

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT AMERICORPS CALL TO SERVICE EVENT

Richie Coliseum
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

2:34 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, when I was listening to Stephen and Leslie and Justin and Pepe talk, I was reminded of why I wanted to be President -- so that I could give young people like them the chance to make America a better place. (Applause.)

I want to thank all those who are here today who have supported our efforts. I thank Harris Wofford for his outstanding leadership of the Corporation of National Service. (Applause.) Deb Jospin and John Gomperts of AmeriCorps. I thank Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for making Maryland America's leading state for citizen service. They have really done -- (applause.) I thank my good friend, Prince George's County Executive Wayne Curry; Senator Mike Miller, my longtime friend; and Mayor Jacobs, thank you for making us welcome. Carson Dailey, thank you for the work MTV did on those wonderful spots, the PSAs.

I would like to thank also the mother of the Lt. Governor, my good friend, Ethel Kennedy, for being here today. (Applause.) And I thank Mark Gearan, our Peace Corps Director, and I'll say a little more about the Peace Corps in a minute and its relationship to AmeriCorps.

I'd like to thank one person who is not here today, but who was on the front lines of creating AmeriCorps, Senator Barbara Mikulski, your United States Senator from Maryland. I thank her. (Applause.) I want to thank the President of the University of Maryland, on my right; and the President of the Student Government of the University of Maryland, on my left -- (applause) -- for making me welcome. Avery and Dr. Mote, thank you. (Applause.)

You have already heard from Dr. Mote and others that six years ago I came here to celebrate the end of the Summer of Service, which was our dry run for this national service program. We wanted to work out the kinks and see whether we could make this idea go. There were three people who are here who were instrumental on that day; I would like to thank them: Georgia Sorensen, Marilyn Smith and my former White House staffer, whom I miss very much, Bill Galstone. Thank you all very much for what you have done. (Applause.)

And I thank the University of Maryland for the College Park Scholars, the Team Maryland Athletes -- (applause) -- the work-study students that are tutoring, and the others from the students and faculty who demonstrate the power of citizen service.

Let me say to all of you, when I ran for President in 1992 I wanted to get America working again and moving again, but I also wanted to bring America together again. It seemed to me that we had two great problems. One is that our economy was not functioning very well and we seemed to be getting weaker, but also that we seemed to be letting our divisions overcome what we have in common.

Martin Luther King once said that the old law of an eye for an eye sooner or later leaves everyone blind. I always believed that America's differences could be the source of our strength if we respected and we celebrated our differences, but we understood that, underneath it all, there was something that bound us together that was more important.

So, as I look back on the last six years, I think we can all take a great deal of pride in what our country has achieved together -- economically, the longest peacetime expansion in history; the lowest peacetime unemployment rate since 1957, 42 years ago -- (applause) -- welfare rolls cut nearly in half; the lowest crime rate in over a quarter-century. I think those are great things.

But I think we can also celebrate the evidence that we are coming together -- over 90 percent of our children across all racial and ethnic lines immunized against serious childhood diseases for the first time in history; the doors of college literally open to all with the HOPE scholarship, the lifetime learning tax credit, the more generous Pell grant, more affordable student loans, more work-study slots. Those things matter.

But maybe most of all, those of you here in Americorps, and those in citizen service -- whether in the Peace Corps, serving our country in the military, or serving in some other way -- embody the determination of America to draw closer together as we grow more diverse. And that, I think, is terribly important.

When you saw the four Americorps volunteers up here speaking, and each of you identifying with them in turn -- if they worked in your project or you knew them -- you know they were a picture of America, of the changing face of America, and the best of America that never changes.

If you look around the world today, at many of the challenges that I face as your President and that the United States faces -- the sad trip that the First Lady and I recently took to Jordan for the funeral of our friend, the King of Jordan, who survived decades of assassination attempts -- literally decades of assassination attempts, probably 50 in all -- to stand as a symbol of peace among people in a very tough neighborhood, who use religion as a reason to find their differences more important than their common humanity. All over the world today you see that. If the United States wants to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity in a new century in a new millennium, it is actually quite an advantage for us to have within our borders people from all races, all religions, all ethnic groups, all cultural backgrounds doing all kinds of different things.

But we cannot do good around the world unless we are good at home. And, therefore, we have to find this magical balance, being honest about our differences of opinion on matters from the serious to the mundane -- and I'll leave it to you to decide whether it was serious or mundane when the President asked

me take sides in the basketball game. (Laughter.) You've got a great team here, though, I'll tell you that, I've watched it. (Applause.) We have to find a way to do that, to say, this is what I believe, this is where I stand, this is what I'm for -- and also to say how lucky we are to stand on the verge of a new millennium in a totally global society, where people are being brought closer together than ever before, and we are finding ways to relish, to celebrate, to honor our differences in a way to bring us closer together, instead of driving us apart.

AmeriCorps is the living, breathing symbol of the answer to that. Where we do not ask people to check their differences at the door, but we do ask them to reaffirm our common humanity. We do not ask for a handout, but we do ask for a hand up for everyone who needs it, and we say we are going forward together. That is what you represent. That is my fondest hope for America. And I thank you for your service. (Applause.)

You know, all during the 20th century, the tradition of citizen service grew stronger in America. In the great Depression I remember my parents telling me about the chance President Roosevelt gave able-bodied, unemployed people to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps -- the CCC. They cleared trails, they fought fires, they planted trees. They built whole state parks -- the Appalachian Trail, Skyline Drive in Virginia; parks in my home state that Hillary and I have stayed in, with rather interesting names like Petit Jean, and Devil's Den. I have in the back office of the White House an old CCC cap -- a cap that one of the volunteers wore in the '30s, that I found wedged in between a chimney and a wall, in a cabin in a state park in the mountains of north Arkansas. And I have kept it with me all these long years, to remember the unifying power of citizen service in one of the most difficult moments of the 20th century for the United States.

President Kennedy in the 1960s asked young people to serve in the Peace Corps -- to teach English, to provide health care, to bring running water and electricity to some of the most remote villages in Africa, Asia and South America. My brother-in-law served in the Peace Corps in Colombia. And the other night, he was getting together with some of the people who served there with him. When we were getting ready to come out here today, and Senator Wofford came in with Mark Gearan, the present Peace Corps Director, we were celebrating the fact that, if our new budget passes, we will have more people serving in the Peace Corps in the next two years than have ever served in any given year. We'll be back at an all-time high.

And we were lamenting the fact that we just had to withdraw our Peace Corps volunteers from Eritrea and Ethiopia, two countries that I have felt particularly close to in the last couple of years, because of the trouble the two countries are having -- the threat to go to war. And the Peace Corps volunteers, going all the way back for decades, have volunteered to try to come in and solve the conflict and deal with the disputed area of land. I don't know if they will accept it, but think of that. All these years later, people that were there years and years and years ago remember what it was like -- not to give a handout, but to give a hand up, and to ask people to understand that their differences are not as important as what they have in common.

So I thank our Peace Corps volunteers, I thank Mark Gearan, and I thank all of you in AmeriCorps, because you are in

the rich tradition of America's citizen service, from the CCC to the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps.

Now, six summers after I first came here, AmeriCorps is thriving. There now have been over 100,000 people serve in AmeriCorps in just four years of the full-time program. Everywhere I go around the country I see you -- I see you in all kinds of different contexts. I was in San Jose right before the election and there were a lot of -- the Peace Corps volunteers had just come to start their mission, and so I saw them standing on the street as I pulled into the hotel. And I asked them all to come see me and we took a little picture -- and they were from everywhere.

And then when I went home to Arkansas after the terrible tornadoes a couple of weeks ago, in both the communities I visited there were AmeriCorps volunteers there and there were people there who, believe me, would never have come to Arkansas in their lives if they hadn't been in AmeriCorps. (Laughter.) I know it was good for the people they were helping and I think it was pretty good for them.

This has been an astonishing encounter for tens of thousands of people. Now, all of you know what it's like -- I love talking to people who have been in AmeriCorps because I always hear two things -- number one, they're proud of what they did to help people -- teaching a child to read, or immunizing a child, or having a playground that's safe in an area that used to be dominated by gangs, or cleaning up some polluted site, or doing something to preserve the environment. I love that.

The second thing I always hear is, "I like the people with whom I serve;" "I met people I never would have met;" "I got to know people I never would have gotten to know;" "we were all so different and, yet, when we worked together, we grew together, and it made my life different and better." That is what AmeriCorps needs to do -- and that is what America needs to do.

America needs to think of itself as sort of a giant AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps at home, getting things done together. Getting things done together. (Applause.) If our budget passes this fall, we can boost the number of AmeriCorps volunteers by one quarter, to 50,000 members. In our new budget we want to keep expanding AmeriCorps every year so that by the year 2003, and there forward, every year 100,000 young people will be serving in AmeriCorps. (Applause.)

But I want to challenge the young people of this country -- and the not so young who are willing to do it -- to sign up for AmeriCorps, to see for yourselves what you can do to solve America's problems and reap America's promise. I want to challenge high school students, as well. Maryland has done a wonderful job as the Governor and the Lt. Governor said, being the only state in the country to actually require community service as a part of a public education. In our balanced budget we propose to allow high schoolers for the very first time to join AmeriCorps by serving part-time during the school year and full-time in the summers.

And I want to challenge, again, the young people beyond this room, to dedicate a year or two of your lives to a cause larger than yourselves. It may be your best chance to change the lives of others for the better, and to enrich your own life in the process.

Today, so many young people have the time and freedom

and energy they will never have in the future, to tackle the kind of challenge Americorps represents -- to pack a bag at a moment's notice, to fight a forest fire, or move into our most remote towns or Native American reservations to teach children, or work with churches in some of our toughest neighborhoods. At the end of your service, as all of you know, Americorps will provide help to pay for college or pay off student loans. So I ask you all to help me reach others -- to take advantage of this opportunity, to use this moment to prove that this generation of young people, far from being a generation of cynics and slackers, is instead a generation of doers and patriots. (Applause.)

Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend quoted something her father said. I would like to close with a quotation from Senator Robert Kennedy, in a speech he gave to college students in South Africa when I was a young man. It resonated around the world, and every person my age, which was then your age now -- every young person I knew, without regard to their party or their opinions or anything else, was riveted by the notion that a United States Senator could go to South Africa and talk to the young people about building a different future, a long time before, for the first time in over 300 years, all South Africans had a chance to choose their future.

This is what he said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

That is still true today. For those in AmeriCorps, I thank you for sending forth those ripples of hope. I thank you for bringing out the best in yourselves and others.

For those who could still yet serve, I ask you to join the rest of your fellow citizens in building that bridge to the 21st century that all can walk across, arm-in-arm, to the best days of America.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

2:54 P.M. EST



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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 16, 1999

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

10:06 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. On Monday, America will celebrate the birth of one of our greatest heroes, Dr. Martin Luther King. This morning I'd like to talk to you about how we can honor his legacy on that day and all throughout the year by rising to the call of citizen service.

This morning I'm joined by Harris Wofford, the CEO of our Corporation for National Service, a former United States senator and, long before that, a close friend and advisor to Dr. King. Five years ago, then Senator Wofford and Congressman John Lewis of Georgia cosponsored a bill to encourage Americans to devote Martin Luther King Day to serving in their communities. And I was proud to sign it into law. We believe that this national holiday should be a day on, not a day off, for as Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you going to do for others."

On Monday, more than 100,000 Americans, including students, soldiers, ministers, seniors, and members of the AmeriCorps national service program will fan out all across their communities to paint schools, clean neighborhoods, read to children. There's still time for you to sign up. You can do so at www.AmeriCorps.org.

Now, in 1993, we created AmeriCorps to give young people

a chance to serve in their communities and, in the process, to earn some money for college. We gave them a chance to serve not just for a day, but all year round. And since then, 100,000 young people have taken the AmeriCorps pledge. They've done remarkable things. Since Dr. King's last birthday, they've rehabilitated thousands of homes, immunized tens of thousands of children, tutored hundreds of thousands of students, performed millions of hours of service.

Just as important, our diverse AmeriCorps members are learning lessons that will last a lifetime. In the words of one member, "It's unity, people working together. You don't see color. You see people who have come together with just one purpose." For all these reasons I will ask Congress to increase its support for AmeriCorps this year.

There are many other ways citizens can honor Dr. King. For one thing, you can give the gift of life by donating blood. America's blood supplies are now critically low because severe winter weather has hindered blood drives in several regions. I urge every American to find out where you can donate blood by calling 1-800-Give Life.

We can also honor Dr. King by working in our own neighborhoods to promote racial reconciliation. Today I am proud to release a report growing out of our Presidential Initiative on

Race. It's called, Pathways To One America in the 21st Century, and it's a guide to some of our communities' best ways of building that illusive one America -- one neighborhood, one school system, one workplace at a time.

For example, thanks to a creative initiative in Greater Philadelphia, students from different parts of town have formed teams to design and then conduct projects such as food drives or after-school programs for younger kids. In the beginning, suburban students and city students tended to stick to themselves. By gradually the students discovered the things they had in common, and by the end, the barriers had broken down. It has been a stunning success.

To learn more about this promising practice, and more than 100 others, please visit the White House website. We want every community in America to get involved in projects such as these.

Until all children of all backgrounds have the chance to live up to their God-given potential, free from want, in a world at peace, Dr. King's work, and our work, will not be complete. To honor what would have been Dr. King's 70th birthday, I urge all Americans to rise to the highest calling in our land -- the calling of active citizenship. For if we work together as true neighbors, we can realize Dr. King's most

enduring dream.

Thanks for listening.

END

10:11 A.M. EST

Message Sent To: _____

Brenda M. Anders

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Subject: Fact Sheet: President Clinton Calls Americans to Service and Unity

PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLS AMERICANS TO SERVICE AND UNITY

The Oval Office, The White House

January 16, 1999

In today's radio address, President Clinton called on Americans to devote the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to national service -- a day on, not a day off. He also announced that he would ask Congress to increase support for AmeriCorps and released *Pathways to One America in the 21st Century*, a guide to promising practices for bringing people of different races and backgrounds together through community activities.

The King Day of Service. Service was at the heart of Martin Luther King Jr's philosophy and action. Five years ago, President Clinton signed the King Holiday and Service Act, establishing the King Holiday as a day of service reflecting Rev. King's life and teachings. On Monday, January 18, more than 100,000 Americans -- including 10,000 citizens of Philadelphia and members of our national service program, AmeriCorps -- will fan out across their communities to renovate schools, clean neighborhoods and read to children. In Atlanta, the members of the King family will join Hands on Atlanta AmeriCorps members in refurbishing a house in the King Historic District to serve as an after-school education center. In Washington DC, Vice President Gore, along with other Cabinet members and community volunteers, will participate in service projects. The King Day of Service is a special initiative sponsored by the Corporation for National Service in partnership with the King Center, Points of Light Foundation, First Book and Do Something.

AmeriCorps. In his radio address, the President called on Congress to increase support for AmeriCorps. When he came into office, President Clinton outlined a vision for a national service program which would allow young people to serve our nation while earning funds for college. The result of that vision is AmeriCorps, which brings people of different racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds together to solve community problems and improve the lives of other Americans. Since 1994, more than 100,000 Americans have served their country and community through AmeriCorps. Serving in more than 4,000 communities, AmeriCorps members have taught, tutored or mentored more than 2.6 million children, operated after-school programs for more than 500,000 at-risk youth, recruited or organized more than 1.7 million volunteers, and operated more than 40,000 neighborhood safety patrols.

Pathways to One America in the 21st Century. Noting that service is an activity that unites people of all ages, racial and ethnic backgrounds in a common mission, President Clinton announced the release of *Pathways to One America in the 21st Century - Promising Practices for Racial Reconciliation*. This report highlights 123 programs around the country with effective strategies to improve race relations. A wide range of programs- from tutoring and mentoring to

economic development projects - illustrate what people from private citizens to large corporations, can and are doing to find common ground and bridge racial divides. This important contribution to the President's Initiative on Race demonstrates the commitment of many Americans to fulfilling President Clinton's vision of One America in the 21st century.

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REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

DEDICATION OF NEW PEACE CORPS BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1998

Thank you, Mark, for that kind introduction. It's a great pleasure to join you and so many others who have made today possible: the embodiment of the spirit of the Peace Corps himself, Sarge Shriver, and members of his family; returned Peace Corps volunteer and now Secretary of HHS, Donna Shalala; our friends and supporters in Congress -- some of whom are also returned volunteers; members of the diplomatic corps; returned, current, and future members of the Peace Corps; and friends. I want to thank Mark Gearan again for his tireless efforts to make this day a reality -- but also for his astonishing record of accomplishment. With President Clinton's strong leadership and support, Mark has helped open new Peace Corps programs in South Africa, Jordan, Mozambique, and Bangladesh. Mark has also opened people's hearts, inspiring more people than ever to contact the Peace Corps about serving as volunteers.

It is a particular honor and personal pleasure to be here today with my friend, Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein of Jordan. As you have heard, Queen Noor has long had a personal interest in bringing the Peace Corps to her country -- and last year at the White House, I had the privilege of meeting the first Peace Corps volunteers to serve in Jordan. I was so pleased to hear from Ursula today about what she and the other volunteers are accomplishing over there.

Today, we dedicate a building that will enable our country to support the extraordinary work of the Peace Corps into the 21st Century. Its state-of-the-art technology will help the agency do an even better job of supporting its volunteers overseas -- and its new visitor's center will make it possible for young people in this country to learn more about the Peace Corps experience -- and our multi-cultural world. Perhaps most importantly, we celebrate a building that reflects America's most enduring values : our optimism about the future; the importance of service; the belief that every individual can make a difference -- located in the very heart of our nation's capitol -- where it belongs.

This new building will serve the Peace Corps well into the future. And I just had a brief glimpse of that future -- reflected in the eager faces of the the 7th graders I met a few moments ago from D.C.'s Garnett Patterson middle school. They were the first school group to tour this magnificent new building -- thanks in large part to their teacher, Jo Bonney [BON-NAY], who was a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo, Africa in the early 1970s, and who has already instilled her spirit of service in her young students. I also saw that future shine in the faces of the Peace Corps volunteers I just met -- who will leave for Malawi tomorrow. And as I always am -- I was so impressed with their extraordinary enthusiasm and commitment to make a difference.

As an example of how the Peace Corps is reaching out to its future leaders, these young 7th graders will be corresponding with the Peace Corps volunteers in Malawi -- as part the World Wise School program -- aimed at connecting American students with Peace Corps volunteers around the world.

But as all of us here know so well, the Peace Corps would not have such a promising future -- let alone a treasured past -- if it weren't for the man whose name is enshrined in this hall: Sarge Shriver. One of my favorite stories about Sarge was early on -- when he and the other early architects of the Peace Corps were organizing the Agency. He was shown an organizational chart that had him at the top -- followed by various lines that showed who reported to whom. And at the bottom of the chart was the word "volunteer."

When he saw that chart, Sarge immediately turned it upside down -- so the word "volunteer" was at the top. And that's where it's remained ever since. To Sarge Shriver, the Peace Corps has always been about individual volunteers -- bringing their spirit of service to countries around the world -- and then returning home to share what they learned with others. His unswerving commitment to that ideal of service is one of the many reasons why President Clinton awarded him the Medal of Freedom -- our country's highest civilian honor. Today, we honor him again -- by naming this wonderful new room "Shriver Hall."

Over the past six years, I've had the privilege to see firsthand the tremendous difference that our Peace Corps workers are making around the world. In South Asia, South America, and most recently, in Africa, I've met hundreds of volunteers who are bringing hope and progress to individual families and entire communities. In fact, one of the things I enjoy most about my international travels is meeting the Peace Corps volunteers -- you know, those shy, quiet retiring types who just stand there and don't make any noise. You can spot them immediately.

Last year, Chelsea and I met an exceptional volunteer in Tanzania. Trevor Murphy led a class of young girls on a successful climb up Mount Kilimanjaro -- a feat -- as some of you may know -- that requires enormous amounts of preparation, discipline and courage -- and one that few girls in Tanzania every dream of accomplishing. And that trip captures for me what the Peace Corps does so well: giving people from all walks of life the skills and opportunities and encouragement to reach the top of the mountain on their own.

More people deserve to get that opportunity to change people's lives -- and their own. Today, we are here not only to dedicate a new building -- but to launch a new national recruitment drive -- aimed at meeting the goal of 10,000 volunteers serving by the year 2000. I want to commend your new recruitment film that we just saw -- which sends out such a powerful message for why we should be engaged in improving the world around us. I only hope that message will be heard in the Halls of Congress, so that they understand how important it is to support President Clinton's request to strengthen the Peace Corps in the years ahead.

I love the new recruitment theme “How Far Are you Willing to go to Make a Difference?” It reminds me of a young volunteer I met in Kathmandu, Nepal, who told me that to catch the bus that brought her to meet with me, she had walked ten hours from the remote village where she lived in a house without running water or electricity. She described her work at school where nearly all the students were boys -- since most girls were still denied schooling, and were often married by the age of twelve or thirteen.

How far was she -- and so many others -- willing to go to make a difference? Very far indeed. Sometimes it seems that the farther these Peace Corps volunteers travel -- whether that's measured in miles down a dirt road or in distance from their personal comfort zone -- the closer they get to what matters in life. And what matters in life is helping others realize their own power and live up to their own abilities. While every experience is different, each volunteer I've ever talked to agrees: I learned more than I taught; I received more than I gave. And in the process, these volunteers not only contributed to the development of a family, a village; a country -- but to a deeper understanding between Americans and the people of other countries.

The President and I believe that the work that the Peace Corps is carrying out today -- in 80 countries around the world -- has never -- ever -- been more important. We know the forces of globalization can help bring nations together -- or widen the fault lines that keep us apart. What better time to rekindle the spirit of democracy and promote justice in the farthest corners of the globe? What better time to strengthen our common purpose here at home? What better time, in other words, to support and expand the Peace Corps? Deep appreciation to all of you who have gone so far to make a difference. Now, let's recommit ourselves to ensuring this legacy lives on -- even brighter and stronger -- in the 21st Century.



PEACE CORPS

To: Laura Schiller
From: Mike Chapman

4 pages follow

Please return ASAP.
?





PEACE CORPS

Memorandum

To: Laura Schiller
Office of the First Lady

From: Mike Chapman *MC*
Director of Communications

Subject: Mrs. Clinton's Remarks for the Peace Corps Event

Date: September 9, 1998

What follows are some suggested points for Mrs. Clinton to make during her remarks for the Peace Corps event on September 15. With respect to general language about the Peace Corps, I don't have much to add to what she said in Paraguay or what was provided for her remarks in Chile. Below are some points that might be of particular use for next week. On Thursday, I will send you our new recruitment catalogue, which contains some pretty good language that you might find useful. The new 15-minute recruitment film will be delivered to your office on Friday. Please feel free to contact me if you need anything else.

Points about Shriver

- Shriver earned his place in the history of the Peace Corps for a simple but powerful reason: for him, the Peace Corps has always been about the individual volunteer; the women and men who have been willing to bring their spirit of service to a great cause; the volunteers who have offered their skills and talents to people in other countries; and the volunteers who have returned home and shared their experience with our fellow citizens.
- When Sarge and the other early architects of the Peace Corps were organizing the agency, his staff assembled an organization chart that had him at the top followed by some various lines that showed who reported to whom. And at the bottom of the chart was the word "volunteer." When he saw the it, Sarge immediately turned the chart upside down so that the word "volunteer" would appear at the top. From that point on, it was clear who mattered most in the Peace Corps.

- Sargent Shriver took President Kennedy's vision and turned a bold experiment in public service into a reality. The Peace Corps has since its earliest days been a place where values are more important than prestige and promotion.
- Sargent Shriver is a model for every American who believes in the value of public service. He is a patriot who believes in this country and all that we stand for. And his stewardship of the Peace Corps is just one of the many reasons why President Clinton awarded him the Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor.
- Thirty-five years ago, Sargent Shriver told an audience that "Guns won't change the world. Dollar bills won't change the world. Nor will simple goodwill, or even international organizations. What can change the world today is the same thing that has changed it in the past—an idea and the service of dedicated, committed individuals to that idea. The Peace Corps," he said, "is a group of men and women dedicated to an idea."
- What Sarge said then, both about our world and about the Peace Corps, still holds true today.
- And today, we honor him and his legacy at the Peace Corps by naming this wonderful new room "Shriver Hall."

Top Three Visits with Peace Corps Volunteers

- **Paraguay** — In October 1995, soon after Mark Gearan became Director of the Peace Corps, he and Mrs. Clinton visited with volunteers who worked on projects in youth development and maternal/child health care. She then walked over to a big auditorium and spoke to more than 200 volunteers who had come from all over Paraguay to see her.
- **Kyrgyz Republic** — In November 1997, Mrs. Clinton visited some volunteers in the Kyrgyz Republic. One volunteer was working in an orphanage and saw that the children needed warm clothing to get through the brutal winter in that country. The volunteer, Katie Joley, and her mother in Fort Wayne, Indiana, organized a collection of winter clothing from seven states (thousands of coats, boots, shoes, and mittens) for the kids. Mrs. Joley contacted the White House when she learned of Mrs. Clinton's trip and asked if the First Lady would deliver some of the clothing to the orphanage. Mrs. Clinton agreed and took a small amount of the clothing to the volunteer and the kids at the orphanage.
- **Ghana** — In March 1998, the President and Mrs. Clinton went to the very first Peace Corps country, Ghana. There they met a volunteer, Felicia Burzell, of

Greensboro, NC, who worked with a group Ghanaian women in a basket weaving cooperative. Felicia brought the women together to help find new markets for their extraordinarily beautiful baskets and expand their income. Today, the women's coop is exporting baskets around the world, including The Body Shop here in the United States.

The Peace Corps Building

- For "big picture" suggestions, see page 2 of Mark Gearan's letter to Mrs. Clinton. Be sure to weave in President Clinton's 10,000 volunteers by the year 2000 initiative.
- This is the first time since the 1960s that the Peace Corps has a building of its own, one that it can call a real home. Congratulations to Mark Gearan for his leadership in making this day a reality. Since coming here, he has brought great energy, ideas, and dedication to what many people in town think is the best job in Washington.
- His record speaks for itself. He has opened new Peace Corps programs in South Africa, Jordan, Mozambique, and Bangladesh. He has established the Crisis Corps. Under his leadership, more people are contacting the Peace Corps about serving as volunteers. These are just a few of his accomplishments.
- And today, we are here because Mark and many members of the Peace Corps staff have put their hearts into making this building the Peace Corps' new home for the 21st century. But like Sargent Shriver, I know that Mark believes what matters most at the Peace Corps are the 6,500 volunteers serving in 80 countries today. So in many respects, the Peace Corps Building is about those volunteers, who represent the future of this organization.

The Peace Corps' New Recruitment Campaign

- Today, we are also launching the Peace Corps' campaign to recruit volunteers who will be serving overseas when the next century arrives. I am delighted to be a part of this event—with an outstanding new web site, a wonderful new recruitment film, and a beautiful new catalogue, you have captured the true essence of the Peace Corps experience.
- And I can't think of a better theme than the one you have chosen: "How far are you willing to go to make a difference?" This is a challenge that I know will resonate in the hearts and minds of many people of every age and background in our country who believe in the power of citizen service; who want to experience the adventure of living and working in another culture; and who know that

they have much to gain, both personally and professionally, by serving in the Peace Corps.

- Close with points about volunteers who will be lucky enough to be serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in Jordan, Malawi (she will have just met 15 of them), Bolivia, Papua New Guinea, and dozens of other countries when the dawn of the new century arrives.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 19, 1996

Your Majesty:

Today marks an historic step in the development of closer relations between the people of the United States and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I am very pleased that our governments will sign an agreement that will make it possible for Peace Corps volunteers to serve in your country.

The Peace Corps is one of our country's most important and successful institutions because it shares with the world America's most precious resource: our people. Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961, tens of thousands of Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 131 countries around the globe. I am proud of the contributions that Peace Corps volunteers have made to help change and improve the human condition. Most importantly, however, Peace Corps volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries.

By living and working as partners with the citizens of your country, Peace Corps volunteers will learn from Jordanians as much as they will teach. As we move forward together, I am confident that our countries will be enriched by this experience.

Hillary and I send our best wishes to you and Her Majesty, Queen Noor, on this happy occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

His Majesty
Hussein I
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Amman

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
RECEPTION FOR JORDAN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
APRIL 28, 1997**

Talking Points

[Acknowledgments: Donna Shalala, Mark Gearan, Michelle Lefebvre [Luh-Fay], peace corps volunteer]

- This is a great day for the people of the United States and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The President and I want to congratulate Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan and these 29 extraordinary Americans who are about to become the first Peace Corps volunteers to serve in Jordan.
- I also want to thank especially Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan who has long had a personal interest in bringing the Peace Corps to her country.
- As Mark said a few minutes ago, I have had the privilege to see firsthand the tremendous difference that our Peace Corps workers are making around the world. In South Asia, South America, and most recently, in Africa, I met hundreds of volunteers who are bringing hope and progress to individual families and entire villages.
- Just last month, Chelsea and I met an exceptional volunteer in Tanzania. Trevor Murphy led a class of young girls on a successful climb up Mount Kilimanjaro -- a feat that required enormous amounts of preparation, discipline and courage and one that few girls in Tanzania ever dream of accomplishing. I understand there is another Trevor Murphy here today who is on his way to Jordan and I hope you reach similar heights in your assignment. [Note: one of the new Jordan volunteers is also named Trevor Murphy].
- I am particularly delighted that many of you will be working on projects to improve the lives of Jordanian women. Through its Women in Development programs, Peace Corps Volunteers have helped women reach their fullest potential. They have helped expand educational and economic opportunities for women, and in the process, strengthened the role that women play in the development of their countries and in their communities. And I am confident that you will be equally successful in Jordan.
- As part of our celebration today, and to recognize the important difference that Peace Corps volunteers everywhere make in the lives of women, I am very pleased to announce that the Peace Corps will establish the "Loret Miller Ruppe [Lor RETT ROO- pee] Fund for the Advancement of Women."
- The fund is named in honor of the Peace Corps' longest-serving director, and a woman who embodied the highest ideals and aspirations of the Peace Corps. From 1981 until 1989, Loret Miller Ruppe was a passionate advocate for our volunteers and an articulate spokeswoman for the cause of international peace.

- Although she passed away this year, Loret's spirit remains with us. The fund, established through the Peace Corps partnership program by a gift from Loret's estate, will provide small grants to support community-based projects that are designed to strengthen the role of women in the development of their countries.
- The Loret Miller Ruppe Fund for the Advancement of Women is wonderful way to carry on her legacy. I am delighted that Loret's husband Phil Ruppe and Mark Gearan were able to collaborate on this important effort. I'd also like to recognize two of Loret's daughters: Loret, who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal; and Mary, here with us today.
- Finally, as we send these volunteers on their exciting journey to Jordan, let's remember that the Peace Corps experience is a two-way street. While I know that you will make a difference in Jordan, you will also benefit from your service.
- You will learn Arabic, explore Jordan's history and enjoy the hospitality of the Jordanian people. Perhaps most importantly, you will establish new bonds of friendship and understanding with the people of Jordan. These personal ties are very important, because they are the foundation of peace among nations.
- This is the true genius of the Peace Corps.
- All Americans can take great pride in your decision to join the Peace Corps and serve our country. So on behalf of the President, I congratulate you on being selected to serve in Jordan. We wish you every success on your journey.

###

Office of First Lady Scheduling
Scheduling Request

Organization: The Peace Corps
Requesting: <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Meet/Greet <input type="checkbox"/> Video <input type="checkbox"/> Letter (Greeting) Other: open new Peace Corps building
Event:
Date of Event: Mid-September Location:
Contact: Mark Gearan
Recommended By:

Delivery and Notes

1 Deliver To: Wendy <p>692-2100 9/15 at Nam</p>	2 Deliver To: Patti <p>UPS File September</p>
From: _____ Date: _____	From: _____ Date: _____
3 Deliver To: _____	4 Deliver To: _____
From: _____ Date: _____	From: _____ Date: _____

Status: Regret Pending Accept Letter (Greeting) Video

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

_____ Accept

_____ Regret

_____ Pending

TO: Patti Solis-Doyle
Director of Scheduling for the First Lady

FROM: Mark Gearan
Peace Corps Director

REQUEST: To officially open the new Peace Corps Building, which would include dedicating Shriver Hall, named in honor of the first Peace Corps Director R. Sargent Shriver, and to launch both the new Peace Corps web site and the new recruitment film.

PURPOSE: Highlight the opening and dedication of the new Peace Corps Building, honor Sargent Shriver and the Kennedy legacy, garner national exposure for Peace Corps' fall recruitment campaign, and reinforce the President's call to expand the Peace Corps to 10,000 Volunteers by the year 2000.

BACKGROUND: The new Peace Corps Building, located at 1111 20th Street, NW, is a self-contained 8-story structure that will give the Peace Corps store-front visibility. The building will have a large Peace Corps logo on its front, blue awnings, and 10 street level windows with professional displays. It will also contain Shriver Hall, where visiting or local school groups can come to learn about culture, geography, and the Peace Corps. Inside Shriver Hall will be Peace Corps' History Hall, which will bring visitors through 37 years of Peace Corps service.

To kick-off the fall recruitment season, the Peace Corps has completely redesigned its web page and produced the first recruitment film in five years. To gather national exposure, we would link our 11 regional offices across the country to this event, as well as Peace Corps Volunteers around the world.

PREVIOUS

PARTICIPATION: Send-off of the first Peace Corps Volunteers to go to Jordan at the Old Executive Office Building on April 30, 1997.

Visited with Peace Corps Volunteers in 13 countries.

**DATE AND
TIME:**

Mid-September.

PARTICIPANTS: Members of the President's Cabinet and White House Staff, Members of Congress, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Kennedy and Shriver families, local dignitaries, local students, Peace Corps employees, former Peace Corps volunteers, and other friends of Peace Corps.

**OUTLINE OF
EVENTS:**

To be determined.

**REMARKS
REQUIRED:**

To be prepared by Peace Corps and Speechwriting.

**MEDIA
COVERAGE:**

Open Press

Noa A. Meyer 09/10/98 07:38:37 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Laura E. Schiller/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: peace corps

Tanzania

Chelsea and I met an exceptional volunteer in Tanzania. Trevor Murphy led a class of young girls on a successful climb up Mount Kilimanjaro -- a feat that required enormous amounts of preparation, discipline and courage and one that few girls in Tanzania ever dream of accomplishing.

Nepal

I met a young peace corps volunteer in Kathmandu, Nepal who told me that to catch the bus that brought her to meet with me, she had walked ten hours from the remote village where she lived in a house without running water or electricity. She described the work she did at a school where nearly all the students were boys, since most girls were still denied schooling and were often married by the age of twelve or thirteen.

The volunteer loved her experience in Nepal but missed her family and all the blessings of daily life that she had taken for granted in America. She longed for safe drinking water that poured from faucets; meats and vegetables that she could eat without worrying they would make her sick; enough food to eat all year round; free public schools that taught both boys and girls; warm baths and electricity available around the clock; paved roads, and cars to drive on them.

Laura E. Schiller
09/11/98 06:48:25 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Christine N. Macy/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject:

Draft Remarks by Secretary Shalala
Dedication of Shriver Hall -- Peace Corps HQ
September 15, 1998

Mrs. Clinton, Your Majesty, Queen Noor, Sargent Shriver, Mark Gearan, Ursula Hawe -- and all the friends and former members of the Peace Corps here today.

It's exciting to be here.

As I always say, you can take a woman out of the Peace Corps -- but you can never take the Peace Corps out of the woman.

So it's an honor to help to celebrate the Corps and dedicate your new home.

This building will house -- but can hardly contain -- one of the greatest ideas and institutions of the 20th Century.

As this day approached, I took the opportunity to watch once again the videotape of President Kennedy's inaugural address in 1961.

You know -- it still raised a lump in my throat.

Because I could still feel the power in President Kennedy's words that inspired my generation to public service.

Like many of you, when he said, "ask what you can do for your country," I thought he was talking directly to me.

By creating the Peace Corps, President Kennedy gave me and my peers a new option to do something for our country -- and the world.

As you've often heard me say, my Peace Corps service in Iran from '62 to '64 was one of the most important experiences of my youth -- and my life.

They told us the Peace Corps would be the toughest job we ever loved. They were right. And it's still true.

It changed -- and shaped -- the way I view myself and the world.

It made me a better citizen of our country.

It made me a citizen of the world.

But as men and women dedicated to the Peace Corps ideals, our challenge is to extend our legacy of service, and grow a new generation of citizens of the world.

We must pass along the torch of public service that can light the world.

We must inspire young people to ask what they can do for their country.

Let us inspire them to define their future not as slackers, or Gen X, or a "Lost Generation" b

b but as a generation that finds itself in public service.

I am proud to serve with a President and a First Lady, and with Vice President Gore and Mrs. Gore, who have ignited the torch of public service in so many young people's hearts.

And I am proud to serve in an Administration that has done so much to keep the Peace Corps that I love strong and well-led by my friend, Director Gearan.

Together, let us help young people today to regard the Peace Corps as we regard it:

As a way to see the world b to be the world b and to leave the world -- when we do -- a better place than we found it.

William Faulkner -- for all his dark vision -- knew in his heart that humankind would endure and prevail because we possess what he called, "a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance."

No words better describe the qualities of the Peace Corps volunteer -- they embody compassion, sacrifice and endurance.

And of course, no words better describe the qualities of President Kennedy's choice to launch and lead the original Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver.

When Kennedy created the Peace Corps, Mr. Shriver suggested that the President appoint someone as Director to whom he owed a political debt.

But instead, the President decided to appoint his own brother in law. As he explained, "If it flops, it will be easier to fire a relative than a political friend."

From that moment on, there has been no better friend to the Peace Corps than Sargent Shriver.

We could fill this entire day -- and many days -- with stories about Sarge and those early Peace Corps years.

The stories would be filled with energy b with vision b with humor b with

commitment þ with dreams þ with belief þ with optimism þ and with people who cared about their country and humankind.

As one of those young volunteers, I appreciated Director Shriver's tireless leadership and devotion to us, wherever we served.

With Director Shriver, we knew we always had an open door and an open ear at the Oval Office.

Back then, I never dreamed that our paths would cross here today.

But I'm glad that Director Gearan set up today's program in the order that he did, letting me speak before Sargent Shriver.

Because he's a tough act to follow.

Nobody knew this better than Jack Vaughn -- the second Peace Corps director.

When Director Vaughn was appointed, he said, "following Sarge Shriver around the Peace Corps was bracing. Following him as its leader is a bit shattering."

Well, let me add that following Sargent Shriver as a speaker today would be like following Mark McGwire at bat.

So I am happy to introduce to you the first Director -- and my Director -- of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver.



PEACE CORPS FAX

The Press Office

TO: Laura Sathler

FAX#: _____

FROM: ~~Brendan Daly~~
~~Press Director~~ Mike Chapman

TELEPHONE: (202) ~~692-2236~~ 692-2212

FAX#: (202) 692-2231

E-MAIL: ~~b Daly@peacecorps.gov~~

Comments: _____

Number of Pages (including cover sheet) _____

THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 9, 1998

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

On behalf of the Peace Corps, I wish to thank you for accepting my invitation to be our guest honor at the dedication of the new Peace Corps Building on September 15. I am both honored and delighted that you will be with us on this special occasion. We expect Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, several members of Congress and the diplomatic community, members of the Shriver family, and other friends of the Peace Corps to join us. In addition, Her Majesty Queen Noor Al-Hussein has agreed take part in our celebration. The Queen is a strong supporter of the Peace Corps and our Volunteers serving in Jordan, and recently stated in a television interview that she had always wanted to join the Peace Corps.

This event has several purposes: to dedicate the new Peace Corps Building and Shriver Hall, a multi-purpose room in the building named in honor of Sargent Shriver that will serve as a visitor's center and conference hall; to launch our fall recruitment campaign for Volunteers who will be serving overseas when the next millennium arrives; to launch the Peace Corps' new web site and new recruitment film. The theme of this recruitment campaign is: "How far are you willing to go to make a difference?" I have enclosed a copy of our new recruitment catalogue as well as a copy of the new film.

In the afternoon on Tuesday, we will host a panel discussion on volunteerism in the twenty-first century and a reception for Peace Corps staff, returned Volunteers, and other friends of the Peace Corps. In addition, our eleven regional offices will be hosting recruiting events across the country that will tie into ours in Washington.

After formally dedicating Shriver Hall and meeting briefly with a group of 15 Volunteers who will be departing for Malawi the next day, you are scheduled to speak for 10 minutes. Given that you have visited so many Peace Corps Volunteers during your travels overseas, I believe that our audience would enjoy hearing your reflections on the contributions that our Volunteers make to international development and greater understanding between Americans and the people of other countries. Your comments could be very easily tied to the reasons why Congress should support the President's initiative to have 10,000 Volunteers serving overseas by the year 2000.

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
September 9, 1998
Page 2

But I also think that our audience would welcome the opportunity to hear from you about the institutional importance of the Peace Corps as reflected in our new building. Even as we dedicate Shriver Hall in honor of one of the Peace Corps' architects, this building will be the foundation of the agency's future. The new building will be equipped with twenty-first century technology and give the Peace Corps a signature presence in the nation's capital; it will allow us to support our Volunteers overseas more effectively; and it will make it possible for young people to learn more about the Peace Corps experience and our multi-cultural world. Most importantly, the new building will also serve as a reminder to all Americans who come to Washington that the Peace Corps remains an energetic agency that reflects many of our country's most enduring ideals: the importance of citizen service, optimism about the future, and the belief that individuals can make a difference in the lives of other people here at home and around the world.

I hope you find these suggestions useful and have attached a draft itinerary for our event. Your support for the Peace Corps has meant a great deal to the 6,500 Volunteers serving today in 80 countries, to thousands of returned Volunteers across the United States, and to me personally. I thank you again for joining us for this very special occasion and look forward to seeing you on September 15.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Gearan
Director

I look forward to seeing
you Tuesday.
Many thanks.



PEACE CORPS

To: Laura Schiller

From: Mike Chapman 

Thanks for talking with me about Mrs. Clinton's remarks for next Tuesday's event. Attached is a transcript of a speech that she delivered at a Peace Corps event in Paraguay in 1995 soon after Gearan became Director, as well as some draft points that were prepared for her use in Chile. And in case you have nothing else to do (*sic*), you may want to scan the remarks that Gearan gave at the Center for National Policy to learn more about the 10,000 by 2000 initiative and the point (at the conclusion) about volunteers serving overseas when the next century arrives.

I'll speak with you on Wednesday.

**Transcript of
Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States
Peace Corps/Paraguay
Quinta Ykuá Sati
October 16, 1995**

Thank you very much.

I am a volunteer, but not a Peace Corps Volunteer. But I share the enthusiasm that Mark Gearan just expressed for the work that you do every day and the way you represent the best ideals of the United States at this point in our history.

I am pleased that we are joined today by representatives of the Government of Paraguay, and I understand that the Minister of Health and Agriculture are here. I want to thank them and all the officials who have joined us. I also want to acknowledge our Ambassador and Mrs. Service, as well as to thank Paul Kealey and the entire Peace Corps staff for extending an invitation for me to join you today.

This is the 29th year of Peace Corps Volunteer activity in Paraguay, and a few minutes ago I had the opportunity to meet with Volunteers and their Counterparts from communities around the country who are working on health related issues and youth development. In addition to hearing about the specific work that they are undertaking, I have also been told about all the other activities that are underway, in agriculture, the environment, in education, and small business development, across the board, and the many ways in which Peace Corps Volunteers are working with the citizens of Paraguay to build bridges, to improve the lives of the people here, and to learn lessons that we also may take home.

I am delighted that the new Peace Corps Director, my friend Mark Gearan, could be here to meet with you directly and to be present at this meeting as well.

When he left the White House to become the director of Peace Corps, it was said that there was not anyone in Washington who did not like Mark Gearan. He is a man who strives to bring people together, who tries to search for solutions rather than merely complaining about problems, and I believe that the president made a very wise choice for the Peace Corps when he asked Mark to become director in this, its nearly 35th year.

I also think it is very clever of you, Mark, to begin with countries that start with "P" - Poland, Paraguay - and I don't know what is next, but I am sure you will find your way around the world.

This is my first trip to South America. Some of you may know I started in Nicaragua, and Chile, Brazil and now, to Paraguay. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with the citizens of this part of our hemisphere who are working so hard to build their own stable democracies, to expand economic prosperity and to recognize the need to invest in the education and health of their people.

Democracy, economic prosperity, and social investment are each three parts of the necessary formula to ensure a stable future for any country. And for nearly 35 years the Peace Corps has represented United States' commitment to social investment.

It does not often receive the headlines that political action does, or that economic progress does, but underneath both is the steady work done by Peace Corps Volunteers in partnership with the citizens of the countries in which they serve, ensuring that all the people of any country, regardless of their income, their race, their ethnic background, or the language they speak, will begin to have some chance to participate fuller in the life of their society.

The need for volunteers to promote social investment, and to look for effective ways of delivering services and building communities is one that is recognized, not only in Paraguay, but throughout the world. In our own country, we know how important it is that volunteers work with each other to make sure that the people in our own cities and rural areas have the advantages they need to build their own future. So when Peace Corps Volunteers make the decision to join and to give of themselves, they stand in a very proud tradition of American volunteerism, going back to the beginning of our nation and recognized by the French social observer de Toqueville.

The effects of that volunteerism not only live on in the work that is done here in this country and in all the countries where Peace Corps Volunteers serve. It lives on in the spirit of all Peace Corps Volunteers and as they return to the United States, that spirit is often, then, acted upon in our own communities and so the potential that is unleashed by all of you is multiplied many times over. I hope that all the Volunteers who are here today know how grateful we in the United States are for your willingness to serve, for your willingness not only to give but to learn, to work here in this country with those who also are willing to give, to build a stronger Paraguay, and then to return home, and take the lessons you have learned and apply them in the United States.

As we move toward a new century, the challenge for all nations and all peoples will be to unleash the God-given potential of all of our people, to value each human being, each boy, each girl, each man, each woman, so that together we can be greater than we are separately and individually. The Peace Corps has always known that. It was promised on the belief in the dignity of every person and the capacity of all people to solve their own problems if given the tools to do so. We see that as more important today than ever, and we are grateful for the willingness of all of you to take that message and make it a reality.

Thank you for your service, and thank you for volunteering.

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Draft Remarks for
Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Peace Corps/Chile
Santiago, Chile
April 19, 1998

Thank you very much, name of Peace Corps Volunteer, for your kind introduction.

I would like to begin by thanking the representatives of the Government of Chile [check], the Council to Overcome Poverty, the leadership and Profesionales of Servicio País, leaders from the many non-governmental organizations, and other distinguished Chileans who have joined us for this special occasion.

Let me also thank John McAward and the Peace Corps/Chile staff, as well as members of the U.S. Embassy staff for their hard work in making this event possible.

I want to pay a special tribute to the 19 Peace Corps Volunteers who are currently serving our country and the people of Chile. The President and I and all of your fellow citizens in the United States are so very proud of all of you for the many contributions that you and your Chilean counterparts have made to Chile's progress. [Ask them to stand?]

I also want to recognize the many former Peace Corps Volunteers who served in this wonderful country since 1961. More than __ former Volunteers are in the audience today. Some of you have returned to Chile

from the United States for this celebration. And some have spent much of your lives in Chile since your days in the Peace Corps. We are delighted that so many of you have traveled from cities across the United States *and* Chile to be here today. [Ask them to stand?]

When Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan asked me to a participate in an event to celebrate the partnership between the Peace Corps and the people of Chile, I was delighted to accept his invitation. The President and I believe that the Peace Corps is one of our country's most successful endeavors. The Peace Corps is filled with people who embody some of our most enduring values of service and a commitment to make the world a better place. He and I both believe that the work that more than 6,500 Peace Corps Volunteers are doing in 84 countries today has never been more important.

That is why the President has urged the Congress to join him in a bipartisan effort to make it possible for 10,000 Peace Corps Volunteers to be serving overseas by the year 2000. These additional Volunteers will be able to serve in many of the world's neediest communities. I cannot think of a better way for our country to enter the next century than to contribute to the Peace Corps' legacy of service in such a substantial way.

I have had the good fortune to visit with many Peace Corps Volunteers and to see their extraordinary work during my travels around the world. I visited with Peace Corps Volunteers during my first trip to Chile in 1995. I have seen the difference that Volunteers have made in communities Paraguay, Nepal, and Tanzania. I have talked with Volunteers about their service in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic.

When I traveled to Panama, I swore in a new group of Volunteers who would go on to work on agricultural and environmental projects. *[We are still checking on other countries in Central America.]*

Last year, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, who was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Iran in the 1960s, joined me at the White House for a special event to send off the first group of Volunteers to serve in Jordan.

And just a few weeks ago, the President and I saw the enormous impact that Peace Corps Volunteers have had on the lives of ordinary people who want to build a better future in the African nations of Ghana and Uganda.

So it is a pleasure for me to be with all of you today. But the reason we have come together is not just to reflect on what Peace Corps Volunteers and their Chilean counterparts have accomplished together over the past three decades. While these accomplishments have been important, we are also here to celebrate the spirit of friendship and understanding that exists between the people of Chile and the people of the United States, a spirit that will endure long after the last Peace Corps Volunteer returns home later this year.

An important example of this spirit of friendship is the collaboration that has taken place between our Peace Corps Volunteers and the Profesionales of Servicio País. I have heard a great deal about Servicio País

and the important work that its Profesionales carry out in many of Chile's poorest communities. I would like to congratulate President Frei and the Council to Overcome Poverty for your leadership in establishing this extraordinary organization, which now stands as an example for other countries that want to build their own volunteer organizations.

PC Country Director John McAward will provide a few examples of Servicio País projects.

As some of you may know, we have a similar organization in the United States known as AmeriCorps. President Clinton established AmeriCorps soon after he arrived in Washington because he believes that our country, like Chile, has problems that are best solved not by government but by people and the power of citizen service.

Like Chile, the United States has achieved impressive economic progress. But even as we marvel at our prosperity, we must also ensure that the vulnerable in our societies are not left behind. We must, instead, make it possible for all of our people to have access to a basic education to learn the skills that are necessary for today's global economy. We must ensure that all of our people have access to basic health care. And we must look for new ways to create and encourage opportunities for people to build a better life for their children.

Our governments surely have a role in this process. But as Servicio País, the Peace Corps, and so many non-governmental organizations have proved, the most effective results often come from ordinary people who

unite the dream of a better world with the courage, the will, and the determination to make it happen.

The power of citizen service does not often receive the headlines that conflict, or political action, or economic progress do. But I believe that the need for volunteers to promote social investment and build stronger communities is one that is recognized not only in Chile and the United States, but in countries throughout the world. As we move toward a new century, the challenge for all nations and all peoples will be to unleash the God-given potential of all of our people, to value each human being, each boy, each girl, each man, each woman, so that, together, we can be greater than we are individually.

This is the spirit that prevails today between the people of Chile and the people of the United States. Over the last 27 years, more than 2,200 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in communities throughout Chile. Together, Volunteers and their Chilean counterparts have worked to improve education for children; you encouraged the preservation of Chile's forests and national parks; you have helped children learn about the environment and how to protect it; you have worked with farmers to improve their land and crops; and you have helped local governments improve the delivery of services to communities.

But the Peace Corps experience in Chile has served an even larger purpose: By living and working together, Peace Corps Volunteers and their Chilean counterparts have deepened the ties of friendship between our two peoples. I saw one example of this partnership on Friday, when the President

and I and President and Mrs. Frei visited Peter Wadsworth, who served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Chile from 1966-68. *Insert more here after the visit.*

I trust that our Peace Corps Volunteers have given the people of Chile some understanding of what the people of the United States are like. But I would like to say to the people of Chile that our Volunteers have learned so much from you over the years. They have learned about Chile's history, its rich culture, its proud traditions, and the warm hospitality of its people. And they have taken this experience back to our country, where they have shared it with their families and friends. So I think I can speak for all of our Volunteers in expressing our sincere gratitude for allowing the Peace Corps to be a part of Chile's history and your efforts to build a better future.

There will always be many stories to share about the Peace Corps experience in Chile, about how this extraordinary country affected the lives and attitudes of those who served here as Volunteers. But as the Peace Corps prepares to leave Chile later this year with both pride and thanks, we would do well to recall the spirit of determination of one of the first Peace Corps Volunteers to serve here.

In June 1962, the Peace Corps was barely more than a year old when the man who created it, President John F. Kennedy, greeted a group of interns at the White House with a story he had heard about Tom Scanlon, who was serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Chile.

"He works in a village about forty miles from an Indian village which prides itself on being Communist," President Kennedy told the interns. "This village is up a long, winding

road which Scanlon had taken on many occasion to see the chief. Each time, the chief avoided seeing him," the President continued. "Finally, the chief saw Scanlon and said, 'You are not going to talk us out of being Communists.' Scanlon said, 'I am not trying to do that, only to talk to you about how I can help.' The chief looked at him and replied, 'In a few weeks the snow will come. Then you will have to park your Jeep twenty miles from here and come through five feet of snow on foot. The Communists are willing to do that. Are you?'"

President Kennedy then told his audience that someone had seen Scanlon recently and asked him what he was doing. Scanlon said, "I'm waiting for the snow."

Much as changed since Tom Scanlon served as a Volunteer here in Chile. But what hasn't changed is our shared belief in the dignity of every person and our enduring commitment to expanding the circle of freedom and opportunity for all of our citizens.

To the Profesionales of Servicio País, we honor you for your efforts to help overcome poverty in your country, and we wish you every success in all of your future endeavors.

To the people of Chile, we thank you for being such gracious hosts and partners with our Peace Corps Volunteers.

And to the women and men of the Peace Corps, the President and I thank you for your service to our country, and we thank you for volunteering.

Thank you very much.

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Remarks by Mark D. Gearan
Director of the Peace Corps
The Peace Corps at the New Millennium—in the National Interest
Center for National Policy
June 19, 1998

Good morning. It's a great privilege to be able to address the Center for National Policy. I appreciate having the opportunity to speak to you today about the Peace Corps as we approach the next century and how this program of citizen service advances our nation's interest at home and abroad.

I want to offer a special thanks to Maureen Steinbruner and her staff here at the Center. Maureen has done an outstanding job as President of the Center for National Policy. She has ensured that the Center remains one of Washington's influential organizations, shaping the debate on the important issues that confront our country.

Now, as some of you may know, before I came to the Peace Corps, I had the honor of serving as President Clinton's Director of Communications. And my experience at the White House taught me that sometimes it's hard being the bearer of good news. When you have a good, positive story to tell, you don't always find yourself surrounded by microphones, tape recorders and journalists with Pulitzer Prizes on their minds.

But today, I get to talk about what I never tire of talking about. And on this occasion, the news is both good and important, both positive and newsworthy. Today, I will be talking about the Peace Corps in the new millennium.

We hear a lot these days about the excitement and the challenges of the 21st century. President Clinton has spoken eloquently about the promise of a more prosperous and peaceful world, and the leadership that our country must provide in the years ahead, both at home and abroad.

I am pleased to report to you that the Peace Corps and the men and women who serve as Volunteers are helping to shape that future. With hard work, with determination and cooperation, and with a spirit of service, we intend to play a vital role in making this new, post-Cold War age more peaceful, more productive, and more promising for Americans and our neighbors around the world.

This is where we hope the Peace Corps will be in the millennium: 10,000 Volunteers by the year 2000.

What does 10,000 by 2000 mean?

It means 10,000 Americans will have the opportunity to serve as development workers overseas, introducing new technology and new ways of thinking and

contributing their skills to men, women, and children who are struggling to build a better future.

It means that in 10,000 communities, people who otherwise likely would have no interaction with an American will meet a hard-working partner in work that makes a difference in their lives.

It means 10,000 Americans will be front-line representatives of the best traditions and characteristics of our citizenry, forging personal ties to people from far different backgrounds, building important friendships with people in far corners of the globe.

It means 10,000 Americans will learn crucial cross-cultural skills and, in most cases, a new language or two, thus enhancing our country's collective understanding of the world's peoples and cultures.

It also means that every American who doesn't serve in the Peace Corps will have 10,000 reasons to be proud that our country and our government has the strength and compassion to sponsor such a successful endeavor.

When President Kennedy created the Peace Corps in 1961, I wonder how far into the future he allowed himself to dream. I wonder if he envisioned the Peace Corps as it is today, with 6,500 Volunteers working in 81 countries. I wonder if he envisioned the Peace Corps sending Volunteers to such disparate places as Ukraine, South Africa, and Jordan. I wonder if he foresaw the wide range of skills Volunteers would offer countries around the globe, from ways to conserve natural resources in Latin America to strategies to turn flagging industries in Eastern Europe into sound, profitable businesses.

Perhaps he did envision some or all of this. But what matters is that over the years, the Peace Corps has remained true to President Kennedy's vision, even as we have strengthened the ways we carry it out. We have established Crisis Corps, a new program that enables experienced Volunteers and recently returned Volunteers to use their language and cross-cultural skills in short-term humanitarian and disaster relief efforts.

Senator Paul Coverdell, who was Peace Corps Director under President Bush, set up the World Wise Schools Program, which gives Volunteers serving overseas the opportunity to correspond with elementary and junior high school students in the United States, thereby providing a unique window into other countries and cultures.

Loret Miller Ruppe, who was President Reagan's Peace Corps Director, established the Peace Corps Fellows Program, which affords returned Volunteers the opportunity to earn master's degrees in areas such as education and urban planning, while working on problems at home with the skills they learned overseas.

President Kennedy saw in 1961 that the traditional means of providing assistance to developing countries were inadequate. He recognized the importance of establishing clean channels of communication and greater understanding among the *peoples* of the world at a time when government-to-government communications and relations were enormously complicated by Cold War suspicions and tension. Many of those observations hold true today.

And in our country, he saw men and women whom he trusted could provide a type of help that was needed and represent the values and traditions of the American people. These models of citizen service still make up the heart of the Peace Corps program today.

But in realizing and expanding on President Kennedy's dream, we've come to understand that the Peace Corps isn't only in the world's interest. It's in our interest as well. In doing good for the world, Peace Corps Volunteers are doing good for America.

Sometimes it's hard to quantify all the positive aspects of Peace Corps Volunteers work, and similarly to assign a value to it. How much, for instance, is it worth when a Peace Corps Volunteer in a remote part of Kenya helps a community dig a well that, for the first time, becomes a reliable source of clean drinking water? Is it worth fifteen dollars in material it cost? Is it worth a little more because of the labor involved? Or is its worth priceless because of the two children's lives it saved—the children who would have been infected with parasites if they had drawn their drinking water from the polluted river?

And how many lives does the Peace Corps Volunteer who promotes AIDS education and prevention in Thailand or Cameroon save? Or the Volunteer in Guatemala or Morocco who teaches a mother how to protect her children from diseases?

And from a larger perspective, how can we possibly quantify the lasting bonds of friendship and understanding that tens of thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers have established with the people of more than 130 nations over the last 37 years?

We could speculate all day on such topics. And while I don't think we'd agree on an exact dollar figure to pin on the worth of each interaction, I have no doubt we'd agree that they are all intrinsically valuable, each in their own way.

But for the more concrete-minded, for people who want their facts in cold numbers, try this: A decade ago, more than five million people, mostly in Central Africa, were infected with Guinea worm. It's a parasite that invades a person's body when he or she drinks impure water. It lives and grows inside the body for a year before breaking the skin. The Guinea worm is a horrible experience that can lead to severe health complications, even death.

Today, thanks to hard work and dedication of Peace Corps Volunteers and others, fewer than 100,000 people suffer from Guinea worm. From five million to 100,000 in ten years. Those are impressive numbers, but they are just one of the many quiet success stories that are so central to the Peace Corps experience. The same could be said of what Volunteers do every day in education, the environment, small business development, and agriculture.

And it's because of this kind of work that President Clinton has proposed that we make it possible for more Americans to serve as Peace Corps Volunteers. It's time to offer more Americans the chance to do what more than 150,000 Americans have already done since the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961. In time for the new millennium, we want to see 10,000 Volunteers in the field, contributing their skills, encouraging progress, and in the process, advancing our nation's interest in thousands of communities in dozens of countries.

Ten thousand Volunteers by the year 2000.

As President Clinton said, "We must do everything we can to revive the spirit of citizen service in the new century. Every American ought to have the chance to serve."

It's time to offer more Americans the opportunity to begin a career in public service by joining the Peace Corps. This is what Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut did when he served as a Volunteer in the Dominican Republic from 1966 to 1968. It's what Representatives Sam Farr, Tony Hall, Thomas Petri, Christopher Shays, and James Walsh did when they decided to join the Peace Corps. Each of them supports our goal of 10,000 Volunteers by the year 2000.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala reminds people across the country and around the world that she began her career in public service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Iran. Drew Days, professor of Law at Yale and former Solicitor General at the Department of Justice, served as a Volunteer in Honduras. So did seven current United States Ambassadors.

Former Volunteers have found success in the arts, like the author Paul Theroux. They are leaders in the media, like Leon Dash, a reporter for *The Washington Post*, Karen DeWitt, a producer at "Nightline," and television journalist Chris Matthews.

Former Volunteers are using the skills they learned in the Peace Corps to run some of our country's most successful businesses. Robert Haas, the president of Levi Strauss, and Priscilla Wrubel, founder of The Nature Company, and Mike McCaskey, owner of the Chicago Bears, are all returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

And the list goes on. Just as importantly, it includes many ordinary citizens in every state who are bringing their Peace Corps experience to bear as teachers in local schools, in international development organizations, in social services and the

environment, in state and local governments. Returned Volunteers contribute their time, energy, and skills to their communities in countless ways.

Peace Corps Volunteers have found their callings both abroad and at home. Doing good for the world. Doing good for America. This is why, I believe, that the idea of expanding the Peace Corps has received bipartisan support. Senator Paul Coverdell, Congressman Ben Gilman, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and other distinguished Republicans have joined with Congressman Lee Hamilton and many Democrats and endorsed the idea of 10,000 Volunteers by the year 2000.

Today, we are seeing a huge resurgence of interest in Peace Corps service. Last year alone, 150,000 people contacted us seeking information how to become a Volunteers, an increase of 45 percent from 1994. Thousands of people want to give two years of their lives to become part of our effort. They recognize the good Peace Corps Volunteers do for the world. They also recognize how valuable returned Volunteers are to the United States.

By providing more Americans with the opportunity to serve as Peace Corps Volunteers, we can further our nation's need to build a work force that can compete most effectively in the international economy. Peace Corps Volunteers learn more than 100 languages; they gain extraordinary cross-cultural understanding; and they learn to think in new and creative ways. This is just one aspect of what I call the "domestic dividend" of Peace Corps service.

There are far more applicants to the Peace Corps than available positions. In this light, asking for 10,000 Volunteers is far from ambitious. In truth, it's modest. Moreover, having 10,000 Volunteers by the year 2000 is an opportunity the world would embrace: We have more requests for more Volunteers than we can fulfill. And if Congress funds our budget request, we believe that many of the additional Volunteers could serve not only in the poorest countries of the developing world; they will also be serving in the emerging republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus, places where Americans have had little if any contact over the last forty years.

In fact, inspired by the example of the Peace Corps, countries around the globe have created their own volunteer organizations. Next week, the Peace Corps will host the second Conference on International Volunteerism. The leaders of volunteer organizations in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Mali, South Africa, Chile, and other countries will come to Washington for a week of meetings and discussions about how our Volunteers can collaborating more effectively in the field. We will develop plans to help other countries strengthen and establish their own volunteer organizations.

The Peace Corps has become a model for these organizations. By setting up the infrastructure for volunteerism in these countries, Peace Corps Volunteers are realizing their dream of seeing their work carried on by host country nationals. If

you give a country a Peace Corps Volunteer, you've enriched it for a long time. But if you teach a country how to produce its own volunteers, you've enriched it for a lifetime. I believe that, in the next century, encouraging the spirit of volunteerism in other countries will be an integral part of the Peace Corps' legacy of service.

How important is Peace Corps to our nation and the world? Barely a week goes by before another Ambassador comes to my office to thank the Peace Corps for the Volunteers who are serving in his or her country.

Since I became Director of the Peace Corps, I have traveled to more than 20 countries to visit with Volunteers and to learn from them. And on every trip, Kings, Presidents, Prime Ministers, teachers, doctors, farmers, environmentalists, and ordinary people have told me in very inspiring words how much they appreciate the contributions that Peace Corps Volunteers in their countries.

We recently asked some American Ambassadors what they thought about the role that Peace Corps Volunteers play in promoting our nation's interests. While we remain separate and independent of the day-to-day concerns of our nation's foreign policy, more than 40 of our own Ambassadors were emphatic in their belief that the Peace Corps does indeed serve the world's—and our nation's—long-term interests, and that increasing the number of Volunteers would be a positive development.

Here's what Ambassador David Shinn in Ethiopia had to say: "Most Ethiopians have never met an American diplomat, but they've met a Peace Corps Volunteer. In this sense, Peace Corps Volunteers are our most effective 'ambassadors.' The message that Americans care about Ethiopians and like Ethiopians is transmitted loudly and clearly. For many Ethiopians who will never meet other Americans, a Peace Corps Volunteer is America."

From Ambassador Ralph Frank in Nepal: "I know first-hand what a difference the Peace Corps has made in Nepal. And even if I did not know it, I would be reminded by every Nepali I meet, from the King and Prime Minister to ordinary Nepalis at the village level."

As a nation—and, more broadly, as a world of nations—we are confronting a challenging time. The Cold War is over and we are in the process of defining a new era. We've seen peace come to places that hadn't known the word in years, from Central America, to Southern Africa, to Northern Ireland. As a nation we've reached out to countries that want to better themselves through democracy and free enterprise, and freedom. As we look around the globe, we can see a great deal to be hopeful about; we can see hints—and more—of a world beginning to embrace peace.

But it is only a beginning. Because we are in the early stages of defining this post-Cold War era, now is not the time for caution. Now is the time to err on the side of more peace, of more democratization, of more engagement with people who want

and need our help. Now is the time to reach out. Now is the time to plant the seeds of peace and progress wherever there is fertile ground.

From time to time in our history, our country has slipped into a fascination with isolationism. While there are a few who still yield to the isolationist temptation, the vast majority of Americans understand the need to reach out to other nations in a variety of ways. Peace Corps is one of those ways—and an almost universally popular one at that. We are an organization that Americans of all political persuasions can be proud of.

Every American can identify with Peace Corps Volunteers because Peace Corps Volunteers are our nation. They come from our big cities and small towns; our East Coast and our West Coast; our Great Plains and our Deep South. They are young and old. They are just out of college and just too active to be content with ordinary retirement.

The goal of having 10,000 Peace Volunteers in the field was actually conceived in 1985—by Congress. In that year, Congress passed a bipartisan measure that called for the Peace Corps to field 10,000 Volunteers. Now is the time to realize that bipartisan dream.

The Peace Corps' budget request for 1999 is \$270 million, an increase of \$45 million. President Clinton's 1999 budget request is the first of a three-year plan to make it possible for 10,000 Volunteers to be serving overseas by the year 2000.

Let me remind you that the Peace Corps accounts for only about one percent of the entire foreign affairs budget for our government. And the foreign affairs budget is just over one percent of the entire federal budget. If the Peace Corps receives full funding for our plan over the next three years, our budget will still account for just one percent of the resources our government spends overseas. This is a small price for peace. And a small price for the good Volunteers do for the world and our nation.

Some may say that we can't afford to send 10,000 Volunteers overseas. In an era of unrivaled prosperity at home and enormous opportunity abroad, I say that can't afford not to.

Achieving peace is, at heart, a matter of recognizing our commonalty, our shared humanity. And Volunteers do recognize this. Yes, they are attracted to the richness—the exoticness—of other lands. But for most of them, what is most important and impressive about their experiences is discovering not what divides them from the people with whom they live and work but what unites them. The same is true of the people they meet overseas, who instead of thinking, "Here comes the American," soon think, "Here comes my friend."

Today, we are recruiting our "Millennial Volunteers," people who will be serving in the Peace Corps when the twenty-first century arrives. These future Volunteers carry with them our country's hopes for a more peaceful world. They are the future of the Peace Corps, the first heralds of a time when—we hope—all Americans who have the skill and desire will be able to serve their country as Volunteers.

When midnight approaches on December 31, 1999, these Peace Corps Volunteers won't be watching the ball drop in Times Square. They'll have to settle for seeing a shooting star in the sky over Tanzania or listening to the snap of firecrackers in a mountain village in Mongolia. I wonder who has the better deal?

It has been an honor and a pleasure to speak with you today. Thank you.

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