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THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

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Dr. Sandy Thurman

Director

White House Office on AIDS

736 Jackson Place

Washington, DC 20036

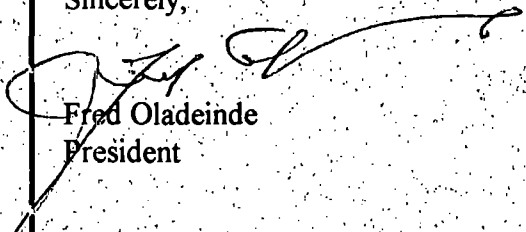
Dear Dr. Thurman,

In our continuing effort to help define the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa with the support of The White House Education for Development and Democracy Initiative organized the first ever Subregional conference on the strategies to contain the spread and devastation of HIV/AIDS in West Africa, June 4-8, 2000, Abuja Sheraton Hotels and Towers, Abuja, Nigeria with participation by NGOs, scientists, researchers, civil society, traditional healers, legislators, religious leaders, and civic leaders from within the region of West Africa.

The enclosed Communique and recommendation represent the results of the five day conference. The Foundation for Democracy in Africa, as mandated by the conference, will be working towards the implementation of the conference recommendations.

We welcome your comments and suggestions, and hope we can count on your financial and moral support to help Africa.

Sincerely,


Fred Oladeinde
President

RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON STRATEGIES TO
COMBAT THE SPREAD AND DEVASTATION OF HIV/AIDS IN
WEST AFRICA.
ORGANIZED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN
AFRICA. JUNE 5 – 9 2000. ABUJA SHERATON HOTEL AND
TOWERS ABUJA NIGERIA

Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome, known as AIDS, has become the greatest threat to African survival. An estimated 34 million sub-Saharan Africans have been infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Of the 12 million Africans who have died from AIDS, almost three million of them are children. Every five minutes, five youngsters between the ages of 15 and 24 are being infected with HIV in Africa. More than 22.5 million men and women are currently living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. In Cote d' Ivoire, for example, one out of every ten persons is HIV positive.

In some African countries, a quarter of pregnant women are infected each year, and this number is expected to increase. At least one third of their babies will likely be unintentionally infected via perinatal transmission or breast-feeding. If they survive to their teens, these children will spread HIV/AIDS at a rate of more than 10 percent. At this time, more than 90 percent of the world's orphans live in Africa, which has 80 percent of all AIDS deaths and 70 percent of all new HIV infections.

HIV-AIDS has drastically affected the statistical landscape in Africa. Already, life expectancy in some African countries has been cut in half, from an average of 68 years to 34 years. Africa, a continent with tremendous population growth, now faces the prospect of zero population growth due to the high incidence of HIV/AIDS.

Africa's net loss of 74 million people is having an impact that touches all factors of life. The high death rate among adults from 20 to 40 years of age is depleting human capital and the skill base necessary for social development and economic growth. The high replacement cost of workers and rising labor costs caused by diminished productivity, sick leave and absenteeism discourage investment, and the reduction of farm labor will force farmers to switch agricultural production from cash crops

to subsistence farming. Together, these developments threaten the loss of 40 years of development efforts and investment.

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) strongly believes the process for evolving a sustainable approach for combating the spread of HIV/AIDS in West Africa has begun. This regional conference has been convened as the first effort to call for a significant regional coordination of strategies for awareness, action plans and program implementation in West Africa.

It is the intention that this conference will be the beginning of a sound, regionally integrated network system to manage scarce resources for the prevention of transmission of HIV/AIDS and the treatment and care of the infected and affected population in the West African region. Through the deliberations of government officials, medical practitioners, HIV/AIDS health care workers, non-governmental organizations, media practitioners and People Living with AIDS, this conference has developed a comprehensive set of recommendations, including the following, to achieve these goals:

EPIDEMIOLOGY

- The organisation of African Unity Agenda for Action on HIV/AIDS of 1992, as well as subsequent African conventions, should be revisited and implemented, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should create a multisectorial structure to co-ordinate regional efforts to address the HIV/AIDS crisis.
- Government in West Africa must collaborate on generation of data, based on sentinel surveillance and behavioural surveillance in order to effectively address the determinant of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Governments in West Africa should adopt a blood transfusion policy that includes rigorous safety protocols, while also discouraging the widespread use of unnecessary blood transfusions, especially among women and children.
- Governments in the sub-region along with research institutions, research centers and NGO must collaborate on generation of accurate data on HIV/AIDS for further research.

PREVENTION

- A concerted effort must be made to provide widespread facility for voluntary HIV testing and counselling.
- Government throughout the West Africa must work together towards the establishment of a sustainable safe blood transfusion services.
- Political commitment at the highest level is required to achieve success in the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS as demonstrated by Senegal.
- Government and civil society in the West Africa region must act in concert to curb the high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, which are closely associated with the incidence of HIV/AIDS.
- All attempts should be made so that antiretroviral drugs be made accessible and affordable for HIV-positive pregnant mothers.
- The mass media in collaboration with government and civil society should provide accurate information on HIV/AIDS on a regular basis taking into consideration cultural variations in the sub-region.
- People living with AIDS (PLWA) should have access to regular information, care and support.
- Strategies for Prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, which include high-risk group such as youth, commercial sex workers (CSW) and patients with sexually transmitted infection, should be urgently addressed.
- Religious leaders should be encouraged to play an active role in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in their communities.
- All efforts must be directed towards promotion of practices to promote safe sex behaviours and condoms must be made accessible and affordable.
- Internationally acceptable HIV-screening kits should be made available and affordable on a regular basis to encourage voluntary testing and counselling.

- Sexual education should be included in the school curriculum at all levels and teachers should be trained to implement them.
- Targeted population must participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV-AIDS programmes.
- Capacity building is key to the success of HIV-AIDS intervention programs and should be encouraged and supported by governments, donor agencies and Non-government organisations (NGOs).

CARE AND SUPPORT

- Anti-retroviral drugs and drugs for the treatment of opportunistic infections must be made accessible and affordable for PLWA'S.
- Studies on the effectiveness of traditional medicine for the treatment of HIV-AIDS and opportunistic infections must be mandatory.
- Provision should be made for networking among PLWA'S in the region for information transfer and support.
- Home base care should be encouraged and supported by government, Non-governmental organisation (NGO'S) and donors throughout the region where appropriate.
- People affected (e.g. families, extended family members) by HIV/AIDS, should be supported (governments and NGO'S) through poverty alleviation programs.
- All health care workers must be trained in infectious disease control and adequate facilities provided to implement program.
- Communities should be mobilised to provide care and support for PLWA'S.
- Continuing Education for HIV-AIDS counselling should be strongly encouraged and provision should be made for more counsellors in all communities to participate.
- Test to monitor treatment with anti-retroviral drugs should be accessible and affordable throughout the sub-region (anti-retroviral drug efficacy-viral load and CD4/CD8 ratio).

- Tuberculosis (T.B) treatment should be delivered free of charge to the population after voluntary HIV testing and counselling of the individual has been determined.

IMPACT

- Studies on the economic and social impact of different sectors (e.g. education agriculture and labour) need to be conducted in each country, in order to adopt a multisectorial approach in the prevention and control of the HIV-AIDS epidemic.
- Strategies to address the issue of AIDS orphans in the sub regions are urgently required.
- Mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS into the poverty alleviation programs in all the countries of the sub regions should be encouraged.
- Countries in the sub regions must begin to make plans for the reduction of HIV – AIDS impact on all sectors of the society.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ETHICS

- Policies and legislation must be promulgated to protect the rights and well being of People living with AIDS.
- All research, including the usage of drugs and treatment for HIV-AIDS, should be subjected to drug review and ethical committee in each country for approval before initiating study.
- PLWAs should be included in the formulation of policies related to care and support.
- Voluntary testing for HIV/AIDS is preferable over mandatory testing except in strictly defined circumstances.

Communiqué from the Regional Conference On HIV/AIDS in West Africa 5-8 June 2000 Abuja, Nigeria

Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome, known as AIDS, has become the greatest threat to African survival. An estimated 34 million sub-Saharan Africans have been infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Of the 12 million Africans who have died from AIDS, almost three million of them are children. Every five minutes, five youngsters between the ages of 15 and 24 are being infected with HIV in Africa. More than 22.5 million men and women are currently living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. In Cote d'Ivoire, for example, one out of every ten persons is HIV positive.

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- ◆ Governments in West Africa must agree on a regional, population-based HIV surveillance process and adopt a blood transfusion policy that includes rigorous safety protocols and funding of blood testing facilities.
- ◆ Information, education and communication programs must be reoriented to the various target groups, taking into account religious and cultural traditions, and periodically monitored for effectiveness.
- ◆ Each government in the region should develop a comprehensive HIV/AIDS policy that ensures access to necessary care, support and drugs regardless of any individual's HIV status.
- ◆ Health care workers, religious leaders, community leaders and counselors involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and care must be trained in the skills necessary for AIDS patient care and support through constant in-service training.
- ◆ The Organization of African Unity Agenda for Action on HIV/AIDS of 1992, as well as subsequent African conventions, should be revisited and implemented, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should create a multisectoral structure to coordinate regional efforts to address the HIV/AIDS crisis.
- ◆ An impact assessment of HIV/AIDS must be conducted to provide concrete statistics and to ascertain the status of the situation in the region.
- ◆ Policies and legislation must be promulgated to protect the rights, access to care and support and well being of People Living with AIDS, and governments must actively prosecute those who continue to discriminate, marginalize or segregate People Living with AIDS.
- ◆ Governments in West Africa must regulate the use and abuse of all drugs and other treatments for HIV/AIDS and ensure that patients are not being used to test such drugs and treatments without their informed consent. Furthermore, all drugs and treatments for HIV/AIDS should first undergo internationally accepted verification procedures before being applied to human beings.

In recognition of the crisis posed by HIV/AIDS in the region, the multifaceted elements involved and the scarcity of resources available, this conference urges FDA to establish at the earliest possible time and to manage a regional network charged with reversing the spread of this deadly disease as described in this document. This network should include focal points in all countries in the West African region as soon as feasible and should utilize appropriate technology as available. FDA further is charged with working in partnership with all governments, international institutions and non-governmental organizations as are necessary to achieve this mission.

**8 June 2000
Abuja, Nigeria**

The Comet
Tue, June 6, 2000

Regional approach to HIV/AIDS control sought

THE high degree of cross border movements has made it imperative for a regional approach on AIDS/HIV control in Africa, Chairman of the Planning Committee of the Foundation of Democracy in Africa Professor Femi Soyinka suggested yesterday in Abuja.

He said at the regional conference on HIV/AIDS that African countries should adopt a wholistic approach to the fight against the scourge and that a regional work-plan with viable impact to reduce rate of infection and increased research into possibilities for a cure was needed.

The Chairman of National Action Committee on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NACA), Professor. Ibironke Akinsete, observed

that the AIDS scourge had become a human tragedy, pointing out that countries with expanded HIV/AIDS programmes had recorded appreciable progress in reducing the impact of the scourge.

Beyond statistics, Akinsete said the issue of HIV/AIDS should be humanised, and that the problems needed urgent response.

The Representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Africa, Dr. Franki Mueke, noted that the HIV/AIDS pandemic was the greatest tragedy of mankind so far, adding that infections would rise, if urgent measures were not taken to address the problem.

The conference offered opportunities for combating the disease through fighting

poverty, improving health systems and increasing control measures in African countries.

He called for the exploration of pilot programmes especially in the control of mother-to-child transmission and the affordability of drugs, saying that AIDS had reversed the gains of four decades, especially in the area of child survival.

Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti, former health minister, said Nigeria and Senegal started AIDS control programme in 1986 but that the absence of the democratic process in Nigeria slowed the gains.

"All is not lost yet, we can still turn the tide and win the battle against the disease," he said.

Dr. Sarah Murton, the

Presidential co-ordinator, Education for Democracy and Development, White House, Washington DC, said "This is a time of great need because many people have been down too soon."

"If we stay true to our mission, there will be a time when we can say that we joined to make a difference."

UNAIDS Country Representative Brigitte Imperial said her agency was supportive of all actions to stem the scourge, while Mr. Mohammed Farouk, a person living with HIV/AIDS called for strategies to combat the pandemic and reduce the sufferings of the infected and affected.

About 100 participants from Nigeria, the Gambia, Liberia, the United States and Ghana are attending the six-day conference which opened on Sunday.

Nigeria to host AIDS data bank

From Laike
Shokunbi, Abuja

NIGERIA is to be the nerve-centre of a computer network that is being set up to facilitate inter-country collaboration in the West African sub-region towards curbing the spread of the Human-Immuno Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

A demonstration of the workings of the network is to be held today at the Sheraton Hotels, Abuja, where a conference on strategies to address the impact and spread of AIDS in the sub-region opened yesterday.

The network is to be funded by the United States Government under the aegis of the Office of the Programme for Democracy and Development of the White House, which is also sponsoring the sub-regional conference.

Dr. Sarah Morton, coordinator of the US Presidential Programme, announced the donation of a special set of personal computers to start the network in each of the 20 West African countries participating in the conference.

The US mission in each country will install the computer and facilitate the provision of the required telephone line.

Mr. Fred O. Oladeinde, president of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, organisers of the conference, told *The Comet* that the US Government had set aside a substantial amount to facilitate the Cyber Café type facility in Lagos and in the other participating countries.

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**Defining the Criteria for Africa's
Participation in Transnational
Economic Growth**



**Africando
2000**

**The Foundation for Democracy in Africa
Miami Dade County May 16 - 19, 2000**

Evaluating Strategies for Combating the spread of AIDS in Africa
A regional Conference.

February 21-26 2000- Abuja Nigeria.

Scope: The objective of this conferences is to evolve and adopt a regional approach to combating the spread of AIDS in Africa. This conference will focus on the West Africa region which will include all member countries of the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS). All players involved in the awareness campaign, prevention strategies, treatment delivery and counseling, drug interventions, public policy and legislation, will be brought together, with a view of coming up with a regional approach for Countries of West Africa in the war against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Format Daily Plenary sessions from 9:00-12noon, presentation by experts on topics that will be become workshops, seminars, and round table themes in the afternoon, with a daily recordation of the findings, conclusions, and resolutions from each workshops, seminars, and roudtables. Each Country will be given an opportunity to bring ideas that is working in there efforts to combat the pandemic and share it and also present problems that they are seeking solutions for to seek help and suggestions from other participants.

Conference Participants: Member countries of the ECOWAS, NGO's, pharmaceutical companies, bilateral and multi lateral organizations, research institutions, AIDS activist groups.

Size of Conference: 500 participants

THE INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

The Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDA) was established to create an academic and research environment for incubating and nurturing innovative democratic approaches to solving the sociopolitical and economic problems of Africa. IDA was designed to serve as the "think tank and do tank" arm of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA). IDA'S primary goal is to introduce vertically integrated, culturally based programs designed to advocate the fundamental principles of democracy, freedom and economic plurality in Africa. IDA strongly believes that through training, education and research that the knowledge, skills and tolerance needed to create and maintain growth in an expanding democratic society will be established.

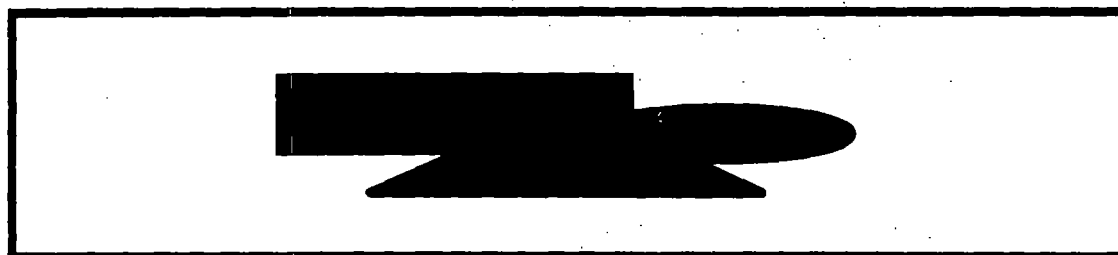
Educating and training the populations of Africa will take time, thus resulting into a slow and gradual process. IDA expects that many years will be needed in order to fully integrate all the required programs that will sustain democratic capitalism in Africa.

MISSION

The Institute for Democracy in Africa is an educational, training and research organization dedicated to the professional and sociopolitical development of individuals, organizations and communities throughout Africa. IDA implements the principles of a culturally based democratic government within the African society with the goal of bringing the countries of Africa into the mainstream of the global economy through free enterprise, thus cultivating the pathway for peace and prosperity from the resulting economic opportunities.

COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIOPOLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

The professional and sociopolitical development programs conducted by IDA include more than courses. Our curricula provide the knowledge and skills needed in handling the complex demands and challenges of a culturally based, developing society. Over time, our professional and sociopolitical development programs have expanded and changed. But the features that distinguish our training have remained the same.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

St. Thomas University has evolved from its humble beginnings as Biscayne College, enrolling some 35 students; to our present enrollment of over 2100 students, representing 28 states and 65 different countries. While our growth has been dramatic, we have not lost sight of our focal point - the individual student.

As a Catholic university welcoming students from all faiths, we remain dedicated to fostering moral and ethical values in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Our students graduate with a sound base from which to build successful careers and productive lives.

Our undergraduate programs, graduate programs and school of law combine to create an educational environment providing students with sound academic preparation for the 21st century. The multicultural make-up of our student body offers students a community rich in diversity, preparing them well for their part in the ever changing global community in which we live.

This catalogue will provide you with information you will need to shape an academic program for your years ahead. However, there is another aspect of St. Thomas the catalogue cannot express - the personal side of the educational experience. Quite simply, we are a small university with a personal interest in every student.

Rev. Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale
President

OFFERED COURSES

MGT 704: Managing Human Resources C.E.U. 3

In this course participants will be given an overview of human resource management and development. Topics of discussion will include staffing, training, motivation, performance appraisals and employee services.

MGT 705: Continuous Improvement/Total Quality Mgmt C.E.U. 3

This course discusses the philosophy and principles of continuous improvement and translates these concepts into the elements that lie at the core of all successful improvement efforts. These concepts are illustrated by case studies and success stories. The course concludes with a prescription for getting participants started on a continuous improvement effort in their own organizations.

MGT 706: Project Management C.E.U. 3

For managers and staff who are involved in project work. Learn how to manage single and multiple projects. This course covers the fundamentals of project management. Learn techniques for completing projects on time and within budget while delivering the promised results. Understand the communication skills essential to getting cooperation and support for the project.

MGT 710: Strategic Planning C.E.U. 6

Effective planning is one of the keys to organizational survival and success. In this workshop, participants will learn a step by step planning process that will help them monitor the environment, assess the competition and organize strategies within the frame-work of a long-range plan. Topics include; why planning is both strategic and long range; clarifying the purpose of your organization; environmental and competitive analysis; strategy formulation; staff and stakeholder roles in planning.

MGT 712: Women as Administrators C.E.U. 3

This course offers a study of the various obstacles faced by women in administrative positions and examines techniques used by successful female executives and entrepreneurs to overcome these obstacles. Participants engage in round table discussions with successful female executives.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

MGT 701: Developing Supervisory Skills C.E.U. 3

Using a practical nuts and bolts approach, this course provides an introduction to the major duties and responsibilities of a supervisor and the three key roles: manager, leader and administrator. Participants will learn how to plan, organize and control work; build a working relationship with their bosses; and effectively supervise staff.

MGT 702: Leadership Dynamics C.E.U. 3

What are the qualities and traits of a "good" leader? What skills should you possess to become an effective leader? This course will examine in detail the functions of a leader; leadership styles; and the importance of human relation skills in influencing, directing and motivating employees. In addition delegating tasks, taking risks and making decisions will also be discussed.

MGT 703: Team Building C.E.U. 3

Workplace groups can be chaotic and unproductive or focused and effective. Whether or not your organization uses formal teams, people need to work effectively in groups. This workshop will explore group dynamics, leadership, decision making and facilitation. Participants will also learn practical tips and tools for building cohesive workgroups.

MGT 704: Managing and Resolving Conflict C.E.U. 3

This course will provide participants the skills needed to take command of on-the-job conflicts. They will learn to spot the differences between healthy competition and destructive conflicts. Apply highly effective approaches to conflict resolution and minimize or eliminate disputes using proven negotiation techniques.

SBM 515: Cash Flow Management C.E.U. 3

Managing your cash flow is the key to small business survival. This session will teach you how to manage cash on a day to day basis and how to project cash flow in future. Additionally, participants will learn the best methods for successfully prioritizing payments of accounts payable, accessing bank loans and the difficult task of anticipating revenue.

SBM 516: Writing a Winning Proposal C.E.U. 3

This hands on course introduces the tasks and skills that are essential in preparing and managing all types and sizes of proposals. Participants learn how to analyze requests for proposals, make intelligent bid/no bid decisions, formulate an effective strategy and develop proposal themes.

Democracy may be a word familiar to most, but it is a concept still misunderstood and misused in a time when totalitarian regimes and military dictatorships alike have attempted to claim popular support by pinning democratic labels upon themselves. This course introduces participants to the pillars of democracy and provide them with a historical overview of the concept of democracy.

DCS 102: The Relationship between Democracy, Freedom & the Free Enterprise System C.E.U. 3

Political stability is the foundation of sustainable growth and economic development. This course will demonstrate the importance of democracy, freedom and their impact on the free enterprise system.

DCS 103: Comparative Systems of Government C.E.U. 3

This course will analyze and compare the strengths and weakness of the free market system versus a government controlled market system. Participants will learn the basic principles of a free market economy and its advantage.

DCS 104: Political Parties in Africa C.E.U. 3

Political parties are as varied as the societies in which they operate. This course will identify the various political parties and the role that they are playing in the democratization process.

DCS 105: Democratic Elections in Africa C.E.U. 3

Elections are the central institution of democratic representative governments. In a democracy the authority of the government derives solely from the consent of the governed. This course will provide a historical perspective of democratic elections in Africa and the benchmark of elections. Case studies of successful in elections in recent times.

PHT 114: Care of Infants and Children with HIV/AIDS C.E.U. 3

This course examines the latest in testing, diagnosis and care of infants and children infected with HIV/AIDS. Participants meet with pediatric nurses from community medical centers who care for infants and children with HIV/AIDS.

PHT: 115: Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing: Facts, Issues and Answers C.E.U. 3

Designed to instruct participants on the how to's of identifying individuals whose behavior places them at risk for HIV infection and AIDS. This course will provide basic information about HIV infection and AIDS, suggest a structure for individual risk assessment and offer detailed information on HIV counseling, HIV antibody testing and early intervention.

PHT: 116: Training the Trainer on HIV and Prevention C.E.U. 3 This course focuses on how individuals can make a difference in the fight against HIV. Attendees will be provided with several courses of action, including adopting personal prevention behaviors, supporting and promoting HIV-AIDS in the schools, religious community, the work place and at home.

PHT: 117: HIV/AIDS: Education and Prevention C.E.U. 3 This course will provide instruction on monitoring the epidemic, improving public understanding and preventing risky behaviors among the general population. Emphasis will also be placed on preventing and eliminating behaviors that transmit HIV among adults, increasing individual knowledge about HIV serostatus and common clarifying misconceptions that lead to HIV transmission.

PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING

PHT 101: Developing Communication and Counseling Skills C.E.U. 3

This course provides instruction on the different types of communication such as nonverbal and verbal. Participants will also be taught basic counseling skills and techniques for fostering effective communication, counseling and support of individuals with HIV/AIDS, family members and friends.

PHT 110: The Basics of HIV Infections and Test Decision Counseling C.E.U. 3

Designed to provide information on pretest and post-test, HIV antibody testing and any other test available, e.g., Eliza, Synpex and Western Blot procedures.

PHT 111: Personalizing Behavior Changes and Dealing with Seropositive Post-Test Counseling. C.E.U. 3

This course emphasizes and differentiates the techniques and approaches used to counsel seropositive and seronegative clients. It will also provide participants with the tools and skills to counsel partners.

PHT 112: Care and Management of Patients with HIV Infection C.E.U. 3

This course provides instruction on different roles played by the various health care professionals, e.g., nurses, doctors, pharmacist, radiologist, etc. involved in the care giving and management of HIV and AIDS patients.

PHT 113: HIV/AIDS and Pregnancy C.E.U. 3 This course describes the possible mode of HIV transmission in pregnant women to the new born baby. An examination of the latest in testing, treatment and care of pregnant women with HIV/AIDS.

SBM 600: International Certificate Development Program

This six-session course is for members of the small business community who are interested in entering the import/export market. This course will provide specific "how to" information from export professionals. Completion of all sessions and submission and approval of a written import/export plan is required for the certificate. Topics are as follows:

- (1) International Trade: Transcending Barriers to and Targeting International Markets
- (2) Strategic Marketing Approach to International Trade, Reducing International Risk; Trade Assistance Programs
- (3) International Competitive Strategy Analysis: A Planning Approach to Exploit Competitive Strengths
- (4) Utilizing Marketing and Finance for a Competitive Edge
- (5) Traditional & Non-Traditional Sources of International Trade Finance
- (6) From Strategy to Implementation: Next Steps

SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

SBM 501: Entrepreneurship - Starting and Managing a Growth Company C.E.U. 3

This practical, "nuts and bolts," course which focuses on the principles and ideas of starting and operating a business. This course provides practical information, strategies and secrets based primarily on the experiences of successful entrepreneurs.

SBM 510: Business Plan Development C.E.U. 3

Whether you are starting a new business or considering expanding your current operations, you must have a business plan. In this comprehensive course, participants will be guided through the elements that make up a solid business plan. Participants will also discuss and review of the necessary financial statements and learn strategies and techniques for implementing a viable plan.

SBM 512: Marketing Your Business C.E.U. 3

Finding, analyzing and understanding customers are the most important and potentially the most difficult tasks for any business. This course will provide specific tactics for identifying customer needs and wants, locating customers, promotional and advertising vehicles and pricing and selling strategies.

SBM 513: Financing Your Business C.E.U. 3

Money, Money, Money - how to obtain it, where to find it and how to manage it. This seminar will also cover banking relationships, collection and payment of bills, and utilizing trade credit.

SBM 514: Successfully Managing a Small Business for Profit C.E.U. 6

This course is designed to enhance the day to day management skills of business owners and managers. Successful management strategies in the functional areas of business will be addressed. Each participant will conduct an analysis of their business and develop a strategic operations plan.

DCS 108: Cultural Diversity C.E.U. 3

This course will introduce the importance of working together to achieve national objectives, despite ethnic differences. Participants will come to a common understanding of what diversity is and benefits of leveraging it.

DCS 109: The Rule of Law C.E.U. 3

Whether rich or poor, ethnic majority or religious minority, political ally of the state or opponent - all are entitled to equal protection before the law. This course will introduce participants to the basic principles of equality and the law.

DCS 110: Parliamentary Training C.E.U. 3 The parliament in a democratic society provides the people the opportunity to govern themselves in a manner that will serve their aspirations for personal freedom, economic opportunity and social justice. Participants through role playing and group discussion will gain insight into the role and importance of a parliament.

DCS 112: The Role of the Media in Democracy C.E.U. 3

To govern is to communicate. As African societies grow in size and complexity, the arena for communication and public debate is increasingly dominated by the news media. This course discusses the overlapping but distinctive functions that democracy and the media have in common. The discussion will detail media's ability to serve as a watchdog; responsible journalism and the role media can take in "setting the agenda" for democracy in Africa.

DCS 113: Campaign Management and Election Monitoring C.E.U. 3

Managing a campaign requires people-oriented skills, as well as financial skills and most importantly ethical skills. The ABCs of campaign management: candidate selection, fund raising strategy, keeping accurate and detailed accounting system, campaign advertisement, poll sampling technique, developing issues and platform, soliciting for volunteers, how to file campaign reports and most importantly the training of an independent group of volunteers to serve as poll watchers. Completing this course will enable the individual to run and manage a successful campaign.

DCS 101: Democracy: A Historical Perspective C.E.U. 3

Democracy may be a word familiar to most, but it is a concept still misunderstood and misused in a time when totalitarian regimes and military dictatorships alike have attempted to claim popular support by pinning democratic labels upon themselves. This course introduces participants to the pillars of democracy and provide them with a historical overview of the concept of democracy.

DCS 102: The Relationship between Democracy, Freedom & the Free Enterprise System C.E.U. 3

Political stability is the foundation of sustainable growth and economic development. This course will demonstrate the importance of democracy, freedom and their impact on the free enterprise system.

DCS 103: Comparative Systems of Government C.E.U. 3

This course will analyze and compare the strengths and weakness of the free market system versus a government controlled market system. Participants will learn the basic principles of a free market economy and its advantage.

DCS 104: Political Parties in Africa C.E.U. 3

Political parties are as varied as the societies in which they operate. This course will identify the various political parties and the role that they are playing in the democratization process.

DCS 105: Democratic Elections in Africa C.E.U. 3

Elections are the central institution of democratic representative governments. In a democracy the authority of the government derives solely from the consent of the governed. This course will provide a historical perspective of democratic elections in Africa and the benchmark of elections. Case studies of successful elections in recent times.

PHT 114: Care of Infants and Children with HIV/AIDS C.E.U. 3

This course examines the latest in testing, diagnosis and care of infants and children infected with HIV/AIDS. Participants meet with pediatric nurses from community medical centers who care for infants and children with HIV/AIDS.

PHT 115: Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing: Facts, Issues and Answers C.E.U. 3

Designed to instruct participants on the how to's of identifying individuals whose behavior places them at risk for HIV infection and AIDS. This course will provide basic information about HIV infection and AIDS, suggest a structure for individual risk assessment and offer detailed information on HIV counseling, HIV antibody testing and early intervention.

PHT 116: Training the Trainer on HIV and Prevention C.E.U. 3 This course focuses on how individuals can make a difference in the fight against HIV. Attendees will be provided with several courses of action, including adopting personal prevention behaviors, supporting and promoting HIV-AIDS in the schools, religious community, the work place and at home.

PHT 117: HIV/AIDS: Education and Prevention C.E.U. 3 This course will provide instruction on monitoring the epidemic, improving public understanding and preventing risky behaviors among the general population. Emphasis will also be placed on preventing and eliminating behaviors that transmit HIV among adults, increasing individual knowledge about HIV serostatus and common clarifying misconceptions that lead to HIV transmission.

PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING

PHT 101: Developing Communication and Counseling Skills C.E.U. 3

This course provides instruction on the different types of communication such as nonverbal and verbal. Participants will also be taught basic counseling skills and techniques for fostering effective communication, counseling and support of individuals with HIV/AIDS, family members and friends.

PHT 110: The Basics of HIV Infections and Test Decision Counseling C.E.U. 3

Designed to provide information on pretest and post-test, HIV antibody testing and any other test available, e.g., Eliza, Synpex and Western Blot procedures.

PHT 111: Personalizing Behavior Changes and Dealing with Seropositive Post-Test Counseling. C.E.U. 3

This course emphasizes and differentiates the techniques and approaches used to counsel seropositive and seronegative clients. It will also provide participants with the tools and skills to counsel partners.

PHT 112: Care and Management of Patients with HIV Infection C.E.U. 3

This course provides instruction on different roles played by the various health care professionals, e.g., nurses, doctors, pharmacist, radiologist, etc. involved in the care giving and management of HIV and AIDS patients.

PHT 113: HIV/AIDS and Pregnancy C.E.U. 3 This course describes the possible mode of HIV transmission in pregnant women to the new born baby. An examination of the latest in testing, treatment and care of pregnant women with HIV/AIDS.

SBM 600: International Certificate Development Program

This six-session course is for members of the small business community who are interested in entering the import/export market. This course will provide specific "how to" information from export professionals. Completion of all sessions and submission and approval of a written import/export plan is required for the certificate. Topics are as follows:

- (1) International Trade: Transcending Barriers to and Targeting International Markets
- (2) Strategic Marketing Approach to International Trade. Reducing International Risk; Trade Assistance Programs
- (3) International Competitive Strategy Analysis: A Planning Approach to Exploit Competitive Strengths
- (4) Utilizing Marketing and Finance for a Competitive Edge
- (5) Traditional & Non-Traditional Sources of International Trade Finance
- (6) From Strategy to Implementation: Next Steps

SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

SBM 501: Entrepreneurship - Starting and Managing a Growth Company C.E.U. 3

This practical, "nuts and bolts," course which focuses on the principles and ideas of starting and operating a business. This course provides practical information, strategies and secrets based primarily on the experiences of successful entrepreneurs.

SBM 510: Business Plan Development C.E.U. 3

Whether you are starting a new business or considering expanding your current operations, you must have a business plan. In this comprehensive course, participants will be guided through the elements that make up a solid business plan. Participants will also discuss and review of the necessary financial statements and learn strategies and techniques for implementing a viable plan.

SBM 512: Marketing Your Business C.E.U. 3

Finding, analyzing and understanding customers are the most important and potentially the most difficult tasks for any business. This course will provide specific tactics for identifying customer needs and wants, locating customers, promotional and advertising vehicles and pricing and selling strategies.

SBM 513: Financing Your Business C.E.U. 3

Money, Money, Money - how to obtain it, where to find it and how to manage it. This seminar will also cover banking relationships, collection and payment of bills, and utilizing trade credit.

SBM 514: Successfully Managing a Small Business for Profit C.E.U. 6

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DCS 101: Democracy: A Historical Perspective C.E.U. 3

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND
RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATION BILL, 2000

JUNE 17, 1999.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCONNELL, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1234]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 1234) making appropriations for Foreign Operations and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Amounts in new budget authority

Fiscal year 1999 appropriations	\$31,719,553,000
Fiscal year 2000 budget estimate	14,615,535,000
Amount of bill as reported to Senate	12,744,055,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to:	
1999 appropriations	- 19,050,004,000
Budget estimate	- 1,870,480,000
Fiscal year 1999 omnibus emergency supplemental	411,437,000
Fiscal year 1999 emergency supplemental	1,640,800,000

mittee directs AID to provide \$1,000,000 in order to establish a College of Agriculture at the AAUJ.

- The Committee recognizes the important contribution that the University of South Alabama is making in monitoring birth defects in the Rivne and Volyn oblasts of the Ukraine. The Committee recommends that \$1,000,000 be made available to continue these important activities.
- The Committee supports the work between Auburn University and the American Studies Research Center at the Osmania University Campus in India. Their long term collaborative efforts have enriched relations between the United States and India. The Committee recommends that \$450,000 be made available to continue this relationship.
- The Committee understands that negotiations are ongoing regarding the establishment of the American University of the Jordan (AUJ). Plans include construction of a campus on a 120 acre plot in the city of Aqaba. The Committee is pleased by the involvement of the University of Louisville, Spalding University, University of Indiana/Purdue, University of Wisconsin, University of Maine and Notre Dame and their collaboration on academic and cultural programs for AUJ. The Committee strongly supports this educational initiative in the Kingdom of Jordan and directs AID to consider providing funds to support this effort.
- The Committee recognizes the important contributions the Institute for Democracy in Africa, St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida, is making to encourage and promote democratic principles in Africa and providing training in the area of Civic Education, Entrepreneurship, Rule of Law, Public Health, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Management and Conflict Resolution and recommends up to \$5,000,000 be made available to continue and expand these worthy activities.

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION STATES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Committee supports the programs known as the cooperative association States for scholarships [CASS] and expects AID to continue funding for this program.

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The Committee commends the work of the Citizens Democracy Corps (CDC), which utilizes senior-level U.S. business volunteers to assist enterprises, institutions, and local governments abroad. Their work demonstrates the significant impact that AID support of U.S. NGOs can have on the key U.S. foreign policy priorities of promoting broad-based, stable economic growth and open, market-oriented economies in transitioning economies. By drawing upon the skills and voluntary spirit of U.S. businessmen and women to introduce companies, CDC furthers the goals of the Freedom of Support Act (NIS) and Support for Eastern European Democracy (SEED), forging positive, lasting connections between the U.S. and these countries. The Committee endorses CDC's cost-effective programs and believes they should be supported and expanded not only in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, but in transitioning and developing economies throughout the world.

New: from the USIA Washington File

<http://www.usia.gov/cgi-bin/washfile/di...aafcr=/products/washfile/newsitem.htm>

USIS Washington File

03 May 1999

DEMOCRACY EXPERTS OPPOSE SHORTCUTS IN AFRICAN AID

(USAID's Derryck, others address House Africa Sub.) (870)

By Jim Fisher-Thompson

USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- Government and private experts agree that short cuts to U.S. democracy-building assistance should be avoided if the goal of sustainability is to be achieved in many sub-Saharan Africa nations.

House of Representatives Africa Subcommittee Chairman Ed Royce set the tone of the subcommittee's April 29 hearing about the status of democracy in the region by pointing out that "the United States has made a considerable investment in promoting democracy in Africa. Since 1989, more than \$400 million has been spent on democratic reform in Africa."

Royce added that the belief by some that there has been a "lack of progress" on democracy in Africa has "led some scholars to ask whether the democratic movement in Africa was just a fleeting moment." He also made plain, that "I don't think this is the case; but it is clear: building democracy in Africa is a great struggle."

The government's lead witness at the hearing, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Assistant Administrator for Africa Vivian Lowery Derryck, emphasized that democracy building in sub-Saharan Africa is a longterm prospect.

She noted that "over 20 USAID missions in African countries have major programs focusing on some aspect of democracy and governance and we carry out small grant activities in 20 other countries, often through our embassies."

The programs, she told the subcommittee, "focus on everything from increasing access to and participation in the political system, to building the capacity of local NGOs; from elections support, to strengthening democratic institutions such as the legislature or judiciary. The types of programs vary from technical assistance and training to financial support, and the funding levels range from small grants under such programs as the Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) to multi-year, multi-million dollar projects."

→ Fred Oladeinde, president of the foundation for democracy in Africa, declared that "there is no single magic bullet...or shortcuts to achieve democracy in Africa." Rather, he insisted, successful democratic growth will require a long-term approach with a focus on "aid and trade."

A chief obstacle to advancing democracy on the continent, Oladeinde said, are "the armed conflicts within...and between African states" which "squander scarce resources in this poorest of continents, including the lives of children, women and men. Conflict also disrupts economic activity especially agriculture which engages most Africans."

Oladeinde praised a U.S. partnership effort begun more than two years ago to help African militaries enhance their peacekeeping capabilities, the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI).

Repeating that "conflict resolution in the African context is an essential tool for democratization," Oladeinde told the lawmakers that "the primary responsibility to resolve conflict in Africa falls on the soldiers of Africa." But he stressed that "ACRI can make a genuine contribution to fostering stability and peace."

As for using trade as the engine for economic growth in Africa, Oladeinde said that "when U.S. firms invest in Africa, they help enrich the soil for democracy; and in this regard the passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) becomes critically important. Although it is correct to say that AGOA is a trade bill, I would be remiss if I failed to point out that it is also a democracy support bill."

Oladeinde told the lawmakers that if Congress fails "to pass this important bill, it will be a major setback for democracy in Africa." An earlier version of the bill -- which is vigorously supported by the Clinton administration -- passed the House last year. Introduced in the Senate late in the session, it died after debate on provisions for duty-free entry to African goods dragged on.

Another witness, Marina Ottaway, senior associate and co-director of the democracy and rule of law project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said she believed "democracy in Africa is going to be a long process, entailing some reversals."

The scholar added, however, that "we can help, but we need to be patient, accept that change will be slow, and avoid expensive solutions that seek to create a short-cut to democracy but are unsustainable."

At the same time, she said "we also need to maintain pressure on [African] governments to move forward" on the democracy path, which means extending more media freedom and a greater tolerance of different political opinions by opposition figures.

Ottaway was critical of U.S. democratic assistance through local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), whose roots typically do not go deep into African society. Their work may prove unsustainable, she said, because "most African NGOs were formed, thanks to donor financing, [and] would disappear if outside support were withdrawn."

Ottaway explained that while the urban-based, staff-paid NGO model "suits an affluent country like the United States, in Africa it leads to the emergence of organizations completely dependent on donor funding," which in turn, "risks isolating them from their own societies."

Although aid to civil society via African NGOs is important and "should be continued," Ottaway concluded that "we need to foster sustainable organizations and to make sure that our assistance does not create a privileged elite

Return to [Washington File](#) home page

COMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT REFORM

GENERAL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
POLICY AND TRADE

WEST CLARK
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WESTERN HEMISPHERE



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
19TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

Extensions of Remarks

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
of Florida
In The House of Representatives

***Foundation For Democracy In Africa Hosts
A February 1998 Miami Conference on Africa***

MS. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on February 25th through March 1st 1998, the Institute for Democracy in Africa at St. Thomas University will be hosting a very timely conference whose theme will be "Africa: The Next Frontier".

Africa faces challenges today and the Foundation For Democracy in Africa (FDA) - a non-profit group based in Miami, Florida and Washington, D.C. - is determined to educate the next generation on Africa and the tenets of democracy and free market economics.

The founders of the FDA believe that, finally free from the hindrances of being used as a Cold War battleground, Africa is at a watershed period as it prepares to tackle the tasks of economic and democratic infrastructure development. The FDA also states that Africa faces the challenges of building peace and economic prosperity so that democracy can flourish. The new generation of Africans stand as a beacon of hope for Africa's future prosperity. They must be encouraged and embrace tribal values as tenets for national unity and be steeped in democratic governance and Western economic systems.

The Institute For Democracy in Africa provides education, training, and research opportunities for African students. The FDA will bring students from Africa for instruction in democratic governance and entrepreneurship. The Institute's grounding in Western economic and democratic systems and its adaption to African challenges will serve well the future leaders of Africa.

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(305) 292-1400

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
11/13/97

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Africa is striving to further integrate herself into the global economy and provide a bright future for its people. The rising generation of Africans can lead this "African Renaissance."

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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REFERENCE.

10 July 1997

Dear Mr. Executive Director,

The Secretary-General has asked me to reply to your letter of 3 June in which you provided an update of your progress since last December.

The persistent instability in several parts of Africa is a matter of great concern to the international community as a whole. The African continent has experienced a number of armed conflicts and crisis situations, the effects of which continue to complicate the enormous development potential of the countries concerned.

Experience has shown that the lack of participatory democracy plays a significant role in fueling confrontations both between groups within a country and between states. Long-term consolidation of peace requires the promotion and strengthening of democratic institutions, good governance and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

In supporting the efforts of numerous Governments to promote and consolidate new and restored democracies, the United Nations system, in partnership with non-governmental organizations, has been making strenuous efforts to strengthen civil society and the democratization process. In this regard, the work of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, through its Institute for Democracy in Africa responsible for training and enlightening young African men and women, constitutes a valuable contribution in laying the foundation for a more peaceful and prosperous future for the African continent.

Mr. Anthony D. Okonmah,
Executive Director
The Foundation for Democracy in Africa
8513 Ashwood Drive
Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

The Secretary-General warmly welcomes initiatives of this kind, which have the full support of the United Nations. I wish you and your Foundation every success with your important initiatives.

Please accept, Mr. Executive Director, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kieran Prndergast".

Kieran Prndergast
Under-Secretary-General
for Political Affairs



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

Mr. Fred Oladeinde
President
Foundation for Democracy in Africa
8515 Ashwood Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Dear Mr. Oladeinde:

I would like to invite you to join me on October 8, 1997, as I host a Roundtable discussion on U.S.-Africa trade and investment initiatives. The meeting is an opportunity to develop issues discussed at the recently held Fourth African-African American Summit in Harare, Zimbabwe, and to explore the important role of transportation in supporting African development and increased trade among African nations and with the United States. The Roundtable will take place in the Loy Henderson Room at the U.S. Department of State, 21st and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The theme of the Roundtable discussion will be "Transportation -- the Tie That Binds," and will address the issues of expanding trade and developing human and physical infrastructure in Africa. Consistent with President Clinton's goal to identify opportunities for strengthening and facilitating trade and investment in Africa, I look forward to hearing your views on the overall objectives of the Presidential initiative. This will also give us the opportunity to consider the elements of a U.S. Transportation Initiative and Partnership with Africa and concrete ways to follow up from the Harare Summit.

The Roundtable will provide an unprecedented opportunity for dialogue among officials of the U.S. Administration, members of Congress, representatives of U.S. industry, non-governmental organizations, multilateral institutions, and the African Diplomatic Corps. My hope is that the dialogue will support the creation of a substantive economic relationship between the United States and the nations of Africa.

As I prepare to visit Africa in early December, I am particularly excited about the Roundtable and encourage you to attend so that I might benefit from your knowledge and insights. Please fax the enclosed registration form by October 3, 1997 to (202) 366-7417, or if you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call Ms. Bernestine Allen of the Department's Office of International Transportation and Trade on (202) 366-4398.

I look forward to seeing you at the Roundtable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rodney E. Slater".

Rodney E. Slater

Enclosure

RESEARCH

Tremendous amounts of knowledge can be gained through research. In order to better utilize available human resources, the Institute will constantly engage in conducting various types of research (eg. social, economic, medically related, demographic, or any other sponsored democratic development related research project.)

All scholars will be encouraged to conduct research, and to share their gained knowledge of the system of democratic government, indigenous to their region or country.

Various areas of research will be identified relative to the Foundation's objectives. The cultural dynamics that affect the socio-political, economic factors and free enterprise in each immediate environment will also be studied.

EDUCATION

Knowledge can only be obtained through education. A library of democracy will be established throughout university libraries and public libraries. All available literature on the history of democracy, democratic experiences and initiatives, etc., will be requested and made available to the general population.

Radio and television programs will be designed to help educate each regional population. Journals and newsletters will be published quarterly and monthly, respectively.

SEMINARS

One of the most effective ways of disseminating knowledge is by conducting seminars. Seminars will constitute an important learning component of the Foundation's programs. There will be regional and national conferences on newly identified socio-political and economic findings. Scholars will be encouraged to present their research findings at the annual democracy conference. The abstracts and articles will be published as an annual proceeding on democracy in Africa and will be registered with the Library of Congress.

THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA IS A
501(C)(3) TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION; CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE FOUNDATION ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

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Cultivating the Pathway for Peace, Prosperity and Economic Opportunity in Africa,
through Democratic Capitalism and Free Enterprise.

THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA



*"We are Africans not because we are born in Africa,
but because Africa is born in us. Look around you and
behold us in our greatness. Greatness is an African
possibility; you can make it yours."*

- Chester Higgins Jr.

THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa is a Washington-based non-profit, nonpartisan organization. The Foundation was founded in 1994 with the intent to vertically integrate a culturally based program aimed at strengthening and enhancing the fundamental principles of democracy, freedom, and economic plurality in Africa.

THE MISSION

The mission of the Foundation is to implement the principles of culturally based democratic government within the African society, bringing the countries of Africa into the mainstream of the global economy through free enterprise, thus cultivating the pathway for peace and prosperity from resulting economic opportunity.

BACKGROUND

For more than two decades, democracy remains foreign to Africans. Africans, just like other human beings, are blessed with almost all the ingredients necessary to create an economically viable society. However, the absence of democracy has been known to foster policies that allow the suppression of total human development present in Africa.

Most Africans originally hail from a conservative environment. They are aesthetic, with a positive attitude toward religion, family, education, economic motivation, culture, achievement and social relationships. As with all people, they recognize the inevitability of change, but are cautious of the ravages of uncontrolled change. These known values are the bedrock of societal economic, political, social and spiritual cohesiveness. When this equilibrium is disturbed, the foundation for democracy will begin to erode, subsequently resulting in the various types of government existing in Africa today (ie. severely corrupt governments, military governments, and dictatorships).

THE INSTITUTE

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa, in pursuit of its objectives, has established the Institute for Democracy in Africa. The institute will be responsible for the creation of innovative democratic approaches to solving the African socio-political and economic problems. This institute will serve as the "think tank" arm of the Foundation, responsible for conducting training, research and educating both the private

and the public sectors on various developments in Africa.

OBJECTIVES

The Foundation's objectives are:

To create and/or develop affiliation with institutions known to have sound educational programs in democratic principles and ethics.

To educate potential young leaders in Africa about the values of democracy and its impact on human development and about the interwoven relationship that exists between democracy, freedom and free enterprise.

To develop programs that will mobilize potential young leaders (High School/ College Graduates) to participate in disseminating democratic principles throughout the continent of Africa.

To seek, encourage, and support, credible and qualified democratic clubs and organizations to help the foundation in monitoring and enhancing democratic procedures during electoral politics.

To encourage, solicit, and strongly support, programs and public policies and government action on matters of local, state, and national significance that will further strengthen and vertically integrate the basic principles of democracy in the continent of Africa.

To seek total support from government, private and public entities from all democratic countries in the Western Hemisphere.

To develop internship and recruiting programs that will foster the political education and political participation among the people of each country.

To establish newsletters with timely information on each country that will address and educate the people about its current economic, social and political issues and changes.

To identify and seek the help of an established network of experts to train young entrepreneurs how to implement economic policies that will encourage economic growth, job creation, and expanded opportunity for the people.

To teach courses designed through the Foundation's leadership training program, to emphasize the significance and the continued expansion of freedom, democracy and free enterprise in Africa.

PROGRAM SITE

Washington, D.C., is the nation's capital and center of government and democracy in the United States. Developing program affiliations with the local universities, and African institutions will offer students the opportunity to gain a better understanding of how the federal government of the United States functions via the three separate bodies of government, namely, the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

Major components of the Foundation's programs will be conducted in and around major U.S. cities across the nation. A certificate of participation will be awarded to each student upon completion of the training program.

TRAINING

The Institute for Democracy in Africa will provide the necessary leadership to conduct, on a regular basis, training in the form of classroom lectures, seminars, and internships. Several curriculums will be developed with all the affiliated universities to create condensed courses in government, economics, human rights laws, and free market/ free enterprise systems. Attempts will be made to elucidate those factors that affect (promote or hinder) democratic capitalism in each African country. Factors such as intrinsic cultural values, endemic socio-economic reasons and religious beliefs, etc., will be inherent in the Institute's training programs.

The research tools necessary for conducting studies will be designed for each small area of each African country.

At the end of each period, all students will be familiar with the following training objectives.

- (a) Knowledge of how to conduct research.
- (b) A better understanding of the American democratic system.
- (c) A working knowledge of the free enterprise system and how to create a culturally based system.
- (d) Knowledge of the human rights laws and how to protect and implement such laws.
- (e) Knowledge of the importance of sharing ideas, experiences and newly gained knowledge with all local people in each African country.
- (f) The ability to conduct motivational and public speeches.

African nations emerging as trading partners

By WHITEFIELD
Herald Business Writer

During the Cold War years sub-Saharan African nations were the proxies in disputes between the West and the Soviet bloc, and as such were beneficiaries of steady streams of aid.

But the end of the Cold War dried up those lavish aid budgets. By necessity, many sub-Saharan countries undertook economic reform and privatization programs to attract foreign and domestic investors.

Now — instead of being dismissed as lost causes — a number of sub-Saharan nations are beginning to look like interesting business prospects.

Senegal, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Tanzania, Ghana, Mozambique, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, and Ethiopia — until recently suffering from famine — are among the countries whose economies are showing dramatic growth.

Emerging economies

Emerging economies, as well as South Africa, will be the focus of a U.S.-Africa trade and investment conference — "Africa, the Next Frontier" — that will be held Thursday through Saturday in Miami.

Now with trade between Africa and the United States poised to grow, South Florida — with the nearest airport and seaport to the sub-Saharan countries — could play an important role, said Tony Okonmah, executive director of the Maryland-based Foundation for Democracy in Africa, a conference co-organizer.

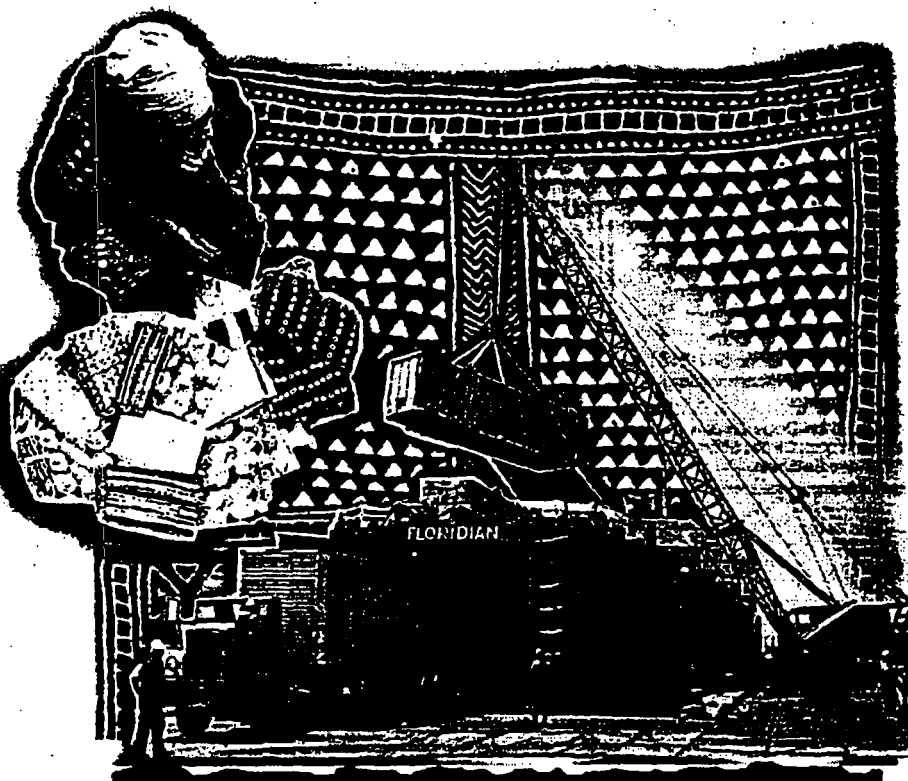
"We have the geographic potential because we are closest to the west coast of Africa, and also because Miami is a gateway to Latin America and could be a site for trade transiting between Africa and Latin America," Okonmah said.

There are currently five direct flights per week between Miami International Airport and Cape Town, South Africa — with continuing service to Johannesburg — on South African Airways.

These are the only direct flights to sub-Saharan Africa from MIA, but Okonmah said, "We are hoping that African dignitaries visiting for the conference will be able to initiate talks about additional landing rights."

South Florida's closer proximity to West Africa is a matter of degree. The Miami-Cape Town route, for example, is 7,653 miles, while a flight from New York to Johannesburg is 7,981 miles.

However, Okonmah said, that new African trade could be



ERICKA HAMBURG / Herald Staff

superimposed on South Florida's existing infrastructure as an international trade hub: "Miami has everything necessary to do business with Africa."

Among major African exports are: textiles, palm oil, coffee, cocoa, pharmaceutical ingredients, bauxite, diamonds, cobalt, chromite, palladium, and other strategic metals.

Expanding trade with Africa not only will help solidify African democracy, but also will be good for the United States, Okonmah said.

"The economy of Africa is interwoven with stimulating the economy of the United States. In Africa everything is needed from building roads to buying airplanes," he said. "The Japanese and Europeans are positioning themselves to do business, but the African people like American products."

The United States supplies just 7 percent of African imports, but there are several plans under discussion to increase U.S. trade with Africa.

President Clinton announced a five-point Africa initiative last June that includes increased access to U.S. markets for African exports, technical assistance, creation of equity funds to spur investment, and a plan

to eliminate debt for the poorest of the reforming nations.

Clinton's plan also calls for annual economic meetings — at the ministerial level — between the United States and all reforming African nations.

'Bright hopes'

"We look at Africa as a continent full of bright hopes and persistent problems," Clinton said last summer. "Everyone knows about the conflicts from Sudan to Sierra Leone. What doesn't make the headlines, he said, is that 'there

really is a dynamic new Africa out there and the far-greater number of nations there are now making dramatic strides toward democracy and prosperity."

Clinton plans to visit Africa March 22 to April 2 to promote new U.S. partnerships with the continent. Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Botswana, and Senegal are on his itinerary.

Last spring, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which rewards sub-Saharan nations that have undertaken market-based economic reforms with trade benefits and aid, was

With trade between Africa and the United States poised to grow, South Florida — with the nearest airport and seaport to the sub-Saharan countries — could play an important role, said Tony Okonmah of Foundation for Democracy In Africa.

introduced in Congress.

But it was attached to fast-track legislation allowing the president to present trade agreements to Congress for a simple yes-no vote and prohibiting lawmakers from amending. The fast-track bill was withdrawn last November after Clinton and his Republican allies feared there weren't enough votes for its passage.

The African bill is now in committee and Congressional staffers say they're hopeful that Congress will vote on it in the next few months.

THE CONFERENCE

■ U.S.-Africa Trade & Investment Conference: "Africa: The Next Frontier."

■ When: Feb. 26-28, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

■ Where: Marriott Plaza, 1201 NW 42nd Ave., Miami. Saturday awards dinner at Hotel Sofitel.

■ Organizers: The Foundation for Democracy in Africa, Institute for Democracy in Africa, St. Thomas University.

■ Cost: Thursday through Saturday: \$225. One-day rates available.

■ Call: (301) 499-1302.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, PARTICIPANTS

- Colin Eglin, member of parliament, South Africa
- Margaret Dongo, member of parliament, Zimbabwe
- Olu Otunla, Tayero Public Policy Group, Lagos, Nigeria
- Berhane Gebre-Christos, ambassador of Ethiopia
- Samson K. Chemal, ambassador of Kenya
- Mamadou Manour Seck, ambassador of the Republic of Senegal
- Mary Kanya, ambassador of Swaziland
- Mustafa Nyang'anyi, ambassador of Tanzania
- Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas
- Former New York Mayor David Dinkins
- U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
- U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek

 UP 9,772.84 +79.08 DOW 30 INDUSTRIALS	S&P 500 STOCK INDEX	1,286.84 +7.00
	NASDAQ STOCK INDEX	2,406.12 +13.18
	BONDS	5.53%
	U.S. 30-YEAR	unchanged
	HERALD BLOOMBERG LOCAL INDEX	124.32 +.12

BUSINESS

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999

F BRO

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Miami-Dade touted as ideal gateway to Africa

By MIMI WHITEFIELD
Herald Business Writer

Miami-Dade officials and business executives tried to sell the county as the ideal gateway for trade with Africa Wednesday on the opening day of AfriCANDO, a four-day Africa trade and investment conference and exhibition.

"We'd like you to consider Miami-Dade as a gateway for trade with the United States, as well as an entry point for commerce with Latin America," said Manuel Gonzalez, international trade and commerce coordinator for the county. "What we're doing here today is similar to what we were doing in Latin America in the 1970s."

When many U.S. businesses regarded Latin America as too poor and too politically unstable to be an interesting market three decades ago, Miami was forging trade ties, he said. "We offer you the opportunity of an open-minded community," used to doing business in the Third



TIM CHAPMAN/Herald Staff

ACROSS THE SEA: Mary Lubemba, from Zambia, shows some of her country's products at the AfriCANDO conference Wednesday.

World, Gonzalez said.

Despite a winter storm in the Northeast that kept a number of African ambassadors and politicians from arriving and a tie-up in getting Nigerian textiles out of Customs, the Africans in attendance seemed interested in exploring the prospect of business through the Miami gateway.

The conference, whose name is a play on the words *Africa* and *can do*, runs through Friday at Miami's James L. Knight Center. It continues Saturday with a town hall meeting and cultural showcase at the Joseph Caleb Center.

"We see the potential is here, because people in Florida admire our products. People who know art can see the quality in the work," said Joy Mwambazi, a clothing designer from Lusaka, Zambia, as she hefted a carved ebony giraffe. She was

PLEASE SEE AFRICANDO, 8C

AfriCANDO kicks off

AFRICANDO, FROM 1C

making her second sales trip to the United States. In December, she visited Pensacola.

"We're hoping to get orders here so we can have a continuous relationship," said Mwambazi, whose booth offered malachite and copper jewelry from Zambia's central copper belt, polished cotton and linen clothing in traditional designs and straw baskets.

The idea of trade with Africa has appeal to local officials not only because South Florida is closer to Africa's West Coast than other U.S. ports, but also because they see it as a way of drawing blacks — who have largely been excluded from the county's thriving international trade sector — into foreign commerce.

The Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust, an initiative whose goal is to improve the quality of life for African-Americans, also is pushing the idea of trade with Africa as a way to pull black businesspeople into the international arena.

But local attendance was sparse Wednesday, and Mwambazi and other exhibitors found few potential trading partners for networking. There appeared to be more Africans than African-Americans.

Still, Miami businessman Sonny Wright, chairman of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, one of the organizers of the event, said, "I'm excited we've begun to identify a way to get involved in the trade community."

One reason so few blacks have turned to international trade in the past, he said, has been lack of access to capital.

"But in general the black community is behind in terms of economic development in Miami-Dade County," Wright

AFRICANDO

AFRICANDO: Gateway to Africa conference and exhibition continues today and Friday at the James L. Knight Center, 400 SE Second Ave. Admission is free to the Expo and a trade lead match-making service sponsored by Camacol and the Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust. There is a charge for plenary sessions, luncheons, workshops, and other events.

For information, call (305) 999-3405.

said. "That's why this is such an important step. Without the county [one of the event's sponsors] and the support of Mayor Alex Penelas, I doubt we would have gotten this far."

After the first U.S.-African trade and investment conference in Miami last year, Penelas created the Mayor's Task Force on African Trade.

It will be an uphill battle. Less than 1 percent of the nearly \$50 billion in international trade that passes through South Florida involves African-American businesses, according to the mayor's office.

But Jay Malina, president of Xebec Trade Finance and chairman of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, said the potential is there. "We have an African-American community here that over the next five years will be getting involved in international trade as part of our empowerment process, and we're going to invest millions of dollars to create traders. That, it seems, would be an advantage to our African friends."

Added Lars Hummerhielm, president of the Association of Bi-National Chambers of Commerce of Florida: "What we're missing in Miami, what we really want to do is develop the same relationship with Africa that we've developed with every other continent of the world."

Conference promotes trade with Africa

■ City could be the transit point between Latin and Ivory Coast companies

By ALEXIS MUELLNER

Leo Mena sees lots of similarities between Nicaragua and sub-Saharan Africa.

he vice president in the Miami office of Managua-based import-export company Anem Y Compania, is looking to make 50-watt solar panels in Senegal and the Ivory Coast. Because his company is seeking skilled workers in Africa, the project has gained governmental support in finding plant locations and supplies.

It's an example, said Mena of the wealth of trading opportunities that exist between South Florida, Latin

America and African economies.

The emerging African markets are the focus of a conference in Miami this week, "Africa: The Next Frontier." The meeting, expected to draw 300, brings together representatives from sub-Saharan African nations like Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Kenya, Nigeria and Ethiopia, with American entrepreneurs and diplomats.

The meeting comes at a time when there's renewed national interest in stimulating U.S.-Africa trade.

Last June, President Clinton announced an African trade initiative, promising that countries that strengthen democracies and invest in their people will see their efforts pay off in increased trade, jobs, better wages, growth and improved quality of life. A bill, the African Growth and Opportu-

AFRICA: THE NEXT FRONTIER

CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE trade and ties between South Florida, Latin American and Africa.

WHEN: Runs through Sunday

WHERE: Marriott Plaza, 2101 NW 42nd Ave., Miami

COST: \$225 for three days; \$50 per day.

INFO: Tony Okonmah, executive director, Foundation for Democracy in Africa, 305-652-2884. The foundation's web site is at www.democracy-africa.org.

nity Act was introduced in Congress last year, and attached to President Clinton's fast-track free trade legislation. Fast-track didn't have enough votes for passage, so the African trade bill is being hashed out on its own in a Congressional committee, with support from Florida legislators.

If made law, it declares support for sub-Saharan African countries committed to economic and political reform, establishes market incentives and promotes private-sector growth. According to the bill, three countries achieved 6 percent annual growth rate in 1992. That rose to 12 percent in 1995. In 1993, 19 countries had a negative growth rate, dropping to just four nations in 1995.

Importance of women

Among a range of trade development initiatives, it also seeks to promote better education on cultural differences, such as the importance of women to economic growth and development in African trade.

"In most of the African countries women are the traders," said Tony Okonmah, executive director of the Maryland-based Foundation for Democracy in Africa, conference organizer. "They know bargains, they know how to bring a product from scratch to finish and people have not given them credit for that."

The legislation, and this week's meeting, is proving a catalyst for Africa trade proponents in South Florida.

"South Florida's geographical location puts it in the position to be a transit point and a window between Latin America and the Caribbean to Africa," said Okonmah.

Maria Elena Ibanez, president of International High-tech Marketing in Miami, is scheduled to speak at the conference on doing business in Africa.

She first went there four years ago to sell computers. Through lots of trial and error, she said she developed all-important personal relationships. Now her business has a well-established market niche in Africa, increasing 2,700 percent since her first year there, she said. Her firm, acquired last year as a wholly owned subsidiary of CHS Electronics in Miami, distributes personal computers in Africa.

But many barriers still exist, Ibanez said. One, is a lack of communication about the trade initiatives or the safety concerns for business people, both in Africa, and in South Florida.

"There's a lot of hype about the political situation in Africa but it's very artificial," she said. "Also, the 'Miami Vice' TV show is still running throughout the region, and that does nothing to help the image here," she said. □



Coumba Diop and Rosalie Diallo exhibit merchandise from their native Dakar, Senegal at the recent African trade conference and exposition, Africando, in downtown Miami.

Official: U.S.-Africa has 70% chance of passage

By PETER ZALEWSKI

Staff Writer

Rosalie Diallo has had some success selling colorful, hand-carved knickknacks to visitors from an arts and crafts kiosk in her native Dakar, Senegal, but is beginning to think about expanding globally.

With less than 5 percent of her locally produced merchandise exported, Diallo

turned in early 1998 when President Clinton visited six African nations, announced improved trade relations with the continent to be a priority.

Poised for passage last year, the African Growth and Opportunity bill cleared the House but stalled in the Senate.

Reintroduced as virtually the same piece of legislation this year, the bill, which attempts to improve trade, encourage private partnerships and ease debt obligations, has about a 70 percent chance of passing in this 106th Congress, said Mamadou Mansour Seck, Senegal Ambassador to the United States.

The African diplomatic corps in Washington is even more supportive of the bill, said Seck, who worked for four years with Congress drafting the language.

"There is an overwhelming majority supporting the bill," Seck said.

Due west of Africa, South Florida's ports are positioned as well as any U.S. point of entry to benefit from increased trade with sub-Saharan Africa's 624 million people.

Currently, African trade is almost unnoticeable. Africa accounted for less than 1 percent of the \$47.4 billion in trade passing through Miami customs district in 1997 while Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 78 percent, according to the Beacon Council, the county economic development organization.

IMPORT/EXPORT

took the initial step in entering the U.S. market by exhibiting her merchandise at the recent African trade conference and exposition, Africando, at the James L. Knight Center in downtown Miami.

Traveling half a day by airplane to Miami via New York, Diallo is optimistic about the trade opportunities that appear to be improving between sub-Saharan Africa and the United States on the eve of proposed federal legislation that would strengthen the relationship.

Adding to her enthusiasm is the formal signing of a sister seaport agreement between Miami and Dakar that could result in improved relations between the two continents.

"It's exciting," said Diallo, who would now have to ship through France to reach Miami and Latin America.

The excitement began gaining momen-

AeroPeru ceases international flights

By ROBERT ADAMS

Staff Writer

Despite the recent intervention by Delta Air Lines and Aeromexico, AeroPeru has ceased operating its inter-

investor would come forward with an estimated \$30 million to acquire a 52 percent stake.

AeroPeru carried 120,000 passengers through Miami International Airport in 1998, a 16 percent increase over the previous year, but was not among the top 35

The Peruvian airline also said last week that it planned to cease operating its domestic flights while it tries to reorganize during the next two months.

In a statement, Delta Air Lines said joint efforts by the three carriers "were not sufficient to improve the company's economic situation."

Tracy O'Donnal.

He said AeroPeru is pursuing additional financing on its own to reduce a debt of approximately \$170 million.

"We're not aware of any proposal or request to aid them further with capital," O'Donnal said. "The ball is in AeroPeru's court. They're doing it on their own."

History of sales: Look at yesterday to see tomorrow

Eve sold Adam the apple. The first sale.

Eve had no sales tools, no Power Point presentations, no brochures. She was persuasive. She used her words and her body language, so to speak, to make the sale.

Skip ahead a bit to the early 1900s. That's where the beginning of selling skills, methods, techniques and tricks as we know them today were formed and documented.

Sales, like any other part of Americana, has a history. To know where it's going, often it helps to know where it's been. Old sales stuff (pre-1940) has always led me to new ideas. My oldest sales book is from 1890. It's about retailing, and says to "make the customer and back the company."

The early sales books were a bunch of observations about ethics, backing your company, doing your best, serving others, building relationships. Being the truth, delivering more than you promise, delivering quality products, and working hard (referred to as plugging). That was the early stuff. Kind of sounds familiar.

The most interesting element of sales has been its ideological evolution. Beginning at the turn of the century, everyone was nice, polite, amiable, mannerly, and looking to establish friendships and relationships. That lasted about 16 years.

Early in the century, traveling salesmen roamed America by train. Remember Professor Howard Hill, the Music Man? People were wary of traveling salesmen, and would try to ward them off — but these guys were slick. Persuasive. Selling snake-oil, lotions, potions, religion, rain, — and anything they could get away with.

And they got away with (and still do, away with) lots.

Then the door-to-door guys took over around the '20s and '30s. Everything from brushes to milk was sold and delivered as promised.

Then salespeople found out that there was a way to talk that could persuade more — or better than ethics. By changing their words, they could make more sales. Sales techniques were born — and perfected.

Around 1940-50 salespeople had

emerge — and for the most part, it wasn't a good one.

"But hey," you say. "Not all salespeople and sales tactics are bad."

True. But that's not how we judge groups of people in America. We judge them by the actions of a few. A few disreputable used car salespeople, or home improvement salespeople and bingo — all salespeople are not to be trusted.

Good or bad, here's the bottom line: I've been a salesperson for more than 45 years (started at age 7) and have studied sales and positive attitude for 25 years. The conclusion I've come to is: If it weren't for salespeople, the rest of America's labor force wouldn't have a thing to do. Unless someone sells something, nothing happens. No sense for the accountant to come to work — nothing to count. No sense in the worker coming to manufacture anything — nothing to make.

As a salesperson, if you take pride in what you do, you are on the threshold of building relationships. All you have to do is drop the manipulation.

Good news: I believe we are now in a renaissance period of salesmanship. We are going back to the roots of the early 1900s and once again focusing on the relationship. There has been a trend toward the role of the salesperson as a consultant and that trend will flourish.

Better news: Corporate America is coming to the conclusion that relationships are valuable, and being seen as a community seller is a losing situation. It realized that if its salespeople (you are seen as information resources), the customer will become a long-term value purchaser.

Best news: Your reputation and your ability to establish these relationships, is based on your actions. The best 21st century actions you can take are: Be a student of sales, and be a disciple of relationships.

If it's true that Eve sold Adam the apple, consider these new truths:

• The first salesman was a woman.

• The first sale was a product — not a service, and

• A huge myth is broken — sales is now "the oldest profession."

Free by fax. Want my list of the best books available on selling and personal development? Just fax your letterhead with your name and the words, "SALES PHOTOS" to 304/433-1011 or e-mail with your fax number to carroll@jwexec.com

Jeffrey Gitomer, author of *The Selling Edge*, and *The Sales*

Out of Africa: Will S. Florida finally step up to the plate?

Rumblings about the demise of the upcoming "Africando" conference in Miami have been greatly exaggerated, said Tony Ojeda, director of the Department of Protocol and International Trade



International Trade
Alexis Mueller

in the office of Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas. Several calls received by his office questioned whether the event — a three day conference to promote trade ties between South Florida and Africa — had been canceled.

There has been some concern over a lack of corporate sponsorship, but progress is being made, Ojeda said. Last week, the Miami-Dade County commission appropriated up to an additional \$75,000 in funds and in-kind support. The county has made terminal 12 at the Port of Miami available to the conference for a party, for example.

The organizer — the Foundation for Democracy in Africa — has yet to meet its goals, Ojeda said. "But we feel confident that with additional assistance from the county, it'll proceed."

A number of distinguished leaders have confirmed their presence at the conference scheduled for March 10-13, including the president of Senegal, Ojeda said. It is the second annual version of the event, and according to county trade officials, much larger than last year's endeavor. There is a exhibition, and trade show, said Manny Gonzalez in Ojeda's office, and there's a waiting list of 230 people wanting to attend but waiting for visa approval.

But the Association of Binational Chambers of Commerce, an active participant and named sponsor of the event last year, wasn't even approached this time. Chairman Lars Hummerhielm expressed surprise by the snub and concern that the organizers were taking too narrow an approach in marketing the event.

"If South Florida is going to manage to become as important a center for commerce and trade between the Americas and Africa as we are in other parts of the world," Hummerhielm said, "it has to be done by mainstream business in America."

Wachovia Florida World trade index, third quarter '98

In Millions of Dollars

Top Florida exports by destination		
Country	Value	% Growth
Brazil	727.7	20.6
Canada	489.3	10.5
Venezuela	338.0	21.3
Argentina	314.8	9.4
Colombia	314.7	21.6
Customs District of Export		
Country	Value	% Growth
Miami	3,772.0	4.2
Tampa	1,042.9	4.8
Savannah	256.3	19
New York City	248.6	27.7
New Orleans	140.4	10.2

Trade activity — exports plus imports — in the third quarter totaled \$15 billion.

But Florida exports for the quarter were \$6.58 billion, 2.6 percent lower than the same quarter in 1997. Manufactured exports dropped 1.9 percent to \$6.38 billion, while non-manufactured exports fell 20.9 percent, to \$196 million.

The numbers show the impact of currency crisis in Latin America taking hold in South Florida. Shipments to Brazil and Venezuela in the third quarter were off 21 percent.

To do list

Some upcoming events and seminars to note:

■ The World Trade Center Fort Lauderdale will present a seminar March 11 designed to help companies make their Web sites more profitable. The event will be at the Fort Lauderdale Airport Hilton from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The seminar is being led by Digital Media Network a Broward company that specializes in creating international electronic commerce. Fees are \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

■ The Center for Business Intelligence, a Massachusetts conference company, announced it is hosting its 4th Annual Mercosur Logistics conference, April 26-28, at the Wyndham Miami-Biscayne Bay in Miami.

The program brings together manufacturers, government officials and logistics personnel with expertise in developing a supply chain for Mercosur trade pact nations.

The conference is scheduled to include case studies such as Caterpillar, Nortel Networks, Cisco and Lucent Technologies.

Michelle Jansen

655-1944

NEWSWEEK

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 30

The Tri-County's Most Comprehensive Coverage

WEEK OF FEB. 6-FEB. 12, 1998 25 CENTS

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1998 Peace and Unity Awards Recipients

FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA



The Foundation for Democracy in Africa is a Washington based non-profit, nonpartisan organization. The Foundation was founded in 1994 with the intent to vertically integrate a culturally based program aimed at strengthening and enhancing the fundamental principles of democracy, freedom, and economic plurality in Africa.

The mission of the Foundation is to implement the principles of culturally based democratic government within the African society, bringing the countries of Africa into the mainstream of the global economy through free enterprise, thus cultivating the pathway for peace and prosperity from resulting economic opportunity.

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa, in pursuit of its objectives, has established the Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDA). IDA serves as the "think tank" arm of the foundation and is responsible for creating innovative

African socio-political and economic problems. IDA conducts training and research and educates both the private and public sectors on various developments in Africa.

In 1996, FDA received "NGO in Consultative Status (Roster) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations."

The supporting organizations of the Foundation are IDA, St. Thomas University and Miami-Dade County.

As trade between the United States and Africa is set to grow significantly, South Florida - with the nearest port and air facilities to the African continent - is poised to play an integral role in the increased commerce. Recently, the Miami-Dade County Commission voted unanimously to support the Foundation for Democracy in Africa and the Institute for Democracy in Africa, to host the inaugural "International Symposium on African Democracy, Trade,

ment" to be held in Miami, Florida, between February 25-28. The Symposium will bring to Miami-Dade County, Florida, a host of government officials from the U.S. and Africa as well as business leaders to discuss ways of expanding trade opportunities.

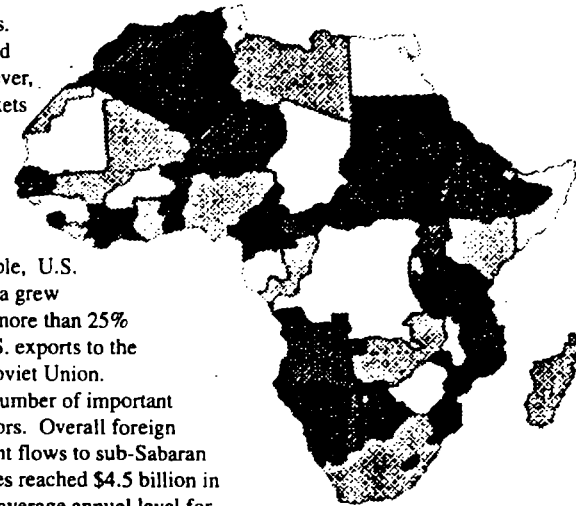
The Symposium and the Resolution are efforts to carry forward the tenets of President Clinton's Africa Trade strategy, announced on June 17, 1997, and of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, H.R. 1432, pending before Congress. The President's strategy seeks to expand investment and trade between Africa and the United States "to help fulfill the promise of a stable, prosperous and democratic Africa."

Until recently, the U.S. accounted for only 7% of Africa's imports.

That is projected to change however, as African markets present ever-growing opportunities for U.S. exporters. Last year, for example, U.S. exports to Africa grew 20% and were more than 25% greater than U.S. exports to the entire former Soviet Union.

There are a number of important positive indicators. Overall foreign direct investment flows to sub-Saharan African countries reached \$4.5 billion in 1996, triple the average annual level for 1990 to 1993. Some African countries already have attained growth rates as high as 12%, comparable to those of East Asia. With Africa's population currently over 748 million, and expected to exceed 830 million by the end of the decade, U.S. exporters are beginning to take greater interest.

The Miami Symposium in February will allow U.S. and African government officials, businesses and development-oriented non-profit organizations to ex-



■ KING

From Page A11

"The third bean is like the Christian who makes a difference. What is missing in the world is the Christian who will lead, who is not afraid or ashamed to live as he believes. Because of that he makes a difference, makes the world a better place."

The bishop asked, "So, what kind of bean do I resemble? one afraid or ashamed, or one who wants to make a difference?"

He said, "Today we commemorate the memory of Martin Luther King because he was a man who decided to make a difference. He was like the third red bean."

"He understood that for racism to remain unchallenged only required enough good Christian people to remain afraid or ashamed. God used him to make a difference."

He said young people need such heroes to follow, with values of sacrifice, rather than preoccupation with self-esteem.

"Jesus," he said, "didn't walk up Calvary to make us feel good." He walked up and was crucified "to make us do good."

He said that Dr. King, in spite of dirty jails, rats, water hoses, police dogs and horses, "taught us to do good. Always do good."

He said there is a mural at 27th Avenue and 62nd Street Northwest, that quotes Dr. King:

"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve."

Honoring those who have served, Mrs. Leona Cooper, co-founder of the De Porres Association, and Archbishop John C. Favalora presented the Peace and Justice Awards to:

- The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, which is a major source of historical research in the state since 1977.

- Peter D. Coats, director of Social Advocacy and Disaster Relief for Catholic Charities, who helped coordinate relief during Hurricane Andrew and other disasters around the nation.

- Foundation for Democracy in Africa, which seeks to promote democratic values and social and economic solutions for problems in Africa.

- Grove Outreach Center, created by Msgr. John Vaughan of St. Hugh Parish in 1989, to help the homeless and needy in Coconut Grove.

- Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, which gathers

'Martin Luther King was a man who decided to make a difference'

Bishop Thomas Wenski says stand up like Dr. King did

Robert O'Steen

MIAMI

Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Wenski told the gathering at the Martin Luther King Day Mass a parable about three little red beans, and he said not to be afraid or ashamed to stand up for the principles of justice.

He spoke at the St. Martin de Porres Association's annual observance of Rev. King's birthday in St. Mary Cathedral, at which the organization presents awards to persons or groups advancing peace and justice in the community.

Bishop Wenski, director of the Haitian apostolate for many years, and fluent in Spanish, noted that he was not accustomed to preaching in English.

He said he would borrow from his Haitian preaching style for his homily, in which the audience participates.

In it, he told the story of three little red beans.

The first fell into a beautiful garden and looked around.

"He looked... ('Left!' said the congregation.) And he looked... ('Right!' said the congregation) and thought, 'I'm the only red thing in the garden.'"

The red bean ran and hid under some leaves. "Because he was..." ('Afraid!' said the people.)

A second red bean fell and he looked up and the sky was... "Blue!" said the congregation. And the leaves were "Green!" And the bean was "Red!" So he was ashamed. He went to the store and got paint and colored himself many colors, because he was... "Ashamed!"

A third red bean fell and saw the sky was... "Blue!" and the clouds were... "White!" and the leaves were... "Green!" and the flowers were... "Yellow!" But nothing was... "Red!" like him.

He saw the garden was beautiful, but was missing something because there was nothing like himself, said the bishop. So the third bean decided to stay in the garden and make it a better place.

The beans, said Bishop Wenski, are like Christians. Some are afraid to be different and they hide their identity, like the first bean. Some are ashamed of what they are, and disguise their beliefs, like the second, conforming to everyone else's behavior. "They adapt themselves. They go along, to... 'Get



ROBERT O'STEEN / TFC

Anthony D. Okonmah, local representative of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, speaks at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Mass.

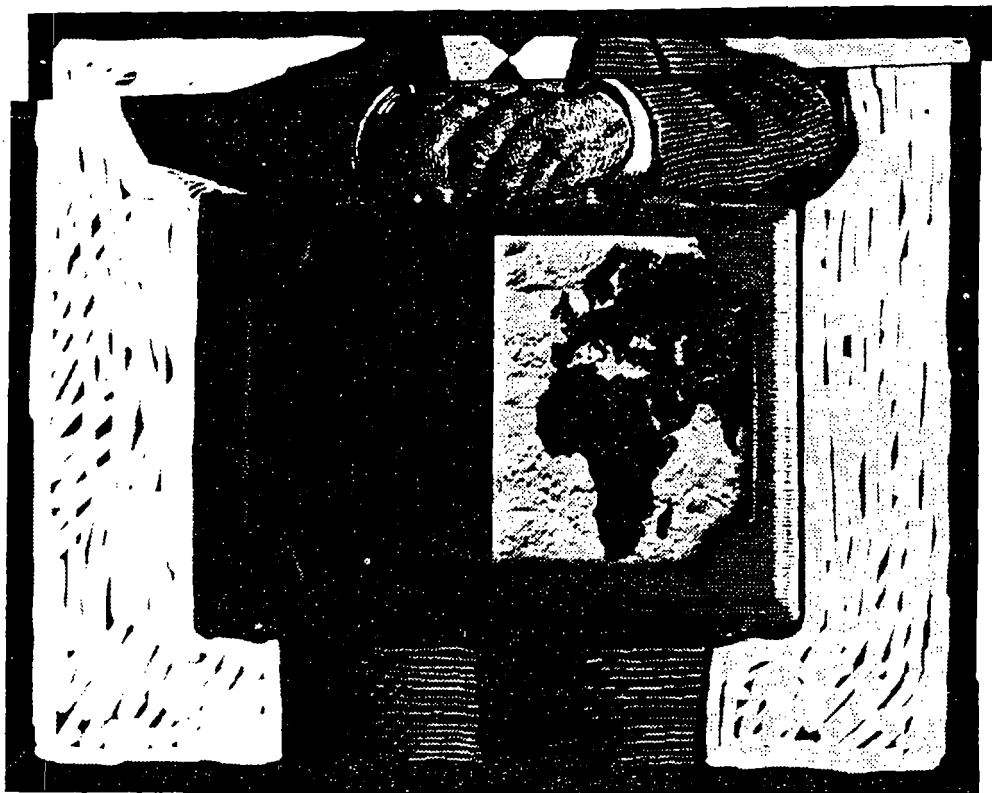


ROBERT O'STEEN / TFC

Harry A. Levy, fourth from left, president of the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, accepts the St. Martin de Porres Peace and Justice Award.



Two Missionaries of Charity nuns, who declined to be identified individually, are greeted by Peter Coats, a recipient of the St. Martin de Porres Peace and Justice Award.



EARL F. LAM III/Herald Staff

South Florida can profit from emerging AFRICAN ECONOMY



The author, who recently visited Africa, is a Miami Beach writer. She

By ANNE KALOSH

When President Clinton embarks on a five-nation tour of Africa next Sunday, he leads the United States on a mission to shift its role from aid donor to trade partner. And South Florida can seize this opportunity to become a new trade gateway for yet another continent.

From an economic perspective, South Florida has capitalized on its cultural ties and proximity to Latin America. We have long been considered the gateway to Latin American trade and tourism.

Now we enjoy the same advantages with the emerging economies of central and southern Africa — economies that will be stimulated by a major bill pending in Con-

gress. And a glance at the map shows our favorable location compared to other states. South Florida offers the closest major airports and seaports of any U.S. city to the countries promoted in the bill.

We have everything to gain from supporting this bill and pursuing its goals: increased trade, new markets for both small and large businesses and, ultimately, jobs.

Currently protectionism on both sides of the Atlantic hampers trade. The crushing debt wracked up by past decades of African dictators blocks progress, locking most Africans in abject poverty.

It is time to put an end to the outdated practice of just throwing U.S. aid at this type of problem. Instead, we can offer the tools for

development. When the Cold War ended, some 30 nations in Sub-Saharan Africa (those south of the Sahara desert) have held democratic elections and are instituting serious economic reforms such as privatizing state-owned companies, removing artificial trade barriers and formulating more liberal investment laws. These processes need our full support.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act, passed last week by the House and expected to pass the Senate after Easter, would open U.S. markets to African products, provide technical assistance to emerging economies in sub-Saharan nations, set guidelines for establishing free-market reforms and offer \$650 million in equity

The moment is ripe. Since the



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Africa trade bill opens new gateway

AFRICA, FROM 1L

and offer \$650 million in equity and funding for infrastructure development.

While the bill enjoys wide bipartisan support, opposition has come from some Southern states, like South Carolina, which fear that opening the U.S. to African textiles could threaten apparel-industry jobs here. The bill's supporters say that isn't likely because import growth would be small.

The bill was a topic of keen interest at the first U.S.-Africa Trade and Investment Conference held recently in Miami. Sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Foundation for Democracy in Africa, the symposium drew African ambassadors and lawmakers, Clinton administration officials and U.S. Reps. Carrie Meek and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, both of Miami, and E. Clay Shaw of Fort Lauderdale. All three support the bill.

Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas took the occasion to announce a new Mayor's Task Force on African Trade, saying, "I want Miami-Dade County to be the gateway to Africa."

Citibank, DHL, General Electric, John Deere, Inter-Continental Hotels and Sheraton are already on the continent. But, as Meek told the conference, "Not only can big corporations do business in Africa, but so can you."

It's true. The symposium drew local entrepreneurs involved with Africa in areas ranging from engineering to financial services. Some were African Americans, some Hispanics, many were women and most were young — which shows Africa is providing opportunities for those in our community who, all too often, are marginalized.



LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS IN AFRICA: (From left) Gilbert Squires, Maria Ibanez, and Daniel Fils-Aime

After building a business exporting computers to Latin America, Miamian Maria Ibanez ventured into Africa, one country at a time. Now her company, International High-Tech Marketing, boasts hundreds of clients in 23 African nations.

Haiti-born Daniel Fils-Aime, owner of Miami Mini Bus & Motorcoach Transportation Services, is developing soft-drink manufacturing plants in West Africa and a Zimbabwe transit project.

Robert Welz set up Robert's African Imports, specializing in art from Malawi, while Gilbert Squires left an oil company to start his own Brickell Avenue firm providing consulting services to African energy concerns. With a huge oil boom in its Gulf of Guinea area, Africa stands to become a major exporter of oil to the U.S., reducing our reliance on the shaky Middle East.

Oliver Kramer, an investment

banker with Hudson Sloane & Co. L.L.C., is leading a June trade mission to Kenya and Tanzania, while Beverly Harris, president of Orlando-based Sirrah B. Engineering Corp., has launched several South African companies and this month will take eight Florida firms on a trade mission to that nation.

These and other local entrepreneurs are proving it is viable to do business in Africa.

But there are risks. Sub-Saharan Africa offers a potential market of more than 700 million consumers, yet it contains many of the world's poorest nations. Per-capita income in many nations is so low, people can't afford consumer goods.

As a U.S. Commerce official puts it, the economy of Los Angeles is larger than all of South Africa, and Manhattan is equipped with more telephone lines than the entire African continent.

These sobering facts should only

serve to bolster support for the Growth and Opportunity Act, which provides a strategy for bringing Africa into the global economy. According to Mamadou Mansour Seck, Senegal's ambassador in Washington, Africa imported \$6 billion in U.S. goods last year, creating 100,000 American jobs. This only hints at the potential.

Support for more African trade is building on many fronts. Just weeks ago, the United States opened a new African trade office. Here in South Florida, Miami International Airport is working to establish more direct flights to Africa. Local activists are uniting to forge binational chambers of commerce and sister-cities programs. The Foundation for Democracy in Africa is setting up a Miami clearinghouse for trade and investment data, and the advocacy group Constituency for Africa is planning an October Town Hall meeting on Africa.

In short, our community is getting energized by what former New York Mayor David Dinkins calls "the most significant piece of proposed legislation to affect Africa since the end of the Cold War."

One caveat: "Don't think that Africa is sitting back waiting for something to happen in America," warned Colin Eglin, member of Parliament for South Africa. If the U.S. drags its feet, Africa is already busy negotiating free-trade agreements with Europe and forging business ties with the Middle East, Asia and China.

America shouldn't miss this chance. And South Florida, with its long experience cultivating the emerging markets of Latin America, should seize this fresh opportunity to become a gateway to The New Africa.

VIEWPOINT

BOOKS 4L 5L
 in *The Bend for Home*,
 Dermot Healy has
 composed an unusually
 interesting memoir. 4L
THE BEND FOR HOME

global markets

By Marilyn Adams



LATIN AMERICA

Proceed With Caution

The middle class may be shrinking in parts of the region, which sends up a yellow flag for firms marketing themselves in Latin America.

When John Holcombe looks closely at data on consumer markets in Latin America, he's a little troubled by what he sees. According to his company's recent report, consumer spending across the region rose an astonishing 21% in the last four years, to \$1.2 trillion, largely because hyper-inflation has been tamed. But new data suggests that spending, particularly on big-ticket durable goods, has leveled off. In Brazil, it's flat this year and interest rates, unemployment and debt are up. In Argentina's capital city, Buenos Aires, unemployment is nearly 20% and consumer spending nationwide has slowed. In Mexico, food and retail sales are stronger, but consumer demand overall is still off 10% from levels before the 1994 peso devaluation. In Venezuela, consumers are

actually spending less than in recent years. "It's going to be a wait-and-see kind of year," says Holcombe, research director for Strategy Research Corp. in Miami, which has tracked Latin America for corporate clients since the '70s.

The trend that helps to explain the spending slowdown may be more worrisome than the slowdown itself: Stagnating growth of the middle class. As Latin markets have opened and money has flowed in, Holcombe sees little evidence that the boats of the middle and lower income classes have risen much. In Mexico and Venezuela, the middle class may be shrinking.

"For Mexico and Venezuela, oil is a big issue" because those economies suffer when petroleum export prices fall, says Scott Brown, senior economist for Raymond James Financial. "I

Made in Florida, USA

Top 10 export destinations for Florida-origin goods

Rank	Country	Trade Volume	% increase from 1996
1	Brazil	\$3.3 billion	26.1%
2	Canada	2.0	12.7
3	Colombia	1.67	17.2
4	Venezuela	1.49	37.6
5	Dominican Rep.	1.28	21.2
6	Argentina	1.16	14.3
7	Mexico	\$860 million	22.9
8	China	809	30.9
9	Japan	807	-8.7
10	United Kingdom	754	9.1
Total		\$27.6 billion	11.9%

Source: Enterprise Florida; trade figures are for 1997.

don't see much evidence of broad-based economic slowdown in the region, but there's a lot of uncertainty,"

Researchers sometimes use letters of the alphabet to denote income classes. "A" refers to the captains of industry and government, along with doctors, lawyers and other elites. "B" is upper middle-class professionals and business managers. "C" is the middle class, which includes small-business people and skilled laborers and accounts for about one-third of all households.

"We don't see any growth in the middle class," Holcombe says. "The income distribution trends are getting worse." That doesn't bode well for the future of the middle class, and it has immediate implications for which — and how — products can be marketed successfully in Latin America, he says.

For example, many companies have been targeting the affluent few, the A and B classes and the top slice of C, and these consumers have been bombarded with advertising and new product information. Now, with stiff competition for a narrow customer base, companies may have to reach more of the middle class to grow their sales, Holcombe says.

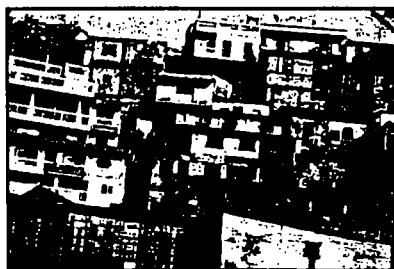
Cuky Pouparina, a marketing manager for Latin America with electronics giant Sharp, says her company's experience seems to confirm that. "Because electronics tend to be luxury items, our industry is experiencing a slowdown (in Latin America)." So Sharp marketers have been trying new approaches, such

Rich Man, Poor Man

In many Latin American countries, a healthy middle class has yet to flourish and bridge the gap between, typically, extreme wealth and extreme poverty.



"A" CLASS: SANTIAGO, CHILE



"D" CLASS: GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

as educating consumers about its products. ("There are still people down there who think microwave ovens are harmful.") Sharp also introduced new products, such as air conditioners and rice cookers, which are selling well.

Giorgio Beverly Hills, the fragrance maker, has a different plan of attack: It's branching out to areas where competition for upper-income customers may be less fierce. "A lot of what we do has focused on the main cities," says Sandra Vaucher, Giorgio's area manager. "Now we want to move into second-tier cities. A lot of our competitors don't target there." Giorgio plans to promote itself in places such as Guadalajara, Mexico, population about 2 million, with print ads, mailings and sweet-smelling samples.

Whatever firms do in Latin America, Holcombe warns, they should never stop advertising, even when sales are down. "Companies have to be talking to customers even when they're not listening," he says. "What we've seen with the taming of these inflation rates is tremendous pent-up demand. People there have grown up with boom, bust, inflation, currency flight. They buy in good times and hold in bad times." Holcombe adds: "Latin consumers are very brand-conscious and brand-loyal." When the good times return, "consumers spend a lot of money, and you have to be ready." □

TRADING PLACES

The Last Frontier

For decades, Florida companies have looked south to the rich, nearby markets of Central and South America. Now, a growing chorus of political and business leaders is urging Americans to look east — to the huge, relatively untapped markets of Africa.

In recent months, several events have lent momentum to the call for increased trade with sub-Saharan Africa, a region of some 600 million people in 48 countries. In March, the U.S. House passed an African trade bill that supporters say could transition Africa from "aid to trade." It would eliminate U.S. duties on most imported products. Then, President Clinton visited six African nations, the first American president to visit the continent in 20 years. His visit follows a recent trend in democratic elections and economic reforms in much of the region.

Both political and business leaders say Florida is particularly well-suited as a

launch pad. "Geographically, Florida is in an excellent position to take advantage of these opportunities," says Peggy De-mon, an aide to U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek, D-Florida, who co-sponsored the trade bill. Some companies already are. South African Airways, lured by financial incentives and its own market research, moved its U.S. headquarters from New York City to Fort Lauderdale last summer. The airline operates five nonstop flights a week, soon to be seven, from Florida to South Africa. "I see the future of our airline being around the south Florida hub," says Ed Palvig, vice president, sales and marketing. The carrier partners with American Airlines, and "we can attract passengers from all over North America and Latin America."

Shipping company Emery Worldwide also values Florida's access to Africa. "We're putting a focus on Africa," says Bob Buhl, Emery's Miami-based director of African business development. "Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando and Miami are already major trade centers, so the infrastructure is there. There already are some direct links with Africa. So that

puts Florida on the map."

So certain are some African-American leaders of Florida's potential that the Washington, D.C.-based Foundation for Democracy in Africa held its conference in Miami earlier this year. The lobbying group knows it must overcome many Americans' perception of Africa as too dangerous to trade with because of corruption, war and poverty. "We are promoting good governance," says foundation director Anthony Okonmah. "Our interest is helping Africa integrate into the world economy."

There's plenty of upside for Florida. Right now, Africa is barely on the state's radar screen. In Florida export sales, the Republic of South Africa ranked 51st and Kenya 70th in 1997. But Florida exports to South Africa (\$72 million) and Kenya (\$27.5 million) jumped a dramatic 41% last year — at a time when average export growth was just 17%. "The focus on Africa is overdue," says Emery's Buhl. "In some ways, it is the last frontier." □

Marilyn Adams can be reached by e-mail at: feedback@fltrend.com

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A 'K CAN DO - A Ga away 'o Africa From Mian

By
Alabi Williams

FOR Several decades, there have been attempts to open up Africa to the gains of globalisation. But in the main, Africa remains like a sick baby that has refused to respond to medication. In global ranking, Africa is lagging behind in the departments of economy, politics and general welfare. The poorest countries in the world are found in Africa, and the worst of governments are found in Africa.

For all these, some people think it is necessary to rediscover Africa and help her out of present problems.

But AFRICANDO, a nascent pathway to Africa from Miami, United States has promised to shine a light upon Africa, and expose her to all the opportunities that are yet to be discovered.

AFRICANDO is a global conference and expo on business, trade and investment opportunities in Africa, with a blend of cultural art and commerce. AFRICANDO is organised by the Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), a non-profit, non-governmental organization which was formed in 1994 with the sole mission to

help integrate African countries into the mainstream of the global economy.

Fred O. Oladeinde is the president of the FDA, while Anthony D. Okonmah is the executive director. They were in Nigeria recently during a campaign trip to African countries to drum support for AFRICANDO 1999.

According to them, the primary motive of the FDA is to help cultivate the pathway for peace, prosperity and economic opportunities in Africa; to help integrate the African economies into the world stream of global economies. The *modus operandi* of the organisation is basically by educating African leaders in the concepts of democratic capitalism and by promoting this concept among the populace.

Fred Oladeinde and Anthony Okonmah explained that, the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, since inception in 1994, has been providing training and technical support for new generations of African leaders for the next millen-

nium, having realised one of the challenges facing Africa and her friends today is the inability to raise leaders in government, politics, business, industry and community affairs, who will embrace democratic values, free market concepts and a national perspective in fulfilling of their responsibilities.

The FDA, according to its president, was granted consultation status as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1996. Since then, it has established itself as a membership organisation with links to other NGOs in Africa which shared similar interests and objectives.

The FDA is located in Washington, D.C. with chapters in various African countries. The FDA organised its first International Symposium on Democracy, Trade, Investment and Economic Development in Africa, with support from the Miami - Dade County. Last year's conference was attended by African cabinet members, ambassadors and parliamentarians, as well as U.S. Congress persons, mayors and other leaders. Seven people attended



Mr. Fred Oladeinde, President, Foundation for Democracy in Africa; Mr. Deanise Moss Dade and Mr. Anthony Okonmah, director at the press conference in Lagos.

PHOTO: GBENGA FAKOREDE

from Nigeria.

In 1996, the FDA formed the Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDA), as a think-tank arm seated in the Department of Continuing Education at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida, and is currently consolidating negotiations with Nova South-eastern University

for the provision of certificate training in business, information sciences, politics, government, economics and international trade.

The FDA and IDA, according to Oladeinde, plan to provide background information and issue analyses on topics of immediate concern in the public areas of African countries. This, he said, is to facilitate informed discussions which would provide leaders with the analyses they need to make informed decisions.

AFRICANDO '99, is thus a logical follow-up to the gains realised from the 1998 edition. This year's conference is billed to take place between March 10 - 13 in Miami, Florida at the Miami Convention Centre, located in the James L. Knight International Centre. The theme of the conference is "The private sector: The Engine that will drive sustainable economic growth in Africa". The four-day event will feature plenary sessions, workshops and match makers. It will

feature a textile show, gala celebration and town hall meeting. AFRICANDO '99, will culminate with a Saturday concert in the park - a family day of music, entertainment, fun and festivity.

In the opinion of the FDA, AFRICANDO represents the tremendous opportunity that U.S. business and African entrepreneurship stand to benefit from increased trade relations. The FDA also sees AFRICANDO as the underlying concept behind the African trade bill that was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in March, 1998.

AFRICANDO is enjoying tremendous support from the Miami-Dade County. Dennis C. Moss, the commissioner in charge of the county was together with Messrs. Okonmah and Oladeinde in their recent visit to Africa to canvass support for AFRICANDO.

The trip to Africa by the AFRICANDO delegate made a first stop at Dakar, Senegal. According to Oladeinde, the port of Dakar became an attraction for the

FDA and the Miami - Dade County when it was realised at the 1998 conference that trade agreement between the two worlds could be pegged on sea ports agreement.

Moss explained that his delegation had useful discussions with ports officials in Dakar, the Mayor of Dakar Minister of Maritime and Fisheries, American Embassy representatives and the chairman of Board of Customs and directors, the delegation also visited Abidjan and Accra, where AFRICANDO '99 was promoted.

Oladeinde explained that when business commence fully between Miami and Africa, the port of Dakar will become the first to link the two, after which other seaports will be linked. For the conference, he said participants are expected from business, public sector NGOs, civil society and government. At the conference participants are to be merged in a process of match making that will encourage entrepreneurs with similar ideas to work together.

Congratulations



Production Increases At ALSCON

The Guardian on Sunday, February 21, 1999

Rival bills push trade with Africa

By JANE BUSSEY
And MIAMI WHITEFIELD
Herald Business Writers

Africa, a continent that often has been neglected by the United States, is the focus of two competing trade bills that take fundamentally different approaches to lifting the continent out of poverty and toward prosperity.

The newest African trade bill, unveiled Feb. 23 by Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., has drawn support from surprising quarters — the grassroots activists who have waged bitter battles against trade bills in the past.

Proposed by Jackson, D-Ill., the eldest son of perhaps the highest-profile African-American leader in the country, it squares off against legislation proposed by Rep. Charles B. Rangel of New York, the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, and Philip Crane, R-Ill.

The Rangel-Crane bill, known as the African Growth and Opportunity Act, would give the 48 sub-Saharan African countries quota-free and duty-free exports for 10 years, and would reward nations that have met democratic benchmarks and undertaken market-based reforms such as privatization, trade liberalization and guarantees for foreign investment, with trade and other benefits.

The slogan for the bill, which counts President Clinton and the African diplomatic corps in Washington among its supporters, has

PLEASE SEE AFRICA, 8C

J.S. trade legislation is a hot topic at AfriCANDO

AFRICA, FROM 1C

become "trade, not aid."

In contrast, Jackson's bill, known as the Hope for Africa Act, envisions a series of provisions not found in recent U.S. trade legislation. They include relief for some of the \$230 billion in debt burdening African nations, restoration of \$800 million in annual foreign aid to sub-Saharan Africa and setting aside funds for AIDS research and control and environmental protection.

The Rangel-Crane bill was a hot topic Thursday at AfriCANDO, an African trade and investment conference that continues through Saturday in Miami.

"With the bill, we have a legal framework for trade and a real partnership," said Mamadou Mansour Seck, Senegal's ambassador to the United States. "This is not just for the benefit of Africa. This is for the benefit of the United States of America, too."

The Jackson bill wasn't mentioned in Miami, but there was plenty of discussion about the underpinnings of the competing plan.

During the Cold War years, the sub-Saharan African countries were often the proxies in disputes between the West and the Soviet bloc and were lavished with aid from both sides.

With the Cold War over, supporters of Rangel-Crane say it's an attempt to move African countries toward economic self-sufficiency and mutually beneficial economic relations with the United States.

The Jackson bill bypasses the problem of potential American job losses in the apparel sector, which has caused labor unions to oppose the Rangel-Crane bill, by taking textile and apparel quotas assigned to China and giving them to Africa.

The Jackson bill also proposes barring trade benefits to human rights violators and establishes enforceable safeguards to ensure that corporations operating in Africa act responsibly both on labor and environmental matters. It also offers benefits for exports to companies that create jobs for Africans and include African investors.

Grassroots groups like those that have blocked trade legislation

since the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement are behind the Jackson bill. They include Public Citizen, the Ralph Nader watchdog group; the Sierra Club; the Union of Needletrades, Textiles and Industrial Employees; and Food First.

Jackson and other supporters made an appearance on Capitol Hill this week to promote the new Africa bill. Jean Bakole Bagambanya, of the Coalition of African Organizations for Food Security and Sustainable Development, called the Rangel-Crane bill nothing more than "NAFTA for Africa."

But at the Miami conference, Malik Chaka, a House Subcommittee on Africa staff member, said, "The chief enemy of democracy and stability in Africa is poverty." The Rangel-Crane bill, he said, recognizes the private sector "as the engine that will drive sustainable growth in Africa."

Although the Jackson bill entered the debate only a few weeks ago, it has more Democratic sponsors than the rival bill. Among them are Reps. Alcee Hastings of Miramar and Carrie Meek of Miami.

But Meek and other legislators support both bills. South Florida would benefit either way, she said, because the area is positioned to take advantage of increased trade with Africa.

The Clinton administration has maintained its support for Rangel-Crane, which passed the House last year but died in the Senate. House Republicans insist the bill has the better chance of passing.

Although it's now stalled in the Ways and Means Committee, supporters still say they're hopeful the bill will reach the House floor by early April.

Weldon Latham, an influential Washington lawyer who has advised the president on race relations, suggests some of the hangup on the bill may be attributable to racism.

"Racism plays a major role in U.S. politics every day," Latham said in Miami. "Why anyone wouldn't recognize the importance of Africa doesn't make much sense."

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa

The New Frontier

Remember when the British Newspaperman **Richard Burton** went in search of the English missionary and saw this lone white man, deathly ill and inquired "Dr. Livingston, I presume"?

Well, we're come a long way from that historical understatement. Today, there is a the dawning of a new Africa, without the assumption.

This week, February 25-28th 1998 another chapter in Africa's long and turbulent history began with a most impressive delegation from within the continent. They came to Miami for the **US-Africa Trade & Investment Conference**, created by the Washington based organization - **The Institute of Democracy in Africa**. The delegation is impressive. Diplomats, Parliamentarians, and Business people travelled from half-way across the world to come to Miami attending the first ever conference on the new frontier... Africa... The mood was cordial, very friendly, very open but at the same time very no-nonsense. Mayor **Alex Penelas**, the first executive Mayor of Miami Dade County set the stage by pointing out that Miami Dade is not only the crossroads of the Americas, but is very focused in being the gateway to Africa... The response to this open statement put in motion a dynamic chain of event coming just behind President Clinton's five point plan for African Econom-

ics. (photo of Penelas.) But while the atmosphere was obviously on the upswing, Mr. **Collin Elgin** Parliamentarian from Cape Town, South Africa in his presentation lent a more sobering note, telling the audience from Miami that Africa is "Not a single functioning entity"

"There is Algeria in the North South Africa in the South, Somalia in the East, Senegal in the West. Central African Republic in the center are very different from each other. Their commonality extends little further than being of Africa. Thus while it may be appropriate to have a common policy for all African in the field of trade and investment, when it comes to the practical task of stimulation economic growth and human development, the various regions in Africa provide a better functional platforms for economic lift-off"

The power elite of the African continent was well represented. Among the visiting delegates were: The Honorable Ambassador, **Olu Otunla** - Nigeria, His Excellency **Berhane Gebre-Christos**, Amb. of Ethiopia, His Excellency **Samson K. Chemai**, Amb. of Kenya, His Excellency **Mamadou Monsieur Sec** Amb. of the Republic of Senegal, Her Excellency **Mary Kanya ABM** of Swaziland, His Excellency **Mustafa Nyang'** anyi, ABM. of Tanzania. Together they represents over 700

million people and a multi-billion economy, about to open up to the aggressive entrepreneur.

Mr. **Gerry W. Munyama**, is the 43 year old soft spoken Commercial Counsellor and Economist for one of the most progressive countries in Africa **Namibia**. "It is very important that we as Africans do not lose the opportunities presented by this conference. We have here a new world and a great chance to bridge the gaps between East and West- and look to the sharing of resources and the development of strategic alliance. These alliances must be based on the long term and on mutually beneficial relationships." Namibia under the leadership of Prime Minister **Hage Geingob**, has one of two Stock Exchanges in Africa The private sector is well entrenched and dynamic. In Addition, Namibia was the site of the **Miss Universe Beauty Contest in 1995**.

The African continent is in state of transition, moving steadily towards free market economy, global connectivity and competition. The doors are opening, barriers are coming down, and attitudes are changing. There is a new order embraced by this richly endowed continent, because the new leaders are younger, brighter, more educated - in touch with the outside world and definately with each other.

Collaboration is replacing

ideology, open dialogue for myopic, and a gradual blending of ideas in search of strong and vital place in the 21st century. "Technology is going to be the key to the 21st century," added Mr. Munyama, "If we are to truly be players of the future. "After all we have the people and all the natural resources to do so.

Mr. **Ken English** host of the very popular radio program **Trading Places** served as moderator for the morning session and Mr. **Dwyane Wynn** a Miami Businessman with strong ties to Africa, and the Caribbean served as moderator for the luncheon session

The conference was organized by Mr. **Anthony Okonmah**, Executive Director of the **FDA**.

"This conference comes at a time when the USA is warming to the political and economic changes in Africa. There is support in congress through the **African Growth and Opportunity Act**, which promotes Africa's economic growth and increased US exports in the region. "concluded Okonmah

President **Bill Clinton** will be visiting a number of African countries beginning March 22nd, 1998, as a follow up to the African Growth and Opportunity Act.



DEX	1,048.67 +5.77
Q DEX	1,777.11 +10.63
S AR	5.95% +0.3%
R	127.18 -1.60

BUSINESS

INSIDE

NYSE, 2C; AMEX, 4C; DIVIDENDS, HIGHS AND LOWS; 5C; FLORIDA STOCKS, 5C; MUTUAL FUNDS, 6C; NASDAQ, 7C.

A FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1998

A FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1998, THE HERALD 5C

S. Fla. viewed as potential gateway for U.S.-African trade

By **MINN WHITEFIELD**
Herald Business Writer

African nations, Senegal's ambassador to the United States said Thursday, are "victims of ignorance" in this country.

Although there are 53 nations on the African continent — many with emerging democracies and growing economies — most Americans view Africa through the prism of Rwanda and Somalia, countries where genocide, civil war and misery have captured the headlines, Ambassador Mamadou Mansour Seck said.

"We have been converted. What we want is not to beg, but just a partnership with America," said

Seck at a U.S.-Africa trade and investment conference in Miami, organized by the Foundation for Democracy in Africa.

The symposium, "Africa: the new Frontier," continues through Saturday at the Marriott Plaza Hotel, 1201 NW 42nd Ave.

Speakers said creating a new image for an Africa eager to join the global economy and shed its reputation as a beggar continent, rather than a collection of countries eager to benefit from trade and investment, is Africa's main challenge.

About 30 countries have held elections in the 1990s, and a num-

PLEASE SEE AFRICA, 6C

African nations seek trade partnership

AFRICA, FROM 1C

ber of African nations, which have undertaken economic reform and privatization in the post-Cold War era, are showing strong economic growth.

"The sky is the limit in Africa for those investors ready to take a calculated risk," said Kwabena Adjeri, Ghana's minister of food and agriculture.

But mention African trade and investment, and many South Florida traders, who are so oriented toward Latin American and Caribbean commerce, shrug.

Twenty years ago, said Lars Hummerhielm, president of the Bi-National Chambers of Commerce in South Florida, Latin America also suffered from image problems.

Poverty, dictatorships, corruption, economic misery, import quotas and state control of business were "the key points in describing how people all over the world perceived Latin America," he said.

Yet South Florida exporters and importers pioneered trade with the region, which is now moving toward free trade, has opened to foreign investment and has privatized many unwieldy, inefficient

state-owned businesses.

Hummerhielm said some of that expertise honed in Latin America could also help South Florida be in the forefront of building trade and investment ties with Africa.

"I'm so glad you're in Miami," he told the delegation of African ambassadors, ministers, and parliamentarians attending the conference. "Here you find people and institutions that have worked so hard for reform in Latin America."

The African symposium could not have come at a better time, said Mustafa Salim Nyang'anyi, Tanzania's ambassador to the United States. "Good things are happening in Africa, and also good things are happening in the United States."

He noted President Clinton's upcoming trip to Africa this spring, and the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which would establish a new U.S. investment and trade policy toward the 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The bill was reported out of committee earlier this week and heads to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives where a vote is expected within a month.

"We have leveled the playing field in Africa. What is required now is action," said the Tanzanian ambassador, who urged unlimited access to the U.S. market for African exports.

Among the action steps proposed at the conference were setting up an African-American Chamber of Commerce in South Florida, and establishing sister city relationships with major African cities. Though Miami-Dade County has sister city relationships with countries around the globe, not a single one is in Africa.

And Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas announced that he was setting up a Mayor's Task Force on African Trade. "Given the productivity of our African-American business community, we should become an important gateway of U.S.-African trade," he told conference participants.

Still, moderator Ken English, who produces and hosts the radio program *Trading Places*, noted there were relatively few African-Americans attending the conference and called them the "missing link" in forging trade and investment ties with Africa.

"We need to get more people involved," he said.

DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

A Publication of the Institute for Democracy in Africa
St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida

Institute for Democracy Appoints Director

Gershwin T. Blyden, a pharmacologist, physician and democracy advocate, has been appointed Executive Director of the Institute for Democracy, by the Institute's Board of Directors. Dr. Blyden will oversee the Institute and provide guidelines for the future development of programs in Research, Education and Administration.

A graduate of the Tuskegee Institute and the Yale University School of Medicine, Dr. Blyden is an Associate Professor with the University of Miami School of Medicine and a practicing physician in the Greater Miami Community providing services in Internal Medicine, Hematology and Oncology.

"Ensuring democracy in Africa," Dr. Blyden says, "is an important task." He describes democracy as "a technique, instrument and mechanism" which can be used "to enable the people of Africa to participate in their own growth and development." Dr. Blyden's ancestors migrated from West Africa, as free slaves, to the Dutch Virgin Islands in the 18th Century.

His grandfather and father were born in the Virgin Islands but the family soon moved to the Bahamas, where Edward Wilmot Blyden, the famous historian and member of the Blyden clan, earned a reputation as a defender of civil and human rights.



Dr. Blyden says Africa is "an evolving continent" which has the right to be given "maximum opportunity for development." "We want to awaken and optimize the talent and latent geniuses of the people."

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Editor: JaNice Parks

SUPPORT AFRICA, INVEST IN THE FUTURE

In three years, a new millennium will begin, ushering in new models, accelerated change and increasing renewal in a geopolitical context that will be radically different from that which humanity has known. But Africa is handicapped. Political instability continues to discourage investment and creativity in the continent. Human potential is under-utilized, government policies do not address the people's needs, political corruption is common. Social infrastructure is decaying. Liberia, Zaire and Burundi are torn apart by ethnic strife. In Algeria and Sudan, religious fundamentalism has turned murder into an art and industry. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, which was praised in the 60's as "a potential success story" has become an abominable society where life is lived on the dangerous edge of a knife. Even in Mali and South Africa, where democracy seems to be prospering, the future is uncertain. Hunger is a constant feature in Central Africa, just as violence, disease and the oppression of women and children have become a scourge across the Continent. The consequence is prolonged misery for African families.

Long term development for Africa cannot be achieved in this atmosphere. FDA seeks a new Africa: democratic, stable and competitive, and a better deal for the African people.

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CONSTITUTIONAL CHECKS AND BALANCES IN SOUTH AFRICA'S DEMOCRACY

-COLIN EGLIN, Member of The South African Parliament argues that his country's Constitution does not reflect any classical model, but the experience and diversity of the South African people---

THE FOUNDING PROVISIONS

The South African Constitution does not fit into any classic constitutional mould.

It is neither classically federal nor unitary, presidential nor parliamentary, liberal nor conservative.

It does not embody a complete separation of powers - yet it avoids an excessive concentration of powers.

The Constitution reflects the realities, the needs and the aspirations of a culturally and ethnically diverse society that is emerging from a 350 year era of colonialism culminating in 45 years of apartheid.

It recognises the overwhelming urge of South Africans, not only to get rid of a racist past, but to create circumstances in which all citizens can live with dignity in a society based on equality and freedom.

It recognises the desire of South Africans to have a constitutional order that is truly democratic, meaning not only representative but transparent, responsive and

accountable.

It accommodates the diversity of language, culture, religion and indeed of political persuasion in a manner which will enable this diversity to enrich and unite rather than divide and weaken the broader South African nation.

While South Africans, in drafting their new constitution learned much from the achievements- and from the mistakes- of many other countries, the new Constitution is uniquely South African both in spirit and content.

Thus the Founding Provisions are:

• "The Republic of South Africa is one sovereign democratic state founded on the following values:

- a) Human dignity, the achievement of equality and advancement of human rights and freedom.
- b) Non-racialism and non-sexism.
- c) Supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law.
- d) Universal adult suffrage, a national common voters roll, regular elections, and a multi-party system of democratic government, to ensure accountability, responsiveness and openness."

TO ENSURE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

In order to limit the excessive concentration of power and at the same time to accommodate regional and community diversity, the Constitution provides for government to be structured at three distinct spheres, mainly national, provincial and local.

Having thus separated, the Constitution requires that each sphere not only respect each other's functional integrity but at the same time cooperate with one another in maintaining national unity and in pursuing common objectives (Chapter 3: Cooperative Government.)

The Constitution incorporates an extensive Bill of Rights which sets out the rights of people not only in the field of individual civil liberties but also in the fields of language, culture, religion and socio-economic rights.

The Constitution, being the supreme law of the land, is guarded over by an independent judiciary, including a Constitutional court, that is appointed through the mechanism of a representative Judicial Service Commission.

The Constitution provides for a two chamber parliament, both chambers to be multi-party and elected at regular intervals. The National Assembly is to be elected on the basis of proportional representation through a national common voters roll. The National Council of Provinces consists of delegates directly elected by each of the nine Provincial Legislatures.

The National Executive consists of the President, who is elected by the National Assembly, and who except when acting as Head of State, acts together with the members of the Cabinet which he appoints.

Both the President and the Cabinet Ministers- and indeed the Public Service for which they have

political responsibility- have to act in a manner that is transparent and are directly accountable to the National Assembly and its committees.

Indeed the National Assembly elects the President and, by a vote of no confidence supported by the majority of its members, can require the President to resign.

In order to reinforce the concepts of transparency and accountability the Constitution makes provision for a number of "state institutions supporting democracy." These are:

Public Protector
Auditor General
Commission on Human Rights
Commission on Gender Equality
Independent Electoral Commission

PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The nine Provinces each have their own elected legislature and an executive which is accountable to that legislature.

The Provincial Governments have extensive legislative powers which are scheduled in the Constitution but which are made subordinate to national legislation when defined matters of national interest obtain.

While Provincial Governments and Local Governments have only limited powers of taxation the Constitution makes provision for "the equitable division of revenue raised nationally among the national, provincial and local spheres of government."

The Constitution provides for Local Government, known as municipalities, to be established for the whole territory of the Republic.

Subject to the stated status of municipalities and the objects of Local Government, national and provincial law is required to provide for the structuring and establishing of the municipalities.

The elected legislature (council) of a municipality and its executive "has the right to govern, on its own initiative, the local government affairs of its community, subject to national and provincial legislation, as provided for in the Constitution. National and provincial government may not compromise or impede a municipality's ability or right to exercise its powers or perform its functions."

ACCOMMODATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Constitution accommodates cultural diversity while avoiding formalising or constitutionalizing 'cultural groups'.

It allows cultural diversity to be expressed in a voluntary, organic way by securing the rights of citizens either individually or collectively as communities to "enjoy their culture, practice their religion and use their language" and to form "associations and other organs of civil society." Further, it prohibits the state from discriminating against its citizens on the grounds of, *inter alia*, ethnic or social origin, religion, culture or language.

The main sections in the Constitution dealing with cultural, religious and linguistic diversity are the following:

Citizenship
Languages
Equality
Freedom of religion, belief and opinion
Political rights
Education
Language and culture
Cultural, religious and linguistic communities
Internal arrangements, proceedings and procedures of National Assembly
Functions of Commission
Composition of Commission
Recognition
Role of traditional leaders
Self-determination

WILL IT SUCCEED?

I believe that the new Constitution provides a sound basis for representative, transparent and accountable democratic governance under the rule of law.

It also provides meaningful protection and the promotion of the fundamental rights of South Africa's citizens.

It attempts to accommodate cultural diversity in a positive way that will enrich the society and encourage national unity.

Of course, a Constitution is merely a framework within which government and evolutionary development can take place. It cannot dictate to, or impose on, an

unwilling society. Indeed in the case of the South African Constitution, other than the founding provisions, it can be amended by a two-thirds majority of the National Assembly.

Whether the South African society will sustain the democratic ideals enshrined in the Constitution will depend to a lesser degree on the Constitution and to a greater degree on the leaders and the people of my country and their ability to address the socio-economic imbalances, the yawning gap between the few rich and the many poor, that exist today in South Africa.

We can speculate whether it will succeed in providing an effective democratic framework.

And in due time history will provide the answer!

Excerpts from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa:

Citizenship

3. 1) There is a common South African citizenship.
- 2) All citizens are-
 - a) equally entitled to the rights, privileges and benefits of citizenship; and
 - b) equally subject to the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.
- 3) National legislation must provide for the acquisition, loss and restoration of citizenship.

Languages

6. 1) The official languages of the

Republic are Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsongs, Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa and isiZulu.

2) Recognising the historically diminished use and status of the indigenous languages of our people, the state must take practical and positive measures to elevate the status and advance the use of these languages.

3) National and provincial governments may use particular official languages for the purposes of government, taking into account usage, practicality, expense, regional circumstances, and the balance of the needs and preferences of the population as a whole or in respective provinces; provided that no national or provincial government may use only one official language.

Municipalities must take into consideration the language usage and preferences of their residents.

4) National and provincial governments, by legislative and other measures, must regulate and monitor the use of official languages by those governments. Without detracting from the provisions of subsection (2), all official languages must enjoy parity of esteem and must be treated equitably.

5) The Pan South African Language Board must-

- a) promote and create conditions for the development and use of
 - i) all official languages;
 - ii) the Khoi, Nama and San languages; and
 - iii) sign language.
- b) promote and ensure respect for languages, including German, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Portuguese, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, and others

commonly used by communities in South Africa, and Arabic, Hebrew, Sanskrit and others used for religious purposes.

Equality

9. 1) Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.
- 2) Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. To promote the achievement of equality, legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination may be taken.
- 3) The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, color, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, and birth.
- 4) No person may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds in terms of subsection (3). National legislation must be enacted to prevent or prohibit unfair discrimination.
- 5) Discrimination on one or more of the grounds listed in subsection (3) is unfair unless it is established that the discrimination is fair.

Freedom of religion, belief and opinion

15. 1) Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.
- 2) Religious observances may be

conducted at state or state-aided institutions provided that-

- a) those observances follow rules made by the appropriate public authorities;
 - b) they are conducted on an equitable basis; and
 - c) attendance at them is free and voluntary.
- 3) a) This section does not prevent legislation recognising -

- i) marriages concluded under any tradition or a system of religious, personal or family law; or
- ii) systems of personal and family law under any tradition or adhered to by persons professing a particular religion.

b) Recognition in terms of paragraph (a) must be consistent with this section and the other provisions of the Constitution.

Political rights

19. 1) Every citizen is free to make political choices, which includes the right-

- a) to form a political party;
- b) to participate in the activities of, or recruit members for, a political party; and
- c) to campaign for a political party or cause.

2) Every citizen has the right to free, fair and regular elections for any legislative body established in terms of the Constitution.

- 3) Every adult citizen has the right-
- a) to vote in elections for any legislative body established in terms of the Constitution, and to do so in secret; and
 - b) to stand for public office and, if elected, to hold office.

Education

29. 1) Everyone has the right-
- a) to a basic education, including adult basic education; and
 - b) to further education, which the state must take reasonable measures to make progressively available and accessible.
- 2) Everyone has the right to receive education in the official language or languages of their choice in public educational institutions where that education is reasonably practicable. In order to ensure the effective access to, and implementation of, this right, the state must consider all reasonable educational alternatives, including single medium institutions, taking into account-
- a) equity;
 - b) practicability; and
 - c) the need to redress the results of past racially discriminatory law and practice.

3) Everyone has the right to establish and maintain, at their own expense, independent educational institutions that-

- a) do not discriminate on the basis of race;
 - b) are registered with the state; and
 - c) maintain standards that are not inferior to standards at comparable public educational institutions.
- 4) Subsection (3) does not preclude state subsidies for independent educational institutions.

Language and culture

30. Everyone has the right to use the language to participate in the cultural life of their choice, but no one exercising these rights may do so in a manner inconsistent with any provision of the Bill of Rights.

Culture, religious and linguistic

communities

31. 1) Persons belonging to a cultural, religious and linguistic community may not be denied the right, with other members of their community, to-

- a) enjoy their culture, practice their religion and use their language; and
- b) form, join, and maintain cultural, religious and linguistic associations and other organs of civil society.

2) This right may not be exercised in a manner inconsistent with any provision of the Bill of Rights.

Internal arrangements, proceedings and procedures of National Assembly

57. 1) The National Assembly may-

- a) determine and control its internal arrangements, proceedings and procedures; and

- b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement.

2) The rules and orders of the National Assembly must provide for-

- a) the establishment, composition, powers, functions, procedures and duration of its committees;

- b) the participation in the proceedings of the Assembly, and its committees, of all minority political parties represented in the Assembly, in a manner consistent with democracy;

- c) financial and administrative assistance to each political party represented in the Assembly in proportion to their representation,

to enable each party and its leader to perform its functions in the Assembly effectively; and
d) the recognition of the leader of the largest minority party in the Assembly as the Leader of the Opposition.

Function of Commission

185. 1) The primary objects of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities are-

- a) to promote respect for the rights of cultural, religious and linguistic communities;
 - b) to promote and develop peace, friendship, humanity, tolerance and national unity amongst cultural, religious and linguistic communities, on the basis of equality, non-discrimination and free association; and
 - c) to recommend the establishment or recognition, in accordance with national legislation, of a cultural or other council or councils for a community or communities in South Africa.
- 2) The Commission has the power, as regulated by national legislation, necessary to achieve its primary objects, including the power to monitor, investigate, research, educate, lobby, advise and report on issues concerning the rights of cultural, religious and linguistic communities.
- 3) The commission may report any matter which falls within its powers and functions to the Human Rights Commission for investigation.
- 4) The Commission has the additional powers and functions prescribed by National legislation.

Composition of Commission

186. 1) The number of members of the commission for the Promotion and Protection of the rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities and their appointment and terms of office must be prescribed by national legislation.
- 2) The composition of the Commission must-
- a) be broadly representative of the main cultural, religious and linguistic communities in South Africa; and
 - b) broadly reflect the gender composition of South Africa.

Traditional Leaders

Recognition

211. 1) The institution, status and role of traditional leadership, according to customary law, are recognized, subject to the Constitution.
- 2) A traditional authority that observes a system of customary law may function subject to any applicable legislation and customs, which includes amendments to, or repeal of, that legislation or those customs.
- 3) The courts must apply customary law when that law is applicable, subject to the Constitution and any legislation that specifically deals with customary law.

Role of traditional leaders

212. 1) National legislation may provide for a role for traditional leadership as an institution at local level on matters affecting local communities.
- 2) To deal with matters relating to

traditional leadership, the role of traditional leaders, customary law and the customs of communities observing a system of customary law-

a) national or provincial legislation may provide for the establishment of houses of traditional leaders; and

b) national legislation may establish a council of traditional leaders.

Self-determination

235. The right of South African people as a whole to self-determination, as manifested in this Constitution, does not preclude, within the framework of this right, recognition of the notion of the right of self-determination of any community sharing a common cultural and language heritage, within a territorial entity in the republic or in any other way, determined by national legislation.

“The South African Constitution does not fit into any classic constitutional mould. It is neither classically federal nor unitary, presidential nor parliamentary, liberal nor conservative.”

THE CARE, MANAGEMENT, AND CONTAINMENT OF HIV INFECTED PATIENTS IN AFRICA: A NEED TO REEVALUATE PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES

-Anthony Okonmah is a consultant to the HIV/AIDS clinics in the United States. He is a member of the Board of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) and a former Research Scientist with Schering-Plough Research and Baxter Diagnostics.

It has been estimated that 27.9 million people in the world are known to be infected with Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV). About 68% (19 million) of this population are in Sub-Saharan Africa. The total number of adults known to have developed AIDS is approximately 6 million; 4.5 million (75%) of this are in Sub-Saharan Africa. Most affected are children. Out of the 1.6 million children who are known to have AIDS in the world, 1.4 million (85%) are again local to Sub-Saharan Africa. (Source: The Hopkins HIV Report Vol 8, #3, Sept. 1996)

For these reasons, it is important that public health priorities should be well focused and planned in lieu of limited financial and medical resources and facilities to accommodate the research and development of drugs needed to prolong and improve the quality of life of the infected individuals. Now, the question remains, what can we do to help this situation? It's believed that the public health programs in most of these African countries can definitely use some help in prioritizing the allocation of human, material and financial resources in order to be efficient

with disease prevention and control. Several questions need to be addressed and several factors need to be recognized and considered when making decisions about prioritizing health care monies in each of the African countries.

Factors such as demography, education, geography, culture and long-term benefits of therapeutic measures in that environment are crucial. The demographic characteristics such as sex, age, income, and family size need to be considered. The educational background of each segment of the population also need to be determined in order to better design a program that will benefit the masses of the people. Identifying the location or geography of the HIV infected population will be equally important in order to determine and follow the movement or the crossover of the virus from the infected population to the non-infected area of the locale. Religious beliefs vary among all of the African countries. The effect of the various cultural beliefs on the spread of HIV needs to be acknowledged before policies are formulated. Cultural sensitivity is important for the preventative programs to be accepted.

Each country will need to determine its individual disease profile-determine what is curable and what is not curable. For example, if people are dying of E.Coli or any other infections that are known to cause diarrhea and extreme dehydration, it will be reasonable for the government to invest its resources in making the water supply system good, purifiable and

subsequently potable. The goal will be to try as much as possible to keep the people healthy, i.e., protect them from getting sick and keep their immune system as healthy as possible. Each country needs to spend its limited resources in creating an environment that is clean and less infected with bacteria, viruses and protozoa.

The creation of an effective garbage collection and disposal system should be a major priority in the quest to keep the environment clean and almost germ free. A less germ-infected environment will help the HIV infected population to stay away from the local hospitals so that money not spent on treating infections can be used for other worthwhile projects.

Investing resources in prevention, by educating the population about disease prevention, especially the HIV infection and most importantly, educating and training some trainers, such as nurses, doctors, public health workers and teachers about HIV prevention, care and management would be beneficial to the African population in the long run. These trainers can in turn train other people. It has been determined that the most cost effective way of fighting the HIV disease is through education. It is in no doubt expected that an effective preventive method will definitely show the slowing down of infection. Teaching and encouraging behavioural changes such as delaying sexual intercourse relationships and/or increasing the use of condoms needs to be encouraged among teenagers, since the determined age group of the

newly infected people are between the ages of fifteen to twenty.

We know that problems of substance abuse is a worldwide problem. Over 60% of people infected with HIV are also known to be drug abusers. The suggested prevention program should support an effective community-based strategy that will prevent more teenagers, i.e. high-school and university students from becoming infected with HIV. Most of these teenagers contracted the virus through contaminated hypodermic needles used in injecting drugs such as heroine into their body, or via sexual intercourse with an HIV carrier. These sexual encounters are known to frequently occur when students are under the influence of drugs due to their impaired judgment. An extensive drug education and treatment program needs to be created in order to reduce the rate of HIV infection among the teenage population.

Educating the masses of the people about the relationship of substance abuse to HIV infection must be an achievable goal for each of the countries in Africa. Drug treatment programs like the methadone clinics are known to have an impact at reducing the rate of HIV infection among drug users. The rationale behind the methadone approach to solving heroine problems is believed to be more sound than just telling the drug users to clean their needles with a bleaching agent, thus supporting their habit. The methadone treatment will help contain the spread of HIV more than any other method tested thus far among intravenous (I.V.) drug

abusers.

The practice of polygamy and the use of contaminated razor blades by the native doctors may be one of the most important risk factors or mode of transmission of this virus.

This unique characteristic of HIV epidemic should be enough to encourage the re-evaluation of the public health policies and programs in various African countries. This should be determined not only by physicians but also nurses, dentists, health practitioners, physician assistants, teachers, local native doctors and midwife nurses. Showing a complete cultural understanding and compassion for people living with HIV will be required when defining public health policies in developing African countries.

The growing presence of HIV in Africa will necessitate the need to train trainers as quickly as possible. By the turn of the century it's believed that the spread of HIV will have attained the highest epidemic in Africa. The strain of HIV in Africa is the type known to be common among heterosexual individuals. It is important that everybody becomes involved and knowledgeable about HIV prevention, care and management. Mothers known to be HIV positive must avoid breast feeding their babies. Babies should be protected from contracting the virus by early exposure of the fetus to AZT treatment, and by giving birth via Caesarean section rather than vaginally, due to a high concentration of the virus in the cervical blood supply.

Regarding possible treatment of the virus itself, it will be considered a miracle to see HIV patients in Sub-Saharan Africa become opportune to be treated with the latest anti-retroviral therapy, i.e. combination drugs, nucleoside analogues and/or protease inhibitors. The efficacy of these drugs is yet to be determined among this group of patients. The CD4/CD8 profile tests and the HIV-RNA or DNA-PCR (known as viral load test) are normally used to determine the effectiveness of the anti-retroviral agents in persons living with HIV/AIDS. Nevertheless, the cheapest way to contain this disease is to teach prevention as quickly as humanly possible among the African population.

A short course on the preventive aspects of HIV disease should be taught to all health care professionals, teachers, mid-wives and most importantly, the local native doctors. The mode of infection, spread of HIV, the potential carriers and the possible techniques that can be introduced to contain or reduce the rate of infection must be emphasized in the course, including the use of condoms.

Considering the population at risk in Africa, testing the blood sample of the general population is important but may be expensive. The recommended Elisa test and the western blot confirmatory test can be equally expensive too unless it can be subsidized by an established organization such as the United Nations, Organization of African Unity, World Health Organization and the International Red Cross.

The reliability of the new but simple saliva test has not yet been confirmed although this would have been more practical and less expensive. The pre-test and the post-test of all the HIV infected individuals will be highly recommended along with adequate counseling of the tested individuals.

WOMEN IN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS:

MARGARET DONGO, ZIMBABWE

Ms. Margaret Dongo, 37, is the first independent member of the Zimbabwe National Parliament, representing Harare South. Ms. Dongo fought as a guerilla soldier during Zimbabwe's struggle for independence in the 80s; and later worked in the Pensions Department Patriotism, and the urge to serve drew her to politics. She joined ZANU (PF), the ruling party of President Robert Mugabe. In Feb. 1995, Ms. Dongo left the party in protest over what she described as corruption within its ranks. She was condemned by party members and victimized. But this did not stop her from contesting in the April 1995 parliamentary elections as an independent candidate. She was declared a loser. Unconvinced, Ms. Dongo took her case to the High Court, alleging electoral irregularities. The court ruled in her favor, declaring her winner. The ruling party annulled the elections. In a by-election in November, that year, Ms. Dongo eventually realized her dream. Today, she continues to participate in Zambia's democracy as a lone voice for public accountability and as a role model for younger women.

Ms. Dongo represents Zimbabwe in the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarian Group.



ZIMBABWE:

Population: est. in 1996 - 11,845,000

Capital City: Harare

Independence: 1980, from Great Britain

Inflation Rate: 23%

Politics: One-party state under President Robert Mugabe

National Anthem: "Ishe Komborera Africa" ("God Bless Africa")

Flag: The flag has seven (7) horizontal stripes of green, yellow, red, black, red, yellow and green. A white triangle on the left contains a yellow Great Zimbabwe bird on a red star.

Languages (Major): English, Chishona, Sindebele

Chief Products: Agriculture- cattle, coffee, corn, cotton, sugar, tea, tobacco, wheat. Manufacturing & processing- chemicals, clothing & footwear, iron & steel, metal products, processed foods, textiles. Mining- asbestos, chromite, coal, copper, gems, gold, nickel

DEMOCRACY FOR AFRICAN NATIONS: IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

-Chris Durant is the Executive Vice-President, on the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa.

There is no reason why the great continent of Africa should go through the approaching 21st Century in the state that it has been for so long. Second-class economies, political tyranny, social depression, poverty, etc., appear to typify the nations of the African continent as their inherent characteristics. As time goes on, and the world changes from one moment to the next, the time must come for significant change among these nations of Africa.

A great deal of African nations are plagued with human rights violations and destitution none of which is the fault of the African people. Africans face the dilemma that they have been experiencing not because they are lazy or incompetent, but because they have never been given the opportunity as a society to participate in any decisions or policies which affect their welfare, quality of life and future. In many cases they have no control over their destinies, as they never exercised the God-given right to participate in the democratic decision-making. Many African nations have never had democratic forms of government.

Many of the governments of the African nations today exercise a system of leadership that fosters instability and insecurity for the society in which they exist. The people are now well aware of the

futility and danger of dictatorships, military governments, communism, etc. The totalitarian engine of the USSR, once the mother of communism in the world, has been brought to a grinding halt after a hopeless struggle to maintain its power and hold on its citizens. The Soviet Union's periphery of communist allies soon fell by the wayside after the death of communism. The struggle for democracy in nations where there is none is perhaps at a all-time high. Throughout Africa, people must become aware of their need to take charge of their destiny, if not for themselves, for their children and their children's children.

Obviously not all democratic countries are enjoying viable economics, but no one can doubt or ignore the fact that economically powerful nations of the world today have democratic forms of government. Democracy for African nations would not only be of humanitarian benefit to the people of Africa, but is an absolute necessity if the nations of Africa are to join the mainstream of the global economy. Democracy will not solve many of the problems that African nations face, but with a democratic form of government, where citizens freely and regularly choose their leaders and participate in decision-making, a foundation for more smooth transition toward development will be possible.

Most European-Americans and Asian-Americans have other countries to which they can look and reflect as the home of their forefathers and their proud origins. They can relate to these nations as

their original home and place of their cultural birth with ease, due to their cultural link and the developed societies that these countries have fostered. Almost all European-Americans can claim heritage anywhere from the European continent, Asian-American from Asia and Hispanic-American from either Europe or South America. Note that these areas of the world have societies which benefit from governments that embrace democracy.

However, it has been difficult for African-Americans to have such a relationship with their motherland. It should be the responsibility of African-Americans, with the resources and economic freedom in the United States, to consolidate in the realization of democracy in Africa. The strength in numbers is real, the opportunity is here, and the time to export democratic capitalism into African countries is now. The overall economies of African nations have significant advantages to foresee when considering the implementation of culturally based democracy. With democracy comes more stable government and less volatile changes in power which promotes several benefits which include foreign investment, international trade and tourism. For instance, many exportable goods produced in African countries would impact the World's markets on a more profound level once democracy has been implemented and consummated.

The continent of Africa represents a great frontier of history, culture, and spiritual values yet untapped by the

world, and ultimately stifled by the void of democracy.

"Democracy for African nations would not only be of humanitarian benefit to the people of Africa, but is an absolute necessity if the nations of Africa are to join the mainstream of the global economy."

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE OAU IN ELECTION MONITORING

-Kassim Mohammed Khamis is the Second Secretary at the Embassy of Tanzania, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

A. INTRODUCTION

Since African nations were created during "the Scramble for Africa" in the late 19th century, they have never in general terms, been in harmony to mark and enjoy their progress in all fields of life. There has been a worsening political situation causing internal strife and instability as well as deterioration of economic and social life.

The weak situation borne out of inadequate political systems, has indeed been the major source of almost all the problems facing Africa. Many declarations, resolutions and forums like, The African Charter for Popular Participation, The Declaration on the Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World, The Cairo Agenda For Action, The International Conference on AFRICA'S IMPERATIVE AGENDA held in Nairobi in 1995, etc. have all reiterated the same problems. They have recognized that democracy, and good governance are among the most essential factors in Africa's socio-economic development and urged to be promoted.

Therefore, one cannot ignore or deny this fact that the fundamental problem which needs urgent attention more than anything else in Africa of today is political

settlement. Unfortunately, for a long time Africa has not been able to address this issue which has remained since colonial days. Even after independence, African countries preoccupied with independence and other issues, failed to give it a fair attention. It is only after recent global political changes that signs of hope and concerns have re-emerged. Democratization has become a compulsory assignment of the day and Africa has been obliged to take the new course.

A sound political system is the pillar of any stable state. It ensures good governance from which peace, stability and unity of the concerned society are derived. It is necessary also for laying down good policies and efficient government machinery. These are essential in our contemporary environment to attract foreign aid and investments. Hence, if the Continent is in political crises no progress can be achieved without first keeping the house in order. This is the time for the Continent to realize its potential and organize itself for sustainable development. It is believed that this issue can be well handled by joint efforts between the OAU and its member states through the assistance of the International Community in enhancing democratization. However, democratization is a process which culminates through organization of free elections.

Multiparty elections as the first essential stage towards the process needs proper consideration. It should be the first development project receiving the highest

priority.

B. PROBLEMS FACING DEMOCRATIZATION IN AFRICA

1. Background

When Europeans colonized the continent, they introduced their own kinds of institutional structures and ruling systems. These were the components of western democracy. However, as it was not in their interest, they did not venture to go a long way to establish real democratic values which would include structures of accountability.

After experiencing evils of colonialism, Africans, prompted by contemporary international environment, undertook to fight for their independence. The aim was to organize their states better in order to achieve socio-economic development. Unfortunately, they could not be successful. After the independence, the Cold War had its own impact. The East-West tension caused a sort of confusion which destabilized African countries and made them fail to create strong governing systems.

Meanwhile, most of the African leaders who took power after independence tried to monopolise power. They extended favours to members of their families and suppressed the slighted sign of opposition. This led to bad governance including lack of accountability, rule of law, as well as violation of human rights. The systems however, could survive as long as the leaders maintained their loyalty to those who kept or helped

them to sustain power. Each camp also left its "friend" free from any unnecessary disturbances, lest one would divert the obedience and loyalty to the other camp.

This trend of events had serious implications to Africa. Firstly, traditional political systems were disturbed. Secondly, democracy which is widely accepted to observe good governance could not get chance in the Continent even among those states which favoured the Western Camp. Thirdly, other systems too, including the Socialist one could not be firmly established. The leaders in the quest for preserving their personal interest in most cases became authoritative. They kept alternating between the two ideological camps depending on where one could get support to enable him to continue ruling. The only way left to change the government in power was through armed forces.

As a result, Africa could not enjoy political stability. This led to weak governments causing internal ethnic and religious clashes, interstate borders and ideological conflicts, poor economic performance and hence general social unrest.

2. New Era of Democracy and Multiparty Elections

The collapse of the Eastern Bloc marked the end of the Cold War and ideological competitions between the East and the West. The new era calls for the revival of democracy. On the other hand, the failure of the African countries to realize development under their nationalist leaders has also contributed in

urging the pace of the new wave of the democratization process. Thus, in Africa the process is rapidly prompted by both internal and external factors. Those countries which had earlier resisted democracy now found themselves under immense pressure to pave way for democratic changes.

Yet, the way to bring about these changes has not been smooth. Countries have been obliged to embark on multiparty elections which have experienced their own problems.

In Africa, multiparty elections are a new phenomenon. There are countries which have never practiced them before. Therefore, it is not well experienced and some times has caused problems. In this case, it requires understanding and adequate preparations. These should include improving capacities of organizers and political parties, as well as education for the voters and the whole public.

Due to their underdevelopment, African countries have neither enough funds nor basic facilities for carrying out multiparty elections. Some countries cannot print even a ballot paper without external assistance. It needs experts and equipments including vehicles, data processing machines, registration books, ballot papers and boxes etc. which most of the countries cannot afford.

Foreign groups, while trying to help, interfere in local interests. Others promise assistance, but refuse to follow through. Hence, foreign aid, if not well coordinated

has its negative aspects.

Some other groups which have been trying to offer genuine assistance including physical presence on the fields, have sometimes been of no great help. They offer unharmonized approaches. Sometimes, they have been taking things lighter, hesitating to accept or uncover the truth when necessary and even standing aloof when problems arise. Ultimately, their much needed assistance which they offer go wasted.

On the other hand, mal-administration and practices in multiparty elections are issues which go far beyond lack of experience and sufficient funds and facilities. The countries have emerged out of colonialism and just recently from the Cold War paradoxes where the New World Changes have found the nationalist and other authoritarian rulers still in power. Now, the challengers of democracy have become a tough examination and the leaders have not been able to allow smooth conduct of democratic elections. To them, allowing changes means losing opportunities and powers. In a situation of this kind, multiparty elections become confrontations and war fields. The rulers are ready to use even foul means to fight their opponents who take them as a threat and enemies, while the opposition groups label elections as wars of liberation.

Such factors have continued to hinder democratic elections as countries concerned have not been able to acquire proper assistance.

C. THE OAU INITIATIVES IN PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

The year was the turning point for democratization in Africa.

Earlier, in 1989, the OAU "under the formal mandate to monitor compliance with the UN Security Council Resolution 435" participated in elections in Namibia. The organization participated in elections in the Comoros, in February and March 1990. The Secretary General "took responsibility of responding positively" to the request of the then Acting President of the Islands, Mr. Said Mohammed Johar, who asked him to send observers to Moroni. When he reported to the Council of Ministers (in February 1990), he was not only congratulated for his decision, but was also urged to proceed with such initiatives as requested by the Member State. From this move, election observing exercise acquired legitimacy. Any other Member State when in need, could send an invitation to the Secretary General as per the created precedence.

Further, the OAU in the same year supported the UN African Charter for Popular Participation and adopted the OAU "Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World". These accelerated the democratic process as African leaders committed themselves to "further democratization" including consolidation of democratic institutions by popular participation.

As the need increased, the Secretary General Dr. Salim A. Salim felt the importance of improving the OAU performance. He organized, on 21st May 1992, a meeting in Addis Ababa which brought together member states' government representatives and members of the General Secretariat for a brainstorming exercise in election monitoring. During the Council of Ministers held in Dakar in June 1992, the delegates welcomed the role played by the OAU. They "encouraged the Organization to continue its efforts in the direction."

In the same spirit, the OAU established in 1992 the Inter African Cooperation and Policy Harmonization Division. This new institution was, among other things "to monitor policy developments in Member States and...be responsible for promoting the coordination and harmonization of national policies and fostering African political integration". It later on became a sort of preparatory office for OAU teams participating in election observing exercise.

In the same vein, Dr. Salim A. Salim took another initiative of convening a training seminar on election monitoring in Africa from 14th to 18th September 1992, in Addis Ababa. The seminar - "The Evolving Role of Intergovernmental Organizations in Election Monitoring" - was aimed at the OAU to seek "the practical experience and expertise of AAI, NDI and other International Organizations to assist the OAU in building an institutional capacity to observe and support democratic elections in Africa." After the

seminar, Ambassador Osman, the then OAU Assistant Secretary General, declared the OAU's determination and responsibility of ensuring free and fair elections. He also defended the Organization's decision to adopt quiet diplomacy in its endeavours.

In December of the same year, the OAU inaugurated its formal guidelines governing the election observing process. The organization specified mandates, rights, obligations and other procedures to be followed by OAU teams.

Moreover, the OAU efforts got new encouragement when its Council of Ministers agreed in 1994 on The Cairo Agenda For Action. This put more emphasis on the process as the Ministers resolved to: "ensure the speedy promotion of good governance, characterized by accountability, probity, transparency, equal application of the rule of law, and a clear separation of powers, as an objective and a condition for rapid and sustainable development in African societies".

Meanwhile, Member States at their individual level have shown considerable transformation. They have set on reorganizing their governments through multiparty elections to ensure democracy and popular participation, a phenomenon which was hitherto unacceptable. On the other hand, some 28 African countries adopted in March 26, 1994, "the Inter-Parliamentary Union Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections". In his introductory

statement to the 63rd Ordinary Session of the Advisory Committee on November 22, 1995 the Secretary General reported that the role of the OAU in this regard has been increasingly sought and so far the Organization has been involved in election observing in about 24 member states.

Nevertheless, things have not been moving smoothly. The OAU has not been able to record high standards of performance due to various adversities which include shortage of manpower and resources. Meanwhile, demands from the member states continue to increase.

D. WHAT COULD BE DONE

Almost all forums within and outside the OAU have expressed the need for enhancing democratization to ensure good governance. Multiparty elections being the important initial step towards realizing the goal has already been accepted by the OAU members and is in full support of the International Community. Apart from that general support, Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali has just recently inaugurated the UN System-Wide Special Initiative on Africa. This is a twenty-five billion US dollar programme which is to "be backed by a year-long effort to all UN agencies to mobilize worldwide political commitment and support for Africa's development." It covers, among other things, peace-building, national reconciliation and "strengthening the capacity for governance" by creating effective institutions through democratic electoral

process.

While the OAU seems prepared to undertake peace programmes through its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, conducting democratization and electoral process in particular is yet to be adequately institutionalized. Perhaps the following could be considered with a view of strengthening the OAU and its General secretariat to undertake the objective successfully:

A Change of Policies

In his June 1995 article (to the *Ethioscope*), - "Africa in Crisis, Response of OAU and Future Challenges" - the OAU Secretary General Dr. Salim A. Salim accepted that political instability in Africa has been on increase since 1990s. In dealing with the situation he underscored the need to do things by new modalities. This is to enforce popular participation in government affairs and diverting the OAU from its old perspective of being "largely a political institution dealing mostly with African government representative" to bring it closer to the people.

Democratization process in Africa is one area which needs a new approach. The new partnership ideals described by Dr. Salim call for transparency and for the OAU to move closer to the people. The act of conducting multiparty elections is an aspect of popular participation intended to create good governance. This has already been agreed in the Cairo Agenda For Action. It is therefore,

supposed to be handled publicly and transparently. It goes without saying then, that the quiet diplomacy in which "the OAU did not believe in prescribing any formula for propaganda and publicity" has been alienating the Organization from the public and is obsolete. There is a need to work in transparency to enable the OAU to observe free and fair elections, build its confidence and encourage democracy - its own objective.

However, the OAU as an intergovernmental organization cannot work effectively in this manner unless the Member States themselves also make some effort. It is necessary for them to create an environment which will enable the Organization to work transparently and efficiently. They involve the Organization in all stages of the electoral process, like creation of national electoral commissions and the related laws etc. Member States should honour and make use of the OAU suggestions and make final reports of its observing teams open to the public. They should also agree on the criteria for free and fair elections.

Moreover, the policy of talking election observing as a mere confidence building measure concentrating just on verifying elections has proved inadequate. It has minimized the greater role which elections could play in the whole democratization process, conflict prevention, management and resolution.

These policies need a review. As a matter of fact, they were adopted when election observing was still an

experiment to the OAU.

Extending the Role of Election Monitoring

As part of the democratization process the way election observing is carried out now is insufficient. It should not just be verifying or observing but also making follow up before and after the elections to ensure establishment of democratic governing institutions.

As a means for conflict management, the exercise should include bringing together all groups concerned for reconciliation. They should then be urged to participate in elections, while proper assistance is rendered to make the exercise successful. In addition and as a mean for conflict prevention, election monitors should as well, maintain their contacts and presence after elections to monitor the situation. It is necessary for them to continue advising and assisting the new government in power to proceed with democratization and try to divert their attention from any revenge attitudes which could come up as a result of the past history. The experience has so far shown that some of the new leaders after coming to power try to hinder the democratization process.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity

Apart from the OAU's general policies as suggested above, there should be a formal adoption of a resolution to endorse the matter. This will commit members more firmly and specify new obligations. The organization is expected in this

new dimension to include rendering electoral assistance as part of peace initiatives and the democratization process. It is hoped that since Member States will be receiving material assistance they will be motivated to cooperate more closely with the Organization in these endeavours. OAU success in this aspect will relieve member states not only from donors' direct pressure of economic conditionality but also help smooth conduct of the exercise by supplying logistics. It may also reduce donors' direct interference in the internal affairs of the Member States.

Electoral assistance will not include only funds and other logistics for those countries which cannot finance the exercise but also assisting the whole democratization process including election monitoring programmes. These may involve establishing, training, and upgrading local electoral and other institutions which promote democratization. It will also involve public education to promote the culture of tolerance and understanding the whole system and essence of multiparty democracy. The idea here is for the OAU to develop expertise to assist Member Countries create efficient local manpower and strong capable institutions for carrying out the process on self-reliance basis. This is important because Africa should not forget itself and depend very much on foreign aid. The donors may sooner or later feel fatigued to assist on a permanent basis. It is obvious that when countries' local institutions become full fledged and build their confidence, states will no longer seek foreign observers.

Practically, foreign observers can hardly undertake the observation effectively. In order for the exercise to be efficient, it needs enough observers. Financial constraints, transportation and accommodation problems have been compelling foreign groups to be limited in numbers. As a result, they are unable to cover all areas making them more symbolic than substantial. This situation makes them fail to evaluate elections fairly or render proper assistance. Local national organs however, have fewer problems of logistics.

Consequently, the main thrust of the OAU should be to promote local institutions which are involved in democratization. This can be done by the OAU establishing networks of all electoral organizations in Africa and help them accordingly.

These efforts however, will require a well established and better equipped institution within the OAU General Secretariat to handle them. It is necessary therefore, to have an election monitoring system or unit formally established. It will no doubt, demand a proper study for its institutionalization, financing and operational details but may assume such roles as previously outlined. In addition, they may embrace self- strengthening activities like recruiting experts and consultants on the field, establishment of information system on electoral issues to include databanks and a mechanism for their exchange with other related organizations, coordination of technical assistance with the International Community, updating

existing guidelines and all necessary facilities for the institution to perform its duties effectively. In this view, the role of the System will be wider to cover a spectrum of daily activities.

Keeping Standards

The experience so far shows that the OAU is also less effective due to lack of specific standards to guide it in conducting electoral process. All what is known is for the OAU just to respond to an invitation sent from a member state in demand and then act according to that government's wishes. In very rare cases, when the OAU found itself entangled in a dilemma opted to draw up specific agreement with the government conducting elections before deciding to take part.

The OAU principles in the democratization process are clear and known. They cover popular participation, human rights, rule of law and in general terms aim at free and fair elections. These have been agreed by all member states at their different sittings. Therefore, electoral standards can be specified and drawn up along the lines of these agreed principles to guide the Organization in this respect. Otherwise, the OAU can just adopt the Inter-Parliamentary Union Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections (see annex), the way it adopted the UN Charter for Popular Participation. In any case, this declaration has already been adopted by more than half of the OAU Member States.

Dealing with Human Rights

Violations

In spite of the general agreement on the need for democratization certain governments have not shown willingness to allow the new political process to take its course smoothly. The leaders play foul including violation of human rights And their own constitutions during the electoral process and after. Africa has been named to be on high records of human rights violations. Unfortunately, the OAU in certain cases, has not faced the situation boldly. While the recent trend has given the Organization a credit for condemning unconstitutional acts like military coups one would wish that the OAU maintains such boldness and condemn all kinds of unconstitutional activities.

It is widely accepted that once African countries have allowed Multiparty democracies they have moved a big step forward in the democratization process. But there should not be an oversight on the fact that this stage has been reached after a pressure was introduced by the New World Political Changes. Therefore, a kind of motivation is still needed to urge certain governments to embark on the process peacefully. This can be one way to cushion foreign pressure. Otherwise, if Africa cannot do it by itself, the donors will continue to press on it and perhaps more severely.

On the other hand, the OAU General Secretariat can be a little aggressive by taking liberty of trying to take part in elections conducted in Africa. It is well

accepted that the OAU as an intergovernmental organization is guided by principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of members states. However, in this particular issue the situation is not so much like interfering in internal affairs of any state. The organization's Secretariat has already acquired legitimacy to take part in elections conducted in Member States. Although, it is supposed to get an invitation for the purpose, this does not stop it from REQUESTING participation. After all, the OAU participation in election is financed by the OAU itself and not necessarily by a member in demand. Studying from current situation no Member State can turn down the OAU request because of the following reasons:

- i) All members have agreed on the OAU principles of popular participation, human rights, rule of law and democratization through free and fair elections. It is therefore, expected that everyone would adhere to them.
- ii) It is difficult for the governments in power to sustain dual pressure - that of internal opposing groups as well as that from the International Community on conducting genuine elections. This is so especially when comes to the question of foreign aid.
- iii) The OAU objectives are not to make any member country to changes its laws or force them to conduct the exercise irrespective of their sovereignty. But help them achieve peaceful elections according to the country's own laws.

iv) OAU itself finances its observation missions.

Nevertheless, in case, the government concerned turns down the REQUEST, the OAU will obey it will not take part.

Cooperation with Other Institutions

It has been registered that there has been no strong or consistent cooperation among bodies which supervise multiparty elections in Africa. In most cases each group/organization takes it own way and finally comes out with its own assessment and statement. Some cases have indicated that this situation has not rendered any help to a country in the process especially when groups differ in their final statements. The teamwork of donors and foreign observers in the exercise is important as it ushers to efficiency and successful performance.

Normally, groups which participate in elections in spite of some other differences, all have one same goal of promoting democratization. It was expected then, that cooperation among them could be stronger. This is so, especially if OAU could work closer with them and contribute in coordinating their efforts. The OAU has an obligation from its members on the matter and with the new ECA Strategic Directions as well as the UN Special Initiative on Africa the idea appears more plausible.

ECA has already committed itself to undergo enormous reforms aiming at "Serving Africa Better."

Among the guiding principles in this renewal process the PARTNERSHIP where the OAU stands at a better chance for the role. This is significant because political issues (such as democratization and election monitoring) are basically not the ECA's fundamental objectives.

Equally important, the ECA role in the new UN Special Initiative of Africa "will be the lead agency in coordinating and carrying out programmes in two areas- South Cooperation, and Strengthening Civil Society for Development". It will join the OAU and regional media groups to develop communications for peace building, and cooperate with the World Bank, UNHCR, UNDP and other agencies in programmes for reforms in civil service systems, judiciary and electoral systems.

However, while the OAU has been named to join ECA in developing communications for peace building no mention has been made to involve it in strengthening the capacity for good governance through the electoral process. OAU being the collectively chosen institution by the African governments to undertake the exercise, while itself needs some assistance could work together with the ECA and other agencies. Past experiences, for example the elections in Namibia in 1989 indicate that the OAU can cooperate with the UN institutions successfully in this field.

One could suggest that once the ECA is now going to be very much involved in these activities, there

could be joint efforts organized under one unit of let's say, OAU, ECA and UNDP etc., for electoral process and democratization in Africa. The idea appears plausible because already there are joint programmes and even secretariat among some of them (e.g. ECA/OAU/ADB joint secretariat on implementing the Abuja Treaty). What is suggested is to have democratization also considered for joint initiative to make it successful. The unit could be the one already suggested to be promoted in the OAU General Secretariat or any other jointly created for that purpose. Beside other mentioned obligations, it can serve as a liaison among all related agencies or groups involved in promoting the process as envisaged in the UN Special Initiative of Africa. The major aim will include also to study, monitor and evaluate the whole programme of democratization and "Strengthening the Capacity for governance" in the Continent. Cooperation with governments, regional and local indigenous groups involved in this aspect will be the main focus in order to assist them both financially and technically to boost their performance. The idea could also facilitate the mentioned OAU-ECA cooperation in the field of peace building as electoral process can play a significant role in it.

It is very much believed that today's unorganized system of electoral process in Africa tends to create a chaotic scene which is of no help to the continent. This is caused by the involvement of too many scattered foreign groups in the Continent all trying to do the

same thing. It is therefore of crucial importance for the OAU to take lead and harmonize all those involved in election monitoring in the continent for an effective performance.

Conclusion

Africa is very much under-developed. This situation, to a great extent, has been caused by conflicts and strife borne out of inadequate political systems. There is a general consensus on the matter and even on how to deal with it. This is why the international community has shown a supportive gesture to the democratization process in Africa. International organizations such as the UN, Commonwealth, the Arab League, the OAU as well as, the nongovernmental organizations and individual countries have undertaken to assist democratic elections in one way or another.

Unfortunately, these efforts have not been very successful. The countries concerned have faced a number of problems and have failed to get proper assistance. Those who have been assisted are not well organized and generally they are scattered with their activities not coordinated.

The donor's pressure on democratization, the recent UN Special Initiatives on Africa and the ECA's new strategic directions are an encouragement toward realizing the objective. However, there is a lot to be done as far as the OAU is concerned in order to make it successful. The OAU has to study the real problems facing

democratization and multiparty elections in the Continent and address them effectively. This could be done by the organization to organize itself adequately and explore the above opportunities properly. In so doing closely with UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations and other relevant institutions. There is hope for success.

ENTREPRENEUR CORNER

Investment Climate and Opportunities in Africa Continues to be More Attractive Every Day

There are opportunities for the United States to trade and invest in Africa with its approximately 600 million consumers. Africa's human and natural resources are potentially indispensable to the United States economy. The US trade and investment role in Africa will be helpful in establishing each country in Africa to participate equally in the global economy.

With democratization comes a stable and growth-oriented government followed by liberalized trade laws and common sense economic reforms. These types of environment will promote trade and investment that can be useful for many African countries.

The Entrepreneur Corner will provide a brief overview of some significant developments and investment atmosphere in each of the African countries. We hope that the information provided on each country will be useful for a possible expanded trade and investment in Africa.

ANGOLA

Angola is potentially one of the richest countries in Africa. These include petroleum reserves, valuable mineral resources and very rich agricultural land. Companies such as Texaco, Exxon and Chevron are playing a significant role in Angola's economy. The US is the third largest trade partner in

Sub-Saharan Africa, after South Africa and Nigeria - thus making the US Angola's largest trading partner.

The US government established diplomatic relationship with the government of Angola and the subsequent opening of the US Embassy in Angola will help US companies interested in pursuing trade and investments in Africa.

The government of Angola has promised to continue its market oriented economic policies. This seems to encourage US and other foreign businesses to invest in Angola. Other commercial activities that help increase exports, increase the production of raw materials for industrial use are strongly encouraged. Foreign investments are prohibited in public utilities, air and maritime transportation system and the defense.

The business language is Portuguese. Angola continues in its path towards full economic recovery and democratic governance. Angola's infrastructure is gradually being rebuilt. There are scarcity of well-trained managers, technical and administrative talent in Angola. But Angola remains one of the best places to trade and invest in today's - tomorrow's Africa.

ZAIRE

Zaire is the third largest country in Africa and endowed with such natural resources as copper, cobalt, coffee, petroleum, diamond, arable land and abundant fish in its waters.

Despite the current war and unstable political and economic environment in Zaire, it remains one of the best place for investment, trade and commerce in Africa. Zaire's debt arrears, damages to the economy, infrastructure and the trade channels helped reduce Zaire's exports potential.

Presently, because of the unstable government in Zaire, potential investors must be advised to be extremely cautious in doing business in Zaire. There is a US Embassy in Zaire and the official business language is French. It is predicted that the newly formed government must endorse the path to implementing a more stable political and economic reform needed to attract the confidence of the foreign investors.

Presently, some US companies are beginning to set-up their business in Zaire, especially in mining, telecommunication, etc. The mining industry will need a lot of US equipment and technical know-how to reactivate this industry. Agriculture and agricultural equipment, construction equipment, pharmaceuticals, cosmetic and beauty supplies and four-wheel trucks will be potentially high in demand. Zaire remains the gold mine of investors who know how to proceed with caution.

FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

- **Fred Oladeinde** is the President of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA).

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), a Washington DC-based non-profit, non-partisan organization, founded in 1994, recently established the Institute for Democracy at the St. Thomas University Campus, in Miami, Florida, USA. It will develop programs for research and educational purposes and educate the world about democratic trends in Africa. The Institute will be challenged with creating innovative democratic approaches, to solve the socio-political and economic problems of Africa.

One training program will be the Democracy Advocate Certificate Program (DACP), a one-year three phase activity, designed to assist participants in understanding fundamental principles of democracy, capitalism and economic development. Successful completion of all courses and a project paper on the prospects for democracy in the participant's region will be required. Graduates will be certified democracy advocates (CDAs). They will be expected to educate potential young leaders in Africa, and spread the gospel of democracy, by encouraging in their various countries attitudes and opinions which promote participatory democracy. The first set of trainees, beginning Summer 1997, will include parliamentarians, educators, political party representatives, market women leaders, community and religious leaders from across Africa.

FDA advocates the idea of culturally based democratic governments for Africa. Freedom House, a New York based human rights organization, reports that there were 58 democratic nations across the globe in 1980. By 1995 this increased to a remarkable 115 nations, 16 of which are in Africa. As we approach the millennium, the challenge facing Africans and friends of Africa is to find and establish ingenious ways to help improve the standard of living on the continent. Today, Africa remains the poorest continent on earth, with per capita income of less than \$400.00 per year. Sixteen of the world's twenty poorest nations are in Africa. Basic human needs continue to be unavailable to over 100 million of the continent's 600 million people. The continent accounts for less than 3 percent of world trade and investments. Yet, Africa is blessed with natural resources and human talent.

Africa's condition can be traced to the menace of military intervention and single-party authoritarian regimes. These nondemocratic forms of government have destroyed the economic structures of once prosperous nations and people. As Honorable Richard Williamson, a United States Ambassador to the UN describes it: "Africans increasingly have recognized the failure of centralized and often personalistic regimes to produce either a sustainable level of economic growth or an adequate level of well-being for most Africans." The challenge is to release Africa's potential: institutions of civil society should be re-built and strengthened,

opportunities must be created for the triumph of the rule of law, and free choice; and Africans themselves must be conscientized to take the responsibility for transforming Africa into a land of opportunity in the 21st century.

"Africa's condition can be traced to the menace of military intervention and single party authoritarian regimes."

AFRICA NEEDS ACTION, NOT VOYEURISM, FROM U.S.

-Reuben Abati is a Nigerian journalist studying at the University of Maryland on a Humphrey fellowship.

The last American president to pay any serious attention to Africa was Jimmy Carter. Presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon - particularly Kennedy - wooed African leaders and provided various forms of assistance to the continent's newly independent states. The United States needed to keep African nations out of the way of Soviet communism. By 1980 the continent was pretty much divided ideologically, with the United States gaining an upper hand over the Soviet adventurists.

This brought complacency. The Reagan and Bush administrations largely ignored Africa. Since the end of the Cold War American governments have continued to behave as if they no longer know where Africa is. The result is a credibility problem for the United States in Africa.

The Clinton administration promised in its first term to correct the situation. The national security adviser, Anthony Lake, expressed America's commitment to Africa's development. The deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, visited Africa in October 1994. The first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Tipper Gore attended the inauguration of South Africa's President Nelson Mandela.

No coherent policy

But these assurances did not grow out of, nor did they result in, any coherent or constructive policy

on Africa. The administration policy was ad hoc, a mix of confusing signals: Ensuring a balance between the conflicting objectives of protecting democracy and human rights and the promotion of American trade and Africa's economic growth has been a problem. In 1993, for example, "Operation Restore Hope" was meant to rescue Somalia from the brink of anarchy. It was praised across Africa as an indication of America's renewed interest in the continent. But when 18 American troops died, the operation was abandoned.

The same year, the Rev. Jesse Jackson appealed to the administration to invite Nigeria's former head of state, Gen. Ibrahim Babaginda to Washington, as an encouragement for the Nigerian government's transition to democracy. Washington refused. In that August, General Babaginda annulled the results of the June presidential election. Nigeria has known no peace since. Maybe a trip to Washington, and recognition by the world's most powerful democracy, would have persuaded the general to give democracy a chance.

When in 1994 the administration organized a conference on Africa, so hurried were the preparations that members of the Congressional Black Caucus, natural defenders of Africa's interest, were not invited until the last minute.

Everywhere but Africa

Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher is probably the most traveled officer, but he made only one trip to Africa - at the end

of his tenure. At the 1994 conference, President Clinton had declared that African nations will have to bear the responsibility for solving their own problems.

At the moment, there is no strategic American interest in Africa. Only South Africa and Nigeria have significant trade relationships with the U.S. America continues to buy 40 percent of Nigeria's crude oil, despite the well known human-rights abuses of the military junta in power in Abuja.

The U.S. Aid for International Development program in Nigeria, which benefits thousands of ordinary Nigerians and non-governmental organizations, is being downsized. Nine USAID missions in Africa have been closed down. Liberia, which the United States created in 1847, is torn apart by ethnic strife. Nor has much been done to support democracy in Angola, despite the administration's recognition of the former Marxist government of President Eduardo dos Santos.

The alibi that was often tendered for this inaction by the 104th Congress is "national interest." Applied to Africa, it poses the question: What does Africa have to offer? The continent is in debt. It accounts for less than 3 percent of world trade and investments. Its people are overburdened by religious riot, ethnic strife, corruption and the absence of social infrastructure. African governments are torn between free-market and state-controlled economies. The entire continent is a theater of hunger and disease. Besides, it is so far away that it poses no immediate threat to the comfort and happiness of the

American people. This cynicism will not help. The truth is that the models and strategies that define approaches elsewhere do not work in Africa. The continent's historical heritage of feudalism and years of imperial rule hardly provide the right atmosphere for Western democracy to thrive, or even Western notions of development and accountability.

Support for dictators

These same problems existed during the Cold War, but they did not stand in the way of America's support for Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko, Angola's Jonas Savimbi and Siad Barre of Somalia. Why should America turn a blind eye now that its own ideological battle is won?

It is instructive that Africa's people continue to look up to the United States. I recall that in 1993, my compatriots trooped to the American embassy in Lagos, as the country suffered political tension, to plead with the American ambassador to ask Mr. Clinton to save Nigeria. America's silence then and now remains a puzzle.

Why help Haiti, Mexico and Yugoslavia and ignore Africa, when the situation is essentially the same? America, as Mr. Clinton said, is "the world's indispensable nation." Four times in this century, America has saved Europe and twice the whole world. But this global leadership involves responsibilities that should not be partially rendered.

It is not too late. Mr. Clinton has another chance to keep his promise and take Africa along on that "bridge to the 21st century." The 105th Congress also has a great opportunity to correct the charges of U.S.-centrism that were often leveled against its predecessor.

U.S. policy on Africa must move from voyeurism to action, backed by strategies that reflect an understanding of Africa's peculiar circumstances. What to do? Restore aid, isolate Africa's dictators, provide debt rescheduling, support democratic rule and investments and keep Africa in view, always.

Anything in it for America? Yes: moral redemption, to start with, investment in Africa's future, and creation of opportunities for American trade.

The Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDA) is the "think tank, do tank" arm of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA). IDA was established to create innovative democratic approaches to solving Africa's socio-political and economic problems. IDA is responsible for conducting training and research and educating both the private and public sectors on/about Africa. All further inquiries should be directed to:

Foundation for Democracy in Africa
8513 Ashwood Drive
Capital Heights, MD 20743
Tel: (301) 499-1302 Fax: (301) 499-1405



THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

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December 27, 1999

Dr. Sandy Thurman
Director
The White House Office on AIDS
736 Jackson Place
Washington, D.C. 20036

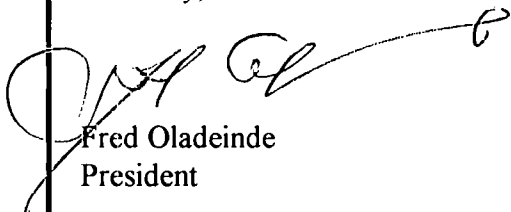
Dear Dr. Thurman:

I recently returned from West Africa organizing a planning committee for the HIV/AIDS Regional Consultative Conference that The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), and the Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDA) are planning in March 2000. I have included information on the conference for your review.

This letter is to request that The White House Office on AIDS become a cosponsor of this conference. Please provide us with information regarding the protocol for The White House Office on AIDS to cosponsor this event, and be involved in the implementation of the resulting programs from the conference.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Fred Oladeinde
President

Enclosure

"CULTIVATING THE PATHWAY FOR PEACE, PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN AFRICA,
THROUGH DEMOCRATIC CAPITALISM AND FREE ENTERPRISE"

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON STRATEGIES FOR COMBATING THE SPREAD HIV/AIDS IN WEST AFRICA.

From Awareness, to action plan, to program implementation.

MARCH 20-24 2000, Abuja Nigeria

OBJECTIVE: Evolve, a regional approach to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS in West Africa. The conference will focus on the West Africa region, which include all member countries of the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS). All players involved in the awareness campaign, prevention strategies, treatment delivery and counseling, drug interventions, public policy, legislation, alternative health care providers, will be brought together, with a view of coming up with a regional approach for countries of West Africa in the war against HIV/AIDS in West Africa.

In this regard, President Olusegun Obasanjo may have opened a fertile vein in his budget 2000 focused among other things on the improvement "of the health of the population through the upgrading of the preventive and curative health care delivery system, with particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS.

FORMAT: Daily plenary morning sessions, by experts on focused topics, that will become workshops, seminars, and roundtable sessions in the afternoon. Each country will be allowed time to present techniques and interventions that are promising in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, and specific obstacles in their effort to combat the spread and devastation of the HIV pandemic, including the stigmatization of HIV/AIDS patients and how this is affecting the war against HIV/AIDS in the region.

The three-pronged project commencing with the advocacy consultative conference will develop over a four-year period beginning AD 2000. The advocacy consultative conference would be followed in succeeding order:

1. Designing programs and action plans based on conference resolutions and proceedings.
2. Implementation of programs and action plan.
3. Evaluation of program and action plan effectiveness in achieving objectives.

ADVOCACY/CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE:

A planning committee comprising of the following persons and institution is been launched to manage the planning and execution of the consultative conference.

1. Dr. O.S. Njoku, coordinator, Armed Forces Programme on AIDS Control (AFPAC)
2. Prof Mrs. Akinsete, Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH). Chair.
3. Anthony Okonmah, Foundation for Democracy in Africa.
4. Dr. Gershwin Blyden, Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDA)
5. Federal Ministry of Health, AIDS Control Unit
6. NEMS/PFIZER
7. Bristol Myers Squibb
8. USAID
9. UNICEF
10. UNAIDS
11. West Africa Health Council
12. Dr. Tunde Davies, Ogba Medical Centre Consultant
13. Dr. A. Abayomi Jorge Ferreira , Total Health Trust Ltd. Consultant
14. Embassy of Burkina Faso.
15. Africa Leadership Forum.
16. Nigeria Medical Research Council

The mandate of the planning committee is as follows:

1. Design conference format, and agenda.
2. Manage conference Logistics and communication.
3. Identify Conference venue.
4. Select, Keynote speakers, and conference resource persons.
5. Negotiate and sign contracts with vendors for the conference.
6. Decide conference size, and participants.
7. Prepare conference budget.
8. Set Conference fees, sponsorship level and contribution, speaker's fees.
9. Get conference sponsors, and raise funds for the conference.
10. Liaison with Host country for support and in-kind assistance.
11. Conference proceedings and documentation.

Two consultants, Dr. Ferreira, and Dr. Davies, will be technical consultants to the committee, and a bi-lingua assistant will be contracted by admin.sec to the committee working under the direction of the chair, and the two technical consultants.

The first meeting of the planning committee will hold shortly.

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) and The Institute for Democracy in Africa , (IDA) an agency of the Foundation are the organizer of the conference. We are

seeking collaboration and partnerships, with organizations and persons interested in a comprehensive approach to combating the spread and management of HIV/AIDS in West Africa.

Declined may 5

THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

6475 New Hampshire Avenue • Suite 600 • Hyattsville, Maryland 20783

Tel: (301) 891-7412 • Fax: (301) 891-7414

Website: <http://www.democracy-africa.org>E-mail: comments@democracy-africa.org**Facsimile Cover Sheet**

To: *Dr Sandra Thurman*

Fax #: *202 - 456 - 2439*

Subject: *Regional Conference on HIV/AIDS in West Africa.*

Date: *05-03-00*

Pages: *3*, including this coversheet

NOTES:

We hope you can join this very important conference

Free of charge



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May 1, 2000

Dr. Sandy Thurman
Director,
White House Office on AIDS
736, Jackson Place
Washington DC 20036

Dear Dr. Thurman:

On behalf of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa I would like to invite you to participate in the regional conference on HIV/AIDS in West Africa we are organizing from June 4-June 8, 2000, at the ECOWAS Conference Centre in Abuja Nigeria.

I would like you to participate on Monday June 5 during the opening ceremony as a special guest of honor and speaker.

Your active participation at all other meetings of the Conference is welcomed

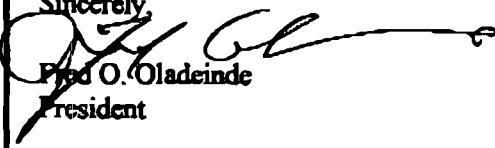
I would be very pleased if you can accept this invitation.

The objective of the conference is to evolve a regional strategy in designing Action Plan, and in implementing programmes for combating the spread and devastation of HIV/AIDS in this region.

Participants are expected from countries in West Africa and its environs: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra-Leone, Togo, Convinced as we are, that diseases are poor respecter of political boundaries. Within this sub-region, the movement of persons is among the highest in the African continent. Participants' Profile will cut across the broad spectrum of Policy Makers, Researchers, all categories of care givers- Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Scientist, Alternate Health Practitioners, Educationist, Social Scientists, NGO's, Community-based Organizations and Persons Living with AIDS.

We look forward to your participation in this very important conference.

Sincerely,


Fred O. Oladeinde
President

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Time	Sunday June 4	Monday June 5	Tuesday June 6	Wednesday June 7	Thursday June 8	Friday June 9
8.30-9.00	A R R I V A L & R E G I S T R A T I O N	OPENING CEREMONY (9.00 - 12.00)	PLENARY II PREVENTION	PLENARY IV IMPACT	EXHIBITIONS SITE-SEEING HOST COUNTRY PRESENTATION	D E P A R T U R E
9.30-10.00			COFFEE BREAK			
10.00-11.00						
10.30-11.00		PLENARY IA: EPIDEMIOLOGY PLENARY IB: DIAGNOSIS & VACCINE	SYMPOSIUM 2 Prevention	SYMPOSIUM 4 Impact	RAPPORTEURS MEETINGS * Draft Communique * Draft Resolutions Recommendations	
11.00-11.30 11.30-12.00						
12.00-12.30 12.20-13.00 13.00-13.30		LUNCH & POSTER VIEWING				
13.30-14.30		SYMPOSIUM I Epidemiology Diagnosis Vaccine	SYMPOSIUM 3: Care & Support	SYMPOSIUM 5 Ethics, Human Rights, Policy	GENERAL ASSEMBLY * Rapporteurs Report * Resolution * Recommendation	
14.30-16.30						
16.30-17.00						
17.00-18.00 19.00		RECEPTION	COUNTRY PRESENTATION	PAPER PRESENTATION Sub-Themes 1 - 3	PAPER PRESENTATION Sub-Themes 4 - 6	



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August 16, 2000

Dr. Sandy Thurman
Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation,
White House Office on AIDS
736 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Thurman:

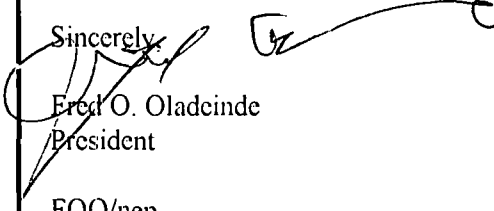
Congratulations! The Foundation for Democracy in Africa, with our affiliate NGO's, and friends in civil society all over Africa are proud and glad of your recent appointment by President Clinton as the Presidential Envoy for AIDS.

We have watched, with appreciation since your appointment several years ago as the Director of the White House Policy on AIDS, your work in bringing the issues of HIV/AIDS, especially as it affects Africa and Africans into the mainstream of US legislative process.

Recent legislation and appropriations passed by both chambers of the US Congress to increase US support of efforts to contain the spread and devastation of HIV/AIDS in Africa and the UN declaration of HIV/AIDS as a security threat are clearly the result of your office's hard work.

We wish you continuing success in your new appointment, and look forward to working with you in your new capacity as Presidential Envoy.

Sincerely,


Fred O. Oladeinde
President

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AFRICANA

**U.S. - AFRICA TRADE AND
INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM**



May 16-19, 2000

**St. Thomas University
Miami, Florida**

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Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Dr. Sandy Thurman
Attn: Cheryl Bauerle

Fax #: 202-456-2439

Subject: HIV/Aids Regional Consultive Conference

Date: March 9, 2000

Pages: _ 1 _ , including this coversheet

NOTES: Mr. Fred Oladeinde would like to schedule a meeting with Dr. Thurman next week (March 13) to discuss ways in which to involve the White House with the Conference as well as possible participation from Dr. Thurman , herself, at the HIV/AIDS Regional Consultive Conference in Abuja on June 4 and 9.



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October 19, 1999

Dr. Sandy Thurman
Director
White House Office on AIDS
736 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Thurman:

Thank you very much for meeting with us to discuss our organization planned intervention in curtailing the spread and devastation of the HIV/AIDS in Africa. We appreciate your time, comments, and guidance on this subject.

We are in the process of launching a pilot project in Nigeria, on our "Rescue The Children Program." We are discussing with the USAID office in Washington and private sector donors to solicit financial support for a pilot project, and will appreciate all the support that we can have from your office in getting the program off the ground.

We plan to launch the program with a conference in Abuja Nigeria under the theme "Evaluating Strategies for Combating the spread of AIDS in Africa", in February 2000 the objective of this conference is to design strategies and adopt a regional approach to combating the spread of AIDS in the West Africa region, which will include all member countries of the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS). All players involved in the awareness campaign, prevention strategies, treatment delivery, counseling and legislation will be brought together, with a view of coming up with a regional approach for countries of West Africa in the war against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

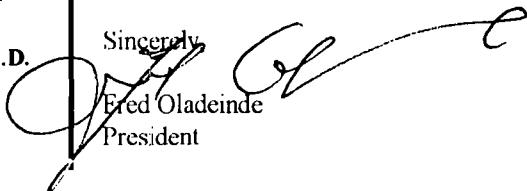
We will like to have your office co-sponsor and participate in this conference along with other US government agencies involve in the war against AIDS, in concert with private sector and civil society in the US and West Africa.

As you are aware, the thrust of our pilot project is focus on "Mother to Child Transmission" (MTCT), and the elements include, counseling, voluntary testing, for women of child bearing age, pre natal antiretroviral treatment, and post natal treatment, counseling on breast feeding and alternatives, and provision of a "kit" to mothers that are HIV positive and voluntarily request alternative to mothers milk. We are also including counseling for the sex partner of the HIV positive mothers, as a new element after our discussions with the USAID technical advisor on HIV/AIDS.

The estimated cost to launch the pilot project in Nigeria is less than \$500,000.00, and we will be happy to provide you with a full proposal.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Fred Oladeinde
President

"CULTIVATING THE PATHWAY FOR PEACE, PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN AFRICA,
THROUGH DEMOCRATIC CAPITALISM AND FREE ENTERPRISE"