

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
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Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21683
Scan ID: 064144
Document Number:

Folder Title:
CO072

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	83	5	4	3

3822

ID# 064144

CO 072

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 17, 1994

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. CHARLES C. DIGGS JR.

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING ADMISSION OF
QUALIFIED HAITIAN REFUGEES TO THE USA AND
FORCEFUL IMPOSITION OF APPLICABLE SANCTIONS
TO COUNTERACT THE IMMORAL POLICIES OF HAITI

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
PATRICK GRIFFIN		ORG	94/05/17		C 94/05/17
WILLIAM ITOH	REFERRAL NOTE:	RSA	94/05/17	CP2H / 11/15	
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: PHOTO AND RESUME ENCLOSED

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____
MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *
* * *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC * OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OEOb) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

SCANNED

July 15, 1994

Rossin
Pls add
to file

The Honorable Charles C. Diggs, Jr.
4906 Iverson Place
Temple Hills, Maryland 20748

Dear Charles:

Thank you for writing to share your views on Haiti.

The rejection by the Haitian military of efforts to foster a political settlement has demonstrated that only pressure will force them out. That judgment is reinforced by the worsening human rights outrages they and their allies have perpetrated. I have therefore directed that several measures be taken to intensify the pressure on the military leadership. Most notably, we have imposed comprehensive sanctions, which the United Nations has approved, and have tightened enforcement of sanctions already in place. Given the impact that the enhanced sanctions are likely to have within Haiti, we will substantially increase our humanitarian assistance and are working to bring more human rights monitors into Haiti. I have also appointed William Gray, the distinguished President of the United Negro College Fund and former Chairman of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, as Secretary Christopher's and my Special Adviser for Haiti.

I share the concerns many people have raised about the challenges posed by Haitian migrant boat departures in a period of worsening human rights violations. I have directed adjustments to our migrant processing procedures to allow all boat migrants interdicted by our Coast Guard the opportunity to apply for political refugee status. Those who are accorded such status will receive refuge. Those found to be economic migrants will continue to be returned to Haiti. I remain committed to giving this problem my closest attention.

MM

The measures I have ordered will bring home to the military leaders my insistence that they relinquish power so that democracy may be restored and President Aristide may return to Haiti. At the same time, these steps address the humanitarian concerns raised by the military's refusal to give up the power they seized.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON *A*

BC/KB/KW/MM/ps
(7.diggs.cc)

(Corres. #1562281)

cc: Leann Inadomi, Leg Affairs

94 07 19

DRAFT OF BC LETTER

INITIALS: BC / kb *(initials)*

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/p/diggs.c.kb

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: May 27 1994 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 1562281

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC: Leann Inadomi, Leg.
Affairs

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:
The Honorable Charles C. Diggs, Jr.
4906 Iverson Place ~~At Wheeler Road~~
Temple Hills, Maryland 20748

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIAL INSTR:
p-500;Rossin

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REFERRAL

DATE: 25 MAY 94

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH CORRESPONDENCE

Handwritten: 5/26/94
500

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: DIGGS, CHARLES

DATE: 09 MAY 94

SUBJ: LTR TO PRES FM REP DIGGS RE TRANSAFRICA INTEREST IN AFRICA &
CARIBBEAN

REQUIRED ACTION: DIRECT REPLY

DUE DATE: 28 MAY 94

COMMENT:

Handwritten signature: J. Ficklin
FOR

JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

A clean desk is the first sign
of a misguided career.

Handwritten notes:
104
1
fyle -
pls do a draft
based on
current approved
Haiti lang +
run it past
@NSC.
CC: Inadmission
4 and 4th



UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9403822
RECEIVED: 13 MAY 94 15

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: DIGGS, CHARLES

DOC DATE: 09 MAY 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: HAITI

CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM REP DIGGS RE TRANSAFRICA INTEREST IN AFRICA &
CARIBBEAN

ACTION: DIRECT REPLY

DUE DATE: 17 MAY 94 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: ROSSIN

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9403822

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 ROSSIN
001
001 WH CORRESPONDENCE

Z 94051316 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
Z 94052512 ACTION TRANSFERRED
X 94052512 DIRECT REPLY

UNCLASSIFIED

See memo

3822



Community Services
and
Mortuary Headquarters
4906 Iverson Place
at Wheeler Road
Temple Hills,
MD 20748
(301) 630-7500

Congressman (1955-1980)
CHARLES DIGGS

May 9, 1994

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned associates himself with the position of Mr. Randall Robinson, Executive Director of TRANSAFRICA, which so nobly represents our contemporary interests in Africa and The Caribbean.

However, your Administration's uneasy standards re: admission of qualified Haitian refugees to the USA and forceful imposition of applicable sanctions to counteract the immoral policies of that country's illegitimate, controlling elements have been targets of rightful criticism.

As a third term in 1959 I became the first Black Member of Congress ever elected from Michigan or to the House Foreign Affairs Committee plus in 1969-70 the Original and Founding Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; therefore, knowing about referenced flawed assessments, I have been alarmed at your unexpected continuance of said policies, although I am now encouraged by your modifications.

The undersigned also shares the view that military intervention, or any other singular action, whether from the government or private sectors, has obviously limited potential.

Since the USA is the acknowledged, supreme leader of the Western Hemisphere, the undersigned strongly feels that a new concept of partnership must be the next step in the US process. Only through a constructive combination of methods can Haiti overcome in a timely, democratic fashion the severely complex educational, economic and political deficits necessary to realign its institutions for the benefit of all its citizens.

Most respectfully,

Charles C. Diggs, Jr.

Charles C. Diggs, Jr.
Member of Congress
1955-1980, Retired

CCDJR/th

RESUME OF CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.

CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR. was born in Detroit, Michigan, the only child of his late parents, Charles C. Diggs, Sr. of Mississippi and Mayme E. Diggs, Nee Jones, of North Carolina/Tennessee. His parents were morticians, pioneers in business, public servants, community activists and Mr. Diggs, Sr. was Michigan's first Democratic Black State Senator. Diggs, Jr. attended the University of Michigan for 2 years and won the university's coveted oratorical championship in his sophomore year. He began his 3rd college year at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, but after one semester was drafted for World War II as a buck private. Twenty eight months later after his release from active duty as a 2nd Lieutenant, prior to which he entered and graduated from Wayne State University, College of Mortuary Science, and became general manager of "The House of Diggs," the family funeral home, and subsequently President of Detroit Metropolitan Mutual Insurance Company, succeeding his father until the firm merged with Mammoth Life Insurance Company, another Black enterprise located in Louisville, Kentucky, which since has combined with Atlanta Life in Georgia, making it the largest Black-owned insurance company in the U.S.A. (The congressman is also an alumnus of Howard University, Washington, D.C. and has been awarded Honorary Doctorate degrees by Wilberforce and Central State Universities in Ohio, A&T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina and the University of the District of Columbia.)

While a student at the Detroit College of Law, he was elected the youngest Member of the Michigan State Senate for 2 terms, then as Michigan's 1st Black Congressman and first Black mortician ever elected thereto, serving in that capacity for 25 years before his retirement in 1980.

In 1955, as a freshman Congressman, he was dramatically propelled onto the national scene in an even more enhanced fashion when he attended the infamous Emmett Till kidnap/murder trial in Mississippi, which helped give global focus to the miscarriage of justice that acquitted the White defendants, who allegedly committed these crimes against this 14 year old African-American kid, who dared to reject the norms of the state's racial behavior at that time. After the Congressman's attendance at the trial, the NAACP sent him all over the country to tell the true story about that incident and inspire support for the Civil Rights Movement.

During his first 4 years in Washington, the Congressman was assigned to the House Veteran Affairs Committee. As an enlisted man and officer during World War II, he was well-acquainted with the policies of segregation and discrimination in the U.S. military. This motivated him to challenge the Administration to redress these legitimate grievances. Finally, President Eisenhower sent him on a fact-finding mission, principally in the Pacific Command, accompanied by Lt. Colonel "Chappie" James, with whom Diggs had been stationed at the Black American Air Field Headquarters in Tuskegee, Alabama and who later became our 1st Black 4-Star Air Force General, to report on current race conditions in the U.S. military. Congressman Diggs' comprehensive report, reinforced by extensive interviews and on-site investigations, prompted the creation of an Armed Forces Commission to deal with those complaints, and the Commission was continued under the next President, John Kennedy, becoming a principal basis for many world-wide policy changes regarding racial factors in the military.

Also during his first 4 years, Congressman Diggs served on the House Interior Committee, which has jurisdiction over our Indian reservations, where he expressed considerable concern about the deep distresses of those Native Americans living thereon. (Some of his maternal forbearers came from the Cherokee Nation in Eastern North Carolina.)

Moreover, he was an ardent advocate of the landmark "Statehood" legislation for Hawaii and Alaska, over which the Interior Committee also had jurisdiction, which was signed into law in 1959 establishing the 49th and 50th States in the Union, an action which the District of Columbia has long prayed to duplicate.

Congressman Diggs was a Delegate to the National Democratic Conventions in 1956, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1972, and 1976; in 1960, in Los Angeles, he was the first Black to be chosen to second the nomination of a presidential candidate from the convention's rostrum. Although his candidate, U.S. Senator Stuart Symington from Missouri was not finally nominated, the Kennedy/Johnson Campaign and National Democratic Party Committees engaged Diggs to speak all over the country on behalf of the Kennedy/Johnson ticket that year, the first successful one composed of a northern Catholic and a southerner. Congressman Diggs is also the Founder and 1st Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

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Additionally, he authored legislation that "saved" the deteriorating Frederick Douglass Home in Anacostia, Southeast D.C., by having it designated a "National Historical Site" under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Interior, replacing its previous benefactors, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, under whose aegis it had previously languished and because of its joint limited resources of the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association, Inc.

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He is particularly proud that among those who were his Staff Assistants when he chaired referenced Committee and whose manifold talents and experience have advanced them further are Robert Washington and James Christian, both of whom went on to become Chairman of the D.C. Democratic Party and are now two of D.C.'s most prominent lawyers, Carolyn Thompson, the former D.C. City Administrator and Acting Mayor often in the Marion Barry Administration plus Attorney Ruby Martin who has been appointed by Governor Wilder of Virginia as his Cabinet Secretary of Administration.

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During his ^{spectacular} term at the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, his able chiefs of staff were Dr. Goler Butcher, an attorney, now a retired professor at Howard University, School of Law, and Dr. Herschel Challenor who retired as senior liaison officer with the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM ITOH

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY *SB*
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL MAIL

Attached are copies of letters sent to the White House from several members of Congress.

Since these letters address national security issues, I would appreciate your assistance in drafting a response. The letters are as follows:

- 1) Duncan Hunter (R-CA), concerning automobiles used by Mexico's law enforcement officials;
- 2) Austin Murphy (D-PA), concerning China's MFN status;
- 3) John Olver (D-MA), concerning the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and
- 4) Charles Diggs, concerning Haiti.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call LeeAnn Inadomi at x7500.

Enclosure

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The President of the United States
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TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: DIGGS, CHARLES

DOC DATE: 09 MAY 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: HAITI

CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM REP DIGGS RE TRANSAFRICA INTEREST IN AFRICA &
CARIBBEAN

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 17 MAY 94 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: ROSSIN

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION
ROSSIN

FOR CONCURRENCE
CLARKE
HALPERIN
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FEINBERG
ITOH
KENNEY

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

*NSC/S - Per Anne Madom in WH
leg, this shd be sent to Presidential
Correspondence for action. It is
not a Congressional letter.
TKS -
L Rossin
5/23*

ID# 064144

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 17, 1994

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. CHARLES C. DIGGS JR.

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING ADMISSION OF
QUALIFIED HAITIAN REFUGEES TO THE USA AND
FORCEFUL IMPOSITION OF APPLICABLE SANCTIONS
TO COUNTERACT THE IMMORAL POLICIES OF HAITI

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
PATRICK GRIFFIN		ORG	94/05/17		C 94/05/17
WILLIAM ITOH	REFERRAL NOTE:	RSA	94/05/17		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: PHOTO AND RESUME ENCLOSED

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____
 _____ MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *          OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED          *          CODE = A   *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED          *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *          OUTGOING  *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE        *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY        *                      *                      *
*****
  
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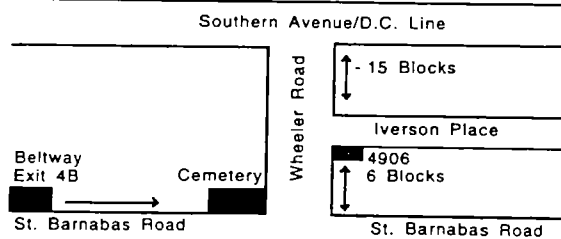
REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.



Congressman (1955-1980)
CHARLES DIGGS

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May 9, 1994

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned associates himself with the position of Mr. Randall Robinson, Executive Director of TRANSAFRICA, which so nobly represents our contemporary interests in Africa and The Caribbean.

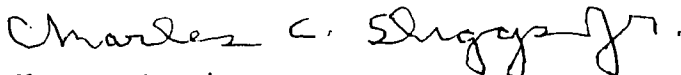
However, your Administration's uneasy standards re: admission of qualified Haitian refugees to the USA and forceful imposition of applicable sanctions to counteract the immoral policies of that country's illegitimate, controlling elements have been targets of rightful criticism.

As a third term in 1959 I became the first Black Member of Congress ever elected from Michigan or to the House Foreign Affairs Committee plus in 1969-70 the Original and Founding Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; therefore, knowing about referenced flawed assessments, I have been alarmed at your unexpected continuance of said policies, although I am now encouraged by your modifications.

The undersigned also shares the view that military intervention, or any other singular action, whether from the government or private sectors, has obviously limited potential.

Since the USA is the acknowledged, supreme leader of the Western Hemisphere, the undersigned strongly feels that a new concept of partnership must be the next step in the US process. Only through a constructive combination of methods can Haiti overcome in a timely, democratic fashion the severely complex educational, economic and political deficits necessary to realign its institutions for the benefit of all its citizens.

Most respectfully,



Charles C. Diggs, Jr.
Member of Congress
1955-1980, Retired

CCDJR/th

RESUME OF CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.

CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR. was born in Detroit, Michigan, the only child of his late parents, Charles C. Diggs, Sr. of Mississippi and Mayme E. Diggs, Nee Jones, of North Carolina/Tennessee. His parents were morticians, pioneers in business, public servants, community activists and Mr. Diggs, Sr. was Michigan's first Democratic Black State Senator. Diggs, Jr. attended the University of Michigan for 2 years and won the university's coveted oratorical championship in his sophomore year. He began his 3rd college year at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, but after one semester was drafted for World War II as a buck private. Twenty eight months later after his release from active duty as a 2nd Lieutenant, prior to which he entered and graduated from Wayne State University, College of Mortuary Science, and became general manager of "The House of Diggs," the family funeral home, and subsequently President of Detroit Metropolitan Mutual Insurance Company, succeeding his father until the firm merged with Mammoth Life Insurance Company, another Black enterprise located in Louisville, Kentucky, which since has combined with Atlanta Life in Georgia, making it the largest Black-owned insurance company in the U.S.A. (The congressman is also an alumnus of Howard University, Washington, D.C. and has been awarded Honorary Doctorate degrees by Wilberforce and Central State Universities in Ohio, A&T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina and the University of the District of Columbia.)

While a student at the Detroit College of Law, he was elected the youngest Member of the Michigan State Senate for 2 terms, then as Michigan's 1st Black Congressman and first Black mortician ever elected thereto, serving in that capacity for 25 years before his retirement in 1980.

In 1955, as a freshman Congressman, he was dramatically propelled onto the national scene in an even more enhanced fashion when he attended the infamous Emmett Till kidnap/ murder trial in Mississippi, which helped give global focus to the miscarriage of justice that acquitted the White defendants, who allegedly committed these crimes against this 14 year old African-American kid, who dared to reject the norms of the state's racial behavior at that time. After the Congressman's attendance at the trial, the NAACP sent him all over the country to tell the true story about that incident and inspire support for the Civil Rights Movement.

During his first 4 years in Washington, the Congressman was assigned to the House Veteran Affairs Committee. As an enlisted man and officer during World War II, he was well-acquainted with the policies of segregation and discrimination in the U.S. military. This motivated him to challenge the Administration to redress these legitimate grievances. Finally, President Eisenhower sent him on a fact-finding mission, principally in the Pacific Command, accompanied by Lt. Colonel "Chappie" James, with whom Diggs had been stationed at the Black American Air Field Headquarters in Tuskegee, Alabama and who later became our 1st Black 4-Star Air Force General, to report on current race conditions in the U.S. military. Congressman Diggs' comprehensive report, reinforced by extensive interviews and on-site investigations, prompted the creation of an Armed Forces Commission to deal with those complaints, and the Commission was continued under the next President, John Kennedy, becoming a principal basis for many world-wide policy changes regarding racial factors in the military.

Also during his first 4 years, Congressman Diggs served on the House Interior Committee, which has jurisdiction over our Indian reservations, where he expressed considerable concern about the deep distresses of those Native Americans living thereon. (Some of his maternal forbearers came from the Cherokee Nation in Eastern North Carolina.)

Moreover, he was an ardent advocate of the landmark "Statehood" legislation for Hawaii and Alaska, over which the Interior Committee also had jurisdiction, which was signed into law in 1959 establishing the 49th and 50th States in the Union, an action which the District of Columbia has long prayed to duplicate.

Congressman Diggs was a Delegate to the National Democratic Conventions in 1956, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1972, and 1976; in 1960, in Los Angeles, he was the first Black to be chosen to second the nomination of a presidential candidate from the convention's rostrum. Although his candidate, U.S. Senator Stuart Symington from Missouri was not finally nominated, the Kennedy/Johnson Campaign and National Democratic Party Committees engaged Diggs to speak all over the country on behalf of the Kennedy/Johnson ticket that year, the first successful one composed of a northern Catholic and a southerner. Congressman Diggs is also the Founder and 1st Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

In 1971, he served as a Full U.S. Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, while our current President, George Bush, was our Ambassador thereto. The other Full Delegate that year was Congressman Ed Derwinski (R-Ill.), ^{later} ~~presently~~ a Member of the Cabinet, as our 1st Secretary of the Veterans Administration. However, Diggs resigned during that U.N. Session as a protest of his frustration and disappointment about U.S. policy toward Africa, the only time an American U.N. Delegate has ever taken such heroic action.

In March 1972, he was one of three co-conveners of the historic National Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana, along with Mayor Richard Hatcher and Mr. Imamu Baraka, AKA Leroi Jones. Diggs served as President of its continuing body, the National Black Political Assembly, until 1974. Following the death of Illinois' Black Congressman, William Dawson of Chicago, in 1972, he succeeded him as Vice Chairman of the Democratic National Committee in charge of the Minority Division and was again engaged by The Party to speak all over the country on behalf of the McGovern/Eagleton/then Shriver ticket. He resigned after election to maximize attention to his congressional duties.

In 1973, Congressman Diggs' seniority on the House District Committee, which oversees the Nation's Capitol, rewarded him its Chairmanship. However, in contrast to his southern predecessor, under Diggs' leadership in less than one year, he persuaded Congress to grant the citizens of Washington, D.C. for the first time in over a century the right to elect their own Mayor and City Council. The Washington Star, echoing a universal consensus, editorialized that, "Home Rule is chiefly the result of the hard work and uncommon savvy of Representative Charles Diggs."

Additionally, he authored legislation that "saved" the deteriorating Frederick Douglass Home in Anacostia, Southeast D.C., by having it designated a "National Historical Site" under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Interior, replacing its previous benefactors, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, under whose aegis it had previously languished and because of its joint limited resources of the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association, Inc.

Congressman Diggs is also the "father" of the University of the District of Columbia, as he was its principal legislative sponsor during his tenure as Chairman of the House District Committee.

He is particularly proud that among those who were his Staff Assistants when he chaired referenced Committee and whose manifold talents and experience have advanced them further are Robert Washington and James Christian, both of whom went on to become Chairman of the D.C. Democratic Party and are now two of D.C.'s most prominent lawyers, Carolyn Thompson, the former D.C. City Administrator and Acting Mayor often in the Marion Barry Administration plus Attorney Ruby Martin who has been appointed by Governor Wilder of Virginia as his Cabinet Secretary of Administration.

In 1959, Diggs became the first Black Member of Congress appointed to serve on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He had sought this assignment after his selection in 1957 by President Eisenhower to be part of the U.S. Delegation to the Independence of Ghana in West Africa. (The Delegation was headed by the then Vice President, Richard Nixon). He requested and was appointed to the Subcommittee on Africa, and ten years later became its Chairman, remaining until his retirement in 1980. His travels abroad and meetings with African leaders and others regarding African policy are unmatched; his hearings before the Subcommittee on Africa were legendary, raising the level of attention to U.S. policies in that area and enhancing his reputation as one of the nation's principal spoke-persons on this subject. TRANSAFRICA, America's premier think-tank on Africa and the Caribbean, was born in Diggs' office while Randall Robinson, its current head, was Diggs' Administrative Assistant.

During his ^{spectacular} term at the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, his able chiefs of staff were Dr. Goler Butcher, an attorney, now a retired professor at Howard University, School of Law, and Dr. Herschel Challenor who retired as senior liaison officer with the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Congressman Diggs is the recipient of over 100 awards/citations for community service. He is a Double-Life Member of the NAACP, belongs to the American Legion, The American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS) - Life Member, The Tuskegee Alumni, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (P.G. Co. Chapter) and several other community organizations. Upon his retirement in 1980, he turned over 800 boxes of his papers, pictures, plaques and files accumulated during his illustrious State Senatorial and Congressional careers for posterity and use by the Moorland Spingarn Collection on the Howard University campus in Washington, the first elected figure of his rank to do so.

He is married, the father of 6 children and 12 grandchildren, a circle that obviously will expand, since as of September 1994, two of his children and none of his grandchildren are married.

He is a licensed mortician in Maryland, D.C., Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. He belongs to Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Maryland, The Reverend Grainger Browning, Pastor.

The following expressions typically undergird Diggs' character:

Former Under Secretary of State David Newsome: "... in all my dealings with him in a professional capacity relating to his work as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa ... in my opinion he is a man of integrity and honesty.."

Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "In my opinion Congressman Diggs is a man of great integrity and honesty and is a man of great dedication." (In 1965, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was the principal speaker in Detroit at a Testimonial Banquet for Diggs, in appreciation for the Congressman's leadership, the ONLY time he ever participated in such an event.)

Reverend Jesse Jackson: "... his character is impeccable and his leadership has basically been based upon his integrity ... based upon my organizational and personal experience with him I trust him absolutely."