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**AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF EAST AFRICAN
AFFAIRS
FAX**

DATE

4/21/00

TO

SANDY THURMAN

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NUMBER OF PAGES

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Agency for International Development

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OFFICE
FOR EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (REDSO/ESA)**

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FAX COVER SHEET

From:



Donald R. Mackenzie
REDSO/ESA Director

To:

Ms. Dawn Liberl
Mission Director/Kampala

Date:

March 28, 2000

Fax No.

(256-41) 233-417 / 258981

As per our conversation. If you have any questions my e-mail address is:

bmackenzie@usaid.gov

**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA**



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Ref: COM/CD/13/25(012)mes

Date: 4 February 2000

Dr. Donald R. Mackenzie
Regional Director
USAID/REDSO/ESA
P. O. Box 30251
NAIROBI
Kenya
Fax: 743204

Dear Dr. Mackenzie,

Re: Invitation to the meetings of the COMESA Policy Organs

I have the honour to invite you and your Institution to the Fifth Summit of the COMESA Authority of the Heads of State and Government that will take place in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 18 to 19 May 2000. The Summit will be preceded by the Ninth Meeting of the Council of Ministers (15 - 16 May) and the Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee (11 - 13 May 2000).

This series of meetings will be held five months before the official launching of the COMESA Free Trade Area on 31 October 2000. During these meetings, member States will review the implementation of adopted programmes in readiness for the Free Trade Area. The launching of the FTA will coincide with the First COMESA Extraordinary summit scheduled for Lusaka, Zambia.

As USAID/REDSO/ESA has always been a close partner to COMESA in our endeavours to build a solid economic integration in the region, I would be delighted and grateful to have you amongst us on these happy occasions.

Kindly confirm your personal participation at the Summit and that of your officials at the preceding technical meetings, and communicate to us the itineraries at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Erastus J. O. Mwencha, MBS
SECRETARY GENERAL

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, ETRD, XW, MP, KE

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM INVITES PRESIDENT
CLINTON TO THE MAY 18-19 COMESA SUMMIT IN MAURITIUS

1. SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER NAVINCHANDRA RAMGOOLAM HAS
INVITED PRESIDENT CLINTON TO ATTEND THE MAY 18-19 COMMON
MARKET OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA), WHICH
WILL BE HELD MAY 18-19 IN MAURITIUS. KENYAN PRESIDENT
DANIEL ARAP MOI, IN HIS CAPACITY AS COMESA'S CURRENT
CHAIRMAN, ISSUED A SEPARATE INVITATION TO PRESIDENT
CLINTON DURING MOI'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THE
AMBASSADOR HAS DIRECTLY FORWARDED PM RAMGOOLAM'S
INVITATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE TEXT OF PM RAMGOOLAM'S INVITATION READS AS FOLLOWS:

8TH MARCH, 2000

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,
FIRST OF ALL LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR VERY ENCOURAGING MESSAGE SENT TO ME FOR OUR NATIONAL DAY.

I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND TO YOU MY SINCERE THANKS FOR THE WARM WELCOME EXTENDED TO MY WIFE AND I DURING OUR LAST VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST MEETING.

WE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MEETING YOU AND I WISH TO THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN, FOR YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO TAKE FORWARD THE CAUSE OF AFRICA AND SPECIALLY THE EARLY PASSAGE OF THE AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BILL.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE COMESA SUMMIT BY THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COMESA AUTHORITY, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL SUMMIT ON AFRICA.

YOUR HISTORIC VISIT TO AFRICA IN 1998 AND THE ADOPTION OF THE BLUEPRINT: U.S.-AFRICA MINISTERIAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY THAT SAME YEAR MARKED AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN U.S.-AFRICA RELATIONS. THIS DEMONSTRATES THE STRONG DESIRE OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A SMART PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD USHER IN A NEW ERA OF COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE.

THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE TWENTY-ONE MEMBER STATES OF COMESA WILL BE HISTORIC IN THAT IT WILL APPROVE ACTIVITIES THAT WILL CULMINATE IN THE LAUNCHING OF THE COMESA FREE TRADE AREA ON 31ST OCTOBER 2000.

THIS EVENT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE POLITICAL WILL OF THE COMESA MEMBER STATES TO ADOPT BOLD MEASURES TO FOSTER REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS WIDER INTEGRATION AT THE CONTINENTAL LEVEL, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. IN THIS REGARD, WE SHARE THE VIEWS THAT TRADE AND INVESTMENT LIBERALIZATION AS WELL AS POLITICAL REFORM COULD PLAY A FACILITATING ROLE.

THE SUMMIT WILL ALSO CONSIDER A FRAMEWORK FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION. OUR PREVIOUS

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SUMMIT WHICH WAS HELD IN MAY 1999 IN NAIROBI, KENYA, UNANIMOUSLY AGREED ON THE NEED FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION, AS SOME OF THE CONFLICTS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE UNDERMINE OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE INTEGRATION OF OUR ECONOMIES.

I WISH TO FURTHER TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR INSPIRING AND VISIONARY LEADERSHIP THAT HAS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PLACED AFRICA HIGH ON THE AGENDA OF YOUR GOVERNMENT. SINCE YOUR HISTORIC VISIT TO AFRICA IN APRIL 1998, THE COMESA REGION HAS WITNESSED INCREASED PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR INTERESTS ON THE ONE HAND AND OUR GOVERNMENTS ON THE OTHER. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OPEN SKIES POLICY THAT YOU ANNOUNCED IN DAKAR, SENEGAL THAT SAME YEAR, COMESA MEMBER STATES, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SAFE AFRICAN SKIES GROUP WHICH COMPREHENDS LOCKHEED MARTIN, CAN CORPORATION, EDLOW RESOURCES LIMITED AND AFRICON, HAVE REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE IN WORKING OUT MODALITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS, NAVIGATION, SURVEILLANCE AND AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (CNS/ATM) SYSTEM.

THE MAURITIUS SUMMIT, MR. PRESIDENT, WILL ALSO PROVIDE U.S. WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERSONALLY THANK YOU FOR HAVING INITIATED THE AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BILL THAT WILL BRING ABOUT A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND AFRICA, WHICH IS TRADE AND INVESTMENT DRIVEN.

IT WILL ALSO BE AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE LAST YEAR OF YOUR VERY SUCCESSFUL TERM OF OFFICE TO LEAVE A STRONG POLITICAL MESSAGE TO AFRICA OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO BUILD A GENUINE PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICA.

MY OWN COUNTRY SHARES WITH THE UNITED STATES SUCH COMMON VALUES AND PRINCIPLES AS DEMOCRACY, GOOD GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE MARKET ECONOMY. THEY ARE IMPORTANT BOTH FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TO SUSTAIN DEMOCRACY AS WELL AS THE SOCIAL FABRICS OF A FRAGILE MULTI-ETHNIC AND MULTI-RELIGIOUS MAURITIAN SOCIETY. MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR VISIT TO MAURITIUS ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMESA SUMMIT MAY ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE STRONG ATTACHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THESE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES WHICH WE ALL CHERISH.

I LOOK FORWARD TO A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO MY INVITATION AND AN OPPORTUNITY OF WELCOMING YOU AND MRS. CLINTON, TO

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MAURITIUS FOR THE SUMMIT WHICH WILL PROVIDE AN OCCASION
TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE COMESA HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AS WELL AS ON
REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES OF MY
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

DR. THE HON. NAVINCHANDRA RAMGOOLAM
PRIME MINISTER
((SIGNED))
ERWIN
BT
#0464
NNNN

260 - Harare

286 - Luanda

may 2

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