and seize opportunities and make life more meaningful and more enjoyable. He was a bold thinker, a brilliant strategist, a devoted public servant, a good father and husband, and he was a terrific friend. I miss him terribly at this moment, but I cannot imagine a more fitting tribute to a man who proved that the Commerce Department could be an engine of growth and opportunity at home and abroad.

Who accepted my challenge to take a moribund agency and put it at the center of our economic policy, of our foreign policy, and of America's future in the world. He did his job well. I hope that when we live here, we can do our job just as well, so that this center will be a fitting, lasting legacy.

Thank you, and God bless you.



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The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
(Gaborone, Botswana)

For Immediate Release

March 29, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT CHURCH SERVICE

Regina Mundi Church
Johannesburg, South Africa

10:37 A.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Father, Bishop, Mrs. Matlata; to all of my friends in the American delegation, our Ambassador, the South African Ambassador; to the AME bishops getting a little instruction in Roman Catholicism today. Reverend Jackson, thank you for your prayer. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for making Hillary and me and our entire group from America feel so very welcome.

And especially, I want to thank the children. Now, we're about to leave South Africa and we're going to the airport. And maybe we'll be like the birds, we can fly. (Laughter and applause.) It takes a little more to get me in the air. (Laughter.) But we're going to practice that.

I am profoundly honored to be in this great house of God, which is also a great shrine of freedom, for it was here that you and people before you gathered to stand for the freedom of the people of South Africa when it was denied you. I came to South Africa, first, to thank God you had your freedom now. (Applause.) To thank God for the life and work of President Mandela, and so many others, known and unknown, who walked the long road for so many years so that the people of this great nation might be free.

But also I came here resolved to work with the people of South Africa as a friend and a partner, to help you make the most of your freedom. It is one thing to be free, and another thing to do the right thing with your freedom. (Applause.)

Yesterday evening we dedicated a commerce center here to try to bring American investment here, to create jobs for the people of South Africa and to have some trade between our two countries. The center was named after our former Secretary of Commerce, the late Ron Brown. He wanted to help South Africa make the most of its freedom.

And when I looked at the children singing today, and I saw the children throughout this beautiful church, I was reminded that I think the lasting image I will take away from all my stops in Africa are the faces of the children -- the light in their eyes, the spring in their step, the intelligence of their questions to me, the beauty of their voices. More than anything else, it is important that we help them make the most of your freedom -- with better schools and better health care and more housing and safer streets and a brighter future.

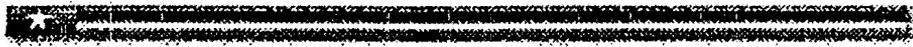
You know, a couple of years ago, the United States had the honor of hosting the Olympics. And on the last day of the Olympics, the first black South African ever to win a Gold Medal won a Gold Medal -- Josiah Tungwane. Now, it is so fitting that your first Gold Medal came in what event? The marathon. Your fight for freedom was a marathon, not a sprint. People who train for the marathon

say when you get almost to the end, about 80 percent of the way, the pain is so great many people quit, and you have to keep working to go through the end. It takes a long time to run a marathon.

The fight to make the most of you're freedom, to do the right thing with your freedom, to give your children the right future with your freedom. That, too, will be a marathon. But we want to run that race with you. (Applause.)

And so, as I leave South Africa, I would leave you with one verse of scripture that has throughout my working life been one of the very most important to me. When you are discourages, when you are frustrated, when you are angry, when you wonder whether you can make the most of your freedom for these children, remember what St. Paul said to the Galatians: "Let us not grow weary in doing good. For in due season, we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

God bless you. Keep your heart. (Applause.)



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Gaborone, Botswana)

For Immediate Release

March 29, 1998

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Radio Democracy for Africa

President Clinton announced today his intention to establish this year a new radio broadcasting service for Africa. Radio Democracy for Africa will be a division of the Voice of America and will broadcast an additional 22.5 hours per week of programs focused primarily on the promotion of democracy and human rights throughout the continent.

The Need for a Free Press

Democracies and market economies flourish where there is a strong free media to provide accurate news and information. State-run media are the norm in much of Africa; accompanying such media are often biases and positions of the prevailing political party of in some cases, repressive regimes. As yet, many media corporations in the United States and Europe do not yet see Africa as commercially viable. Further, radio is the medium of choice in Africa.

Reporting on Democratic Transformations

Radio Democracy reporters will focus on reporting statements by politicians and political leaders of various orientations. Because of the repressive media climate in some countries, foreign reporters will now be able to cover such stories without fear of reprisal

Conflict Resolution

Radio Democracy will focus on promotion of conflict resolution by covering reconciliation efforts and such events as the Arusha Tribunal



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Gaborone , Botswana)

For Immediate Release

March 29, 1998

REMARKS TO THE POOL
BY MIKE MCCURRY
ON THE BILATERAL MEETING

2:20 P.M. (L)

MIKE MCCURRY: I'm going to give you a readout on the meeting. Obviously, this is a very warm, cordial meeting that reflects the excellent bilateral relations that the United States enjoys with Botswana.

The president met privately with President Masire and then the two delegations joined together. President Masire introduced at some length Vice President Mogae, who will take over the day after tomorrow as president. As you know, that -- President Masire is vacating office just short of the end of his old term, which would expire next year, and obviously the vice president will succeed him and is expected to be a leading contender for the office of the presidency when they have elections next year.

President Masire said relations with the United States have been excellent since the country was founded, when it gained independence in 1966. He said they have been very good, indeed, but never better than now, with your visit.

The Botswana government is making a real effort to increase international tourism in the game preserve area especially. So they're especially delighted that he's going to Chobe (ph) and spending time over the next day and a half for leisurely seeing the game preserve.

And then a lot of funny remarks, none of which I'll give you, about the president's upcoming visit to the game preserve, but they are very proud that he's going there. They think it'll be a big boost to tourism. And so they complimented the president on the fact he is spending some down time here. The president said he was honored to be here. He said that Botswana has perhaps been the first government serving its people in all of sub-Saharan Africa, the record of service to people and the commitment to democracy is perhaps strongest here of all the countries that we have visited. The president said, you've had great success here and I hope more African countries will follow your lead.

The president particularly noted the progress they're making on the status of women. The government has been doing a lot to correct some of the historical inequities that women faced in Botswana. Q: What are some of those? MCCURRY: They have -- they are focusing on violence against women, which is a serious problem in this society. They've got a lot of nongovernmental organizations that have been working on a long-term plan to implement what the government of Botswana calls its "national policy on women." That was adopted in 1996, and it -- they're focusing there on six areas. First, women in poverty. Second, women in power-sharing and decision-making roles, which they've historically been excluded from in Botswana. Three, education and vocational training for women. Four, women's health issues.

Five, female children, and the role that you know -- there've historically been greater status attached to male offspring, and so they're trying to equalize and raise the status of female children. Last, violence against women, and abuse of women.

Q: Mike, is infanticide a problem (OFF-MIKE)?

MCCURRY: I don't know whether it is or not. There's nothing here that indicates whether it is.

Q: Are they visiting here?

MCCURRY: No, they're -- they're down in the -- the two presidents were just collecting their first ladies, and then they're coming over here to the reception. They're trying to stay pretty much on schedule because we have to land before nightfall in Kasane tonight, or else we think we can't get in tonight. They met privately for about 20 minutes, and then met for roughly a half hour in the delegation format.

Q: Did they talk about the trade bill or the ACRI?

MCCURRY: They talked about -- let me just go over some of the other subjects they raised. President Masire was interested, as other leaders have been, in the status of the Democratic Republic of (AUDIO GAP) Botswana defense force.

And that then naturally led into the discussion of the ACRI. The president asked Assistant Secretary Susan Rice to give an update on the Africa Crisis Response Initiative, and she ticked off some of the countries that have started participating in joint training exercises. We will see one of those in Senegal later in the trip.

But it was sort of a subtle reminder to the government of Botswana that it -- that we continue to hope that they will become productively involved in the work of the ACRI. They have been...

Q: They're not participating in that?

MCCURRY: They are not currently participating, although there have been discussions that have been under way about whether or not they might consider it. We were not attempting to get their acceptance on this trip, but we certainly hope that the further discussions that we have with them will lead them to consider participating. The president talked at one point about -- no, Sandy Berger raised the issue that they had to get -- that we all had to be issued new phones when we were here, and we learned that's because the emerging Botswana cellular phone system is digital-based so that it's more advanced technologically than what our normal White House equipment works on. So the president said that's not a comment on the United States of America, but it is a comment on the White House, that you have more sophisticated technology here.

The president then talked about how much he was looking forward to going to the game preserve; and told a story of a friend of his who had stayed at the same lodge that he will stay at, who woke up one morning with a baboon sitting at the end of his bed; and said the baboon was kind of in and out of the apartment the whole time that he was here, and when he left, he felt like he was leaving a friend.

The president then also asked -- asked about Botswana's -- he said I've heard that there is one elephant for every 18 people in Botswana, and he asked if that were true and if anyone knew. And they -- one of the ministers on the Botswana side said that they thought that it was probably right. He said, well, that's both good and bad for me. He says: It's interesting. I've read a lot about the elephant population and some of the work that you're doing concerning the elephant population.

They've got a very large population, and it causes some damage to ecosystems because of how

much elephants eat and drink in the course of a day. But the president also said that the other problem I had is of course that it is the symbol of the other party back home. (LAUGHTER)

So he said that there would probably be lots of pictures with me and elephants in the next couple of days. (LAUGHTER)

That was pretty much it. I mean, it was a very -- they did not, unless they -- they did not talk specifically about the trade initiative.

Botswana, according to the ambassador -- we were talking on the way here -- they would be less likely affected by the president's Africa trade initiative than some other countries. Their principal export item is diamonds, and they're not an economy that has been heavily based on assistance from outside. They, of course, graduated from formal U.S. assistance some time ago. So they're not an -- an aid recipient as have some of the other countries that we've visited.

Q: Mike, there was an article in one of the papers about the indigenous residents of the Kalahari area who were hoping that --to -- the Clintons' visit would help them avoid a forced or encouraged move out of that area to a settlement. Do you know -- has that issue come up? Or is it likely to?

MCCURRY: OK. I don't believe it came up in this meeting. I can check with the ambassador to see if we have worked on that, but that's not an issue that's come up. That's the first I have heard of that. Q: Mike, (OFF-MIKE)

MCCURRY: No, he's -- that was -- there was a lengthy response --is that the letter that the Jones side...

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) years ago.

MCCURRY: This was in the new filing by -- by Jones? There was a lengthy response given by Jim Kennedy from the White House legal counsel's office on that, and we have not seen those filings here and have only seen one article about it, which didn't even mention the name of the person you have just mentioned. So I've -- we have nothing to add to the response that's already been given. OK.

Q: This is a stupid question. But does he have any comment on the fact that they played "Beautiful Dreamer" as he was reviewing the troops? (LAUGHTER)

MCCURRY: No, I didn't hear him say anything about that.

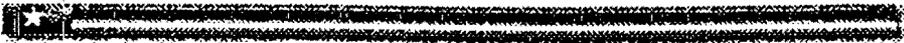
Q: Well, (OFF-MIKE) talk about this -- the (OFF-MIKE) once again, that it was a comment on the White House...

MCCURRY: It wasn't a -- it wasn't a comment on advanced technology in the United States, but it probably was a comment on the White House technology that they have more sophisticated cellular technology here in Botswana.

Q: Thank you.

MCCURRY: Thanks.

2:30 P.M. (L)



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Gaborone, Botswana)

For Immediate Release

March 29, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT RECEPTION IN HIS HONOR

Lawn of State House
Gaborone, Botswana

3:10 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Mr. Foreign Minister, President Masire, Lady Obebile, Vice President Mogae, Mrs. Mogae, and all the other people who have previously been recognized by a previous speaker. I am glad to be here and to receive such a warm welcome --and a standing ovation from all of you.

For Hillary and for me, this has been an extraordinary trip for our entire American delegation. It has taken us from Africa's Western rim to its Southern shore; from its smallest villages to its most modern cities; from its youngest democracy, South Africa, to its oldest, Botswana.

We have seen the promise of a new Africa whose roots are deep here in your soil, for you have been an inspiration to all who cherish freedom. At your independence three decades ago, Botswana was among the poorest countries on Earth, with only two miles of paved roads and one public secondary school. Today you have a vibrant economy, a network of major highways, almost full enrollment in primary schools, and the longest average lifespan in sub-Saharan Africa. Congratulations to all of you.

Africa needs more Botswanas, and America is determined to support all those who would follow your lead. Today I'm pleased to announce our intent to establish Radio Democracy for Africa, a Voice of America service aimed directly at encouraging progress toward freedom and democracy, respect for human rights, and an independent and objective media.

I thank the Congressman Royce in particular for his leadership in promoting this program, as well as the other members of our congressional delegation.

Botswana's success was built by its people and by the dedicated leaders they chose. President Masire, I am deeply honored to be among those here as you leave your distinguished tenure. As Vice President and Finance Minister, you sparked the engine of an economic miracle by establishing the first joint ventures for mining diamonds. You created Botswana's sound fiscal and monetary regimes. You negotiated Botswana's access to European markets. You earned the trust of your fellow citizens.

As President, you've ensured that human rights and the rule of law could make their home in Botswana. Your stand against apartheid and your support of the ANC gave hope to all who yearned for dignity and equality in South Africa. You have been a leader in conserving wildlife. You've sent your troops on missions of peace in Somalia, Rwanda, and Mozambique. And as a founding

member and host to the SADC Secretariat, you have helped bring countries in this region closer together and create new opportunities for your people.

Now, as you step down from public office after 18 years of leadership, you're ensuring the peaceful transfer of power that has come to characterize this land.

Mr. President, on behalf of all Americans, I salute you and your achievements. I would say you have earned the right to go back to your cattle ranch.

The United States has been very proud to support Botswana's progress. Botswana's success led to the bittersweet closing of our AID and Peace Corps programs. But though these development programs have finished, their legacy endures. Lady Obebile, I know you taught many Peace Corps Volunteers their first words in Setswana. You helped to ensure that countless young Americans came home with a lifelong love for your country and this continent.

Now we're building on that spirit of cooperation to renew our partnership for the future, based on common values, common vision, and mutual respect. Together we can help all men and women in Africa secure the freedom that is their birthright. We can deepen our investment in trade and bring the prosperity to all citizens. We can work together to deter conflicts before they explode into crises. And together, we can protect this fragile Earth for future generations.

Visitors to Botswana will never forget the beauty of your environment. Tomorrow, Hillary and I will have the great pleasure of visiting Chobe ourselves. You have been blessed with abundant resources, but none of those is more precious than your people. Because of them, the future looks bright for Botswana and for the region as well.

So, Mr. President, on behalf of all Americans, thank you again for the extraordinary example you and the people of Botswana have set. I wish you all the best. America is proud to be Botswana's partner and friend. Thank you very much.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY
(Aboard Air Force One)

For Immediate Release

March 31, 1998

PRESS BRIEFING BY
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER SANDY BERGER

Aboard Air Force One

5:45 P.M. (L)

MR. BERGER: The President had a brief farewell meeting with President Masire at the airport. Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Masire were also present. President Clinton thanked him enormously for obviously the hospitality and warmth of the last three days. He congratulated President Masire -- as you know, today is the day on which he leaves office, after 18 years of government, turns over power. And the President said that what he had accomplished -- what President Masire had accomplished in building and sustaining a democratic government with high rates of growth, with well-being of people quite widely shared, the actions he's taken to preserve the environment, are an enormous legacy that he is leaving behind for his people.

And the President specifically talked about today, as he drove around Gaborone today and saw people going about their daily lives in a normal fashion, this truly is the peaceful transition of power. One could not have known from driving down the streets or walking around the streets that anything unusual was happening today, and that speaks very loudly about what's been established here.

Q What did President Masire say in response to President Clinton's assessment of his building of democracy?

Mr. Berger: He was very grateful, that he had a great deal of confidence in the vice president, who will become president sometime -- excuse me, it's tomorrow, not today; I should correct myself. He thanked the President very much. He said it was very important that the President had come, that it had been a high point for him. I'm not sure he said "the high point," but he said "a high point." And that it was a wonderful present as he left office.

Q Why is he leaving office?

Mr. Berger: His term is up next year, and I think that he felt, as I understand it, that it would be better to have the vice president established as president, whom he will appoint tomorrow, and have a period to establish himself with the Botswanan people.

Q Does Gore know about this practice?

Mr. Berger: No comment.

The last thing, the President obviously talked about how wonderful Chobe was, and they really do want tourism to be -- they have an economy now that is quite heavily dependent on diamonds. They have quite a long time in which they can mine these diamonds -- the length of time -- up to 50 years' worth. But they obviously want to diversify their economy.

And one of the ways they want to diversify their economy is tourism. It's very, very high on the list. And the President said that he hoped in some way he had helped that, by having all of you here and having the world see what a beautiful country this was.

MR. MCCURRY: Senegal. What are we going to do in Senegal?

MR. BERGER: In Senegal, we are going to meet with President Diouf. The three high points of this -- obviously in addition to meeting with President Diouf -- will be going to see the training of the African Crisis Response Initiative, the ACRI. This is an extraordinarily important thing that's happening here, which we originally launched in 1996. And quite a number of African countries have indicated their interest in it.

And even, actually, President Mandela, in the context of saying there must be an African commander, which was always envisioned, for us to participate, that was actually a step forward because they had previously said they would participate in the context of the southern African group participating together. So I think that's number one.

Q Can I ask a question along those lines? Would President Mandela allow his troops to be under American authority during training? Did you clarify that? Isn't that part of the problem?

MR. BERGER: Well, they aren't under our authority during training. If we're doing training exercises here in Senegal, those folks aren't under our authority. We have military training with other militaries around the world. It's sort of technical assistance. It doesn't change the chain of command or authority. So that's one thing I think will be interesting.

Second of all, we're going to do the fourth of these round tables, which I think have been wonderful. We did the Rwanda one and we did the South Africa one and we did one today. Tomorrow we'll meet with a group of NGO leaders from around the continent, people who are engaged in development issues from various perspectives around the continent.

And then of course we will go on Thursday to Goree Island, and the President will talk about the trip.

Q I was reading an article today about people expressing concern that the Socialist Party in Senegal is far too dominant and some of the minor parties are getting squeezed out, and there were questions about the honesty of the elections in '96 and in '88.

MR. BERGER: I think by and large the international community has deemed the elections to have been fair. There may have been some problems. I think we're going to be meeting with some other leaders as well as President Diouf along the way.

Q Is the United States satisfied with the extent of multiparty democracy in Senegal?

MR. BERGER: My understanding is it quite brisk and vigorous.

Q Have you heard from the government of France about this trip to Africa in general and the trip to Senegal in particular?

MR. BERGER: The President wrote to President Chirac before he left, and he may call President Chirac before we get to Senegal.

Q He may?

MR. BERGER: Yes.

Q Has he gotten any impressions on how it's being received in France?

MR. BERGER: No, I haven't received anything on that. The press secretary doesn't share that with me, his clips. But I think he will, if the call goes through, the President --

MR. MCCURRY: -- expressed appreciation for the American president's interest in African affairs, if I understand correctly.

Q Has the President talked to any other African leaders during the trip?

MR. MCCURRY: Charles Taylor.

Q Any others since then?

MR. MCCURRY: The summit, the summit in Rwanda.

Q Sandy, how many nations are involved in the ACRI, and what is that about?

MR. BERGER: As I began to talk about it, I knew I didn't know the answer to that question.

MR. MCCURRY: We're going to have a fact sheet on the ACRI and also I think a fact sheet on the NGO.

MR. BERGER: I think this is either the second or third country that's gone through training. There are countries are in various stages. Some of them have said they want to participate. What they do is they designate their own units, who will then train in a way that could make them interoperable.

MR. MCCURRY: Remind your colleagues that Joe Wilson and Susan Rice did a whole review of the status of ACRI when we were in Kampela.

MR. BERGER: What is the purpose of it? The purpose of it is to give Africans an indigenous peacekeeping capacity. Africans have been -- a lot of African countries have been huge participants in peacekeeping. The Botswanan army is one of the best armies in the developing world, and other countries. But they don't have something that can connect with each other. And this will take awhile, a few years, but hopefully they will then have the capability to go in a Rwanda situation, a Liberia situation --

Q This would help avoid the sort of genocide that happened in Rwanda; is that right?

MR. BERGER: It would be another resource that would be available.

Q What exactly will the President be viewing tomorrow?

MR. BERGER: He'll be viewing a training exercise. I don't know exactly -- whether its just --

MR. MCCURRY: They've got some kind of exercise they're going to do.

MR. BERGER: It's actually -- I think it's an ongoing training exercise.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY
(Gaborone, Botswana)

PRESS BRIEFING BY
DAVID SANDALOW, NSC DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Grand Palm Hotel
Gaborone, Botswana

4:07 P.M. (L)

MR. SANDALOW: My name is David Sandalow. I'm jointly with the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the National Security Council. My titles are a mouthful, but I'll give them to you if you want. At the Council on Environmental Quality, I'm the Associate Director for the Global Environment; with the National Security Council, I'm the Director for Environmental Affairs.

I was asked first to describe the roundtable that the President participated in today with five leading environmental experts from around the continent. It was a vigorous discussion. Participants were eloquent. The President and the First Lady were very, very engaged by the conversation.

I think the themes that emerged were, first of all, the linkage between poverty and environmental. Several participants spoke quite eloquently to that, one saying environmental degradation leads to poverty, leads to environmental degradation, and the cycle continues.

A second theme that emerged was the importance of engaging local communities in managing natural resources and protecting the environment. A third theme that emerged was the need for broad public education including education of children in order to address environmental issues.

The trade bill was mentioned, with participants encouraging the President and the United States with respect to the trade bill. There were a striking number of references to U.S. AID programs and their impact in Africa and their effectiveness from several different participants.

Topics that were discussed included desertification, wetlands, wildlife, and other topics. The President at a couple of points related the discussion to his experiences as a governor, and more recently these issues and similar issues in the United States.

In addition to the roundtable, President Clinton is today announcing several new efforts designed to underscore the importance of environmental protection to our overall Africa policy. Today we are announcing efforts in connection with the spread of deserts, in connection with empowering communities to manage natural resources, and on the topic of climate change. Let me speak for a moment about desertification, which is a long word that I suspect few people here are familiar with and few are experts in. Desertification, the spread of deserts and the degrading of drylands, is a large problem in African and a main priority of the Africans in discussions about the environment. Desertification, or the degrading of the drylands, results from over-grazing, from agricultural practices such as mono-cropping, from over-utilization of limited water supplies, and from drought.

The international community has been engaged in efforts to combat desertification on this continent and other continents for quite a while, and there is now an international treaty called the Desertification Convention, agreed to several years ago. The treaty was a top priority of the

Africans and the President sent it to the Senate for ratification in 1996. The Senate has yet to act upon it, and today the President announced that Senator Jim Jeffords of Vermont and Senator Russell Feingold of Wisconsin will lead a bipartisan effort to obtain approval of the convention.

I should say that the convention is a good government treaty. It has innovative provisions to encourage local governments and communities to get involved in efforts to fight the spread of deserts --in this way, it is very resonant with the discussion that the President had at the roundtable today --and it also has mechanisms to improve the coordination of foreign assistance. It imposes no obligations on the United States.

A second area in which we're announcing new efforts is in promoting community-based natural resource management; again, significant resonance with the discussion today. The United States already is spending roughly \$80 million a year for environmental assistance in Africa. And many of --the philosophy of community-based natural resource management really infuses all of these expenditures.

Just to highlight the importance of these efforts and the importance of involving communities in these efforts, the President today announced a new program called Green Communities for Africa, which is modeled after a similar program in the United States. The program will provide additional tools for local communities in Africa to take environmental considerations into account when making decisions.

Finally, the topic of climate change, an environmental topic that has received considerable attention in the last several months. Here in Africa, erratic weather patterns have been seen, both in Southern Africa and in Eastern Africa. In Eastern Africa there has been very heavy rainfall in the last several months. President Clinton today announced that NASA will initiate the first ever scientific assessment of the environment in Southern Africa. Working with local partners, NASA is going to use satellite and ground-based technologies to provide an assessment for measuring changes in the environment, improving drought prediction, and helping assess the impact of climate change. It's a \$200,000 effort which we hope will leverage the contribution of other partners.

Happy to take questions.

Q What's the problem with this treaty? Why hasn't it moved? Mr. Sandalow: There has not been opposition expressed to the treaty that we're aware of. We hope that the spotlight that's been shown on it here and the attention will help move it forward in the Senate.

Q Where was it stuck in the Senate? The committee?

Mr. Sandalow: Sitting in the Foreign Relations Committee.

Q Well, has Helms taken a position?

Mr. Sandalow: Not that we're aware of.

Q Has the President ever spoken about it before?

Mr. Sandalow: The President sent it up to the Senate in 1996 and addressed it at that time.

Q Why hasn't he made a big push before now? Why has it taken more than a year to get around to it?

Mr. Sandalow: I think the President underscored the importance of it today and in Africa --the Africa trip has really brought home to him and to lots of Americans the importance of these issues.

Q How can you be optimistic that this will move, especially since many conservatives are very upset

about this trip --this Africa trip?

Mr. Sandalow: I'm optimistic about this treaty because it is a good government treaty. It tries to make government work better. In that way, I think it is very consistent with bipartisan themes that are heard across the political spectrum in the United States. I'm also hopeful that the bipartisan coalition that's already started can help move the treaty forward.

Q Can I return to the committee for a second? Are you saying the administration doesn't know if Helms has any position on this treaty at all?

Mr. Sandalow: I'm not aware of a position the Senator has taken on this.

Q Is this what Clinton was talking about when he said local governments would share power --local communities sharing power with national governments and managing resources?

Mr. Sandalow: Yes. Oh, and more as well. And more. But that's part of it.

Q What's the difference between the provisions in the treaty and the Green Community for Africa program?

Mr. Sandalow: The provisions in the treaty relate specifically to the problem of spreading deserts and degrading of drylands. The Green Community for Africa program could address a series of other environmental issues such as urban environmental issues, dirty water, as well as issues out in farms where there's not a lack of water.

Q --the fact that some of the deforestation activities in Africa are largely based on existential needs?

Mr. Sandalow: This, in many ways, is central to our policy approach in addressing this problem. Deforestation in Africa is often based upon poverty in local communities. And in order to address the problem of deforestation, it's important to tackle both the problem of poverty and the problem of environmental degradation together. Our programs for sustainable management of natural resources are designed to do exactly that --designed to find ways to help local communities protect --to make money from protecting the environment.

QQ --first bilateral donor or is the European Community the first donor of --

Mr. Sandalow: The United States is the largest bilateral donor for environment in Africa. I'd have to look for figures for other countries.

Q But by your information, the European Community gives more, right?

Mr. Sandalow: I'd have to track down those figures.

Q Can you repeat the year of the treaty and was it signed?

Mr. Sandalow: It was signed by the United States in 1996 and sent by President Clinton to the Senate then.

Q Is there a deadline?

Mr. Sandalow: No, there is no deadline. The treaty has entered into force --more than a 120 countries have ratified it.

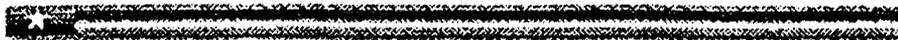
Q Since it really is a symbolic thing you want the United States to be on record as being in favor of this --

Mr. Sandalow: We are a significant, bilateral donor in this sector as well. We contribute more than

\$30 million a year to efforts to protect deserts and this would help us coordinate those efforts with other countries.

Q Has any of that money to appear in Botswana?

Mr. Sandalow: I'd have to check.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Dakar, Senegal)

For Immediate Release

April 1, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
WITH PRESIDENT ABDOU DIOUF OF SENEGAL

Presidential Palace
Dakar, Senegal

Q Mr. President, are you -- how important do you feel an African force is -- (inaudible) --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it's potentially very important because an African Crisis response Force can enable the Africans to stop problems before they get out of hand. And of course, the President and I are going to review one of the training exercises here in Senegal. We've had one in Uganda. We will have one in Ghana. President Mandela said that he would be interested in participating. So I'm encouraged by that. I think there's an enormous sense among African leaders that if they have infrastructure and the training to do it, they could solve a lot of their own problems. I'm very excited about it.

Q Will you be talking to -- about reports of -- (inaudible) -- party politics here? There is criticism that perhaps the ruling party is -- has too much power and is too controlling?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we'll discuss the whole range of things. But the main thing I want to do today is to thank the President for the support that he's given to peacekeeping around the world and to -- Senegal's long experience with elected Presidencies and to work on this African Crisis Response Initiative.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
Dakar, Senegal

For Immediate Release

April 1, 1998

FACT SHEET

AFRICAN CRISIS RESPONSE INITIATIVE (ACRI)

Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher launched the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI) in October 1996. The purpose of the Initiative is to work with international partners and African nations to enhance African peacekeeping and humanitarian relief capacity. Through the ACRI program, the United States offers training and equipment to African nations who seek to enhance their peacekeeping capabilities and are committed to democratic progress, principles, and civilian rule.

The United States completed initial training with battalions from Senegal, Uganda, and Malawi in 1997, and began training Mali in February 1998. ACRI training will begin in April 1998 in Ghana in cooperation with the Belgian and Ghanaian trainers. The United States will begin training later this year in Ethiopia, which has chosen to commit two battalions and a brigade staff to this effort. The normal training period is 70 days and approximately 70 U.S. trainers generally provide instruction.

Non-governmental and private organizations are invited to participate in the training, affording trainers and trainees alike valuable opportunities for increased interaction and understanding of the role of civilian agencies in peacekeeping and complex humanitarian operations. After the initial training, U.S. military training teams return every six months for short duration to assist in developing self-sustaining training capability.

The U.S. ACRI program also complements African capacity training efforts of several other countries such as Britain, France and the Nordic countries. The U.S. also consults closely on ACRI activity with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and its Crisis Management Center, and African sub-regional organizations already pursuing capacity enhancement.

ACRI is a five year program with \$15 million allocated for the first year, \$20 million for the second year, and another \$20 million requested for the third year.

During his visit to Senegal President Clinton will review Senegalese troops who have participated in ACRI training and peacekeeping activities.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Dakar, Senegal)

For Immediate Release

April 1, 1998

FACT SHEET

Safe Skies for Africa Initiatives

The President announced today a "Safe Skies for Africa" initiative. The goals of this \$1.2 million program - funded by the Departments of State and Transportation -- are to:

- (1) increase the number of sub-Saharan African countries that meet ICAO standards for aviation safety;
- (2) improve security at 8-12 airports in the region within 3 years;
- (3) improve regional air navigation services in Africa by using modern satellite-based navigation aids and modern communications technology.

The initiative will focus on conducting safety assessments and security surveys in select countries, and formulate action plans together with Africa civil aviation authorities to bring aviation safety and security practices in Africa up to accepted world standards. In the first year, the Department of Transportation will hold four regional conferences with African civil aviation representatives to discuss with them their airports needs and how best the U.S. can assist. These conferences will build on those held last October in Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe and will then be followed by security surveys and safety assessments.

Transportation Secretary Slater will visit Africa in the near future to begin swift implementation of this initiative.

Safe air travel and secure airports are necessary for increasing trade, attracting investment, expanding tourism, and developing a more modern society. Nearly half of all world commerce is conducted by air.

"Safe Skies for Africa" is a cornerstone for a larger Africa transportation initiative that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) recently launched in support of the Administration's Africa Initiative announced by President Clinton in June 1997. DOT's transportation initiative highlights how essential transportation is to any economy -- large or small, developed or developing.



To comment on this service,

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Dakar, Senegal)

For Immediate Release

April 1, 1998

PRESS BRIEFING
BY MIKE MCCURRY

The Meridien Hotel
Dakar, Senegal

9:50 P.M. (L)

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Berger wanted to come back and tell you some more about our Africa trip and what a successful time the President has had here and how much he's enjoyed it here. And as we have done a lot on this trip, if you have questions about this matter, you should call Mr. Kennedy at the White House Legal Counsel's Office.

Q: Are you telling me you're not going to tell us the President's reaction to the news from the court?

MR. MCCURRY: I can tell you the President got a message to call Mr. Bennett, his lawyer, which he did. He called him a little bit after 9:00 p.m. The President got the news from Mr. Bennett. He asked if it was, in fact, an April Fools joke that Mr. Bennett was playing on him, and, assured that it was not, the President thanked Mr. Bennett for his fine work, said he appreciated everything the attorneys had done in this case.

And, obviously, the President was pleased that the judge agreed with the very detailed arguments that the President's attorneys had put forth in this case, and I think he believes that the court's ruling speaks more eloquently than he could on the matter.

Q: But he must be relieved by this, don't you think? Isn't he relieved?

MR. MCCURRY: The President was pleased to hear the news.

Q: How is Mrs. Clinton?

Q: Does the President regret at all that so many other people were brought into this investigation, that other names were made public?

MR. MCCURRY: There will be a lot said by many people on this. I've just told you what the President has to say.

Q: Mike, how is Mrs. Clinton handling this right now?

MR. MCCURRY: The President shared the news with the First Lady after he got it from Mr. Bennett, and I think both of them were pleased to get the news. And at the moment they're doing some shopping.

Q: What do you think this does to Ken Starr's investigation?

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not going to speculate on that. I have no basis of information to speculate on that.

Q: Is the President bitter about what happened?

Q: --political calculus in terms of the President being able to get things done, his agenda, which has been--

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not going to speculate on politics or anything else. We've done a lot of very hard work on Africa and the importance of building a new partnership with Africa on this trip. The President has been focused on that, and focused on that to the exclusion of other issues. And I think he's going to remain interested in building the kind of partnership with the countries that we've been here, continuing to build a relationship that's going to matter a lot more to the American people in the long run as we think ahead to the 21st century-- what kind of country we want to live in and what kind of country we want to share our own work with. And that's the purpose of this trip.

Q: Is he bitter about being dragged into this for three years now?

MR. MCCURRY: I think the President is pleased to receive the vindication he's been waiting a long time for this.

Q: Mike, how surprised was the President by this decision?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know if I would characterize him as being "surprised." I mean, there's been speculation that the judge would have some ruling on that motion. I don't think it was entirely expected, but it was welcome nonetheless.

Q: Mike, did the First Family call Chelsea in California?

MR. MCCURRY: Not at this point, and I don't know whether they plan to or not. I think they plan to get dinner.

Q: What was the President doing when he got the news? MR. MCCURRY: He was on the telephone with Mr. Bennett. (Laughter)

Q: Well, Mike, before that?

MR. MCCURRY: Right before that he was walking down the hallway to get on the phone with Mr. Bennett. (Laughter)

Q: How much has legal bills in this case--

MR. MCCURRY: We've reported what we have on that at previous occasion.

Anything else? Let's go to dinner.

Q: Mike, will the President address this himself at any point?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't anticipate him doing that. He's got a lot of work to do tomorrow to wrap up this trip, and he will stay focused on the work of this trip.

Q: --to tell us how you think a decision of this magnitude, which has been affecting all of your work-- how's it going to affect --I mean, this whole scandal has been affecting all of your work-- how it's going to affect--

MR. MCCURRY: A decision of this magnitude, which has been long awaited for and is--the

President is glad to get. I mean, I don't know how it's going to affect the work we do. The President would have done the work that he is going to do regardless of what this decision was.

Q: Does that President expect it to be appealed? Does Bob Bennett expect it to be appealed?

MR. MCCURRY: We had no way of knowing that. We've heard some of what the attorneys on the other side have said, but we have no way of predicting.

Q: Back on this. Does the President feel vindicated? I mean, he has always denied this.

MR. MCCURRY: I think that's about three times already I've said he's felt vindicated.

Q: Yes, I know, but I mean you really haven't addressed it.

MR. MCCURRY: Pleased to receive the vindication that he has long waited for.

Q: Does this change his mind about a news conference, Mike?

MR. MCCURRY: No. Not unless, you all have a lot of questions on Africa and the partnership we're building with Africa as we think ahead in this very important relationship the President has worked hard on in the last couple of days. Q: Does the President believe this may have damaged him, notwithstanding the vindication from the judge, simply by having this for three years in the public print?

MR. MCCURRY: This has been a fact of life and no doubt other matters will remain a fact of life for him. And he has done a very good job of staying very focused on the work that he believes that the American people expect him to do. That's what he's doing on this trip. That's what he's doing when he will get home. And I think the President has shown extraordinary discipline in not letting these other issues distract him from the work that he was elected twice by the American people to do.

Q: Mike, the judge's ruling says that if the allegations are true, they do not amount to sexual harassment. Could you state again for the record whether the President says that Ms. Jones' allegations have merit or not?

MR. MCCURRY: That question relates directly to the arguments that Mr. Bennett filed in numerous briefs before the court, and you can find the answer in the very eloquent pleadings that he filed.

Yes, sir.

Q: Mike, what are the high points of this trip to Africa?

MR. MCCURRY: I think the major high points of this trip for Africa have been the sense of a new spirit of partnership in which the American people will engage with the people of Africa as we build a common destiny. And I think most Americans will not lose sight of the fact that, irrespective of what the news is back home, this President has worked hard to advance the economic interests of the American people and doing so in a way that will help the people of Africa realize their potential. It's an extraordinary place. The President has been very struck by the energy and enthusiasm of the people and leaders of Africa, and I think he wants to build on that now as we build a new partnership with Africa.

Q: Has the president, Mike, said anything about tactics that the Paula Jones lawyers used in the last few weeks?

MR. MCCURRY: The President has said what I've reported to you, and that's about the last

question I'm going to take.

Q: Mike, for the record, does the President deny Ms. Jones' allegations?

MR. MCCURRY: That's been asked and answered so numerous times and addressed so eloquently and pleaded before the court, you don't need me to say that here.

Anything else, and we're done for the evening.

Q: Mike, you talked about what the President did, but can you tell us, did he have a meeting with his aides? Did Bruce come in, Sosnick, you? What happened immediately after he got this news?

MR. MCCURRY: He got on the phone to Bennett. He relayed the news to others here. I think it's fair to say that some people were surprised by that news, and the President shared it with the First Lady and he's going on with his program for the balance of the evening.

Q: Do you expect some celebration, Mike?

MR. MCCURRY: I expect the President to do some good shopping of the very fine crafts that they have displayed for him up there, and then have some dinner and then go to bed so that he can get and do the work that he intends to do here in Africa tomorrow.

Q: Were the President's aides surprised? Were you surprised?

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not going to characterize the reaction. I've given you the President's reaction. I think that's the significant thing, and I don't think there's anything to add beyond that.

Let's finish this up.

Q: Is the President asserting executive privilege on behalf of some of his aides in their conversations with Mrs. Clinton?

MR. MCCURRY: Asked and answered.

Q: When was it answered?

MR. MCCURRY: Asked and answered. It's been addressed back home numerous times.

Q: Well, what about you? You're his spokesperson?

MR. MCCURRY: You've asked me and I've already answered that question.

Q: By saying nothing.

MR. MCCURRY: Anything else?

Q: Mike, what exactly did the President say as he relayed his news to you and the other people on his staff?

MR. MCCURRY: He said, as I indicated, that he thought at first it was an April Fools joke.

Q: Can you kind of characterize his demeanor when he spoke to you?

MR. MCCURRY: He just wanted to know more about it and wanted to talk to Mr. Bennett about it and then wanted to share the news with the First Lady.

Okay, that's all I want to do on this subject, and we'll get back to Africa tomorrow. I know you all want to get back to your stories you're doing for tomorrow on our trip here in Africa--which we are

here in Africa, not back in Washington. And there's not--I don't believe there's anything further that Mr. Kennedy--if there's anything further to say about any legal aspect of this, Jim Kennedy from the White House Legal Counsel's Office will be the place to go. I don't intend to do anything more on it here.

Q: Mike, is the President staying in tonight?

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, he will stay here, it is my understanding.

Q: Is there some sort of frustration for the President about the coverage of this African trip?

MR. MCCURRY: No, absolutely not. It has been spectacular. It's been great. He has several times told me that he's been somewhat surprised at how much you all have been able to report on this and get good placement and good air time for the story. And he feels that's important because one of his goals in this trip was to introduce America to the potential and possibility that is Africa today and will be Africa in the 21st century. And the coverage has been great, and he's loved the pictures of him and the elephants. And he thanks all of you. And think you all deserve a night out on the town. And why don't we all go do dinner, which is what we should be doing anyhow.

All right, anybody got anything else before we end this? Thank you and good evening.



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THE WHITE HOUSE

**Office of the Press Secretary
(Dakar, Senegal)**

For Immediate Release

April 2, 1998

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT GOREE ISLAND**

**Goree Island
Senegal**

4:25 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President, for that magnificent address. Thank you so much. (Applause.)

Now, all my friends will have to tell me if the translation is working. Yes, it's working? (Applause.) Hurray!

Mr. President, Madame Diouf, the ministers and officials of the Senegalese government, Governor, Mayor, to the students who are here who have sung to us and with whom we have met from the Martin Luther King School, the John F. Kennedy School -- (applause) -- the Miriama Ba School here on Goree Island -- (applause) -- and the Margaret Amidon Elementary School in Washington, D.C. -- (applause) -- the residents of Goree Island, the citizens of Senegal -- (applause) -- my fellow Americans and our delegation, ladies and gentlemen. I'd also like to say a special word of thanks to the curator, Bubaka Ndiaye, who toured me through the slave house today. Thank you, sir. (Applause.)

Here, on this tiny island in the Atlantic Ocean, Africa and America meet. From here, Africa expands to the east; its potential for freedom and progress as great as its landmass. And to the west, over the horizon, lies America -- (applause) -- a thriving democracy built, as President Diouf said, through centuries of sacrifice.

Long after the slave ships stopped sailing from this place to America, Goree Island, still today, looks out onto the New World, connecting two continents, standing as a vivid reminder that for some of America's ancestors the journey to America was anything but a search for freedom; and yet still, a symbol of the bright new era of partnership between our peoples.

In 1776, when our nation was founded on the promise of freedom as God's right to all human beings, a new building was dedicated here on Goree Island to the selling of

human beings in bondage to America. Goree Island is, therefore, as much a part of our history as a part of Africa's history. From Goree and other places, Africa's sons and daughters were taken through the door of no return, never to see their friends and family again. (Applause.) Those who survived the murderous middle passage emerged from a dark hold to find themselves, yes, American. But it would be a long, long time before their descendants enjoyed the full meaning of that word.

We cannot push time backward through the door of no return. We have lived our history. America's struggle to overcome slavery and its legacy forms one of the most difficult chapters of that history. Yet, it is also one of the most heroic; a triumphant of courage, persistence, and dignity. The long journey of African Americans proves that the spirit can never be enslaved. (Applause.)

And that long journey is today embodied by the children of Africa who now lead America, in all phases of our common life. Many of them have come here with me on this visit, representing over 30 million Americans that are Africa's great gift to America. And I'd like them to stand now. Please stand. (Applause.)

A few hours from now, we will leave Africa and go on home, back to the work of building our own country for a new century. But I return more convinced than when I came here that despite the daunting challenges, there is an African renaissance. (Applause.)

I will never forget as long as I live the many faces that Hillary and I have seen in these last 12 days. In them, I have seen beauty and intelligence -- (applause) -- energy and spirit, and the determination to prevail. I have seen the faces of Africa's future. The friendly faces of the hundreds of thousands of people who poured into Independence Square in Accra to show that Africans feel warmly toward America. The faces of the children at the primary school in Uganda, whose parents were held back by a brutal dictatorship, but where today opportunity of education is offered to all of that nation's boys and girls.

The faces of the women in Wanyange Village in Uganda, once ordained to a life of continuing struggle, now empowered, along with 10,000 other Ugandans and women and men in Senegal and virtually every other country in Africa by microcredit loans to start their own businesses, small loans which people repay and which repay them by giving them the opportunity to live a better life.

I will always remember the faces of the survivors of the Rwandan genocide, who have the courage now not just to survive, but to build a better society.

I will never forget the face of Nelson Mandela in his cell on Robin Island -- (applause) -- a face that betrays a spirit not broken, but strengthened; not embittered, but energized; a man used his suffering to break the shackles of apartheid, and now to reach toward reconciliation. (Applause.)

I remember the faces of the young leaders I have met -- young leaders of the new South Africa; young leaders who want to build a continent where the economy grows, but where the environment is preserved and your vast riches that nature has bestowed are no longer depleted; young leaders who believe that Africa can go forward as a free, free continent, where people, all people, enjoy universal human rights. I remember their faces so well. (Applause.)

I remember the faces of the entrepreneurs, African and American, who gathered with me in Johannesburg to dedicate Ron Brown Commercial Center. (Applause.) I thank you, Mr. President, for mentioning our friend, Ron Brown -- (applause) -- for it was he who first told me that I had an obligation as an American President to build a better partnership with Africa. (Applause.)

Already, we import about as much oil from Africa as we do from the Persian Gulf. We export more to Africa than to all the former Soviet Union. And Americans should know that our investments in sub-Saharan Africa are in a return of 30 percent, higher than on any other continent in the entire world. (Applause.) But our trade and investment in Africa is but a tiny fraction of what it could be, and, therefore, of what it could produce -- in new jobs, new opportunities, new wealth, and new dreams for Africans and for Americans. The faces I saw will spur us to do better. (Applause.)

Mr. President, I remember the faces of the Senegalese soldiers yesterday, whom we saw training with Americans, but led by Africans in an African Crisis Response Initiative dedicated to the prevention of violence, to the relief of suffering, to keeping the peace on the continent of Africa. (Applause.)

Most of all, I will always remember in every country the faces of the little children -- the beautiful children -- the light in their eyes, the smiles on their faces, the songs that they sung. We owe it to them, you and I, to give them the best possible future they can have. (Applause.)

Yes, Africa still faces poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, terrible conflicts in some places. In some countries, human rights are still nonexistent and unevenly respected in others. But look across the continent. Democracy is gaining strength. Business is growing. Peace is making progress. The people and the leaders of Africa are showing the world the resiliency of the human spirit and the future of this great continent. (Applause.)

They have convinced me of the difference America can make if we are a genuine partner and friend of Africa, and the difference a new Africa can make to America's own future.

Everywhere I went in Africa I saw a passionate belief in the promise of America, stated more eloquently today by your President than I ever could. I only wish every American could see our own country as so much of Africa see us -- a nation bearing the ideals of freedom and equality and responsible citizenship, so powerful they still light the world; a nation that has found strength in our racial and ethnic and religious diversity; a nation, therefore, that

must lead by the power of example; a nation that stands for what so many aspire to and now are achieving, the freedom to dream dreams and the opportunity to make those dreams come true. (Applause.)

I am very proud of America's ties to Africa, for there is no area of American achievement that has not been touched by the intelligence and energy of Africa -- from science to medicine, to literature, to art, to music. I am proud to be the President of a nation of many colors, black and white, European and Latino, Asian and Middle Eastern and everything in between. (Applause.) We have learned one clear lesson, that when we embrace one another across the lines that divide us, we become more than the sum of our parts, a community of communities, a nation of nations. Together, we work to face the future as one America -- undaunted, undivided, grateful for the chance to live together as one people. (Applause.)

To be sure, our work is not finished and we have our own problems. But when we began as a nation, our founders knew that, and called us always to the work of forming a more perfect union. But the future before us expands as wide as the ocean that joins, not divides, the United States and Africa. As certainly as America lies over the horizon behind me, so I pledge to the people of Africa that we will reach over this ocean to build a new partnership based on friendship and respect. (Applause.)

As we leave this island now is the time to complete the circle of history, to help Africa to fulfill its promise not only as a land of rich beauty, but as a land of rich opportunity for all its people. If we face the future together it will be a future that is better for Africa and better for America.

So we leave Goree Island today mindful of the large job still to be done, proud of how far we have come, proud of how far Africa has come; determined to succeed in building a bright, common destiny whose door is open to all.

Thank you and God bless you.

END

4:40 P.M. (L)

**THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)**

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1998

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO GENOCIDE SURVIVORS, ASSISTANCE WORKERS,
AND U.S. AND RWANDA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

Kigali, Airport
Kigali, Rwanda

12:25 PM (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. First, let me thank you, Mr. President, and Vice President Kasame, and your wives for making Hillary and me and our delegation feel so welcome. I'd also like to thank the young students who met us and the musicians, the dancers who were outside. I thank especially the survivors of the genocide and those who are working to rebuild your country for spending a little time with us before we came in here.

I have a great delegation of Americans with me, leaders of our government, leaders of our Congress, distinguished American citizens. We're all very grateful to be here. We thank the Diplomatic Corps for being here, and the members of the Rwandan government, and especially the citizens.

I have come today to pay the respects of my nation to all who suffered and all who perished in the Rwandan genocide. It is my hope that through this trip, in every corner of the world today and tomorrow, their story will be told: that four years ago in this beautiful, green, lovely land, a clear and conscious decision was made by those then in power that the peoples of this country would not live side by side in peace.

During the 90 days that began on April 6 in 1994, Rwanda experienced the most extensive slaughter in this blood-filled century we are about to leave. Families murdered in their homes, people hunted down as they fled by soldiers and militia, through farmland and woods as if they were animals.

From Kibuye in the west to Kibungo in the east, people gathered seeking refuge in churches by the thousands, in hospitals, in schools. And when they were found, the old and the sick, the women and children alike, they were killed -- killed because their identity card said they were Tutsi or because they had a Tutsi parent, or because someone thought they looked like a Tutsi, or slain like thousands of Hutus because they protected Tutsis or would not countenance a policy that sought to wipe out people who just the day before, and for years before, had been their friends and neighbors.

The government-led effort to exterminate Rwanda's Tutsi and moderate Hutus, as you know better than me, took at least a million lives. Scholars of these sorts of events say that the killers, armed mostly with machetes and clubs, nonetheless did their work five times as fast as the mechanized gas chambers used by the Nazis.

It is important that the world know that these killings were not spontaneous or accidental. It is important that the world hear what your President just said -- they were most certainly no the result of ancient tribal struggles. Indeed, these people had lived together for

centuries before the events the President described began to unfold.

These events grew from a policy aimed at the systematic destruction of a people. The ground for violence was carefully prepared, the airwaves poisoned with hate, casting the Tutsis as scapegoats for the problems of Rwanda, denying their humanity. All of this was done, clearly, to make it easy for otherwise reluctant people to participate in wholesale slaughter.

Lists of victims, name by name, were actually drawn up in advance. Today the images of all that haunt us all: the dead choking the Kigara River, floating to Lake Victoria. In their fate, we are reminded of the capacity for people everywhere -- not just in Rwanda, and certainly not just in Africa -- but the capacity for people everywhere to slip into pure evil. We cannot abolish that capacity, but we must never accept it. And we know it can be overcome.

The international community, together with nations in Africa, must bear its share of responsibility for this tragedy, as well. We did not act quickly enough after the killing began. We should not have allowed the refugee camps to become safe havens for the killers. We did not immediately call these crimes by their rightful name: genocide. We cannot change the past. But we can and must do everything in our power to help you build a future without fear, and full of hope.

We owe to those who died and to those who survived who loved them, our every effort to increase our vigilance and strengthen our stand against those who would commit such atrocities in the future -- here or elsewhere. Indeed, we owe to all the peoples of the world who are at risk -- because each bloodletting hastens the next as the value of human life is degraded and violence becomes tolerated, the unimaginable becomes more conceivable -- we owe to all the people in the world our best efforts to organize ourselves so that we can maximize the chances of preventing these events. And where they cannot be prevented, we can move more quickly to minimize the horror.

So let us challenge ourselves to build a world in which no branch of humanity, because of national, racial, ethnic, or religious origin, is again threatened with destruction because of those characteristics, of which people should rightly be proud. Let us work together as a community of civilized nations to strengthen our ability to prevent and, if necessary, to stop genocide.

To that end, I am directing my administration to improve, with the international community, our system for identifying and spotlighting nations in danger of genocidal violence, so that we can assure worldwide awareness of impending threats. It may seem strange to you here, especially the many of you who lost members of your family, but all over the world there were people like me sitting in offices, day after day after day, who did not fully appreciate the depth and the speed with which you were being engulfed by this unimaginable terror.

We have seen, too -- and I want to say again -- that genocide can occur anywhere. It is not an African phenomenon and must never be viewed as such. We have seen it in industrialized Europe; we have seen it in Asia. We must have global vigilance. And never again must we be shy in the face of the evidence.

Secondly, we must as an international community have the ability to act when genocide threatens. We are working to create that capacity here in the Great Lakes region, where the memory is still fresh. This afternoon in Entebbe leaders from central and eastern Africa will meet with me to launch an effort to build a coalition to prevent genocide in this region. I thank the leaders who have stepped forward to make this commitment. We hope the effort can be a model for all the world, because our sacred task is to work to banish this greatest crime against humanity.

Events here show how urgent the work is. In the northwest part of your country, attacks by those responsible for the slaughter in 1994 continue today. We must work as partners with Rwanda to end this violence and allow your people to go on rebuilding your lives and your nation.

Third, we must work now to remedy the consequences of genocide. The United States has provided assistance to Rwanda to settle the uprooted and restart its economy, but we must do more. I am pleased that America will become the first nation to contribute to the new Genocide Survivors Fund. We will contribute this year \$2 million, continue our support in the years to come, and urge other nations to do the same, so that survivors and their communities can find the care they need and the help they must have.

Mr. President, to you, and to you, Mr. Vice President, you have shown great vision in your efforts to create a single nation in which all citizens can live freely and securely. As you pointed out, Rwanda was a single nation before the European powers met in Berlin to carve up Africa. America stands with you, and will continue helping the people of Rwanda to rebuild their lives and society.

You spoke passionately this morning in our private meeting about the need for grass-roots efforts, for the development projects which are bridging divisions and clearing a path to a better future. We will join with you to strengthen democratic institutions, to broaden participation, to give all Rwandans a greater voice in their own governance. The challenges you face are great, but your commitment to lasting reconciliation and inclusion is firm.

Fourth, to help ensure that those who survived in the generations to come never again suffer genocidal violence, nothing is more vital than establishing the rule of law. There can be no place in Rwanda that lasts without a justice system that is recognized as such.

We applaud the efforts of the Rwandan government to strengthen civilian and military justice systems. I am pleased that our Great Lakes Justice Initiative will invest \$30 million to help create throughout the region judicial systems that are impartial, credible, and effective. In Rwanda these funds will help to support courts, prosecutors, and police, military justice and cooperation at the local level.

We will also continue to pursue justice through our strong backing for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The United States is the largest contributor to this tribunal. We are frustrated, as you are, by the delays in the tribunal's work. As we know, we must do better. Now that administrative improvements have begun, however, the tribunal should expedite cases through group trials, and fulfill its historic mission.

We are prepared to help, among other things, with witness relocation, so that those who still fear can speak the truth in safety. And we will support the War Crimes tribunal for as long as it is needed to do its work, until the truth is clear and justice is rendered.

Fifth, we must make it clear to all those who would commit such acts in the future that they too must answer for their acts, and they will. In Rwanda, we must hold accountable all those who may abuse human rights, whether insurgents or soldiers. Internationally, as we meet here, talks are underway at the United Nations to establish a permanent international criminal court. Rwanda and the difficulties we have had with this special tribunal underscores the need for such a court. And the United States will work to see that it is created.

I know that in the face of all you have endured, optimism cannot come easily to any of you. Yet I have just spoken, as I said, with several Rwandans who survived the atrocities, and just listening to them gave me reason for hope. You see countless stories of courage around you every day as you go about your business here -- men and women who survived and go on, children who recover the light in their eyes remind us that at the dawn of a new

millennium there is only one crucial division among the peoples of the Earth. And believe me, after over five years of dealing with these problems I know it is not the divisions between Hutu and Tutsi, or Serb or Croat and Muslim and Bosnian, or Arab and Jew, or Catholic and Protestant in Ireland, or black and white. It is really the line between those who embrace the common humanity we all share and those who reject it.

It is the line between those who find meaning in life through respect and cooperation and who, therefore, embrace peace, and those who can only find meaning in life if they have someone to look down on, someone to trample, someone to punish and, therefore, embrace war. It is the line between those who look to the future and those who cling to the past. It is the line between those who give up their resentment and those who believe they will absolutely die if they have to release one bit of grievance. It is the line between those who confront every day with a clenched fist and those who confront every day with an open hand. That is the only line that really counts when all is said and done.

To those who believe that God made each of us in His own image, how could we choose the darker road? When you look at those children who greeted us as we got off that plane today, how could anyone say they did not want those children to have a chance to have their own children? To experience the joy of another morning sunrise? To learn the normal lessons of life? To give something back to their people?

When you strip it all away, whether we're talking about Rwanda or some other distant troubled spot, the world is divided according to how people believe they draw meaning from life.

And so I say to you, though the road is hard and uncertain, and there are many difficulties ahead, and like every other person who wishes to help, I doubtless will not be able to do everything I would like to do, there are things we can do. And if we set about the business of doing them together, you can overcome the awful burden that you have endured. You can put a smile on the face of every child in this country, and you can make people once again believe that they should live as people were living who were singing to us and dancing for us today.

That's what we have to believe. That is what I came here to say. And that is what I wish for you.

Thank you and God bless you.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Gaborone, Botswana)

For Immediate Release

March 29, 1998

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Radio Democracy for Africa

President Clinton announced today his intention to establish this year a new radio broadcasting service for Africa. Radio Democracy for Africa will be a division of the Voice of America and will broadcast an additional 22.5 hours per week of programs focused primarily on the promotion of democracy and human rights throughout the continent.

The Need for a Free Press

Democracies and market economies flourish where there is a strong free media to provide accurate news and information. State-run media are the norm in much of Africa; accompanying such media are often biases and positions of the prevailing political party of in some cases, repressive regimes. As yet, many media corporations in the United States and Europe do not yet see Africa as commercially viable. Further, radio is the medium of choice in Africa.

Reporting on Democratic Transformations

Radio Democracy reporters will focus on reporting statements by politicians and political leaders of various orientations. Because of the repressive media climate in some countries, foreign reporters will now be able to cover such stories without fear of reprisal.

Conflict Resolution

Radio Democracy will focus on promotion of conflict resolution by covering reconciliation efforts and such events as the Arusha Tribunal.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)

For Immediate Release

March 31, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND
OFFICIALS FROM THE U.S. AND BOTSWANA

Mokolodi Nature Preserve
Gaborone, Botswana

2:45 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Minister Kgoroba, for your leadership and your kind remarks. I certainly hope that our visit here will increase tourism in Botswana -- not so much because my wife and I came, but because we brought such a vast American delegation and a lot of members of our press corps -- and I think I can speak for them-- this may be the only subject on which I can speak for them, but I think I can speak for them -- they had a wonderful time, as well, and we're very grateful to you.

Vice President Mogae, thank you for joining us and congratulations about your assumption of office just in the next few hours. Minister Merahfe, Secretary Mpofo, Ambassador Mogwe, thank you all for making us feel welcome. I'd like to say a speak thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Kirby and all the people associated with the Mokolodi Nature Preserve for making us feel so welcome here. This is a perfect place for our meeting.

I thank the distinguished delegation from the United States Congress and Secretary Slater and AID Administrator Atwood; Reverend Jesse Jackson; my National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger, and Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Susan Rice, Ambassador and Mrs. Kruger, and our entire American delegation for being here.

And I would like to say a special word of thanks to the people who day in and day out in environmental and preservation work who participated in our round table. And I'd like to introduce them. And I'll do my best to pronounce their names properly. If I don't, you'll just have to make allowances for me. They did a wonderful job.

First, the Director of Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Sedie Modise. From Cameroon, the Director of the United Nations Development Program's Office to Combat Decertification and Drought, Samuel Nyambi. From Ghana, Professor of Zoology at the University of Ghana and Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Yaa Ntiama-Baidu. The Resident Representative for Conservation International for Madagascar, formerly Governor of the Central Bank of Madagascar, Minister of France, and when I first met him, the Ambassador to Madagascar to the United States, Leo Rajaobelina. And the Director of the African Conservation Centre of Kenya, Dr. Helen Gichohi.

I think it's fair to say that none of us who visit Botswana will ever forget the beauty of the environment. Hillary and I and many of our party, as the Minister just said, have been reveling in the beauties of Chobe. And we do want to come back to the Okavango Delta. And we would like to see more of the Kalahari and more of the rest of the country.

I think any human being who spends any appreciable amount of time in a uniquely pristine place, full of the wonders of animal and plant life, instinctively feel humanity's sacred obligation to preserve our environment. I have been deeply encouraged by what I have just heard in the meeting with Africa's -- some of Africa's most distinguished and dedicated environmental experts as we discussed the challenges we all face in meeting our obligation to preserve the environment.

There are challenges on every continent. Here in Africa, deserts are spreading, forests are shrinking, water is increasingly scarce. The needs of growing populations often clash with those of plants and animals. People's health is more at risk as pollutants poison water and air. And here, as everywhere, global warming threatens to aggravate droughts and floods and hasten the spread of infectious disease.

American children in their imagination often travel to Africa. Since I was a boy, we have done that. The essence of what attracts them and people everywhere is a vision of the most magnificent, amazing creatures on Earth living in harmony with unspeakably beautiful nature -- the vision we saw realized in Chobe. That vision of somehow nature in all its manifestations in balance with people living their lives successfully inspires environmental efforts around the world.

At the Rio Summit in 1992, for the first time nations gathered to proclaim that each country's stewardship of its own environment affects the whole planet. Africans and Americans swim and fish in the same Atlantic ocean, breathe the same air, suffer the same health risks from toxic chemicals, greenhouse gases, destruction of the ozone layer. If animal and plant species are lost, we are all diminished, even if they are lost on someone else's continent.

Since Rio, real progress has been made in fulfilling our mutual obligations. Nations have banned dumping of radioactive waste. Nations are attacking water pollution, working to protect ocean life. We have reaffirmed the vital need for family planning. We have made real progress in reducing the destruction of the ozone layer.

But we must do more. And today, very briefly, I'd like to focus on three concerns we Americans share with Africans: spreading deserts, threats to species, and global warming. First, with regard to deserts; 27 percent of the African continent is desert; 45 percent more, dry land, still arable, but with limited water. The dry regions are rapidly succumbing to the desert, becoming wasteland, increasing the chances of famine and poverty. While climate change as a whole plays a role, agricultural practices -- too much grazing, poor irrigation practices, too much tree clearing, failure to rotate crops -- all these things play a pivotal role.

These concerns are familiar to Americans. One hundred years ago when our settlers moved from east to west in the United States, they believed they found a paradise of rich, fertile soil. They planted and plowed the land without any thought for the future. Then, in 1931, the rain stopped. Fields dried up. Our skies turned black. Dust filled people's lungs. Food was scarce. Thousands upon thousands of starving animals descended from the hills to compete with people for scrap. In April of 1935, blinding dirt blew 24 hours a day for three weeks. After all these years, that is still known to all Americans as the Dust Bowl. It was called, America's Sahara.

We couldn't make the rains return -- that was nature's province. But we could and did, as a nation, institute strong soil conservation measures that have helped to protect us since. And we had an agricultural extension service of respected experts from each local community working with farmers to help them see that it was in their personal interest to preserve our common environment.

A half century later, at the Rio Summit with more and more arable land on the African

continent turning to dust. African leaders pressed the rest of the world for action. The world listened and crafted a treaty -- the Decertification Convention -- to help stop the spread of desert and the degrading of dry land. The treaty seeks to empower local communities and to channel foreign assistance to prevent over-grazing; to grow crops appropriate to the land; to use the existing water supplies more wisely.

I sent this treaty to our Senate for its approval in the summer of 1996. No action has been taken since, but today I am pleased to announce that two distinguished senators, one from each of our parties -- Senator Jim Jeffords of Vermont, and Senator Russ Feingold of Wisconsin -- have agreed to lead a bipartisan effort for Senate approval. And I will do my best to get it approved as quickly as possible.

In addition to protecting our land, we must preserve that plants and animals for their beauty and their benefit. As our participant from Madagascar reminded me today, the rosy periwinkle found only on Madagascar is a plant you likely would walk by without a second look. But extracts from this plant have proved critical to attacking Hodgkin's Disease and childhood leukemia. It could have been lost entirely with no concern for biodiversity. A snake root plant found in India gives a drug that saves lives by lowering blood pressure. It can be lost entirely by ignoring the needs of biodiversity. Beyond such medical breakthroughs there is majesty in God's creation and the balance of life biodiversity guarantees.

Yesterday at Chobe, we saw some of Africa's most beautiful wild animals. I saw all the things that I dreamed of seeing, from elephants and hippos to giraffes and lions. But I also saw some animals I never knew existed before -- the linewe, the sable antelope, the kudu. I saw a monitor lizard. And I thought of all the people I would like that lizard to monitor. But, unfortunately, I could not catch it and take it home.

I saw the magnificent secretary bird, a bird I had never seen before -- and watched it in wonder. I saw the lilac-breasted roller fly and roll for us, and I wished everyone in the world -- every child in the world and every child in Africa, especially -- could have a chance to see these things free from the want of poverty, free from any necessity of their parents to think about doing things which would undermine the existence of those birds and animals for all time.

The rest of the world thanks Botswana for its hard work to address these problems. Under the guidance of President Masire, Minister Kgoroba, Defense Force Commander Khama, Botswana has set aside large portions of its lands and parks, worked to stop poachers, promoted sustainable use of resources, is working with neighboring nations to protect rivers, ground water, forests and other resources they share.

Because such efforts are not easy, they must be supported. This year, America will invest more than \$80 million to help African nations protect their natural beauty. And we all should do more.

Across the continents, nations are also awakening to the connection between conservation and democracy as local communities share power with national governments in managing wildlife and water, forest and farmland. When people have a chance to decide, more often than not, they actually decide to protect what is precious to their way of life.

The United States has helped to empower African communities on the environmental matters and will increase our efforts with a new initiative called Green Communities for Africa, based on a program already working back home. The program helps citizens in each community consider the environmental consequences of all kinds of local decisions, from disposing wastes to providing clean drinking water.

Finally, we must act together to address the threat of global climate change. The

overwhelming consensus of the world's scientific community is that greenhouse gases from human activity are raising the Earth's temperature at a troubling rapid rate. And unless we change course, seas will rise so high they will swallow islands and coastal areas the world over, destroying entire communities and habitats. Storms and droughts will intensify. Diseases like malaria, Africa's terrible scourge, already killing almost 3,000 children per day, will be borne by mosquitoes to higher and higher altitudes and will travel across more and more national borders, threatening more lives on this continent than throughout the world.

No nation can escape these dangers. Therefore, all must work to prevent them. As the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, the United States has a special responsibility to our own people and the rest of the world to act.

We are implementing an aggressive plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with programs for energy efficiency and clean technology. But it is a global problem that requires global solutions. We must reduce emissions in the developed world and promote clean energy development in the developing world.

Under the historic agreement reached last December in Kyoto, companies have strong incentives to invest in clean energy projects not only in the developed countries, but in developing countries. The United States also has plans to provide \$1 billion dollars over five years to help developing countries to combat global warming.

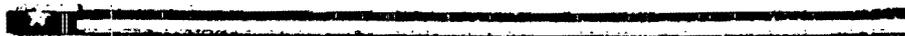
Today I'm pleased to announce that NASA, our space agency, together with our partners from Southern Africa, will conduct the first ever environmental review of this part of the continent, using satellites in space and ground surveillance. The results will provide a baseline from which to measure changes in the environment, improve seasonal drought predictions, and help to assess the impact of climate change. We can and we must work together to realize the promise of Kyoto.

A generation ago, our leaders began to realize this would become an issue we would all have to face. President Kennedy said, it is our task to hand undiminished to those who come after us the natural wealth and beauty which is ours. In other words, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours is not really ours. It belongs to the people who came before us, who live on in our memory, and to our children and grandchildren and their grandchildren which will come after.

In the United States, many of our Native American population say that they manage their own natural resources with seven generations in view. They think, in other words, about how today's decisions will affect their children seven generations down the line. We can at least think of our grandchildren. We have a serious responsibility to deal with poor people in a respectful way the world over because everyone deserves the right to try to advance his or her material condition so that all of our children can have decent lives and get decent education and build a decent future.

But we know from the scientific data available to us today that we can grow the economy at a rate that sustains both economic well-being and our natural resources. Indeed, we know that if we maximize the use of scientific technology and knowledge, we can grow the economy and even improve the condition of the natural environment.

That is our responsibility. It has come to our generation to make these decisions now so that future generations will enjoy all the wonderful technological advances of the 21st Century. But first, we must act, and we must do it together. Thank you very much.





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**THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Kampala, Uganda)**

For Immediate Release

March 23, 1998

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE COMMUNITY OF KISOWERA SCHOOL**

Mukono, Uganda

4:25 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you and good afternoon. President Museveni. Mrs. Museveni. Ms. Vice President. Mr. Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker; to Education Minister Mushega, to their Highnesses, the distinguished Kings here, the religious leaders and other distinguished leaders of Uganda; members of our United States Congress, my Cabinet and other important citizens and public servants from the United States. And most of all, I want to thank the principals, the teachers, the students for showing me this wonderful school, the wonderful young people who walked down with us today, and the wonderful dancing exhibit we saw here today. Let's give them a big hand. I though they were quite wonderful.

As Hillary said, she and our daughter, Chelsea, came to Africa and to Uganda last year. I have heard a great deal about Uganda since then -- over and over and over again. In selecting countries to visit, I almost felt I didn't need to come here because I knew enough anyway from talking to Hillary about it. She has, I think, become your unofficial roving ambassador to the world.

But let me say I am profoundly honored to be here, honored to be on this continent, honored to be in this country, honored by the progress that has been made in these last few years in improving economic conditions, in improving political conditions. Thank you for what you have done, Mr. President, and to all of you.

Earlier today we talked about trade and investment. And President Museveni wants more of both, and he should. We talked about political cooperation and how we could work together for the future. And I listened very carefully to what the President said about the history of Africa, the history of Uganda, the future, what mistakes had been made in the past.

It is as well not to dwell too much on the past, but I think it is worth pointing out that the United States has not always done the right thing by Africa. In our own time, during the Cold war, when we were so concerned about being in competition with the Soviet Union, very often we dealt with countries in Africa and in other parts of the world based more on how they stood in the struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union than how they stood in the struggle for their own people's aspirations to live up to the fullest of their God-given abilities.

And, of course, going back to the time before we were even a nation, European Americans received the fruits of the slave trade. And we were wrong in that, as well -- although, I must say, if you look at the remarkable delegation we have here from Congress, from our Cabinet and administration, and from the citizens of America, there are many distinguished African Americans who are in that delegation who are making America a better place

today.

But perhaps the worst sin America ever committed about Africa was the sin of neglect and ignorance. We have never been as involved with you, in working together for our mutual benefit, for your children and for ours, as we should have been. So I came here to listen and to learn, to offer my help and friendship and partnership. And I came in the hope that because all these good people up here in the media came with me and they're telling the American people back home what we're doing -- it's not raining, is it? It's been cold and cloudy in Washington. I need a suntan.

I came here in the hope that the American people would see you with new eyes -- that they would see the children dance, see the children learning, hear the children singing, and say, we should be part of the same future.

Today I want to talk very briefly about that future for our children. President Museveni and Education Minister Mushega have made education a top priority, especially through the Universal Primary Education Program, and I loved hearing the children sing about it.

But you leaders have done more than talk and sing; they have acted. In five years, education spending in Uganda has tripled and teacher salaries have gone up 900 percent. I hate to say that; back home, they'll wonder why I'm not doing better. And, more importantly, your getting something for your investment: better-trained teachers, higher test scores, improved performance in school attendance from girls. I know that Kisowera School is proud that it graduates as many girls as boys, because we want all our children to learn so that all of them can succeed and make us all stronger. In most African countries, however, far fewer girls than boys enroll in school and graduate. One-half the primary school-age children are not in school, and that has led in many nations to a literacy rate among adults below 50 percent.

Africa wants to do better, Uganda is doing better, the United States wants to help. Through a new initiative, Education For Development and Democracy, we want to give \$120 million dollars over the next two years to innovative programs to improve education. We want to widen the circle of educational opportunity as is already happening here in Uganda. We want to make investments in primary education for those who will educate boys and girls, because that is critical to improving health, reducing poverty, raising the status of women, spurring economic growth.

We want to promote girls' education with leadership training and scholarships, nutrition training, and mentoring. We also want to support efforts to reach out-of-school youths. This is a huge problem in parts of Africa, where there are children who were soldiers and are now adrift and without hope.

Second, we want to help create community resource centers with schools that are equipped with computers linked to the Internet, along with books and typewriters and radios for more long distance learning. We want them to be staffed by Africans and American Peace Corps volunteers.

Third, we want more new partnerships among African schools and between American and African schools, so that we can learn from and teach each other through the Internet. We do this a lot now at home.

Let me give you an idea of how it might work. A student here in Mukono could make up the first line of a story and type it in to the Internet to a student in Accra, Ghana, who could then add a second line and they could go on together, back and forth, writing a story. A teacher in New York could give five math problems to students in Kampala, and they could send the answers back. One of the very first partnerships will link this school -- Kisowera -- with the Pinecrest Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. I want

more of them.

Fourth, we want to support higher education with the development of business, health care, science, math and engineering courses. These are absolutely essential to give Africans the tools they need to compete and win in the new global economy, and we want to help do that.

Finally, we want to build ties between associations and institutions within Africa and in America so that groups in your nations and ours concerned with trade and investment, consumer issues, conflict resolution, or human rights can connect with distant counterparts and learn together and work together. This will empower citizens on both continents.

This initiative will help more Africans, all right, to start school, stay in school, and remain lifelong learners. But Americans will learn a great deal from it as well.

We also want to support your efforts in health and nutrition. Uganda has suffered so much from AIDS, but President Museveni launched a strong education campaign with frank talk and he has made a huge difference, as have all of you who have worked to turn around the AIDS problem in Uganda.

We will continue to combat it with global research and health care and prevention efforts. But these efforts are also essential to combat malaria, an even greater killer of Africans. Nearly 3,000 children every day -- a million each year -- are lost to malaria. By weakening as well as killing people, malaria contributes to poverty and undermines economic growth. Ninety percent of all malaria cases arise on the continent of Africa, but with increasing globalization we are all at risk. We now fund in the United States half the research on malaria, but we want to do more.

This year, we've committed \$16 million more to help African nations fight infectious diseases, including malaria, with an additional million dollars to the West African Malaria Center in Mali. We also want to support good nutrition. There are troubling signs that without concerted efforts, Africa could face a major food and nutrition crisis in the coming years because of natural causes and social unrest. Children cannot learn if they are hungry. So we have proposed a food security initiative for Africa to ensure that more African families can eat good meals and more African farmers can make good incomes.

Over the next 10 years, we want to stay with you and work at this. In the next two years we propose to spend over \$60 million in Uganda, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique and Ethiopia to increase food production, enhance marketing, expand agricultural trade and investment.

I've learned a lot since I've been here about Ugandan bananas, Ugandan coffee. I will be an expert in all these matters when I go home.

I want you to understand again what I said at the beginning. We want to do these things in education, in health care and agriculture and nutrition because they will help you, because we want to see the light that is in these children's eyes forever, and in the eyes of all other children.

But make no mistake about it. The biggest mistake America ever made with Africa over the long run was neglect and lack of understanding that we share a common future on this planet of ours that is getting smaller and smaller and smaller. We do these things, yes, because we want to help the children. But we do it because we know it will help our children. For we must face the challenges and seize the opportunities of the 21st century together. The next century, in a new millennium, will be the brightest chapter in all of human history -- if, but only if, it is right for all of our children.

Thank you and God bless you.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 16, 1999

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO CONFERENCE ON U.S.-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

Department of State

9:38 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Good morning. Let me say, first of all, to Minister Ouedrago, thank you for your fine address and for your leadership. Secretary General Salim, Secretary General Annan, Secretary Albright; to our distinguished ministers and ambassadors and other officials from 46 African nations, and the representatives of the Cabinet and the United States government. I am delighted to see you all here today. We are honored by your presence in the United States and excited about what it means for our common future.

A year ago next week I set out on my journey to Africa. It was, for me, for my wife, and for many people who took that trip, an utterly unforgettable and profoundly moving experience. I went to Africa in the hope not only that I would learn, but that the process of the trip itself and the publicity that our friends in the press would give it would cause Americans and Africans to see each other in a new light -- not denying the lingering effects of slavery, colonialism, Cold War, but to focus on a new future -- to build a new chapter of history, a new era of genuine partnership.

A year later, we have to say there has been a fair measure of hope, and some new disappointments. War still tears at the heart of Africa. Congo, Sierra Leone, Angola, Sudan have not yet resolved their conflicts. Ethiopia and Eritrea are mired in a truly tragic dispute we have done our best to try to help avoid. Violence still steals innocent lives in the Great Lakes region. In the last year, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam became battlefields in a terrorist campaign that killed and wounded thousands of Africans, along with Americans working there for a different future.

But there have also been promising new developments. The recent elections in Nigeria give Africa's most populous country, finally, a chance to realize its enormous potential. The transition may not be complete, but let's not forget, just a year ago it was

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unthinkable. This June, for the first time, South Africa will transfer power from one fully democratic government to another.

More than half the Sub-Saharan nations are now governed by elected leaders. Many, such as Benin, Mali and Tanzania, have fully embraced open government and open markets. Quite a few have recorded strong economic growth, including Mozambique, crippled by civil war not long ago. Ghana's economy has grown by five percent a year since 1992.

All of you here have contributed to this progress. All are eager to make the next century better than the last. You share a great responsibility, for you are the architects of Africa's future.

Today, I would like to talk about the tangible ways we can move forward with our partnership. Since our trip to Africa my administration has worked hard to do more. We've created a \$120 million educational initiative to link schools in Africa to schools in this country. We've created the Great Lakes Justice Initiative to attack the culture of impunity. We have launched a Safe Skies Initiative to increase air links between Africa and the rest of the world; given \$30 million to protect food security in Africa and more to be provided during this year.

In my budget submission to Congress I have asked for additional funds to cover the cost of relieving another \$237 million in African debt on top of the \$245 million covered in this year's appropriation.

We're working hard with you to bring an end to the armed conflicts which claim innocent lives and block economic progress; conducting extensive shuttle diplomacy in an effort to resolve the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea. In Sierra Leon we're doing what we can to reduce suffering and forge a lasting peace. We have provided \$75 million in humanitarian assistance over the last 18 months. And with the approval of Congress we will triple our longstanding commitment of support for ECOMOG to conduct regional peacekeeping.

We have also done what we can to build the Africa Crisis Response Initiative, with members of our military cooperating with African militaries. We've provided \$8 million since 1993 to the OAU's Conflict Management Center to support African efforts to resolve disputes and end small conflicts before they explode into large ones.

Nonetheless, we have a lot of ground to make up. For too much of this century, the relationship between the United States and Africa was plagued by indifference on our part. This conference represents an unparalleled opportunity to raise our growing cooperation to the next level. During the next few days we want to talk about how these programs work and hear from you about how we can do better. Eight members of my Cabinet will meet their African counterparts. The message I want your leaders to take home is this is a partnership with substance, backed by a long-term commitment.

This is truly a relationship for the long haul. We have been too separate and too unequal. We must end that by building a better common future. We need to strive together to do better, with a clear vision of what we want to achieve over the long run. Ten years from now, we want to see more growth rates above five percent. A generation from now, we

want to see a larger middle class, more jobs and consumers, more African exports, thriving schools filled with children -- boys and girls -- with high expectations and a reasonable chance of fulfilling them.

But we need the tools to get there -- the tools of aid, trade, and investment. As I said when I was in Africa, this must not be a choice between aid and trade; we must have both. In my budget request for the next fiscal year, I've asked for an increase of 10 percent in development assistance to Africa. But the aid is about quality, and quantity. Our aid programs are developed with your involvement, designed to develop the institutions needed to sustain democracy and to reduce poverty, and to increase independence.

To expand opportunity, we also need trade. Our administration strongly supports the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which I said in my State of the Union address we will work to pass in this session of Congress. The act represents the first step in creating, for the first time in our history, a genuine framework for U.S.-Africa trade relations. It provides immediate benefits to nations modernizing their economies, and offers incentives to others to do the same. It increases U.S. assistance, targeting it where it will do the most good.

The bill clearly will benefit both Africa and the United States: Africans ask for more access to our markets; this bill provides that. You asked that GSP benefits be extended; this bill extends them for 10 years. You said you need more private investment; this bill calls for the creation of two equity investment funds by OPIC, providing up to \$650 million to generate private investment in Africa.

We agree that labor concerns are important. This bill removes GSP benefits for any country found to be denying worker rights. You told us we need to understand more about your views on development. This bill provides a forum for high-level dialogue and cooperation.

It is a principled and pragmatic approach based on what will work. No one is saying it will be easy, but we are resolved to help lower the hurdles left by past mistakes. I believe it represents a strong, achievable and important step forward. There are many friends of Africa in Congress and many strong opinions about how best to help Africa. I hope they will quickly find consensus. We cannot afford a house divided. Africa needs action now. (Applause.)

There's another crucial way the United States can hasten Africa's integration. One of the most serious issues we must deal with together, and one of truly global importance is debt relief. Today, I ask the international community to take actions which could result in forgiving \$70 billion in global debt relief -- global debt. Our goal is to ensure that no country committed to fundamental reform is left with a debt burden that keeps it from meeting its people's basic human needs and spurring growth. We should provide extraordinary relief for countries making extraordinary efforts to build working economies. (Applause.)

To achieve this goal, in consultation with our Congress and within the framework of our

balanced budget, I proposed that we make significant improvements to the heavily-indebted Poor Countries Initiative at the Cologne Summit of the G-7 in June. First, a new focus on early relief by international financial institutions, which now reduce debt only at the end of the HIPC program. Combined with ongoing forgiveness of cash flows by the Paris Club, this will substantially accelerate relief from debt payment burden.

Second, the complete forgiveness of all bilateral concessional loans to the poorest countries. Third, deeper and broader reduction of other bilateral debts, raising the amount to 90 percent. Fourth, to avoid recurring debt problems, donor countries should commit to provide at least 90 percent of new development assistance on a grant basis to countries eligible for debt reduction.

Fifth, new approaches to help countries emerging from conflicts that have not had the chance to establish reform records, and need immediate relief and concessional finance. And, sixth, support for gold sales by the IMF to do its part, and additional contributions by us and other countries to the World Bank's trust fund to help meet the cost of this initiative. Finally, we should be prepared to provide even greater relief in exceptional cases where it could make a real difference.

What I am proposing is debt reduction that is deeper and faster. It is demanding, but to put it simply, the more debtor nations take responsibility for pursuing sound economic policies, the more creditor nations must be willing to provide debt relief.

One of the best days of my trip last year was the day I opened an investment center in Johannesburg, named after our late Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown, a true visionary who knew that peace, democracy and prosperity would grow in Africa with the right kind of support. I can't think of a better tribute to him than our work here today, for he understood that Africa's transformation will not happen overnight, but on the other hand, that it should happen and that it could happen.

Look at Latin America's progress over the last decade. Look at Asia before that. In each case, the same formula worked: Peace, open markets, democracy and hard work lifted hundreds of millions of people from poverty. It has nothing to do with latitude and longitude, or religion or race. It has everything to do with an equal chance and smart decisions.

There are a thousand reasons Africa and the United States should work together for the 21st century, reasons buried deep in our past, reasons apparent in the future just ahead. It is the right thing to do, and it is in the self-interest of all the peoples represented in this room today. Africa obviously matters to the 30 million Americans who trace their roots there. But Africa matters to all Americans. It provides 13 percent of our oil, nearly as much as the Middle East. Over 100,000 American jobs depend upon our exports to Africa. There could be millions more when Africa realizes its potential. As Africa grows it will need what we produce and we will need what Africa produces.

Africa is home to 700 million people, nearly a fifth of the world. Last year, our growing relationship with this enormous market helped to protect the United States from the global financial crisis raging elsewhere. While exports were down in other parts of the

world, exports from the United States to Africa actually went up by eight percent, topping \$6 billion. As wise investors have discovered, investments in Africa pay. In 1997, the rate of return of American investments in Africa was 36 percent -- compared with 16 percent in Asia, 14 percent worldwide, 11 percent in Europe.

As has already been said, we share common health and environmental concerns with people all over the world, and certainly in Africa. If we want to deal with the problems of global warming and climate change, we must deal in partnership with Africa. If we want to deal with a whole array of public health problems that affect not only the children and people of Africa, but people throughout the rest of the world, we must do it in partnership with Africa.

Finally, I'd like to just state a simple truth that guides our relations with all nations. Countries that are democratic, peaceful and prosperous are good neighbors and good partners. They help respond to crises. They respect the environment. They abide by international law. They protect their working people and their consumers. They honor women as well as men. They give all their children a chance.

There are 46 nations represented here today -- roughly a quarter of all the countries on Earth. You share a dazzling variety of people and languages and traditions. The world of the 21st century needs your strength, your contribution, your full participation in the struggle to unleash the human potential of people everywhere. (Applause.)

Africa is the ancient cradle of humanity. But it is also a remarkably young continent, full of young people with an enormous stake in the future. When I traveled through the streets of the African cities and I saw the tens of thousands, the hundreds of thousands of young people who came out to see me, I wanted them to have long, full, healthy lives. I tried to imagine what their lives could be like if we could preserve the peace, preserve freedom, extend genuine opportunity, give them a chance to have a life that was both full of liberty and ordered, structured chances -- chances that their parents and grandparents did not know.

The Kanuri people of Nigeria, Niger and Chad say, "hope is the pillar of the world." The last decade proves that hope is stronger than despair, if it is followed by action. Action is the mandate of this conference.

Let us move beyond words, and do what needs to be done. For our part, that means debt relief, passage of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, appropriate increases in assistance, and a genuine sense of partnership and openness to future possibilities. For your part, it means continuing the work of building the institutions that bring democracy and peace, prosperity and equal opportunity.

We are ending a decade, the 1990s, that began with a powerful symbol. I will never forget the early Sunday morning in 1990, when I got my daughter up and took her down to the kitchen to turn on the television so that she could watch Nelson Mandela walk out of his prison for the last time. She was just a young girl, and I told her that I had the feeling that this would be one of the most important events of her lifetime, in terms of its impact on the imagination of freedom-loving people everywhere.

We could not have known then, either she or I or my wife, that we would have the great good fortune to get to know Mr. Mandela, and see his generosity extended to our family, and to our child, as it has been to children all over his country. But in that walk, we saw a continent's expression of dignity, of self-respect, of the soaring potential of the unfettered human spirit.

For a decade, now, the people of South Africa and the people of Africa have been trying to make the symbol of that walk real in the lives of all the people of the continent. We still have a long way to go. But let us not forget how far we have come. And let us not forget that greatness resides not only in the people who lead countries and who overcome persecutions, but in the heart and mind of every child, and every person -- there is the potential to do better, to reach higher, to fulfill dreams. It is our job to give all the children of Africa the chance to do that.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Lake Placid, New York)

For Immediate Release

August 19, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R.3519, the "Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000," which represents the latest U.S. effort in the long-term global fight against HIV/AIDS and its related threat of tuberculosis.

In July 1999, Vice President Gore and I launched the Administration's interagency "Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic" (LIFE) initiative to expand our funding for global HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment in the worstaffected developing countries. With bipartisan support, the Congress appropriated the additional \$100 million that we requested for FY 2000 to enhance these efforts. For FY 2001, my budget includes an additional \$100 million for the LIFE initiative.

While the LIFE initiative greatly strengthens the foundation of a comprehensive response to the pandemic, the United States clearly understands that there is much more to be done. The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS has estimated that it will take \$1.5 billion annually to establish an effective HIV prevention program in sub-Saharan Africa and an additional \$1.5 billion annually to deliver basic care and treatment to people with AIDS in the region.

H.R.3519 takes some of the additional steps to broaden the global effort to combat this worldwide epidemic. It provides enhanced bilateral authorities and authorizes funding for the Agency for International Development's HIV/AIDS programs; authorizes new funding for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative; and authorizes the creation of a World Bank AIDS Trust Fund that is intended to create a new, multilateral funding mechanism to support AIDS prevention and care programs in the most grievously affected countries.

The United States, however, cannot and should not battle AIDS alone. This crisis will require the active engagement of all segments of all societies working together. Every bilateral donor, every multilateral lending agency, the corporate community, the foundation community, the religious community, and every host government of a developing nation must do its part to provide the leadership and resources necessary to turn this tide. It can and must be done.

There is currently no vaccine or cure for HIV/AIDS, and we are at the beginning of a global pandemic, not the end. What we see in Africa today is just the tip of the iceberg. There must be a sense of urgency to work together with our partners in Africa and around the world, to learn from both our failures and our successes, and to share this experience with those countries that now stand on the brink of disaster. Millions of lives-- perhaps hundreds of millions-- hang in the balance. That is why this legislation is so important.

I wish to thank and congratulate our congressional partners who worked hard to make this bipartisan legislation a reality: Representatives Leach, Lee, LaFalce, Gejdenson, Gilman, Jackson-Lee, Maloney of New York, and Pelosi, and Senators Kerry, Frist, Biden, Boxer, Durbin, Feingold, Helms, Leahy, Moynihan, and Smith of Oregon.

While I strongly support this legislation, certain provisions seem to direct the Administration on how to proceed in negotiations related to the development of the World Bank AIDS Trust Fund. Because these provisions appear to require the Administration to take certain positions in the international arena, they raise constitutional concerns. As such, I will treat them as precatory.

The United States has been engaged in the fight against AIDS since the 1980s. Increasingly, we have come to realize that when it comes to AIDS, neither the crisis nor the opportunity to address it have borders. We have a great deal to learn from the experiences of other countries, and the suffering of citizens in our global village touches us all. The pages of history reveal moments in time when the global community came together and collectively found "the higher angels of our nature." In a world living with AIDS, we must reach for one of those historic moments now-- it is the only way to avoid paying the price later.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
August 19, 2000.

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February 17, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO OPENING OF NATIONAL SUMMIT ON AFRICA

10:50 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Immediate Release

February 17, 2000

For

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO OPENING OF NATIONAL SUMMIT ON AFRICA

Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

10:50 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much. It's a wonderful thing to be introduced by an old friend. Old friends and people you have appointed to office will tell false, good stories about you every time. (Laughter.)

Africa never had a better friend in America than Andrew Young, and I thank him. (Applause.) I want to say I'm honored to be in the presence today of so many distinguished Africans. Secretary Salim, thank you for your visionary remarks and your leadership. President Moi, thank you for coming to the United States and for giving me another chance to visit with you and for the work we have done together. Vice President Abubakar, thank you for what you are doing in Nigeria to give that great country its true promise at long last. We thank you, sir. (Applause.)

I welcome all our distinguished guests from Africa: Mrs. Taylor, foreign ministers, ambassadors. I thank all the Americans who are here, beginning with Andy's wife, who puts up with this relentless travel of his around Africa. Mayor Williams, thank you for welcoming us to Washington. There are three members of our Congress here today representing what I hope will be a stronger and stronger bipartisan commitment to the future of Africa: Congressman Royce and Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, I thank you for being here. (Applause.)

I want to thank Leonard Robinson and Herschelle Challenor and all the people responsible for this remarkable conference. Thank you, Noah Samara and thank you, Bishop Ricard, for being here. And I want to say a special word of appreciation to all the people in our administration who have

worked so hard to give us an Africa policy that we can be proud of, that I hope will light up the path for America's future.

I know that Secretary Slater has already spoken here. Our AID Director, Brady Anderson, will speak. Our Vice President will be here. You said, Secretary Salim, you hope future administrations will follow our lead in Africa. I know one that would. (Laughter and applause.)

I want to thank Susan Rice at the State Department, Sandy Berger, Gayle Smith, all the people in our White House, all the ones who have helped us here.. (Applause.)

Secretary Salim said Africa lacks a strong constituency in the United States. Well, I open this National Summit on Africa with a simple message: Africa does matter to the United States. (Applause.)

Of whatever background Americans claim -- Leonard Robinson told me when I came here, we even have 17 delegates from Utah here. There they are, you see? (Laughter and applause.) Africa matters not simply because 30 million Americans trace their heritage to Africa, though that is profoundly important. (Applause.) Not simply because we have a strong interest in a stable and prosperous Africa -- though 13 percent of our oil comes from Africa, and there are 700 million producers and consumers in sub-Saharan Africa, though that is important. Africa's future matters because the 21st century world has been transformed, and our views and actions must be transformed accordingly.

For most of history, the central reality in international relations was that size and location matter most. If you were a big country or on a trade or invasion route, you mattered. If not, you are marginalized. The average American child growing up in the past saw African nations as colorful flags and exotic names on a map, perhaps read books about the wonderful animals and great adventures. When colonialism ended, the colors on the flags were changed and there were more names on the map. But the countries did not seem nearer to most Americans.

That has all changed now. For the central reality of our time is globalization. It is tearing down barriers between nations and people; knowledge, contact and trade across borders within and between every continent are exploding. And all this globalization is also, as the barriers come down, making us more vulnerable to one another's problems: to the shock of economic turmoil, to the spread of conflict, to pollution and, as we have painfully seen, to disease; the terrorists, the drug traffickers, the criminals who can also take advantage of new technologies and globalization, the openness of societies and borders.

Globalization means we know more about one another than ever before. You may see the Discovery Channel in Africa. I was thinking of that when that little film was on. The Discovery Channel followed me to Africa and talked about how they were building communications networks in African schools to share knowledge and information. We can find out within seconds now what the weather is in Nairobi, how a referendum turned out in Zimbabwe, how Cameroon's indomitable Lions performed in the latest soccer match. (Laughter and applause.) We can go online and read the Addis Tribune, the Mirror of Ghana, the East African, or dozens of other African newspapers. We sit in front of a television and watch people in a South African township line up to vote.

We also, now, bear witness to the slaughter of innocents in Rwanda, or the ravages of AIDS in scores of lands, or the painful coincidence of remarkable growth and abject poverty in nation after nation. In other words, it is no longer an option for us to choose not to know about the triumphs and the trials of the people with whom we share this small planet. Not just America and Africa; I would imagine millions of Africans identified with the Muslims of Kosovo when they were run out of their

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country, all of them at one time. We know about each other; we can no longer choose not to know. We can only choose not to act, or to act. (Applause.)

In this world, we can be indifferent or we can make a difference. America must choose, when it comes to Africa, to make a difference. (Applause.) Because we want to live in a world which is not dominated by a division of people who live on the cutting edge of a new economy and others who live on the bare edge of survival, we must be involved in Africa. Because we want to broaden global growth and expand markets for our own people, we must be involved in Africa. Because we want to build a world in which our security is not threatened by the spread of armed conflict, in which bitter ethnic and religious differences are resolved by the force of argument, not the force of arms, we must be involved in Africa.

Because we want to build a world where terrorists and criminals have no place to hide, and where those who wish harm to ordinary people cannot acquire the means to do them harm, we must be involved in Africa. Because we want to build a world in which we can harness our natural resources for economic growth without destroying the environment, so that future generations will also have the chance to do the same, we must be involved in Africa. (Applause.)

That is why I set out in 1993, at the beginning of my presidency, to build new ties between the United States and Africa; why we had the first White House conference, the ministerial and that wonderful trip in the spring of 1998, that I will remember for the rest of my life. (Applause.)

I went to Africa as a friend, to create a partnership. And we have made significant progress. There are challenges that are profound, but in the last two years we have seen thousands of triumphs large and small. Often, they don't make the headlines because the slow, steady progress of democracy and prosperity is not the stuff of headlines.

But, for example, I wish every American knew that last year the world's fastest-growing economy was Mozambique. Botswana was second, Angola fourth. (Applause.) I wish every American knew that and understood that that potential is in every African nation. It would make a difference. We must know these things about one another.

People know all about Africa's conflicts, but how many know that thousands of African soldiers are trying to end those conflicts as peacekeepers -- and that Nigeria alone, amidst all its difficulties, has spent \$10 billion in these peacekeeping efforts? (Applause.)

For years, Africa's wealthiest country, South Africa, and its most populous, Nigeria, cast long, forbidding shadows across the continent. Last year, South Africa's remarkable turnaround continued as its people transferred power from one elected president to another. Nigeria inaugurated a democratically elected president for the first time in decades. It is working to ensure that its wealth strengthens its people, not their oppressors. These are good news stories. They may not be in the headlines, but they should be in our hearts and our minds as we think of the future. (Applause.)

No one here, no one in our government, is under any illusions. There is still a lot of work to be done. Hardly anyone disagrees about what is needed: genuine democracy, good government, open markets, sustained investment in education and health and the environment -- and more than anything, widespread peace. All depend, fundamentally and first, on African leadership. (Applause.) These things cannot be imported, and they certainly cannot be imposed from outside.

But we must also face a clear reality: even countries making the right policy choices still have to struggle to deliver for their people.

Each African government has to walk down its own road to reform and renewal. But it is a hard road. And those of us who are in a position to do so must do our part to smooth that road, to remove some of the larger barriers, so that Africa can fully share in the benefits and the responsibilities of globalization.

I tell the American people all the time, and they're probably tired of hearing it now, that I have a very simple political philosophy: everybody counts, everybody has a role to play, everybody deserves a chance. And we all do better when we help each other. That is a rule we ought to follow with Africa. (Applause.)

There are five steps in particular I believe we must take. First, we must build an open world trading system which will benefit Africa alongside every other region in the world. (Applause.) Open markets are indispensable to raising living standards. From the 1970s to the 1990s, developing countries that chose trade grew at least twice as fast as those that chose not to open to the world.

Now, there are some who doubt that the poorest countries will benefit if we continue to open markets, but they should ask themselves: what will happen to workers in South Africa and Kenya without the jobs that come from selling the fruit of their labors abroad? What will happen to farmers in Zimbabwe and Ghana if protectionist farm subsidies make it impossible for them to sell beyond their borders?

Trade must not be a race to the bottom, whether we're talking about child labor, harsh working conditions or environmental degradation. But neither can we use fear to keep the poorest part of the global community stuck at the bottom forever. Africa has already taken important steps, forming regional trade blocks like ECOWAS, the East Africa Community, and SADC. But we can do more. That is why our Overseas Private Investment Corporation in Africa is working to support three times as many business projects in 1999 than it did in 1998, to create jobs for Africans and, yes, for Americans as well. That is why we are working with African nations to develop the institutions to sustain future growth -- from efficient telecommunications to the financial sector.

And that is why, as soon as possible, we must enact in our Congress the bipartisan Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. (Applause.) This bill has passed in one version in our House and another version in our Senate. I urge the Congress to resolve the differences and send me a bill for signature by next month. (Applause.) And I ask every one of you here who just clapped -- and those who didn't, but sympathize with the clapped -- (laughter) -- to contact anyone you know in the United States Congress and ask them to do this. This is a job that needs to be done. (Applause.)

We must also realize that trade alone cannot conquer poverty or build a partnership we need. For that reason, a second step we must take is to continue the work now underway to provide debt relief to African nations committed to sound policies. (Applause.) Struggling democratic governments should not have to choose between feeding and educating their children and paying interest on a debt. (Applause.) Last March, I suggested a way we could expand debt relief for the world's poorest and most indebted countries, most of which are African, and ensure the resources would be used to improve economic opportunity for ordinary African citizens. Our G-7 partners embraced that plan.

Still, I felt we should do more. So in September, I announced that we would completely write off all the debts owed to us by the countries that qualified for the G-7 program -- as many as 27 African nations in all. The first countries, including Uganda and Mauritania, have begun to receive the benefits. Mozambique, Benin, Senegal and Tanzania are expected to receive benefits soon. Mozambique's debt is expected to go down by more than \$3 billion. The money saved will be twice the health budget -- twice the

health budget -- in a country where children are more likely to die before the age of five than they are to go on to secondary school.

Last year, I asked Congress for \$970 million for debt relief. Many of you helped to persuade our Congress to appropriate a big share of that. Keep in mind, this is a program religious leaders say is a moral imperative, and leading economists say is a practical imperative. It's not so often that you get the religious leaders and the economists telling us that good business is good morals. (Applause.) It's probably always true, but they don't say it all that often. (Laughter.) We must finish the job this year; we must continue this work to provide aggressive debt relief to the countries that are doing the right thing, that will take the money and reinvest it in their people and their future. I ask you, especially the Americans in this audience, if you believe in what brought you here, help us to continue this important effort. (Applause.)

A third step we must take is to give better and deeper support to African education. Literacy is crucial -- to economic growth, to health, to democracy, to securing the benefits of globalization. Sub-Saharan Africa has the developing world's lowest school enrollment rate. In Zambia, over half the schoolchildren lack a simple notebook. In rural parts of Tanzania, there is one textbook for every 20 children. That's why I proposed in our budget to increase by more than 50 percent the assistance we provide to developing countries to improve basic education, targeting areas where child labor is prevalent. I ask other nations to join us in this. (Applause.)

I'll never forget the schools I visited on my trip to Africa -- the bright lights in the eyes of the children, how intelligent they were, how eager they were. It is wrong for them to have to look at maps of nations that no longer exist, without maps of nations in their own continent that do exist. It is wrong for them to be deprived the same opportunities to learn that our young people have here. If intelligence is equally distributed throughout the human race -- and I believe it is -- then every child in the human race ought to have a chance to develop his or her intelligence in every country in the world. (Applause.)

A fourth step we must take is to fight the terrible diseases that have afflicted so many millions of Africans, especially AIDS and also TB and malaria. Last year, ten times as many people died of AIDS in Africa as were killed in all the continent's wars combined. It will soon double child mortality and reduce life expectancy by 20 years.

You all laughed when Andy Young said that I was going to get out of the presidency as a young man. Depending on the day, I sometimes feel young or I feel that I'm the oldest man my age in America. (Laughter.) The life expectancy in this country has gone from 47 to 77 in the 20th century. An American who lives to be 65 has a life expectancy in excess of 82 years. AIDS is going to reduce the life expectancy in Africa by 20 years. And even that understates the problem, because the people that escape it will live longer lives as African economies grow and strengthen.

The worst burden in life any adult can bear is to see a child die before you. The worst problem in Africa now is that so many of these children with AIDS have also already lost their parents. We must do something about this. In Africa there are companies that are hiring two employees for every job on the assumption that one of them will die. This is a humanitarian issue, a political issue and an economic issue.

Last month, Vice President Gore opened the first-ever United Nations Security Council session on health issues, on a health issue, by addressing the AIDS crisis in Africa. I've asked Congress for another \$100 million to fight the epidemic, bringing our total to \$325 million. I've asked my administration to develop a plan for new initiatives to address prevention, the financial dimensions of fighting AIDS, the needs of those affected, so

that we can make it clear to our African partners that we consider AIDS not just their burden but ours, as well.

But even that will not be enough. Recently, Uganda's Health Minister pointed out that to provide access to currently available treatments to every Ugandan afflicted with AIDS would cost \$24 billion. The annual budget of Uganda is \$2 billion.

The solution to this crisis, and to other killer diseases like malaria and TB, has to include effective and expensive vaccines. Now, there are four major companies in the world that develop vaccines, two in the United States and two in Europe. They have little incentive to make costly investments in developing vaccines for people who cannot afford to pay for them. So in my State of the Union address, I proposed a generous tax credit that would enable us to say to private industry, if you develop vaccines for AIDS, malaria and TB, we will help to pay for them. So go on and develop them, and we'll save millions of lives. (Applause.)

But I have to tell you, my speech -- and I don't want anybody else but me to be responsible; my speechwriters were so sensitive, they didn't put this in the speech. But I want to say this: AIDS was a bigger problem in the United States a few years ago than it is today. AIDS rates are not going up in African countries, all African countries. They're actually going down in a couple of African countries.

Now, I know that this is a difficult and sensitive issue. I know there are cultural and religious factors that make it very difficult to tackle this issue from a preventive point of view. We don't have an AIDS vaccine yet. We have drugs that will help to prevent the transmission from pregnant mothers to their children, which I want to be able to give out. We have other drugs that have given people with AIDS in our country normal lives, in terms of their health and the length of their lives. I want those to be available.

But the real answer is to stop people from getting the HIV virus in the first place. (Applause.)

I got to see firsthand some of the things that were being done in Uganda that were instrumental in driving down the AIDS rate. Now, I don't care how hard or delicate or difficult this is; this is your children's lives we're talking about. (Applause.) You know, we who are adults, when our children's lives are at stake, have to get over whatever our hang-ups or problems are and go out there and do what is necessary to save the lives of our children. (Applause.)

And I'll help you do that, too. That's not free; that costs money. Systems have to be set up. But we shouldn't pretend that we can give injections and work our way out of this. We have to change behavior, attitudes. And it has to be done in an organized, disciplined, systematic way. And you can do more in less time for less money in a preventive way, to give the children of Africa their lives back, and the nations of Africa their futures back, with an aggressive prevention campaign than anything else. And there is no excuse for not doing it; it has to be done. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say there is one more huge obstacle to progress in Africa, that we are committed to doing our part to overcome. We must build on the leadership of Africans to end the bloody conflicts killing people and killing progress. (Applause.)

You know the toll: tens of thousands of young lives lost in the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea; thousands killed and disfigured at unbelievably young ages in the civil war that nearly destroyed Sierra Leone; 2 million killed by famine and war in Sudan, where government sees diversity as a threat rather than a strength, and denies basic relief to

citizens it claims to represent.

Most of the world's conflicts pale in complexity before the situation in the Congo. At least seven nations and countless armed groups are pitted there against each other in a desperate struggle that seems to bring no one victory, and everyone misery -- especially the innocent people of the Congo. They deserve a better chance. Secretary Albright has called the Congo struggle Africa's first world war. As we search for an end to the conflict, let us remember the central lesson of the First World War: the need for a good peace. If you mess up the peace, you get another world war.

A year ago, I said if the nations of the region reached an agreement that the international community could support, I would support a peacekeeping operation in the Congo. The region has now done so. The Lusaka cease-fire agreement takes into account the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Congo; the withdrawal of foreign forces; the security of Congo's neighbors; the need for dialogue within the nation; and most important, the need for the countries within Central Africa to cooperate in managing the region's security. It is more than a cease-fire; it is a blueprint for building peace. Best of all, it is a genuinely African solution to an African problem.

There is still fighting in Congo. Peace will not happen overnight. It will require steady commitment from the parties and the unwavering support of the international community. I have told our Congress that America intends to do its part by supporting the next phase of the U.N.'s peacekeeping operation in the Congo, which will send observers to oversee the implementation of the agreement.

We need to think hard about what is at stake here. African countries have taken the lead -- not just the countries directly affected, either. They are not asking us to solve their problems or to deploy our military. All they have asked is that we support their own efforts to build peace, and to make it last. We in the United States should be willing to do this. It is principled and practical.

I know -- I see the members of Congress here. I say again -- I see Congressman Payne, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Congressman Royce -- we need to stand by the people of Africa who have decided how to solve this most complex and troubling problem. (Applause.) We have learned the hard way in the United States, over decades and decades, that the costliest peace is far cheaper than the cheapest war. And we need to remember that as we approach our common responsibilities in central Africa.

Finally, let me say that I intend to continue to work hard on these things for every day that I am President. For me, the remarkable decade of the 1990s began with the liberation symbolized by Nelson Mandela's first steps from Robben Island. (Applause.) In a few days, I will have the opportunity to join by satellite the conference in Tanzania that President Mandela is organizing to build peace in Burundi.

A lot of people look at Africa and think, oh, these problems are just too complicated. I look at Africa and I see the promise of Africa, and think, if the problems are complicated now, think how much worse they'll be if we continue to ignore them. (Applause.)

Other people grow frustrated by bad news, and wish only to hear good news. But empty optimism does Africa no more service than groundless cynicism. What we need is not empty optimism or groundless cynicism, but realistic hope. We need to see the promise, the beauty, the dreams of Africa. We need to see the problems clear and plain, and stop ignoring the evident responses. We in the United States need to understand that our obligations to be good partners with Africa are not because we are certain

that everything will turn out all right, but because it is important. Because we're human beings, we can never expect everything to turn out all right.

Africa is so incredibly diverse. Its people speak nearly 3,000 languages. It is not a single, monolithic place with single, monolithic truths. A place of many places, each defined by its own history and aspirations, its own successes and failures. I was struck on my trip to Africa by the differences between Ghana and Uganda, Botswana and Senegal -- between Capetown and Soweto. I was also struck by what bound people together in these places.

In George Washington's first draft of his Farewell Address, he wrote, "we may all be considered as the children of one common country." The more I think about globalization and the interdependence it promises and demands, the more I share that sentiment. Now, we must think of ourselves as children of one common world. If we wish to deepen peace and prosperity and democracy for ourselves, we must wish it also for the people of Africa. Africa is the cradle of humanity, but also a big part of humanity's future.

I leave you with this thought: when I think of the troubles of Africa, rooted in tribal differences; when I think of the continuing troubles in America, across racial lines, rooted in the shameful way we brought slaves here from West Africa so long ago, and our continuing challenges as we integrate wave after wave after wave of new immigrants from new places around the world; I am struck by the fact that life's greatest joy is our common humanity, and life's greatest curse is our inability to see our common humanity.

In Africa, life is full of joy and difficulty. But for too long, the African people have lacked for friends and allies to help the joys overcome the difficulties. The United States will be a friend for life.

Thank you. (Applause.)

END

11:28 A.M. EST

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Title: Transcript: **Clinton Addresses Joint Assembly in Nigeria**
(Welcomes Democratic progress in August 26 speech) (5270)

Date: 20000827

Text:

President Clinton on August 26 welcomed the continuing progress in **Nigeria's** transition to democracy, saying that "You have begun to walk the long road to repair the wrongs and errors of the past, and to build bridges to a better future.

"The road is harder and the rewards are slower than all hoped it would be when you began," the **president** added in an August 26 **address** to a joint session of the Nigerian National Assembly in Abuja, **Nigeria**. "But what is most important is that today you are moving forward, not backward. And I am here because your fight -- your fight for democracy and human rights, for equity and economic growth, for peace and tolerance -- your fight is America's fight and the world's fight."

Clinton said that the world "has a big stake in your success -- and not simply because of your size or the wealth of your natural resources, or even your capacity to help lift this entire continent to peace and prosperity; but also because so many of the great human dramas of our time are being played out on the Nigerian stage."

Two broad challenges face both countries, he said. The first is to work together to help **Nigeria** prepare its economy for the 21st century and to make it the "engine of economic growth and renewal across the continent." The second is to "work together to help build the peace that **Nigeria** and all of Africa so desperately needs."

To build stronger economies, he said, the world must confront killer diseases that are "draining the life out of Africa's cities and villages," such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, he said. He saluted **President Olusegun Obasanjo** "for his leadership" on the HIV/AIDS front, and in "recognizing that we can't beat AIDS" by denying or stigmatizing it. "Right now, we can only beat AIDS by preventing it, by changing behavior and changing attitudes and breaking the silence about how the disease is transmitted and how it can be stopped," he said.

Clinton said that the United States will work with a variety of Nigerian non-governmental organizations NGO's and universities to set up community resource centers to provide Internet training and support in all regions of **Nigeria**.

He also said he has asked the Peace Corps to "reestablish its partnership with **Nigeria** as soon as possible to help with education, health and information technology."

Following is an official transcript of **Clinton's** remarks:

(begin transcript)

The **president**

26 August 2000

REMARKS BY THE **PRESIDENT** IN ADDRESS TO JOINT ASSEMBLY

House of Representatives Chamber National Assembly Building
Abuja, **Nigeria**

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Mr. **President** of the Senate, the Speaker, Mr. Deputy **President** and Deputy Speaker, members of the Assembly. It is a great honor for me to be here with members of my Cabinet and government, members of the United States Congress, mayors of some of our greater cities, and my daughter. And we're glad to be here.

I must say, this is the first time I have been introduced as **President** in eight years, speaking to parliamentary bodies all over the world, where they played a song before I spoke. I liked it a lot. It got us all in a good frame of mind.

Twenty-two years ago, **President** Jimmy Carter became the first **President** ever to visit sub-Saharan Africa when he arrived in **Nigeria**, saying he had come from a great nation to visit a great nation. More than two years ago, I came to Africa for the longest visit ever by an American **President** to build a new partnership with your continent. But sadly, in **Nigeria**, an illegitimate government was killing its people and squandering your resources. All most Americans knew about **Nigeria** then was a sign at their local airport warning them not to fly here.

A year later, **Nigeria** found a transitional leader who kept his promises. Then, Nigerians elected a **President** and a National Assembly and entrusted to them -- to you -- the hard work of rebuilding your nation and building your democracy.

Now, once again, Americans and people all around the world will know **Nigeria** for its music and art, for its Nobel Prize winners and its Super Falcons, for its commitment to peacekeeping and its leadership in Africa and around the world. In other words, once again, people will know **Nigeria** as a great nation.

You have begun to walk the long road to repair the wrongs and errors of the past, and to build bridges to a better future. The road is harder and the rewards are slower than all hoped it would be when you began. But what is most important is that today you are moving forward, not backward. And I am here because your fight -- your fight for democracy and human rights, for equity and economic growth, for

peace and tolerance -- your fight is America's fight and the world's fight.

Indeed, the whole world has a big stake in your success -- and not simply because of your size or the wealth of your natural resources, or even your capacity to help lift this entire continent to peace and prosperity; but also because so many of the great human dramas of our time are being played out on the Nigerian stage.

For example, can a great country that is home to one in six Africans succeed in building a democracy amidst so much diversity and a past of so much trouble? Can a developing country, blessed with enormous human and natural resources, thrive in a global economy and lift all its people? Can a nation so blessed by the verve and vigor of countless traditions and many faiths be enriched by its diversity, not enfeebled by it? I believe the answer to all those questions can, and must be, yes.

There are still those around the world who see democracy as a luxury that people seek only when times are good. Nigerians have shown us that democracy is a necessity, especially when times are hard. The dictators of your past hoped the hard times would silence your voices, banish your leaders, destroy your spirit. But even in the darkest days, **Nigeria's** people knew they must stand up for freedom, the freedom their founders promised.

Achebe championed it, Sunny Ade sang for it. Journalists like Akinwumi Adesokan fought for it. Lawyers like Gani Fawehinmi testified for it. Political leaders like Yar'Adua died for it. And most important, the people of **Nigeria** voted for it.

Now, at last, you have your country back. Nigerians are electing their leaders, acting to cut corruption and investigate past abuses, shedding light on human rights violations, turning a fearless press into a free press. It is a brave beginning.

But you know better than I how much more must be done. Every nation that has struggled to build democracy has found that success depends on leaders who believe government exists to serve people, not the other way around. **President** Obasanjo is such a leader. And the struggle to build democracy depends also on you, on legislators who will be both a check on and a balance to executive authority and be a source -- You know, if I said that to my Congress, they would still be clapping and standing.

And this is important, too -- let me finish. In the constitutional system, the Legislature provides a check and balance to the Executive, but it must also be a source of creative, responsible leadership, for in the end, work must be done and progress must be made.

Democracy depends upon a political culture that welcomes spirited debate without letting politics become a blood sport. It depends on strong institutions, an independent judiciary, a military under firm civilian control. It requires the contributions of women and men alike. I must say I am very glad to see a number of women in this audience today, and also I am glad that Nigerian women have their own Vital Voices program -- (applause) -- a program that my wife has worked very hard for, both in Africa and all around the world.

Of course, in the end, successful political change must begin to improve people's daily lives. That is the democracy dividend Nigerians have waited for.

But no one should expect that all the damage done over a generation can be undone in a year. Real change demands perseverance and patience. It demands openness to honorable compromise and cooperation. It demands support on a constant basis from the people of **Nigeria** and from your friends abroad. That does not mean being patient with corruption or injustice, but to give up hope because change comes slowly would only be to hand a victory to those who do not want to change at all.

Remember something we Americans have learned in over 224 years of experience with democracy: It is always and everywhere a work in progress. It took my own country almost 90 years and a bitter civil war to set every American free. It took another 100 years to give every American the basic rights our Constitution promised them from the beginning.

Since the time of our revolution, our best minds have debated how to balance the responsibilities of our national and state government; what the proper balance is between the **President** and the Congress; what is the role of the courts in our national life. And since the very beginning, we have worked hard with varying degrees of success and occasional, regrettable, sometimes painful failures, to weave the diverse threads of our nation into a coherent, unified tapestry.

Today, America has people from over 200 racial, ethnic and religious groups. We have school districts in America where, in one school district, the parents of the children speak over 100 different **languages**. It is an interesting challenge. But it is one that I am convinced is a great opportunity, just as your diversity -- your religious diversity and your ethnic diversity -- is a great opportunity. In a global society, growing ever more intertwined -- a great opportunity if we can find unity in our common humanity; if we can learn not only to tolerate our differences, but actually to celebrate our differences; if we can believe that how we worship, how we speak, who our parents were, where they came from are terribly important, but on this Earth, the most important thing is our common humanity, then there can be no stopping us.

Now, no society has every fully solved this problem. As you struggle with it you think of the Middle East, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, the ongoing tragedy of Kashmir. And you realize it is a formidable challenge. You also know, of course, that democracy does not answer such questions. It simply gives all free people the chance to find the answers that work for them.

I know that decades of misrule and deprivation have made your religious and ethnic divisions deeper. Nobody can wave a hand and make the problems go away. But that is no reason to let the idea of one **united Nigeria** slip away. After all, after all this time, if we started trying to redraw the map of Africa, we would simply be piling new grievances on old. Even if we could separate all the people of Africa by ethnicity and faith, would we really rid this continent of strife? Think of all the things that would be broken up and all the mountains of progress that have been built up that would be taken down if that

were the case.

Where there is too much deprivation and too little tolerance, differences among people will always seem greater, and will always be like open sores waiting to be turned into arrows of hatred by those who will be advantaged by doing so. But I think it is worth noting for the entire world that against the background of vast cultural differences, a history of repression and ethnic strife, the hopeful fact here today is that **Nigeria's** 250 different ethnic groups have stayed together in one nation. You have struggled for democracy together. You have forged national institutions together. All your greatest achievements have come when you have worked together.

It is not for me to tell you how to resolve all the issues that I follow more closely than you might imagine I do. You're a free people, an independent people, and you must resolve them. All I can tell you is what I have seen and experienced these last years as **President** in the United States and in working with other good people with similar aspirations on every continent of the globe. We have to find honorable ways to reconcile our differences on common ground.

The overwhelming fact of modern life everywhere, believe it or not, is not the growth of the global economy, not the explosion of information technology and the Internet, but the growing interdependence these changes are bringing. Whether we like it or not, more and more our fates are tied together -- within nations and beyond national borders, even beyond continental borders and across great oceans. Whether we like it or not, it is happening. You can think of big examples, like our economic interconnections. You can think of anecdotal examples, like the fact that we now have a phenomenon in the world known as "airport malaria," where people get malaria in airports in nations where there has never been an single case of malaria because they just pass other people who have it, from around the world in the airport.

Whether we like it or not, your destiny is tied to mine, and mine to yours, and the future will only make it more so. You can see it in all the positive things we can build together and in the common threats we face from enemies of a nation state, from the narco-traffickers, the gun runners, from the terrorists, from those who would develop weapons of mass destruction geared to the Electronic Age, very difficult to detect and easy to move.

Now, we have to decide what we're going to do with the fundamental fact of modern life -- our interdependence. Is it possible for the Muslims and the Christians here to recognize that and find common ground? Can we find peace in Jerusalem between the Muslims, the Christians and the Jews? Can we find peace in the Balkans between the Muslims, the Orthodox Christians and the Catholics? Will we ever bring an end to the conflict between the Catholics and the Protestants in Northern Ireland -- I mean, finally ever really have it over with completely? Can the Hindus and the Muslims learn to live together in Kashmir?

Isn't it interesting, when I came here, in part, to help you move into the information revolution more quickly, to spread its benefits to more of your people, that all over the world in this most modern of ages, we are bedeviled by humanity's oldest problem: the fear of the other,

people who are different from us.

I'm sure there was a time in the deep, distant mists of memory, when everyone had to be afraid of people who were not of their tribe; when food was scarce and there was no means of communication. But all of us still carry around with us the fear of people who are different from us. And it is such a short step from being afraid of someone to distrusting them, to disliking them, to hating them, to oppressing them, to using violence against them. It is a slippery, slippery slope.

So I say again, the biggest challenge for people in the United States, where people still, I'm ashamed to say, lose their lives because they are different -- not nearly as much as it used to be, it's a rare occurrence, but it still tears at our hearts, because we know everyone counts, everyone deserves a chance at life, and we all do better when we help each other, and when we find a way for everyone to follow his or her own path through life, guided by their own lights and their own faith.

So I say to you, I come here with that in mind. The world needs **Nigeria** to succeed. Every great nation must become more than the sum of its parts. If we are torn by our differences, then we become less than the sum of our parts. **Nigeria** has within it the seeds of every great development going on in the world today, and it has a future worth fighting for. You are already a champion of peace, democracy and justice. Last month in Tokyo, your **President** reminded leaders of the Group of Eight very firmly that we are all tenants of the same global village.

He said, and I quote, "We must deal with the challenges for development not as separate entities, but in partnership, as members of the same global family, with shared interests and responsibilities." So today, I would like to talk just a few minutes about how our two nations, with our shared experience of diversity and our common faith in freedom, can work as partners to build a better future.

I believe we have two broad challenges. The first is to work together to help **Nigeria** prepare its economy for success in the 21st century, and then to make **Nigeria** the engine of economic growth and renewal across the continent. The second is to work together to help build the peace that **Nigeria** and all of Africa so desperately need.

To build stronger economies we must confront the diseases that are draining the life out of Africa's cities and villages, especially AIDS, but also TB and malaria. AIDS will reduce life expectancy in Africa by 20 years. It is destroying families and wiping out economic gains as fast as nations can make them. It is stealing the future of Africa. In the long run, the only way to wipe out these killer diseases is to provide effective, affordable treatments and vaccines. Just last week, I signed into law a new \$60-million investment in vaccine research and new support for AIDS treatment and prevention around the world, including **Nigeria**.

In the meantime, however, while we wait for the long run, we have to face reality. I salute **President** Obasanjo for his leadership in recognizing we can't beat AIDS by denying it, we can't beat AIDS by stigmatizing it. Right now, we can only beat AIDS by preventing it, by changing behavior and changing attitudes and breaking the silence about how the disease is transmitted and how it can be stopped. This is

a matter of life or death.

There are nations in Africa -- two -- that have had a significant reduction in the AIDS rate because they have acted aggressively on the question of prevention. Tomorrow the **President** and I will meet with Nigerians on the front line of this fight and I will congratulate them.

Building a stronger economy also means helping all children learn. In the old economy, a country's economic prospects were limited by its place on the map and its natural resources. Location was everything. In the new economy, information, education, and motivation are everything.

When I was coming down here today, Reverend Jackson said to me, remind everybody that America, to help **Nigeria**, involves more than the government; it's also Wall Street and Silicon Valley. That's what's growing our economy and it can help to grow yours.

One of the great minds of the Information Age is a Nigerian American named Philip Emeagwali. He had to leave school because his parents couldn't pay the fees. He lived in a refugee camp during your civil war. He won a scholarship to university and went on to invent a formula that lets computers make 3.1 billion calculations per second. Some people call him the Bill Gates of Africa.

But what I want to say to you is there is another Philip Emeagwali -- or hundreds of them -- or thousands of them -- growing up in **Nigeria** today. I thought about it when I was driving in from the airport and then driving around to my appointments, looking into the face of children. You never know what potential is in their mind and in their heart; what imagination they have; what they have already thought of and dreamed of that may be locked in because they don't have the means to take it out.

That's really what education is. It's our responsibility to make sure all your children have the chance to live their dreams so that you don't miss the benefit of their contributions and neither does the rest of the world. It's in our interest in America to reach out to the 98 percent of the human race that has never connected to the Internet, to the 269 of every 270 Nigerians who still lack a telephone.

I am glad to announce that the United States will work with **Nigeria** NGOs and universities to set up community resource centers to provide Internet access, training and support to people in all regions of your country. I also discussed with the **President** earlier today a \$300-million initiative we have launched to provide a nutritious meal -- a free breakfast or a free lunch -- for children in school, enough to feed another 9 million kids in school that aren't in school today, including in **Nigeria**.

We know that if we could offer -- and I'm going to the other developed countries asking them to contribute, and then we're going to nation by nation, working with governmental groups, working with farm groups -- we don't want to upset any local farm economies -- we understand their challenges here -- but we know if we could guarantee every child in every developing nation one nutritious meal a day, we could dramatically increase school enrollment -- among boys, and especially among girls. We don't have a child to waste. I hope we can do this in

Nigeria, and I hope you will work with us to get the job done.

I have also asked the Peace Corps to reestablish its partnership with **Nigeria** as soon as possible to help with education, health and information technology.

Building a strong economy also means creating strong institutions, and above all, the rule of law. Your Nobel laureate, Wole Soyinka, has written that he imagines a day when **Nigeria** is "an unstoppable nation, one whose citizens anywhere in the world would be revered simply by the very possession of a Nigerian passport."

I don't need to tell you that the actions of a small group of Nigerians took away that possibility, took away the pride of carrying the passport, stealing the opportunity from every decent and honest citizen of this country. But we will bring the pride and prosperity back by cracking down together on crime, corruption, fraud and drugs.

Our FBI is again working with **Nigeria** to fight international and financial crime. Our law enforcement agencies are working to say to narco-traffickers, there should be no safe havens in **Nigeria**. As we do these things, we will be able to say loud and clear to investors all over the world: Come to **Nigeria**. This is a place of untapped opportunity because it is a place of unlimited potential.

This year, I signed into law our Africa trade bill, and many of its champions are here with me from our Congress. It will help us to seize that opportunity, creating good jobs and wealth on both sides of the Atlantic. The challenge is to make sure any foreign involvement in your economy promotes equitable development, lifting people and communities that have given much for **Nigeria's** economic progress, but so far have gained too little from it.

Neither the people, nor the private sector want a future in which investors exist in fortified islands surrounded by seas of misery. Democracy gives us a chance to avoid that future. Of course, I'm thinking especially of the Niger Delta. I hope government and business will forge a partnership with local people to bring real, lasting social progress, a clean environment and economic opportunity.

We face, of course, another obstacle to **Nigeria's** economic development, the burden of debt that past governments left on your shoulders. The United States has taken the lead in rescheduling **Nigeria's** debt within the Paris Club, and I believe we should do more. **Nigeria** shouldn't have to choose between paying interest on debt and meeting basic human needs, especially in education and health. We are prepared to support a substantial reduction of **Nigeria's** debts on a multilateral basis, as long as your economic and financial reforms continue to make progress, and you ensure that the benefits of debt reduction go to the people.

Now, let me say, as we do our part to support your economic growth and economic growth throughout Africa, we must also work together and build on African efforts to end the conflicts that are bleeding hope from too many places. If there's one thing I would want the American people to learn from trip here it is the true, extraordinary extent of **Nigeria's** leadership for peace in West Africa and around the world.

I hope our members of Congress who are here today will tell this to their colleagues back home. Over the past decade, with all of its problems, **Nigeria** has spent \$10 billion and sacrificed hundreds of its soldiers lives for peace in West Africa. **Nigeria** was the first nation, with South Africa, to condemn the recent coup in Cote d'Ivoire. And Nigerian soldiers and diplomats, including General Abubakar, are trying to restart the peace process in Congo. In these ways, you are building the record of a moral superpower.

That's a long way to come in just a couple of years, and I urge you to stay with it. But I know -- I know from the murmurs in this chamber and from the murmurs I heard in the congressional chamber when I said the United States must go to Bosnia, the United States must go to Kosovo, the United States must train an Africa Crisis Response Initiative, the United States must come here and help you train to deal with the challenges of Sierra Leone -- I know that many of you have often felt the burden of your peacekeeping was heavier than the benefit. I know you have felt that.

But there's no one else in West Africa with the size, the standing, the strength of military forces to do it. If you don't do it, who will do it? But you should not have to do it alone. That's what's been wrong with what's happened in the last several years. You have too heavy a burden. Because of your size, everyone expects you to lead, and to do so with enormous sensitivity to the needs of others. But despite your size, you cannot lead alone, and you shouldn't have to pay the enormous price. I am determined, if you're willing to lead, to get you the international support you need and deserve to meet those responsibilities.

This week, the first of five Nigerian peacekeeping battalions began working with American military trainers and receiving American equipment. With battalions from Ghana and other African nations, they will receive almost \$60 million in support to be a commanding force for peace in Sierra Leone and an integral part of **Nigeria's** democratization. We think the first battalions will be ready to deploy with U.N. forces early next year. We expect them to make an enormous difference in replacing the reign of terror with the rule of law. As they do, all of West Africa will benefit from the promise of peace and stability, and the prospect of closer military and economic cooperation. And **Nigeria** will take another step toward building a 21st century army that is strong and strongly committed to democracy.

Let me say to the military leaders who are here with us today that the world honors your choice to take the army out of politics and make it a pillar of a democratic state.

Last year, **President** Obasanjo came to Washington and reminded us that peace is indivisible. I have worked to build a new relationship between America and Africa because our futures are indivisible. It matters to us whether you become an engine of growth and opportunity, or a place of unrelieved despair. It matters whether we push back the forces of crime, corruption, and disease together, or leave them to divide and conquer us. It matters whether we reach out with Africans to build peace, or leave millions of God's children to suffer alone.

Our common future depends on whether Africa's 739 million people

gain the chance to live their dreams. And **Nigeria** is a pivot point on which all Africa's future turns.

Ten years ago, a young Nigerian named Ben Okri published a novel, "The Famished Road" that captured imaginations all over the world. He wrote of a spirit child who defies his elders and chooses to be born into the turmoil and struggle of human life. The time and place were modern **Nigeria**, but the questions the novel poses speak to all of us in a **language** that is as universal as the human spirit.

In a time of change and uncertainty, Okri asks us, "Who can dream a good road and then live to **travel** on it?" Nigerians, as much as any nation on Earth, have dreamed this road -- since Anthony Enahoro stood up in a colonial Parliament and demanded your independence in 1953. Nigerians have dreamed this road in music and art and literature and political struggle, and in your contributions to prosperity and progress, among the immigrants to my country and so many others.

Now, at the dawn of a new century, the road is open at home to all citizens of **Nigeria**. You have the chance to build a new **Nigeria**. We have the chance to build a lasting network of ties between Africa and the United States. I know it will not be easy to walk the road. But you have already endured such stiff challenges. You have beaten such long odds to get this far. And after all, the road of freedom is the only road worth taking.

I hope that as **President**, I have helped a little bit to take us a few steps down that road together. I am certain that America will walk with you in the years to come. And I hope you will remember, if nothing else, what I said about our interdependence. Yes, you need us today because at this fleeting moment in history, we are the world's richest country. But over the long run of life and over the long run of a nation's life, and over the long run of civilization on this planet, the rich and the poor often change places. What endures is our common humanity.

If you can find it amidst all your differences, and we can find amidst all ours, and then we can reach out across the ocean, across the cultures, across the different histories with a common future for all of our children, freedom's road will prevail.

Thank you, and God bless you.

(end transcript)

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Title: Transcript: **Presidents Clinton**, Obasanjo Remarks to Press in Abuja, **Nigeria** (U.S., Nigerian leaders comment on debt relief, oil prices, other issues)

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At a signing ceremony in Abuja, **Nigeria**, August 26, **President Clinton** and Nigerian **President** Olusegun Obasanjo commented on U.S.-Nigerian relations, debt relief, oil prices, establishment of a permanent African seat on the United Nations Security Council, U.S. visa policy and the Middle East.

Following is a transcript of their remarks, including a question-and-answer session:

(begin transcript)

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary (Abuja, **Nigeria**)
August 26, 2000

REMARKS BY **PRESIDENT CLINTON** AND **PRESIDENT OBASANJO** IN SIGNING OF JOINT DECLARATION

Presidential Villa Abuja, **Nigeria**

PRESIDENT OBASANJO: Mr. **President**, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, members of the press, let me say how pleased I am for this opportunity to welcome **President Bill Clinton** to **Nigeria**. I am confident that by now **President Clinton** must have felt from the personal meeting to the enthusiastic crowds that greeted him the extent of our delight to have him among us.

President Clinton and I have had very friendly and fruitful discussions covering all the items and subjects that make up the content of our joint declaration which we have just signed and exchanged, and even more. I just want to emphasize that for all the shared strategic interests between **Nigeria** and the United States of America, **President Clinton** and myself share a common view that is based on human welfare, human development, and human well-being in both our countries, our continents, and throughout the world.

Of course, whatever strategic interests, economic, political or of a social nature, the essence is based on the fundamentals of humanity.

Also deriving from this is the issue of **Nigeria's** role of peacemaking and peacekeeping in our sub-region, our region of Africa, and under the auspices of the U.N., the whole world. Needless to say that this goes for the United States, by virtue of her status as the number one world power today.

President Clinton has only just begun his visit, designed so far that it will be a memorable one, and we wish you a very pleasant day in **Nigeria**. We welcome you once again. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: **President** Obasanjo, members of the Nigerian government, members of the press, I think I can say on behalf of the members of the United States Congress who are here and the members of the American delegation, we are delighted to be in **Nigeria**.

Two years ago, I came to Africa to begin building a new partnership between this continent and the United States; one in which Americans look upon Africa not simply as a continent with problems, but also as a continent which presents the world's next great opportunity to advance the cause of peace, justice and prosperity.

When I came here two years ago, one of the biggest obstacles to a new relationship with the entire continent was the fact that the democratic hopes of **Nigeria's** people were being smothered by military misrule and corruption, with your finest leaders being killed, banished, or in the case of **President** Obasanjo, forced to languish in prison.

My greatest hope then was that some day, I could come to Africa again, to visit a **Nigeria** worthy of its people's dreams. Thanks to **President** Obasanjo and the people of **Nigeria**, I have the high honor today to visit the new **Nigeria** --(applause)-- and to pledge America's support for the most important democratic transition in Africa since the fall of apartheid. (Applause.)

All of us in the American delegation know that after so many years of despair and plunder your journey has not been easy. But we are also committed to working with the people of **Nigeria** to help build stronger institutions, improve education, fight disease, crime and corruption, ease the burden of debt and promote trade and investment in a way that brings more of the benefits of prosperity to people who have embraced democracy.

We are rebuilding ties severed during the years of dictatorship. I am very happy that last week the first direct flight since 1993 left Murtala Mohammed Airport for the United States. (Applause.) Today, we have signed our first open skies agreement.

With patience and perseverance, **Nigeria** can answer the challenge your **President** issued in his inauguration two years ago -- a speech I got up very early in the morning in the United States to watch. I remember that he said, "Let us rise as one to face the tasks ahead and turn this daunting scene into a new dawn."

With one-fifth of Africa's people, and vast human and natural resources, a revitalized **Nigeria** can be the economic and political anchor of West Africa and the leader of the continent. We need your continued leadership in the struggle for peace. I am pleased we have

begun this week to help to train and equip the first of five Nigerian battalions preparing for service in Sierra Leone. (Applause.) We also need your continued leadership in the struggle against poverty and infectious disease, especially AIDS. I thank **President** Obasanjo for his offer to host an AIDS summit in **Nigeria** next year. (Applause.)

Finally, we need **Nigeria** to keep leading by example as a successful democracy and a nation that has managed, despite many years of repression and strife, to prove that for democracies, our diversity can be our greatest strength.

These are just some of the issues we discussed today. Later, I will have the honor of speaking to the Nigerian Parliament, and I will speak in greater detail about the challenges ahead and the promise of our growing partnership. But let me just say, I begin this visit with enormous admiration for the progress you have made and the highest hope for the progress you will make in the future and the depth that our partnership will assume.

Thank you again, Mr. **President**, for making us all feel so welcome. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT OBASANJO: We will now take questions from the members of the media.

Q: Mr. **President**, you're going to meet with **President** Mubarak of Egypt. Can you give us an idea of what you're going to discuss with him and whether this portends another Mideast peace summit?

And, **President** Obasanjo, I'd also like to have your perspective on these efforts to reach peace in the Middle East.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, let me say, first of all, I think it's inconceivable that we could have a peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians without the support of **President** Mubarak.

As you know, when I leave here I'm going to Tanzania to support **President** Mandela and the peace process that he has been working on in Burundi, and then we have to make a refueling stop on our way home. I had hoped to see **President** Mubarak at the United Nations summit, which will be at the end of the first week of September, but he can't come to that. And so we were having one of our regular telephone conversations the other day and decided that since he would not be in New York, that I ought to refuel in Cairo and we ought to reconnoiter on the peace process. I don't think you should read too much into it, other than we are working with a sense of urgency, given the timetable the parties have set for themselves. And we don't underestimate the continuing difficulties, but I'm pleased they're still working, and working under enormous pressures.

PRESIDENT OBASANJO: I must take this opportunity to commend the efforts of **President Clinton** in the Middle East. I believe that the fact that the door is not completely closed, and the fact that areas where, in fact, a few years back one would infer that there would be no advancement at all, whether Jerusalem could be negotiated on, is now an issue that can be put on the table to be negotiated -- I believe that should give all of us some hope.

And as **President Clinton** just said, all the people that should be involved must be engaged, to be involved. And we should never be tired until we achieve success. And I believe success will be achieved. I have no doubt.

Q: **President Clinton's** attitude to Africa and the poorer nations of the world is very well-known. He is sympathetic to those nations. But America does not make up the West, only America does not. Now, at a -- in Ghana in April, a position was adopted on the issue of the strangulating debt burden in the poorer countries of the world. Now, **President Obasanjo**, as the **chairman** of the -- was given the mandate to present that position to the G-8 at the July Okinawa summit. Both **President Obasanjo** -- on that issue came out at that meeting expressing disappointment at the lack of concrete commitment on the issues by the richest nations of the world.

Is there any indication that the contact today with a key member of the G-8 would open up new vistas on the issues of debt cancellation for the poor countries of the world? And America is perhaps the strongest supporter of democracy around the world, and we know that democracy **turns on** the face of the huge debt burden. What is the way out?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, let me say, first of all, what I believe the G-8 was saying. You may know that I, because of other commitments, and because of the Middle East peace process, unfortunately, had to miss the first day of the G-8 summit and, therefore, I missed the **President's** presentation.

At Cologne, Germany, we got the G-8 to make a commitment to a debt relief program for the poorest countries in the world, and we had some problems implementing it, but the basic idea, I think, was sound, which was that we should give debt forgiveness in return for a commitment to spend the freed-up resources on human development, and to have a responsible economic reform program. That was basically the agreement.

I strongly support that, and I would favor expanding the number of eligible nations once we've actually taken them in some proper order. Our Congress has before it now legislation that would pay America's share of the debt relief for the countries that have qualified under the program that the G-8 adopted.

My own view is that the G-8 would be willing to go beyond those 24 countries as long as it was clear that there was a commitment to economic reform and a commitment to democracy and a commitment to use all the savings for human development purposes, not for military purposes or other purposes that were inconsistent with the long-term interest of the countries.

But I think that the real issue is not whether they can afford the debt relief -- in most of these countries they actually have to budget the debt relief even if they're not going to get repaid. And to be fair, the United States does not have the same dollar stake in most of these nations in the multilateral forum as some other countries do. So it is a little more difficult for them than it is for us.

And I think that you are seeing the beginning of a process that I

believe will continue, since I believe that we'll have more countries doing what **Nigeria** is doing -- embracing democracy, having a program with the IMF, a commitment to economic reform that will commend itself to the creditor countries of the world for debt relief. And I think that you'll -- it will happen.

But, your right, we have been in the forefront of pushing this. But to be fair to the other countries the relative size of the American economy make our -- makes it easier for us to do than for some of these other countries. And the real problem is not the money itself, because many of them don't expect to be repaid. The real problem is that they all have budget rules like we do that require them to budget that in their annual budgets -- the forgiveness of debt -- just as they budget for education or health care or defense or anything else, even though it's, arguably, an unnecessary thing since they don't expect to get the money back from the poorest countries.

But you need to understand that's the political problem that a lot of these leaders have. And since the European countries and Japan have a bigger percentage of their income tied up in debt than we do, it's a little more difficult for them to do. I think we have moved them in the right direction and I think **Nigeria**, in particular, and other countries following behind will find a much more ready response. I think that what happened in Cologne, the call of His Holiness the Pope, and others for debt relief in the millennial year will lead to a process that I expect to play out over the next few years that I believe will result in significantly greater debt relief than we have seen, as long as it's coupled to maintenance of democracy, economic reform and honest economies, and using the savings from debt relief for the real human benefits and needs of the people in the affected countries.

Q: Mr. President, would you urge **President** Obasanjo to reduce -- to work within OPEC to reduce oil prices? And did you offer him any commitment on rescheduling or -- of debt for **Nigeria**?

And, **President** Obasanjo, I was wondering if you can give your own views on -- situation.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Let me answer the debt question first, since it sort of follows upon the previous question. I reaffirmed the commitment that I had previously made to the **President** that, first of all, the United States would do all we said to get the entire Paris Club to do what the G-8 has now agreed to do and have a generous debt rescheduling, which will alleviate a lot of the cash flow requirements, at least, for **Nigeria** in the short run; and that now that there was an IMF program in place, once there was enough experience with this IMF program that we could argue to the other creditor nations that have a larger -- as I said to the previous questioner, the gentleman before that these other nations that have a bigger share of the debt than we do -- that **Nigeria** has shown a commitment to economic reform, as well as a commitment to democracy, that I would support debt relief for them, that I thought they ought to have some debt relief in return for showing that they've got a commitment to a long-term political and economic reform. That's the position I've had for some time now.

On the oil prices, we talked about that, and **Nigeria**, of course, does not have the capacity to change the prices, because they're pretty well producing at full capacity already. So I asked the **President** to do

whatever he could to encourage others to increase production enough to have the impact that OPEC voted to have at the last meeting.

At the last meeting, they voted for production levels that they felt would bring the price back closer to its historic average, somewhere in the mid-'20s. And that has not worked out for a number of reasons, and so I asked him to do what he could in that regard.

PRESIDENT OBASANJO: I have always maintained that an excessive high price of oil is neither good for the oil producers, nor for the oil consumers, particularly developing oil consumers. Neither is excessive low price of oil, neither is it good for the oil producers, nor the oil consumers because you need certain amount of stability. I believe that that stability would be there when OPEC brought in the mechanism to **trigger off** oil if the oil price is above certain price level, to automatically go in and produce more, and if it's below certain levels to automatically go in and withdraw from the production.

Well, as **President Clinton** said, what has taken place so far has not worked. The OPEC will have a summit meeting in Venezuela next month, and the price of oil will be one of the major issues to be discussed. And I will, by the grace of God, be at that meeting. And we will work to bring an element of stability into the price of oil. It is in the interest of all concerned that that should happen.

Q: My question is to **President Clinton**, and it concerns the U.S. visa policy of **Nigeria**. The policy so far has -- (inaudible) -- going to do to affect some concrete change in this direction. And the second question is will the United States support a seat for permanent participation -- (inaudible)?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, let me answer the first question first. I'm very concerned about some of the problems we've had in getting visas to Nigerians who have legitimate interests in coming the United States and should have a perfect right to do so.

If I might say something in defense of the people who have to issue the visas -- because of the worldwide concern -- that has nothing to do with **Nigeria** -- about terrorism and other problems, they have been given instructions to bend over backwards to make sure that all the documents that anybody from any country applying for a visa are in perfect order. Because of a lot of developments here over the last several years, that's not always possible. So what we've got to do is go back and take a hard look at this situation as it affects **Nigeria** because we acknowledge that there are many Nigerians who have tried to come to the United States, who should have been able to come and, therefore, should have been able to get visas, who haven't been. And we have to try to find a way to solve that consistent with our law.

And I wish I had an answer for you today, but, frankly, I was not aware of the dimensions of the problem until I was preparing to come here and preparing for my visit. And so I don't have a solution today. But I can -- I make you a commitment that we will work on it and we will try to work this out, because I'm quite concerned about it. When I saw the numbers and I saw the small percentage of those who had applied who had been approved, and it was obvious that many, many more had legitimate interests -- perfectly legitimate interests in coming to the United States, I realized we had to do something. And we're

going to work with your government and try to work it out.

PRESIDENT OBASANJO: Thank you very much, **President Clinton**.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Oh, I'm sorry. Jet lag. (Laughter.) The position of the United States is that the size of the Security Council should be expanded, that there should be a permanent African seat, and that the holder of that seat should be determined by the African nations, not by the United States and not by the permanent members of the Security Council. I don't think that's our business. I feel the same way about Latin America. I think there should be a permanent Latin American seat on the Security Council.

The analog to **Nigeria** and Latin America, of course, is Brazil. Brazil is the most populous nation in Latin America, just as **Nigeria** is the most populous nation in Africa. And we have very good relations with Brazil. But I think the Latin Americans should decide for themselves if they get the seat, and I think they should, who should hold it and whether someone should hold it permanently or not.

But I strongly believe that Africa should have a permanent representative with a permanent representative's vote on the United Nations Security Council. If it makes sense for it to be **Nigeria**, then that's fine with me. But I think the African people should decide that -- the leaders of Africa.

PRESIDENT OBASANJO: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you. (Applause.)

(end transcript)

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