

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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001. reports	bios (3 pages)	03/05/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13006

FOLDER TITLE:

The Trip of the First Lady to Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, and
Eritrea, March 15-29, 1997 (Shipley, Overview, Senegal) [Binder] [2]

2012-0869-S

kc966

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or
financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President
and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed
of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C.
2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of
an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial
information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement
purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of
financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information
concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

East Africa Overview:
The President's Greater Horn of Africa Initiative and
the Intergovernmental Authority on Development

Conflict and crisis in the Greater Horn of Africa (Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi) have caused untold suffering for its people, rendered national economies and regional cooperation untenable, and cost the international community billions of dollars. The U.S. Government has expended huge levels of human and material resources in the region over the years. Salient examples include our responses to the 1984-85 famine in Ethiopia; the conflict and famine in Somalia in 1992; and the Rwandan refugee outflow in July 1994. President Clinton launched the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative (GHAI) in 1994 to reduce the costs and ameliorate the root causes of these recurring crises. The Agency for International Development leads GHAI in close cooperation with the Department of State and other U.S. Government agencies.

The closest regional counterpart to GHAI is the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), whose membership consists of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Somalia (which is inactive). It is headquartered in Djibouti.

The United States has a strong interest in stability in the region. GHAI is a comprehensive approach which integrates diplomacy with long-term development to tackle the root causes of both conflict and food insecurity. Another element of this approach is the revitalization of IGAD as part of a broader policy to strengthen Africa's sub-regional organizations so they can be integrally involved in solving their own problems.

GHAI's two primary objectives are food security and conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution. In pursuing these objectives, the State Department, USAID and other USG agencies are guided by five operating principles: African ownership of the approaches we implement in partnership with them; strategic coordination across domestic and international bureaucratic boundaries; linkage of relief programs with development programs; regional approaches to regional problems; and promoting change in continuing unstable environments.

GHAI not only involves various agencies of the U.S. Government, but also our partners -- other donor governments, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and, most importantly, the Africans in the Greater Horn -- to pursue its objectives.

To further GHAI objectives, the USG has been very supportive of the revitalization of IGAD. A senior-level U.S. delegation attended the last IGAD summit meeting in Djibouti in November

1996. At the meeting, IGAD decided to focus its efforts on three priority areas consistent with the GHAI objectives: food security and environmental protection; conflict prevention, management and resolution; and infrastructure development. IGAD reorganized its governing structure and secretariat in order to create greater efficiency of operation and avoid paralysis through lack of consensus among member states. The USG currently is working closely with IGAD members states and other donor governments to ensure that IGAD's programs complement, and do not duplicate, the conflict resolution mechanism of the Organization for Africa Unity, planning for the African Crisis Response Force, and other regional activities.

The State Department and USAID also continue to work with non-governmental organizations and others on various conflict prevention activities. GHAI activities include workshops and other exercises in the Greater Horn involving USG officials and others, as well as production of a guide on conflict prevention and mitigation for practitioners.

GHAI serves as well as a catalyst to ensure that USG actions in the region are taken from a GHAI perspective: taking a long-term view; looking at regional and cross-border issues; focusing on potential areas of instability; taking initiatives at various levels (local, national and international); involving governmental and non-governmental actors; and coordinating efforts with all USG agencies active in a particular country. These issues are taken into account in State Department Mission Program Plans and in USAID's Integrated Strategic Planning process.

BACKGROUND ON SENEGAL



Fact Sheet - Senegal

Political Environment

Senegal has been a democracy since achieving independence April 4, 1960. In practice, however, Senegal has been ruled by one party, the Socialist party, first by President Senghor and now by President Abdou DIOUF (president since January 1981). The most recent presidential elections were in February 1993 and the next are not scheduled until February 2000. The next elections for Senegal's unicameral legislature are scheduled for May 1998. Local, municipal and regional elections in November 1996, showed how far Senegal still has to go to achieve open transparent democracy. There were widespread allegations of vote rigging and electoral commission incompetence—including balloting stations not opening, the loss of voter lists, and confusing and contradictory instructions to voters—especially in Dakar, the stronghold of the opposition led by Abdulaye Wade. The government reacted very negatively to U.S. suggestions for reforms (independent electoral commission, electoral code reforms) after the elections, but this calmed down following intervention by Diouf. Senegal has been supportive of U.S. policies, especially in the peacekeeping arena, contributing troops to multinational force sent to the Gulf and offering to participate in the ACRF initiative. The rebellion in the Casamance has been relatively quiet since a December 1995 cease-fire, with only sporadic incidents of violence. Corruption in bidding for commercial and government contracts has created some difficulties in our bilateral relations in past two years.

Economy

Senegal is part of the West African CFA zone, which devalued its currency by 50% in January 1994. It has economic reform programs with the IMF, and World Bank, and received Paris Club debt rescheduling, most recently in 1995. etc. In general its economic performance has been amongst the top economic performers in West Africa since the devaluation. The GDP of \$554 is growing at 4.5%, but is not keeping up with over 7% inflation. Senegal exports \$6.5 million in goods annually, mainly fish, peanuts, phosphates and cotton to French, European and regional markets. U.S. investment in 1996 totaled \$38 million mainly in petroleum marketing (Mobil), pharmaceuticals manufacturing (Warner Lambert/Parke Davis), chemicals (Colgate NSOA) and banking (Citibank). SENECON, a New York company is in the final running for a \$30 million bid to enter a strategic partnership along with a Swedish firm to buy 1/3 of the state-owned telecommunications company. Senegal carries a heavy debt burden of \$3.5 billion which hampers its ability to invest in social, educational and health infrastructure. Unemployment is approximately 45%, although the majority of Senegalese work at subsistence agriculture or in the informal trade sector.

Geography

Area: 192,000 sq km, slightly smaller than South Dakota Land.

People

Population: 9,007,080 (July 1995), with 45% under age 14 and only 3% over 65

Population growth rate: 3.12% (1995), with 42.87 births/1,000 population (1995)

Infant mortality rate: 73.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1995)

Life expectancy: average = 57 years, male = 55.6 years, female = 58.7 years

Total fertility rate: 6.03 children born/woman (1995)

Ethnicities: Wolof 36%, Fulani 17%, Serer 17%, Toucouleur 9%, Diola 9%, Mandingo 9%, European and Lebanese 1%, other 2%

Religions: Muslim 92%, indigenous beliefs 6%, Christian 2% (mostly Roman Catholic) **Languages:** French (official), Wolof, Pulaar, Diola, Mandingo

Literacy: (1996) average = 25%, male = 30%, female 19%

(This figure conflicts wildly with 1995 USAID figures of 32% average, 43% for men and 23% for women. No one can say definitively which is correct)

Bilateral Assistance

USAID - FY96 \$20.9 million, planning for FY97 \$21.4 million.

Peace Corps - 125 volunteers in country, operating budget of \$1.4 million

Self-help Funds - FY97 \$100,000

Democracy and Human Rights (DHRF) - FY97 \$75,000

Food Assistance - FY96 \$1.2 million for Mauritanian refugees in the north.

IMET - \$650,000

USAID programs focus on decreasing family size, increasing crop production through improved natural resource management, and expanding liberalization of agricultural markets. Smaller, more targeted programs attempt to make credit available to rural producers (mainly women), reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence, and improving democracy and governance. All programs including cross-cutting elements designed to benefit women and children. USAID and State are also conducting final negotiations to install an internet hook-up for Senegal as part of the Mickey Leyland initiative, which is funded by USAID (this will not be ready by the time FLOTUS visits).

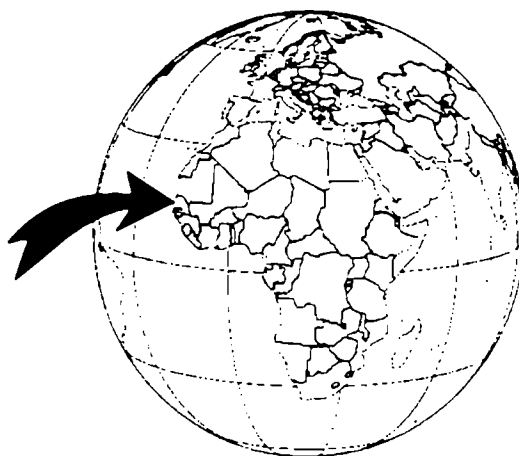
Peace Corps focuses on small enterprise development (especially tourism, retail and artisanal production), agricultural resource management, forestry and environmental education and conservation and rural primary health care. Peace Corps also has a training center to train volunteers prior to their postings in neighboring Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire.

BACKGROUND NOTES

The most current *Background Notes* information can be found on the Department of State's World Wide Web site at <http://www.state.gov>

Senegal

July 1996



United States Department of State
Bureau of African Affairs
Office of West African Affairs



U.S. Department of State
Background Notes: Senegal, July 1996
Bureau of African Affairs

Prepared and released by the Bureau of African Affairs,
Office of West African Affairs

July 1996
Official Name: Republic of Senegal

PROFILE

Geography

Area: 196,840 sq. km. (76,000 sq. mi.); about the size of South Dakota.
Cities: Capital--Dakar. Other Cities--Diourbel, Kolda, Kaolack, Louga, Saint-Louis, Thies, Tambacounda, Ziguinchor.
Terrain: Flat or rising to foothills.
Climate: Tropical/Sahelian--desert or grasslands in the north, heavier vegetation in the south and southeast.

People

Nationality: Noun and adjective--Senegalese (sing. and pl.).
Population (est. 1995): 8.2 million. Annual growth rate: 3 percent.
Ethnic groups: Wolof 43 percent, Fulani (Peulh) and Toucouleur 23 percent, Serer 15 percent, Diola, Mandingo, and others 19 percent.
Religions: Muslim 95 percent, Christian 4 percent, traditional 1 percent.
Languages: French (official), Wolof, Pulaar, Serer, Diola, Mandingo.
Education: Attendance--primary 58 percent, secondary 16 percent. Literacy--38 percent.
Health: Infant mortality rate--67/1,000. Life expectancy--50 yrs.
Work force (4.0 million): Agriculture--70 percent (subsistence or cash crops).
Wage earners (350,000)--private sector 61 percent, government and parapublic 39 percent.

Government

Type: Republic.
Independence: April 4, 1960.
Constitution: March 3, 1963, last amended in 1992.
Branches: Executive--president (chief of state, commander in chief of armed forces). Legislative--National Assembly (single chamber with 120 deputies). Judicial--constitutional court (appointed by the president from sitting magistrates).
Administrative subdivisions: 10 regions, 31 departments, 95 arrondissements.
Political parties: Twenty two political parties are registered, the most important of which are the Socialist Party (PS), the Democratic Party of Senegal (PDS), "AND JEF/PADS", the Democratic League/Movement for a Labor Party (LD/MPT), and the Independence and Labor Party (PIT) and the People's Liberation Party (PLP).
Suffrage: Universal adult, over 18.
Central government budget (1996): \$977 million.
Defense (1996): \$81.5 million.
National holiday: April 4, Independence Day.
Flag: Three vertical bands--green, yellow, red, with a green star centered in the yellow band.

Economy

GDP (1995): \$5.1 billion. Real annual growth rate: 4.5 percent.

Per capita GDP (1995): \$550.

Natural resources: Fish, peanuts, phosphate, iron ore, gold, titanium.

Agriculture (24 percent of GDP): Products--peanuts, millet, sorghum, manioc, rice, cotton.

Industry (22 percent of GDP): Types--fishing, agricultural product processing, light manufacturing, mining including energy, oil mining and construction: (18 percent of GDP).

Services: 54 percent of GDP; including government: 65 percent GDP.

Trade (1995): Exports--\$967 million (fish products, peanut products, phosphate rock). Major markets--France, other European Community, West African CFA zone. Imports--\$1.2 billion (food, consumer goods, petroleum, machinery, transport equipment, petroleum products, computer equipment). Major suppliers--France, Nigeria, Cameroon, United States.

Exchange rate: Fixed to French franc (FF)-- African Financial Community (CFA) franc 100=1 FF; 1995 Average 515 F CFA=US\$1.

Economic aid received (1995): \$146 million from all sources, \$26 million from the U.S.

Membership in International Organizations

UN and its specialized agencies, Non-Aligned Movement, Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Organization of African Unity (OAU), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Interstate Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS).

GEOGRAPHY

Senegal lies on the bulge of western Africa, bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau. The Gambia penetrates more than 320 kilometers (200 mi.) into Senegal.

Well-defined dry and humid seasons result from northeast winter winds and southwest summer winds. Dakar's annual rainfall of about 61 centimeters (24 in.) occurs between June and October when maximum temperatures average 27 degrees C (82 degrees F); December to February minimum temperatures are about 17 degrees C (63 degrees F). Interior temperatures are higher than along the coast, and rainfall increases substantially farther south, exceeding 150 centimeters (60 in.) annually in some areas.

PEOPLE

About 70 percent of Senegal's population is rural. In rural areas, density varies from about 77 per square kilometer (200 per sq. mi.) in the west-central region to 2 per square kilometer (5 per sq. mi.) in the arid eastern section. About 50,000 Europeans (mostly French) and Lebanese reside in Senegal, mainly in the cities. French is the official language but is used regularly only by the literate minority. All Senegalese speak an ethnic language, of which Wolof has the largest usage.

HISTORY

Archaeological findings throughout the area indicate that Senegal was inhabited in prehistoric times. Islam established itself in the Senegal River valley in the 11th century. (Ninety-five percent of Senegalese today are Muslims.) In the 13th and 14th centuries, the area came under the influence of the great Mandingo empires to the east; the Jolof Empire of Senegal was also founded during this time.

In January 1959, Senegal and the French Soudan merged to form the Mali Federation, which became fully independent on June 20, 1960, as a result of the independence and the transfer of power agreement signed with France on April 4, 1960. Due to internal political difficulties, the Federation broke up on August 20, 1960; Senegal and Soudan (renamed the Republic of Mali) each proclaimed separate independence.

Leopold Sedar Senghor, internationally renowned poet, politician, and statesman, was elected Senegal's first president in August 1960.

After the breakup of the Mali Federation, President Senghor and Prime Minister Mamadou Dia governed together under a parliamentary system. In December 1962, their political rivalry led to an attempted coup by Prime Minister Dia. Although this was put down without bloodshed, Dia was arrested and imprisoned, and Senegal adopted a new constitution. Dia was released in 1974.

Since assuming the presidency in 1981, Abdou Diouf has encouraged broader political participation, reduced government involvement in the economy, and widened Senegal's diplomatic engagements, particularly with other developing nations. Despite chronic economic problems, tempestuous domestic politics which have on occasion spilled over into street violence, border tensions and a violent separatist movement in the southern region of the Casamance, Senegal's commitment to democracy and human rights appears reasonably strong in its fourth decade of independence.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Senegal is a republic with a strong presidency, weak legislature, reasonably independent judiciary, and multiple political parties. The president is elected by universal adult suffrage to a seven-year term. The unicameral National Assembly has 120 members, elected separately from the president. The constitutional court, the justices of which are named by the president, is the nation's highest tribunal. Senegal is divided into 10 administrative regions, each headed by a governor appointed by and responsible to the president. However, a long anticipated decentralization program will devolve significant central government authorities to regional assemblies and regional mayors after the November 1996 elections.

Senegal's principal political party is the Socialist Party (name changed from Senegalese Progressive Union in 1976 after having joined the Socialist International), founded in 1949 by Leopold Senghor and now led by President Diouf. The Socialist Party, which has governed Senegal since independence in 1960, has advocated a moderate form of socialism based on traditional African concepts but increasingly has sought to encourage private enterprise, including foreign investment. Leopold Senghor was elected Senegal's first president in 1960 and served continuously until he stepped down in mid-term in 1980. In accordance with the constitution, Prime Minister Abdou Diouf succeeded Senghor as president. Diouf was elected to a full five-year term in his own right in 1983. The constitution, which previously restricted the number of political parties to four, was amended in 1981 to legitimize previously unrecognized parties. The number of parties now stands at 22 of which several participated in the February/May 1993 presidential and legislative elections. There are 120 seats in the National Assembly. The last national elections were held on February 21 and May 9, 1993. President Diouf was reelected for a 7-year term.

Principal Government Officials

President of the Republic--Abdou Diouf
President of the National Assembly--Cheikh Abdou Khadre
President of the Constitutional Court--Youssoupha Ndiaye

Ministers

Prime Minister--Habib Thiam
Minister of State Without Portfolio--Abdoulaye Wade
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs--Moustapha Niasse
Minister of State for Presidential Affairs--Ousmane Tanor Dieng
Minister of State for Agriculture--Robert Sanga
Minister of Armed Forces--Cheikh Hamidou Kane
Minister of Interior--Abdourahmane Sow
Minister of Justice--Jacques Bodin

Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning--Papa Ousmane Sakho
Minister of National Education--Andre Sonko
Minister of Equipment, Road transport, and Housing--Landing Sane

Ambassador to the United States--General Mansour Seck
Ambassador to the United Nations--Ibra Deguene Ka

Senegal maintains an embassy in the United States at 2112 Wyoming Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20008 (tel. 202-234-0540), and a Mission to the United Nations at 392 Fifth Avenue, 9th floor, New York, NY 10018 (tel. 212-517-9030).

DEFENSE

Senegal has well-trained and disciplined armed forces consisting of about 19,000 personnel in the army, air force, and navy. The Senegalese military force receives most of its training, equipment, and support from France. The United States, Great Britain and Germany also provide support, but on a smaller scale. Military non-interference in political affairs has contributed to Senegal's stability since independence.

Senegal has participated in international and regional peacekeeping missions. In 1992 Senegal sent 1500 men to the ECOMOG peacekeeping group in Liberia, and in 1991, it sent a contingent to participate in Operation Desert Storm. The Senegalese contributed a 600-member battalion to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, and also dispatched a battalion to the Shaba province of Zaire as part of the Inter-African Force assembled to counter dissident attacks against Kolwezi in 1978. In August 1981, the Senegalese military was invited into The Gambia by President Dawda Kairaba Jawara to put down a coup attempt. In August of 1989, the Senegalese-Gambian military cooperation, which began with the joint Senegalese-Gambian efforts during the 1981 coup attempt, ceased with the dissolution of the Senegambian Confederation.

ECONOMY

The former capital of French West Africa, Senegal is a semi-arid country located on the westernmost point of Africa. Its economy is dominated by agriculture, particularly by peanut production. The modern sector includes fishing, phosphates, tourism, and chemical industries. Senegal's economy is highly vulnerable to declining rainfall, desertification and changes in world commodity prices.

The January 1994 devaluation of the CFA franc was an explicit condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank for resumption of financing for economic adjustment. Senegal's adjustment efforts were funded primarily by a stand-by agreement from the IMF, which was replaced, in August 1994, by a three-year enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF) for U.S. \$192 million. The World Bank also supported Senegal under an economic recovery credit, a private sector adjustment and competitiveness credit (PASCO) and an agricultural sector adjustment credit (PASA). Senegal also benefitted from assistance from other multilateral and bilateral donors, including debt rescheduling from the Paris Club and other creditors. At the consultative group meeting in Paris in July 1995 (the first sponsored by the World Bank since 1987), Senegal received pledges for program and project aid for the period of 1995-97 of about U.S. \$1.5 billion, which completely covered the 1995 financing gap.

Macroeconomic indicators show that Senegal has turned in a respectable performance in meeting the targets set under the IMF's ESAF program: annual GDP growth has improved from 2.3 percent in 1994 to reach 4.5 percent in 1995. Inflation has reported to be 8 percent in 1995 compared to 36 percent in 1994, and the fiscal deficit has held to 3.3 percent of GDP.

During 1995, Senegal made some encouraging progress in the implementation of structural adjustment policies aimed at creating a better regulatory framework for private sector development. Measures implemented to date include:

- the elimination of barriers to free domestic trade (price liberalization of soap, milk, coffee, soft drinks, cement, tomato paste and fresh tomatoes);
- the abolition of monopolistic agreements in major industries (cement, textiles, wheat flour, tomato paste, packing materials, and fertilizers.);
- the elimination of export subsidies;
- the liberalization of rice and sugar imports;
- the abolition of the requirement for prior government authorization to lay off workers during economic downturns;
- the preparation of a list of 18 major public enterprises to be privatized during the next three years.

Senegal's economy is principally agricultural, with more than 70 percent of the labor force engaged in farming. Peanut production accounts for half of agricultural output, and food crops, especially millet, rice, corn, sorghum, and beans, currently provide about two-thirds of the country's food needs. Export earnings from peanut oil and peanut cake have increased slightly since the January 1994 CFA devaluation. The government has invested heavily in the Senegal River basin with the aim of moving Senegal closer to food self-sufficiency.

The fishing sector has replaced the groundnut sector as Senegal's export leader. Its export earnings reached dollars 274 million in 1995. The industrial fishing operations struggle with high costs and Senegalese tuna is rapidly losing the French market to more efficient Asian competitors.

Phosphate production, the third major foreign exchange earner, has been steady at about \$33 million. Receipts from tourism, the fourth major foreign exchange earner, have picked up since the January 1994 devaluation.

Senegal has met with limited success in attracting foreign investment to hasten economic development. Under the provisions of the 1987 investment code, the approval process has been shortened. Presently there are no restrictions on the transfer or repatriation of capital and income earned, or investment financed with convertible foreign exchange. Direct U.S. investment in Senegal remains about \$38 million, mainly in petroleum marketing, pharmaceuticals manufacturing, chemicals, and banking. Economic assistance, about \$350 million a year, comes largely from France, the IMF, the World Bank, and the United States. Assistance is also provided by Canada, Italy, Japan, Germany, and others.

Senegal has relatively good infrastructure. It includes well-developed though costly port facilities, a major international airport serving 24 international airlines, including scheduled service by U.S. firm world airways in its Newark, NJ-Johannesburg route, and direct and expanding telecommunications links with major world centers.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

President Senghor advocated close relations with France and negotiation and compromise as the best means of resolving international differences. To a large extent, President Diouf has carried on Senghor's policies and philosophies. Senegal has long supported functional integration among French-speaking West African states through the West African Economic and Monetary Union. Senegal has a high profile in many international organizations and was a member of the UN Security Council in 1988-89.

President Diouf was chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1985-86 and again in 1992-93, host of the Third Francophone Conference in 1989 and host of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in 1991. Friendly to the West, especially to France and to the U.S., Senegal also is a vigorous proponent of more assistance from developed countries to the Third World.

Senegal enjoys mostly cordial relations with its neighbors. However, the military junta ruling The Gambia since 1994 adopted economic policies that disrupted the flow of goods and people both to and from The Gambia and the Ziginchor and Kolda regions of southern Senegal. In spite of clear progress on other fronts

with Mauritania (border security, resource management, economic integration, etc.), there remains the problem of approximately 60,000 Afro-Mauritanian refugees living in Senegal. To the east, Mali, Guinea, and Senegal suffer from cross-border cattle raids by criminal elements from each country. Energetic diplomacy--including the creation of bilateral and multilateral fora--is ongoing to achieve peaceful resolution to these and other problems.

U.S.-SENEGALESE RELATIONS

Senegal enjoys an excellent relationship with the United States. The government of Senegal is known and respected for its able diplomats and has often been supportive of the U.S. in the United Nations, including in troop contributions for peacekeeping activities. The United States maintains friendly relations with Senegal and provides considerable economic and technical assistance. President Diouf paid his first official visit to Washington, D.C., in August 1983 and has traveled several times to the U.S. since then.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) implements the U.S. Government's development assistance efforts, provides program assistance linked to reforms in finance, agriculture, and natural resource management. USAID provides project assistance in the fields of health and family planning, agriculture and natural resources (including forestry), and market liberalization. The primary development goal of the U.S. Government in Senegal is to help raise the per capita incomes of those people in Senegal whose incomes depend on the sustainable exploitation of natural resources. USAID provided over twenty \$23 million in program (including food aid) and project assistance to Senegal in fiscal year 1995. The Peace Corps program in Senegal involves some 160 volunteers, engaged in forestry, health and small business development. The cultural exchange program consists of three Fulbright professors and about 20-30 international visitor grants per year.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador Designate--Dane Smith
Deputy Chief of Mission--James Ledesma
USAID Director--Anne Williams
Public Affairs Officer (USIS)--Gerald Huchel
Peace Corps Director--Patrick Barry
Defense Attache--Lt. Col. Paul Cariker
Political Officer--David Wagner
Economic Officer--Whitney Young-Baird
Consular Officer--Lili Ming
Administrative Counselor--Robert J. Mcanneny

The U.S. Embassy in Senegal is located on Ave. Jean XXIII at the intersection of Ave. Kleber, (P.O. Box 49), Dakar.

TRAVEL NOTES

Entry Requirements: A passport is required for entry. U.S. do not need a visa for stays of less than 90 days. Evidence of a vaccination for yellow fever may be required at the port of entry.

Climate and clothing: Lightweight clothing is suitable for Dakar's hot, humid summer (June-November). Winter (December-May) is like early Fall in Washington, DC--warm days and cool to cold evenings.

Health: The general level of health in Dakar is good; however, city water is not potable. Meats should be well cooked and vegetables carefully prepared. Malaria is endemic in Senegal; chloroquine resistant malaria has been reported since 1989. Malaria prevention with mosquito repellent sprays and other barrier methods is important. It is imperative that all travelers check with their doctors and obtain one of the various forms of chemical prophylaxis such as chloroquine plus proguanil. However, mefloquine is the

preferred tablet by the mission medical unit. Hepatitis A is common and may be prevented with gamma globulin. Polio and typhoid are present but present little risk to immunized travelers. HIV (the AIDS-related virus) is confirmed present in about 1 percent of the general population; as many as 40 percent of tested prostitutes are infected by for HIV (1989 data). The following immunizations should be current for travelers to Senegal:

- diphtheria (10 yrs.)
- tetanus (10 yrs.)
- yellow fever (10 yrs.)
- typhoid (3 yrs.)
- polio (once/lifetime adult booster)
- gamma globulin (1ml per month of travel, max. 5ml ea. 5 mos.)

Transportation: Dakar has good and reasonably frequent worldwide airline connections. In the city, metered taxis are available at rates comparable to those in the U.S.

Telecommunications: Long-distance telephone service (direct dial to Dakar) is via satellite link. Cable and telex services are available. Dakar is five time-zones ahead of eastern standard time (EST). When the U.S. is on daylight savings time, Dakar is four time-zones ahead of EST

Tourist Attractions: Senegal offers good beaches and swimming, boating, fishing, sailing, scuba diving, and spearfishing, and world-class surfing. There are several national parks, of which Niokola Koba and the bird refuge at Djoudj are most visited. Cosmopolitan Dakar is a major port of entry into West Africa and has interesting (if deteriorating) French colonial architecture, a few museums and other sites of historical interest. Goree Island, reached by regular ferry from Dakar, and its slave museum are poignant reminders of Goree's role as a center of the West African slave trade.

FURTHER INFORMATION

These titles are provided as a general indication of material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

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Senegal: U.S.-Senegal relations

U.S.-Senegal relations have been strong since the country's independence in 1960. Ties strengthened as Senegal emerged as a regional leader in democratization and economic reform under the leadership of President Abdou Diouf, elected in 1983 after he succeeded Leopold Senghor in 1981.

The U.S. supports further development of Senegal's democratic institutions. Senegal has led West Africa in democratization, but local, municipal and regional elections in November 1996 were marred by serious organizational deficiencies and credible allegations of fraud. A coalition of 18 opposition parties is pressing for formation of an independent electoral commission (CENI), a concept that has worked effectively in other African countries. Although the government and ruling Socialist Party (PS) initially resisted the idea, President Diouf recently formed an electoral review committee which will include all parties and be headed by a small group of highly-regarded, politically-neutral experts. National elections are scheduled for 1998 and presidential elections for 2000.

We encourage the government to carry out economic reform to ensure economic growth and an improved business environment. So far, the rice and peanut sectors have been liberalized, and 18 additional parastatals are scheduled for privatization. We encourage U.S. investment and assist U.S. firms in the competitive bidding process and with resolution of business disputes. A U.S.-Swedish consortium recently outbid the French to purchase shares in Senegal's telecommunications carrier. We further encourage judicial and administrative reform, particularly as it affects the investment climate.

Another U.S. goal is to support Senegal's general respect for the human rights of its citizens. There is a lively free press and the government interferes minimally in the media. The military is well disciplined, but civilian law enforcement agencies do not uniformly respect human rights. Prison conditions fail to meet minimum standards of decency. Our USAID and Peace Corps programs assist the Senegalese to protect the rights of women and children. Rural women in particular suffer social and economic inequality. Universal primary and secondary education is not yet available.

Senegal has been supportive of U.S. policies, especially in the peacekeeping arena, contributing troops to multinational force sent to the Gulf and offering to participate in the ACRF initiative. Senegal supports the Middle East peace process. We enjoy excellent access to the highest levels of government and to the important Dakar port and airport facilities. Corruption in bidding for commercial and government contracts has created some difficulties in our bilateral relations in the past two years.

Senegal: Political Overview

Senegal is a republic with an elected president and a unicameral legislature dominated by President Diouf's Socialist Party (PS) since independence from France in 1960. The first president, Leopold Senghor, chose Abdou Diouf to replace him in 1981. In 1983, Diouf was elected in his own right. The stability brought about by the entry of the principal opposition party into government in 1995 continues. The smaller parties chose to remain in government and contested the 1996 elections which devolved power to Senegal's ten regional and local authorities. There are three women in the 14-person cabinet and 14 women in the 120-seat National Assembly.

The 1996 elections were tainted by irregularities (in the first round, 100 Dakar polling stations failed to open) and some allegations of fraud. In the 1996 elections, the ruling Socialist Party won 60 percent of the overall vote representing 419 of the 523 seats on Senegal's regional councils. The strongest opposition party, the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) won 25 percent, confirming its position as the major opposition party. For the first time, ten regional governors were elected, a major move toward decentralization. It remains to be seen if the central government will give these governors the authority and resources needed to decentralize power.

With national elections scheduled for 1998, pressure is mounting from many quarters, including the U.S. government, for electoral reform. President Diouf announced in February 1997 that he would form a multi-party commission to study electoral reform -- possibly a first step toward establishment of an independent electoral commission.

Another major political issue is the Casamance conflict which began in 1982 when the Movement of Democratic Forces of the Casamance (MFDC) formed. The MFDC seeks independence from Senegal of the southwestern region between The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. Violence in the region has been chronic if sporadic, with a serious flare up in 1990. A cease-fire has held since December 1995. Observers hope that genuine decentralization will eventually neutralize the separatist forces of the Casamance region.

There is political tension along Senegal's northern border where approximately 60,000 Mauritanian refugees remain seven years after a violent conflict caused Mauritanians of African heritage to flee into Senegal across the Senegal River, while Mauritanians of Arab heritage living in Senegal fled in the opposite direction. Repatriation efforts have been slowed by resistance from the Government of Mauritania and reluctance of many to return to their homeland.

Another source of political tension is the relationship between Senegal and The Gambia, a small, impoverished anglophone country completely encapsulated by Senegal. Following a 1994 coup which overthrew a democratic government, The Gambia held presidential elections in late 1996 which were seriously flawed. Senegal fears that turmoil in The Gambia could further destabilize the Casamance region.

Senegal: Economic Overview

Though better off than many of its West African neighbors, Senegal is poor by developing country standards: per capita yearly income is about \$533, only 38% the population is literate, and unemployment is estimated at 45%. Senegal's 8.3 million people face a brighter economic and social future than five years ago but must still confront difficult challenges. Senegal, an arid country, has limited natural resources. It earns foreign exchange from fish, phosphates, peanuts and tourism.

In the past three years, the economy has begun to recover from years of stagnation inflicted by drought, economic mismanagement, and an increasingly overvalued exchange rate. After contracting by 2.1% in 1993, Senegal's real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 2% in 1994, and jumped to 5.2% in 1996. More importantly, investment grew substantially, reaching 17% of GDP between 1993 and 1996. However, this still falls short of the level needed to sustain high growth and raise living standards.

Senegal is a member of the Economic and Monetary Union of West African States (UEMOA). In January 1994, France and these countries devalued by 50% the regional CFA franc which is tied directly to the French Franc. Although the devaluation immediately doubled the price of imports and caused hardship for the population, the Senegalese government took the opportunity to implement an economic adjustment program with the International Monetary Fund. The benefits are now being seen. Exports have grown much faster than imports, and increasing incomes in the agricultural sector are beginning to make a dent in rural poverty.

The government has begun to privatize many state-owned enterprises. A Swedish-American consortium is concluding negotiations on a partnership which will allow the consortium to buy 30% ownership of the state telephone company, SONATEL. The government, with the Electrical Workers' Union, is seeking a formula which will allow private capital to take control of the national power company SENELEC. USAID is working with the state peanut enterprise to privatize that entity's operation.

Senegal continues to face daunting problems. Much of the country's economy is tied to agriculture. A failure of rains could undercut Senegal's impressive progress. The government still controls an excessive share of the economy. Privatization is not easy, as many Senegalese continue to be philosophically skeptical of private enterprise. The government controls the prices of key commodities. Many foreign businesses find enforcement of tax laws is irregular and borders on the arbitrary. Corruption at all levels significantly affects the ability to do business profitably in Senegal. The government recognizes these problems, but has yet to initiate comprehensive reforms.

Senegal: Women's Issues

In Senegal, as in most of Africa, there are wide disparities in the social and political power of men and women. The gender gap starts early, with only 16% of girls attending secondary school. Women provide most of the agricultural labor and are the backbone of the informal trading economy, but have limited access to land and credit. Women hold three of 33 cabinet positions and occupy 14 seats in the 120-seat National Assembly. Senegal's adult literacy rate (38%) lags far behind the average for the rest of sub-Saharan Africa (53%). For women and girls, social indicators are even more discouraging.

While accurate statistics are very difficult to obtain, literacy estimates among women is particularly low; 23% of women (1995) compared to 43% of men. Their low level of education, combined with cultural factors including tribal and Islamic customs inhibits women's ability to become full economic actors. Women are unable to provide collateral when they apply for loans, mainly due to lack of title to fixed assets. Consequently, they are often denied access to critical resources, such as land, credit, extension services, and technology, which would enable them to increase their productivity.

Senegal's inefficient health care system particularly affects women. Birth-related deaths are still high: 510 women die annually for every 100,000 births. The high fertility rate (almost 6 children per woman) is another factor that affects Senegalese women's health. USAID, in collaboration with the government of Senegal and other partners, is seeking improved access to health and family planning services for women and resources such as agricultural credit and land. USAID and its partners have made significant contributions to decreasing the national fertility rate. For instance, in the four USAID target regions, the fertility rate has fallen from 7.1 children per woman in 1975 to 5.9 in 1992. Donor organizations are redirecting their actions towards strengthening services in rural areas, where the demand for contraceptives is greater than previously thought.

Polygamy is widely practiced in Senegal, but statistics are unavailable as polygamous marriages are usually performed by religious or traditional leaders and only civil marriages are registered with the government. Polygamous marriages complicate and undermine efforts to increase women's access to property and inheritances.

Senegal: Children's Issues

The difficult situation of children in Senegal reflects its problems with pervasive and growing poverty, a demographic explosion and increased urbanization. In 1993, children under 10 represented 35 percent of the population. The majority of these children live in poor conditions.

The Ministry of Women, Children, and the Family, established in 1990, is responsible for promoting children's welfare. Many organizations assist the Ministry in support of children's rights, including the Ministry of Health which maintains a nationwide effort focused on child survival. The Government continues to increase the number of classrooms and encourage more children, particularly females, to enter and stay in school, but the country is a long way from universal education.

Poverty has forced women to enter the labor force, making them less available to fulfill traditional tasks aimed at improving the well-being of children. According to the Senegalese Demographic and Health Survey, the mortality rate for children under five is 13% nationwide and slightly higher in USAID/Senegal's four target regions (Kaolack, Fatick, Loua, Ziguinchor).

Diseases such as chronic diarrhea, malaria, measles, and respiratory infections claim many young lives every year. Senegal's census data (1992) indicates over one half million cases of life-threatening diarrhea among children under five years old in USAID's four target regions alone, and studies predict that there will be an additional 125,000 cases in 1998. To combat childhood diseases, USAID, the Government of Senegal, and donors such as UNICEF, have developed an action plan for improvement of child nutrition and a national breast feeding program. The use of oral rehydration salts in USAID's target regions has increased from 7% to approximately 42% in 1996, reducing deaths due to diarrheal diseases, a leading killer of children. Donor organizations, including the U.S., are also providing technical support for these programs, such as training materials. Local health care providers disseminate knowledge on diarrhea management, nutrition and breast feeding practices.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is not practiced by the Wolof, Senegal's largest ethnic group making up 43 percent of the population, but it is practiced by a number of smaller groups, particularly in rural areas. Unsubstantiated recent studies estimate approximately 20% of young Muslim females undergo the procedure. There are no laws or regulations concerning FGM, which is widely condemned by international health experts. However, there are government-sponsored programs to educate women to the dangers of FGM.

Senegal: Education

Senegal's education system is based on the French model. The Government operates two universities, 40 general and five technical secondary schools, 130 middle schools, and over 3,000 elementary schools. There are a handful of private secondary schools and a variety of Islamic elementary schools. The post-graduate/professional level is dominated by several national professional training institutes. Recent liberalization of the education sector has allowed private institutions of higher education to open, including two business schools, one journalism/communications school, and a small private university.

The system has suffered years of poor management, failure to innovate and respond to changing social needs, politicization, and lack of resources. Population growth has caused demand for education to soar, while limited resources have driven the system into penury. Economic stagnation and diminished employment opportunities have reduced the perceived value of education. Under political pressure to keep unemployed youth off of the streets, the government allowed enrollment at the University of Dakar (UCAD) to rise from an original capacity of 5,000 to 15,000 by 1993 without increasing facilities. UCAD was once considered the finest institution of higher education in Africa. Years of politicization, strikes and intimidation against students have almost destroyed that reputation.

Reform begun in the early 1980s has proceeded fitfully, but in a generally positive direction. In 1983, the University of Saint-Louis opened relieving pressure on UCAD. The UCAD's rector instituted needed reforms, including cutting enrollment, and the government successfully negotiated a \$40 million World Bank loan for reform and library construction. A new Directorate of Higher Education is planning ten regional university centers modeled on the American community college system to accommodate Senegal's rapidly-growing population and provide more practical education. The first center will open in 1998. At the secondary level, a focus on renovating the curriculum and more constructive union-government relations have decreased tensions and permitted systemic change.

The pupil-teacher ratio in primary schools (59:1) is far above the sub-Saharan Africa average (39:1). Half of all students drop out by the fifth grade; 70 percent of primary school-age girls are not in school. Senegal's secondary and tertiary education systems are better off, with well-trained professional teachers, many of whom were educated abroad.

The U.S. mission promotes educational reform. The U.S. Information Service (USIS) supports extensive academic and citizen exchanges including U.S. speaker programs, International Visitor programs, and private sector partnerships to convince Senegalese educators of the worth of the community college model. USAID conducts an extensive variety of bilateral programs and finances academic training in the U.S.

Senegal: Involvement in UN Fourth World Conference on Women

Senegal's Minister of Women's Affairs, Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, headed a 70-member delegation to the Conference on Women. The Senegalese government worked hard to include in its delegation representatives from political parties, government and civil society.

Minister Ndiaye played a major role in repairing the negative perception held by African delegates of Senegal's leadership abilities. Her predecessor lost her job because of the ineffective handling of the African regional preparatory conference, held in Dakar, in November 1994. The preparatory conference was marred by inadequate administrative preparations and political disputes. Despite the disorganization, the Africa meeting managed to produce a very strong regional Program of Action, which contained many proposals that were incorporated into the Beijing Platform for Action.

Senegal made no specific government commitments at Beijing.

Following Beijing, the government held week-long seminars in the ten regions of the country on women's issues and AIDS, and the Minister of Women elaborated a Woman's National Action Plan (attached) which focuses on economic development, eradication of poverty, education, health and access to credit. After the Conference NGOs regrouped their preparatory body, the Collective of NGOs Dakar 1994-Beijing 1995, to organize informational meetings to disseminate information about the conference to their members. The Collective is organizing a general meeting the day before you arrive to provide it with legal status and give its members a joint platform from which to follow up on the Beijing conference's recommendations.

Senegal: Population and Family Planning

Rapid population growth is one of Senegal's greatest development challenges. At the current growth rate of 2.7% (doubling every 25 years), population increases erode the quality of life in Senegal and are quickly outstripping the country's capacity to provide adequate health and education services, create new jobs, or produce sufficient food crops. Population growth rates have virtually negated per capita economic growth since the country's independence in 1960 and demographic pressure has hastened environmental degradation and the unsustainable use of natural resources. If left unchecked, such growth will also exacerbate poverty, urban migration and unemployment (already approximately 35%). About half of Senegal's 8.3 million population is now under the age of 20 (fully 40% of the population are women of reproductive age or children under five).

Many factors contribute to this alarming trend. The demand for family planning is limited due to high child mortality, which compels couples to maintain high birth rates to ensure the survival of a few healthy children. Socio-cultural factors also constrain effective family planning. Children are seen as an economic asset, large families are consistent with Islamic teachings (Senegal is 95% Muslim) and children are proof of a man's virility and a woman's fertility, both highly valued in Senegalese society. The quality and availability of family planning and maternal and child health services has been poor, especially in rural areas. However, there are encouraging signs of change. President Diouf signed the National Family Planning Program in 1991, putting into place strategies to expand family planning and service delivery, promote the status of women, reduce legal and regulatory constraints to family planning, and involve the private sector and nongovernmental organizations in family planning efforts.

USAID, the leading donor in Senegal for family planning and population, has played a key role in helping to achieve results in family planning and child survival activities. From 1986 to 1996, Senegal's fertility rate declined approximately 13%, from 6.6 births per woman to 5.9. USAID's child survival interventions have significantly aided in decreasing child mortality rates, which, though high, have declined from 191 deaths per 1,000 births in 1986 to 131 in 1992. While use of modern contraceptives remains low (about 6.8% in 1996) it represents an increase from the 2.4% rate in 1986. USAID's flagship Child Survival and Family Planning Project is strengthening both public and private family planning services to meet the significant unmet demand for such services.

Senegal: Health Care Issues

Senegal's health system, with the support of the U.S. and other donors, has achieved major successes. Mortality of children under five, although high by U.S. standards, has declined by 50 percent since the inception of U.S. assistance in the 1970s. The current rate of approximately 131 deaths per 1,000 births is among the lowest in Sub-Saharan Africa. Few countries have witnessed declining mortality rates as large or sustained as Senegal.

Until the 1970s, Senegal's health services were provided by hospitals, with occasional major disease control campaigns (e.g., smallpox eradication) in larger urban areas. In the late 1970s, health policy shifted towards universal, affordable, integrated primary health care provided by community health workers. The Expanded Program of Immunization launched in 1981 with UNICEF and USAID support achieved high vaccination coverage and began a movement (still underway) to make preventive care accessible to all Senegalese.

HIV/AIDS infection rates (estimated at 1.2 percent of adults in 1995, one of the lowest in Sub-Saharan Africa) do not appear to be increasing rapidly. This is attributable to the conservative marital and sexual mores of the predominantly Muslim Senegalese and sustained substantial U.S. assistance in the control and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Only 6.8% of Senegalese women use birth control, but 48,000 condoms were distributed through the USAID regional HIV/AIDS program, AIDSCAP in 1995, the most recent year for which numbers are available.

Despite impressive gains in recent years, Senegal faces major health challenges. Women of reproductive age and children are especially affected by the lack of adequate health care. Approximately 40 percent of Senegalese still lack access to safe drinking water and preventive public health care services. Though vaccination rates have increased roughly 60 percent over the past five years, almost half of children under age two are still not fully immunized. Causes of death among children include premature births, diarrhea, malaria, acute respiratory diseases and measles; more than one in five children suffer from malnutrition. Due to the lack of pre- and post-natal care, more than 500 women die at childbirth for every 100,000 deliveries.

Public and private health care systems continue to face numerous challenges: severe underfunding, shortage of properly trained health personnel (especially in rural areas), inadequate health facilities, lack of equipment and supplies and continued reliance, by most Senegalese, on less effective traditional healers. However, U.S. assistance in health, population, family planning and nutrition is making a difference. U.S.-funded

programs have resulted in numerous improvements in biomedical, demographic and epidemiological research, training of health care personnel at all levels (village workers, nurses, midwives and physicians), construction of health posts and referral centers, and the provision of essential equipment, drugs and contraceptives. The U.S. is considered the lead partner in the health sector.

Senegal: Human Rights

While the Government generally respects the human rights of its citizens, there is room for improvement, particularly in the area of protecting women and those accused of crimes.

Senegal is a republic with an elected president and a unicameral legislature dominated by President Diouf's Socialist Party (PS) since independence from France in 1960. However, the Socialist Party's domination of political life, including irregularities and some allegations of fraud in the 1996 regional and local elections, calls into question the extent to which citizens can meaningfully exercise their right to change the government. The judiciary is independent, although subject to governmental influence.

The armed forces are professional, generally disciplined, and firmly under civilian control. The paramilitary gendarmerie and the police, who are less professional and disciplined, continue to commit some serious human rights abuses such as torture of suspects during questioning, arbitrary arrest, and lengthy pre-trial detention. The Government tries or punishes few military, gendarmes, or police for human rights abuses. Poor prison conditions persist.

Despite constitutional protections, women face extensive societal discrimination, especially in rural areas where customs, including polygamy and Islamic rules of inheritance, are strongest. Women are generally confined to traditional roles, performing much of the subsistence farming and all of the childrearing. They have limited educational opportunities. Only 23% of females over 15 years of age are literate, while the rate for males over age 15 is 43%. There are credible reports that violence against women, usually wife beating, is common, particularly in rural areas. Police do not usually intervene in domestic disputes. The law and society view rape as a very serious crime; persons convicted of rape may be imprisoned up to 10 years or more if the victim is a minor. Urban women encounter somewhat less discrimination and are active in government, political life, the legal profession (about 14 percent of lawyers are women), and business. They can take advantage of the Government's efforts to increase respect for women's legal rights to divorce, alimony, and child support, and to seek education and employment. In general, urban women receive equal pay for equal work.

Senegal: Environment

As the availability and quality of Senegal's natural resources continue to decline, the livelihood of the majority of Senegal's rural population is directly threatened. Soil quality and vegetative/tree cover have declined dramatically. Cultivation of marginal lands, which were previously kept fallow, is increasing.

In many regions of the country (especially the north, which has suffered severe desertification), agricultural productivity has declined to less than what it was 20 years ago. Land that in the past supported local populations is less and less able to sustain required agricultural production. At present, roughly half of the nation's food needs are imported, and urban and rural demand for fuel wood is decimating many remaining forests.

The major causes of the decline are well known and the dynamics well understood: increasing population pressure, drastic climatic deterioration or desert encroachment, deforestation, poor rainfall and recurrent droughts. Limited cooperation between government and local communities, poor land-use management, a confusing array of forestry laws and decrees, and policies and regulations which have discouraged the sustainable use of natural resources have also contributed to Senegal's environmental degradation.

To reverse these trends, USAID has implemented a variety of programs since the mid-1980's, including tree planting and construction of anti-salt dikes and water retention dikes which have resulted in extensive land reclamation. USAID programs to improve applied research and the extension of improved natural resources based technologies have had a significant influence on farmers. Aerial photographic information, comparing 1984 with 1996, shows clear evidence of change in USAID zones of intervention, including new wood lots and reforested plots, new fruit tree orchards, and new live hedges which prevent erosion and produce animal fodder.

USAID support to the government has also resulted in important policy and regulatory reforms. The revised 1993 Forestry Code allows farmers to harvest trees they have planted and has changed the role of forestry agents from one of enforcement to one of extension and support to farmers. With USAID assistance, the government has established a National Council for Natural Resources and the Environment. The Council will produce a national environmental action plan in early 1997. This plan will ensure that environmental concerns are addressed in all social and economic development policies. Finally, USAID support for GOS decentralization efforts is empowering rural communities to manage their own natural resources.

Senegal: U.S. Assistance

There are three components to U.S. bilateral assistance programs to Senegal which will total approximately \$25 million for 1997: the USAID program, the Peace Corps program and a limited military assistance program.

In FY1996, USAID assistance was \$20.9 million; the estimated planning level for FY1997 is \$21.4 million. USAID's program strategy is to pursue natural resource-based, economic growth by promoting sustainable agricultural development while slowing population growth. The major objectives are decreasing family size, increasing crop production through improved natural resource management in zones of reliable rainfall, and expanding liberalization of agricultural markets. All USAID programs contain elements specifically aimed at benefiting women and children. Special objectives include making credit available to rural producers, reducing the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS, and improving democracy/governance.

Peace Corps/Senegal has 125 volunteers in country as of February 1997. The staff consists of five Americans and four foreign national full-time employees. The FY1996-97 post operating budget is \$1.4 million. Current efforts integrate the goals of the Government with those of the Peace Corps with a special emphasis on programs which meet the grassroots needs of the Senegalese. The three major current programs are small enterprise development, rural resource management, and rural primary health care.

The American Embassy administers several USAID funded programs which, for FY1997, include \$100,000 in self-help funds for small community development programs and \$75,000 in democracy and human rights funds which will be largely targeted for election assistance. In FY1996, food assistance funding of \$1.2 million went to feeding Mauritanian refugees in northern Senegal.

Under the USAID Sahel Regional Program, Senegal receives additional assistance designed to help with promotion of trade and investment in West Africa, increase regional dialogue on the role of civil society and government in achieving improved management of resources, food security and market development, and provide decision makers with access to information on food security, population and the environment.

Although modest, U.S.-Senegal military assistance continues to focus on support for democracy and human rights, nation building and peacekeeping. Twenty five to thirty Senegalese officers and enlisted men will attend U.S. military schools via the International Military Education and Training Program at an estimated cost of \$650,000. The U.S. also anticipates providing training and limited amounts of non-lethal equipment to help a Senegalese battalion increase its peacekeeping capabilities under the aegis of the African Crisis Response Force.

Senegal: U.S. Embassy

The American Embassy in Dakar is located in the heart of the city in an attractive modern structure completed in 1977. The Embassy is an important element of the urban landscape and its influence is felt throughout Senegalese society.

America's diplomatic mission to Senegal consists of 80 U.S. government employees representing the State Department and a number of other agencies including USAID, Peace Corps, the United States Information Agency (USIA), the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), and the Department of Defense. Senegal is host to one of the oldest and most respected Peace Corps programs on the African continent. The program has existed since 1963, and currently has five full-time American employees and 125 volunteers in Senegal. USAID is staffed by 15 Americans and 110 foreign national employees. There are 70 American family members and over 300 Senegalese employed by the Embassy.

The mission is an important regional center which provides direct support to smaller U.S. embassies throughout West Africa. Its bilateral objectives consist of encouraging economic liberalization pursued primarily through a 14-member USAID mission maintaining a high level of political influence, and promoting political and economic empowerment of the Senegalese people through greater transparency and accountability in government.

The Ambassador is Dane Smith and the Deputy Chief of Mission is James Ledesma.

Senegal: Etiquette

The Senegalese are very polite people and tend to be more formal than Americans. In meeting a Senegalese, the greeting is very important. The greeting is generally the following:

English

a: Hello.
b: Hello.
a: How are you?

b: Fine, thank you. And you?

a: Fine, thank you.

French

a: Bon jour.
b: Bon jour.
a: Ca va bien? (informal)
Comment allez-vous?(formal)
b: Oui, ca va, merci, et vous?
a: Oui, ca va bien, merci.

A handshake is generally appreciated and leaves a good impression. The American can offer his or her hand first. There is generally a short period of light conversation before meetings get down to business. Women should sit properly and be modestly dressed. Western clothes should cover as much as possible, e.g., dresses and skirts should be below the knee or full length. Legs should be crossed at the ankle.

If offered a beverage, always accept. Even if the visitor does not drink it, he/she should take the glass and hold it briefly. No one will care whether she/he is drinking or not.

At the end of a meeting, the American should rise, shake the host's hand, say good-bye (in French: Au revoir), and leave.

In formal meals, French table manners are followed. In traditional Senegalese meals, all who are eating normally sit around a large bowl on the floor. (This will not be the case at the President's dinner!) Normally, Senegalese eat with their fingers, but most Senegalese know that Westerners use utensils and may provide large serving spoons. One should eat only the food directly in front of him or her in the bowl. The host will redistribute the food around the bowl as necessary to ensure everyone has enough. When a person is full, he or she stops eating.

When arriving in a village, one will likely be greeted by the elders. The most senior of them will give a speech of welcome. It's expected that the visitor say a few words in response. Upon leaving the village, the senior elder will wish to give the visitor a blessing. Receiving the blessing consists of holding out one's hands palms up, and when the reciting of the blessing is finished, the recipient raises the hands to the face then chest.

Senegal: Arrival Statement

- o Good evening. Thank you so much for your warm welcome to Senegal, the first stop on my visit to the African continent.
- o As I stand here on the western most point of Africa, I can't help but feel that the geographical closeness of our two countries reflects our long history of friendship and cooperation.
- o I am particularly pleased to visit a region to which many African-Americans can trace their heritage.
- o As I travel from Dakar to the island of Goree (GOR-ay) and tomorrow to Thies (TEE-ez), I look forward to seeing as much of your beautiful country as I can and learning more about your rich culture.
- o Americans and Senegalese share common goals of peace and prosperity. During my visit, I hope to make new friends and strengthen the ties between the United State and Senegal.

Senegal: Departure Statement

- o I am very happy that I had this opportunity to visit your beautiful country and meet the wonderful people of Senegal.
- o I sincerely thank President Diouf and the First Lady for their warm hospitality, all the wonderful Senegalese I met and the outstanding staff of the American Embassy who welcomed us so warmly and worked hard to make this an enjoyable and productive visit.
- o I was greatly moved as I stood in the Slave House at Goree as I know it is a site of great historical significance to all of us, but especially Africans and African-Americans alike.
- o It was gratifying to see Senegalese and Americans working side by side at various USAID and Peace Corps projects.
- o This visit has certainly deepened my understanding of the strong ties between our two countries, ties which I am confident will strengthen as we move together into the 21st century.
- o Thank you and au revoir.

SENEGAL: U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Question:

How much and what kind of development assistance do we provide to Senegal?

Answer:

Our total development assistance spending for 1996 was approximately \$30 million dollars. That amount will decrease slightly in 1997 due to budget cuts in the United States, but also because successful programs have decreased Senegal's dependence on external assistance.

SENEGAL: U.S.-SENEGALESE RELATIONS

Question:

What is the state of U.S.-Senegalese relations?

Answer:

The U.S. enjoys excellent relations with Senegal. We cooperate on many fronts, from trade, to development, to peacekeeping, to the environment.

The U.S. supports further development of Senegal's democratic institutions. We encourage the government of Senegal to continue to pursue a policy of economic reform and market liberalization.

We continue to look for ways to further our cooperative efforts to increase the status of women, especially in rural areas. Expanding women's knowledge about their legal rights, providing education and health care, and facilitating access to financial credit for women are critical areas where we continue to collaborate.

SENEGAL: FIRST LADY'S VISIT

Question:

What do you plan to do while you are in Senegal?

Answer: (subject to schedule changes)

I will be visiting the Island of Goree, of great historical significance not only to the Senegalese, but to many African Americans who trace their heritage to this region.

I plan to visit USAID and Peace Crops project sites and will meet with the staff of the American Embassy in Dakar.

I will meet a cross section of Senegalese women to discuss common concerns.

I look forward very much to meeting President Diouf and greatly appreciate the hospitality he and the people of Senegal have extended to me.

SENEGAL: FIRST LADY'S VISIT

Question:

Why was Senegal chosen as the first stop on the your trip to Africa?

Answer:

The U.S. and Senegal have enjoyed a long history of warm, mutually cooperative relations. Senegal has long been a bulwark of peace, stability and democracy in the region. I chose to come here as my first stop in Africa to underline our strong ties both in the present and in the past. Many Americans' families have historical roots right here in Senegal, and we embrace those cultural and historic ties. America has been enriched by the talents of so many people who originally came from this region that I thought it important to start here.

Senegal also represents the future of Africa. It is a leader in strong economic growth and investment-oriented policies. It supports global and regional peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts. And it recognizes the importance of education and promoting women's health, welfare and economic involvement for the future.

SENEGAL: FIRST LADY'S VISIT

Question:

What do you hope to accomplish as a result of this visit?

Answer:

I want the people of Senegal to know that the U.S. recognizes the exceptional progress they have made since independence in the areas of good governance and economic reform. We continue to look to Senegal as a leader in West Africa.

But, we recognize that in some areas there remains a need for development assistance, and that is why USAID and Peace Corps, for example, continue to have robust programs here. I also want to encourage and learn more about the active developmental, health and education programs sponsored by NGOs and the government, which are bettering the lives of Senegal's people.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. reports	bios (3 pages)	03/05/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13006

FOLDER TITLE:

The Trip of the First Lady to Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, and
Eritrea, March 15-29, 1997 (Shipley, Overview, Senegal) [Binder] [2]

2012-0869-S

kc966

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

DANE F. SMITH
UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

Dane F. Smith was sworn in on August 5, 1996 to the Republic of Senegal. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Smith was Director of West African Affairs in the Department of State, and served concurrently as Special Presidential Envoy for Liberia (since January 1995). He was U.S. Ambassador to Guinea from 1990-93. He served as Director of the African Economic Policy Staff of the State Department from 1989-90. Mr. Smith was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan from 1986-89, and in Gaborone, Botswana from 1984-86.

Other assignments have included: Chief of the Food Policy Division in the State Department's Economic and Business Bureau; senior economist in the Office of Japanese Affairs; and postings in Liberia, Pakistan and Senegal. Mr. Smith began his international career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Eritrea from 1963-65.

Mr. Smith was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico on December 14, 1940. He is a graduate of Harvard College and received a Ph.D. in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in 1973.

He speaks French and Arabic.

He is married to Judith Armayor Smith and has two daughters and a son.

JAMES V. LEDESMA

Deputy Chief of Mission

James Ledesma was born in Ventura, California in 1941.

Mr. Ledesma joined the Department of State in 1972 and served in the Consular and Economic/Commercial section in Beirut and Algiers from 1973-1977. Following the Economic Officer Training Course, Mr. Ledesma worked in the Department's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs from 1978-1980, first in the Office of Food Policy and then as a staff assistant to the Assistant Secretary. In 1980, Mr. Ledesma was assigned as Deputy U.S. Delegate to the Coordinating Committee of the OECD in Paris, where he remained for four years before assuming the position of Economic/Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik, 1984-1987. Following Reykjavik, Mr. Ledesma returned to the Department of State where he served as Career Development Officer for economic officers and as Deputy Director of the Office of East African Affairs. Before assuming his responsibilities as Deputy Chief of Mission in Dakar in August 1995 Mr. Ledesma served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U. S. Embassy in Accra, Ghana from 1992-1995.

Mr. Ledesma received his BA and MA in History and Political Science from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He pursued additional graduate studies in public administration and finance at George Washington University during the 1989-90 academic year. He is married to the former Francine Benard and has two children.

HABIB THIAM

Prime Minister

Habib Thiam was born in Dakar in 1933. He was educated in France in liberal arts, philosophy, administration and law. An excellent athlete, in 1957 he was the French national champion in the 200-meter run. While in France he worked at the French Finance Ministry, the Bank of France and the General Commissariat of the French Plan.

Upon his return to Senegal, he was initially Director of Cabinet in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then in the Ministry of Justice. In 1963-68 he was Minister for Planning and Development, and in 1968-73 he was Minister of Rural Development. He was elected to the National Assembly in 1973 and named president of the Socialist Party's parliamentary group in April 1978.

In 1981 President Diouf named Thiam his Prime Minister. After Diouf won the general election in 1983, however, he abolished the office of Prime Minister, and moved Thiam to the Presidency of the National Assembly. There, Thiam's term of office was shortened from five years to one, and in 1984 Thiam resigned his seat in the National Assembly and posts in the Party and retired from public life.

During his seven-year hiatus from public life, Thiam was actively involved in the private business, pursuing a series of successful commercial ventures which further broadened his international contacts. He served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Senegalese International Bank for Commerce and Industry, and managed an agro-industrial complex for dairy production.

Following a major cabinet reshuffle in March 1991, Thiam was reappointed Prime Minister, a post he retained when Diouf was reelected in 1993. Thiam has focused his energies as Prime Minister on economic matters.

MOUSTAPHA NIASSE

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Born in 1939 in Keur-Madiabel, Moustapha Niasse has been Senegal's Foreign Minister since September 1993, following a ten-year hiatus from government service during which time he worked in international business. Niasse previously served as Foreign Minister in 1978-83.

Niasse received degrees in public law and in economic and social development from the Sorbonne during the early 1960s and studied administration in Dakar, Brussels, and Paris between 1965 and 1968. After returning to Senegal, he served for a year as director for information and press affairs in the Ministry of Information. During 1970-78, he served as Director of Cabinet at the Presidency (under President Senghor), the youngest official ever appointed to that post. As Foreign Minister he has traveled widely, including attendance at sessions of the UN General Assembly. He has been a member of the Socialist Party's Political Bureau since 1968.

ABDOULAYE WADE

Secretary-General of the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS)

Abdoulaye Wade has been a leading figure on the Senegalese political scene since he founded the Parti Democratique Senegalais (PDS) in 1974. In 1991, with the creation of President Diouf's "Enlarged Presidential Majority" government, Wade briefly passed from opposition into government as a Minister of State without Portfolio.

Born on May 29, 1926, Wade was educated primarily in France. He has a law degree from the University of Dijon, a B.S. in higher mathematics from the University of Besancon, and a Ph.D in Law and Economics from the University of Grenoble. In 1970, he passed an extremely difficult French accreditation exam in economics that is required for advanced teaching, a rare achievement for either a French man or a Senegalese.

Wade made his reputation not in politics, but in academia and the private sector. First a high school teacher, he went on to be Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Dakar. He has been a lawyer in private practice. He has also served as an economic consultant for the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank, and has been involved in many other international organizations. He spent ten years on the Executive Committee of World Peace through Law, a Washington organization. He was also a member of the International Academy of Comparative Law (Stockholm), and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, as well as Vice-President of the Senegalese Commission for Legal Research from 1967 to 1977.

Wade's opposition activities have caused him to be jailed on several occasions: in 1988 he spent 64 days in prison after protesting the fairness of the elections; in 1993 he was detained in connection with the assassination of Supreme Court Judge Seye; in 1994 he was again detained, for a lengthy period, on charges of inciting the riots of February 16, 1994 in which six policemen were killed. He was tried and acquitted of charges in both the 1993 and 1994 cases.

Wade has traveled extensively throughout Europe, the Americas and Africa. In 1967 he spent five months in the School of African Studies at Boston University, and in 1979 returned to the U.S. on an International Visitor Program. He is married to a Frenchwoman and has two children. He is conversant in several languages, including English.

Senegal

107 Peace Corps Volunteers

Peace Corps Country Overview

Senegal, a leader in Francophone West Africa, is progressing on an upward though sometimes bumpy development path. Structural adjustment, decentralization of public services, and a decline in annual rainfall are some of the significant external and internal driving forces in today's Senegal. Peace Corps opened the Senegal program in 1963 with high school English teachers. Subsequent Volunteer assignments have developed in response to the evolving needs of the Senegalese people. In the ensuing 34 years, more than 2,400 Volunteers have served in Senegal. The program has grown considerably over time and now numbers 107 Volunteers working in four sectors: agriculture, environment, health and small business.

Agriculture

26 PCVs

Volunteers and Senegalese farmers explore farming methods which meet today's family food needs, while maintaining land and soil values for future generations. Simple yet powerful techniques, such as composting, crop diversification, live fencing and integrated pest management are showing dramatic results on family plots.

Senegal continues to be heavily dependent on imported rice, and Volunteers work with women farmers in the southern part of the country to increase rice yields.

Small Enterprise Development

25 PCVs

As the Government of Senegal loosens its control of economic resources, private sector opportunities are burgeoning. To help individual entrepreneurs, small scale rural traders, and village associations profit from this liberalized environment, Volunteers provide technical assistance in management, product and service development, and the utilization of market data. Peace Corps Volunteers lend their expertise in a variety of sectors including tourism and the development of small retail businesses.

Environment

36 PCVs

Effective natural resource management blends traditional and modern techniques. Combining gardening activities with fruit, exotic, and multi-purpose tree planting, Volunteers assist Senegalese communities to preserve and enhance their natural resource base.

Health

20 PCVs

In close collaboration with health officials and community-based development groups, Volunteers aid in the planning, organization, and

implementation of a broad primary health care program. Volunteers show how to conduct health education classes and encourage community-based development projects. Community mapping, art for AIDS education, and computerizing health data in villages are some of the innovative approaches Volunteers are using to empower communities in their own health care management.

Peace Corps Staff

Country Director	Patrick Barry
APCD Health	Arlette Diop
APCD Administration	Gregory Servant
APCD Agriculture	Famara Massaly
APCD Natural Resource Management	Mamadou Diaw
APCD Small Business Development	Andrew Baird
Area Medical Officer	Dr. Leon Tsai
PC Medical Officer	Olive Flynn
PC Medical Officer	Cathy LaMotte
Thies Training Center Director	Kayego Bwaratsi

Country Director Biography

Patrick Barry has served as Peace Corps Director in Senegal since November, 1994. Previously, he served as Country Director in Mauritius and Associate Director for Administration in Zaire. Patrick began his international development career in 1966 as a Peace Corps Agriculture Volunteer in Nigeria. He has also served as a project officer for USAID Zaire's community development project and as a technical trainer for an agricultural cooperative program in Cameroon.

Mr. Barry holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California at San Diego and a master's degree in public administration from Pacific Western University in Los Angeles, CA. He is married and has three children. His hometown is San Diego, CA.

Current Peace Corps Volunteers and Trainees serving in Senegal

	Last Name	First Name	Project Title	Hometown	State
1	Abaquin	Reyna	Rural Primary Health	Brooklyn	NY
2	Ali	Hassan	Rural Resource Management	Syracuse	NY
3	Anastasia	Christie	Rural Resource Management	Westford	MA
4	Anastasia	Stephen	Rural Resource Management	Westford	MA
5	Annunziata	Elise	Rural Resource Management	Fairfax	VA
6	Barget	Jeannine	Rural Enterprise Development	Severna Park	MD
7	Bauman	Lisa	Village Management Natural Resources	Forestville	CA
8	Bertrand	Carli	Rural Resource Management	Wellfleet	MA
9	Brazill	Maura	Rural Resource Management	Grosse Pte Park	MI
10	Brown	Kent	Village Management Natural Resources	Lake Isabella	CA
11	Burdette	Julie	Rural Resource Management	Hanna City	IL
12	Callaway	Cassandra	Rural Enterprise Development	Summit	NJ
13	Carlin	Kristen	Rural Enterprise Development	Littleton	CO
14	Carrie	Roberta	Rural Primary Health	Portland	OR
15	Chamberlain	Stacey	Rural Enterprise Development	Crystal Lake	IL
16	Chase	Andrew	Rural Resource Management	Newport	VT
17	Chase	Jennifer	Village Management Natural Resources	Westport	MA
18	Christenson	Tessa	Rural Resource Management	Everett	WA
19	Christiansen	Holly	Rural Resource Management	Atascadero	CA
20	Chung	Randy	Rural Enterprise Development	Dublin	OH
21	Cohen	Shoshana	Rural Resource Management	Evanston	IL
22	Colquitt	Andrew	Rural Resource Management	Ann Arbor	MI
23	Cooke	Sharon	Rural Enterprise Development	Boston	MA
24	Corkery	Catherine	Rural Resource Management	Durham	ME
25	Coxson	Andrea	Rural Resource Management	Alexandria	VA
26	Darney	Blair	Rural Primary Health	Olympia	WA
27	Davis	Sarah	Rural Resource Management	Virginia Beach	VA
28	Davison	Helen	Rural Resource Management	Ida Grove	IA
29	Douglas	Tshikana	Rural Primary Health	Ford	WA
30	Downes	Debra	Rural Primary Health	Walnut Creek	CA
31	Dubeck	Margaret	Rural Enterprise Development	Troy	MI
32	Ensor	Marsha	Rural Enterprise Development	Princeton	IN
33	Everett	Alissa	Rural Enterprise Development	Orinda	CA
34	Fabrizio	Sheila	Rural Resource Management	No. Haverhill	NH
35	Felton	Douglas	Rural Primary Health	Bella Vista	AR
36	Fourrier	Marc	Rural Resource Management	Waterloo	WI
37	Frehafer	Todd	Rural Enterprise Development	Cressona	PA
38	Friedenberg	Lisa	Rural Enterprise Development	Spring Valley	NY
39	Gadeau	Evelyn	Rural Enterprise Development	Bellingham	WA
40	Garrison	Amy	Rural Resource Management	Warrenton	VA

Current Peace Corps Volunteers and Trainees serving in Senegal

	Last Name	First Name	Project Title	Hometown	State
41	Goetz	Jennifer	Rural Primary Health	Oxnard	CA
42	Hageman	Derek	Rural Enterprise Development	Brooklyn Center	MN
43	Halsey	Nathaniel	Rural Enterprise Development	Wellesley	MA
44	Harich	Katherine	Rural Resource Management	Minneapolis	MN
45	Havlicek	Jennifer	Rural Resource Management	Solon	IA
46	Heffner	Timothy	Rural Resource Management	Shelbyville	TN
47	Hilson	Justin	Rural Resource Management	Glenmont	NY
48	Hines	Eric	Rural Resource Management	Columbia	MD
49	Howrigan	Richard	Rural Resource Management	Fairfield	VT
50	Hughes	Mary	Rural Enterprise Development	Vancouver	WA
51	Hunter	Kelly	Rural Resource Management	Woodland Hills	CA
52	Jacob	Jany	Rural Resource Management	Scarborough	ME
53	Jones	David	Rural Enterprise Development	Petersburg	VA
54	Keogh	Kathleen	Rural Resource Management	Palatine	IL
55	Kernan	Darby	Rural Resource Management	Sacramento	CA
56	Kintsch	Julia	Rural Resource Management	Boulder	CO
57	Koskovich	Wendy	Rural Enterprise Development	Issaquah	WA
58	Kraiza	Daniel	Village Management Natural Resources	Troy	MI
59	Ladouceur	Lynnea	Rural Primary Health	Carlsbad	CA
60	Larson	Kirsten	Rural Primary Health	Morton Grove	IL
61	Lederer	Carrie	Village Management Natural Resources	Glencoe	IL
62	Lockett	Josephine	Rural Resource Management	Grand Island	NY
63	Lu	Corinna	Rural Resource Management	Cypress	CA
64	Luster	Ryan	Rural Resource Management	Pendleton	OR
65	Maglio	Amy	Rural Resource Management	Whitestone	NY
66	Mai	Huong	Rural Primary Health	Aurora	IL
67	Mathews	Rahel	Rural Primary Health	Sharon	MA
68	McCafferty	James	Rural Resource Management	Lancaster	OH
69	McNulty	Kevin	Rural Primary Health	Riverside	CT
70	Mendes	Edward	Rural Enterprise Development	Charlottesville	VA
71	Miller	Karen	Rural Resource Management	Lexington	KY
72	Moore	Kelli	Rural Enterprise Development	Silver Spring	MD
73	Moser	Marc	Rural Resource Management	Lynnwood	WA
74	Munzer	Christina	Rural Primary Health	Beverly Hills	CA
75	Neuroth	Theresa	Rural Enterprise Development	Arvada	CO
76	Patenaude	Charlene	Rural Resource Management	Swansea	MA
77	Priester	Gracie	Rural Primary Health	Columbia	SC
78	RePass	D. Kendall	Rural Primary Health	Storrs	CT
79	Riley	Charles	Rural Resource Management	Council Bluffs	IA
80	Robinson	Linda	Rural Primary Health	Baltimore	MD

Current Peace Corps Volunteers and Trainees serving in Senegal

	Last Name	First Name	Project Title	Hometown	State
81	Roscoe	Amy	Rural Resource Management	Duluth	MN
82	Sachs	Jennifer	Rural Resource Management	Baltimore	MD
83	Schaeffer	Stephen	Rural Resource Management	Vacaville	CA
84	Schofield	Jonathan	Village Management Natural Resources	Charlotte	VT
85	Smith	Margaret	Rural Resource Management	New Roads	LA
86	Smythe-Macaulay	Christopher	Rural Enterprise Development	New Orleans	LA
87	Spieles	Rae	Rural Enterprise Development	Longmont	CO
88	Standis	Elizabeth	Rural Resource Management	Redford	MI
89	Steinkamp	Philip	Rural Resource Management	Okawville	IL
90	Sterner	Michael	Rural Resource Management	Finksburg	MD
91	Stone	Alisa	Rural Resource Management	Inverness	IL
92	Stoner	Nancy	Rural Resource Management	Troy	NY
93	Studer	Noel	Rural Resource Management	Grand Rapids	OH
94	Thomas	Maceo	Rural Primary Health	Beltsville	MD
95	Upton	Tabi	Rural Primary Health	Spring City	TN
96	Urban	Heather	Rural Primary Health	Elkins	WV
97	Van Deusen	Tracy	Rural Resource Management	Lakeville	CT
98	VanDecar	Elena	Rural Resource Management	Billings	MT
99	Volpe	Paul	Rural Resource Management	Buffalo	NY
100	Von Kamp	Kyle	Rural Resource Management	New London	OH
101	Waxman	Rachel	Rural Primary Health	Washington	DC
102	Weaver	Frances	Rural Primary Health	Pittsburgh	PA
103	Weller	Richard	Rural Enterprise Development	Louisville	KY
104	Wharton	Sharon	Rural Enterprise Development	Washington	DC
105	Wilson	Andrew	AFSI Agriculture Extension	Wilmington	DE
106	Wright	Mary	Rural Enterprise Development	Wayne	PA
107	Zingmark	Ann-Marie	Rural Resource Management	Portland	OR

Ann Arbor News, Wednesday, February 19, 1997

AFRICAN SISTER

City Council OKs relationship with Dakar, Senegal

■ Sixth sister-city affiliation formalizes on-going interaction with capital on Atlantic coast.

By MICHELE MORIN
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Ann Arbor has expanded its global family once more.

City council members Tuesday night adopted an African sister by officially cementing a sister city relationship with Dakar, Senegal. It is Ann Arbor's sixth sister city.

"It really can mean a lot. It's a way of understanding each other," said Council Member Patricia Vereen-Dixon, D-1st Ward, a sponsor of the designations. "Ann Arbor is an international place."

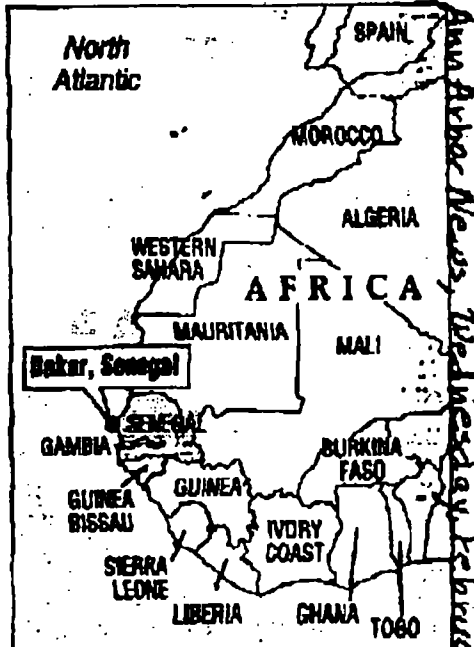
A handful of representatives from Dakar were in the council audience Tuesday night, although about 20 attended a joint caucus meeting Sunday. The sister-city affiliation is just a formal way to cement relations between residents in Ann Arbor and Dakar that have been ongoing for years, Vereen-Dixon said.

Longtime resident Richard Ross initiated the ties in January, while visiting one of his nieces who works for an ambassador in Dakar, the capital of the western African nation that sits on the Atlantic coast.

Local residents involved in the effort are building on the work of Second Baptist Church and Alpha Phi Alpha and Theta Zeta Lambda fraternities at the University of Michigan, which have donated educational supplies to African schools for years. Ross said they hope to raise \$3 million to send textbooks there this year.

"African descendants who live in Ann Arbor and the U.S. need to foster an understanding relationship," Ross said.

Vereen-Dixon would like to see regular student exchanges evolve between the two cities, to enable African-American students to reconnect with their roots and other students to better understand the cultural



struggles and history of slavery.

But the benefits won't be limited to those with genealogical ties to the continent, other council members said.

Council Member Tobin Hanna-Davies, D-1st Ward, spoke highly of her four trips to sister city Juigalpa, Nicaragua, and service in the Peace Corps in the 1960s. "I can't stress strongly enough how important it is to have experience with people from another culture," she said.

"It's an experience to exchange ideas, culture, friendship," agreed Council Member Christopher Kolb, D-5th Ward, who traveled to sister city Tübingen, Germany, as a high school student.

"This is truly a volunteer effort and requires commitment from the community in doing it," said Mayor Ingrid Sheldon, in offering advice to Ross. "There is next to no financial support from the city government."

She said relations with Belize have fallen off due to lack of interest. And the Arborough Games, which have been the basis for ties to Peterborough, may end for the same reason.

SISTER CITIES

■ Ann Arbor, Michigan	■ Belize City, Belize, 1987
■ Detroit, Michigan	■ Tokyo, Japan, 1989
■ Grand Rapids, Michigan	■ Peterborough, Ontario, 1988
■ Kalamazoo, Michigan	■ Managua, Nicaragua, 1986
■ Livonia, Michigan	

Senegal: Visit to Goree Island

Context

Goree (GOR-ay) is a scenic island only three kilometers from Dakar and provides dramatic visual images linking the past and contemporary Africa. The island is a symbol of the past and present. For three centuries, Goree was a primary crossroads of cultures and civilizations: African, European, and American. Goree was a significant transit point for West African slaves en route to the new world. UNESCO declared it a "world heritage site" in 1978. It is also the site of the first "normal" (teacher training college) school in French Africa.

Objectives

- o To convey a sense of continuity of 114 years of American-Senegalese relations and the historic links between us.
- o To acknowledge the important role of Goree Island in Senegal's history and the contributions of Africa to American history and culture.

Talking Points

- Senegal's efforts to preserve Goree is a unique service for all mankind.
- As the site of the first American Consulate in West Africa, Goree is a direct, tangible link between the people of the United States and Senegal.
- The beauty of the island in its ocean setting contrasts with the ugliness of the slave trade which thrived on Goree for three centuries.
- The descendants of African slaves who passed through Goree helped build America and enrich its multi-ethnic culture.
- A visit to Goree helps give perspective to our common efforts to promote human rights, democracy, and economic development for the people of Senegal and Africa.

A small island off the coast of Dakar that served as an *entrepôt* for successive European slave-trading companies from the latter fifteenth through early nineteenth centuries. The Portuguese explorer Dinis Diaz found the island uninhabited in 1444, and a later expedition built a stone church, cemetery and unfortified trading post. From Gorée and the Cape Verde islands, Portuguese colonists and *métis*, called *tangomaos*, established a local trading network to supply the Atlantic trade. Slaves, ambergris, beeswax, hides, grain, fuel and fresh water were gathered from points south of the Cap Vert peninsula to the Bissao rivers, stored on Gorée and sold to European ships.

In the latter half of the sixteenth century, French, Dutch and English competition began to drive the Portuguese shippers, but not *tangomaos*, out of this trade. In 1617 the Dutch received the right to build there from a ruler on Cap Vert named Biram, and shortly thereafter built Fort Orange on the island's hill and Fort Nassau commanding the harbor. They named the island Gorée, while in earlier sources it is called Palma or Beseguiche. During the European wars of the slave trade era, Gorée changed hands several times. The Portuguese forced the Dutch out from 1629 until 1645, and the English captured it from them briefly during the war 1664-1667. In 1677, the French Admiral Estrées drove the Dutch out permanently, razing their forts to the ground. The French held Gorée most of the time thereafter and constructed their own forts of Saint-Michel and Saint-François on the former Dutch sites. There were interludes of British occupation, but most of the time the British tapped the mainland trade from Fort James on an island in the Gambia River.

Gradually an Afro-French community grew up, comprising free sailors called *laptots*, slaves and *métis* descended from passing soldiers and traders. *Métis* women, called *signarès*, developed extensive mainland commercial networks to which European men gained access by marrying them "à la mode du pays." The regular garrison of precolonial Gorée ranged from 10 to 100 men free Africans and a few Europeans in 1758. In the 1780s it reached a brief apogee with 1,840 inhabitants, 200 slaves awaiting shipment and a flurry of permanent housing constructed. The slave house on the island today is typical of that era, with spacious merchants' quarters upstairs and chilly dark slave dungeons below.

In the mid-nineteenth century the island had a fairly active "legitimate" commerce, the slave trade having been outlawed but not entirely suppressed, and the population reached its all-time peak of about 4,000. Between 1857 and 1902 French headquarters were gradually moved to the mainland at Dakar, which led Gorée into a period of decay. In 1939 construction began on an esplanade linking Gorée to the mainland. Traces can still be seen, but the project was abandoned in 1940. In September of that year the British and Free French bombarded the island trying to take French West Africa, but the Vichy regime prevailed. In 1944 the entire island was decreed a historic site, which halted all new building there for 30 years and saw the population drop to about 700. In 1977-1978, Mme. Senghor initiated construction of a school for daughters of Members of the Order of Lions, and elaborate tourist development is planned. It is currently reached from the mainland by a 20-minute ferry ride, and is very popular with tourists.

Gorée Island

Today a languorous and quaint haunt for tourists and home to about 1000 permanent residents, Gorée played an important role in the history of Africa, most notably in the slave trade. The island, located only three kilometers from Dakar, is only 900 meters long and 300 meters wide, and consists of a narrow, flat plain attached to a steep basaltic hill, The Castle. It may have been sighted by Phoenicians and others in antiquity, but the first recorded discovery is that of the Portuguese explorer Dias in 1444. The Portuguese briefly used the island, which they called Palma (Island of Palms), as a sailors' cemetery.

The Dutch occupied the Island in 1586. As with Manhattan Island, they bought the land from a local chief for a pittance. Gorée became a way station for Dutch ships plying the trade routes between their the Gold Coast and West Indies. The Dutch gave the island the name it bears today, though the origins are in dispute. It was most likely named after "Goeree" Island in Holland, though some claim the name is a corruption of "Goede Reede", Dutch for "good harbor".

Gorée changed hands many times. The British took it from the Dutch, the Dutch recaptured it, and then surrendered it to the French during France's maritime expansion under Colbert (late 17th century). The gun emplacements and cannon that are still on the island today attest to its turbulent and violent past. In 1802, the Amiens Peace Agreement established French control of Gorée, and thus it remained until Senegalese independence in 1960.

Gorée was, first and foremost, the principal storehouse for French-flag slavers and merchantmen travelling the West African coast. During the 18th century, Gorée became a vast depot and trading post for guns, powder, beads, alcohol, iron, gold, and ivory. Its most significant commodity, however, was slaves. Thousands of Africans--Fulani, Serere, Wolof, Mandingue, Bambara, and others--passed through this island fortress on the way to the New World. According to one estimate, more than two million slaves were transported to the American colonies from 1680 to 1786. Present-day Louisiana in particular, because of the French presence there, received a large number of Senegalese. After the abolition of the slave trade in France in 1848, Gorée became an outpost for policing the seas. As its role in trade declined, it became a launching point for French colonization of the interior of West Africa.

The first normal school and the first printing plant in French Africa were located on Gorée. It was also, starting in the 19th century, one of the "Four Communes" (Gorée, Dakar, Rufisque, and Saint-Louis) that were considered Departments of the French Republic and elected representatives to the French National Assembly. Like Zanzibar off of the coast of East Africa, Gorée is important in the early history of American relations with Africa. The first U.S. Consulate in West Africa was opened on Gorée in 1883.

Points of Interest on Gorée Island

Slave House (Maison des Esclaves)

Built in 1776 by an important slave-trading family, the house is one of several sites on the island where Africans were brought to be purchased and loaded onto ships bound for the New World. The

owner's residential quarters were on the upper floors, while slaves in the cells below were weighed, fed, and held before departing on the long and dangerous transatlantic journey. The Maison des Esclaves, with its famous "Door of No Return", has been preserved in its original state and is maintained by Mr. Joseph Ndiaye, who has been the curator since 1966. Thousands of tourists, including many African-Americans, visit the house each year, and many have left a moving record of their impressions on its walls.

Women's Museum

The Women's Museum is a relatively new feature of Gorée. Opened in 1994 for the 1994 African Regional Conference on Women (in preparation for the 1995 United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing), the museum offers a comprehensive and extensive presentation of the life of women in Senegal. In addition to historical displays on women's role in domestic life, child rearing, culture, music and politics, the museum features exhibitions of contemporary art by Senegalese women. In the very short time it has been open, it has already received praise as a valuable contribution to Gorée's historical heritage.

Strickland House

Located a short distance from the port, the Strickland House is the site of the first U.S. Consulate in West Africa. It was the home of American businessman Peter Strickland, who came to Africa in 1878 as the representative of a Boston trading firm, and who was named United States Consul in 1883. The consulate is now a private residence owned by a member of the French Schlumberger family. It has been repaired and refurbished, but maintains the classic 18th century colonial style.

Botanical Gardens (Jardin Public)

Located on the Rue du Port, the gardens were set out by the French in 1667 and remain open to the public today.

Church of St. Charles Borromeo

Located on the peaceful Place de L'Eglise, this Catholic church was built with public contributions in 1830 after the style of provincial churches in Western France.

The Castle (Le Castel)

Originally built by the Dutch in the 17th century on the southern end of the island, this fortress has been razed and reconstructed several times. During the 18th century, it served as the residence of the French Governor of Senegal, and in 1940 was bombarded by a combined British and Free French naval force. The Castle today offers a panoramic view of Dakar and the inner curve of the Corniche.

Senegal: Goree Island - The Slave House

Context

The Slave House, or "Maison des Esclaves," is one of several buildings on Goree formerly used for the housing and auctioning of slaves. It was built by the Dutch and later used by the Portuguese and French for storing and preparing slaves for shipment to North America. It is the only one that serves as a museum or memorial to the slave trade. The curator, Joseph Ndiaye (N Jai), started the collection of information as a personal quest; the existence of this house is due largely to his personal commitment and perseverance.

Objectives

- o To acknowledge the role of the slave trade in American history, the direct historical links between Goree Island and African-Americans, and the contribution of Africa to American history and culture.
- o To emphasize the injustice of slavery and the importance of resisting such injustice.

Talking Points

- From this point and many others in Africa, the strength of one continent was taken and made part of another.
- From such an inauspicious start, Americans of all colors, races, and faiths forged a common unity and a common understanding.
- The sons and daughters of Africa brought to the new world helped make the United States the unique nation that it is today. We have made diversity a strength, not a weakness.
- The restoration and stewardship of this house is a service to humanity.
- This monument to the human capacity for cruelty should remind us that we must never let such cruelty happen again.
- Each of us has personal moral obligation to fight for the freedom and dignity of every human being.

Senegal: Goree Island - Strickland (Schlumberger) House

Context

The Strickland House on Goree Island is the site of the first U.S. Consulate in West Africa. It was the home of American businessman Peter Strickland, who came to Africa in 1878 as the representative of a Boston trading firm, and who was named United States Consul in 1883. Goree was the leading port for commerce and trade with the interior. The Consulate is now a private residence owned by a member of the French Schlumberger family. Repaired and refurbished, it retains the classic 18th century colonial style.

Objectives

- o To emphasize good relations and fruitful commerce between America and Senegal for over a century, and to present the U.S. as a reliable and viable partner in business and commerce.
- o To demonstrate long-standing historical connections between the U.S. and West Africa.

Talking Points

- The history of this house traces the long and durable ties of commercial relations between America and Africa.
- It is a symbol of commercial relations that have existed for over a century.
- America and Africa continue to build beneficial new relationships based on an equal partnership.

Senegal: Goree Island - Women's Museum

Context

Located on Goree Island, the Henriette Bathily Women's Museum chronicles the lives of Senegalese women and their role in politics, society, the economy, crafts, arts, literature and the household. Exhibits consist of the objects and items that women use, make, or wear in their daily lives, plus works of modern art by female artists. The museum is dedicated to Henriette Bathily, a dancer, choreographer and author who played a leading role in winning social and political rights and standing for women in Senegal. It is the only museum of its type in Senegal. The curator is Annette Mbaye Derneville.

Objectives

- o To recognize the crucial role women play in building, sustaining and nurturing society.
- o To emphasize common bonds between American and African women by emphasizing common roles that both women play in their respective societies.

Talking Points

- As we can see from these exhibits on the political, economic, social and religious life of women, we are the foundation of society.
- Not only do we bear the principal responsibility for nurturing children and the family, but we also work tilling the fields, preparing the family's meals, and maintaining the household, as well as working in offices, arts, politics and all forms of enterprise.
- Both in Africa and America, women have had to shoulder the burdens of society while fighting for political, civil and personal rights.

Senegal: Women's Roundtable

Context

The roundtable will be held at the Ambassador's residence. Guests will include 15-20 prominent women representing a cross-section of Senegalese society, including successful women in politics, business, and the arts. This round table is not structured around a single issue, but is meant to address women's issues in Senegal in general and Senegal in particular. We expect that a wide range of topics will be covered, including health, education, women's rights (especially property ownership in this heavily Muslim country), and access to credit and economic opportunities.

The Ambassador's wife, Judy Smith, will meet you at the door. She will open the roundtable and ask each participant to introduce herself and make brief remarks describing her background, job, and main concerns as a woman in Senegalese society. You may wish to make brief remarks after the others have finished. The conversation after that point will be free-flowing.

Bio Note: Mrs. Smith has worked extensively on immigration issues here in the United States, and is well versed in refugee and political asylum issues as they pertain to women.

Objectives

- o To learn about the forces of change in African Muslim society, particularly as they affect women.
- o To gauge Senegalese women's feelings about their social standing and the main problems confronting them.
- o To encourage Senegalese women and other progressive elements in society to press for action on social issues.

Talking Points

- I am pleased to have the opportunity to discuss with all of you, representing such a broad section of Senegalese society, the difficulties women face, the progress being made, and what efforts are under way here in Senegal to advance the rights, opportunities and role of women.
- It is encouraging that women hold three of 33 cabinet positions and occupy 14 seats in the 120-seat National Assembly. It would be wonderful to see that number grow as a result of your 1998 legislative elections.
- Representation is critical for women to have a voice in governance and decisions which affect their lives and I am pleased to see that Senegal is making gains in this area.

- For progress to be real and steady, every member of society must have the opportunity to take full advantage of his or her talents.
- This is especially so for women whose role as child bearers should not close off other opportunities.
- I have seen that here in Senegal women provide most of the agricultural labor and are the backbone of the informal trading economy, but have limited access to land and credit.
- As I told President Diouf, I am pleased that Senegal has such a strong tradition of tolerance and promotion of women's rights. I look forward to discussing with you the particular challenges you face, initiatives you are pursuing, and how we as women of the world can work together to improve the lives of all the citizens of our countries.

Background for Discussion:

Education:

- Primary school pupil-teacher ratio is 59:1, far above the continent's average of 39:1.
- 70% of primary-school age girls are not in school.
- literacy is 38% overall, but only 27% for girls

Health:

- Child mortality under five has declined by 50% since the 1970s, current rate of 131 out of 1,000 is amongst the lowest in Africa.
- 500 women out of 100,000 die during childbirth due to lack of proper pre-natal and post-natal care.
- HIV/AIDS infection rates (estimated at 1.2%) are one of the lowest in Africa.
- Only 6.8% of Senegalese women use birth control. USAID distributed 48,000 condoms via there regional AIDS prevention program in 1995 (statistics for 1996 not yet available).

Women's Rights:

- With a 95% Muslim population, a secular government, and a strong tradition of tolerance and speaking out on women's issues, Senegal could be a model for tolerance and women's advancement in the Muslim cultural context. However, problems of property rights, access to credit, wide-spread

polygamy, traditional courts' prejudice towards men in "family issues," and female genital mutilation persist.

- You can inquire how these women incorporate Islam and religious beliefs into their efforts to promote women's issues and what barriers they face from the religious community.

Roundtable on "Women as Change Agents for 21st Century Africa"
Sunday, March 16, 1997

Guest List

Hostesses

Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States

Mrs. Judith Smith
Ambassadrice

Washington Guests

Ms. Maggie Williams
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Ms. Melanne Vermeer
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady

DONOR COMMUNITY

Ms. Anne M. Williams
Director, USAID/Senegal

GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL

Please see attached list of
phonetic pronunciations

Hon. Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye
Minister of Women, Children and Family
Defines government policies that will promote and empower women.
Led Senegal's delegation to the United Nation's Beijing Conference.

Hon. Mata Sy Diallo
Second Vice-President of the National Assembly
Dynamic Political leader involved in a grassroots organization that
works to improve health and environmental conditions in Senegal.

Hon. Aminata Tall
Minister-Delegate for Technical Education and Professional Training
A former educator and the only female opposition-party Minister.
Strongly believes that education and vocational training are key to
women's progress.

Hon. Marie-Louise Correa
Minister of Scientific Research and Technology
Former President of the Scout movement in Senegal. Interested
in the problems of youth and in ways in which science and technology
can contribute to the advancement of women.

- 2 -

Grassroots Organizations/NGO's**Ms. Fatoumata Sow**

Information and Communication Director, YEEWU YEUWI

A journalist and leading figure in the women's organization that pioneered feminism in Senegal. Yeewu Yeuwi conducts extensive education programs in national languages and acts as a watchdog on sex discrimination.

Ms. Maimouna Mills

Journalist and Director-designate, International Women's Media Foundation.

She has taken on the leadership of IWMF Africa to develop ways in which the media can empower women at national and international level and help correct imbalances. She comes to IWMF following a 20-year career at Voice of America and USIA Worldnet, the last ten years of which she spent as the moderator and host of USIA Africa Journal.

Ms. Seynabou MBengue

Director, SOMARC

A pharmacist by training, she is very active in reproductive issues, AIDS prevention, behavioral change, and family planning.

LAW AND JUDICIARY**Ms. Fatou Aminata Lo**

Student of Law, University of Dakar

A dynamic student of law who represented young Senegalese women at the Youth Forums of the United Nations' Beijing Conference.

Hon. Andresia Vaz

First President of the Court of Cassation

An expert on Senegalese Law and how it has evolved in respect to women's rights. Promoted in February to this position, the senior position on Senegal's Supreme Court, from her position as the first woman President of the Court of Appeals. Chaired the National Election Committee in 1993.

EDUCATION**Dr. Penda MBow**

Professor of History, University of Dakar

The only woman specialist in Islamic Studies at the University of Dakar, she is a respected and influential opinion maker on social challenges such as the caste system, democratization, etc...

1. Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye

a/mi/na/ta/m'beng/n'ji

2. Mata Sy Diallo

ma/ta/si/jalo

3. Aminata Tall

a/mi/na/ta/tal

4. Marie Louise Corr  a

ma/ri/lu/iz/ko/re/  

5. Fatoumata Sow

fa/tu/ma/ta/sow

6. Maimouna Mills

mi/mu/na/milz

7. Seynabou Mbengue

sey/na/bu/m'beng

8. Fatou Aminata Lo

fa/tu/a/mi/na/ta/lo

9. Andr  sia Vaz

an/dre/zi/a/vaz

10. Penda Mbow

pen/da/m'bow

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR WOMEN

CHAPTER II: OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

This Action Plan pursues the following **general objectives and priorities**:

- Women's economic promotion;
- Increase rates of education of girls, and levels of education of women;
- Improve the health statuses of women and small girls;
- Enhance the role and place of women in society, and increase women's participation in economic and policy management; and
- Reinforce women's promotion and financing mechanisms.

These priority objectives are interrelated and should jointly be pursued to ensure effective promotion of women on the year 2001 horizon.

To achieve these objectives, it will be necessary to promote a strong political will as well as sustained information and social mobilization actions.

If the National Action Plan for Women leads to the Government of Senegal (GOS) and Parliament making fundamental decisions in favor of the equality of Senegalese men and women by the year 2001, a major step will have been made towards the elimination of discriminations. It is therefore important to support the current impetus for the promotion of women's condition in terms of not only emancipation but also of providing the real means for this emancipation.

Sensitization, social mobilization and training in gender issues will be the linchpins and, in this regard, the implication of women themselves, PVO/NGOs and civil society associations will be decisive.

Although the revision and cleaning of texts of laws are necessary steps, they will not be sufficient. It will also be necessary to implement, for a determined period of time, **a policy of positive affirmative discrimination** (quotas, special measures, etc.) to make up for delays cumulated particularly in the areas of education, social, economic and political promotion of women and small girls.

2.1 OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING THE ECONOMIC PROMOTION OF SENEGALESE WOMEN AND COMBATting POVERTY

a) Objectives

1. Increase programs for reducing women's household chores.
2. Increase women's levels of information and organization.
3. Ensure the availability of data and information on women.
4. Increase the entrepreneurial skills of women active in the formal and informal sectors, as well as their intervention capacities.
5. Increase women's income levels.
6. Contribute to increasing women's access to employment and to all decision-making levels.
7. Contribute to increasing women's access to land, agricultural inputs and technologies.
8. Contribute to increasing the rate of access to potable water and energy (combustible energy, new and renewable energies).
9. Increase possibilities of access to credit for women.
10. Promote women's participation in environment and natural resources management.
11. Contribute to increasing women's production and productivity in the primary sector.
12. Contribute to improving women's living conditions, especially women in most vulnerable groups (handicapped, poor migrants, beggars, prostitutes, prisoners and maids).
13. Contribute to improving living environments and promoting women's access to housing.

b) Strategies

Because of the low purchasing power of Senegalese women and of the latter's increasing impoverishment, a consistent reinforcement of their organizational and entrepreneurial capacities is in order.

In combatting poverty, absolute priority should be given to women. To this end, strategies for expanding employment opportunities and enhancing productivity and access to decision-making positions will be required.

2.2 OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING GIRLS' EDUCATION RATES AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION LEVELS

a) Objectives

1. Develop the abilities of families and government to design and provide undiscriminatory, gender-sensitive education.
2. Contribute to providing preschool education to 50% of children aged 2-6 by the year 2001 while maintaining equal representation of girls and boys.
3. Contribute to ensuring equal access of girls and boys and maintenance in elementary education as well as increased success rates.
4. Contribute to reducing disparities between girls and boys in secondary education by ensuring a balanced presence of girls in the different series.
5. Contribute to eliminating inequalities in access to technical and vocational training by ensuring a girl/boy balance in the different sub-sectors.
6. Contribute to eliminating obstacles to access to and promotion of female students, teachers and researchers at colleges, universities and research institutions.
7. Contribute to assuring social security for handicapped girls at moral risk in order to ensure their economic and social rehabilitation.
8. Contribute to reducing female illiteracy by 10% by the year 2001 by providing functional literacy training for women.

b) Strategies

The above-defined education component programs are included in the action plans of the various government sectoral ministries and technical services concerned.

The GOS Ministry of Women, Children and Families will contribute to their development and will support their implementation through popular mobilization and reinforced community participation.

In this context, it will be crucial to sensitize and train decision-makers, teachers and target groups in gender-related development issues.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR MRS. CLINTON

Judy Smith

Summary of Activities and Newspaper Articles on International Women's Day
Dakar, March 8, 1997

1. **The Imperative of Access to Credit** (lead article reporting on Women's Day in the "Soleil", government newspaper) -The theme of the big, government-organized conference was "The Access of Women to Credit: What are the Mechanisms for Financing?" This is in keeping with the first priority in the Senegalese Women's 5 year Plan following the Beijing conference, which is to improve the economic situation of women. The article says that the conference not only informed women of all the different organizations which provide credit to them, but also sensitized the public and the donors to the difficulties which women have in trying to improve their situation. It also showed women's ability to survive and grow commercially, in spite of the difficult economic situation because of structural adjustment.

The article says one of the fundamental questions asked was "Isn't it necessary to rethink and adapt the mechanisms of financing loans and adapt them to new situations?" There are too many restrictions imposed on women trying to get credit. Women are considered the highest risks and because their loans are small, lenders aren't interested. Banks say they can't take into account all of the problems women run into. Fortunately, there are alternatives, such as the micro-credit offered today by a number of NGO's. Also, women, themselves have created mutual savings and credit associations in their own neighborhoods.

The women also asked that the recommendations of the recent world summit on micro-credit in Washington, be put into effect - to make the necessary resources available to women who need capital to increase their productivity. The Minister of Women, Children and Families, Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, said that the women won't wait any longer for these resources to be made available to them. She also said that there would be a great improvement soon because of the efforts her ministry has made with the ministry of finance and other partner institutions in order to eliminate some of the constraints on women trying to get credit.

2. **20% of Senegalese Women are Victims of Sexual Mutilation** -(Second story on International Women's Day) FGM was the subject of a day of events sponsored by UNIFEM and held at the French Cultural Center. Other sponsors sharing in support of these events were Women in Development and the Senegalese Association for the Well-being of the Family (which works with USAID). In a panel discussion on FGM, a midwife working in this field for the last 15 years, a female journalist, a female history professor Penda Mbow (on our roundtable), a male professor and a Muslim cleric, all agreed that FGM was harmful, that it was a purely cultural practice, and that it is not recommended by Islam, nor supported by the Quran. It was brought out that although originally the practice was part of the initiation of young girls into the society of mature women, today, in more than 60% of the cases, it no longer serves this purpose, but rather is an attempt to control the sexuality of women and is a grave denial of the rights of women. Moreover, this practice constitutes a serious threat to the reproductive and general health of women.

For all of these reasons and as a follow-up to the Beijing conference, UNIFEM has launched a campaign against FGM here in west Africa, beginning in Dakar, with T.V. spots and slogan contests in the high schools. In neighboring countries such as Mali, Sierra Leone and Guinea, the percentage of women circumcised (excised) is 80-90%. This conference will be followed by another in April among the Pular people (one of the ethnic groups who do practice FGM in Senegal and neighboring countries) and a third conference as part of Youth Week in April. Several university students, including Fatou Aminata Lo, one of our Roundtable participants, spoke up during the discussion following the panel presentation.

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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
STATEMENT ON VISIT TO SAAM NJAAY VILLAGE
SENEGAL
MARCH 17, 1997**

Let me begin by thanking all of you -- the people of Saam Njaay village -- for opening your homes, your schools and your hearts to my daughter and me this morning. Chelsea and I have been touched by your warm hospitality and kindness.

It's perhaps no understatement to say that I've seen the hope and future of Senegal in this village. I've seen it in your health clinic, in your classrooms, and in the vibrant culture and traditions you've shared with me today. Most importantly I see it in the eyes of each man, woman and child of this village who is working hard to bring greater progress, health and prosperity to your families and your community. You are an inspiration to all of us.

Through "TOSTAN," you are gaining what I like to call the tools of opportunity -- reading, writing, problem-solving, and the principles of good hygiene and health, leadership and financial management. With these tools, you have the power to build better and happier lives for all people, the power to gain all the blessings of the world. And I am very proud that so many Americans, beginning with Molly Melching, have come to work in partnership with all of you to make sure every member of this village has the opportunity to fulfill his or her greatest God-given potential. [I also understand that organizations such as Africare and the National Council of Negro Women are important partners with the people of this area.] We have a great deal to learn from each other.

I've heard that TOSTAN is Wolof for "breakthrough." I commend you on the many breakthroughs you have already achieved and I am confident that in the coming years and decades, many more will come.

Thank you very much.

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