

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. briefing paper	South Africa: Meeting with President Mandela (2 pages)	nd	P1/b(1)
002. reports	bios (3 pages)	c 03/1997	P1/b(1)
003. briefing paper	Zimbabwe: Courtesy Call on President Mugabe (3 pages)	nd	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, S Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Eritrea)
[Binder] [3]

2012-0869-S

kc968

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]
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Speech at University of
Cape Town

South Africa: Speech at University of Cape Town

Context

Your most prominent activity in South Africa is likely to be a major speech at the University of Cape Town (UCT). This will be your first of two major speeches on the trip, and UCT will provide an excellent platform for elaborating our two countries' common cause on the themes of democracy and human rights. Thirty years ago, Robert Kennedy chose UCT as the forum to deliver an impassioned plea for democratic reform, a speech still remembered by South Africans today.

One of South Africa's most prestigious universities, UCT is now headed by Dr. Mamphela Ramphele, a prominent anti-apartheid activist and the mother of Steve Biko's son, born four months after Biko died in detention. Once an all-white institution, UCT is making good progress toward attaining a student body which is representative of the region's population.

Objectives

- o To demonstrate U.S. goodwill toward South Africa.
- o To emphasize South Africa's key role as the engine for southern African growth and as a model for peaceful democratization.

Talking Points

-- See speech text.

DRAFT (NOTES FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

SPEECH AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Baxter Theatre Complex (Concert Hall)

Lower Campus, Main Road

University of Cape Town

Phone: (021) 685-7880

DRAFT

Date: Thursday, March 19, 1997
12:00 noon

Participants: **HRC**

*Dr. Mamphela Ramphele, (MAM-PAYLA RAM-PAY-LAY) Vice-Chancellor,
University of Cape Town*

Professor Martin West, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town

Press: Open

Upon arrival at the Baxter Theatre, HRC will be greeted curbside by Vice-Chancellor Ramphele and Deputy Vice-Chancellor West.

HRC, Ramphele, and West will proceed into Orchestral Lounge for brief meeting.

Following meeting, and offstage announce, HRC, Ramphele, and West will proceed on-stage.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor West will offer welcoming remarks and introduce Vice-Chancellor Ramphele.

Vice-Chancellor Ramphele will deliver remarks and introduce HRC.

HRC delivers remarks.

Upon conclusion of remarks, HRC departs.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



Vice-Chancellor

University of Cape Town - Private Bag Rondebosch 7701

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Internet: oesmar@bremnor.uct.ac.za

17 February 1997

Dr Donna E Shalala
The Secretary of Health and Human Services
United States of America
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

Dear Donna

As always, you do things in style. I can't tell you what a difference the two visiting fellowships that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the Department of Health and Human Services will make available to the active staff development programme at the University of Cape Town. We greatly appreciate this gesture. Your generosity is also a vote of confidence in the future of the University of Cape Town and the future of our new democracy.

I am referring your letter together with the address of the contact person in your Department to my Deputy, Professor John Martin who is in charge of research and staff development. He will be contacting Dr Schambra soon to indicate:

- a) the process which we will follow in selecting the two candidates; and
- b) an indication of how soon we will be able to make those names available to you.

We will, of course, be giving regular progress reports on the visiting fellowships and the career development of the people benefiting from this scheme.

Once more, thank you very much, Donna.

Yours sincerely

DR MAMPHELE RAMPHELE
VICE-CHANCELLOR

cc. Professor JB Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

MANUSCRIPT

The University of Cape Town is committed to policies of equal opportunity and affirmative action which are essential to its mission of promoting critical inquiry and scholarship.

03-04-1997 0034



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

February 11, 1997

The Honorable Mamphela Ramphele
Vice Chancellor
University of Cape Town

Dear Vice Chancellor Ramphele:

I am pleased to inform you that the National Institutes of Health (NIH), of the Department of Health and Human Services, will make available to the University of Cape Town up to two Visiting Fellowship positions each year for the next five years. These fellowships will provide research experience and cover living expenses for one to three full years in the United States.

Applicants should have a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree, and not more than five years of relevant postdoctoral research experience at the start of the fellowship. In addition, applicants must be qualified and acceptable to the NIH laboratory in which they will work, and there should be a good match of scientific interests.

The NIH's Fogarty International Center (FIC) will accept applications consisting of (1) a detailed description of research interests, (2) a curriculum vitae, and (3) three letters of recommendation, and will assist in the placement process. The FIC contact is:

Dr. Philip E. Schambra
Director, Fogarty International Center
National Institutes of Health, Building 31, Room B2C02
31 CENTER DRIVE, MSC 2220
BETHESDA MD 20892-2220

The knowledge, experience, and facilities of the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, make it a unique international resource in the effort to understand human health, and prevent or cure disease. It is my hope that these new awards will help to strengthen ties between NIH and one of the leading research institutions in South Africa, the University of Cape Town.

Sincerely,

Donna E. Shalala

For Release 8:00 P.M.

ADDRESS OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

DAY OF AFFIRMATION

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

JUNE 6, 1966

I come here because of my deep interest and affection for a land settled by the Dutch in the mid-seventeenth century, then taken over by the British, and at last independent; a land in which the native inhabitants were at first subdued, but relations with whom remain a problem to this day; a land which defined itself on a hostile frontier; a land which has tamed rich natural resources through the energetic application of modern technology; a land which once imported slaves, and how must struggle to wipe out the last traces of that former bondage. I refer, of course, to the United States of America.

But I am glad to come here to South Africa. I am already enjoying my visit. I am making an effort to meet and exchange views with people from all walks of life, and all segments of South African opinion -- including those who represent the views of the government. Today I am glad to meet with the National Union of South African Students. For a decade, NUSAS has stood and worked for the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- principles which embody the collective hopes of men of good will all around the world.

Your work, at home and in international student affairs, has brought great credit to yourselves and to your country. I know the National Student Association in the United States feels a particularly close relationship to NUSAS. And I wish to thank especially Mr. Ian Robertson, who first extended this invitation on behalf of NUSAS, for his kindness to me. It's too bad he can't be with us today. I hope to have the opportunity to meet and speak with him in the near future.

This is a Day of Affirmation -- a celebration of liberty. We stand here in the name of freedom.

At the heart of that western freedom and democracy is the belief that the individual man, the child of God, is the touchstone of value, and all society, groups, the state, exist for his benefit. Therefore the enlargement of liberty for individual human beings must be the supreme goal and the abiding practice of any western society.

The first element of this individual liberty is the freedom of speech; the right to express and communicate ideas, to set oneself apart from the dumb beasts of field and forest; to recall governments to their duties and obligations; above all, the right to affirm one's membership and allegiance to the body politic -- to society -- to the men with whom we share our land, our heritage and our children's future.

Hand in hand with freedom of speech goes the power to be heard -- to share in the decisions of government which shape men's lives. Everything that makes life worthwhile -- family, work, education, a place to rear one's children and a place to rest one's head -- all this depends on decisions of government; all can be swept away by a government which does not heed the demands of its people. Therefore, the essential humanity of men can be protected and preserved only where government must answer -- not just to the wealthy; not just to those of a particular religion, or a particular race; but to all its people.

And even government by the consent of the governed, as in our own Constitution, must be limited in its power to act against its people: so that there may be no interference with the right to worship, or with the security of the home; no arbitrary imposition of pains or penalties by officials high or low; no restriction on the freedom of men to seek education or work or opportunity of any kind, so that each man may become all he is capable of becoming.

These are the sacred rights of western society. These were the essential differences between us and Nazi Germany as they were between Athens and Persia.

They are the essence of our difference with communism today. I am unalterably opposed to communism because it exalts the state over the individual and the family, and because of the lack of freedom of speech, of protest, of religion and of the press, which is the characteristic of totalitarian states. The way of opposition to communism is not to imitate its dictatorship, but to enlarge individual human freedom--in our own countries and all over the globe. There are those in every land who would label as "communist" every threat to their privilege. But as I have seen on my travels in all sections of the world, reform is not communism. And the denial of freedom, in whatever name, only strengthens the very communism it claims to oppose.

Many nations have set forth their own definitions and declarations of these principles. And there have often been wide and tragic gaps between promise and performance, ideal and reality. Yet the great ideals have constantly recalled us to our duties. And--with painful slowness--we have extended and enlarged the meaning and the practice of freedom for all our people.

For two centuries, my own country has struggled to overcome the self-imposed handicap of prejudice and discrimination based on nationality, social class or race--discrimination profoundly repugnant to the theory and command of our Constitution. Even as my father grew up in Boston, signs told him that "No Irish need apply." Two generations later President Kennedy became the first Catholic to head the nation; but how many men of ability had, before 1961, been denied the opportunity to contribute to the nation's progress because they were Catholic, or of Irish extraction? How many sons of Italian or Jewish or Polish parents slumbered in slums--untaught, unlearned, their potential lost forever to the nation and the human race? Even today, what price will we pay before we have assured full opportunity to millions of Negro Americans?

In the last five years we have done more to assure equality to our Negro citizens and to help the deprived both white and black, than in the hundred years before. But much more remains to be done.

For there are millions of Negroes untrained for the simplest of jobs, and thousands every day denied their full equal rights under the law; and the violence of the disinherited, the insulted and injured, looms over the streets of Harlem and Watts and Southside Chicago.

But a Negro American trains as an astronaut, one of mankind's first explorers into outer space; another is the chief barrister of the United States government, and dozens sit on the benches of court; and another, Dr. Martin Luther King, is the second man of African descent to win the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent efforts for social justice between the races.

We have passed laws prohibiting discrimination in education, in employment, in housing; but these laws alone cannot overcome the heritage of centuries-- of broken families and stunted children, and poverty and degradation and pain.

So the road toward equality of freedom is not easy, and great cost and danger march alongside us. We are committed to peaceful and non-violent change and that is important for all to understand--though all change is unsettling. Still even in the turbulence of protest and struggle is greater hope for the future, as men learn to claim and achieve for themselves the rights formerly petitioned from others.

And most important of all, all the panoply of government power has been committed to the goal of equality before the law--as we are now committing ourselves to the achievement of equal opportunity in fact.

We must recognize the full human equality of all our people--before God, before the law, and in the councils of government. We must do this, not because it is economically advantageous--although it is; not because the laws of God and man command it--although they do command it; not because people in other lands wish it so. We must do it for the single and fundamental reason that it is the right thing to do.

We recognize that there are problems and obstacles before the fulfillment of these ideals in the United States as we recognize that other nations, in Latin America and Asia and Africa have their own political, economic, and social problems, their unique barriers to the elimination of injustice.

In some, there is concern that change will submerge the rights of a minority, particularly where that minority is of a different race from the majority. We in the United States believe in the protection of minorities; we recognize the contributions they can make and the leadership they can provide; and we do not believe that any people--whether minority, majority, or individual human beings--are "expendable" in the cause of theory or policy. We recognize also that justice between men and nations is imperfect, and that humanity sometimes progresses slowly.

All do not develop in the same manner, or at the same pace. Nations, like men, often march to the beat of different drummers, and the precise solutions of the United States can neither be dictated nor transplanted to others. What is important is that all nations must march toward increasing freedom; toward justice for all; toward a society strong and flexible enough to meet the demands of all of its own people, and a world of immense and dizzying change.

In a few hours, the plane that brought me to this country crossed over oceans and countries which have been a crucible of human history. In minutes we traced the migrations of men over thousands of years; seconds, the briefest glimpse, and we passed battlefields on which millions of men once struggled and died. We could see no national boundaries, no vast gulfs or high walls dividing people from people; only nature and the works of man--homes and factories and farms--everywhere reflecting man's common effort to enrich his life. Everywhere new technology and communications bring men and nations closer together, the concerns of one inevitably becoming the concerns of all. And our new closeness is stripping away the false masks, the illusion of difference which is at the root of injustice and hate and war. Only earthbound man still clings to the dark and poisoning superstition that his world is bounded by the nearest hill, his universe ended at river shore, his common humanity enclosed in the tight circle of those who share his town and views and the color of his skin.

It is your job, the task of the young people of this world to strip the last remnants of that ancient, cruel belief from the civilization of man.

Each nation has different obstacles and different goals, shaped by the vagaries of history and experience. Yet as I talk to young people around the world I am impressed not by diversity but by the closeness of their goals, their desires and concerns and hope for the future. There is discrimination in New York, the racial inequality of apartheid in South Africa and serfdom in the mountains of Peru. People starve in the streets of India; a former Prime Minister is summarily executed in the Congo; intellectuals go to jail in Russia; thousands are slaughtered in Indonesia; wealth is lavished on armaments everywhere. These are differing evils; but they are the common works of man. They reflect the imperfection of human justice, the inadequacy of human compassion, the defectiveness of our sensibility toward the sufferings of our fellows; they mark the limit of our ability to use knowledge for the well-being of others. And therefore they call upon common qualities of conscience and of indignation, a shared determination to wipe away the unnecessary sufferings of our fellow human beings at home and ~~everywhere~~ around the world.

It is these qualities which make of youth today the only true international community. More than this I think that we could agree on what kind of a world we want to build. It would be a world of independent nations, moving toward international community, each of which protected and respected basic human freedoms. It would be a world which demanded of each government that it accept its responsibility to insure social justice. It would be a world of constantly accelerating economic progress--not material welfare as an end in itself, but as a means to liberate the capacity of each human being to pursue his talents and his hopes. It would, in short, be a world we would be proud to have built.

Just to the North^{of} here are lands of challenge and opportunity--rich in natural resources, land and minerals and people. Yet they are also lands confronted by the greatest odds--overwhelming ignorance, internal tensions and strife, and great obstacles of climate and geography. Many of these nations, as colonies, were oppressed and exploited. Yet they have not estranged themselves from the broad traditions of the West; they are hoping and gambling their progress and stability on the chance that we will meet our responsibilities to help them overcome their poverty.

In the world we would like to build, South Africa could play an outstanding role in that effort. This is without question a preeminent repository of the wealth and knowledge and skill of the continent. Here are the greater part of Africa's research scientists and steel production, most of its reservoirs of coal and electric power. Many South Africans have made major contributions to African technical development and world science; the names of some are known wherever men seek to eliminate the ravages of tropical disease and pestilence. In your faculties and councils, here in this very audience, are hundreds and thousands of men who could transform the lives of millions for all time to come.

But the help and the leadership of South Africa or the United States cannot be accepted if we--within our own countries or in our relations with others--deny individual integrity, human dignity, and the common humanity of man. If we would lead outside our borders; if we would help those who need our assistance; if we would meet our responsibilities to mankind; we must first, all of us, demolish the borders which history has erected between men within our own nations--barriers of race and religion, social class and ignorance.

Our answer is the world's hope; it is to rely on youth. The cruelties and obstacles of this swiftly changing planet will not yield to obsolete dogmas and outworn slogans. It cannot be moved by those who cling to

a present which is already dying, who prefer the illusion of security to the excitement and danger which comes with even the most peaceful progress. This world demands the qualities of youth: not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease. It is a revolutionary world we live in; and thus, as I have said in Latin America and Asia, in Europe and in the United States, it is young people who must take the lead. Thus you, and your young compatriots everywhere have had thrust upon you a greater burden of responsibility than any generation that has ever lived.

"There is," said an Italian philosopher, "nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things." Yet this is the measure of the task of your generation and the road is strewn with many dangers.

First, is the danger of futility; the belief there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills--against misery and ignorance, injustice and violence. Yet many of the world's great movements, of thought and action, have flowed from the work of a single man. A young monk began the Protestant reformation, a young general extended an empire from Macedonia to the borders of the earth, and a young woman reclaimed the territory of France. It was a young Italian explorer who discovered the New World, and the 32 year old Thomas Jefferson who proclaimed that all men are created equal. "Give me a place to stand," said Archimedes, "and I will move the world." These men moved the world, and so can we all. Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation. Thousands of Peace Corps volunteers are making a difference in isolated villages and city slums in dozens of countries. Thousands of unknown men and women in Europe resisted the occupation of the Nazis and many died, but all added to the ultimate strength and freedom of their countries. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

"If Athens shall appear great to you," said Pericles, "consider then that her glories were purchased by valiant men, and by men who learned their duty." That is the source of all greatness in all societies, and it is the key to progress in our time.

The second danger is that of expediency; of those who say that hopes and beliefs must bend before immediate necessities. Of course if we would act effectively we must deal with the world as it is. We must get things done. But if there was one thing President Kennedy stood for that touched the most profound feeling of young people across the world, it was the belief that idealism, high aspirations and deep convictions are not incompatible with the most practical and efficient of programs--that there is no basic inconsistency between ideals and realistic possibilities--no separation between the deepest desires of heart and mind and the rational application of human effort to human problems. It is not realistic or hard-headed to solve problems and take action unguided by ultimate moral aims and values. It is thoughtless folly. For it ignores the realities of human faith and passion and belief; forces ultimately more

powerful than all the calculations of economists or generals. Of course to adhere to standards, to idealism, to vision in the face of immediate dangers takes great courage and self-confidence. But we also know that only those who dare to fail greatly, can ever achieve greatly.

It is this new idealism which is also, I believe, the common heritage of a generation which has learned that while efficiency can lead to the camps of Auschwitz, or the streets of Budapest, only the ideals of humanity and love can climb the hill to the Acropolis.

A third danger is timidity. Few men are willing to brave^{the}/disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world which yields most painfully to change. Aristotle tells us that "At the Olympic games it is not the finest and the strongest men who are crowned, but they who enter the lists... So too in the life of the honorable and the good it is they who act rightly who win the prize." I believe that in this generation those with the courage to enter the moral conflict will find themselves with companions in every corner of the world.

For the fortunate among us, the fourth danger is comfort; the temptation to follow the easy and familiar paths of personal ambition and financial success so grandly spread before those who have the privilege of education. But that is not the road history has marked out for us. There is a Chinese curse which says "May he live in interesting times." Like it or not we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also more open to the creative energy of men than any other time in history. And everyone here will ultimately be judged--will ultimately judge himself--on the effort he has contributed to building a new world society and the extent to which his ideals and goals have shaped that effort.

So we part, I to my country and you to remain. We are--if a man of forty can claim that privilege--fellow members of the world's largest younger generation. Each of us have our own work to do. I know at times you must feel very alone with your problems and difficulties. But I want to say how impressed I am with what you stand for and the effort you are making; and I say this not just for myself, but for men and women everywhere. And I hope you will often take heart from the knowledge that you are joined with fellow young people in every land, they struggling with their problems and you with yours, but all joined in a common purpose; that, like the young people of my own country and of every country I have visited, you are all in many ways more closely united to the brothers of your time than to the older generations of any of these nations; and that you are determined to build a better future. President Kennedy was speaking to the young people of America, but beyond them to young people everywhere, when he said that "The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it--and the glow from that fire can truly light the world."

And, he added, "With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

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OA/Box Number: 13006

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Fundraiser/Dinner on
Robben Island

South Africa: Visit to Robben Island

Context

Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent many of his 27 years in prison, is developing in post-apartheid South Africa as something of a cross between Ellis Island and the Holocaust Memorial Museum. Much as former immigrants visit Ellis Island today to relive memories both proud and painful, former political prisoners (who totaled 3,000 from 1961-91) are among those making day trips to Robben Island with their families and friends to visit the new museum there and view the prison cell Mandela occupied. The island lies six miles off the coast of Cape Town.

You are invited to a Robben Island Museum fund-raiser -- a sold-out event for which attendees have contributed 250,000 rand (\$58,000) each. Included is a helicopter ride to the island, a visit to Mandela's cell, drinks and dinner, entertainment by Bill Cosby, and an overnight stay. Mandela and Cosby will not stay overnight, and you will return to the mainland.

The great irony of Robben Island is that the apartheid regime, by imprisoning together many of the most talented and dedicated liberation workers from across racial and ethnic backgrounds, unwittingly prepared for a far more unified and knowledgeable successor government than could ever otherwise have been the case. Former inmates of Robben Island refer to it as their "university," as many of them entered with only a grade-school education but departed with the equivalent of a bachelor's or even master's degree. In early years the learning was imparted surreptitiously by Mandela and other great minds as they worked to split rock. Later the authorities allowed prisoners to pursue more formal avenues of education, including correspondence classes, and soon realized that one of their greatest powers over the inmates was the threat to withdraw such privileges.

Objective

- o To honor Nelson Mandela and other great anti-apartheid leaders who sacrificed decades of their lives on Robben Island in the name of freedom.

Talking Points

- The triumph of the victory of South Africans over apartheid was brought home to me in an unforgettable way as I visited Nelson Mandela's prison cell.
- To see what once was, and now to address him "Mr. State President," is awe-inspiring.

- The conversion of this, the former prison of so many who now lead South Africa, into a museum which recognizes their sacrifices and will teach future generations about their struggles and their efforts to build a new South Africa based on reconciliation, tolerance, and inclusion is a testament to how far South Africa has come.
- I am honored to join you here tonight for this event which will help ensure that this museum will be preserved so that none will ever forget the depredations of the past and so that all will work to continue building on the solid foundation -- begun on this rock -- upon which the new South Africa stands.

(IF A TOAST IS REQUIRED)

- I toast all of those who have sacrificed so much to bring about the transformation of South Africa into a democratic multi-ethnic and non-racial nation. To the future of South Africa and all its people.

Embassy Meet and Greet

South Africa: U.S. Community Event -- Cape Town

Ambassador and Mrs. Joseph will host a brief (15 minute) ceremony at Cape Town airport immediately before your departure for you to meet the Embassy/Consulate staff and a few representatives of the non-official American community. This is an unusual Consulate, which expands when the Ambassador and several embassy staff are here several months a year (for National Assembly Sessions) and expands even more for major USG visits (e.g., Secretary Christopher, Vice President & Mrs. Gore and the Binational Commission in the last few months).

This diverse Embassy/Consulate community works well largely because of a team atmosphere of mutual respect and empowerment at all levels. In the last year, this mission has helped hundreds of American businesses establish or expand their operations, laid the groundwork for an American school and for safer U.S. Government office premises, and helped create a flourishing American association.

Objectives

- o To meet and interact with Embassy/Consulate employees, key members of the non-official American community, and families.
- o To reinforce Embassy/Consulate and American community productivity and teamwork.

Talking Points

- Many thanks to our friends, Jim and Mary Joseph, for hosting this get together.
- Will Rogers once said "The world is full of friends I haven't met yet." Chelsea and I are delighted to have a chance to meet you now.
- Thanks also for all the work you have done in building and deepening American relations with South Africa, especially with those disadvantaged by apartheid.
- I especially appreciate the spirit of teamwork, cooperation and service I feel here. By working together this way, you not only do more and better than you would separately, but also demonstrate how people with different talents and backgrounds can work smoothly together to build a better world, one step at a time.

Participants

In addition to embassy and consulate staff and their family members (final list to be provided), we have invited:

- o Siddie Shonebare (President, American Association in the Western Cape)
- o Arthur Swartz (Chairman, American Chamber of Commerce in the Western Cape)



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Fact Sheet - Zimbabwe

Political Environment

Seventeen years after the Rhodesian war ended with the independence of Zimbabwe, the country still faces serious challenges. President Robert Mugabe has led the government since independence. As President, he appoints the Cabinet, which is responsible to the unicameral parliament. The political field in Zimbabwe is tilted heavily in favor of the ruling party by legislation giving the government sole control over the electronic media, providing funding to parties with more than 15 seats in Parliament (the ruling party holds all but three seats), and empowering the President to schedule and validate elections. General elections in 1995 and Presidential elections in March 1996 were judged "substantially free and fair" by international observers, but there were allegations of voter intimidation and vote buying and there were serious problems with some voter roles. Mugabe's grip on power prevents transparency in the political process and contributes to corruption and influence peddling. President Mugabe is homophobic, issuing sometimes vitriolic anti-gay and lesbian statements. In July 1996 he banned a gay and lesbian information stall from an International book fair in Harare. The Supreme Court ruled this move unconstitutional.

Redistribution of wealth and land from large, mainly white, landowners to poor black peasants, has not taken place at the pace expected by the majority of the population. Their unfulfilled expectations, coupled with unemployment estimated at up to 45%, could create serious and destabilizing problems if not addressed aggressively. Environmental issues are a touchy topic. USAID sponsors the Campfire Program giving rural communities access to profits from natural resources. Some U.S. environmental groups oppose this program (though others support it) as some profits come from legal trophy game hunting which is allowed under CITES. Zimbabwe intends to ask the CITES convention in Harare in June 1997 to downlist elephants, a move supported by Botswana, Namibia and Malawi, but opposed by environmentalists and East African countries. Zimbabwe participates in SADC, and Mugabe chairs its Organ for Politics, Defense and Security, a position Mandela would like to subsume.

Economy

Although Zimbabwe's per capita income of \$550 has declined since 1991, the economy grew by 7-8% last year and inflation is estimated around 17-20%. Since 1991 Zimbabwe has deregulated the labor and currency exchanges markets, abolished price controls, liberalized investment and trade, and established Export Processing Zones and an Investment Center to attract foreign investment and reform its post-independence statist economy. The IMF and World Bank had active programs in Zimbabwe, but the IMF suspended its agreement in 1995 following the government's failure to reduce the civil service and privatize parastatals. Zimbabwe's high budget deficit and large external debt of \$3.5 billion are serious drags to continued economic growth. Zimbabwe's diversified economy is promising but sound fiscal policies will

need to be strictly enforced to bring the budget, inflation and debt under control. U.S. investments total \$90 million; Jeep, Motorola, and AIG Insurance are present. Coke is negotiating with the government on a possible \$60 million investment and IBM has pledged to invest \$20 million soon. Some U.S. companies have complained of problems with government manipulation of and interference in contract bidding.

Geography

Land area of 386,670 sq. km, slightly larger than Montana.

People

Population: 11,139,961 (July 1995 est.) with 47% under age 15, and only 2% over 65.

Population growth rate: 1.78% (1995 est.) with 36.35 births/1,000 population (1995)

Infant mortality rate: 72.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy: average = 41 years, male = 39.7 years, female = 43 years

Total fertility rate: 4.93 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Ethnicities: African 98% (Shona 71%, Ndebele 16%, other 11%), white 1%, Asian 1%

Religions: syncretic (part Christian, part indigenous beliefs) 50%, Christian 25%, indigenous beliefs 24%, Muslim and other 1%

Languages: English (official), Shona, Sindebele

Literacy: average = 78%, male = 84%, female = 72%

Bilateral Assistance

USAID - FY96 \$18.5 million

Peace Corps - 60 volunteers, operating budget of \$835,700

Democracy and Human Rights (DHRF) - \$100,000

IMET - FY96 \$244,000, planning for FY97 \$275,000

USAID programs concentrate on increasing food security, broadening economic opportunities, reducing fertility and increasing use of HIV/AIDS prevention measures. Housing, private sector development, and natural resources management, also figure prominently. Since 1980 USAID has helped establish a grassroots wildlife management movement, tripled the number of low-income families that can afford housing—putting 30,000 families into housing under its mortgage program—supported a ten-fold increase in lending to micro-, small- and medium enterprises and overseen a drop in fertility from 6.5 children per woman to 4.3 children between 1984 and 1994.

Three-quarters of the Peace Corps volunteers teach math, science or English in rural secondary schools and help communities obtain grants for libraries, water projects and better school facilities. The remaining volunteers are small business advisors to NGOs providing business training to low-income, poor entrepreneurs. Last year DHRF funds helped start NGOs, including the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association, and helped create pamphlets in all of the local languages on preventing child abuse.

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>

Zimbabwe

November 1995



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



U.S. Department of State
Background Notes: Zimbabwe, November 1995
Bureau of African Affairs

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

November 1995
Official Name: Republic of Zimbabwe

PROFILE

Geography

Area: 390,580 sq. km. (150,760 sq. mi.), slightly larger than Montana.
Cities: Capital--Harare (Pronounced Ha-RAR-e), pop. 1.4 million. Other Towns--Bulawayo (621,000), Chitungwiza (274,000), Mutare (132,000), Gweru (125,000), Kwekwe (75,000), Masvingo (50,000), Marondera (35,000).
Terrain: desert and savanna.
Climate: mostly subtropical.

People

Nationality: Noun and adjective--Zimbabwean (sing.), Zimbabweans (pl.).
Population (1991): 11.5 million.
Annual Growth Rate (1991): 3.1 percent (est.)
Ethnic Groups: Shona 71%, Ndebele 16%, other African 11%, white 1%, mixed and Asian 1%.
Religions: Christianity 75 percent, offshoot Christian sects, animist, and Muslim.
Languages: English (official), Shona, Sindebele.
Education: Attendance is mandatory for primary level. Adult literacy: 70% (est.).
Health (1995): Infant mortality rate--96/1,000. Life expectancy--men: 40 (est.), women: 43 (est.)
Work force: 1.25 million in formal sector (est.).

Government

Type: Parliamentary.
Constitution: December 21, 1979.
Independence: April 18, 1980.
Branches: Executive--President (Chief of State and Head of Government), Cabinet. Legislative--popularly elected House of Assembly. Judicial--High court, Court of Appeal, local and customary courts.
Administrative Subdivisions: Town Councils and District Councils.
Main Political Parties: Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) (ZANU-PF); ZANU-Ndonga; Zimbabwe National Unity Movement (ZUM); Democratic Party (DP); United African National Council (UANC); Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe (CAZ).
Flag: green, yellow, red, black with red, yellow and green horizontal bands. On the left, the bird of Zimbabwe is superimposed on a five-pointed red star centered on a triangular white field.

Economy

GDP (est. 1995): US\$5,765 million.
Growth Rate (est. 1995, largely weather-dependent): 1.5 percent.
Per Capita GDP (est. 1995): US\$508.
Average Inflation Rate: above 21%.

Natural Resources: deposits of over 40 minerals including ferrochrome, gold, silver, platinum, copper, asbestos; 89 sq. km. of forest.

Agriculture (21 percent of GDP): Types of crops and livestock--corn, cotton, tobacco, wheat, coffee, sugarcane, peanuts, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs.

Industry: Types--manufacturing (25 percent of GDP), public administration (9 percent of GDP), commerce (9 percent of GDP), mining (7 percent of GDP), transport and communication (6 percent of GDP).

Trade (est. 1995): Exports--US\$1,980 million: mainly mineral and agricultural commodities along with some apparel exports. Partners (1995 est.)-- South Africa 22.1 percent, U.K. 10 percent, Germany 9 percent, U.S. 8 percent. Imports- US\$1,886 million: Most of these imports were construction and agricultural machinery, transportation equipment, data processing equipment and software, industrial machinery, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, and general manufactured products. Major Suppliers--South Africa 34 percent, U.K. 10.8 percent, Germany 7.3 percent, U.S. 6 percent.

Economic Aid Received (actual 1995): US\$257.25 million.

Total U.S. Aid Received: US\$31.0 million primarily in health, drought, food assistance, housing and privatization programs.

PEOPLE AND HISTORY

Primarily of the Bantu group of south and central Africa, the blacks are divided into two major language groups, which are subdivided into several ethnic groups. The Mashona (Shona speakers), who constitute about 75 percent of the population, have lived in the area the longest and are the majority language group. The Matabele (Sindebele speakers), representing about 20 percent of the population and centered in the southwest around Bulawayo, arrived in within the last 150 years. An offshoot of the South African Zulu group, they maintained control over the Mashona until the white occupation of Rhodesia in 1890.

More than half of the whites, primarily of English origin, arrived in Zimbabwe after World War II. Afrikaners from South Africa and other European minorities, including Portuguese from Mozambique, are also present. Until the mid-1970's, there were about 1,000 white immigrants per year, but from 1976 to 1985 a steady emigration resulted in a loss of more than 150,000, leaving approximately 100,000 in 1992. English, the official language, is spoken by the white population and understood, if not always used, by more than half of the blacks.

The literacy rate is estimated at 70%. Primary and secondary schools were segregated until 1979 when racial restrictions were removed. Since independence, the educational system had been systematically enlarged by the Zimbabwean Government which is committed to providing free public education to all citizens on an equal basis. As of the late 1970s, some 50 percent of the African children (5-19 years old) were listed officially as attending rural schools. Today, most African children attend primary school. Primary through post-secondary enrollment has expanded from 1 million to about 2.9 million since independence. About 40 percent of the rural primary schools were destroyed during the Rhodesian conflict, which delayed improvement of the rural education system. Higher education, offered at the University of Zimbabwe in Harare, the new National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo, the new Africa (Methodist) University in Mutare, several teacher-training colleges, and three technical institutes, are being expanded with assistance from several donor countries.

Early History

Archaeologists have found stone-age implements and pebble tools in several areas of Zimbabwe, a suggestion of human habitation for many centuries, and the ruins of stone buildings provide evidence of early civilization. The most impressive of these sites is the "Great Zimbabwe" ruins, after which the country is named, located near Masvingo. Evidence suggests that these stone structures were built between the 9th and 13th centuries A.D. by indigenous Africans who had established trading contacts with commercial centers on Africa's southeastern coast.

In the 16th century, the Portuguese were the first Europeans to attempt colonization of south-central Africa, but the hinterland lay virtually untouched by Europeans until the arrival of explorers, missionaries, ivory hunters, and traders some 300 years later. Meanwhile, mass migrations of indigenous peoples took place. Successive waves of more highly developed Bantu peoples from equatorial regions supplanted the original inhabitants and are the ancestors of the region's Africans today.

British Settlement And Administration

In 1888, Cecil Rhodes obtained a concession for mineral rights from local chiefs. Later that year, the area that became Southern and Northern Rhodesia was proclaimed a British sphere of influence. The British South Africa Company was chartered in 1889, and the settlement of Salisbury (now Harare, the capital) was established in 1890. In 1895, the territory was formally named Rhodesia after Cecil Rhodes under the British South Africa Company's administration.

Following the abrogation of the company's charter in 1923, Southern Rhodesia's white settlements were given the choice of being incorporated into the Union of South Africa or becoming a separate entity within the British Empire. The settlers rejected incorporation, and Southern Rhodesia was formally annexed by the United Kingdom that year. Until 1980, Rhodesia was an internally self-governing colony with its own legislature, civil service, armed forces, and police. Although Rhodesia was never administered directly from London, the United Kingdom always retained the right to intervene in the affairs of the colony, particularly in matters affecting Africans.

After 1923, European immigrants concentrated in developing Rhodesia's rich mineral resources and agricultural potential. The settlers' demand for more land led in 1934 to the passage of the first of a series of land apportionment acts that reserved certain areas for Europeans.

In September 1953, Southern Rhodesia was joined in a multiracial Central African Federation with the British protectorate of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland in an effort to pool resources and markets. Although the federation flourished economically, it was opposed by the African population who feared they would not be able to achieve self-government with the federal structure dominated by White Southern Rhodesians. The federation was dissolved at the end of 1963 after much crisis and turmoil, and Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland became the independent states of Zambia and Malawi in 1964.

Unilateral Declaration Of Independence (UDI)

The European electorate in Rhodesia, however, showed little willingness to accede to African demands for increased political participation and progressively replaced more moderate party leaders. In April 1964, Prime Minister Winston Field, accused of not moving rapidly enough to obtain independence from the United Kingdom, was replaced by his deputy, Ian Smith. Prime Minister Smith led his Rhodesian Front Party to an overwhelming victory in the 1965 elections, winning all 50 of the first roll seats and demoralizing the more moderate European opposition.

Although prepared to grant independence to Rhodesia, the United Kingdom insisted that the authorities at Salisbury first demonstrate their intention to move toward eventual majority rule. Desiring to keep their dominant position, the white Rhodesians refused to give such assurances. On November 11, 1965, after lengthy and unsuccessful negotiations with the British Government, Prime Minister Smith issued a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) from the United Kingdom.

Post-UDI Events

The British government considered the UDI unconstitutional and illegal but made clear that it would not use force to the rebellion. On November 12, 1965, the United Nations also determined the Rhodesian government and UDI to be illegal and called on member states to refrain from assisting or recognizing the

Smith regime. The British government imposed sanctions on Rhodesia and requested other nations to do the same.

On December 16, 1966, the UN Security Council, for the first time in this history, imposed mandatory economic sanctions on a state. Rhodesia's primary exports including ferrochrome and tobacco, were replaced on the selective sanctions list, as were shipments of arms, aircraft, motor vehicles, petroleum, and petroleum products to Rhodesia. On May 29, 1968, the Security Council unanimously voted to broaden the sanctions by imposing an almost total embargo on all trade with, investments in, or transfers of funds to Rhodesia and imposed restrictions on air transport to the territory.

In the early 1970s, informal attempts at settlement were renewed between the United Kingdom and the Rhodesian administration. Following the April 1974 coup in Portugal and the resulting shifts of power in Mozambique and Angola, pressure on the Smith regime to negotiate a peaceful settlement began to increase. In addition, sporadic antigovernment guerilla activity which began in the late 1960s, increased dramatically after 1972, causing destruction, economic dislocation, casualties, and a slump in white morale. In 1974, the major African nationalists groups-- the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU), and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), which split away from ZAPU in 1963--were united into the "Patriotic Front" and combined their military forces, at least nominally.

In 1976, because of a combination of embargo-related economic hardships, the pressure of guerilla activity, independence and majority rule in the neighboring former Portuguese territories, and a UK-US diplomatic initiative, the Smith government agreed in principle to majority rule and to a meeting in Geneva with black nationalist leaders to negotiate a final settlement of the conflict. Blacks represented at the Geneva meeting included ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo, ZANU leader Robert Mugabe, UANC chairman bishop Abel Muzorewa, and former ZANU leader Rev. Nadabani Sithole. The meeting failed to find a basis for agreement because of Smith's inflexibility and the inability of the black leaders to form a common political front.

On September 1, 1977 a detailed Anglo-American plan was put forward with proposals for majority rule, neutrally administered with pre-independence elections, a democratic constitution and the formation of an integrated army. Reactions were mixed, but no party rejected them. In the interim, on March 3, 1978, the Smith administration signed the "internal settlement" agreement in Salisbury with Bishop Muzorewa, Rev. Sithole, and Chief Jeremiah Chirau. The agreement provided for qualified majority rule and elections with universal suffrage. Following elections in April 1979, in which his UANC party won a majority, Bishop Muzorewa assumed office on June 1, becoming "Zimbabwe-Rhodesia's" first black prime minister. However, the installation of the new black majority government did not end the guerilla conflict that had claimed more than 20,000 lives since 1972.

Shortly after British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's conservative government took power in May 1979, the British began a new round of consultations that culminated in an agreement among the Commonwealth countries as the basis for fresh negotiations among the parties and the British involving a new constitution, free elections and independence.

The British and the African parties began deliberations on a Rhodesian settlement at Lancaster house in London on September 10, 1979. On December 10, 1979, in preparation for the transition under British authority to officially recognized independence, the "Zimbabwe-Rhodesia" reverted de facto to colonial status. On December 12, British Governor Lord Christopher Soames arrived in Salisbury to reassert British authority over the colony. His arrival signaled the end of the Rhodesian rebellion and the "internal settlement," as well as the beginning of Zimbabwe's transition to independence. The United Kingdom lifted all remaining sanctions against Zimbabwe that day. The United States lifted sanctions effective December 16.

On December 21, after three months of hard bargaining, the parties signed an agreement at Lancaster House calling for a ceasefire, new elections, a transition period under British rule, and a new constitution

implementing majority rule while protecting minority rights. The agreement specified that upon the granting of independence, the country's name would be Zimbabwe. The same day, the U.N. Security Council endorsed the settlement agreement and formally voted unanimously to call on member nations to remove sanctions.

During the transitions period, nine political parties campaigned for the February 27-29 pre-independence elections. The elections were supervised by the British government and monitored by hundreds of observers, most of whom concluded that, under the prevailing circumstances, the elections were free and fair and reflected the will of the people. Robert Mugabe's ZANU(PF) party won an absolute majority and was asked to form Zimbabwe's first government.

In a series of public statements during the transition period, Prime Minister Mugabe indicated that he was committed to a process of national reconciliation and reconstruction as well as moderate socioeconomic change. His priorities were to integrate the various armed forces, reestablish social services and education in rural areas, and resettle the estimated one million refugees and displaced persons. Mugabe also announced that his government would begin investigating ways of reversing past discriminatory policies in land distribution, education, employment, and wages.

Mugabe stated that Zimbabwe would follow a non-aligned foreign policy while seeking assistance from all actions and would pursue a pragmatic relationship with South Africa. He noted that while Zimbabwe opposed apartheid and would support democratic change in South Africa, it would not provide bases for anti-South African guerillas.

The British government formally granted independence to Zimbabwe on April 18, 1980. Most nations recognized Zimbabwe following independence. The United States was the first nation to open an embassy in Salisbury on that day. Parliament convened for the first time on May 13, 1980. Zimbabwe became a member of the United Nations on August 25, 1980.

In seeking national reconciliation, Prime Minister Mugabe's first cabinet comprised members of ZANU-PF, PF-ZAPU, and independent white members of parliament (MPs) and senators. The government embarked on an ambitious reconstruction and development program and instituted increases in minimum wages. Land redistribution proceeded under four experimental models on land that the government had purchased at market rates from willing sellers.

Zimbabwe Since Independence

Prime Minister Mugabe's policy of reconciliation was generally successful during the country's first two years of independence, as the former political and military opponents began to work together. Although additional blacks were hired to fill new places in the civil service, there was no retribution for those whites who had worked for the Smith regime. Smith and many of his associates held seats in the parliament where they participated freely in debates. Likewise, Joshua Nkomo, Mugabe's rival as leader of the nationalist forces, was included in the first cabinet along with several other members of PF-ZAPU.

Splits soon developed, however. In 1981, several MPs from Smith's party left to sit as "independents," signifying that they did not automatically accept his antigovernment posture. More importantly, government security officials discovered large caches of arms and ammunition on properties owned by ZAPU, and Nkomo and his followers were accused of plotting to overthrow Mugabe's government. Nkomo and his closest aides were expelled from the cabinet.

As a result of what they perceived as persecution of Nkomo (known as "Father Zimbabwe") and of his party, PF-ZAPU supporters, some of them deserters from the army, began a loosely organized and ill-defined campaign of dissidence against the government. Centering primarily in Matabeleland, home of the Ndebeles who were PF-ZAPU's main followers, this dissidence continued through 1987 and involved attacks on government personnel and installations, armed banditry aimed at disrupting security and

economic life in the rural areas, and harassment of ZANU-PF members. Occasionally, some demanded the Nkomo and his colleagues be reinstated in the cabinet. More frequently, however, dissidents called for the return of farms and other properties seized from PF-ZAPU.

Because of the unsettled security situation immediately after independence and the continuing anti-government dissidence, the government kept in force a "state of emergency," which was first declared before UDI. This gave government authorities widespread powers under the "Law and Order Maintenance Act," including the right to detain persons without charge.

In 1983-84, the government declared a curfew in areas of Matabeleland and sent in the army in an attempt to suppress dissidents. Credible reports surfaced of widespread violence and disregard for human rights by the security forces during these operations, and the level of political tension rose in the country as a result. Nkomo and his lieutenants repeatedly denied any connection with the dissidents and called for an all-party conference to discuss the political problems facing the country. In the 1985 elections, ZANU-PF increased its majority, holding 67 of the 100 seats. ZANU-PF and PF-ZAPU agreed to unite in December 1987, and the parties formally merged in December 1989.

In October 1987, in accordance with the Lancaster House Accords, the constitution was amended to end the separate roll for white voters and to establish an executive presidency to replace the whites whose reserved seats had been abolished; among the new members were 15 whites in the Senate and House of Assembly. Elections in March of 1990 resulted in another overwhelming victory for Mugabe and his party, which won 117 of the 120 election seats. However, voter turnout was only 54% and the campaign was not free and fair although the actual balloting was. Not satisfied with a de facto one-party state, Mugabe called the ZANU-PF Central Committee to support the creation of a de jure one-party state in September 1990 and lost. The state of emergency was lifted in July 1990. However, though control of the media, the huge parastatal sector of the economy, and the security forces, the government has managed to keep political opposition to minimum.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Since independence, Zimbabwe has enunciated and follows a policy of "active nonalignment". In practice, this has meant that Zimbabwe usually adheres to positions established by the non-aligned movement, the organization of African Unity (OAU), or the commonwealth. Zimbabwe took a particular interest in the search for independence for Namibia (South-West Africa) from South Africa. In addition, as chairman of the Front-line States in southern AFRICA, Zimbabwe has spoken out vigorously against the policies of apartheid in South African and frequently called for the imposition of economic sanctions against Pretoria.

In November 1982, Zimbabwe was chosen by the OAU to hold one of the nonpermanent seats in the U.N. Security Council for the following two years, which brought it onto the center stage of world events and gave it much needed experience in international affairs. In 1986, Zimbabwe was the site of the Non-aligned Movement summit meeting; Prime Minister Mugabe became chairman of that organization, giving both Mugabe and Zimbabwe added international visibility and responsibility.

Zimbabwe maintains embassies in the United States, United Kingdom, Egypt, Angola, Kenya, Senegal, Nigeria, India, Sweden, France, China, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Namibia, Swaziland, Belgium, Tanzania, Botswana, the FRY, Mozambique, Switzerland, Cuba, Canada, Japan, Australia, Germany, India, Italy, Russia, and South Africa. Sixty-six countries are represented in Harare as are several international organizations including U.N. institutions, the European Economic Community, and the World Bank. Zimbabwe is a member of many international organizations including the International Monetary Fund (IMF); African Development Bank; the Commonwealth; Southern African Development Community (SADC); Preferential trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA); African Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP, in association with the EU); Group of 77 (G-77); Group of 15 (G-15); Non-Aligned Movement (NAM); Organization of African Unity (OAU); Customs Cooperation Council (CCC); and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

GOVERNMENT

According to Zimbabwe's constitution, the president is head of state and ahead of government elected for a 6-year term by popular majority vote.

Parliament consists of the House of Assembly and has up to a 5-year life span. The House of Assembly has 120 members elected by the common-roll electorate, eight governors, 10 chiefs, 12 presidential appointees, the Speaker and the Attorney General.

The Zimbabwean constitution institutionalizes majority rule and protection of minority rights. The elected government controls senior appointments in the public service, including the military and police, and insures that appointments at lower levels are made on an equitable basis by the independent Public Service Commission.

The judiciary is headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme court who like the other justices is appointed by the President on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission. The constitution has a bill of rights containing extensive protection of human rights. The bill of rights could not be amended for the first ten years of independence except by unanimous vote of the House of Assembly.

Zimbabwe is divided into eight provinces, each administered by a provincial governor appointed by the president. The provincial governor is assisted by the provincial administrator and representatives of several service ministries.

Zimbabwe is governed by President Robert Mugabe and his Zimbabwean African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), which has dominated the legislative and executive branches since independence in 1980. The ruling party effectively controls 148 of the 150 seats in Parliament. The Constitution allows for multiple parties and there are a number of small, poorly funded and generally poorly organized opposition parties. The two most significant opposition parties-- the Forum Party of Zimbabwe (FPZ), led by former Chief Justice Enoch Dumbutshena, and the United Parties, led by former Zimbabwe-Rhodesia Prime Minister Abel Muzorewa--both advocate strong protection for the Constitutional Bill of Rights and the independence of the judiciary.

Support for ZANU-NDONGA, the only opposition party represented in Parliament (2 seats) is based primarily on regional and tribal loyalties rather than ideology. All three parties bill themselves as pro-business and are highly critical of the Government of Zimbabwe's early socialist policies. Only one party, the Front for Popular Democracy, headed by UK-based Professor Austin Chakaodza, advocates the scrapping of the Economic Structural Adjustment Program.

Principal Government Officials

President--Robert Mugabe

Vice Presidents--Simon Muzenda and Joshua Nkomo

Foreign Minister--Stanislaus Mudenge

Ambassador to the U.S.--A.B. Midzi

Zimbabwe maintains an embassy in the United States at 1608 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 (tel. 202-332-7100). A Zimbabwean mission to the United Nations is located at 19 East 47th St., New York, New York.

ECONOMY

Properly managed, Zimbabwe's wide range of resources should enable it to support sustained economic growth. The country has an important percentage of the world's known reserves of metallurgical-grade chromite. Other commercial mineral deposits include coal, asbestos, copper, nickel, gold and iron ore.

Zimbabwe has adequate internal transportation and electrical power networks. Paved roads link the major urban and industrial centers, and rail lines tie it into an extensive central African railroad network with all its neighbors. In non-drought years, it has adequate electrical power, mainly generated by the Kariba Dam on the Zambezi River but augmented since 1983 by large thermal plants adjacent to the Wankie coal field. Telephone service is problematic, and new lines are difficult to obtain.

The manufacturing sector, already well developed before UDI in 1965, was given a major stimulus by the imposition of U.N. sanctions. The sanctions obliged Rhodesian industry to diversify and create many import-substitution undertakings to compensate for loss of traditional sources of imports. Rhodesian processing of local raw materials also grew rapidly. Major growth industries include steel and steel products, heavy equipment, transportation equipment, ferrochrome, textiles, and food processing.

Agriculture is the backbone of the Zimbabwean economy. Corn is the largest crop. Tobacco is the largest export crop followed by cotton.

In the early 1970's, the economy experienced a modest boom. Real per capita earnings for blacks and whites reached record highs, although the disparity in incomes between blacks and whites remained, with blacks earning only about one-tenth as much as whites. After 1975, however, Rhodesia's economy was undermined by the cumulative effects of sanctions, declining earnings from commodity exports, worsening guerilla conflict, and increasing white emigration. When Mozambique severed economic ties, the Smith regime was forced to depend on South Africa for access to the outside world. Real gross domestic product (GDP) declined between 1974 and 1979. An increasing proportion of the national budget (an estimated 30%-40% per year) was allocated to defense, and a large budget deficit raised the public debt burden substantially.

Following the Lancaster House settlement in December 1979, Zimbabwe enjoyed a brisk economic recovery. REAL growth for 1980-81 exceeded 20%. However, depressed foreign demand for the country's mineral exports and the onset of a drought cut sharply into the growth rate in 1982, 1983, and 1984. In 1985, the economy rebounded strongly due to a 30% jump in agricultural production. However it slumped in 1986 to a zero growth rate and registered negative of about minus 3% in 1987 due primarily to drought and foreign-exchange crisis faced by the country. Growth in 1988-90 averaged about 4.5%.

Paragraph on economic reform program began in 1991. Its features, results, and any new data/paragraphs that should be added to this section.

Energy Resources

With considerable hydroelectric power and plentiful coal deposits for thermal power station, Zimbabwe is less dependent on oil as an energy source than most other comparably industrialized countries. Only about 15% of Zimbabwe's total energy consumption is accounted for by oil, all of which is imported. Zimbabwe imports about 1.2 billion liters per year. Dependence on petroleum is managed through the price controls for vehicle fuels, the use of gasohol, and the substitution of diesel-electric locomotives on the railway system. Zimbabwe also has substantial coal reserves that are utilized for power generation, and recently discovered in Matabeleland province are coalbed methane deposits greater than any known natural gas field in Southern or Eastern Africa.

DEFENSE

At independence, then Prime Minister Mugabe declared that integrating Zimbabwe's then three armed forces would be one of Zimbabwe's top priorities. The existing Rhodesian forces were combined with the two guerilla armies--the 20,000-strong ZANLA forces of ZANU-PF and the 15,000-strong ZIPRA forces of PF-ZAPU. Currently the armed forces of Zimbabwe are completely integrated and are composed of an army (ZNA) and an air force (AFZ). The ZNA currently has an active duty strength of 37,000. The air force has about 5,000 men assigned. In July of 1994 the combined Zimbabwe Defense Forces Headquarters was created. Major military suppliers include the United Kingdom, the Peoples Republic of China, and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. Several foreign countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, North Korea, and China have provided training for the Zimbabwean military. Currently about 12 ZNA/AFZ personnel receive training in the U.S. each year.

U.S.-ZIMBABWEAN RELATIONS

After the Universal Declaration of Independence was issued in November 1965, the United States recalled its Consul General from Salisbury, closed the U.S. Information Service (USIS) library, and withdrew its Agency for International Development (AID) and trade promotion officials. After 1965, the small remaining American consular staff continued to operate under authority of exequaturs issued by Queen Elizabeth II. Following declaration of a republic, the United States closed its Consulate General on March 17, 1970.

In 1971, despite Administration opposition, the US Congress passed legislation permitting the United States to import strategic materials, such as chrome, from Rhodesia. The legislation, which took effect January 1, 1972, was of little real economic benefit to the Rhodesian economy, and the United States continued to support the balance of the sanctions program. After the legislation was repealed in March 1977, the United States once again enforced all sanctions.

The United States supported the United Nations and the United Kingdom consistently in their efforts to influence Rhodesian authorities to accept the principles of majority rule. Beginning in 1976, the United States began to take a more active role in the search for a settlement in cooperation with the British. The Anglo-American proposals of late 1977, aimed at bringing a negotiated end to the dispute, lent the weight of the United States to the search for a peaceful settlement and were a counterpart to the Soviet-Cuban use of military power to increase their influence in southern Africa. The United States supported British efforts to bring about and implement the settlement signed at Lancaster House on December 21, 1979.

At the Zimbabwe conference on reconstruction and development (ZIMCORD) in March 1981, the United States pledged \$225 million over a 3-year period toward the government's goals of postwar reconstruction, distribution and development of land, and the development of skilled manpower. By the end of FY-1986, the United States had contributed \$380 million, the majority in grants, with some loans and loan guarantees. However, in July 1986, the U.S. government decided to discontinue future bilateral aid to Zimbabwe as a result of a continuing pattern of uncivil and undiplomatic statements and actions by the government of Zimbabwe. These actions included statements in the United Nations and elsewhere that were unacceptably offensive. Aid programs previously agreed upon were not affected by the decision, nor were regional development programs that might benefit Zimbabwe. Full programming was restored in 1988.

President Mugabe has made several visits to the United States. In 1980, 1984, 1986, 1990, and 1995 he visited the United States after attending sessions of the UN general assembly; in 1983 and 1991, he made official working visits to Washington where he met with Presidents Reagan and Bush and other senior U.S. officials. In November 1982, then Vice President Bush made an official visit to Zimbabwe as part of his African tour.

Bilateral relations have greatly improved since 1990. The U.S. and Zimbabwe worked very closely together throughout the gulf crisis. Cooperation and coordination in the UN Security Council has been generally excellent.

Principal U.S. officials

Ambassador--Johnnie Carson
Deputy Chief of Mission--James Carragher
USAID Mission Director--Peter Benedict
Public Affairs Officer--Lucy Hall
Peace Corps Director--David Bellama
Defense Attache--Col. Grant Hayes

Offices of the US Mission:

US Embassy (Chancery)--

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US Information Service--
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TRAVEL NOTES

Customs: Zimbabwe permits U.S. citizens to enter without a visa. Be prepared to show tickets for onward travel and sufficient funds for stay. All cash must be declared upon entry. Travelers planning to use overland transport should check with the Department of State or the nearest U.S. Consular Office, since areas of eastern Zimbabwe are considered unsafe for travel by Americans.

Climate and clothing: light, summer apparel is appropriate from October to May. Fall or spring clothing is suitable the rest of the year.

Health: tap water is safe in all urban areas but not in rural regions. Medical facilities are good in the cities, adequate in rural areas.

Telecommunications: telephone and telegraph service is available in most of the country. Zimbabwe is seven times zones ahead of eastern standard time.

Transportation: Harare is linked by air service to Johannesburg, Nairobi, Lagos, London, Athens, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Perth, and other major cities. Zimbabwe is the railroad hub of much of southern Africa, although passenger service is limited. Taxis and rental cars are available and inexpensive in the cities. Zimbabwe has an excellent road system. Traffic moves on the left.

Tourist attractions: Zimbabwe has varied scenery and a pleasant climate. Popular tourist attractions are the renowned Victoria Falls in the west, the eastern highlands, and the "Great Zimbabwe" ruins near Masvingo. Several national and game parks have abundant wildlife; the Hwange park is larger than

Zimbabwe: U.S.-Zimbabwe Relations

U.S. bilateral relations with Zimbabwe have focused on cooperation on international and regional peacekeeping and conflict resolution. In 1991, as President of the UN Security Council, Zimbabwe helped marshal the coalition behind Operation Desert Storm. Zimbabwe played a vital role in the Mozambican peace process, and deployed troops in the UN operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ). At the behest of the U.S. Government, Zimbabwean troops were among the expeditionary forces in Somalia and a battalion served with distinction in the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). Zimbabwe also helped keep the parties in the Angolan conflict committed to the Lusaka Peace Accords. A Zimbabwean battalion is deployed with the third UN Verification Mission to Angola (UNAVEM III), and a Zimbabwean general is Commander of all UNAVEM forces.

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe chairs the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Defense, Politics and Security. He supports "in principle" the Africa Crisis Response Force, a U.S. initiative to strengthen African conflict resolution capabilities, but is reluctant to make a firm troop commitment without first developing a regional consensus within SADC on the concept. He has been dragging his feet on calling a meeting of the Organ on Defense, Politics and Security to address this issue. President Mugabe's potential influence on this and other African security issues will expand when he assumes the chairmanship of the 53-member Organization of African Unity (OAU) in June 1997. He is one of six "Wise Men" designated by other African leaders to steer efforts to resolve the crisis in the Great Lakes region and Zaire.

In the first decade following independence, Zimbabwe's international relations were predicated on Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) solidarity and close ties to China and the Eastern bloc. Since the demise of many of its socialist allies, Zimbabwe's foreign policy has been more pragmatic, although NAM solidarity against "Western hegemony" is still very important to President Mugabe. Zimbabwe maintains close ties with its allies from the liberation struggle, notably North Korea, China and Cuba, and has friendly relations with Iran and Libya.

U.S. goals in Zimbabwe are to strengthen democracy, boost U.S. trade and investment, promote Zimbabwe's participation in regional peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts, and foster sustainable development. A U.S.-Zimbabwe private and public sector effort is underway to complete a strategy for phasing out the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) presence in Zimbabwe by the year 2003. A number of factors have influenced the decision to end this direct assistance, including greater economic and political stability in southern Africa, Zimbabwe's own development potential, and increasing U.S. budget constraints. President Mugabe's last state visit to the United States was in May 1995.

Zimbabwe: Political Overview

Zimbabwe has a stable, democratically elected government. Since independence in 1980, the country's politics and government have been dominated by the ruling ZANU-PF, a union of the two principal guerrilla movements of the independence struggle which combined in 1987 after five years of violent clashes.

With the exception of the judiciary, all of Zimbabwe's democratic institutions are extremely weak. Opposition parties are numerous, but fragmented, underfunded and poorly led. Parliament rarely provides a check on executive power. With ZANU-PF controlling 147 out of 150 seats in Parliament, the legislature is dominated by the ruling party. Indeed, in a recent speech, President Mugabe said he "doubted the sanity" of MPs who had the temerity to raise issues of national importance for debate in the legislature without first receiving an order to do so from the ruling party. MPs rarely oppose government (or party caucus) edicts. The independent media, consisting of two weekly financial papers and a handful of monthly magazines, are very open and critical of government, but the daily newspaper and the electronic media (the primary source of information for most Zimbabweans) are government controlled and increasingly function as mouthpieces for ZANU-PF.

The nascent community of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as a whole is weak and, because of government control of the electronic media, inefficient in conveying its message to ordinary citizens. Nonetheless, in the absence of credible opposition parties, it is the NGOs, in combination with the independent press, which act as the only effective check on government abuse of power.

The ruling party, however, is riven with ethnic, generational, and regional divisions. These tensions are exacerbated by uncertainty over who will succeed President Mugabe if he does not run again when his term expires in 2002. Jockeying for position in the post-Mugabe era is already contributing to an increase in corruption, nepotism and ethnic tension.

Relations between the Shona (who make up 84% of the population) and the Ndebele (14%) tribes have gradually improved since 1987. A repeat of the inter-tribal violence of the 1980s is highly unlikely. However, sub-tribal alliances remain extremely important in both business and politics.

Race relations (Zimbabwe has roughly 100,000 whites and 60,000 Indians) remain relatively good considering the apartheid-like pre-independence education and social systems, and the bitterness of the liberation struggle. However, the race question is an important factor in the two most pressing political issues of the day, "indigenization" (black economic empowerment) and land reform.

Zimbabwe: Economic Overview

Zimbabwe, a major southern African economy with a gross domestic product (GDP) of about US \$7 billion, is well-endowed with minerals, infrastructure, a diversified manufacturing sector, superb climate, and diverse wildlife and tourist attractions (such as Victoria Falls). Chief hard currency earners are tobacco, gold, chrome and tourism. New U.S. foreign direct investment in Zimbabwe in 1995 totaled \$18.3 million, an increase of 245% over 1994.]

Uneven economic growth characterizes drought-prone Zimbabwe. Income per capita was US\$550 in 1996, a decline in real terms over 1991. Fueled by a strong recovery in agriculture (notably tobacco), mining and tourism, a stunning 7-8% economic growth rate in 1996 reversed 1995's negative 3% rate and is expected to last well into 1997 (5% growth rate) with this season's good rains.

Since 1991, Zimbabwe's post-independence statist economy has become more market oriented. A five-year economic structural adjustment program, supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, produced mixed results. Investment liberalization, trade liberalization, financial and labor market deregulation (including free access to foreign exchange), abolition of import licensing and price controls, and establishment of the Zimbabwe Investment Centre (ZIC) opened up the economy and improved the investment climate. Failure to meet targets for budget and civil service reduction and parastatal privatization led the IMF in 1995 to suspend financing for Zimbabwe's structural adjustment program. Talks continue for resumption of an IMF-supported reform program, the key to releasing blocked donor funds. Export Processing Zones (EPZ) and tax concessions should further boost rising foreign investment. However, the government's mixed signals and lack of transparency on major tenders retard investor confidence. Internal squabbling and an ill-defined indigenization (black empowerment) policy also threaten to derail positive economic movement and slow privatization.

Although progress has been made in reducing interest and inflation rates, the continuing high budget deficit remains a serious concern. Budget reduction targets have not been met because of drought, parastatal losses and GOZ overspending. The industrial sector welcomed a new tariff regime effective March 1, 1997 which will eliminate taxes on capital goods and reduce other levies. Zimbabwe's balance of payments position is strong, despite a mounting foreign debt.

Zimbabwe is at an economic and social crossroads. Economic growth masks the growing frustration of its labor force. Rising levels of unemployment, illness and death due to HIV/AIDS, and unfulfilled expectations about land redistribution 17 years after the civil war and independence remain serious, potentially destabilizing problems.

Zimbabwe: Women's Issues

Despite the passage since 1980 of major laws enhancing women's rights and countering traditional discriminatory practices against them, Zimbabwean women generally lack awareness of their rights under the law and remain disadvantaged. Illiteracy, economic dependency, and prevailing social norms prevent rural women in particular from combating discrimination. Women are vulnerable to entrenched customary practices such as forced marriage. Female genital mutilation is still practiced by the tiny Rhemba ethnic group in Midlands and Masvingo provinces. Many doctors and hospitals routinely require the husband's consent for a woman seeking long-term contraception.

Domestic violence against women, especially wife beating, is common, crossing all racial and economic lines and accounting for more than 60% of murder cases in the Harare High Court. A single shelter for battered women and Zimbabwe's overtaxed social welfare system offer little help or protection. Until recently, police community liaison officers encouraged women to return to abusive situations, but through education and training, wife battery is increasingly treated as a serious crime.

The Legal Age of Majority Act recognizes a woman's right to own property independently of her husband or father. However, women married under customary law (i.e., the vast majority of black women) are not allowed to own property jointly with their husbands. Women participate in politics without legal restriction. Twenty of the 150 Members of Parliament (MPs) are women, including the Deputy Speaker of Parliament. Three cabinet ministers and three deputy ministers are female. Although labor legislation prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of gender, women are concentrated in the lower echelons of the work force and commonly face sexual harassment in the workplace.

Several active women's rights groups in Zimbabwe, including Women In Law and Development in Africa, Women In Law and Development in Southern Africa, the Musasa Project, the Zimbabwe Women Lawyer's Association and the Women's Action Group, concentrate on improving women's knowledge of their legal rights. They lobby Parliament and government to enhance and protect those rights, and combat domestic violence.

There is no government office specifically responsible for women's affairs. Despite its piecemeal approval by various ministries, the Cabinet has not yet accepted the Beijing Platform of Action. Consequently, there has been little official follow-on to the Beijing Meeting. However, several NGOs have begun programs to encourage the participation of women in politics and increase rural women's awareness of their rights (particularly land rights).

Zimbabwe: Children's Issues

More than half of Zimbabwe's 12 million people are under the age of 18. Since 1991, the government has made great strides in achieving reduced infant and child mortality, 80% primary school graduation, 90% immunization rate of children under the age of one and universal access to clean drinking water. Continued results will depend on adequate rainfall and economic growth. With AIDS the number one killer of young children, however, child mortality rates are likely to increase.

While there is no compulsory education, Zimbabwe has greatly expanded its previously "whites only" educational system. Although 93% of all children now reach grade five, the resumption of school fees in urban schools and rural secondary schools has led to a decline in enrollment. When a family cannot pay all tuition costs, female children generally leave school first. However, this emphasis on education also translates into people's frustration with their failure to find appropriate work opportunities after graduation.

Rape is a serious problem. In the majority of reported rape cases, the victims are girls under the age of 14. This problem has been exacerbated recently by some traditional healers prescribing sex with a virgin as a cure for AIDS. Because of cultural norms where children are "seen and not heard," many cases of abuse go undetected until a child is diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease or AIDS. Abuse is frequently not reported because the mother of the child is economically dependent on the abuser. Because sexually-abused girls are considered unmarriageable, abuse is often hushed up or the girl married off to her abuser.

NGOs and the government have collaborated to establish "victim-friendly courts." Pilot projects in Bulawayo and Harare funded by the U.S. Democracy and Human Rights Fund have spread to other cities. Legislation allowing children to testify on closed circuit televisions is pending. Training programs for the police, prosecutors, magistrates and health care workers have already had positive benefits in the handling of all rape cases, whether the victim is a child or an adult.

"Street kids," mostly boys, are a growing problem. These children are often sexually abused. Only 20% of an estimated 10,000 street children are actually homeless; the rest beg or guard parked cars during the day and return home at night. The rise in the number of street children is in part due to the increased number of AIDS orphans. It is estimated their numbers will reach 600,000 by the year 2000. Only 2,000 of the estimated 68,000 orphans reside in institutions; the rest ostensibly are taken in by extended families.

A small but growing problem in Zimbabwe, child labor tends to be concentrated in the informal mining and small-scale farming sectors. There are no laws prohibiting child labor, but an inter-ministerial task force recently developed recommendations to address the problem.

Zimbabwe: Education

Educational facilities expanded dramatically following independence in 1980. Primary education, which lasts for seven years, is now almost universal. Before 1980, black children were generally educated to grade seven, and only 8% were allowed to continue to higher levels. Today education is non-racial. Primary school enrollment rose from 800,000 in 1979 to 2.3 million in 4,600 public and private schools in 1990. During the same period, high school enrollment increased from 66,000 to 700,000 in 1,550 schools. There are now about 85,000 teachers throughout the country; however, more than a quarter of those have no formal training. It is now estimated that over 95% of Zimbabwean children between the ages of 6 and 13 are attending school, one of the highest enrollment rates among developing countries.

Unfortunately, with the exception of a very few elite schools, which the vast majority of Zimbabweans have no hope of attending, the quality of schools and the education received leave much to be desired. Lack of resources means that basics such as books, pencils, and desks often must be shared by several students. Classes are often held outside and teacher-pupil ratios of 1 to 40 are common. As government funding has dwindled, fees have risen and local communities are forced to rely on their own (inadequate) resources for basics such as toilets. Teachers, often frustrated by low pay and assignment to isolated rural areas, quickly lose whatever idealism they may have. Absenteeism and sexual abuse of students are common.

"School leavers" (high school graduates) far outnumber available jobs in the formal economy, and high unemployment among school leavers is rightly seen as a potential cause of social instability.

Higher education is expanding in Zimbabwe. In 1996 about 8,000 students were registered at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) in Harare, compared with 1,873 in 1980. The nation's second university, the National University of Science and Technology, opened in Bulawayo in 1991, admitting 250 students its first year. Zimbabwe's first private university, the international Africa University (AU), affiliated with the United Methodist Church, opened in Mutare in 1992. (USIS currently has Fulbright lecturer/researchers at both UZ and AU.) A Catholic University is expected to open within the next 2-3 years. In addition, there are 14 teacher training colleges, most associated with UZ's Faculty of Education. In 1991, some 55,000 students were enrolled in Zimbabwe's vocational centers and 12 technical colleges.

Zimbabwe: Involvement in UN Fourth World Conference on Women

F.N. Chitauro, Minister of National Affairs, Employment Creation and Cooperatives, led Zimbabwe's 38-member delegation to Beijing. The delegation was dominated by women from government and the ruling party; NGOs were under-represented. Minister of National Affairs and member of Parliament Tengwiwe Lesabe was a member of the delegation and will be participating in the roundtable in Harare. The delegation demonstrated unity with other southern African delegates, supporting the proposal that the Platform for Action contain a distinct chapter on the girl child. The southern Africans also lobbied for girls' equal right to inherit. In addition, they urged governments to review all laws, including customary law, to remove discriminatory provisions. The United States supported these proposals, and the southern Africans considered their inclusion in the Platform quite a success.

Zimbabwe presented no specific government commitments in Beijing.

Since the conference, women's NGOs successfully challenged a proposed constitutional amendment which would have curtailed the right of Zimbabwean women to bring their foreign-born husbands into the country while allowing men to bring their foreign-born wives. However, NGOs have been frustrated that the Cabinet has not yet approved a National Plan of Action even though it has been drafted and approved piecemeal by various ministries. The Ministry of National Affairs Cooperatives and Employment Creation has created a Victim Friendly Court program (funded by USAID funds) and implemented a gender sensitivity training for police community relations officers. The Ministry is also developing a project aimed at increasing the participation of Zimbabwean women in politics.

NGOs have taken independent action. OXFAM, working with a local human rights group (ZIMRIGHTS) has held workshops throughout the rural areas on women's rights with regard to land ownership. Women in Law and Development in Africa have proposed a multi-year women in politics project which has been tentatively approved by USAID's regional democracy fund.

Zimbabwe: Family Planning and Population

Zimbabwe is considered to have the most successful family planning program in sub-Saharan Africa. The country has experienced a rapid decline in fertility over the past decade. The total fertility rate, or average number of children per woman, dropped by 34%, from 6.5 children in 1984 per woman to 4.3 in 1994. This is largely due to a 33% increase in the contraceptive prevalence rate; 27% of women used a modern contraceptive method in 1984, 42% in 1994. Zimbabwe's achievements in the area of family planning compare very favorably with other sub-Saharan African countries such as Kenya, which has a total fertility rate of 5.4 children per woman and a contraceptive prevalence rate of 28%, Ghana with 5.5 and 10% respectively, and Senegal with 6 and 5% respectively.

The Government of Zimbabwe's strong commitment to family planning is the major reason for the program's success. Although the country has not adopted an official population policy, President Mugabe has often articulated the need to lower the birth rate. The Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC) was established as a government parastatal soon after independence. In the 1980s, the ZNFPC expanded services through a network of community-based distributors who made oral contraceptives and condoms available to couples in their villages. Family planning services are now fully integrated into the health care delivery system. Today, contraceptive services and information are delivered in over 1,200 public clinics throughout the country as well as by 800 community based distributors.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, is the lead donor to the family planning program. Since independence, USAID has provided over \$50 million for technical assistance, training and commodities in the area of family planning.

Despite its successful family planning program, Zimbabwe is experiencing rapid population growth (over 3% per year; 2.5%, if immigration is excluded). This is largely because decreases in fertility have been matched by decreases in mortality. At 75 per 1000, Zimbabwe has one of the lowest child mortality rates in Africa.

The major challenge facing the family planning program is sustainability. The public sector provides 85% of the family services in the country. The private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a minimal role. In the last 6 years, public expenditures on family planning have fallen in real terms. Moreover, the program is dependent on donor-provided contraceptives, with USAID currently furnishing almost all hormonal contraceptives and the British Government, through the Overseas Development Agency, all condoms. While the Government of Zimbabwe has repeatedly stated its intention to assume responsibility for procurement of these commodities, this has become an increasingly difficult challenge.

Zimbabwe: Health Care

Since independence, Zimbabwe has invested considerable resources in the fields of health, population and nutrition. As a result, the country has the highest percentage in Africa of women using modern contraceptive methods; acute malnutrition is by and large a problem of the past; and impressive gains have been made in the overall health status of the nation. Zimbabwe has emphasized preventive and simple curative care such as immunization campaigns, family planning, mother-child health care, environmental health and treatment of communicable diseases. In addition, the rural poor have experienced substantial improvement in their access to health care, and hence their health status.

Problems exist, however. The population growth rate is about 3% per year. In rural areas, population increase is one of the major factors contributing to pressure on the land. Stunting among children under the age of five remains about 30%, pointing to continued malnourishment in parts of the country.

Whereas the country has made major inroads in its fight against the typical health problems of poor countries, an increase in HIV/AIDS infections threatens to reverse this positive trend. The government does not have good statistics on HIV/AIDS as it did not conduct its first sero-prevalence survey until 1993. It is estimated that over 20.3% of the adult population, approximately 1.3 million, and 10% of children (some 100,000 children) may be HIV-positive. This is an increase of 150% from 1990 estimates of 500,000 cases of adult HIV infection. Infection rates are high amongst girls between 14 and 18 who have been raped due to traditional healers telling men that AIDS can be cured by having sex with a virgin. 8-10% of pregnant women seeking medical assistance have been diagnosed as HIV positive. In addition, it is estimated there will be 600,000 AIDS orphans by year 2000, and many elderly people are losing their social support systems along with their adult children. Cases of full blown AIDS are expected to rise to over 200,000 by the year 2000. By some estimates patients with full-blown AIDS already make up as much as 70% of the hospital population by some estimates. Continuation of the epidemic will place a serious strain on the health care system, more than doubling the demand for hospital beds in the next 10 years.

The trend towards greater investment in health has been reversed in recent years. Health care sector expenditures grew from about 2% of GDP from 1980 to 3% at the end of the decade. Over the last four years, however, real expenditures per capita have fallen by 30% due primarily to the effect of the late 1980s drought on government revenue, and the general compression of government expenditures. Preventive care, commonly considered to be the most cost-effective part of the health care system, has declined since 1990. Cuts in grants to church-related and local authority-run hospitals are seriously constraining their ability to maintain services.

Thus, despite past successes, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and a decline in resources threaten the sustainability of health sector achievements. Real wages of health personnel have fallen since 1990, fueling an exodus of qualified staff and generating discontent, which is manifested in strikes by segments of the health care community.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Since the repeal of the state of emergency in 1992, Zimbabwe's human rights record has improved dramatically. Nonetheless, the first ten years of its history were marked by serious human rights abuses culminating in the 1982-1987 Matabeleland Crisis. The government's failure to compensate the victims of human rights abuses or to acknowledge that atrocities were committed is a source of continued bitterness, particularly among Zimbabwe's minority Ndebele tribe.

Today the government generally respects the rights of its citizens. Despite some incidents of police brutality, police treatment of the public has improved radically. Prison conditions are harsh; about 25 prisoners a month die, many from AIDS-related diseases. A severe court backlog gives Zimbabwe one of the highest pre-conviction incarceration rates in Africa.

Citizens' rights are protected by Zimbabwe's fiercely independent judiciary. Although the GOZ generally abides by court rulings, it has occasionally ignored them or has been extraordinarily slow in paying court-ordered compensation. Human rights groups are extremely concerned by the government's tendency to amend the Constitution (four times since 1992) when it disagrees with Supreme Court rulings.

Zimbabwe's reliance on the repressive Rhodesian-era "Law and Order Maintenance Act" (LOMA) and an extremely broad "Official Secrets Act" continues to cloud its human rights record. The LOMA gives extensive powers to the police, the Minister of Home Affairs and the President to address political and security crimes that are not clearly defined. The GOZ invoked the LOMA in October 1996 to arrest leaders of a health care workers strike.

NGO election monitors judged the 1995 general elections and 1996 presidential elections substantially free and fair, but noted some intimidation of voters, incidents of vote buying, and discrepancies in the voter rolls. The political playing field favors the ruling party through legislation which gives the government sole control of the electronic media, provides funds to any party with more than 15 seats in parliament (the ruling ZANU-PF won 117 of the 120 elected seats), and empowers the President to schedule and validate elections and appoint 12 non-constituency MPs and the eight provincial governors.

Although the rights of homosexuals are generally respected, sodomy is illegal. President Mugabe's harsh verbal attack on the Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) in 1995 garnered international press attention. In 1996, a Board of Censors order banning a GALZ exhibit on AIDS counseling and prevention at a book fair was overturned by the High Court. Traditional, often illegal, discrimination against women and the disabled remained a serious problem. Domestic violence and rape, particularly of children under 14, is on the increase.

Zimbabwe: Environment

Zimbabwe's most important environmental issues are wildlife management and the government's effort to open trade in elephant products. Both issues will be highlighted at the June 1997 conference in Harare of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Zimbabwe, in conjunction with Botswana, Malawi, and Namibia, proposes that the African elephant be moved from CITES Appendix I (international commercial trade prohibited) to CITES Appendix II (commercial trade permitted subject to strict control). Zimbabwe seeks to open ivory trade in order to sell 20 tons of its registered stock to Japan. It is also asking for a general opening of trade in elephant hides.

Zimbabwe's proposal will be opposed by mainly western countries and NGOs which believe the African elephant remains an endangered species and that any weakening in trade restrictions will re-ignite ivory demand and increase poaching. Ivory trade opponents point to an early 1997 CITES Panel of Experts report which legitimately criticized Zimbabwe's inability to manage effectively its ivory stock or prevent illegal exports. Zimbabwe maintains that its elephant population of 66,613 is double the country's sustainable carrying capacity, is not endangered, and that reducing the population by half is a necessity. Moreover, Zimbabwe asserts it should be able to profit from this abundant resource. This volatile issue can be expected to generate increasing press attention as the June conference approaches.

The question of opening the elephant trade also affects Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE program. CAMPFIRE (Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources) gives rural populations a vested interest in indigenous wildlife. More than 90% of CAMPFIRE income, which goes directly to Rural District Councils, is generated from fees paid by foreign big game hunters (the export of trophies is not considered commercial trade under CITES). Prior to CAMPFIRE, native populations viewed the elephant as a pest that had no income generating potential; poaching was rife. Under CAMPFIRE, native populations have an interest in protecting the herds and keeping poachers out. Participating CAMPFIRE communities have received US\$2.4 million in benefits since the program started in 1989. CAMPFIRE opponents assert the growing elephant population is a result of the CITES elephant trade ban and that one does not save elephants by killing them. Since CAMPFIRE receives substantial USAID funding, the United States and the program are both subject to often sensationalized criticism from, primarily American, animal rights' groups. Zimbabwean environmental NGOs support the CAMPFIRE program and favor lifting the elephant trade ban. CAMPFIRE areas will profit if the ban is lifted, as a large percentage of Zimbabwe's registered ivory stock belongs to them. Increased criticism against USAID-supported CAMPFIRE can be expected as the June CITES conference approaches.

Zimbabwe: U.S. Assistance

Since independence in 1980, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided over \$700 million in grant development assistance to Zimbabwe, including \$65 million in Housing Investment Guaranty (HIG) loans. USAID assistance in 1996 totaled \$18.5 million. Primary sectors of involvement have been agriculture, education, family planning, housing, private sector development, natural resources management, and HIV/AIDS awareness. The present program comprises three principal objectives -- community-based natural resource management, broadened ownership in a growing Zimbabwean economy, and reduced fertility and increased use of HIV/AIDS preventive services.

Seventeen years of U.S. assistance has made a major impact throughout Zimbabwean society. Agricultural markets have been liberalized, creating a more efficient, demand-driven sector that benefits all Zimbabweans. A grassroots wildlife management movement (CAMPFIRE) has increased revenues to rural households and communities, increased national elephant herd size and improved overall management of the natural resource base. Support for the housing sector has helped triple the number of low-income households that can afford a minimum standard house, and put over 30,000 low income families into houses under the mortgage program. The micro-, small- and medium-enterprise support program has achieved a ten-fold increase in lending to those clients. Steady support for family planning contributed to a decline in total fertility from 6.5 children per woman in 1984 to 4.3 in 1994.

More than sixty Peace Corps volunteers serve in Zimbabwe, three-quarters teaching math, science or English in rural secondary schools, and the remainder working as small business advisors to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The teaching volunteers have also assisted their schools and communities to obtain grants funding construction and upgrades to school facilities, especially libraries, for community water projects and for income generating projects. The business volunteers have developed training programs and provided hands-on business training to small businessmen and women from "high-density" (a local term for predominantly black, low-income residential areas) and rural areas.

The United States Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) provided more than \$100,000 in 1996 to projects such as a nationwide NGO civic education campaign, start-up costs for local NGOs, including the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association, and pamphlets in all of Zimbabwe's local languages on preventing child abuse.

Zimbabwe: U.S. Embassy

The Embassy mission includes 59 official Americans, 90 dependents and 153 Foreign Service Nationals representing State, USIS, USAID, the Department of Defense and Peace Corps. There are 64 Peace Corps volunteers in country who are primarily involved in education and small enterprise development projects. The U.S. Ambassador is Johnnie Carson and the Deputy Chief of Mission is James Carragher.

The USAID bilateral program in 1997 is \$16.9 million. USAID's program in Zimbabwe will gradually be phased out over the next six years until it ends in 2003. The Ambassador's Self-Help Fund, at \$200,000, is one of the three largest in Africa and reaches into all corners of Zimbabwe supporting a variety of water, health care, solar energy, environmental and income generating projects in both rural and urban areas.

The Mission's major goals and objectives are to promote democracy and GOZ accountability; foster equitable economic growth and promote U.S. trade and investment; encourage continued positive GOZ engagement in regional and international affairs, particularly international peace operations in Africa; and promote sustainable development.

The Ambassador's residence is 15 minutes from downtown Harare and can accommodate a large number of guests while providing maximum security. The residence is a modern building surrounded by two acres of garden.

Zimbabwe: Etiquette

Greetings in Zimbabwe reflect a British overlay on very formal local customs. It is important to shake hands when first meeting -- both men and women participate equally in shaking hands. To not shake hands can be interpreted as a snub, or even worse, as a racial statement if races differ. A simple handshake is the common form, although Africans will sometimes use the African handshake -- palm to grip to palm -- with a person they respect or feel solidarity with, both in and out of their own groups.

As in most African countries, it is also considered impolite not to wish a person you are greeting "good morning," "good afternoon," or "good evening," and to ask, "How are you?"

Titles are used when appropriate for introductions and later references, especially in public with government officials, even if you are on a first name basis with them otherwise. There is a hierarchy of titles; educational and political titles taking precedence over Mr., Mrs., Miss or "comrade." Ms. is almost never heard or used.

Tipping in Zimbabwe is practiced in most good restaurants (generally 10% to 15%), hotels and where a service is rendered, e.g., baggage handlers at airports and waiters.

Among traditional Shona, a gift will be received with great formality. A man will generally look down and clap, fingertips touching. Women will do the same, except palms will cross, and they sometimes curtsy as the English do. Children will do the same depending on their sex. This is by no means an act of patronage or deference; it is what the well-mannered Shona man, woman or child does on receiving something from anyone -- from money, to gifts, to small favors.

Social and official gatherings will often split along gender lines -- the women gravitating to one area and the men to another. Women or men breaking these lines when they occur are not unwelcome, just an anomaly.

African women dress conservatively and men wear suits and ties year-round, although open neck shirts and suits are often seen in summer.

Many Zimbabweans value humility and passivity. They can be easily threatened by competitiveness, talkativeness and overt friendliness. To be an "accepted" guest in Zimbabwe, listen more than talk, be more subdued than loud, be more formal than spontaneous. Zimbabweans are very hesitant to disagree openly, especially with foreigners and on sensitive topics. If a discussion hits a touchy subject, the local reaction is to withdraw in silence rather than challenge.

Zimbabwe: Arrival Statement

- o I am delighted to be here in Zimbabwe.
- o As so many Americans have done before me, I look forward to embracing the warm friendship and exciting culture of your great country.
- o Zimbabwe and the United States share an excellent bilateral relationship, built in part on my country's appreciation for Zimbabwe's strong and effective role in regional affairs and Africa peacekeeping operations.
- o The United States views Africa as both an extraordinary challenge and an extraordinary opportunity. It is my goal, during my stay in Zimbabwe, to experience for myself a few of these exciting challenges and opportunities.
- o Thank you again for your warm welcome.

Zimbabwe: Departure Statement

- o Thank you for coming out to see us off after our delightful and exciting visit to Zimbabwe.
- o Zimbabwe has long held a well-deserved reputation for the natural beauty of its landscapes and the warm hospitality of its people.
- o It has been my privilege to confirm firsthand that renowned reputation. Truly, the treasures of Zimbabwe's natural patrimony are worth protecting and preserving. The United States will remain a steadfast partner in your efforts in meeting this challenge.
- o The United States stands with the people of Zimbabwe as you strive towards economic opportunity and social justice for all Zimbabweans. We Americans know how difficult and how necessary this struggle is, and we salute you for the progress that you have made to date.
- o Thank you very much, and good-bye.

ZIMBABWE: IVORY TRADE RESTRICTIONS (CITES)

Question:

What is the U.S. Government's position on Zimbabwe's efforts to downlist the protected status of the African elephant under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)?

Answer:

The African elephant has been included in CITES Appendix I since 1977. It is widely believed that the listing of the African elephant has been a key element in the recovery of the species.

Zimbabwe became a signatory of the Convention in 1981, shortly after independence. We are sympathetic to some of the hardships that local villages experience as a result of elephant overpopulation. At the same time, downgrading the protected status of the African elephant, especially for economic benefit, could reverse the progress achieved to date. We have been encouraging Zimbabwe and other countries in the region to devise their own solutions.

ZIMBABWE: GAY RIGHTS

Question:

In light of the illegal banning of the Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) exhibit at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair last year, what is the U.S. Government doing to address the hostility of the GOZ toward gays and lesbians?

Answer:

The United States believes that all citizens in a democracy deserve equal protection under the law. That right is enshrined in both the Zimbabwean and American constitutions.

Protection of that right is a fundamental duty of government.

The U.S. notes the Zimbabwe High Court's independent ruling that the ban of the GALZ exhibit was unconstitutional.

We will continue to advocate freedom of expression and respect for the rights of all persons in Zimbabwe.

ZIMBABWE: U.S. ZIMBABWEAN RELATIONS

Question:

What is the status of relations between the U.S. and Zimbabwe?

Answer:

The U.S. enjoys excellent relations with Zimbabwe.

We commend Zimbabwe's contributions to peacekeeping operations on the continent and its continued involvement in helping to contain regional conflicts. These include, for example, President Mugabe's role in helping to bring warring factions in Mozambique to the peace table and in preventing the Renamo from withdrawing from the elections at the last minute. Zimbabwe also played a positive role in keeping the parties in the Angolan conflict committed to the Lusaka Accords. A battalion of Zimbabwean troops is currently deployed in Angola and a Zimbabwean, General Phillip Sibanda, is the UNAVEM III Force Commander.

We look forward to continuing cooperation on these and other issues of mutual interest and concern.

Since independence, the U.S. has provided more than \$700 million in bilateral assistance to Zimbabwe. We have been pleased to participate in and support Zimbabwe's achievements in family planning, improved life expectancy, literacy and sustainable natural resources management.

Zimbabwe's continued stability and prosperity are key to promoting democracy and sustained economic growth in the region. In this regard, the \$15.3 million in development funds requested by the Administration for USAID in FY 98 will support Zimbabwe's efforts in economic growth, population control, the environment, HIV/AIDS education and democracy.

ZIMBABWE: U.S. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PHASEOUT

Question:

Your visit to Zimbabwe, together with Vice President Gore's visit to the region last month, seems to signal the growing awareness of and interest in Africa on the part of the Administration. Assuming this is true, why has the USAID Mission announced it is closing?

Answer:

The United States has provided more than \$700 million in bilateral assistance to Zimbabwe since its independence in 1980. We have supported Zimbabwe's evolution into a more market-oriented economy, the development of indigenous enterprise potential in Zimbabwe, and an improved investment climate. USAID programs have also helped to improve life expectancy, literacy, sustainable natural resources management and a decreased rate of population growth.

American and Zimbabwean private and public sector representatives are completing a strategy to end the direct USAID presence in Zimbabwe by the year 2003. The decision to end the program draws on a number of factors, including the growth of economic and political stability in the region, Zimbabwe's development potential and our own budget constraints.

ZIMBABWE: CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Question:

Will funding to the CAMPFIRE program in Zimbabwe be jeopardized by continued pressure from animal conservationists who oppose U.S. support for that program?

Answer:

CAMPFIRE (Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources) is a USAID-funded program that provides Zimbabweans living on the most marginal lands a vested interest in preserving their environment.

In the eight years of its existence, CAMPFIRE has helped to improve the lives of rural Zimbabwean families by giving them an economic stake in the wildlife and other natural resources that surround them. With revenues from tourism and other related activities in their regions, rural communities have embraced the program and developed a strong appreciation for and sense of responsibility toward the natural resources and wildlife in their environment. One benefit has been a noticeable decrease in wildlife poaching.

Some wildlife conservationists oppose selective trophy hunting, an activity permitted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and whose revenues help to support Zimbabwean families in the CAMPFIRE program.

We appreciate the views of these wildlife conservationists. At the same time, we recognize that the selective culling of wildlife herds, permitted under CITES, is necessary to protect the viability of the large tracts of land where a variety of wild animals roam freely.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. reports	bios (3 pages)	c 03/1997	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, S Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Eritrea)
[Binder] [3]

2012-0869-S

kc968

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]
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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

JOHNNIE CARSON
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ZIMBABWE

Johnnie Carson was sworn in on March 13, 1995 as U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe. Prior to assuming his duties, he was U.S. Ambassador to Uganda from 1991-1994.

Mr. Carson was a member of the Senior Seminar at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington, D.C., Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires at the American Embassy in Gaborone, Botswana, 1986-1990. From 1982-1986 he was the Deputy Political Counselor in Lisbon, Portugal. Mr. Carson served as the Staff Director for the Africa Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. Congress, in Washington, D.C. from 1979-1982. He served on the Staff Secretariat in the Office of the Secretary at the Department of State, 1978-1979. Prior to that he was the Deputy Chief of Mission in Maputo, Mozambique, 1975-1977. From 1974-1975 he studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the London School of Economics. He served as Desk Officer for Zimbabwe (former Southern Rhodesia) Angola, Mozambique, and Namibia at the Department of State, 1971-1974. From 1969-1971 he was a Consular and Political Officer at the American Embassy in Lagos, Nigeria. Mr. Carson was also a Peace Corps Volunteer in Tanzania, East Africa, 1965-1968.

Mr. Carson graduated from Drake University (B.A., 1965) and the University of London (M.A., 1975). He was born April 7, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Carson is married to Anne Diemer Carson of Northbrook, Illinois. They have three children, Elizabeth, Michael, and Katherine. They reside in Reston, Virginia.

Zimbabwe

64 Peace Corps Volunteers

Peace Corps Country Overview

Since gaining independence in 1980, the number of secondary schools in Zimbabwe has increased eight-fold, but the country has been unable to fully staff them with qualified teachers. Approximately 20 percent of secondary level teachers are still untrained, and the figure is considerably higher in the rural areas. Zimbabwe only recently converted to a free market economy and is struggling to generate private sector jobs.

Zimbabwe gained its independence in 1980 after a thirteen-year liberation war. Prior to independence, access to educational opportunities was largely restricted to the country's minority white population. Almost 75 percent of all Zimbabweans, especially those living in the rural areas, were without any form of schooling. The desire for educational opportunities was one of the driving forces behind the freedom struggle, and "Education For All" was one of the most important aims in the fight for independence.

To address the country's shortage of qualified teachers, especially in less-privileged rural secondary schools, the Zimbabwe Ministry of Education and Culture requested that the Peace Corps provide teachers of math, science, English, and vocational education.

Education

50 PCVs

Volunteers have taught math, science, English and library skills to over 30,000 students in rural Zimbabwe since 1991. Student groups, teachers, and parent associations working with Volunteers have established over 20 libraries in the rural schools and have significantly improved other existing libraries.

Small Enterprise Development

14 PCVs

Volunteers working in small business development provide training to rural entrepreneurs and carry out business extension work in rural communities. Twelve Business Development Volunteers helped to organize a successful two-day "Small Business Expo." The Expo exhibited 120 small businesses and attracted 1,200 attendees. Volunteers have trained nearly 900 Zimbabweans in basic business skills: identifying raw materials, determining efficient production methods, managing inventory, conducting feasibility studies, designing business plans, conducting marketing surveys and maintaining bookkeeping systems.

Peace Corps Staff

Country DirectorSally Collier
Associate Director / Administration..... Brian LaJuett
Associate Director / ProgrammingNesta Hatendi
Associate Director / Programming Rob Schexnayder
Regional Programming CoordinatorBarbara Gardner
Peace Corps Training OfficerSaul Sigelagelani
Peace Corps Medical OfficerLeanne MacCulloch

Country Director Biography

Sally Collier has been Country Director in Zimbabwe since January 1997. A member of the first group of Volunteers in Ethiopia (1962-64), she most recently was Peace Corps Director in Swaziland. She spent twenty years as the Assistant Headmistress at the Maret School in Washington. Ms. Collier received a master's degree in family therapy from Tufts University, and a master's degree in social work from Catholic University. Ms. Collier is a native of Washington, D.C. She is married to educator Bob Caiola.

Current Peace Corps Volunteers and Trainees serving in Zimbabwe

	Last Name	First Name	Project Title	Hometown	State
1	Aarhus	Deborah	Secondary Education	Newport Beach	CA
2	Akhahenda	Joyce	Secondary Education	San Antonio	TX
3	Alimohamed	Quresh	Secondary Education	Shelton	CT
4	Ao	Tony	Secondary Education	Arcadia	CA
5	Ballinger	Susan	Secondary Education	East Ridge	TN
6	Barbash	Laura	Secondary Education	Lansing	NY
7	Beckett	Christopher	Small Business Advisors	Dallas	TX
8	Bert	Douglas	Secondary Education	Arvada	CO
9	Blackburn	Douglas	Secondary Education	Vale	OR
10	Bokach	Mathew	Secondary Education	Linwood	MI
11	Bray	Kendra	Secondary Education	Park City	UT
12	Brown	Brandon	Secondary Education	Hobbs	NM
13	Caldwell	Aspen	Secondary Education	Dolores	CO
14	Carroll	Stephanie	Secondary Education	North Easton	MA
15	Carter	Neil	Secondary Education	Carbondale	CO
16	Cowman	Gretchen	Secondary Education	Beaufort	NC
17	Dahlstrom	Charles	Small Business Advisors	Mt Pleasant	SC
18	Dorsey	Alan	Secondary Education	Fort Worth	TX
19	Dugan	Bina	Secondary Education	Calgary Alberta	CANADA
20	Flores	Joshua	Secondary Education	Dayton	OH
21	Foucek	Anna	Secondary Education	Auburn	CA
22	Freeman	Quintel	Secondary Education	Temple Hills	MD
23	Gainer	Erin	Secondary Education	Potomac	MD
24	Gerardy	Jessica	Secondary Education	Escondido	CA
25	Gesuale	Steven	Secondary Education	Billings	MT
26	Hansen	Mark	Secondary Education	Libertyville	IL
27	Hauser	Aaron	Small Business Advisors	Dallas	TX
28	Hilde	Greta	Secondary Education	Danville	CA
29	Holman	Jon	Secondary Education	Blooming Praire	MN
30	Kaplan	Abigail	Secondary Education	Lincoln	MA
31	Kelley	Joseph	Small Business Advisors	San Diego	CA
32	Knox	Michael	Secondary Education	Lewisberry	PA
33	Kooy	Jennifer	Secondary Education	Demotte	IN
34	Kramer	Nancy	Small Business Advisors	Chicago	IL
35	Kugler	Rosemary	Secondary Education	Woodbury	NY
36	Lawton	Paula	Small Business Advisors	Danvers	MA
37	Lebrun	Donna	Small Business Advisors	Lewiston	ME
38	Lee	Jun	Secondary Education	New York	NY
39	McKim	Heather	Secondary Education	Burnsville	MN
40	Meyer	Jennine	Secondary Education	Plover	WI

Current Peace Corps Volunteers and Trainees serving in Zimbabwe

	Last Name	First Name	Project Title	Hometown	State
41	Miller	Amy	Secondary Education	Naperville	IL
42	Miller	Christopher	Secondary Education	Thomasville	NC
43	Naujokas	Paul	Secondary Education	Cicero	IL
44	Olson	Eric	Secondary Education	Pine City	MN
45	Pearson	Terryl	Small Business Advisors	Minneapolis	MN
46	Piiparinen	James	Secondary Education	Star Lake	NY
47	Purviance	Mignon	Small Business Advisors	Gulfport	MS
48	Raick	Claire	Small Business Advisors	New York	NY
49	Reid	Blake	Secondary Education	Bethesda	MD
50	Ronhovde	Timothy	Secondary Education	Eden Prairie	MN
51	Smith	Kim	Secondary Education	Princess Anne	MD
52	Stinton	Debra	Small Business Advisors	Brighton	CO
53	Tee	Patricia	Secondary Education	Spring	TX
54	Trescott	Scott	Secondary Education	Reston	VA
55	Ward	Sean	Secondary Education	Fenton	MO
56	Wasserman	Mary	Small Business Advisors	Orlando	FL
57	Watton	Andrew	Secondary Education	Midland	MI
58	Whitley	Lisa	Small Business Advisors	Philadelphia	PA
59	Wible	Brandt	Secondary Education	Springfield	MO
60	Wiley	Pam	Secondary Education	Rolla	MO
61	Williams	Stephen	Small Business Advisors	Chicago	IL
62	Witsoe	Michael	Secondary Education	Renton	WA
63	Wofford	Alison	Secondary Education	Penfield	NY
64	Wolfe	Halona	Secondary Education	Gettysburg	PA

EVENTS IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe: Meeting with the U.S. Mission Community

Context

The U.S. Mission community includes 59 official Americans and 90 family members representing the Department of State, the United States Information Service (USIS), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Defense and the Peace Corps. USAID also employs several U.S. citizen contractors to carry out development assistance activities. They, their families and some of the 64 Peace Corps volunteers in country will also be greeting you at Ambassador Carson's residence, located in the Chisipite suburb, approximately fifteen minutes' drive time from the center of town. The residence is a modern building, surrounded by the gardens. You will enter the property up a long, curved driveway which ends at the front door. The Ambassador, Mrs. Carson, and their 14-year-old daughter Katherine will greet you and Chelsea there, escorting you through the foyer and down a flight of steps to the garden where the Americans will be gathered.

Objectives

- o To thank the Mission staff for their spirit of service under frequently difficult circumstances, and for their work promoting U.S. national interests in Zimbabwe.
- o To mingle with the American community, who will want to hear your impressions of your trip thus far and to thank you for coming to Zimbabwe and visiting with them.

Talking Points

- Thank you for your work in putting together this wonderful schedule and making this portion of my visit so successful.
- Among you I feel a sense of the American family and see reflected the diversity and vitality that is the foundation of America's greatness.
- Your work here is varied and important. From the traditional diplomatic work of Foreign Service officers to USAID professionals working to empower women, you are defining and strengthening our country's role in the larger world community.
- This Administration wants to build a bridge to Zimbabwe and to all the African continent. Each one of you forms an integral part of the foundation on which this bridge will be built.

Courtesy Call on
President Mugabe

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. briefing paper	Zimbabwe: Courtesy Call on President Mugabe (3 pages)	nd	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, S Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Eritrea)
[Binder] [3]

2012-0869-S
kc968

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]
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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)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Zimbabwe: Women's Roundtable

Context

Your interlocutors at the women's round table include a variety of activists representing the government of Zimbabwe, the private sector, the arts, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in legal and development issues, civic education and AIDS prevention. The issues that most concern Zimbabwean women are the AIDS epidemic, the inaccessibility of credit, general ignorance of gender-specific legal/civil rights, and violence against women. Zimbabwean women still talk about your speech in Beijing, but are frustrated that the government has done little to approve or implement the Beijing platform of action for Zimbabwe.

Women are hampered in combating discrimination by illiteracy, economic dependency, and prevailing social norms, including such traditional practices as forced marriage and the use of young girls as compensatory payment in inter-family disputes. Women are under-represented politically, particularly at the local level. The embassy has been promoting the idea of a "Women's Caucus" in Parliament, but cooperation among female MPs is still very ad hoc.

Economically, women are disadvantaged by property laws and traditional banking practices which make them "uncreditworthy." Half of all micro-enterprises are run by women, and women now receive 32 percent of small business loans. The government's plan for a women's bank, "OMA," is highly politicized. Women in the work force are concentrated in the lower echelons. There are only a handful of women on corporate boards, but their numbers are growing.

Wife-beating is common in Zimbabwe and crosses all racial and economic lines. Societal opprobrium and Zimbabwe's nascent social welfare system offer little protection. At a young age, girls are already susceptible to the hardships faced by adult women. They are socialized to do substantial amounts of housework and farming, while boys play or tend cattle. When times are tough, the female children are the ones pulled out of school most often. Although not required by law, pregnant girls are routinely expelled from school. The majority of victims in reported rape cases are girls under age 14. The HIV infection rate is higher for women than men, and the fastest growing HIV-positive group is girls between the ages of 15 and 19.

Mrs. Carson will host your meeting with women activists in a rondaval, an indigenous thatched hut, overlooking the Chapungu sculpture garden, a rotating collection of Shona sculpture similar to the First Lady's sculpture garden at the White House.

Objectives

- o To highlight your interest in women's and child welfare issues, including AIDS prevention and legal rights education.

- o To emphasize U.S. support for micro-enterprise financing as an engine for economic growth and the economic empowerment of women.

Talking Points

We assume the round table discussions will be free flowing, but you may want to kick off the conversation with a few remarks:

- In my travels throughout the world, I have been struck by the fact that legal rights do not exist in a vacuum, that even when good laws are on the books, if people are not aware of them, the laws may as well not exist.
- I have been very excited to learn about the work you have been doing to teach all Zimbabweans, but particularly Zimbabwean women, about their legal rights and how to exercise them.
- I have also been interested to discover that 32 per cent of small business loans and 76 percent of micro-enterprise loans in Zimbabwe go to women-owned businesses. How can that statistic be translated into greater economic and political power for women?

Facts for Discussion:

- The Legal Age of Majority Act recognizes a woman's right to own property independently of her husband or father. However, women married under customary law (i.e., the vast majority of black women) are not allowed to own property jointly with their husbands. This blocks access to credit for married women who do not have other collateral.
- Labor legislation prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of gender, but women are concentrated in the lower echelons of the work force and commonly face sexual harassment in the workplace.
- Groups working to educate women on their rights and lobby Parliament and government to enhance and protect those rights, and combat domestic violence include:
 - Women In Law and Development in Africa
 - Women In Law and Development in Southern Africa
 - The Musasa Project
 - The Zimbabwe Women Lawyer's Association
 - The Women's Action Group

BIO DATA ON SUGGESTED INVITEES FOR ROUND TABLE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

Mrs. Tenjiwe Lesabe, M.P., Minister of National Affairs and Chairman of the ZANU-PF Women's League

A teacher by trade, Mrs. Lesabe joined ZAPU in the mid-1960's. She has served as Minister of State for Women's Affairs and Minister of Education. She was appointed Minister of National Affairs, responsible inter alia for implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action, in May 1996.

Dr. Olivia Muchena, M.P., Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Dr. Muchena received her Ph.D. in agricultural education from Iowa State University and an M.A. from Cornell. She taught at the University of Zimbabwe for 16 years before her election to Parliament in 1995. She was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture the same year.

Mrs. Margaret Dongo, M.P.

Mrs. Dongo, 35, is the only independent Member of Parliament. She left home to join the Liberation Struggle when she was 14 years old. After her return to Zimbabwe in 1980, she worked for the Central Intelligence Organization for 10 years. She was elected to Parliament in 1980 on a ZANU-PF ticket, but her outspokenness quickly alienated the party hierarchy. She ran as an independent in the 1995. Her defeat in that election was overturned by the High Court after she revealed evidence of vote rigging and anomalies on the voters roll. Her subsequent by-election victory demonstrated both the power of female voters (her main supporters) and the possibility of an end to the ZANU-PF monolith. Since her election, she has been an outspoken proponent of greater GOZ accountability and transparency and improved women's rights.

Ms. Elizabeth Gwaunza, Chairman, Women in Law in Southern Africa (WILSA) and the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA)

Ms. Gwaunza, a lawyer, is a founding member of ZWLA. ZWLA functions as the legal wing of the Zimbabwean women's movement, lobbying parliament on issues of interest to women, providing legal assistance to indigent women, and legal outreach education programs for rural women. WILSA is a regional organization focusing on research on women's legal issues, including domestic violence.

Ms. Lupi Mushaiyakara, Editor, Every Home Magazine

Ms. Mushaiyakara edits the women's magazine, Every Home, which she founded. In addition, her weekly column in the independent Financial Gazette highlights the need for greater GOZ transparency, a coherent indigenization (black economic empowerment) policy, and racial harmony.

Ms. Eileen Sawyer, National Director, Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)

Ms. Sawyer is a trustee and founder of the LRF. LRF has five regional centers providing paralegals who conduct legal education workshops and provide legal assistance to Zimbabwean peasants as well as Legal Resource Centers which provide law libraries to practitioners who could not otherwise afford them. In addition, LRF conducts training programs for magistrates and the chiefs who preside over Zimbabwe's community courts, and human rights programs for the police and prison officials.

Ms. Elizabeth Feltoe, Legal Officer, Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace

As legal officer of the CCJP, Ms. Feltoe develops and tracks human rights abuses and constitutional test cases. She is a leader of the NGO Civic Education Committee. The Committee comprises five NGOs whose networks extend nationwide. Their civic education program serves as a model for similar programs elsewhere in Africa.

Ms. Jane Mutasa, Chairman, Indigenous Business Women's Organization (IBWO)

IBWO, of which Ms. Mutasa is a founding member, is a proponent of black economic empowerment. IBWO argues that black women should receive a greater share of credit and development financing. The company which she founded in 1981 with one seamstress now employs 78 and exports clothing throughout the region.

Ms. Rose Peters, Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries

Ms. Peters, 35, leader of the Mashonaland Federation of Industries, owns her own manufacturing company.

Ms. Salina Mumbengegwi, Director, Women's Action Group

Ms. Mumbengegwi, 47, worked for years as a nurse before receiving her masters in education. She has been the director of WAG, an organization which provides legal and health education outreach programs in the rural areas, since 1991. WAG publishes Speak Out, a monthly magazine with AIDS prevention and legal education information in the vernacular. In 1994, Ms. Mumbengegwi publicly challenged President Mugabe to acknowledge that "Zimbabwean women are being oppressed by our culture, but we must recognize that culture is a dynamic, not a static, thing."

Ms. Priscilla Misihairabwi

One of Zimbabwe's most outspoken AIDS activists, Ms. Misihairabwi runs the Women and Aids Support Network. She is active in efforts to give civic organizations a greater voice with government and is campaigning as an independent candidate for the Harare City Council.

Ms. Hope Chigudu, Director, Women's Resource Center

The Women's Resource Bureau's most recent project is grassroots research on "Women in Politics, Participation in the 1990's and Beyond." In addition to the Harare resource center, books, educational materials, and civic education pamphlets are circulated by the Center's rural pushcart libraries.

Ms. Patricia McFadden

Ms. McFadden is the editor of the Southern African Political and Economic Series' women's publication SAFERE and the founder of the Feminist Center, a center housing the Zimbabwe Women Lawyer's Association and a women's resource library.

Mrs. Ann Carson

Mrs. Carson was born in Iowa City and raised in Northridge Illinois. She received her bachelors degree from Grinnell College and a Masters in Library Science from Catholic University. She has worked at USAID and the Federal Reserve Bank and was an editor of the State Department's Diplomacy Series. She has accompanied Ambassador Carson on a number of tours, most recently in Uganda.

Zimbabwe: Kuwadzana Polyclinic

Context

Zimbabwe has one of the strongest family planning programs in sub-Saharan Africa. Fertility has fallen rapidly since independence, from 6.5 children per woman in 1984 to 4.3 in 1994. This decline is largely attributable to the rapid increase in contraceptive prevalence. In 1984, 27 percent of Zimbabwean women used a modern contraceptive method; by 1994 the figure was 42 percent. Family planning services are available in more than 1,200 integrated (multifunctional) public clinics throughout the country. The Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC), a government parastatal, provides the essential support required for quality family planning services such as training, research, and contraceptive logistics. In addition, the ZNFPC is responsible for procuring and warehousing condoms for STD/AIDS prevention -- a very important function given that almost one out of four adult Zimbabweans is HIV positive. USAID has been the lead donor to the ZNFPC since independence, and has provided approximately U.S. \$50 million worth of technical assistance, training and contraceptives.

The Kuwadzana Municipal Polyclinic provides basic preventive, curative and maternity services to approximately 93,000 people living in the Kuwadzana "high-density" (a local term for predominantly black, densely populated and impoverished communities) suburb of Harare. You will be hosted by the Mayor of Harare, Solomon Tawengwa; the Director of Harare Health Department, Dr. Lovemore Mbengranwa; and the Executive Director of the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council, Dr. Alex Zinanga, as well as the clinic nursing staff. Both Dr. Mbengwenya and Dr. Zinanga have attended various U.S.-funded conferences and worked closely with U.S. institutions involved in family planning and AIDS prevention. Dr. Zinanga received his MPH from the University of California at San Diego as a USAID-funded participant. Dr. Mbengeranwa and Dr. Zinanga will escort you through the clinic. You will have the opportunity to interview family planning clients in the waiting room.

Following the tour, a group of high school girls will perform a skit on baby dumping.

Objectives

- o To emphasize your personal support for family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention measures and their importance both for women's health and for economic growth.
- o To congratulate Zimbabwe for its outstanding family planning program, and provide encouragement for its HIV/AIDS prevention efforts.

Talking Points

- Zimbabwe offers an outstanding example of how a dynamic family planning program can improve the quality of life for women and their families.
- I am proud that the United States supports this innovative program that helps Zimbabwean women prevent unintended pregnancies; permits the healthy spacing of births; prevents the spread of sexually-transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; and reduces recourse to abortion and death from childbirth.
- The growing imbalance between resources and population is one of the looming crises in the next century. Zimbabwe sets an important example for the rest of Africa and the world.

Zimbabwe: Visit to Zambuko Trust Microfinance Program

Context

An increasingly important component of Zimbabwe's emerging economy, microenterprises currently employ approximately 1.8 million people in more than a million microenterprises. Most are controlled by women in a wide range of activities. Access to financial credit is a key factor for success.

Zambuko Trust, a microfinance institution established in 1993, supports more than 4,000 businesses -- 75 percent of them owned by women. With the help of Opportunity International (a USAID-supported organization based in the United States), Zambuko has emerged as the top microfinance institution in Zimbabwe. Zambuko operates out of a small wooden building which also serves as a church and seats about 120 people, in the Kuwadzana "high-density" (a local term for predominantly black, densely-populated and impoverished communities) suburb of Harare. You will be hosted by OI Director Dominic Magwada and Zambuko's Executive Director Ngwiya Mnkandla (he attended your speech in Washington on microenterprise development). Your audience will be women financed by the Trust who will greet you with singing and praise-shouting in the Shona language. They will exhibit the products of their enterprises and some will share their experiences with the Trust. An interpreter will be at your side.

Objectives

- o To emphasize the importance of microenterprises in fostering individual and national economic progress.
- o To offer personal recognition of the impressive progress and growth, in a very short time, of Zambuko as an organization and the women as individual entrepreneurs.

Talking Points

- I believe in microenterprise development. I have seen how it is making a difference throughout the world in the lives of millions of individuals.
- Your enthusiasm and the many examples here of how you have put your Trust financing to work are inspiring. It is clear that Zambuko has given you an opportunity which you have seized with imagination and wonderful skill.
- You have given me another fantastic demonstration of the progress that can be achieved when individual initiative is combined with access to credit and to markets.

Zimbabwe: Visit to Victoria Falls

Your visit to Victoria Falls will begin with lunch on the patio of the century-old, recently refurbished Victoria Falls Hotel. The patio restaurant overlooks green lawns and, in the distance, the bridge linking Zimbabwe and Zambia. From the center of the bridge the intrepid can experience the world's longest bungee jump above the waters of the Zambezi River.

Victoria Falls is running heavily as Zimbabwe nears the end of a wetter-than-normal rainy season. The Falls' full vertical drop will be obscured by mist from the pouring waters, but the sight is still spectacular. You will need a large umbrella, which will be available as you enter the park. A lightweight poncho would provide additional protection against the drenching mist. Glen Tatum, chief ranger of the National Parks Service, will host and accompany you. You can walk the entire length of the Falls from west to east. There are five separate falls, with views of each along the hiking path. The second half of the walk is much wetter than the first. The Falls view trail ends at the aptly named "Danger Point," where the rocks are slippery from the constant spray and there are no fences, guard rails or other forms of protection between visitors and the 300-foot vertical drop to the river below. No single photo can capture all the Falls, but there are numerous photo vantage points. A wide angle camera is particularly useful. A leisurely hike along the Falls view path, and then a loop back to the small information center, by way of an overlook onto the bridge, covers just under two miles and can be done comfortably in an hour-and-a-half.

You will have some free time following your visit to the Falls. Craft shops and street vendors are located less than five minutes by car, or ten minutes on foot, from the hotel. Among the items available for purchase are the famous Shona stone sculptures, malachite and porcelain artifacts, and carved wooden masks, giraffes, elephants and hippos.

In the late afternoon, you will depart the hotel for a fifteen-minute drive outside of town to a boat launch on the Zambezi, where you will board a cruise barge for a sundowner cruise up the river. You may see crocodiles and hippos, but game is not likely to be plentiful along the deep bush which lines the river shoreline. The cruise will last approximately 90 minutes and concludes at sundown. If the day is clear or partly cloudy, the sunset colors should be spectacular.

Returning to the boat launch, you will drive five minutes to the Elephant Hills Hotel for the nightly performance of the Shongani dancers, who perform a variety of traditional dances from around the southern Africa region.