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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the Miers, Harriet E. - Presidential Remarks

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AGOA -10/29/001 [756117]

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Subject/Description: **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AGOA - OCT 29 01**SCANNED
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THE PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

AGOA
October 29, 2001
Draft #8

10/29/01

Many of you have traveled half a world for this gathering, and I am honored to be with you. This conference was delayed by the events of September 11th, but our common goal will not be denied.

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THE PRESIDENT

We have a unique opportunity to build
ties of trade and trust that will improve
the lives of people on both our
continents/ And we will seize this
opportunity.

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THE PRESIDENT

Acknowledgments

- Secretary of State Colin Powell (will introduce the President)
- Ministers & Ambassadors from 35 African nations
- Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill
- Secretary of Commerce Don Evans
- U.S. Trade Representative Bob Zoellick

THE PRESIDENT

- USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios
- National Security Advisor Condi Rice
- Members of Congress – particularly those who were part of the bipartisan coalition that framed the African Growth and Opportunity Act:
 - Congressman Charlie Rangel (D-NY) – bipartisan coalition
 - Congressman William Jefferson (D-LA) – bipartisan coalition

THE PRESIDENT

- Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI) –
bipartisan coalition
- Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn
(R-WA)
- Congressman Earl Hilliard (D-AL)
- Congressman Ed Royce (R-CA)
- ~~Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS)~~
- *Senator Richard Lugar*

V

- Members of the business and NGO communities, who worked in a remarkable coalition to ensure passage of the Act.

THE PRESIDENT

Let me begin by thanking the nations
of Africa for their support following
September 11th. America will never
forget the many messages of sympathy
and solidarity sent by African heads of
state. Ambassadors from southern
Africa presented a check to the
American Red Cross to assist victims'
families.

THE PRESIDENT

One Rwandan journalist wrote in a
condolence book at the U.S. Embassy:
“We feel and understand what the
Americans must be experiencing. The
forces of evil must be fought and
defeated wherever they are.”

THE PRESIDENT

This is the firm resolve of the
American people: we will fight and
defeat the forces of evil, wherever they
are.

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THE PRESIDENT

~~And we do not fight alone.~~ Over 80
countries – including Ethiopia and
Egypt; Ghana and Gambia; Kenya,
Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, and
Zimbabwe – lost citizens along with
America on September 11th. (The United
States is deeply grateful to all countries
– and all African countries – that have
now joined in a great coalition against
terror.

THE PRESIDENT

We are grateful for the political support offered by the Organization of African Unity and by many African regional organizations. We appreciate the basing and overflight rights offered by African countries and the growing number of African nations that have committed to cracking down on terrorist financing.

THE PRESIDENT

We are encouraged by the strong declaration issued in Dakar [dah-KAHR] by 28 African countries calling on all African nations to ratify the 1999 Algiers convention against terrorism I spoke to Senegal's President Wade [wahd] to thank him for his leadership in convening the Dakar meeting.

THE PRESIDENT

The Algiers convention was developed following the 1998 embassy bombings by al-Qaida which took 12 American lives and over 200 African lives, including many Muslims. Now it is critically important that this convention be ratified so that African nations have additional judicial, diplomatic, and financial tools to root out terrorism.

THE PRESIDENT

And as nations begin to put these
measures in place, the United States
will look for ways to ~~help them~~.

work together.

THE PRESIDENT

In an era of global trade and global
terror, the futures of the developed
world and the developing world are
closely linked. We benefit from each
other's success. We are not immune
from each other's troubles. We share
the same threats. And we share the
same goal: to forge a future of more
openness, trade, and freedom.

THE PRESIDENT

Recent events have provided the world with a clear and dramatic choice.

Our enemies – terrorists and their supporters – offer a narrow, backward vision. They feed resentment, envy, and hatred. They fear human creativity, choice, and diversity.

THE PRESIDENT

In
~~And they condemn all they rule to~~
~~isolation and stagnation.~~ | Powerless to
build a better world, they seek to destroy
a world that is passing them by. And
they will not succeed.

THE PRESIDENT

We offer a better way / When nations respect the creativity and enterprise of their people, they find social and economic progress. When nations open their markets to the world, their people find new ways to create wealth. When nations accept the rules of the modern world, they discover the benefits of the modern world.

THE PRESIDENT

This vision of progress is not owned
by any nation or any culture. It belongs
to humanity – every African, every
Muslim, every man or woman who
works to make it real. Good
governments, of course, will look
different from place to place. Cultures
will preserve their unique values.

must

THE PRESIDENT

Yet everywhere – East and West; North and South – there is ~~now~~ a ~~single~~ model of successful development: a market economy, trading with the world, that respects human rights and the rule of law. Every nation that adopts this vision will find in America a trading partner, an investor, and a friend.

THE PRESIDENT

And it is for this reason that America welcomes and supports the New Africa Initiative put forward by visionary African leaders.

To fulfill this vision of progress, we must return to the steady, patient work of building a world that trades in freedom.

THE PRESIDENT

No nation in our time has entered the fast track of development without first opening up its economy to world markets. The African Growth and Opportunity Act is a roadmap for how the United States and Africa can tap the power of markets to improve the lives of our citizens. This law is just over a year old, but it is already showing its tremendous power.

THE PRESIDENT

During the first half of this year, total U.S. trade with sub-Saharan Africa rose nearly 17 percent compared with the same period last year. U.S. imports from the region now exceed \$11.5 billion. Some individual countries have shown staggering increases in trade.

THE PRESIDENT

Four countries – Senegal, Seychelles
[SAY-shells], Eritrea [air-ih-TRAY-uh],
and Madagascar – saw their exports to
the U.S. grow by over 100 percent.

Behind these numbers are
investments and projects that are
making a real impact on peoples lives.

THE PRESIDENT

In Kenya, the government projects that AGOA [uh-GO-uh] will create 150,000 new jobs over the next several years. /

Proposed new projects in Lesotho's [le-SOO-too's] textile sector alone are expected to inject 122 million investment dollars into that country's economy – four times the amount of all official development assistance Lesotho received in 1999.

THE PRESIDENT

We need to build on these
successes/ Across the continent, African
governments are reforming their
economies and their governments in
order to take advantage of AGOA. / Uh 50
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These nations are working hard to fight
corruption, improve labor standards, and
reform their customs regimes.

THE PRESIDENT

The United States will work in
partnership with African nations to help
them build the institutions and expertise
they need to benefit from trade.

THE PRESIDENT

Today, I am pleased to announce
the creation of a \$200 million Overseas
Private Investment Corporation support
facility that will give American firms
access to loans, guarantees, and
political risk insurance for investment
projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

THE PRESIDENT

I've also asked our Trade and
Development Agency to establish a
regional office in Johannesburg to
provide guidance to governments and
companies seeking to liberalize their
trade laws, improve the investment
environment, and take advantage of
AGOA's opportunities.

uh so uh

THE PRESIDENT

I am also announcing today the launch of the Trade for African Development and Enterprise Program. With \$15 million in initial funding; the TRADE program will establish Regional Hubs for Global Competitiveness that will help African businesses take advantage of AGOA to sell more of their products on the global markets.

THE PRESIDENT

Our countries gathered here today
have seen the benefits of trade. And we
have an obligation to make the case for
more open trade throughout the world. I
hope that African nations will be a
powerful voice for the launch of a new
round of global trade talks in Doha
[DOE-ha] next month.

THE PRESIDENT

Trade and sound economic policies
are essential to growth and
development. But they are not by
themselves sufficient. To seize the
hopeful opportunities of markets and
trade, nations need citizens that are
educated and healthy.

THE PRESIDENT

My government will continue its
strong support for responsible debt relief
so that nations can devote more
resources to education and health. We
will continue to press multilateral
development banks to provide more
assistance in the form of grants, instead
of loans.

THE PRESIDENT

We are moving forward on an initiative I announced in July to improve basic education and teacher training in Africa.

And the United States is ready to commit more resources to the new global fund to combat HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases once the fund demonstrates its success.

THE PRESIDENT

Finally, as AGOA makes clear,
economic freedom and political freedom
must go hand in hand. People who trade
in freedom eventually want to live in
freedom. From Nigeria to South Africa,
African nations have made great strides
towards democracy.

THE PRESIDENT

The democratic transitions of the last decade mean that a majority of Africans now live in democratic states. That is progress we ~~must~~ praise – and continue.

THE PRESIDENT

Our times present many challenges.
Yet I am confident about our shared
future. I know that we can build a world
that grows in prosperity and trades in
freedom. I know we can bring health
and education to more people. I know
that we can defeat terror, so our children
and grandchildren will live in peace and
security.

THE PRESIDENT

Out of the sorrow of September 11th, I
see opportunity – a chance for nations
to strengthen and rethink and
reinvigorate their relationships. We
share more than a common enemy, we
share a common goal: to expand our
ties of commerce and culture; to renew
our commitment to development and
democracy. And together, we will meet
this challenge.

THE PRESIDENT

AGOA

October 29, 2001

Draft #7

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- Ministers & Ambassadors from 35 African nations
- Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill
- Secretary of Commerce Don Evans
- Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman
- U.S. Trade Representative Bob Zoellick

AGOA
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Draft #9

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- U.S. Trade Representative Bob Zoellick
- USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios
- National Security Advisor

Dr. Condoleezza Rice

- Members of Congress:
 - Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS)
 - Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN)
 - Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn (R-WA)
 - Congressman Earl Hilliard (D-AL)
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