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Obstacles To The 21st Century Technology

WILL WE RISE TO THE CHALLENGE?

George Carey

Archbishop of Canterbury — Page 610

Anthony Harrigan

Counselor of the U.S. Business and Industrial Council
Education-Foundation — Page 614

C. Payne Lucas

President of Africare — Page 617

William A. Zellmer

Vice President, Professional and Public Affairs,
American Society of Health System Pharmacists — Page 619

Dana G. Mead

Chairman and CEO, Tenaco, and Chairman of NAM — Page 622

Marilyn Carlson Nelson

Vice Chair, The Carlson Company — Page 626

Jorge L. Carro

Professor of Law, Emeritus, University of Cincinnati — Page 629

Norm Bertasavage

Vice Chairman, Planning Commission, Branch Township — Page 632

D. Scott McLain

Real Estate Broker — Page 635

Pete du Pont

Former Governor of Delaware, Policy Chairman,
National Center for Policy Analysis — Page 637

Alan Schriesheim

Director & CEO, Argonne National Laboratory — Page 639

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THERE IS AN AWFUL LOT AT STAKE

America's Future

A BETTER DAY FOR OUR CHILDREN

The Meaning Of Prosperity

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Reed Hundt

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission — Page 706

Howell Heflin

Retired United States Senator from Alabama — Page 709

John Rodden

Adjunct Professor, Department of Speech Communications,
University of Texas and Author — Page 712

David M. Abshire

President, CEO, Center for Strategic & International Studies — Page 718

Grahm T.T. Molitor

Vice President and Legal Counsel, World Future Society — Page 721

Jerry Yelverton

Executive VP, COO, Entergy Operations — Page 725

Joseph C. Kennedy

Senior Vice President, Director of
International Development, AFRICARE — Page 727

James D. Ericson

President, CEO, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company — Page 729

Fred Thompson

United States Senator from Tennessee — Page 731

George W. Bush

Governor of Texas — Page 733

Benjamin Ola. Akande

Chair, Division of Business, Wayland Baptist University — Page 735

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THE BEST THOUGHT OF THE BEST MINDS ON CURRENT NATIONAL QUESTIONS

U.S. And African Relations

GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

Address by JOSEPH C. KENNEDY, Ph.D., *Senior Vice President, Director of International Development, AFRICARE*

Delivered to the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry, Washington, D.C., July 31, 1997

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today to share with you some of my views on development in Africa, within the context of stimulating economic growth and enhancing food security.

Let me say a word about Africare. Africare is a non-profit, non-political Washington based Private Voluntary Organization (PVO). For the past 26 years we have worked in rural Africa to help improve the quality of life of the people. Our programs are in the broad program areas of water resource development, agriculture (food production and food security), rural health, and assistance to refugees and displaced persons. Currently Africare has programs in 27 countries.

Funding for these programs come from a number of sources in the United States, the Agency for International Development, foundations, churches, the business community, thousands of individuals. Support also comes from the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, WHO, UNICEF, the World Food Program. Additionally Africare receives support from Canada, several European countries and the African governments themselves.

As we look at a new relationship between the United States and Africa, we should be reminded that the contemporary history of Africa is extremely short. As recently as 40 years ago, there were only seven independent countries in all of Africa, five in North Africa and Ethiopia, (Abyssinia of Biblical days) and Liberia formed as a Republic in 1847.

In March 1957, in what would be one of the most electrifying events in African history, the Gold Coast became the independent nation of Ghana, the first south of the Sahara in so-called black Africa and the eighth in Africa to gain independence.

When apartheid ended four years ago, and Nelson Mandela was elected President, South Africa became the 51st independent country in Africa, 43 countries independent in less than forty years.

Often we have demanded of Africa too many changes in too short a time. We speak of the "problems" and failures of Africa, not the successes.

Even if we were to set aside the negative legacies of commercial exploitation, religious proselytizing, colonialism and slavery, which we cannot, we could not ignore the fact that African independence was born into and nurtured by the vagaries of the Cold War. In the name of preventing or advancing the spread of communism, systems were spawned where weak men grew strong and strong men became stronger, where authoritarianism and total disregard for the rights and needs of the people could be supported. The seeds of ethnic rivalries, turmoil, coups and civil wars were sown.

The dreams of those early African freedom fighters of creating a new world, fashioned in the image of Africa, a world aligned neither with the East nor West but a brave new Third World could not be realized. For over thirty years Mobutu Sese Sekou could be supported and hailed as a staunch ally of the West while he plundered Zaire and snuffed out any suggestions of human freedom.

With the ousting of Mobutu a few months ago, the era of Big Men, Strong Men, Generals, Presidents for Life has ended. Now new winds are sweeping across Africa, the new winds of economic reforms and democratization. In the past few years at least 35 African countries have moved from centrally controlled economies to embrace market driven economies and privatization. At least 20 countries have held democratic multi-party elections. (Some have fallen back but U.S. policy makers should realize the road to democracy is not straight and narrow. Those who are on the right path but falter should continue to be nurtured not rebuffed.)

A new wave of leaders is emerging in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Uganda, South Africa and Zambia, leaders with new ideas and new visions of how to rebuild and revitalize Africa.

Their task is formidable. They have inherited an Africa beset with problems where in the best of time, 70% of the people don't get enough to eat, where people earn on the average \$450 a year. They have inherited a continent with high infant mortality rates, short life expectancy, exploding population growth, rapid increases in HIV/AIDS, a continent subject to periodic drought and famine, a continent overwhelmed by foreign debt and limited economic growth.

Their task is formidable, but the potential for revitalization is nearly boundless. Africa is the wealthiest continent on the face of the earth with 95% of the world diamonds, 87% of the cobalt, 65% of the gold. There is uranium, chrome, some of the best coffee and cocoa. There is oil. There are the mighty rivers — the Niger, the Congo, the Zambezi, the Nile. Even under the sand of the Sahara desert, there is enough water to fill all the lakes of the world.

If the rivers can be harnessed, the energy of the sun and the wind mastered, millions of acres of land could be brought under cultivation. Irrigated rice and wheat could be cultivated, vegetable gardens planted, livestock could flourish, the environment could be protected. Africa could grow enough food to feed itself. Water and electricity could be brought to every village. Schools, roads, and health clinics could be built.

If this potential is to be realized, however a compact must be struck, a partnership based on equal respect must be forged between the United States and Africa.

The United States must make good on the implied promise that if economic reforms based on market driven forces were undertaken, democratic elections held, and political stability achieved, the "reward" would be tremendous infusion of foreign trade and investments. These twin engines would lead to economic growth, job creation and a better life for the people. Thus far that promise has not been kept.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act with its emphasis on expanding two way trade and private sector development, the elimination of bilateral debt for some of the poorest African nations, the elimination of certain quotas on selected African commodities and establishing an equity fund, among other measures, will go a long way toward the fulfillment of that promise. Mr. Chairman, Members of this Committee and all who support this legislation are to be applauded.

Mr. Chairman, as many have suggested, however, this African Growth and Opportunity initiative must not become a debate between trade and aid, between more trade and less aid. The nearly 700 million population of Africa represents great opportunities for American markets and investments. Yet over half of that population is located in only 14 countries. What of those countries with small populations, little to trade and little to invest in. Even with regionalization and creative entrepreneurship the impact will be slow to be felt. These countries, these people, cannot be left out!

After being involved in Africa for 36 years through independent research in Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, several years with Peace Corps and the past 26 years with Africare, I am convinced that if real change is to take place and be sustained over time, democratization, economic reform, good governance, increased trade and investments must go hand in hand with direct support to the men, women and children who live in the rural areas of Africa. For 26 years, Africare has worked in the villages of Africa. Over these years, Africare has put in water wells and systems in villages, where for generations there has never been a source of drinking water, where women and children walk five miles to get water from a muddy stream.

Africare has planted trees and built small dams to prevent land degradation and protect the environment, has helped bring greater food security through vegetable gardens, irrigated rice and wheat production, food processing, improved food storage and farm to market roads.

Africare has helped create small businesses and micro-enterprise projects. Across the continent Africare has worked with women and children to reduce malnutrition and infant mortality rates. Africare has worked with HIV/AIDS education and river blindness. Africare has worked with village and community based Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to strengthen their involvement in the democratic process.

One of Africare's more successful programs over the past six years has been the PL 480 Title II Food for Development Program (in the office of Food for Peace) with an increased emphasis on enhancing food security as defined by the three characteristics of food, availability, access and utilization.

I often discuss with my Africare colleagues whether there really are win-win situations. One of my colleagues, a foremost specialist on agriculture and food production in Africa, the late Bob Wilson, convinced me that the PL 480 Title II program is truly a winner because so many entities benefit, American farmers and U.S. agriculture interests are served. Producers, processors and transportation industries benefit from purchases made in the United States and the shipment of the commodities overseas, foundations for future trade are laid. Jobs are created in the United States, the African private sector is expanded and host government and the African people benefit.

Guinea Bissau is an example. After Africare's commodity specialist, in conjunction with host country technicians, has conducted a feasibility study and determined the selected commodity will not be a disincentive for local farmer production, nor interfere with the local commercial markets; the commodity is monetized, sold through an open and transparent process to local merchants. The local currency is then used to support the Africare programs.

Initially Africare sold to one large scale merchant. Now Africare is selling to more than 70 merchants who come from around the country. This process expands privatization while addressing the food security goals of increasing food availability and access. Further, these merchants, for the first time, are exposed to the commercial banking system since they must secure bank guarantees to assure payments beyond the initial down payment. The host government benefits because these commodities are purchased with local currency, freeing up foreign exchange resources to be used for the other economic and human development needs.

In this project, Africare is working with 81 associations. The palm oil association is typical. It is composed of between 15 to 20 men and women. The association secures credit from Africare to purchase locally grown palm nuts and to purchase an oil press machine. They then sell the palm oil at a profit. The establishment of a credit system is another off shoot. Prior to this Africare project, there was no credit system in the region. Africare personnel had to travel long distances with huge sums of cash to provide credit. Now the government of Guinea Bissau is endorsing the system established by the project as a model for developing credit systems throughout the country. Incidentally, the payback rate for these loans is 92%.

An additional feature of this PL 480 Title II program and indeed a feature of all Africare's PL 480 Title II programs in the seven countries (Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Chad, Uganda, Eritrea and Mozambique) is a focus on health education and nutrition at the household level. For a long time it was generally accepted that if food production were increased, malnutrition would decrease. We have found it is necessary to go directly to the household itself to determine what foods are actually being consumed and provide health and nutrition education and introduce diversified diets at the household level. Africare is also working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Food for Progress office, to develop a program with South Africa.

Mr. Chairman, Members of this Committee, over the years with programs such as I have described I have seen tremendous positive changes in these villages. These changes are unheralded, create no headlines, attract no television coverage, journalists don't write about them. Sometimes they hardly count in the statistics of economic growth, production and food security. They have merely helped bring a better life to the people of Africa.

Mr. Chairman, I believe there is a bright future for United States and African relationships. I believe the African Growth and Opportunity initiative, coupled with U.S. development assistance targeted to programs which respond directly to the needs and aspirations of the African people, and continued democratization and economic reforms in Africa, will assure that bright future.

Thank you.

transcript

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
NOVEMBER 21, 1996**

Thank you very much. I am delighted to be here in this magnificent opera house, one of the architectural wonders of our world.

I want to thank Mrs. Howard for the warm hospitality that she and the Prime Minister have extended to my husband and me in Sydney and Canberra. I also want to thank Senator Newman for her words. Which I deeply agreed with, in terms of the agenda that confronts us and our mutual need learn from one another as we work on these problems. And I would be honored to take the message back that perhaps we could even strengthen our relationship. Thank you, too, Ambassador Dalrymple, for chairing the host committee. And I want to thank someone else -- Kaarn Weaver -- for the wonderful job you do every day in representing the United States in Australia.

Let me also thank our sponsors this afternoon: The Australian Center for American Studies at the University of Sydney, the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, and the Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific, also at the University of Sydney.

Finally I want to thank the Australian people we have met and seen waving in crowds along every street we have traveled. You have made my husband and me feel so welcome and have only increased our desire to return with our daughter to this extraordinary country. The timing of our next visit, and whether we come in disguise, may depend more on the outcome of the golf match my husband is currently playing than on scheduling concerns. He may wish he had encountered a shark in the harbor - rather than on the fairway.

This is my first visit to Australia. I must confess that, while growing up, I was like many Americans who had a sense of Australia from seeing movies, images of the vast outback: Much like our Wild West, a place occupied by roguish types like Ned Kelly and filled with kangaroos. Just as, I assume, Australians who have not yet visited the United States might perhaps think that our country is one long-running episode of Melrose Place, not to mention that all our children like to dunk basketballs and wear baseball caps backwards.

I was thinking about our countries when my husband and I

arrived here the other evening from Honolulu. A few years back I had read Jill Ker Conway's memoir, The Road from Coorain, which included a memorable passage about her return home after a long sojourn in Europe. In it she describes flying into Sydney and seeing -- from above -- the beauty of the harbor, the golden beaches and the "grey-green city" lying at the edge of a continent.

At that moment she finally understands Australia's unique orientation in the world. The country, she writes, looks "across the vast expanse of the Pacific, not to Europe, but to Japan and Continental Asia."

Having read that passage, and being here for a few days now, before I travel to the Philippines and Thailand -- the Near North, not the Far East -- I feel better oriented in our world too.

Despite the thousands of miles of ocean that separate your country and mine, we are bound together in friendship and partnership based on common experiences and values.

We are united, not least, by our commitment to democracy and the values that democracy seeks to uphold. As proponents of freedom, we rejoice in recent developments around the globe: There is no Iron Curtain any more. In country after country, dictatorships have crumbled and democracy has come alive. The threat of nuclear war no longer hovers over us. As my husband said yesterday in Parliament, opportunities for peace and prosperity are greater than ever before. And the prospect of a new and even more dynamic century beckons us.

Yet at the same time, many people in our countries and around the world feel the strains caused by global competition and the rapid pace of change. The superficial cultural homogenization of the world means that people from Boston to Brisbane, Paris to Perth, and Moscow to Melbourne may wear the same jeans, eat the same fast food, and listen to the same music. But these surface similarities do not and cannot override a longing for identity and meaning in their own lives. Despite improving material conditions in advanced economies, families seem under stress. The gap between the rich and the poor grows wider. Even in the United States and Australia, the social safety net -- health care, education, pensions, good wages and good jobs -- is in danger of fraying for those less able to navigate this new world.

These pressures pose unavoidable questions for all of us as we approach the 21st century: Questions about how to balance individual and community rights and responsibilities; about how parents will raise children in the face of the influences of the

mass media and consumer culture; about personal identity and work in an age of globalization, information overload and high technology; about the roles of women in society; about how people will preserve their ethnic pride and value their national citizenship; about how nations will protect their sovereignty while cooperating regionally and globally with others.

Thinking about these challenges, and how free nations like ours will respond to them, we may need to be reminded that democracy is not just about our legally protected rights, elections or even free market economies. It's about the internalization of democratic values in people's hearts, minds and everyday lives. It's about how, in the absence of either hot or cold wars, democracy is rooted in the experiences of our young people. It's about developing among democratic nations what I call "an alliance of values" that withstands tyranny and terrorism. An alliance based on the shared values of freedom, opportunity, responsibility, community and respect for human rights.

Building and sustaining democracy has always required a balance of power that allows those values to flourish: A balance of public political power, private economic power and the power of civil society, those formal and informal networks that bring people together to make decisions for themselves and for the common good.

Democratic values are at risk when that balance shifts to the extremes: When government becomes too cumbersome or too intrusive or too restrictive. When the marketplace, which by definition knows the price of everything but the value of nothing, lures citizens into becoming merely consumers who care only about satisfying their personal wants. When civil society, which consists of local organizations, and philanthropies, and volunteer associations, and neighborhood groups and individual families, is weakened by larger political and economic forces.

Every generation faces the task of achieving the proper balance of power so that democratic values can survive and thrive.

Whether we succeed at this task is particularly important for women, whose voices are still too often silenced in too many parts of the world. It is equally important for women in countries such as ours who are still striving to attain and define their place in government, the economy and civil society and claim their share of personal, political, economic, and civic power.

During the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, I said that women's rights were human rights -- and

human rights are women's rights. One would think that at the end of this century that should be an unremarkable statement. I have been overwhelmed by the response that speech received. And also bewildered that the proposition should be open to question.

A few months ago I appeared on a radio program for the Voice of America. I fielded questions from all over the world. And many callers referred to my Beijing speech. And one male caller asked what my statement about women's rights really meant. I told him to imagine the rights men had and wanted and to apply them to women: the right to be valued as a member of a family, to be protected from violence and exploitation, to be assured equal access to the tools of opportunity -- health care, education, legal rights, political participation, economic empowerment -- tools that equip an individual with the capacity to make responsible decisions for one's life. Where women are given human rights they help create conditions in which they, their families and communities flourish.

Yet we know that even in advanced democracies such as ours, where these conditions are present for the vast majority of women, women's roles and rights are still being debated. They are being debated among women as well as between men and women, with implications for whether our democracies will meet the challenges of the future.

I know that some of you may recall we recently had an election in the United States. Many critical issues were raised during the campaign. But for the first time in America, a new set of concerns took on political importance -- concerns about enhancing the quality of our lives, about raising children, about meeting the demands of work and family.

Why were these issues suddenly at the heart of American politics? Because they are real issues on people's minds -- kitchen table issues -- and about how public and private power should be balanced to address them.

For example, will a new mother and her infant be allowed to stay in the hospital as long as a doctor deems it necessary -- or will private business considerations determine when they are ready to be sent home?

Will parents be allowed to take time off from work to care for a sick child or a loved one -- or will they be forced to choose between meeting their responsibilities to their jobs and meeting their responsibilities to their families?

The Family and Medical Leave law, the first piece of legislation my husband signed as President in 1993, took on greater political significance because my husband's opponent and

leaders of the other party in Congress disagreed about the law and the need to expand it. Family leave became a leading issue during the campaign, along with maternity stays for new mothers and how to protect health care coverage for older and poorer Americans, the majority of whom are women.

Even the book I wrote, It Takes a Village, became an issue in the campaign after it was attacked as an endorsement of government taking a dominant role in the raising of children. Anyone who reads the book knows that was not its theme. Rather, I argued that, although families bear the primary responsibility for child-rearing, each individual and institution in society has a responsibility toward children as well. The village of which I wrote is not a geographic location but a community of shared values and relationships.

People all over America started coming up to me at campaign appearances I made on behalf of my husband wearing buttons that said "It does take a village" or "I am a villager" or "Welcome to our village." They recognized that building a sense of community based on mutual responsibility not only helps all of us to work for our own ends - but also to help each other succeed as well. From what I know of your country, that is an unassailable tenet of your social contract even though you may disagree over the specifics.

Many observers in America, however, were perplexed that these issues were so important to voters this year. Accustomed to discussions of defense, diplomacy, economics and trade, some commentators never really caught on that so-called "women's issues" mattered because -- at root -- they were about the way that men and women live together and in society.

Such issues instead were often dismissed as marginal to the larger challenges our nation is facing or derided as "the feminization of politics."

What an unfortunate term. After all, don't fathers worry about how long their wives and babies can stay in the hospital when they need care? Don't men want to be able to take time off when a family member is gravely ill? Don't sons want to ensure that their elderly parents have health care coverage in the later stages of life?

Instead of the "feminization of politics," I prefer to think of this phenomenon as the "humanization of politics" in America. What we saw being played out in the political arena was how in a democracy people's personal concerns can become political if they use their voices -- and their votes -- to define them.

That represents a maturing of politics. The gender gap we

heard so much about in the American election was simply a measure of how women, who are experts on the hazards and vicissitudes of life, voted their self interest and their values. In so doing they delivered a clear message that the issues they care about deserve to be on the front burner of national politics.

I have come up with my own term for this phenomenon. Like some of you, I studied political science in college. I have followed politics closely in my years as a citizen activist and political spouse. And I have come to a fairly good understanding of the historic concept of *realpolitik* among and between nations.

What women are saying today -- loudly and clearly -- is that national politics is not just about *realpolitik*. It's also about *real life politik*, how we live together.

I realize there will be women who disagree with me and with each other about specific issues and where the balance of power between and among institutions and individuals should rest. In my country, some women believe the President and Congress over-extended government's power in legislating family leave and the length of maternity hospital stays. In contrast, other women think government needs more power to control economic forces that can disrupt the lives of families and communities.

And some women are just plain squeamish when the subject of power arises. It is something, they believe, that should be discussed quietly behind the scenes and exercised -- if at all -- by women only within the scope of their personal lives.

Regardless of where we stand on any particular issue or on the larger question of balancing the powers in our lives, we must acknowledge that much is at stake for women collectively in this debate. Not just in the United States but here in Australia and around the world.

Will democracies on every continent come to understand that issues affecting women are not soft or marginal, but are central to the progress and prosperity of every nation?

Will public and private institutions help empower women with the tools they need to expand their choices and take responsibility for their lives? And by that I mean, among other things, will education be affordable and accessible to all women so that they can acquire the skills and knowledge they need to help themselves and contribute to society? Will businesses initiate policies that make work more family-friendly, like child care, flexible hours, or parental leave? Will employers value women by paying them equal pay for equal work?

Will law enforcement and justice systems act more

efficiently to protect women from violations of their legal rights, particularly from violence in their own homes?

Will financial institutions provide credit for women -- especially poor women who, with access to small loans, can lift themselves and their families out of poverty?

Will individual women be respected for the choices they make about family, work and personal growth -- and will they be able to make those choices free of the burden of other people's and society's expectations? Will we stop pigeon-holing women and invoking stereotypes that limit their potential? Will we admit that there is no formula for being a successful or fulfilled woman in today's society? That one can choose full-time motherhood and homemaking. Or be committed to work outside the home without marriage or children. Or, like most of us today, balance work and family responsibilities. And that each of our choices will be supported and respected.

Yesterday at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra my husband and I visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. One of the honor guards was a woman. I was heartened that she had the freedom to choose military service as a way to fulfill her aspirations. This was the right choice for her. It would not necessarily be the right choice for me, or for many of you. But we should all be able to celebrate the diversity of experiences that women are choosing for themselves today.

And finally, will we acknowledge, once and for all, that issues of concern to women do not just affect women but affect men too?

These are the questions we are struggling to answer. They are about the balance of power and about the balance we seek in our lives and in the larger community we share.

I welcome the debate. It is a great debate. It is a contentious debate. It is a necessary debate for any democracy on the eve of a new century.

And I am optimistic that women will help to shape the answers we seek. I'm optimistic because I have met women throughout the world who have seized this moment to make their voices heard on behalf of themselves and democracy's values. I have met women in Northern Ireland -- Catholics and Protestants -- who are working together to address the root causes of sectarian violence. I have met women in South Africa -- blacks and whites -- who helped lead the struggle to end apartheid. I have met women in Bosnia -- Croats, Serbs and Muslims -- who are transcending long-standing ethnic hatreds to keep the peace in that war-torn land. I have met women in Russia, Poland, the Czech

Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, the Baltic region and in Mongolia who are leading the effort to build democratic governments, free market economies and civil society from the ruins of dictatorship. I have met women in South America who are joining forces to improve literacy and health care for women and children throughout the continent. And I have met women in South and East Asia who are working to provide economic opportunity for the poorest of the poor through small loans and credit.

I have met women in my own country who have come together to make their streets safer, their schools stronger, and the environment cleaner. And just in the few days I have been here, I have met women who are enriching this nation through their contributions to politics, law, science, education, the arts, journalism and so much else.

Some of the women I have met are famous. But most are not. They are not high-level diplomats or professional negotiators. They have not been elected to office. They aren't wealthy or connected in the right social circles.

They simply took it upon themselves to get organized and to make their voices heard. They had faith in their own capacity to affect change. And they were not going to wait around for someone else to do it for them.

So I am hopeful. Because every country and every time has its Caroline Chisholm, Edith Cowan, and Mother Mary McKillop -- women who, well known or not, understand that we must find common ground. And that on that common ground we will build a society that is in balance, where our democratic values are alive and where individuals can live up to their own God-given potentials.

Mary Wollstonecraft once said "I do not wish women to have power over men, but over themselves."

That is what we are all striving for. This is what will ensure progress for women and their families, safeguard democracy, and make the world a better place for our children and ourselves. That is the challenge women face in the 21st century.

Thank you very much.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Aug. 2, 1993)

Coping With Diversity

BY C. PAYNE LUCAS AND KEVIN G. LOWTHER

We dedicate this article to the late John T. Walker, first African-American bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C., who spent his life pursuing peace, justice and interracial harmony.

Back in the late 1970s, we flirted with trying to start a syndicated newspaper column. We were going to call it "In Black and White"—Lucas is African-American, Lowther of European ancestry—and focus on issues of race and culture in American society. The idea died on the drawing board, in part because we naively concluded that Americans were finally learning to live with each other. There seemed less urgency—or media market—for commentary that would guide us through the thickets of ethnic, religious and cultural diversity.

It seems we were premature to abandon our collaboration. Race, ethnicity, religion and culture have become increasingly complex and divisive factors in American life. And in the world at large, from Yugoslavia to Sri Lanka to South Africa, we have seen one nation after another ravaged by these same powerful forces.

If we were to launch "In Black and White" today, we would have to broaden

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Forum

See Africa for Yourself

by C. Payne Lucas and Kevin Lowther

An African safari may not be high on Bill Clinton's official travel plans, but it should be.

Not since John F. Kennedy assumed office has a newly elected American president commanded as much hope and respect among Africans as Bill Clinton. But Kennedy, whom Africans still revere for championing their independence before it was the fashion, never set foot in sub-Saharan Africa.

ViewPoint

President Clinton can make amends for that historic oversight. In the process, he could give enormous moral impetus to Africa's emerging democracies and a new generation of leaders who are Clinton's political age-mates.

Africa is a natural part of the next president's international constituency. Although he could easily ignore or downgrade African issues, Clinton has ample reason to take the continent seriously.

Africans understand Clinton's domestic agenda and do not expect the new administration to increase foreign assistance substantially or pursue an overtly activist role in African affairs. What they do see in Clinton, however, is an American president who can genuinely empathize with their problems and engage them as equals in discussion and resolution of global issues and mutual concerns.

Africans perceive Clinton as a "man of

the people," someone who is comfortable with human contact, who listens well and seeks to build consensus – all important aspects of social and political life in Africa. To many Africans, Clinton represents a "new dawn," a powerful symbol associated originally with the continent's emergence from colonial domination. Today, the image reflects the incipient democratization that is replacing Africa's first generation of post-independence rulers with younger, more pragmatic and better-educated leaders who are prepared to live or die politically by the popular vote.

In his foreign policy campaign speeches, Clinton stressed the importance of helping new democracies, particularly in the former Soviet bloc, to weather transitional turmoil. Africa's democratic rebirth is no less vulnerable. For every Tajikistan, there is an Angola; for every Yeltsin, a Soglo in Benin or a Chiluba in Zambia.

Africans assume that Clinton understands this reality and will act accordingly. They believe that African democracy is inherently as worthy as Russian democracy and that the Clinton administration will take the lead in giving new meaning and substance to African independence.

However, Clinton can hardly be expected to appreciate the resonance of his own priorities, governing style and philosophy within a continent that sees such promise in his presidency.

That is why he should visit Africa during his first year in office. He would meet a new generation of leaders and private citizens who are trying to promote political and human rights reforms, eco-

nomical liberalization, environmental awareness and acceptance of ethnic diversity. And he would discover that it is in our national self-interest to encourage job creation and productivity in Africa and to strengthen democratic systems and institutions as a buffer against the kind of Balkanization that threatens to destabilize much of the former Soviet Bloc.

In spite of its frequent crises, natural or otherwise, Africa has the potential to be a keystone of stability in a changing world. African nations have embarked on the difficult road to democratic change. They are swallowing the bitter pill of structural economic adjustment. And they have begun to recognize that their survival – and ours – may be linked to how well they conserve a fragile environment.

Africans need to know that President Clinton cares whether the continent rises

from its current miseries or sinks further into conflict and chronic underdevelopment. If he does nothing else for Africa, he needs to pursue his stated support for a strong, international rapid-deployment peacekeeping force. Such intervention could have saved thousands of lives – and millions of dollars in relief funds – in Somalia, Sudan, Angola, Liberia and elsewhere.

To many Africans, Bill Clinton is the reincarnation of the Kennedy spirit. Just as JFK embodied Africans' heady expectations at independence in the early 1960s, Clinton represents Africans' aspirations in the 1990s. He owes them the visit Kennedy never made. ■

C. Payne Lucas is executive director of Africare, a Washington, DC-based development and relief organization. Kevin Lowther is the agency's director for Southern Africa.

The Bishop John T. Walker
Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award

presented by Africare to

Dorothy Irene Height

Dorothy Irene Height, you met your fate nearly six decades ago today. You had just joined the YWCA staff. You worked at the Emma Ransom House, in Harlem. At a scheduled event, November 7, 1937, it fell to you to escort the speaker to her place. The speaker was Eleanor Roosevelt. The event was a conference of the National Council of Negro Women. Present was the Council's founder: educator and civil rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune. She saw, and was impressed by, you and asked you to join her cause. "She said, 'Come back. We need you,' " you recounted. "And I've been back ever since."

You have served on the front lines of the great causes of our day. You have led organizations in civil rights, women's rights, economic empowerment and the strengthening of families. Your impact has been felt throughout the United States as well as in Africa and elsewhere. You never stop. You never lose faith. You are a hard-working legend in service to a better world.

Born in 1912 in Richmond, Virginia, you grew up in Rankin, a Pennsylvania steel mill town near Pittsburgh. Family, church, community and school were the forces that shaped you. Academic excellence was your path to the larger world. You moved to New York, earning bachelor's and master's degrees and embarking on social work: your chosen field. With the New York Welfare Department, you saw the problems of the vulnerable and poor firsthand. Later, at the Emma Ransom House, still helping the poor, your talents for outreach and innovation emerged.

You rose to leadership roles: staff member of the National Board of the YWCA of the USA from 1944 to 1977 and, from 1965 to 1977, Director of the Association's Center for Racial Justice, which you also founded. Over the decades, your activism grew. From 1947 to 1956, you served as National President of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, moving the group into a new era of involvement both nationally and abroad. In 1957, you were elected fourth National President of the National Council of Negro Women, the position you still hold today. Through the Council — with its 34 national affiliates, its 250 community-based sections, its total outreach to four million women in 42 states and its growing Africa program — you have left your greatest mark. A leader in the struggle for civil rights, you have marched, exhorted and made history with the likes of Whitney Young and Dr. King. You have bridged the movements for racial equality and women's rights. You have fought poverty and injustice with programs in education, job training, voter registration, health care and more. Your Council-sponsored Black Family Reunion Celebrations have saluted our traditions and our strengths. Friend and advisor to every U.S. President since Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in 1994 you received from President Clinton our nation's highest civilian honor: the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

"Invest in the human soul," Mrs. Bethune once said. "Who knows, it may be a diamond in the rough." On the occasion of the Eighth Africare Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner, in Washington, D.C., the Board of Directors of Africare proudly bestows upon you, Dorothy Irene Height, diamond among souls, the 1997 Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award.

October 23, 1997

[signature]

Donald F. McHenry
Chairman

[signature]

C. Payne Lucas
President

[FINAL: 9/30/97]

**Suggested talking points for First Lady Hilary Clinton
at Africare Dinner, October 23, 1997**

* Everyone who travels to Africa for the first time--as I have recently--feels that she has discovered something in her own soul that was lost or long forgotten.

* I was unprepared for what I found in Africa. I did not find the Dark Continent that appears so often in press reports and in our imaginations. I found a continent of youth, of exuberance and of hope.

* I also found that Africa's greatest strength is its women. Where genuine development and progress are achieved at community level, I learned, it is usually the women who are responsible. Even the men agree.

* Africare has helped to keep the African candle burning. Here at home, Africare has kept the faith during difficult times, when it seemed Africa was about to drop off our agenda, and nurtured our curiosity and concern about this wondrous continent. And in Africa, Africare has given thousands of local development workers the means and encouragement to sustain their own commitment to making a better life for their people.

* Africare began in 1971 with the premise that "it takes a village" to achieve genuine development. Africare has always emphasized rural development and giving people incentive to remain productively on the land.

* Africare has stuck to the basics, and there is nothing more basic to our future than the child. Africare's first projects, 26 years ago, focused on maternal and child health. Today, Africare supports Child Survival programs throughout Africa. These projects, funded by USAID, may be the best investment, dollar for dollar, we can ever make in Africa.

* Africare began at the grassroots. Its first supporters were individual Americans, black and white, who sent five and ten dollars to help people suffering in the great Sahelian drought of the early 1970s. These were Africare's first partners. They have since been joined by a long list of corporations, foundations, United Nations agencies, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, bilateral aid programs in European and Canada, Japan and Saudi Arabia--and by African governments who are recognizing more and more that "it takes an NGO," that development is best promoted through non-governmental institutions.

*Naturally, the speech will
also address ms. Height's
achievements, etc.*

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA
CHANTILLY, VIRGINIA
APRIL 21, 1997**

Heads of State, Prime Ministers, and Vice Presidents; Ministers; Ambassadors; Members of Congress; Members of the Corporate Council; award winners; distinguished guests and friends:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to talk with you. But first, I want to bring you a brief message from my husband, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton. [President's videotaped message]

Just a little over three weeks ago, my daughter and I boarded a plane in Asmara, Eritrea to fly home to the United States after two weeks in Africa. It was the end of the Christian Holy Week. We touched down in Washington as dawn broke on Easter morning, and it occurred to me how fitting our timing was. Millions around the world were celebrating a holiday that marks the passage from sorrow and despair to hope and renewal. And that was precisely the story we had seen unfolding in Africa.

I went to Africa -- at the request of the President and the Secretary of State -- to highlight examples of Africa's economic and democratic renewal. I wanted Americans to see the importance of our partnership with Africa and to appreciate the stake we have in the future of that great continent. I also wanted to underscore America's modest contributions in foreign assistance -- and the successes they have helped produce.

By the time I reached home after visiting six countries -- Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda and Eritrea -- I was more convinced than ever that Africa is a continent on the move: a continent bulging with possibilities for political, economic and social progress. I was also convinced that American engagement with Africa is essential to our nation's goal of strengthening peace, prosperity and democracy around the world.

This is not to say that Africa's future is cloudless. We have been optimistic before. After independence, economists and commentators predicted with great

certainty that the African economy was on the verge of an immense boom; that the world's best economic performers would emerge south of the Sahara; that the continent represented the world's ripest and most lucrative new market for international trade.

History proved more complicated than some of those economists guessed. Colonialism left the African landscape rife with arbitrary divisions -- divisions of class, culture, race, tribe and land. The Cold War imposed new tensions, as Africa became a giant chessboard for superpowers maneuvering for strategic advantage in the world. By the time the Cold War was over, Africa had to contend with the legacy of totalitarianism and closed economies, along with old nemeses like disease, poverty, illiteracy, explosive population growth, environmental degradation, corrupt and incompetent governments, and civil strife.

Now, however, there is reason to be optimistic again. As Deputy President Mbeki of South Africa often says, Africa is undergoing a renaissance. Democracy is flowering across much of the continent. Dramatic economic growth is occurring in country after country. A new generation of reform-minded leaders is in charge in many capitals. And there is new respect for human rights -- and especially the rights of women to become equal partners in society.

President Clinton and his Administration applaud this progress.

The United States wants democracy to take root and grow throughout Africa. And we want Africa to be a strong partner for peace, prosperity and progress in the 21st century. Today, the question for all of us who care about the future of Africa is: What can be done to sustain and deepen the democratic and economic transformation that is underway?

As we know from our own experience in the United States, democracy is a complicated and sometimes messy business. It requires many ingredients. Free and fair elections -- not once, but time and again. A functioning legislative branch, an independent judiciary, active political parties, a free press, and the basic rights of assembly, association and free speech.

It also requires free market economies that can produce and sustain growth and support investments in human capital -- investments in the health, education and well-being of every man, woman and child. People, after all, are every nation's

greatest resource.

Africa has made extraordinary progress on this front. Last year, 30 African countries reported positive economic growth. In Uganda, I saw how democracy and reform had enabled an economy ravaged by decades of war to now record the stunning growth rate of over eight percent a year.

What we have learned from Africa is that the right economic strategy can produce the right results.

Trade and investment are the wave of the future if we want to assure Africa's integration into the global economy. As Secretary Rubin said earlier today, the United States can lead this effort through engagement with Africa and by encouraging trade and open markets on the continent.

The simple fact is: Nations with free market systems do better. Look around the globe: Those nations which have lowered trade barriers are prospering more than those that have not.

It would be our loss if we failed to take advantage of the opportunities that a growth-oriented Africa represents. Today the United States accounts for only seven percent of the African market. Yet even that small market share has produced 100,000 jobs in our country. As that share expands, so will the number of American jobs.

We also know that companies doing business in South Africa have enjoyed returns on their investments higher than in many other parts of the world. Today leading American corporations are setting up operations throughout sub-Saharan Africa, as I saw on my recent trip. And I want to commend the companies represented here tonight for recognizing the investment potential of Africa.

Let me also note that many American businesses are also upholding a time-honored tradition of American corporate philanthropy. Companies like Coca-Cola aren't just benefitting financially from their investments but are offering compelling examples of corporate citizenship in a democracy.

I gained a greater appreciation of the vital role that American corporations have played in the building of democracy when I visited Central Europe last year.

In the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and elsewhere I saw the extent of American corporate investment. The companies opening plants and hiring workers were doing far more than improving their own bottom lines; they were creating jobs, raising incomes and skill levels, spurring local development and growth, and lending confidence to people and institutions undergoing profound political, economic and social change.

I saw the same spirit of corporate philanthropy in Africa, when I visited the Dorothy Duncan Center for the Blind in Harare, which has received computers and software from an IBM subsidiary called Bedford Investments. Coca-Cola has supported arts, cultural, environmental and sports activities in Zimbabwe. And Johnson & Johnson has an active social outreach program there too.

As we continue to promote trade and investment policies that will contribute to Africa's growth, we also must remember that foreign assistance remains crucial for many countries. A good business climate requires a citizenry that is healthy, educated, free and involved in civic life. Foreign assistance -- even the modest sums the United States contributes -- helps create the social and economic conditions that are good for business and make trade and investment viable and profitable.

In other words: Aid is a bridge to trade.

I hope all of you -- as leaders of the American business community -- will speak out in support of American foreign assistance, which is so essential to your individual corporate goals and to our nation's goals of democracy, economic growth and freedom.

In every country I visited, I saw examples of our foreign assistance at work: A village in Senegal where rural women were working to improve health care, education and the economy and were even helping to teach their fellow villagers about the tenets of democracy. A primary school in the heart of Soweto where a classroom of six-year-olds -- led by a wonderful and formidable teacher -- was learning English using a tape recording funded in part with U.S. assistance. A health clinic in Zimbabwe where American assistance has been instrumental in helping to expand family planning opportunities and lower infant and maternal mortality rates. The International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda in Tanzania, where U.S. support is crucial to the investigation and prosecution of genocide. A vocational center in Eritrea, where former women freedom fighters are teaching

their fellow citizens skills and trades so necessary to the future of that young democracy. An AIDS Information Center in Uganda, where we have supported President Museveni's courageous and effective campaign to fight HIV and AIDS.

Let me also say that President Museveni should be commended for recognizing the importance of investing in women and girls as part of his country's democratic and economic transition. Uganda is making an unprecedented effort to train teachers and educate children, especially girls who too often are left out of the academic equation. As President Museveni said to me during my stay there, "Women form more than half of our society, so you'd be hurting yourself if you left behind six of every ten people."

And I would add: Not only would you be hurting yourself, you wouldn't be building a democracy. Because a democracy without the full participation of women is a contradiction in terms.

We have seen in Africa and around the world that a vibrant democracy depends not just on free elections and open markets, but on the internalization of democratic values in people's hearts, minds and everyday lives. It depends on people creating a flourishing civil society in which individuals, community groups, religious institutions, businesses, academia and government join together to promote the common good. And it depends on strong international partners who are willing to support the rise of democratic institutions and free market systems around the globe.

Earlier today, the President authorized his Administration to begin intensive discussions with Congress to outline a joint package that will strengthen our economic partnership with Africa and support the continent's democratic and economic renewal.

First and foremost, the President is committed to efforts that open economies to private sector trade and investment because he realizes that these strategies offer the greatest potential for growth and the alleviation of poverty.

Second, he believes such efforts must be coupled with investments in people, particularly the areas of health and education. Foreign assistance is critical-- but should be viewed as one, not the only, engine of growth.

Third, the President believes that there must be renewed emphasis on management and governance in developing countries if we want opportunities for private investment to flourish.

The United States welcomes the progress that many African nations have made thus far. We also recognize that the governments willing to undertake the boldest actions to liberalize, open and privatize their economies have achieved the greatest results.

At the same time, the President and his Administration understand that not all African countries are at the same stage of growth and development. The United States wishes to create opportunities for growth for all of our African partners through infrastructure investment, better regional integration, new and stronger business partnerships and efforts to support exports to Africa. And we are prepared to provide additional opportunities to support countries that are pursuing ambitious growth-oriented policies.

This approach, the President believes, will enable more African countries to achieve their goals of greater self-reliance and full integration into the global economy. At the same time, it will attract U.S. investment to Africa and spur jobs and growth here at home.

As optimistic as we are about Africa's prospects, we cannot overlook threats to Africa's fragile democracies: regional conflicts; crime; narcotics trafficking and international terrorism, all of which undermine political and economic progress. And that is why the United States will collaborate with our partners in Africa to maintain peace and stability and ensure that democracy is given every chance to grow.

During my last few days in Africa I had the opportunity to visit the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, where scientists and anthropologists have made many discoveries about the origins of human kind. It is hard to walk through the gorge, as I did, without being overcome by the realization that all of us — no matter the color of our skin, our faith, or our beliefs — came from the same place. We share a common home. We are part of a larger family.

The message embedded in the rock at the gorge is that we share a common past — and we share a common future. We have a stake in each other's triumphs

and failures. And I hope that in the days and months ahead we will see a growing consciousness in people's minds — here and in Africa — that despite the wide ocean between us, we are neighbors on this shared earth. We cannot live without each other. We have much to learn from each other. And we have much to give to each other.

As you know, the President will travel to Africa during this term. Whenever he makes his trip, I am confident he will return home as moved as I was by the people he meets and the places he sees — and as inspired by the promise and possibility that Africa represents.

Thank you very much.

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The Washington Post

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1996



BY JAMES M. THORPES—THE WASHINGTON POST

National Council of Negro Women President Dorothy Height: "We want to be able to be a center that pulls together and draws upon what we have learned."

An Affirmative Action

Black Women's Group Invests in Its Future

By Jacqueline Trescott
Washington Post Staff Writer

Maya Angelou, one of the country's best-known writers, and Camille Cosby, an influential producer, philanthropist and educator, have joined together to help African American women chart new directions in their lives with a \$30 million fund-raising campaign for the National Council of Negro Women.

The NCNW, one of the country's oldest and largest black women's organizations, launched the drive to purchase a new national headquarters, the historic Sears Building on Pennsylvania Avenue. In addition, the fund will help build an endowment of \$9 million to underwrite its

revamped and broad portfolio of programs.

"It is the times in which we live. Look at it: Affirmative action is threatened, the whole welfare reform, the whole shift back to states' rights—that is a terrific change," said Dorothy Height, 83, the grand dame of the civil rights movement and the NCNW president for 38 years. Sitting in her spacious office, a majestic swath of purple from her straw hat to her matching dress and coat, she registered both anger and sadness. "The conditions facing our people today are such that we need to develop national strategies to produce grass-roots results." Since the council was founded in 1935 by edu-

cator and presidential adviser Mary McLeod Bethune, the NCNW has run its national programs from Washington. In those years, Height has become a fixture in the corridors of power, for a long time the only woman among the Roy Wilkinses, Martin Luther Kings and Whitney Youngs, deftly using the clout of her group, an umbrella organization reaching 4 million women. In the last decade, the annual Black Family Reunion Celebrations on the Mall, sponsored by NCNW, have brought new audiences. But they haven't quelled criticism that the membership was too old and wedded to an outdated operating style. Now its new offices, near the National Archives and other federal buildings, make a statement of continued influence.

The need for a shift in strategy, said Height, was underscored by many national politicians' lack of interest in civil rights goals and by the hard choices facing many black families, as well as her own imminent retirement from the civil rights leadership. Once, she said, flashing back to the optimistic days of the 1963 March on Washington, a broad leadership supported the goals of the civil rights movement; now she decries the loss of "righteous indignation" among many of its spokesmen. The fight to have a voice, she said, should be led by African American women. "This really requires a retooling, as industry retools."

The new thrust of NCNW and the fund-raising effort will be formally announced at a three-day conference next month in Washington.

Both Angelou and Cosby said the contributions of pioneers like Height and the movement's fund-raising needs prompted their involvement. "I consider her to be an icon. We have to respect our elders, such as [historian] John Henry Clarke, [psychologist] Kenneth Clarke and Dr. Height. They have paved the way for the rest of us," said Cosby, a co-chair of the events.

Height's indefatigability is also a personal model for Angelou. "First her focus, and then the energy she employs is daunting," she said. "I get a lot done and travel around. I don't know if at 83 I will be up to go to Dallas in the morning and fly back to New Orleans to give a speech at lunch."

Angelou sees the reshaping of the NCNW as a process of passing on some of that fortitude. "The NCNW must keep our women from feeling hopeless. The spirit in the African American woman has always been lively, vital and that spirit has kept us alive," she said.

Cosby agrees. "If women are operating from a base of strength it spills



The NCNW's new headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue.

over to the rest of the community," she says. "We have to have that exchange of ideas to affirm each other and to learn from each other."

In addition to completing the purchase of the main building at 633 Pennsylvania Ave., the Fund for the Future will pay for the renovation of a town house on lower 16th Street NW that was donated to the group by Cosby and her husband, entertainer Bill Cosby. That gift was worth \$1.4 million and gave some momentum to the overall drive, along with a pledge from the Kresge Foundation for a \$1 million challenge grant. Height steadfastly declined to discuss the final price of the new headquarters building but she said that Sears, Roebuck and Co. reduced its asking price for the nonprofit NCNW, and that Ford, Chrysler and General Motors were guarantors for the loan.

Concurrent with the drive, the NCNW plans to announce the development of a program called the Dorothy I. Height Leadership Institute that will train college students and organizational leaders using models of successful political and social initiatives. The institute will be launched with the help of a three-year, \$750,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Other new components are being organized under the National Centers for African American Women, concentrating on education, health and family issues, economic and business development, international linkages and research and policy on African American women. Another product will be a journal, "Voices of Vision: African American Women on the Issues."

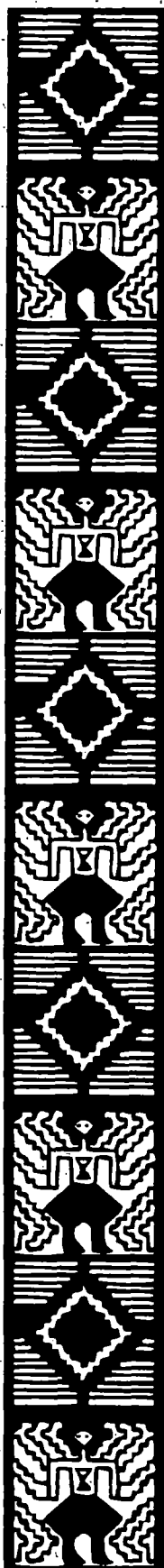
As they evolve, the centers will take on the character of the participants and their needs. Height sees the new NCNW functioning as a clearinghouse and "nerve center" for the complex issues facing black women, and a way to maximize the group's outreach to 4 million women. Right now, it is a sprawling organization with 60,000 members, 34 national affiliates—such as the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Trade Union Women of African Heritage and the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church—and 250 chapters in the United States and Africa.

"We want to be able to be a center that pulls together and draws upon what we have learned. If all of us have worked on teenage pregnancy, there is no need for each one to start from scratch," said Height. On the policy side, she said, the group wouldn't be duplicating any efforts, such as those of a prominent think tank, the Joint Center on Political and Economic Studies. "I am not trying to have a full-fledged Joint Center. We want to be able to add to what they do, particularly the impact of policies on women."

Cosby's vision is of in-depth discussions that will help address the public standing of black women, as well as challenge women themselves to change. "I think it is important for African American women to get credit for what we do, and to acknowledge that we are doing it well, and to see ourselves as victorious, and not to forget women like [civil rights activist] Fannie Lou Hamer and [newspaper publisher] Ida B. Wells," she said. Her view is that black women "unconditionally" give time and money to organizations that don't support their issues or move them into leadership positions, and it is time to change that pattern. "Any entity, the political bodies and the churches, that is oppressive to women, we should withdraw our support from," she says.

During next month's NCNW conference (Oct. 10-12), the Bethune Council House, the last Washington residence of founder Bethune, will be formally transferred to the National Park Service. Owned by the group since 1943, the house at 1318 Vermont Ave. NW is listed as a National Historic Site and contains a museum as well as the National Archives on Black Women's History. An all-day conference, developed with the Labor Department, will be held Oct. 11 to talk about the status of African American women in the work force and related topics on the black family.

"There is a recognition that African American women have made a tremendous contribution but often it is unrecognized. In a sense our time has come," said Height, "and this in itself is a new thing."



THE 1997 AFRICARE BISHOP JOHN T. WALKER MEMORIAL DINNER

"THANK YOU! WOMEN OF AFRICA, WOMEN OF AMERICA, WOMEN WORLDWIDE."

THE LARGEST FUND-RAISER IN THE UNITED STATES FOR AFRICA.

A TOP "DIVERSITY EVENT"!

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

PLACE: WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, 1919 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., D.C.

FORMAT: RECEPTIONS, 6:00 TO 7:00; DINNER AND PROGRAM BEGINNING AT 7:30

ATTENDANCE: 2,500 CORPORATE, GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS

FUND-RAISING GOAL: \$1 MILLION

HONOREE:

■ DOROTHY I. HEIGHT, National President, National Council of Negro Women
Recipient, 1997 Bishop Walker Humanitarian Award

SPEAKERS:

- KEYNOTE SPEAKER: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
- SPECIAL REMARKS: MAYA ANGELOU, and BILL AND CAMILLE COSBY
- MASTER OF CEREMONIES: THE HONORABLE ANDREW YOUNG
- INVOCATION: THE MOST REVEREND EDMOND BROWNING

LEADERSHIP:

- NATIONAL HONORARY PATRON: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
- HONORARY CHAIR: MARIA WALKER
- NATIONAL CHAIR: JUDITH A. McHALE, President and Chief Operating Officer, Discovery Communications, Inc.
- GENERAL CHAIRS:
INGRID SAUNDERS-JONES, Vice President, Corporate External Affairs, The Coca-Cola Company
JONATHAN S. LINEN, Vice Chairman, American Express Company

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TICKETS AND TABLES: TABLE PRICES ARE \$25,000; \$10,000; \$5,000; \$3,500; AND \$1,500. TABLES ARE FOR 10 PEOPLE EACH. TICKET PRICES ARE \$500 AND \$150 PER PERSON. LARGER SUPPORTERS RECEIVE PRIORITY SEATING, RECOGNITION AND OTHER BENEFITS.



DOROTHY I. HEIGHT

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

RECIPIENT, 1997 BISHOP WALKER HUMANITARIAN AWARD

At the 1997 Africare Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner, on October 23, Africare will present its Bishop Walker Humanitarian Award to one of the greatest African-American women of our century: Dorothy Irene Height.

BORN: 1912, in Richmond, Va.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's and master's degrees, New York University.

YWCA OF THE USA: Joined local staff, 1937. National Board staff member, 1944-77; founder and director of the Center for Racial Justice, 1955-77.

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY: President, 1947-56.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN: National President, 1957-present. Impact throughout the United States and in other parts of the world, notably Africa.

AWARDS: From local, state and national organizations and the U.S. federal government. Honorary doctorates from Barnard College, Harvard University, Howard University, Princeton University, Smith College, Tuskegee Institute and more. Ladies Home Journal "Woman of the Year" in human rights, 1974. Dawson Award, 1974, from the Congressional Black Caucus for "decades of public service to people of color and particularly women." Presented the Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service by President Reagan, 1989. In 1994, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the highest honor given to civilians by the United States — from President Clinton.

"Dorothy Height has spent a lifetime providing leadership in the struggle to make the promise of equality a reality for people around the world."

"Beginning as a civil rights advocate in the 1930s, she soon gained prominence through her tireless efforts to promote interracial schooling, to register and educate voters, and to increase the visibility and status of women in our society. She has labored to provide hope for inner-city children and their families, and she can claim responsibility for many of the advances made by women and African Americans over the course of this century."

"For helping our Nation to more accurately reflect the noble principles on which it was founded, we honor Dorothy Height."

— CITATION, PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM, 1994



June 5, 1997

Mrs. Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building
Room 100
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Melanne:

I am writing in regard to a request from Mr. C. Payne Lucas, President of Africare, to the First Lady. C. Payne has invited Mrs. Clinton to serve as the National Honorary Patron and to deliver the keynote address for the 1997 Bishop T. Walker Memorial Dinner on Thursday, October 23, 1997. I am enclosing a copy of his request.

I am involved in this dinner through Judith McHale at Discovery Communications, Inc., who is serving as the National Chair for this event. I know that C. Payne has discussed the event with Ann Jordan, but I was wondering if you had any indication from Mrs. Clinton as to whether her schedule might permit her participation.

Please call me at 703-556-9402 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Rose Ann Domenici

Enclosure

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Africare

Africare helps Africa, with programs in
food, water, the environment, health and
emergency humanitarian aid as well as
private-sector development and governance.

May 19, 1997

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building, Room 100
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer:

At the request of Ben Johnson, in the Office of Public Liaison, I am sending you a copy of my February letter to Mrs. Clinton, requesting her participation in our 1997 Africare Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner, to be held on October 23 in Washington, D.C.

Specifically, we made two requests: first, that Mrs. Clinton serve as the event's National Honorary Patron and, second, that she deliver the keynote address and present our humanitarian award to Dorothy I. Height, National President of the National Council of Negro Women.

We are especially delighted to have this opportunity to mount a major tribute to Dorothy Height — for in saluting Dorothy, we are saluting the advancement of women, the uplifting of minorities, the strengthening of the family and the American embrace of Africa. Dorothy Height has had a major impact in all of those areas.

Your predecessor, Maggie Williams, felt certain that Mrs. Clinton would want to participate, both because of her admiration for Dorothy Height and because of the evening's themes: women, multicultural harmony and African development.

To date, we have not had a reply from Mrs. Clinton. I would appreciate your help in securing a reply. It is important that we confirm the First Lady's participation as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 462-3614.

With best wishes and thanks, in advance, for your assistance.

Sincerely,

C. Payne Lucas
C. Payne Lucas
President

cc: Ben Johnson

THE FIRST LADY'S SCHEDULING OFFICE

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

- 1.) COPY TO LRCY
- 2.) _____
- 3.) _____
- 4.) _____

ORGANIZATION	Africare	
EVENT	Presentation of John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award to Dr. Dorothy Height at Africare's annual dinner.	
DATE OF EVENT	October 23, 1997	
LOCATION	Washington DC	
EVENT DESCRIPTION	wants HRC as National Honorary Patron & Keynote speaker	
CONTACT	Ms. Libba Conger	
RECOMMENDED BY		
STATUS	ACCEPT _____ REGRET _____ PENDING _____	LETTER _____ VIDEO _____
NOTES	PATTI — AFRICAN AWARDS DINNER — FOR DOROTHY HEIGHT. WHAT DO YOU THINK? 	

① NIO
P Letter

② File October



Africare

Africare helps Africa, with programs in food, water, the environment, health and emergency humanitarian aid as well as private-sector development and governance.

February 6, 1997

Mrs. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Nearly three years have passed since, as a member of the U.S. Presidential delegation, I accompanied you to South Africa's freedom celebration and the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela. That was not only an historic occasion, but a joyful one. Africa has made enormous strides since then. We hope to see this great continent fulfill its real potential: to rise from poverty, to embrace freedom and to assume a prominent place on the world stage.

We also hope that you and the President will be able to visit Africa at some point soon, perhaps during the next 12 months. Today's Africa is an exciting place. I know that the African people would appreciate your show of concern.

Turning now to the purpose of this letter, I would like to invite you to lead Africare's salute to a great American — one of the most respected African-American women of all time, and one who is certainly well known to you — Dr. Dorothy I. Height. We will present Dorothy with our Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award at this year's Africare Dinner.

The event will take place on Thursday evening, October 23, 1997, in Washington, D.C. Our specific invitation is for you to serve as National Honorary Patron of the event as well as be present to deliver the keynote address and make the award presentation to Dr. Height.

As you know, Dorothy is now 84 years old. Her whole life has been devoted to issues that deeply concern you, too: the family, racial equality, women's rights, education and more. The YWCA, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and, of course, the National Council of Negro Women have been the main organizations through which Dorothy has worked. Many others, including Africare, have also benefited from this remarkable lady's support. Dorothy Height has helped build up America. She has helped the historically disenfranchised and, in so doing, helped us all.

Africare wants October 23 to be a *major* salute. We want to inspire our audience. Even more, we want to give Dorothy a great time: a fun evening, a big "thank you," a night that exceeds any and all expectations she may have. Mrs. Clinton, I cannot think of anyone in America better able to lead such an evening than you. Dorothy holds you in such high regard. I know that you and she have a close association. Therefore, you know only too well how much your participation would mean to her.

In the additional role of National Honorary Patron, you would simply lend your name to the event, allowing us to list you in that capacity in our publicity materials and publishing a letter from you in the Dinner souvenir program. President Clinton was National Honorary Patron in 1993.

05/05/1997 10:42

783-442-8336

Mrs. Clinton
February 6, 1997
Page Two

We have not yet selected the site for the 1997 Africare Dinner, however, it will be at a major hotel here in Washington, D.C. The evening will begin with a VIP Reception from 6:00 to 7:00. A seated dinner and the program of speeches, including the award presentation, will follow from 7:30 to 10:30. Of course, we would be honored to have you with us for the entire event. Alternatively, you could join us just for the dinner and your speech (8:00 to 10:00, approximately).

The Africare Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner is sponsored by Africare. This is the largest benefit event in the United States for Africa. It is also considered to be a top "diversity event," with more than 2,000 guests of every race and dozens of nationalities. The audience is made up of people who care about Africa. Guests range from Administration, congressional, diplomatic and corporate leaders to representatives of civil rights groups, religious groups and educational institutions of every type. We aim to raise \$1 million for Africare's assistance to the poorest of the poor in Africa.

Past award recipients have been former President Jimmy Carter (1996), the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan (1995), President Nelson Mandela (1994), Sargent Shriver (1993) and Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu (1992). Vice President Gore presented our award to President Mandela in 1994. President Clinton dropped by and made remarks at our 1995 event, where we hosted African heads of state and presented a celebration of democracy in Africa.

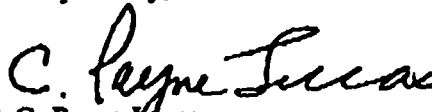
For 1997, we are just now assembling the principals. Maria Walker, widow of Bishop John Walker (for whom the event is named), is the Honorary Chair. As National Chair, we welcome Judith McHale, President and Chief Operating Officer of Discovery Communications (The Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel, etc.). Other committee heads and speakers are still being sought.

I have enclosed general information about Africare and the Africare Bishop Walker Dinner. Briefly, Africare is the oldest and largest African-American organization specializing in African aid. We were founded in 1971 and now support more than 150 programs in 28 African countries, from Egypt to South Africa. Africare gives self-help assistance at the grassroots and focuses on food, water, the environment, health, emergency humanitarian aid, private-sector development and governance.

Please contact me at Africare, at (202) 462-3614, if you have any questions. I will be traveling in Africa until March 7. During that time, your office should call Ms. Libba Conger, also at Africare, and she will get in touch with me.

Thank you for considering this request. Again, please know how honored Africare and our constituents would be to welcome you as National Honorary Patron and keynote speaker for the October 23, 1997, tribute to Dorothy Height.

Respectfully,


C. Payne Lucas
President

cc: Margaret Williams, Office of the First Lady
Ben Johnson, Office of Public Liaison

LADY'S SCHEDULING OFFICE

yes
10/23

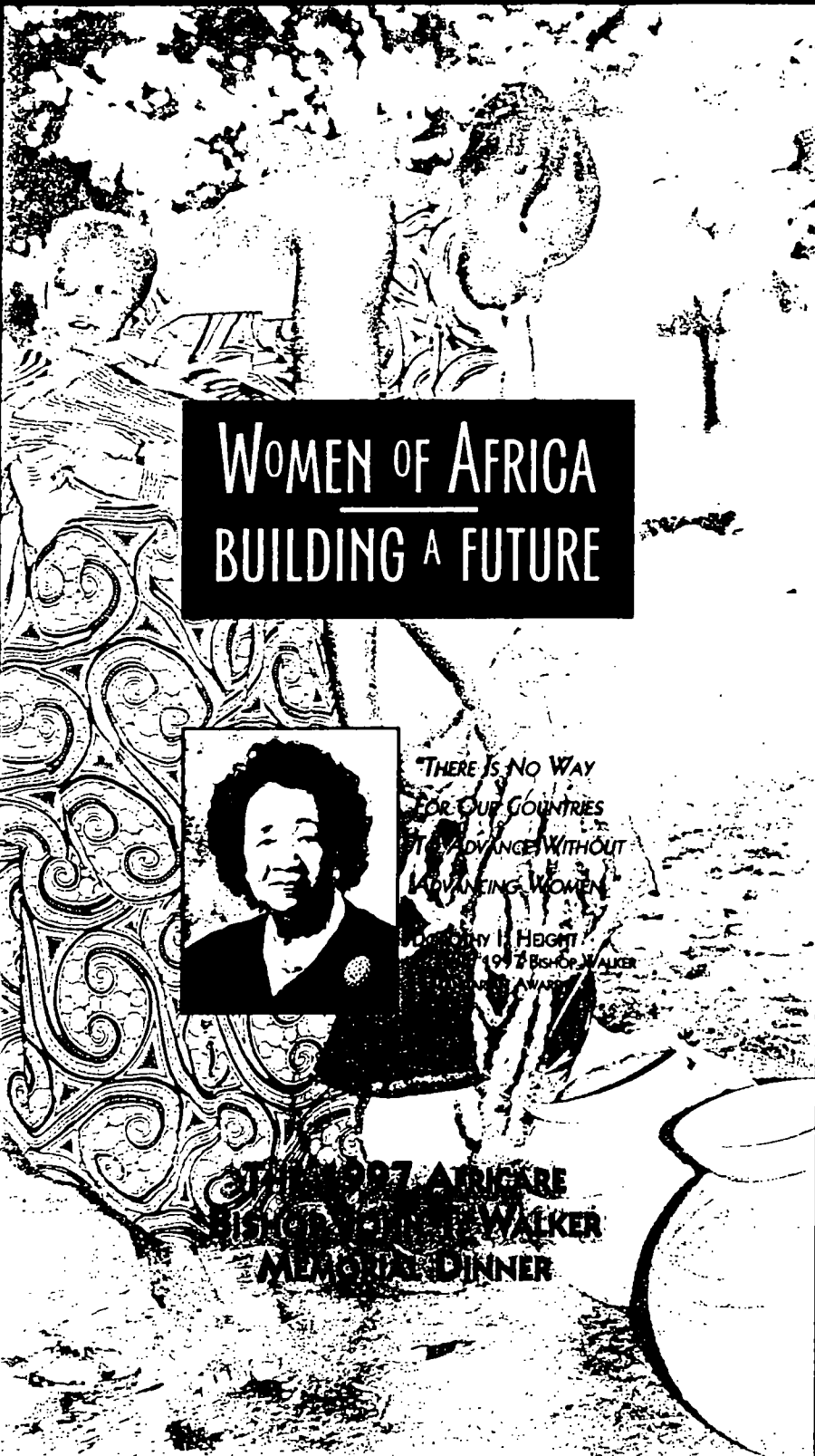
1.) _____

2.) _____

3.) _____

4.) _____

ORGANIZATION	Africare	
EVENT	Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner (Keynote Speaker)	
DATE OF EVENT	Thursday, October 23	
LOCATION	Washington, DC	
EVENT DESCRIPTION	Memorial Dinner	
CONTACT	?	
RECOMMENDED BY		
STATUS	ACCEPT _____ REGRET _____ PENDING _____	LETTER _____ VIDEO _____
NOTES		



WOMEN OF AFRICA BUILDING A FUTURE



"THERE IS NO WAY
FOR OUR COUNTRIES
TO ADVANCE WITHOUT
ADVANCING WOMEN."

DOROTHY I. HEIGHT
1915-1997 BISHOP WALKER
MEMORIAL AWARD

THE 1997 AFRICARE
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CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

THE EIGHTH AFRICARE BISHOP JOHN T. WALKER MEMORIAL DINNER



A SALUTE TO THE WOMEN OF AFRICA

AND

A TRIBUTE TO
DOROTHY I. HEIGHT

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

Dr. Height will receive the
Bishop John T. Walker Humanitarian Award
for her outstanding contributions to
the advancement of women
and needy people worldwide.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

OFFICIAL REMARKS
BY ANTONIA ANGLOU
AND CAMILLE COMPTON

ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1992
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
1900 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

COCKTAIL RECEPTION
8:00 P.M.

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AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO HEAD THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON, BISHOP JOHN T. WALKER SERVED HIS CHURCH, HIS COUNTRY AND HIS WORLD AS AN EXEMPLAR OF INTERRACIAL RECONCILIATION, PEACE AND JUSTICE. HE WAS THE COMPASS BY WHICH MANY OF US STEERED THROUGH THE MORAL THICKETS OF OUR TIMES. HIS COMPASSION AND GOODWILL WERE FELT IN MANY CORNERS OF THIS COUNTRY AND THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

WE AT AFRICARE WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE BISHOP WALKER AS OUR CHAIRMAN FOR 15 YEARS. WITH HIS GUIDANCE AND DETERMINATION, AFRICARE HAS BECOME A LEADING AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, DEDICATED TO PROVIDING DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO A MULTITUDE OF AFRICAN NATIONS.

AFRICARE SALUTES BISHOP WALKER'S MEMORY AND RENEWS OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.

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LEVELS OF SUPPORT AND OTHER INFORMATION INSIDE.

NAME _____
TELEPHONE _____
TITLE _____
ORGANIZATION _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ Zip _____

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL & WASHINGTON, D.C.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

BISHOP JOHN T. WALKER MEMORIAL DINNER

AFRICARE

PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD TO:

THE 1997 AFRICARE

BISHOP JOHN T. WALKER MEMORIAL DINNER COMMITTEE

AFRICARE

AFRICARE HOUSE

440 R STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (202) 328-5376.

**I/WE WILL BE PLEASED TO ATTEND THE 1997 AFRICARE BISHOP WALKER DINNER
AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING RESERVATION:**

NUMBER TOTAL SUPPORT

- ☐ **CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE: \$25,000 (98% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE*)**
TABLE FOR 10, TOP PRIORITY SEATING • 10 TICKETS TO VIP RECEPTION • RECOGNITION IN PUBLICITY MATERIALS
- ☐ **BENEFACTOR: \$10,000 (96% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE*)**
TABLE FOR 10, HIGH PRIORITY SEATING • 6 TICKETS TO VIP RECEPTION • RECOGNITION IN PUBLICITY MATERIALS
- ☐ **SPONSOR: \$5,000 (92% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE*)**
TABLE FOR 10, PRIORITY SEATING • 2 TICKETS TO VIP RECEPTION • RECOGNITION IN PUBLICITY MATERIALS
- ☐ **PATRON: \$3,500 (89% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE*)**
TABLE FOR 10, PRIORITY SEATING • RECOGNITION IN PUBLICITY MATERIALS
- ☐ **DONOR: \$500 (92% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE*)**
ONE TICKET, PRIORITY SEATING • RECOGNITION IN PUBLICITY MATERIALS
- ☐ **REGULAR TABLE FOR 10: \$1,500 (73% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE*)**
- ☐ **REGULAR TICKET: \$150 (73% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE*)**
- ☐ **ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION (100% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)**

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

☐ **I/WE CANNOT ATTEND BUT WILL MAKE A 100% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
CONTRIBUTION (TO BE RECOGNIZED AT ONE OF THE ABOVE LEVELS) OF:**

_____ \$ _____

*** NON-TAX-DEDUCTIBLE PORTION: \$40 PER PERSON**

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO
AFRICARE BISHOP WALKER DINNER
AND MAIL IN THE ATTACHED ENVELOPE.**

CONTRIBUTOR NAME (INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION) SHOULD BE LISTED IN PUBLICITY MATERIALS AS FOLLOWS:

GUESTS' NAMES ARE AS FOLLOWS (PLEASE PROVIDE NAMES BY OCTOBER 15):

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR FOR REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER OCTOBER 15.



Africare

Africare helps Africa, with programs in food, water, the environment, health and emergency humanitarian aid as well as private-sector development and governance.

① P. Payne
② Full October

February 6, 1997

Ms. Margaret A. Williams
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building, Room 100
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Maggie:

Enclosed please find a copy of my request to the First Lady to speak at the 1997 Africare Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner. The event will be on Thursday evening, October 23, 1997, in Washington, D.C.

As the letter states, our specific request is for Mrs. Clinton to serve as National Honorary Patron of the event and to deliver the keynote address and present our Bishop Walker Humanitarian Award to Dr. Dorothy I. Height.

It goes without saying that Mrs. Clinton would be outstanding in that role. Africare would be honored to have her participation. Most important, I think, Dorothy would really appreciate it.

I'll be in Africa from February 10 to March 7. Hopefully, we will have talked before I leave. If not, let's talk upon my return. I think you can see how important this is. Whatever you can do to advance our cause would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes, Maggie.

Sincerely,

C. Payne
C. Payne Lucas
President

Enclosures

*Let's talk about this trip
and other things!*



Africare

Africare helps Africa, with programs in food, water, the environment, health and emergency humanitarian aid as well as private-sector development and governance.

February 6, 1997

Mrs. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Nearly three years have passed since, as a member of the U.S. Presidential delegation, I accompanied you to South Africa's freedom celebration and the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela. That was not only an historic occasion, but a joyful one. Africa has made enormous strides since then. We hope to see this great continent fulfill its real potential: to rise from poverty, to embrace freedom and to assume a prominent place on the world stage.

We also hope that you and the President will be able to visit Africa at some point soon, perhaps during the next 12 months. Today's Africa is an exciting place. I know that the African people would appreciate your show of concern.

Turning now to the purpose of this letter, I would like to invite you to lead Africare's salute to a great American — one of the most respected African-American women of all time, and one who is certainly well known to you — Dr. Dorothy I. Height. We will present Dorothy with our Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award at this year's Africare Dinner.

The event will take place on Thursday evening, October 23, 1997, in Washington, D.C. Our specific invitation is for you to serve as National Honorary Patron of the event as well as be present to deliver the keynote address and make the award presentation to Dr. Height.

As you know, Dorothy is now 84 years old. Her whole life has been devoted to issues that deeply concern you, too: the family, racial equality, women's rights, education and more. The YWCA, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and, of course, the National Council of Negro Women have been the main organizations through which Dorothy has worked. Many others, including Africare, have also benefited from this remarkable lady's support. Dorothy Height has helped build up America. She has helped the historically disenfranchised and, in so doing, helped us all.

Africare wants October 23 to be a *major* salute. We want to inspire our audience. Even more, we want to give Dorothy a great time: a fun evening, a big "thank you," a night that exceeds any and all expectations she may have. Mrs. Clinton, I cannot think of anyone in America better able to lead such an evening than you. Dorothy holds you in such high regard. I know that you and she have a close association. Therefore, you know only too well how much your participation would mean to her.

In the additional role of National Honorary Patron, you would simply lend your name to the event, allowing us to list you in that capacity in our publicity materials and publishing a letter from you in the Dinner souvenir program. President Clinton was National Honorary Patron in 1993.

Mrs. Clinton
February 6, 1997
Page Two

We have not yet selected the site for the 1997 Africare Dinner; however, it will be at a major hotel here in Washington, D.C. The evening will begin with a VIP Reception from 6:00 to 7:00. A seated dinner and the program of speeches, including the award presentation, will follow from 7:30 to 10:30. Of course, we would be honored to have you with us for the entire event. Alternatively, you could join us just for the dinner and your speech (8:00 to 10:00, approximately).

The Africare Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner is sponsored by Africare. This is the largest benefit event in the United States for Africa. It is also considered to be a top "diversity event," with more than 2,000 guests of every race and dozens of nationalities. The audience is made up of people who care about Africa. Guests range from Administration, congressional, diplomatic and corporate leaders to representatives of civil rights groups, religious groups and educational institutions of every type. We aim to raise \$1 million for Africare's assistance to the poorest of the poor in Africa.

Past award recipients have been former President Jimmy Carter (1996), the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan (1995), President Nelson Mandela (1994), Sargent Shriver (1993) and Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu (1992). Vice President Gore presented our award to President Mandela in 1994. President Clinton dropped by and made remarks at our 1995 event, where we hosted African heads of state and presented a celebration of democracy in Africa.

For 1997, we are just now assembling the principals. Maria Walker, widow of Bishop John Walker (for whom the event is named), is the Honorary Chair. As National Chair, we welcome Judith McHale, President and Chief Operating Officer of Discovery Communications (The Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel, etc.). Other committee heads and speakers are still being sought.

I have enclosed general information about Africare and the Africare Bishop Walker Dinner. Briefly, Africare is the oldest and largest African-American organization specializing in African aid. We were founded in 1971 and now support more than 150 programs in 28 African countries, from Egypt to South Africa. Africare gives self-help assistance at the grassroots and focuses on food, water, the environment, health, emergency humanitarian aid, private-sector development and governance.

Please contact me at Africare, at (202) 462-3614, if you have any questions. I will be traveling in Africa until March 7: During that time, your office should call Ms. Libba Conger, also at Africare, and she will get in touch with me.

Thank you for considering this request. Again, please know how honored Africare and our constituents would be to welcome you as National Honorary Patron and keynote speaker for the October 23, 1997, tribute to Dorothy Height.

Respectfully,


C. Payne Lucas
President

cc: ✓ Margaret Williams, Office of the First Lady
Ben Johnson, Office of Public Liaison