

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an  
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton  
Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records

**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** National AIDS Policy Office

**Series/Staff Member:**

**Subseries:**

---

**OA/ID Number:** 21064

**FolderID:**

---

**Folder Title:**

Mauritius

**Stack:**

**S**

**Row:**

**66**

**Section:**

**6**

**Shelf:**

**8**

**Position:**

**2**

C-Mauritius

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

DATE

4/21/00

TO

SANDY THURMAN

FAX NO.

(202) 456-2439

FROM

JEFF GOODSON, UGANDA DESK

AFR/EA

TELEPHONE NO.

(202) 712-4762

FAX NO.

(202) 216-3029

NUMBER OF PAGES

7

SANDY

- PER TELCOM.

COMESA

Nancy  
Medical Corps  
310 826 7800

full

(202) 712-4762

C. Mauritus  
6519  
9420

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**Agency for International Development**

---

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

---

United States Postal Address  
USAID- REDSO/ESA  
UNIT 64102  
APO AE 09831-4102

International Postal Address  
POST OFFICE BOX 33261  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: (254-2) 862-400  
Fax: (254-2) 860-858

**FAX COVER SHEET**

From:



Donald R. Mackenzie  
REDSO/ESA Director

To:

Ms. Dawn Liberl  
Mission Director/Kampala

Date:

March 28, 2000

Fax No.

(256-41) 233-417 / 258981

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

**[bmackenzie@usaid.gov](mailto:bmackenzie@usaid.gov)**

**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND  
SOUTHERN AFRICA****MARCHE COMMUN DE  
L'AFRIQUE DE L'EST ET  
DE L'AFRIQUE AUSTRALE****MERCADO COMUM PARA  
AFRICA ORIENTAL E  
AUSTRAL**

Tel : (260 1) 229726/32  
Fax : (260 1) 225107  
E-mail: [secret@comesa.int](mailto:secret@comesa.int)  
<http://www.comesa.int>

COMESA Centre  
Ben Bella Road  
P O Box 30051  
10101 LUSAKA  
Zambia

Ref: COMCD/13/25(012)mes

Date: 4 February 2000

Dr. Donald R. Mackenzie  
Regional Director  
USAID/REDSO/ESA  
P. O. Box 30231  
NAIROBI  
Kenya  
Fax: 743204

Dear Dr. Mackenzie,

**Re: Invitation to the meetings of the COMESA Policy Organs**

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Erastus J. O. Mwencha, MBS  
SECRETARY GENERAL

UNCLAS

PORT LOUIS 00464

COMESA

CXNAIROB.

ACTION: POL

INFO: CONS AMB AID PAS KSLO KHAR ECON UNEP DCM DAO  
RSO REF RA

Lasers:

INFO: AID DCM

DISSEMINATION: POL /1

CHARGE: PROG

VZCZCNA0106

RR RUEHNR

DE RUEHPL #0464/01 0810631

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

R 210631Z MAR 00

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5120

INFO RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 1825

RUEHLU/AMEMBASSY LUANDA 0033

RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA 0063

RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 0005

RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0185

RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA 0048

RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0732

RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 0003

RUEHAN/AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO 5758

RUEHLG/AMEMBASSY LILONGWE 0527

RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 0542

RUEHWD/AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK 0075

RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI 0030

RUEHMB/AMEMBASSY MSABANE 0055

RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 1287

RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE 0048

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT LOUIS 000464

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, ETRD, XW, MP, KE

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

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

UNCLAS

PORT LOUIS 00464

UNCLAS

PORT LOUIS 00464

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

8TH MARCH, 2000

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNCLAS

PORT LOUIS 00464

UNCLAS

PORT LOUIS 00464

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNCLAS

PORT LOUIS 00464

UNCLAS

PORT LOUIS 00464

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

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

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

260 - Maputo ←

286 - Luanda ←

may 2

UNCLAS

PORT LOUIS 00464