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CREATOR: Thomas McMahon (CN=Thomas McMahon/OU=D/OU=WASHDC/OU=USIA/O=GOV [UNKNOWN])

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SUBJECT: USIA's weekly report

TO: Lisa J. Levin (CN=Lisa J. Levin/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
JANUARY 7, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Erskine Bowles

Chief of Staff, The White House

FROM: Joseph Duffey

Director, United States Information Agency

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

I. KEY USIA NEWS

KOREAN PRESIDENT-ELECT AVID USER OF USIS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES:

Mr. Kim Dae-Jung, the president-elect of South Korea, has been a long-time friend of USIS Seoul and an avid user of Post products. A former IV grantee (FY-1965), President-elect Kim's staff -- as well as those from his think tank, the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation -- frequently contact the post's reference service. Other requests have included biographic information about senior U.S. officials and texts of important policy

statements concerning bilateral relations. The post expects to maintain this close working relationship with the new administration after it assumes office.

"SEPARATION OF POWERS" PROMOTED IN AFRICAN COURTS SERIES: WORLDNET's

interactive Dialogue on the "separation of powers" provided an opportunity in Chad for members of the 3 branches of government to exchange points of view (a rare occurrence there). The participants included a former Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, Members of Parliament, the Judiciary, political party leaders, members of the military, human rights activists and journalists who, for the first time, had the opportunity to meet and speak out about the separation of powers. The presence of the Minister of Justice was important because he had the opportunity to hear the participants complain about the tendency of the Executive Branch to interfere with the Judicial Branch.

PRESS PLACEMENTS HIGHLIGHT U.S. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO PALESTINIANS:

Palestinians have become increasingly skeptical about the U.S. commitment to the peace process as they perceive little help being offered to alleviate the sharp decline in their economic situation since the signing of the Oslo Accords. USIS Jerusalem has worked closely with the Consulate's economic section and with the State Department's regional refugee officer to highlight significant new U.S. financial commitments to the Palestinians. On January 3, USIS achieved front page placement in Al-Quds newspaper and prominent coverage in Al-Ayyam for its press release explaining the details of an OPIC decision to establish a \$60 million private equity fund for Palestinian and Jordanian projects.

VOA COVERS KENYAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi

said on VOA January 5 that "Kanu won, democracy won, and all Kenyans won.

My victory is a victory for all Kenyans. It is a victory for all those who respect the rule of law and the constitution." The VOA Africa Division and Worldwide English Service provided extensive coverage over a period of several weeks of the December 29 election. President Moi, VOA explained, won his fifth, five year term and the ruling Kanu Party kept control of parliament in the balloting. Challenger Mwai Kibaki had little good to say about the voting, however. The ruling party, he said on VOA, stole the election because there were not enough ballot papers available in opposition strongholds. Kibaki told VOA reporter Scott Stearns in Nairobi (January 3), "I don't think you want to doubt that the Kenyans want justice. What we know is how they showed their commitment, by queuing in the rain for two days waiting to vote. And then when the ballots were not available at the official polling station, they were available in the hands of Moi's agents. And people saw it."

CALCUTTA EDITORIALS ENCOURAGE INDIA TO OPEN FINANCIAL SECTOR: India's

three major daily newspapers printed editorials on December 18-19 criticizing the government of India for making only "tiny concessions" at recent World Trade Organization negotiations. The WTO agreement on financial sectors was the culmination of a ten-year effort by the United States to assure more open markets worldwide. USIS Calcutta had been supplying the three newspapers -- the Telegraph, the Ananda Bazar Patrika, and the Statesman -- with Washington File articles about international trade and the US commitment to open markets. A Washington File summary

of the benefits expected from the new WTO agreement led one of the editors to conclude that "the Indian consumer would have benefitted from more foreign investments in financial services".

50 YEARS OF U.S./ISRAEL BILATERAL RELATIONS: On the eve of Israel's 50th anniversary, the Israel Broadcasting Authority has repeatedly asked the American Cultural Center in Jerusalem for help in obtaining material for its documentary series "Tekuma" (Revival), which began airing in December. USIS responded over the past several months with official texts and statements from former Secretaries of State and Presidents on different aspects of bilateral relations and the key role played by the U.S. in support of Israel over the years. "Tekuma" is designed to be the seminal documentary series charting Israel's first 50 years.

VOA BROADCASTS APPEAL TO KIDNAPPERS HOLDING MISSIONARIES:

The wives of three American missionaries believed held by guerrillas in Colombia appealed for the release of their husbands during exclusive interviews broadcast by VOA in English and Spanish. Tanya Rich, wife of missionary Mark Rich, said on VOA's "Report to the Americas" program (December 19) that "the message that we would just love for these people to hear and understand is that all we want is to have our husbands back with us.⁸ On January 31, 1993, missionaries David Mankins, Rick Tenenoff and Mark Rich of the Florida-based New Tribes Mission were taken from their homes in Panama and then moved into Colombia. Nancy Mankins said that the kidnapers, the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), recently said they still have the three men and that they are alive and well. A tearful Nancy Mankins said she hoped that their husbands and

their captors would hear the appeal broadcast by VOA.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM: The Joint Interagency Commemorative Program Committee will host the annual celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 13, 1998. This year's theme for the commemoration is: Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off! FEMA is the lead Agency for this program with ongoing requests for strong logistical support from OCR.

YEAR-END EDITORIALS IN REVIEW: Year-end editorials overseas offered both high praise and criticism of the U.S. role as the world's sole superpower. Analysts also were preoccupied with many of the world's trouble spots and expressed little hope that the "disturbing international picture" would be improved any time soon. Among those with laudatory assessments of the U.S. role were papers in Denmark and Chile. Declaring that the world has "a lot to thank the U.S. for" pieces in Copenhagen's center-right Jyllands-Posten credited the U.S. for ending the Cold War and stabilizing the situation in Bosnia, and judged that "jealousy" was at the root of much "Yankee bashing" in the European media. In Santiago, Chile's leading Catholic University television termed U.S. leadership a "key element" in the Middle East and in checking Saddam Hussein's power but concluded that the U.S. had been "less effective" in Latin America primarily, it said, because of the "Failure of fast track: Editorialists in Canada and the Philippines withheld kudos for the global superpower, with the liberal Toronto Star charging that the U.S. was "responsible" for "starving" the people of Iraq and North Korea.

JCS CHAIRMAN COMPLIMENTS PUBLICATION: USIA received a letter from Joint Chiefs Chairman General Shelton complimenting the a recent publication titled &The New European Security Architecture.⁸ General Shelton commented that "this topic is a top priority for the Joint Chiefs of Staff," and that USIA's public opinion surveys show "encouraging signs for NATO's enlargement and the update of its strategic concept" and that "your timely, insightful analysis is appreciated."

AMERICAN EMBASSY LAGOS EXPRESSES CONCERN: The Waiver Branch received an inquiry from Lagos regarding Post's concern over "the number of individuals who traveled to the U.S. on a J-1 visa only to change status after they finished their U.S. program without fulfilling the necessary residence requirement. Some also carry letters of the waiver from USIA." The Waiver Branch responded with the following information: When an individual is subject based only on the skills list and the home government issues a "No Objection" statement, removing the reason the individual was subject, that exchange visitor is likely to receive a waiver. U.S. Government-funded exchange visitors are not likely to receive a waiver. If the home government is concerned about the number of individuals not returning, it could limit the number of "No Objection" statements issued.

REYKJAVIK PAO COUNTERS CRITICISM OF U.S. IRAQ POLICY: A guest editorial written by USIS ICELAND PAO Walter Douglas explaining U.S. policy on Iraqi sanctions was published in the January 3 edition of MORGUNBLADID, Iceland's paper of record. U.S. policy has been strongly criticized in the Icelandic media, particularly since a Christmas trip to Baghdad by the

leader of an Icelandic group opposed to sanctions. The activists received heavy press coverage in Iceland, as well as by CNN, Reuters, the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE and other international media. The PAO's editorial addressed widespread misunderstandings about what sanctions do and what conditions must be met before lifting them, and explained how the Security Council had no choice but to maintain sanctions in the face of Saddam's defiance of UN resolutions. Iceland's Foreign Minister, who received tough questions from the press about his government's support for UN sanctions, told the Ambassador that he was very pleased with the editorial.

MONDALE,S INTERVIEWED ABOUT JAPAN,S FUTURE: Japan's TV Asahi correspondent Tadao Uchida turned to the Foreign Press Center in New York for help in arranging an interview with former Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale at his Minneapolis office on Friday, December 19. The Mondale interview (the only American voice to be aired) was a featured segment in a two-hour, December 27 special program on the topic of Japan's future. Ambassador Mondale's words on departing Japan-- that the country "must change"-- provided the central motif for this program which will also include live debate between two former Japanese prime ministers and other high-level Japanese officials.

USIS ARRANGES MEDIA CONSULTANT FOR ISLAMIC TV IN TURKEY: USIS ISTANBUL was asked by the rector of Istanbul's Fatih University, which is backed by Fetullah Gulen, a moderate and charismatic Islamic leader who also controls a number of media organizations, for assistance in bringing Gulen's pro-Islamic media organizations more in line with international

media standards. The rector requested the Post's help in identifying an appropriate U.S. consultant to assess Samanyolu TV and to recommend changes. USIS made a number of recommendations and put the rector in contact with InterNews, an electronic media consultancy with considerable experience in TV projects of this kind, which was hired and will send a veteran U.S. television newsman to Turkey this month. This is an important first step in establishing international standards of journalistic practices and ethics in a media group which has begun to move from its former anti-West rhetoric to more balanced reporting.

USIS GERMANY WORKS TO MINIMIZE FALLOUT FROM EU DECISION ON TURKEY: The

EU's decision not to include Turkey on a list of potential member countries was a disappointment for the U.S. and was devastating news for Turkey. USIS COLOGNE sought to dissolve some of the tensions over the perceived snub of Turkey by arranging an interview with Ambassador John Kornblum for RHEINISCHE POST. Speaking with the paper's senior foreign editor, former IV Godehard Uhlemann, the Ambassador noted the U.S. would never dictate to the EU on membership for any country, but he characterized Turkey as a constructive, Western-oriented partner.

Kornblum also used the interview to promote U.S. investment in the new German states and argue for the need to maintain pressure in Bosnia toward implementing the Dayton accords. The interview was published on December 18.

CIVITAS LEADS TO ADOPTION OF NEW CIVIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN TURKEY: The

Turkish Ministry of Education recently published a revised civic education curriculum for all Turkish students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades

(middle school). The officials responsible for the curriculum say that it is based on what they learned as participants in the 1995 Prague Civitas conference. Because of recent political decisions to extend compulsory education in the secular public school system to the 8th grade, and to close Islamist schools until the 9th grade, all Turkish students will be exposed to the new curriculum.

FIRST PRIVATE TV STATION IN BENIN TO CARRY WORLDNET:

On December 29, approximately 7 years after announcing that private broadcasting would be permitted in Benin, LC2-TELEVISION, Benin's first legal, private television station signed a WORLDNET affiliation agreement to televise at least four and one-half hours of WORLDNET programming per week.

II. PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SARAJEVO ADDRESS TELEVISED WORLDWIDE:

On December 22, WORLDNET received a direct feed of President Clinton's remarks to the people of Sarajevo and transmitted it live worldwide. In addition, NEWSFILE included coverage of the President's trip to Bosnia.

REV. JESSE JACKSON PROMOTES DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN KENYA: On December 23,

President Clinton's special envoy for the promotion of democracy in Africa, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, participated in a televised interactive WORLDNET Dialogue with participants in Nairobi to stress the importance of free, fair and non-violent elections and the need for democratic reform.

The privately-owned KENYA TELEVISION NETWORK telecast excerpts from the program and Kenya's most important newspaper NATION carried an article on the program as did the EAST AFRICAN STANDARD.

USIS JAPAN EXPLAINS IMPORTANCE OF BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP: As the cornerstone of U.S. defense strategy in East Asia -- with almost fifty thousand American troops forward deployed -- sustaining Japanese support for the bilateral security relationship is a crucial public diplomacy goal for USIS Japan. As part of the process USIS Fukuoka invited a Rand Corporation security expert to Iwakuni City, home of a major U.S. Marine Corps facility, to discuss the importance of bilateral cooperation on security issues before a packed audience of business and civic leaders, the media, and Japanese Self-Defense Force officers. On the same issue, the Tokyo American Center reaped benefits from its recent orientation program to South Korea for Japanese defense experts to visit U.S. military facilities there when one of the participants, an academic at Hiroshima University, penned a column in the Osaka edition of the mass circulation Yomiuri newspaper in which he supported bilateral cooperation in regional security.

ROUND TABLE ON RACE RELATIONS: To support President Clinton's initiative on race relations, the Washington Foreign Press Center hosted a ROUND TABLE conversation on race relations on December 16, at the home of Director Marjorie Ransom. Foreign journalists who participated in the conversation were from the countries of South Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada, and France. The journalists heard from USIA employees on their personal experiences in America with race. The dialogue was very engaging

and lasted approximately four hours. Several of the journalists who participated in the ROUND TABLE discussion have expressed an interest in holding another such conversation in the future. The Washington Foreign Press Center will work on organizing this within the next month.

III. PRESS/MEDIA INQUIRES

AMY BIEHL SCHOLARSHIPS: USIA issued a news release "Two Fulbright Scholarships to be Named for Slain Fulbrighter Amy Biehl" to major foreign affairs, African-American, and education media and selected columnists.

CULTURAL PROPERTY: The HOUSTON CHRONICLE and the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR had questions about the Cultural Property Advisory Committee and its work. USIA's Public Liaison office arranged for representatives of the Committee to talk with the reporters.

EXCHANGES AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: The National Council on Disabilities ran a story in its newsletter based on PL's news release about the Agency report on the increase in persons with disabilities being involved in USIA exchange programs. As a result, PL has received a number of calls and faxes from disability publications, organizations and individuals requesting copies of the report and information about how to become involved in exchanges. They include: REHABILITATION GAZETTE; the POLIO NETWORK NEWS; INTERNATIONAL VENTILATOR USERS NETWORK NEWS; the CENTER FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION at the University of Maine; MENTAL

DISABILITY RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL; RECORDING FOR THE BLIND AND DYSLEXIC;
NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF; INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND
DEVELOPMENT; and persons with disabilities who work in the Office of the
Public Advocate in NEW YORK CITY GOVERNMENT and with the Americans with
Disabilities Act program at the CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY.

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: USIA_Media_Reaction (USIA_Media_Reaction@notes1.usia.gov [UNKNOWN])

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SUBJECT: Daily Digest 3/24: CLINTON TO AFRICA

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TEXT:

As President Clinton begins his "historic" swing through six sub-Saharan African countries in 11 days, editorialists in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia confirmed that his message of "trade, not aid" to Africa would be the foundation of a "new form of partnership between the U.S. and the region." A number of writers agreed with Kenya's independent Nation, which pointed out that "three decades of foreign aid have had minimal effect on the lives of many Africans." That paper recommended that the regional leaders set to meet Wednesday in Entebbe, Uganda, at a summit co-hosted by President Clinton and Uganda's President Museveni "should make it clear that what our region needs is private investment." These were additional highlights in the commentary.

REACTION MOSTLY POSITIVE BUT A FEW DETRACTORS--In mostly upbeat, positive

commentary, writers in all regions applauded the president's "foray" into Africa, saying that it had given "new self-esteem and assurance" to a "somewhat marginalized continent." In some instances, Mr. Clinton garnered personal praise for "putting Africa almost at the top of his foreign policy agenda, at least in 1998." There were, however, a few detractors.

Editorial criticism of the president's trip emanated from Tanzania, Zambia, Egypt, Syria and the Netherlands, where analysts charged that the U.S. was simply seeking new markets for its products, or, in the words of the GRZ-owned Sunday Times of Zambia, moving toward "the colonization" of Africa. Cairo's pro-government Al Ahram warned that the "American diplomatic conquest of Africa" may bring "friction" between Cairo and Washington over the Nile basin and the Great Lakes area. In Nigeria, a weekly publication wondered why that country, "the continent's giant, mouthpiece and brother's keeper," was not included "in the scheme of things."

ENTEBBE SUMMIT--Several African pundits hoped that President Clinton would nudge the leaders--particularly Democratic Republic of Congo's Kabila and Uganda's Museveni--further along the path toward multiparty democracy and the protection of human rights. Dar Es Salaam's English-language Guardian complained that failure to press the Museveni government would encourage Uganda to become East Africa's equivalent of "China," with MFN trade status and little criticism of "its human rights abuses and political rigidity."

Opposition papers in the Democratic Republic of Congo hoped that there would be an improvement in the government's "internal policy" following the "Clinton-Kabila face-to-face" in Uganda.

NO LONGER THE PRESERVE OF FRANCE--Dailies in France and Germany saw the U.S. as "daring to break into the French sphere of influence" in Africa. Paris's right-of-center Le Figaro, though, praised Mr. Clinton's Africa trip, saying it had "the makings of a spectacularly successful foreign policy initiative." Nevertheless right-of-center Les Echos complained that the French had found "the media blitz" accompanying the president's visit "irritating" since it had overshadowed the current Franco-African summit in Ouagadougou.

This survey is based on 66 reports from 30 countries, March 15-24.

EDITORS: Gail Hamer Burke and Kathleen J. Brahney

AFRICA

GHANA: "The Legacy Of Clinton's Visit"

The government-owned Daily Graphic told its readers in an editorial (3/24):

"We in Ghana take pride in the fact that President Clinton chose Ghana to launch the initiative toward Africa, an Africa that has to be given the proper recognition in international relations to give meaning to the objective of the UN as a body of equal nations. President Clinton said a lot, and much of what he has said has touched our hearts. His desire to see Americans redefine their attitudes toward Africa is laudable. It is important, as he said, that Americans...put a new Africa on their map; because there is so much to gain through healthy relations between Africans and Americans. In our comment of yesterday, we cautioned in good faith that nothing Clinton says or does on his historic African mission or

hereafter will produce any result unless the people of Africa respond appropriately. Again, we express the need for African governments to pursue the right policies and sustain the confidence of their people, and the people, for their part, must respond with hard work and with the patience that allows policies to work."

"A Many-Sided Visit"

The government-owned Ghanaian Times had this assessment (3/23): "President Bill Clinton's visit to Ghana today is, regrettably, quite brief. In a sense, however, the briefness of the stay is reassuring, because this seems to confirm what promoters and observers of Ghana-U.S. relations regard as an open secret--the U.S. president is here to get on-the-spot personal confirmation of what he already knows of Ghana's creditable performance on the path of democracy and economic reform."

"Welcome To Ghana, President Clinton!"

The government-owned Daily Graphic said (3/21): "Mr. President, as champion of democracy and defender of the way of life throughout the Western world, we salute you. That democracy also has its imperfections, cannot be denied.... Rodney King and Angela Davis are constant reminders that human rights violations also occur in America on a daily basis. And, unlike you, many Americans still carry the burden of racism.... Certainly, our revolution claimed lives but it was not out of disregard or in senseless disdain for human suffering, but as sacrifices demanded by the winds of change and progress.... You are here to affirm, once again, your

commitment to the African renaissance and its impact on the future of American-African cooperation, for our mutual benefit. Our leadership shall emulate the example of your deep commitment to democratic principles so as to ensure that Ghana's leadership of the African continent is only rivaled by American leadership of the world. That the state of Ghana's democracy shall remain strong and vibrant and an example to other African states, is a promise we shall keep."

"The Clinton African Visit"

An article in the government-owned weekly Spectator stated (3/21), "As the continent enters a new era of democratic governance, it is important to re-emphasize the fact that democracy cannot be practiced on an empty stomach. Democracy on the African continent would become meaningful if it is linked up with the economic prosperity of the people as it is in the United States. Africa needs help in terms of finance and investment and technology transfer. We hope America's policy on Africa would take due cognizance of this and bail ailing countries out of their economic hopelessness.

"We also ask the American president to spare some concern on conflicts in many parts of Africa and how they could be resolved. We recall that so much of the West's attention has been on Eastern Europe and the Middle East. A bit of focus on Africa would be well appreciated because Africa has more problems than any one can imagine.

"One area of importance to Africans as producers of raw materials is the

area of trade. African countries do not get their money's worth for their primary products, a factor which has deepened the continent's economic woes. African countries deserve a fairer deal, and we are hopeful that the world's most powerful leader would see the continent's problems not as Africa's problems but as the problems of the world and help to solve them. The Spectator wishes the president a happy visit. We are famous for our hospitality to friends and even enemies and ask him to have time to enjoy our rich culture."

"Akwaaba' ('Welcome'), President Clinton!"

The independent weekly Independent said (3/19): "In the tradition of our beloved country, we join the million of our compatriots in welcoming you to our shores and to the African continent. The relationship between our continent and your county dates to centuries, and today's America has been built and is sustained through heroic contributions of some of our race whom the slave trade and recent waves of migration located in your county. When you touch Ghanaian soil, you will be making history as the first American president to visit our shores. That you chose to add Ghana to your itinerary is a testimony to the growing importance of Ghanaian international politics and the geopolitics of the West African sub-region....

"When President Clinton delivers his policy statement in Accra...we expect him to state clearly that the United States will no longer support dictators, of which the continent still harbors many.... Our message to President Clinton is that we would like to remember him fondly, like

President Carter, for using his presidency and immense powers to push the global agenda for human rights, democracy and progress forward, and not backwards. Let us, whilst welcoming Mr. Clinton, equally welcome and congratulate Hillary Rodham Clinton, a woman of exceptional intelligence and courage, whose support for her husband, amidst great difficulties and distractions, gives President Clinton the strength and stamina to finish his mission to build a caring American society."

BOTSWANA: "Ghana Prepares For Bill Clinton"

Privately-owned independent weekly Mmegi carried an article from the IPS/MISA-net wire service (3/20): "For many Ghanaians, the fact that U.S. President Bill Clinton has chosen their country as the first stop on his first visit to the African continent confirms their perception of Ghana as a major gateway to Africa. That's how the country is sold in the state's marketing strategy to attract foreign investment and trade and, according to an official of the Investment Promotion Center, 'whether (Clinton's) visit lasts only seven hours, it makes no difference. It will bring international focus on our country the way nothing else could have done.' Clinton's March 23 visit is one thing most Ghanaians across the political spectrum are united about. 'The visit will be meaningless if it is just symbolic and nothing concrete comes out of it,' says Papa Owusu Ankoma, opposition spokesman on communication in Ghana's 200-member parliament. Many Ghanaians expect Clinton's visit to yield economic benefit and boost the country's democratic process. The fact that his itinerary includes two West African countries--the other is Senegal--marks growing confidence by Washington in the region, they say. Kofi Atta, chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, sees it as marking a 'major

shift in U.S. policy, a change which has been long in coming."

BURKINA FASO: "Politics: Clinton's African Campaign"

Independent daily Le Pays carried this under its rubric "Counter Analysis" (3/23), "One hesitates to welcome the American president who landed yesterday on the black continent. Because, after numerous speeches on this trip, one is inclined to wonder who will benefit from Bill Clinton's trip.... Americans are visionaries. It is without a doubt this ability to anticipate the future of international relations that allows them to crush all the other powers of the world. Africa will most certainly be the continent of the 21st century. With a docile Europe, but with the promise of more power because of the [European] Union, a submissive and sick Asia,

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conquered Latin America, the United States had only Africa to 'master.'... The African leaders should however be uncompromising, faced with their new 'friend.' Many decades of almost unilateral friendship with the former colonizing powers were disastrous for the continent. Relations without discernment with the United States could also prove to be fatal. In reality, a balance of foreign powers on the continent would have been the best guarantee for mutually profitable cooperation, from the fact of the competition between developed countries. On a world scale anyway, there is no doubt that the existence of a sole power often led to skids. That is why one must hope that the embrace between Africa and Washington is sincere. It must not suffocate the weakest and be transformed by a kiss of Judas. States have only interests, it is said. After the experience of

the post-independence years, with their procession of political-economic scandals, it is up to Africans to finally know how to preserve the interests of their people."

"The Immoderate Greatness Of America"

The government-owned daily Sidwaya held (3/23), "Why what some call a demonstration of power, at a time when everybody knows that America rules over the world? To impress Africans? Unnecessary; they already are. The Europeans? Maybe! If the first power of the world had democratically asked for advice from Africa, she would have answered 'I prefer those green [dollar] bills that give water, bread, health.... The rest remains to be proven.' Let's hope that Uncle Sam as incarnated by Bill Clinton will leave some of those bills."

CAMEROON: "Dawn Of A New Century, New Millenium"

Columnist Henriette Ekwe commented (3/18) in prominent opposition, French-language, twice weekly L'Expression: "We are at the dawn of a new century and a new millennium. The young generations of Africans, less shaped by the former colonizers, envisage a different future (characterized) by liberty and social progress. They will be more capable of denouncing (the current) institutions that have proved their incapacity to satisfy the aspirations of African people.... President Clinton has never succeeded in getting the Congress to increase the level of aid to African countries. No charity. Instead, American diplomacy has developed a new concept, a new motto which totally displays the orientation of their

relations with Africa: 'More trade, less aid.'

"Beyond the economic aspect,...(the trip will) consolidate (U.S.) relations...(with countries) that appear to be important poles of development in Africa. South Africa's (level of development) challenges the economic superpowers. Senegal (is) the first democracy in French-speaking Africa. (It is also a gate to America, and holds, with Goree island, a highly symbolic sanctuary of slavery.)... Bill Clinton sends a strong signal to the African-American community, and to Africans. His trip (has a taste of) pilgrimage and repentance. Botswana and Uganda offer broad economic perspectives through their dynamism. (Experts call) Gaborone, the African silicon valley.... In Rwanda, (he will visit) a strategic country martyred by a genocide.... Meanwhile, Ghana is regularly congratulated by the international monetary institutions for its good (governance).... Bill Clinton's economic and strategic itinerary draws the map of the U.S.' preferences (in Africa). It should be recalled that certain countries (such as Nigeria, Mozambique, Mali, Namibia, Zimbabwe) that will not be visited are among the American priorities.... Clinton's arrival opens a new era in the relations (between America and Africa).... Africans ought to take advantage (of that trip) to boost their development."

COTE D'IVOIRE: "Clintonian Ambition"

Journalist Mohamed Fana asserted (3/23) in influential pro-government daily *Fraternite Matin*: "Africa, which is in full social, political and economic change, interests the United States... (but) most Africans expect more from the 'policeman of the world' than good intentions enhanced by aggressive

media campaigns." He went on to say concerning that President Clinton's strategy for economic growth in Africa, "This wish to help Africa (through trade) is appealing

(particularly) when the Clinton administration commits itself to to eliminating the debt of African countries that undertake reforms, and particularly when it promises to exert its influence on financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund." He asserted that "it is obvious that the United States has great ambitions for the continent.... But, and we must say it clearly, the strong interest shown in Africa will not translate into facts without preconditions."

"Clinton Forgets The Ivorians: (Is This) Contempt?"

Opposition, leftist, close to main opposition party Ivorian Popular Front, La Voie ran this comment by Zagbadi Agoua (3/23): "William Jefferson Clinton, the most powerful man on earth, the president of the richest country in the world, comes to Black Africa and completely ignores C?te d'Ivoire, the most-respected country in French-speaking Africa!... This is astonishing, surprising, frustrating and humiliating. But also a demonstration of bad governance in Cote d'Ivoire, of the bad management of our people and of the country's affairs. The corruption, waste, dissatisfaction and disgrace, about which we talk and which put a stigma on the regime of Mr. Henri Konan Bedie, thereby receive their punishment and the utmost sentence, i.e. contempt."

"America Threatens France In Africa"

Sanga Charlesheld wrote in pro-opposition, center-left, close to the second largest opposition party (Rassemblement des Republicains) Le Liberal (3/23), "Mr. Clinton will discover Africa and all its ugliness and beauty, its divisions and innocence, its diversity and contradictions. The most happy countries after this 'exotic' and strategic trip will be the ones chosen to welcome Air Force One. What about C?te d'Ivoire? It must wait until Bedie and his government understand that one does not play with democracy and good governance, and that another American president will gauge the democracy level in Cote d'Ivoire."

"Eleven Days In Africa"

Influential, pro-government Fraternite-Matin asserted (3/18), "Those 11 days will be completely devoted to a somewhat marginalized continent. Eleven days that, in comparison with other visits in Africa, represent the longest trip of an American president to the Black Continent.... All things considered, those 11 days of the world's most powerful man in Africa must be considered as a great honor bestowed upon the continent. Best of all, this historic trip will permit, without any doubt, an opportunity to put back on the rails a part of the world that is going downhill, and to give it a new self-esteem and assurance.... The 11 days of Bill Clinton...will help build a bridge, and a genuine link between Africa and the United States...the superpower that has accepted frankly reaching out to poverty-stricken Africa which is also plagued with never-ending wars, with famine, drought, refugees, etc. Now, it is up to Africa to know how to keep that rich partner, so that the 'marriage' lasts as long as possible and knows happy moments."

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: "Clinton-Kabila Face-To-Face"

Pro-opposition Le Compatriote predicted (3/20): "The Democratic Republic of Congo's (DROC) internal policy is going to take new shape after the Clinton-Kabila face-to-face in Kampala. This will be an occasion for the U.S. president to give lessons, not only to his other African hosts, but also to DROC's president and the way he must deal with the post-Mobutu era in the interest of his people as well as of the Great Lakes Region and of the United States."

"What Can DROC Expect From Clinton?"

Pro-government L'Avenir held (3/19), "Manna will not come from heaven after Clinton's visit. Although DROC has good relations with the United States, its population should put Kabila's

nationalist philosophy into practice to avoid mistakes of the past....

DROC's people must count on their own efforts before they could expect any assistance from foreign partners. The South African experience is quite meaningful. If Bill Clinton rushes to Nelson Mandela's country with many investment projects in his bag, it is because South Africa has proven its capacity on endogenous...development."

"Toward The Liberation Of Political Detainees In DROC"

Pro-opposition La Tempete Des Tropiques held (3/18), "Kabila could release political prisoners and free political activities, so he [Kabila] could

meet Bill Clinton with a clear conscience."

ETHIOPIA: "Visit Will Strengthen America's Futuristic View Of Africa"

The independent, English-language weekly Addis Tribune maintained (3/20),

"For Africa it is a time to show its best to the American public. To quote

Susan Rice, assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, 'Africa is

not a backwater. It is not a jungle. It is not bodies floating down

rivers. It is a vast and diverse continent where people are doing their

very best to achieve their potential.' For the United States, Africa

offers a new place for trade and investment. The rate of return on

investment in Africa is some three times higher than the average return

elsewhere in the world. Bill Clinton's visit will strengthen America's new

futuristic vision of Africa. An expanded partnership will be of

significant benefit to both Americans and Africans. Clearly, it is in the

U.S. national interest to reinforce gains while promoting economic growth

and prosperity in Africa."

"Clinton Not Coming To Ethiopia Because Of Time Shortage"

Independent, oppositionist, Amharic-language weekly Moresh reported (3/17):

"Mr. Joseph C. Wilson, special assistant to President Clinton, is reported

to have remarked that the U.S. president will not travel to Ethiopia during

his forthcoming visit to African countries because of a shortage of time.

Mr. Wilson, who is reportedly in charge of African affairs, was in Addis

Ababa to attend the recent Addis Forum Conference."

KENYA: "East African Summit With Clinton Crucial"

The independent Nation's editorial made this point (3/24): "Mr. Clinton's...visit to the continent appears to have been designed to recognize and reward countries that have performed well, particularly in economic reforms, in the past decade.... But perhaps the most important outcome from this visit will be the laying of a foundation for a new form of partnership between the United States and this region. As the regional leaders troop to Kampala for a summit to be co-hosted by Mr. Clinton and Mr. Museveni, the agenda should be clear. Three decades of foreign aid have had minimal impact on the lives of the majority of Africans.... At the summit, the regional leaders should make it clear to Mr. Clinton that what our region now seeks is private investment, as opposed to aid. Should an enabling environment for such capital inflows be created, the recipients will contribute to economic growth."

"Welcome To East Africa, Bill Clinton"

The government party-owned Kenya Times opined (3/24): "When he arrived in Ghana, President Clinton announced that he had come to Africa to listen and learn, with a view to charting out a new course for the African-American relations. This is the right approach, and we hope he will take back home a new knowledge and understanding about Africa and its peoples. Centuries of negative literature and decades of distorted reporting of African events by Western media have left many Americans very ill-informed about the continent. Mr. Clinton and his delegation will probably find that there is as much for them to learn here as there is to unlearn."

"Trade Ties Could Have Lasting Meaning"

The independent Sunday Nation's editorial stressed (3/22): "It is certain that the countries the president is visiting...are seen by Washington as having embarked on the road to democracy and as representing what is being marketed in the West as a new leadership on the African continent...(and) are thought to be making progress in economic development on a continent that is better known for its poverty and squalor. It is the hope of many that the Clinton administration, at the behest of his hosts, will encourage American investors to explore possibilities of investing on the continent. It is here that the Clinton visit may have enduring significance for the African continent."

"Little Real Significance In Clinton's Visit"

The independent Weekly Review's editorial stressed (3/20): "The American leader's visit may focus the attention of the world on Africa momentarily, but there is little it can achieve in the way of alleviating some of Africa's most pressing problems, such as lifting a significant part of its debilitating foreign debt, increasing American investment and trade in any meaningful way, making American technology accessible to Africa cheaply or assisting in the elimination of poverty, ignorance and disease. The United States has not been one of the most generous aid donors to Africa, while American business is still wary of making any significant investments in Africa outside South Africa. Clinton is not going to change that state of affairs, even with the best of intentions.... Clinton may have a genuine interest in Africa and improving its relations with his country, but

various other considerations, especially in Congress, will tend to preclude any elevated status for Africa in the pecking order of U.S. interests."

"Seek More Trade, Not Direct Aid"

The independent Standard concluded (3/20): "There already exists mixed reaction in most countries in Africa, with some expressing sentiments that the Clinton tour is nothing but another U.S. scramble for Africa's resources, cheap labor and growing market.... The meetings organized for Clinton and about a dozen of his African counterparts must not be reduced to begging sessions, but made into a forum where Afro-pessimism can be turned into Afro-optimism. The agenda should include ways of turning round the direct aid dependency syndrome to that of increased trade.... The bottom line is that the visit must help remove the general fear that Africa is home to wars, crime and corruption."

MALAWI: "Clinton's African Sojourn"

The opposition weekly Malawi News (3/21-27) carried a news analysis by the paper's editor, Horace Somanje: "President Clinton's sojourn to Africa promises to attract serious discussion between the American president and African leaders over differences on foreign policy matters.... The presence (at the summit) of Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi will give Clinton the opportunity to discuss Western concern over Kenya's performance on democracy, good governance, human rights abuses and corruption....

Another African leader who is expected to have a showdown with Clinton is President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The United

States has expressed concern over Kabila's government policies since the late former Zairian leader Mobutu Sese Seko was ousted from power last year.... President Clinton is expected to have a tough time convincing President Nelson Mandela to change South Africa's policy over Libya and other Arab countries which are hostile to the United States for supporting their sworn enemy Israel. Mandela has argued that if Libya is an American enemy, she is not South Africa's. Mandela said Libya was one of the few countries which offered financial and military assistance to cadres of the ANC during their struggle for freedom.... However, what is pleasing is that President Clinton will be coming to Africa two weeks after the House of Representatives in Washington passed a bill that would give duty-free access to those sub-Saharan African nations that undertake economic reforms."

MALI: "Why Clinton Is Not Coming To Mali"

There was considerable speculation in the Malian press about the president's itinerary. Highly respected, widely read L'Independant maintained (3/23): "One has hoped that President Clinton would come to Bamako during his first big African tour.... Now, it is clear that he won't. Two reasons are given to explain this. The first reason is the lack of hotels in the Malian capital city. The American president travels with at least 850 persons including diplomats, security persons and journalists, and we know that all the hotels in Bamako put together are not enough.

"The second reason is about security. Mali, we know, has special relations with President Qadhafi's Libya, and Saddam Hussein's Iraq. We remember that during President Alpha's visit in the United States, he pleaded for the end of international sanctions against the two countries.... Regarding this, the announcement of the buying of a villa by Qadhafi in Bamako, where the Libyan leader expected to come late April, is enough of a reason to embarrass the security staff of the American president."

NIGERIA: "Negative Message For Nigeria"

Ibadan's independent weekly Sunday Tribune had this commentary (3/22):

"For the ruler of the most powerful nation on earth, to steer away his Air Force One airbus from the airspace of Nigeria did not portray us positively. If an American leader is visiting 'minor' countries like Ghana, Senegal, Uganda and Rwanda and the 'giant' of Africa, Nigeria, is ignored because of its human rights record and the ugly (way the) process of democratization is being pursued, should not there be a rethink in the art and science of governance that are being perfected in Nigeria? We should not be deceiving ourselves that things are going...very well and (are) on the right course."

"Why Isn't Nigeria On Clinton's Agenda?"

Lafia-based weekly Nasarawa Newsday featured this editorial view (3/15):

"But if all these (reasons for President Clinton's visit) are for the betterment of Africa, why then is the continent's giant, mouthpiece, and brothers' keeper, Nigeria, not included in the scheme of things?... Should

there be any reason for disagreement between America and Nigeria, it is only a round table, eyeball-to-eyeball discussion that can bring about settlement. Nigeria is on the verge of installing its home-grown democracy, just like other countries of the world, which, in our opinion, provides a more compelling reason for Clinton to visit the country, if for nothing else, but to offer American support and encouragement."

SENEGAL: "Clinton's Visit: America, Promised Land"

Islam-oriented Wal-Fajri published an article (3/23) with subtitle, "If Clinton had the opportunity to jog in the streets of Dakar, he will no doubt crumble under the sounds of 'Visa! Visa!'" The article recounted some "success stories" of Senegalese immigrants who made good in the USA and described the tribulations of desperate visa seekers who are determined "to see the USA...or death." The article concluded: "But the American dream is not just for the down-and-outs. Even in the jet set, we have seen the same obsession. This means sending madame to deliver her baby in New York so that the bambino will have U.S. citizenship. The infant son of Ndiadiane Ndiaye will have Buffalo Bill as his godfather, a pink baby ready to be converted to the colors of the USA. By the way, the immigrant couples also come back with their American sons."

"Clinton In Dakar: The Weight Of History"

Business-oriented daily *Ale Matin* held (3/18), "We maintain a long and solid friendship with Senegal. President Clinton's visit will allow us to broaden our bilateral relationship. Furthermore, Goree island is an important symbolic link between our two continents. When President Clinton goes to Goree, he will be revisiting history.' That was the substance of a statement by Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Susan Rice in a Worldnet program at the American Cultural Center when she explained why Senegal was chosen for the visit. Madame Susan Rice also gave the reasons for the choice of other stops, such as Botswana, which she said is 'to celebrate' democracy in that country and to recognize the orderly transition to the government of President Masire. Uganda was chosen for being an excellent partner of the USA and for undertaking constructive activities in the Great Lakes region, a region which has recently been visited by Secretary of State Albright and special envoy Reverend Jesse Jackson."

SOUTH AFRICA: "Toward A New South Africa"

According to the liberal, independent *Sunday Times* (3/22): "Clinton's visit is evidence that the relationship between the two countries has matured.... There are many foreign policy matters on which the two countries are at odds with each other.... If the Clinton visit succeeds, it will demonstrate that, despite these disagreements, the United States and South Africa have too much to offer each other to damage their relationship.... South Africa must work on its ability to compete fairly with the United States in international and domestic markets with its

agricultural products, steel and military hardware.... While the Clinton visit is likely to be the most high-profile visit by a head of state to South Africa, it will provide the government with a unique opportunity to advance the cause of the new South Africa. The distracting predicament Clinton finds himself in...should not allowed to interfere with the South African government's goal."

"Strategy For Improved South African-U.S. Relations"

The financial, independent Business Day opined (3/19), "Cynics will note the convenience of being able to flee his [President Clinton's] domestic political problems. But that would be to trivialize the significance of a trip which marks a turning point in the superpower's relationship with the continent and with South Africa itself.... The purpose of this most extensive African visit by a U.S. president is to put Africa back on the global agenda as an economic partner rather than a basket case. It is no whim on Clinton's part. It is an important part of his second-term foreign policy agenda. Clinton's other stopovers in Uganda and Botswana--plus South Africa...are designed to underline America's view of the type of governance necessary to lead the continent's economic revival.... The status of the South African leg of Clinton's trip demonstrates that South Africa is considered the U.S.' number one partner on the continent.... The United States must accept that South Africa is entitled to an independent foreign policy. The United States should not be put out when South Africa does not toe the Washington line like some client states.... Washington's reward for acknowledging that independence should be that South Africa halts its petulant, excessively demonstrative display of support for

Washington's enemies, especially those tyrants whose activities endanger world peace. When that has happened, it will be possible to say that the South Africa-U.S. relationship has truly matured."

TANZANIA: "Will Clinton Visit To Africa Bring A New Marshall Plan?"

Privately-owned, English-language weekly Democrat had this column by Aman

Latiff (3/24): "The Americans would like the world in general and Africa

in particular, to believe that President Clinton's six-nation trip to

Africa will benefit Africa and the Africans. The trip will benefit

Americans more than Africans unless President Clinton uses the trip to

announce cancellation of all the debts that African countries owed the

United States and/or announces his intention to

launch a Clinton plan, similar to the famous Marshall Plan.... President

Clinton will certainly use his trip to Uganda to throw a few heavy

political punches to President Museveni to make him see the sense of

introducing multi-party democracy in Uganda sooner (rather) than later.

Honestly, the United States does not believe in 'no-party democracy.'...

It might seem that the United States is helping Uganda to restore peace in

its northern frontiers. But, in reality, the United States will be

enforcing its anti-terrorism foreign policy."

"Uganda's Multi-Party Advocates Optimistic Over Clinton's Visit"

Correspondent David Mukholi wrote from Kampala for the privately owned,

English-language Guardian (3/23): "America's President Bill Clinton

arrives in Uganda tomorrow morning. This is a monumental event in the

history of Uganda, seen as an endorsement of President Yoweri Museveni and his government.... Multiparty advocates are unhappy with the remarks and say President Museveni has stolen the show by marketing the no-party political system democracy to the detriment of democratic pluralism.... The United States has picked...Uganda as a beacon of hope for Africa. Uganda has become the base of America's economic and political interest in Africa. Although critics are suspecting that one other significant area for the Uganda/U.S. cooperation is military. There is common belief that the United States is strengthening ties with Uganda for military operation against the Sudanese government. Uganda is steadily moving up America's list and is probably going to become one of its (America's) most-favored states in Africa. Political activists fear that if Uganda becomes one of the number-one America's friends, then there won't be any political reforms. Just as...China--the most favored state by the United States--is not being criticized for its human rights abuses and political rigidity."

"Clinton To Africa: Why Should Those He Bypassed Follow Him To Kampala?"

Makwaia Kuhenga wrote an analysis in largest circulation, privately owned Kiswahili-language *Majira* (3/22), "In East Africa, President Clinton chose to visit Uganda only. Nevertheless, it has been arranged that presidents whose countries have been bypassed to meet him in Kampala!... Where is the national pride? What if President Mubutu toured Canada, would Clinton travel to Ottawa to meet him even under the pretext of a meeting?... Where is the right to summon our presidents to Kampala like schoolchildren?"

"Master U.S. Inspects Its African Labourers"

Munga Tehenan's "Sunday Message" in largest circulation, privately owned Kiswahili-language Majira made this point (3/22), "I have no quarrel with Clinton, but I am disturbed to learn that he represents an oppressive system of the United States against small nations. I get more annoyed to hear that the world's most powerful leader will receive a rousing welcome while his visit is only to bluff the Africa he destroys everyday.... It is unfortunate for leaders of Senegal and Uganda who are panicking and behaving like children in preparation of Clinton's visit. Clinton's visit...is similar to a master who inspects his naked day labourers for the sake of it and hears them list their clothing needs without knowing whatever their master offers them is just a fraction of their own sweat. Clinton is not to be honoured but he should honour us because we receive nothing in return from him. African leaders are confused because they lack confidence, an economic base and are wishy-washy."

ZAMBIA: "U.S. Set To 'Colonize' Africa?"

The GRZ-owned owned Sunday Times of Zambia had this op-ed piece (3/22) by its political editor, John Phiri: "Clinton's trip to Africa begins today. For some it is pregnant with sentimentalism, while for others it will be fulfillment of prophecies of growing U.S. hegemony. But for its sponsors, it is President Clinton's vision to help Africa realize its economic potential and find new markets for U.S. products to boost further the economic boom his country is currently enjoying.... The significance of his first stop meeting with several African heads of state and government, including our own President Chiluba is clear. There is an untapped

market of 600 to 700 million people here and a start has to be made towards capturing a huge part of it to ensure continuity of the American dream.

There is no better way to make this start than this meeting with the leaders of Africa (in) Kampala, Uganda.... But still, there is a matter over which President Clinton will need to compromise, at least in terms of understanding what benefits can come from the cooperation envisaged by the (Africa Growth and Opportunity) bill. It is the issue of products from Sub-Saharan Africa...(which) the trans-Africa lobby...sees as a threat to the sovereignty of African nations...(or as) a colonization of Africa....

"It is (also) bewildering that the United States can accept the explanation from President Museveni that his country would be fragmented along tribal lines if political parties were legalized. At the same time, Kabila's banning of political activities for some time to consolidate a disintegrated Congo has met the most vehement attacks from the United States."

EUROPE

FRANCE: "Trade War To Replace Cultural Battles"

Francois Clemenceau told listeners of privately run Europe One radio (3/24): "The United States has known three different Africas: Cold War Africa and the fighting between the KGB and the CIA; an Africa of famine and civil wars; and an Africa of cliches, where aid and corruption dominate. Today, a new Africa is emerging, an Africa of promise. Bill

Clinton does not want to miss it, even if he was late in reacting.... One of the major challenges in Clinton's African trip is to put an end to the strategic and cultural battles between the francophones and anglophones, and to replace them with a basic trade war, hoping that Africa will know how to profit from it."

"Clinton's New Africa"

Stephane Dupont pointed out in right-of-center Les Echos (3/24):

"President Clinton's trip to Africa will surely be discussed during today's meetings in Ouagadougou at the Franco-African Summit.... Hubert Vedrine is sure to speak about the close relations that tie the African continent to France. Not because Paris is afraid of the U.S. diplomatic and commercial initiative in Africa...but because the media blitz accompanying the visit is a bit irritating to the French. After all, the United States is promising 4.3 billion francs to Sub-Saharan Africa, while France has granted over 11 billion.... Faithful to its 'trade not aid' policy, the United States is not about to do much more in the future, despite Bill Clinton's great promises of 'partnership.'"

"Long-Term Commitment Or Passing Curiosity?"

Jean-Jacques Mevel noted in right-of-center Le Figaro (3/23): "Under the banner of commerce and human rights, Washington wants to celebrate a new African era in six carefully selected countries.... This African trip has the makings of a spectacularly successful foreign policy initiative.... France's withdrawal from Central Africa is one of the reasons for this

success, even if Washington and Paris have carefully avoided making an issue of it.... The other reason for its success comes from Africa's new economic growth.... But for African leaders the question remains whether Clinton's interest is a sign of a long-term commitment or just a passing curiosity."

"Clinton's Africa"

Dominique Lagarde declared in right-of-center weekly L'Express (3/20):

"The United States appears to be discovering Africa, a continent until now considered to be very secondary in East-West confrontations. This renewed interest in Africa is closely related to Clinton's diplomacy and commercial aspirations: In this era of globalization, no market should be ignored.... The notion of protected 'hunting grounds', including French hunting grounds, has become obsolete.... For the United States, Africa is also a dangerous and unstable continent

where it is essential to resolve crises without endangering the lives of U.S. soldiers. Thus the creation of ACRI."

"Clinton's Africa"

Left-of-center weekly Le Nouvel Observateur commented (3/19): "At the last minute, the Clinton administration added a stop in Kigali, where the president wants to 'pay homage to the victims of the 1994 genocide.' This short Rwandan stopover will not change the fact that Clinton's African tour will be dominated by 'business.'... With Paris watching closely, Bill

Clinton will be launching a trade war to control African markets. Africa is a willing partner, because it is aware of the laws of the market.

Africa is also a useful partner, because it possesses immense natural resources which are of great interest to U.S. companies."

BRITAIN: "Africa Welcomes President Clinton"

BBC Radio had this scene-setter (3/23) for President Clinton's Africa trip:

"American officials say President Clinton wants to encourage democracy throughout Africa and promote trade, not aid. What Washington sees as sound economic policies will be rewarded. Africans on the whole seem to greatly welcome this visit, hoping it will encourage investment. But more than this, Africa is slowly emerging from an era when dictators have been more common than good government and, rightly or wrongly, many Africans have great faith in the United States' ability to encourage democracy."

"Clinton In Africa"

The independent Financial Times' editorial made these observations (3/23):

"President Clinton's six-nation visit to Africa could hardly be more timely. The continent is at a critical stage in its economic reforms, needing substantial foreign investment as well as carefully targeted aid if the recovery is to be sustained.... The Clinton administration is right to stress that faster recovery requires more trade and investment, and the African Growth and Opportunity bill, about to go to the Senate, will reward African reformers with greater access to American markets. But few African countries are in a position to take advantage of this.... Mr. Clinton

should do some frank talking. If Africa is to catch up with its international competitors and win the foreign investment essential to

growth, it must do more to reduce bureaucracy, curb corruption and expand

privatization. In return, President Clinton should offer aid as well as

trade: For all the progress of recent years, Africa remains a fragile

continent."

"Clinton Embraces Africa"

The independent weekly Economist said in its editorial (3/20): "In theory,

Bill Clinton's 12-day trip to Africa is meant to cement a new American

relationship with Africa.... In practice, it will be a photogenic and

symbolic extravaganza. Yet presidential visits are often more about

symbolism than substance. Mr. Clinton's presence alone should send a

strong signal of American interest in a continent too often forgotten.

Already America is doing more, at least in some areas, than most rich

countries to think anew about how to work with Africa.... Mr. Clinton can

make clear that America seeks a realistic partnership with Africa's

reformers. He can visit entrepreneurs, discuss obstacles to investment,

and help to dispel the stereotype of a continent with nothing to offer the

world but a begging bowl. He can also remind even the most reformist

Africans of how much more remains to be done. Even for the success

stories, economic reform is far from complete. And for many, an economy

first has to be created before it can be reformed."

BELGIUM: "Clinton Visits African Market"

Under the above heading, Nathalie Mattheiem wrote in independent Le Soir (3/23): "Since (the visit to Africa) by Jimmy Carter, 20 years ago, times have changed. The continent is no longer

a pawn of the Cold War or a 'good cause' in which the Afro-American electorate takes pride; it has become a market the Americans are eager to exploit.... Beyond the budget, it is the philosophy of the partnership that has changed, summed up by the slogan 'trade, not aid.'... On the political (side), the White House has scheduled a series of symbolic initiatives, among others, meetings with survivors of the Rwanda genocide. The establishment of a ministerial dialogue on an annual basis between Africa and the United States, like the one that exists with Europe or Asia, should also give some weight to the declaration of intentions the White House expressed last year in Denver at the G-8 Summit, the summit of the wealthiest nations."

"Washington Puts Pressure On Kabila"

Catholic Vers l'Avenir observed (3/19): "Human rights and democratization, two main themes of Bill Clinton's African tour are clearly highlighted. The choice of the six countries which he intends to visit--Ghana, Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana and Uganda--reflects the message he will repeat at each stopover: The continent's salvation requires the liberalization of the economy and democratization. All the countries that will welcome the U.S. president have opted, in various degrees, for liberal economic reforms meeting the requirements of the IMF, as well as for a democratization of their political system. Those themes will be at the

center of the Entebbe summit, to which Kabila is invited, as well as the other leaders of Central and Eastern Africa.... But so far, the Congolese president has remained deaf to all the warnings addressed to him, merely repeating that the ban on political parties is a 'temporary measure' which will be lifted before the elections scheduled for 1999. A gesture by Kabila would definitely enhance the U.S. influence in the region."

DENMARK: "The Importance Of Clinton's Visit"

An editorial in center-right Jyllands-Posten (3/24) stressed, "The trip is convenient in more ways than one for Clinton. He is in great need of attracting media attention in areas other than those that have been highlighted over the last few weeks. Politically, the United States wants to strengthen its position in Africa...and it is hoped that the American people's impression of Africa as a (continent) characterized by AIDS, hunger, mad dictators and tribal wars, can be altered. The countries Clinton has chosen to visit represent, therefore, the so-called 'New Africa.' In addition, half of America's oil consumption is covered by imports, and Africa provides more than a quarter of these. With this in mind, it is hardly surprising that the United States is interested in African stability. It is important that Africa gets the chance to present to the world a positive picture of itself. Therefore, Clinton's visit is important."

GERMANY: "Pope, Clinton Deliver Message To Nigeria"

Hanko Westermann raised these points in an editorial in right-of-center

Maerkische Oderzeitung of Frankfurt on the Oder (3/24): "The Western world is now focusing on the 'Black Continent.' (Western countries) are honoring the efforts, which can be observed in several (African) countries, for democratization and the beginnings of a new market economy.... The pope has now told Nigeria's military dictator Sani Abacha that he violated human rights and that he is the head of a corrupt government. This deserves to be praised. Millions of Nigerians heard the message, too, and it will certainly not fail to have an effect. President Clinton also condemned the situation in Nigeria during his first stopover in Ghana. The (African) countries that adhere to minimum standards can count on a preferential treatment in the future...and the 'fair partnership' President Clinton mentioned in Ghana will now be redefined."

"Washington's New Discovery Overseas"

Maritta Tkalec penned this editorial for left-of-center Berliner Zeitung (3/23): "President Clinton's announcement to make U.S. policy towards Africa one of his priorities this year is now seriously being implemented. With a view to the latest economic data...the reasons for this policy are clear.... The other subjects of the talks are part of the U.S. standard program: the

fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, whereby terrorism means the danger emanating from Islamic-fundamentalist regimes.... The English-speaking states Uganda and Ethiopia are considered the most important elements of the anti-Islamic wall that runs across Africa. In the West African state of Senegal, which is an Islamic country with a

Christian president, Clinton dares to break into the French sphere of influence. But in those countries where a climate of tolerance prevails, Bill Clinton wants to find new partners."

"Clinton Comes Empty-Handed"

U.S. correspondent Carola Kaps filed this for right-of-center Frankfurter Allgemeine (3/20): "President Clinton...wants to proclaim a 'new U.S. partnership with Africa.' After Jimmy Carter, he is the second U.S. president to attach great importance to the African continent (and) to pay a visit to several African countries. Washington has taken over the thesis of South Africa's Vice President Thabo Mbeki who spoke of an 'African renaissance.'... Nevertheless, Clinton's visit and his message lose a great deal of their splendor and credibility because the president literally comes empty-handed to Africa. It is true that the position of a trade representative for Africa was established in the U.S. government, but the bill (Africa Growth and Opportunity Act), which is to set the framework conditions for new economic cooperation, is still awaiting Senate endorsement. The promised opening of the U.S. market for African products...must, therefore, wait (for) the creation of an investment fund for infrastructure investments and for equity participation. Clinton is even unable to give assurances to his African hosts that the Senate will discuss the bill this year."

THE NETHERLANDS: "What Are U.S. Intentions In Africa?"

Centrist, independent Haagsche Courant asked (3/21), "What is behind the United States' increasing interest in Africa?... 'This is the new

colonization of Africa through American speculation,' according to an observer. 'America's political and military power are being used by American multinationals to exploit Africa's resources.' Bill Clinton's visit is meant to counteract the negative image in a sense.... Those who are pro-America's Africa policy point to a country such as Uganda as an excellent example of how the United States and African countries work together on economic (development), democratic reforms, and military peacekeeping operations. It is the last activity that actually raises question marks. America's military involvement in the continent is constantly increasing but a clear, well-defined plan is lacking.... But the question remains unanswered--what will be the role of the United States if these troops actually are to be used--just like the other question remained unanswered over the intentions of the Americans in Africa."

"Move To Woo Black American Voters"

According to Calvinist left Trouw (3/21), "Political elements play a considerable role in this visit, both in Africa and in the United States.

It is no secret that more and more black Americans have joined the Republican Party. The Democratic Party hopes to win back the black middle class.... But Clinton is not giving away a lot of money. U.S. assistance to Africa will only increase by \$30 million to a total of \$730 million.... For the time being, the only fruits of Clinton's visit are that some African capitals are being beautified."

ITALY: "Monica's Ghost Follows Clinton To Africa"

Under the above headline, Arturo Zampaglione filed from Accra for left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (3/23): "There is no doubt that the visit to Africa will give the White House a breath of fresh air after two months of continuing sex scandals. But it would nonetheless be a mistake to underestimate the strategic importance of the trip.... The United States, which has just succeeded in digesting the disastrous military intervention in Somalia, intends to encourage the new trends (the fight against corruption and for progress toward a free market) in Africa, building political and economic bridgeheads in that continent, with a very noble goal:

to contribute to African recovery. And also with less noble objectives: Africa controls about one-fourth of the votes at the United Nations, and historically, it has always been linked to Europe, which now, however, seems to be distracted by the euro and the debate on the 35-hour working week."

"An Unprecedented Trip"

Leading rightist opposition Il Giornale featured this comment (3/20) by Alberto Pasolini Zanelli: "To come to Africa for the U.S. leader is really an unprecedented novelty which has no terms of comparison.... The most powerful man on earth is putting Africa almost at the top of his foreign policy agenda, at least in 1998. Clinton is traveling to Africa in person after exploratory visits by U.S. lawmakers and economists, and by Secretary Albright.... Clinton has chosen Uganda as the penultimate stop on his tour. That will be the most significant stop along with South Africa,

since it is in Uganda where the contradictions characterizing the human condition in Africa are most evident."

POLAND: "Prominent Figures In The Dark Continent"

Under the headline above, the weekend edition (3/21-22) of center-left daily Gazeta Wyborcza said in article by Wojciech Jagielski, "Nigeria is a hard nut to crack for the Americans, who after years of treating Africa solely as a test field for Cold War games and a source of valuable minerals, have [recently] resolved to start dealing seriously with the 'lost continent.' Condemning Abacha for his dictatorial rule, Clinton did not include Nigeria in the itinerary of his African visit.... Nigeria is not only a regional power which put an end to civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone, but is also one of the largest oil producers.... Americans do not want to alienate the Nigerians. Therefore, speaking before Clinton's trip to Africa, the U.S. secretary of state weighed words carefully when she assessed the political situation in Nigeria.... Clinton is coming to Africa with a message of 'renewing the African elites.' The list of countries he is visiting is not incidental. Beyond South Africa, where politicians of the whole world line up to pay the tribute to 'Saint' Nelson Mandela, the [U.S.] president is visiting the states whose leaders--even if they do not fully meet all the criteria of democracy--have efficiently reformed their economies in accordance with the guidelines from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund."

"Visiting The Dark Continent"

Centrist Rzeczpospolita commented (3/23), "More than 30 years after gaining independence, Africa is opening a new chapter in its history. The breakthrough change--model transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa--gave rise to further transformations. The end of the Cold War helped reinforce the process of democratization. Still, much remains to be done. Accordingly, the Americans--who like to voice laudable slogans, nurture democracy and struggle for human rights--felt obliged [to address these issues] right now and right in Africa."

RUSSIA: "Clinton Eagerly Expected"

Dmitry Zharnikov pointed out in reformist Noviy Izvestia (3/24): "The American (president) was eagerly awaited, with the hosts talking of the United States' having turned to face Africa. It may be President Clinton's longest, if not most productive, venture abroad, 'the dark continent' remaining, for the most part, a backward and unstable region. Following the logic of Washington's policy of distant relationships with African friends, you may assume that the current tour will go down in the history of international relations as one of little consequence for either side."

SPAIN: "Focus On Black Africa"

Barcelona's centrist La Vanguardia opined (3/22): "Bill Clinton is beginning an eleven-day, six-nation trip to sub-Saharan Africa, an area that, since the end of the Cold War, has not overly occupied American

diplomatic attention.... There are indications of progress; in some countries there are signs of economic and political liberalization despite ethnic tensions that break out in cyclical violent conflicts, and the predominance of dictatorships.... Yet, African stability and development do have a certain effect on Western interests, although the attention Black Africa is now being accorded is not in the mold of past paternalistic patterns. Clinton's trip comes just days after Congress passed a law designed to assist in the region's development by placing more emphasis on investment than on aid."

MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT: "Economic Interests Overshadow Other Themes"

Pro-government daily Al-Ahram judged (3/24): "Despite all the political claims the White House has issued about the trip's focusing on supporting democracy, human rights, and development, the facts show that improving American economic and trade interests is the main purpose of the tour."

"Conflicts Of Interest"

Columnist Abdel Azim Hammad opined in pro-government Al Ahram (3/23): "Certainly, there is friction between Egyptian policy and this American

diplomatic conquest of Africa, concerning mainly the Nile basin and the Great Lakes area, in which there are vital Egyptian interests. Most of the leaders of this region have studied in the United States and are adopting a project under American sponsorship to rebel against the existing cultures and Islamic traditions. Undoubtedly, impeding Somali reconciliation

according to the Cairo declaration, as well as Garang's refusal to attend the Sudanese opposition conference, have certainly been instigated by U.S. hands. The Egyptian-American strategic dialogue has come at the right time. It is the best way to tackle problems and friction."

"Clinton Hopes To Divert Attention"

Anis Mansour wrote in pro-government Al-Ahram (3/19): "The U.S. turn toward Africa is very late. If President Clinton's tour to Africa helps open markets for American products, then it is an attempt to divert the attention from the battles between lawyers in American courts and Congress."

SAUDI ARABIA: "A Ray Of Hope"

Riyadh-based, moderate Al-Jazira ran this editorial (3/23): "The U.S. president's tour to Africa comes nearly eight years after the demise of the Soviet Union, which was a strong contender, along with former colonial powers such as France and the U.K., against America for influence in the 'Dark Continent.'... The visit represents a great ray of hope for all states on the continent that the United States will open a new chapter of relations based on partnership, respect, confidence and principles of mutual equality. We hope, that the visit contributes to solving some of the problems of the continent.... The United States will gain more by providing help and support to the states of the continent to solve their economic and development problems than it will gain through establishing alliances with some of the states against other states."

SYRIA: "U.S. Hegemony"

Samir Abdul-Rahman commented in government-owned Al-Bath (3/24): "Is the United States planning to present an initiative for justice during President Clinton's tour in Africa, or does it seek to strengthen the American presence there by strengthening the African regimes?!... It seems that the the new generation of African leaders will be the means by which the United States will promote its hegemony in the African continent."

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

CHINA: "Profound Significance Of Clinton's Trip To Africa"

Guo Jiwen penned this for official Chinese Youth Party China Youth Daily (Zhongguo Qingnianbao, 3/24): "Years after the end of the Cold War, the United States is now shifting its attention to Africa in an attempt to exert its superpower influence in that region. The six African countries that Clinton has chosen are quite typical. By visiting Senegal, Clinton wants to hint that Africa will no longer be under French influence and that the United States also needs to strengthen its influence in the region. His visit to South Africa represents encouragement to demolish racial segregation policies. His forthcoming tour in Uganda sends a signal for cooperation in dealing with 'terrorist countries.' Clinton's trip to

Rwanda displays American concern for the massacre following racial disputes. American media take the view that Clinton's African trip embodies a significant change in U.S. policy toward Africa."

"U.S.-French Rivalry In Africa"

Li Yunfei wrote this comment for official Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ribao, 3/24): "The implementation of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act implies an important direction in U.S. policy towards Africa, from 'aid' to 'trade.' U.S. policies in Africa will naturally incur disputes between the United States and France.... Certainly the United States will have to face the French challenges."

"Clinton To Visit Africa"

Li Xinfeng penned this for official, Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ribao, 3/20): "Apparently, the United States now attaches greater importance to Africa and emphasizes economics and trade as the focus of U.S. policy toward Africa.... For several years, Western countries have attempted to impose their own political and social models upon Africa. The result was political turmoil and economic recession in some African countries. Bearing in mind the past misery, the African people hope the United States will remember the lesson learned from the past, and that Clinton's visit will help promote stability and development in Africa."

SOUTH KOREA: "The U.S. Shakes Hands With Africa"

Independent Dong-A Ilbo (3/23) commented that "the symbolic significance of President Clinton's Africa visit is that it upgrades the continent's status from aid recipient to economic partner. The U.S. House of Representatives has just passed legislation for the visit which will waive tariffs for African countries pursuing economic reforms.... President Clinton places more importance on his visit to Uganda than anywhere else because that country is working hard to secure foreign investment and to adopt various economic reforms. Aware that he might have been criticized for visiting only countries doing well economically, President Clinton decided to stop in Rwanda. He is expected to renew the U.S. commitment to human rights and democratic values during his visit. The black community in the United States is expecting the president's visit to be an opportunity to change the general view of the continent in the United States."

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CLINTON TO AFRICA: 'TRADE, NOT AID' MESSAGE RECEIVED

As President Clinton begins his "historic" swing through six subSaharan Africa

n countries in 11 days, editorialists in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and As

ia confirmed that his message of "trade, not aid" to Africa would be the founda

tion of a "new form of partnership between the U.S. and the region." A number

of writers agreed with Kenya's independent Nation, which pointed out that "thre

e decades of foreign aid have had minimal effect on the lives of many Africans.

" That paper recommended that the regional leaders set to meet Wednesday in En

tebbe, Uganda, at a summit cohosted by President Clinton and Uganda's President

Museveni "should make it clear that what our region needs is private investmen

t." These were additional highlights in the commentary.

REACTION MOSTLY POSITIVE BUT A FEW DETRACTORS

In mostly upbeat, positive comment

ary, writers in all regions applauded the president's "foray" into Africa, sayi

ng that it had given "new selfesteem and assurance" to a "somewhat marginalized

continent." In some instances, Mr. Clinton garnered personal praise for "putt

ing Africa almost at the top of his foreign policy agenda, at least in 1998."

There were, however, a few detractors. Editorial criticism of the president's

trip emanated from Tanzania, Zambia, Egypt, Syria and the Netherlands, where an

alysts charged that the U.S. was simply seeking new markets for its products, o

r, in the words of the GRZowned

Sunday Times of Zambia, moving toward "the colo nization" of Africa. Cairo's

progovernment Al Ahram warned that the "American diplomatic conquest of

Africa" may bring "friction" between Cairo and Washingto n over the Nile basin

and the Great Lakes area. In Nigeria, a weekly publicati on wondered why that

country, "the continent's giant, mouthpiece and brother's keeper," was not

included "in the scheme of things."

ENTEBSSE SUMMITSeveral African pundits hoped that President Clinton would nudge the leadersparticularly Democratic Republic of Congo's Kabila and Uganda's Museveni further along the path toward multiparty democracy and the protection of human rights. Dar Es Salaam's Englishlanguage Guardian complained that failure to press the Museveni government would encourage Uganda to become East Africa's equivalent of "China," with MFN trade status and little criticism of "its human rights abuses and political rigidity." Opposition papers in the Democratic Republic of Congo hoped that there would be an improvement in the government's "internal policy" following the "ClintonKabila faceto face" in Uganda.

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NO LONGER THE PRESERVE OF FRANCEDailyies in France and Germany saw the U.S. as "

daring to break into the French sphere of influence" in Africa. Paris's righto

fcnter Le Figaro, though, praised Mr. Clinton's Africa trip, saying it had "th

e makings of a spectacularly successful foreign policy initiative."

Neverthele

ss rightofcenter Les Echos complained that the French had found "the media blit

z" accompanying the president's visit "irritating" since it had overshadowed t

he current FrancoAfrican summit in Ouagadougou.

This survey is based on 66 reports from 30 countries, March 1524.

EDITORS: Gail Hamer Burke and Kathleen J. Brahney

AFRICA

GHANA: "The Legacy Of Clinton's Visit"

The governmentowned Daily Graphic told its readers in an editorial (3/24): "W

e in Ghana take pride in the fact that President Clinton chose Ghana to launch

the initiative toward Africa, an Africa that has to be given the proper recogn

ition in international relations to give meaning to the objective of the UN as

a body of equal nations. President Clinton said a lot, and much of what he ha

s said has touched our hearts. His desire to see Americans redefine their atti

tudes toward Africa is laudable. It is important, as he said, that Americans..

.put a new Africa on their map;
because there is so much to gain through health
y relations between Africans
and Americans. In our comment of yesterday, we ca
utioned in good faith that
nothing Clinton says or does on his historic African
mission or hereafter
will produce any result unless the people of Africa resp
ond appropriately.
Again, we express the need for African governments to pursu
e the right
policies and sustain the confidence of their people, and the peopl
e, for
their part, must respond with hard work and with the patience that allow
s
policies to work."

"A ManySided Visit"

The governmentowned Ghanaian Times had this assessment (3/23): "President
Bill

Clinton's visit to Ghana today is, regrettably, quite brief. In a
sense, howe
ver, the briefness of the stay is reassuring, because this seems
to confirm wha
t promoters and observers of GhanaU.S. relations regard as an
open secretthe U.
S. president is here to get onthespot personal
confirmation of what he already
knows of Ghana's creditable performance on
the path of democracy and economic r
eform."

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"Welcome To Ghana, President Clinton!"

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The governmentowned Daily Graphic said (3/21): "Mr. President, as champion
of

democracy and defender of the way of life throughout the Western world,
we sa

lute you. That democracy also has its imperfections, cannot be
denied.... Rodn

ey King and Angela Davis are constant reminders that human
rights violations a

lso occur in America on a daily basis. And, unlike you,
many Americans still c

arry the burden of racism.... Certainly, our
revolution claimed lives but it w

as not out of disregard or in senseless
disdain for human suffering, but as sa

crifices demanded by the winds of
change and progress.... You are here to affi

rm, once again, your commitment
to the African renaissance and its impact on th
e future of AmericanAfrican

cooperation, for our mutual benefit. Our leadership shall emulate the example of your deep commitment to democratic principles so as to ensure that Ghana's leadership of the African continent is only rivaled by American leadership of the world. That the state of Ghana's democracy shall remain strong and vibrant and an example to other African states, is a promise we shall keep."

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"The Clinton African Visit"

An article in the government-owned weekly Spectator stated (3/21), "As the continent enters a new era of democratic governance, it is important to reemphasize the fact that democracy cannot be practiced on an empty stomach. Democracy on the African continent would become meaningful if it is linked up with the economic prosperity of the people as it is in the United States. Africa needs help in terms of finance and investment and technology transfer. We hope America's policy on Africa would take due cognizance of this and bail ailing countries out of their economic hopelessness."

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"We also ask the American president to spare some concern on conflicts in many parts of Africa and how they could be resolved. We recall that so much of the West's attention has been on Eastern Europe and the Middle East. A bit of focus on Africa would be well appreciated because Africa has more problems than any one can imagine."

"One area of importance to Africans as producers of raw materials is the area of trade. African countries do not get their money's worth for their primary products, a factor which has deepened the continent's economic woes. African countries deserve a fairer deal, and we are hopeful that the world's most powerful leader would see the continent's problems not as Africa's problems but as the problems of the world and help to solve them. The Spectator wishes the president a happy visit. We are famous for our hospitality to friends and even enemies."

s and ask him to have time to enjoy our rich culture."

X` hp x (# "Akwaaba' ('Welcome'), President Clinton!"

The independent weekly Independent said (3/19): "In the tradition of our beloved country, we join the million of our compatriots in welcoming you to our shores and to the African continent. The relationship between our continent and your country dates to centuries, and today's America has been built and is sustained through heroic contributions of some of our race whom the slave trade and recent waves of migration located in your country. When you touch Ghanaian soil, you will be making history as the first American president to visit our shores. That you chose to add Ghana to your itinerary is a testimony to the growing importance of Ghanaian international politics and the geopolitics of the West African subregion....

"When President Clinton delivers his policy statement in Accra...we expect him to state clearly that the United States will no longer support dictators, of which the continent still harbors many.... Our message to President Clinton is that we would like to remember him fondly, like President Carter, for using his presidency and immense powers to push the global agenda for human rights, democracy and progress forward, and not backwards. Let us, whilst welcoming Mr. Clinton, equally welcome and congratulate Hillary Rodham Clinton, a woman of exceptional intelligence and courage, whose support for her husband, amidst great difficulties and distractions, gives President Clinton the strength and stamina to finish his mission to build a caring American society."

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BOTSWANA: "Ghana Prepares For Bill Clinton"

Privately owned independent weekly Mmegi carried an article from the IPS/MISAnet wire service (3/20): "For many Ghanaians, the fact that U.S. President Bill Clinton has chosen their country as the first stop on his first visit to the Afr

ican continent confirms their perception of Ghana as a major gateway to Africa.

That's how the country is sold in the state's marketing strategy to attract foreign investment and trade and, according to an official of the Investment Promotion Center, 'whether (Clinton's) visit lasts only seven hours, it makes no difference. It will bring international focus on our country the way nothing else could have done.' Clinton's March 23 visit is one thing most Ghanaians across the political spectrum are united about. 'The visit will be meaningless if it is just symbolic and nothing concrete comes out of it,' says Papa Owusu Ankomaa, opposition spokesman on communication in Ghana's 200-member parliament. Many Ghanaians expect Clinton's visit to yield economic benefit and boost the country's democratic process. The fact that his itinerary includes two West African

countries the other is Senegal marks growing confidence by Washington in the region, they say. Kofi Atta, chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, sees it as marking a 'major shift in U.S. policy, a change which has been long in coming.'"

BURKINA FASO: "Politics: Clinton's African Campaign"

Independent daily Le Pays carried this under its rubric "Counter Analysis" (3/23), "One hesitates to welcome the American president who landed yesterday on the black continent. Because, after numerous speeches on this trip, one is inclined to wonder who will benefit from Bill Clinton's trip.... Americans are visionaries. It is without a doubt this ability to anticipate the future of international relations that allows them to crush all the other powers of the world.

Africa will most certainly be the continent of the 21st century. With a docile Europe, but with the promise of more power because of the [European] Union, a submissive and sick Asia, a

conquered Latin America, the United States had only Africa to 'master.'... The African leaders should however be uncompromising, faced with their new

'friend

. Many decades of almost unilateral friendship with the former colonizing powers were disastrous for the continent. Relations without discernment with the United States could also prove to be fatal. In reality, a balance of foreign powers on the continent would have been the best guarantee for mutually profitable cooperation, from the fact of the competition between developed countries. On a world scale anyway, there is no doubt that the existence of a sole power often led to skids. That is why one must hope that the embrace between Africa and Washington is sincere. It must not suffocate the weakest and be transformed by a kiss of Judas. States have only interests, it is said. After the experience of the postindependence years, with their procession of political-economic scandals, it is up to Africans to finally know how to preserve the interests of their people."

"The Immoderate Greatness Of America"

The government-owned daily Sidwaya held (3/23), "Why what some call a demonstration of power, at a time when everybody knows that America rules over the world? To impress Africans? Unnecessary; they already are. The Europeans? Maybe! If the first power of the world had democratically asked for advice from Africa, she would have answered 'I prefer those green [dollar] bills that give water, bread, health.... The rest remains to be proven.' Let's hope that Uncle Sam as incarnated by Bill Clinton will leave some of those bills."

CAMEROON: "Dawn Of A New Century, New Millennium"

Columnist Henriette Ekwe commented (3/18) in prominent opposition, French language, twice weekly L'Expression: "We are at the dawn of a new century and a new millennium. The young generations of Africans, less shaped by the former colonizers, envisage a different future (characterized) by liberty and social progress. They will be more capable of denouncing (the current) institutions that h

ave proved their incapacity to satisfy the aspirations of African people.... P resident Clinton has never succeeded in getting the Congress to increase the level of aid to African countries. No charity. Instead, American diplomacy has developed a new concept, a new motto which totally displays the orientation of their relations with Africa: 'More trade, less aid.'

"Beyond the economic aspect,...(the trip will) consolidate (U.S.) relations...(with countries) that appear to be important poles of development in Africa. South Africa's (level of development) challenges the economic superpowers. Senegal (is) the first democracy in Frenchspeaking Africa. (It is also a gate to America, and holds, with Goree island, a highly symbolic sanctuary of slavery.). .. Bill Clinton sends a strong signal to the AfricanAmerican community, and to Africans. His trip (has a taste of) pilgrimage and repentance. Botswana and Uganda offer broad economic perspectives through their dynamism. (Experts call) Gaborone, the African silicon valley.... In Rwanda, (he will visit) a strategic country martyred by a genocide.... Meanwhile, Ghana is regularly congratulated by the international monetary institutions for its good (governance)....

Bill Clinton's economic and strategic itinerary draws the map of the U.S.' preferences (in Africa). It should be recalled that certain countries (such as Nigeria, Mozambique, Mali, Namibia, Zimbabwe) that will not be visited among the American priorities.... Clinton's arrival opens a new era in the relations (between America and Africa).... Africans ought to take advantage (of the trip) to boost their development."

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COTE D'IVOIRE: "Clintonian Ambition"

Journalist Mohamed Fana asserted (3/23) in influential progovernment daily Fra ternite Matin: "Africa, which is in full social, political and economic change, interests the United States... (but) most Africans expect more from the 'poli

ceman of the world' than good intentions enhanced by aggressive media campaign s." He went on to say concerning that President Clinton's strategy for economic growth in Africa, "This wish to help Africa (through trade) is appealing

(particularly) when the Clinton administration commits itself to to eliminatin g the debt of African countries that undertake reforms, and particularly when i t promises to exert its influence on financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund." He asserted that "it is obvious that the United States has great ambitions for the continent.... But, and we must say it clearly, the strong interest shown in Africa will not translate into facts without preconditions."

"Clinton Forgets The Ivorians: (Is This) Contempt?"

Opposition, leftist, close to main opposition party Ivorian Popular Front, La

Voie ran this comment by Zagbadi Agoua (3/23): "William Jefferson Clinton, the most powerful man on earth, the president of the richest country in the world, comes to Black Africa and completely ignores C=te d'Ivoire, the most respected country in Frenchspeaking Africa!... This is astonishing, surprising, frustrating and humiliating. But also a demonstration of bad governance in Cote d'Ivoire, of the bad management of our people and of the country's affairs. The corruption, waste, dissatisfaction and disgrace, about which we talk and which put a stigma on the regime of Mr. Henri Konan Bedie, thereby receive their punishment and the utmost sentence, i.e. contempt."

"America Threatens France In Africa"

Sanga Charlesheld wrote in proopposition, centerleft, close to the second larg

est opposition party (Rassemblement des Republicains) Le Liberal (3/23), "Mr. C

linton will discover Africa and all its ugliness and beauty, its divisions and innocence, its diversity and contradictions. The most happy countries after th

is 'exotic' and strategic trip will be the ones chosen to welcome Air Force One . What about C=te d'Ivoire? It must wait until Bedie and his government understands that one does not play with democracy and good governance, and that another American president will gauge the democracy level in Cote d'Ivoire."

"Eleven Days In Africa"

Influential, progovernment FraterniteMatin asserted (3/18), "Those 11 days will be completely devoted to a somewhat marginalized continent. Eleven days that , in comparison with other visits in Africa, represent the longest trip of an American president to the Black Continent.... All things considered, those 11 days of the world's most powerful man in Africa must be considered as a great honor bestowed upon the continent. Best of all, this historic trip will permit, without any doubt, an opportunity to put back on the rails a part of the world that is going downhill, and to give it a new self-esteem and assurance.... The 11 days of Bill Clinton...will help build a bridge, and a genuine link between Africa and the United States...the superpower that has accepted frankly reaching out to povertystricken Africa which is also plagued with neverending wars, with famine, drought, refugees, etc. Now, it is up to Africa to know how to keep that rich partner, so that the 'marriage' lasts as long as possible and knows happy moments."

X hp x (# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: "ClintonKabila FaceToFace"

Proopposition Le Compatriote predicted (3/20): "The Democratic Republic of Congo's (DROC) internal policy is going to take new shape after the ClintonKabila facetoface in Kampala. This will be an occasion for the U.S. president to give lessons, not only to his other African hosts, but also to DROC's president and the way he must deal with the postMobutu era in the interest of his people as well as of the Great Lakes Region and of the United States."

"What Can DROC Expect From Clinton?"

Progovernment L'Avenir held (3/19), "Manna will not come from heaven after Clinton's visit. Although DROC has good relations with the United States, its population should put Kabila's

nationalist philosophy into practice to avoid mistakes of the past.... DROC's people must count on their own efforts before they could expect any assistance from foreign partners. The South African experience is quite meaningful. If Bill Clinton rushes to Nelson Mandela's country with many investment projects in his bag, it is because South Africa has proven its capacity on endogenous development."

"Toward The Liberation Of Political Detainees In DROC"

Proopposition La Tempete Des Tropiques held (3/18), "Kabila could release political prisoners and free political activities, so he [Kabila] could meet Bill Clinton with a clear conscience."

ETHIOPIA: "Visit Will Strengthen America's Futuristic View Of Africa"
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The independent, Englishlanguage weekly Addis Tribune maintained (3/20), "For Africa it is a time to show its best to the American public. To quote Susan Rice, assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, 'Africa is not a backwater. It is not a jungle. It is not bodies floating down rivers. It is a vast and diverse continent where people are doing their very best to achieve their potential.' For the United States, Africa offers a new place for trade and investment. The rate of return on investment in Africa is some three times higher than the average return elsewhere in the world. Bill Clinton's visit will strengthen America's new futuristic vision of Africa. An expanded partnership will be of significant benefit to both Americans and Africans. Clearly, it is in the U.S. national interest to reinforce gains while promoting economic growth and prosperity in Africa."

"Clinton Not Coming To Ethiopia Because Of Time Shortage"

X' hp x (#

Independent, oppositionist, Amharic language weekly Moreshe reported (3/17):

"M

r. Joseph C. Wilson, special assistant to President Clinton, is reported to have

remarked that the U.S. president will not travel to Ethiopia during his forthcoming

visit to African countries because of a shortage of time. Mr.

Wilson, who

is reportedly in charge of African affairs, was in Addis Ababa to attend the

recent Addis Forum Conference."

KENYA: "East African Summit With Clinton Crucial"

The independent Nation's editorial made this point (3/24): "Mr. Clinton's...vi

sit to the continent appears to have been designed to recognize and reward coun

tries that have performed well, particularly in economic reforms, in the past

decade.... But perhaps the most important outcome from this visit will be the

laying of a foundation for a new form of partnership between the United States

and this region. As the regional leaders troop to Kampala for a summit to be

cohosted by Mr. Clinton and Mr. Museveni, the agenda should be clear. Three d

ecades of foreign aid have had minimal impact on the lives of the majority of

Africans.... At the summit, the regional leaders should make it clear to Mr.

Clinton that what our region

now seeks is private investment, as opposed to aid

. Should an enabling

environment for such capital inflows be created, the recipients will

contribute to economic growth."

"Welcome To East Africa, Bill Clinton"

The government partyowned Kenya Times opined (3/24): "When he arrived in Ghana

, President Clinton announced that he had come to Africa to listen and learn, w

ith a view to charting out a new course for the AfricanAmerican relations. Th

is is the right approach, and we hope he will take back home a new knowledge a

nd understanding about Africa and its peoples. Centuries of negative literatur

e and decades of distorted reporting of African events by

Western media have left many Americans very illinformed about the continent. Mr. Clinton and his delegation will probably find that there is as much for them to learn here as there is to unlearn."

"Trade Ties Could Have Lasting Meaning"

The independent Sunday Nation's editorial stressed (3/22): "It is certain that the countries the president is visiting...are seen by Washington as having embarked on the road to democracy and as representing what is being marketed in the West as a new leadership on the African continent...(and) are thought to be making progress in economic development on a continent that is better known for its poverty and squalor. It is the hope of many that the Clinton administration, at the behest of his hosts, will encourage American investors to explore possibilities of investing on the continent. It is here that the Clinton visit may have enduring significance for the African continent."

"Little Real Significance In Clinton's Visit"

The independent Weekly Review's editorial stressed (3/20): "The American leader's visit may focus the attention of the world on Africa momentarily, but there is little it can achieve in the way of alleviating some of Africa's most pressing problems, such as lifting a significant part of its debilitating foreign debt, increasing American investment and trade in any meaningful way, making American technology accessible to Africa cheaply or assisting in the elimination of poverty, ignorance and disease. The United States has not been one of the most generous aid donors to Africa, while American business is still wary of making any significant investments in Africa outside South Africa. Clinton is not going to change that state of affairs, even with the best of intentions.... Clinton may have a genuine interest in Africa and improving its relations with his country, but various

other considerations, especially in Congress, will tend to preclude any elevated status for Africa in the pecking order of U.S. interests."

"Seek More Trade, Not Direct Aid"

The independent Standard concluded (3/20): "There already exists mixed reaction in most countries in Africa, with some expressing sentiments that the Clinton tour is nothing but another U.S. scramble for Africa's resources, cheap labor and growing market.... The meetings organized for Clinton and about a dozen of his African counterparts must not be reduced to begging sessions, but made into a forum where Afro-pessimism can be turned into Afro-optimism. The agenda should include ways of turning round the direct aid dependency syndrome to that of increased trade.... The bottom line is that the visit must help remove the general fear that Africa is home to wars, crime and corruption."

MALAWI: "Clinton's African Sojourn"

The opposition weekly Malawi News (3/21/27) carried a news analysis by the paper's editor, Horace Somanje: "President Clinton's sojourn to Africa promises to attract serious discussion between the American president and African leaders over differences on foreign policy matters.... The presence (at the summit) of Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi will give Clinton the opportunity to discuss Western concern over Kenya's performance on democracy, good governance, human rights abuses and corruption.... Another African leader who is expected to have a showdown with Clinton is President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The United States has expressed concern over Kabila's government policies since the late former Zairian leader Mobutu Sese Seko was ousted from power last year.... President Clinton is expected to have a tough time convincing President Nelson Mandela to change South Africa's policy over Libya and other Arab countries which are hostile to the United States for supporting their swo

an enemy Israel.

Mandela has argued that if Libya is an American enemy, she is not South Africa's. Mandela said Libya was one of the few countries which offered financial and military assistance to cadres of the ANC during their struggle for freedom.... However, what is pleasing is that President Clinton will be

coming to Africa two weeks after the House of Representatives in Washington passed a bill that would give dutyfree access to those subSaharan African nations that undertake economic reforms."

MALI: "Why Clinton Is Not Coming To Mali"

There was considerable speculation in the Malian press about the president's itinerary. Highly respected, widely read L'Independant maintained (3/23): "One has hoped that President Clinton would come to Bamako during his first big African tour.... Now, it is clear that he won't. Two reasons are given to explain this. The first reason is the lack of hotels in the Malian capital city. The American president travels with at least 850 persons including diplomats, security persons and journalists, and we know that all the hotels in Bamako put together are not enough.

"The second reason is about security. Mali, we know, has special relations with President Qadhafi's Libya, and Saddam Hussein's Iraq. We remember that during President Alpha's visit in the United States, he pleaded for the end of international sanctions against the two countries.... Regarding this, the announcement of the buying of a villa by Qadhafi in Bamako, where the Libyan leader expected to come late April, is enough of a reason to embarrass the security staff of the American president."

NIGERIA: "Negative Message For Nigeria"

Ibadan's independent weekly Sunday Tribune had this commentary (3/22): "For the ruler of the most powerful nation on earth, to steer away his Air Force One a

irbus from the airspace of Nigeria did not portray us positively. If an American leader is visiting 'minor' countries like Ghana, Senegal, Uganda and Rwanda and the 'giant' of Africa, Nigeria, is ignored because of its human rights record and the ugly (way the) process of democratization is being pursued, should not there be a rethink in the art and science of governance that are being perfected in Nigeria? We should not be deceiving ourselves that things are going...very well and (are) on the right course."

"Why Isn't Nigeria On Clinton's Agenda?"

Lafayette-based weekly Nasarawa Newsday featured this editorial view (3/15):

"But if all these (reasons for President Clinton's visit) are for the betterment of Africa, why then is the continent's giant, mouthpiece, and brothers' keeper, Nigeria, not included in the scheme of things?... Should there be any reason for disagreement between America and Nigeria, it is only a round table, eyeball-to-eyeball discussion that can bring about settlement. Nigeria is on the verge of installing its homegrown democracy, just like other countries of the world, which, in our opinion, provides a more compelling reason for Clinton to visit the country, if for nothing else, but to offer American support and encouragement."

SENEGAL: "Clinton's Visit: America, Promised Land"

Islam-oriented Walfajri published an article (3/23) with subtitle, "If Clinton had the opportunity to jog in the streets of Dakar, he will no doubt crumble under the sounds of 'Visa! Visa!' The article recounted some "success stories" of Senegalese immigrants who made good in the USA and described the tribulations of desperate visa seekers who are determined "to see the USA...or death." The article concluded: "But the American dream is not just for the downandouts.

Even in the jet set, we have seen the same obsession. This means sending mama to deliver her baby in New York so that the bambino will have U.S. citizenship

ip. The infant son of Ndiadiane Ndiaye will have Buffalo Bill as his godfather, a pink baby ready to be converted to the colors of the USA. By the way, the immigrant couples also come back with their American sons."

"Clinton In Dakar: The Weight Of History"

Businessoriented daily Ale Matin held (3/18), "'We maintain a long and solid friendship with Senegal. President Clinton's visit will allow us to broaden our bilateral relationship. Furthermore, Goree island is an important symbolic link between our two continents. When President Clinton goes to Goree, he will be revisiting his story.' That was the substance of a statement by Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Susan Rice in a Worldnet program at the American Cultural Center when she explained why Senegal was chosen for the visit. Madame Susan Rice also gave the reasons for the choice of other stops, such as Botswana, which she said is 'to celebrate' democracy in that country and to recognize the orderly transition to the government of President Masire. Uganda was chosen for being an excellent partner of the USA and for undertaking constructive activities in the Great Lakes region, a region which has recently been visited by Secretary of State Albright and special envoy Reverend Jesse Jackson."

X` hp x (# SOUTH AFRICA: "Toward A New South Africa"

X` hp x (#

According to the liberal, independent Sunday Times (3/22): "Clinton's visit is evidence that the relationship between the two countries has matured.... The there are many foreign policy matters on which the two countries are at odds with each other.... If the Clinton visit succeeds, it will demonstrate that, despite these disagreements, the United States and South Africa have too much to offer each other to damage their relationship.... South Africa must work

on its ability to compete fairly with the United States in international and domestic markets with its agricultural products, steel and military hardware.... While the Clinton visit is likely to be the most highprofile visit by a head of state to South Africa, it will provide the government with a unique opportunity to advance the cause of the new South Africa. The distracting predicament Clinton finds himself in...should not be allowed to interfere with the South African government's goal."

"Strategy For Improved South African-U.S. Relations"

X hp x (#

The financial, independent Business Day opined (3/19), "Cynics will note the convenience of being able to flee his [President Clinton's] domestic political problems. But that would be to trivialize the significance of a trip which marks a turning point in the superpower's relationship with the continent and with South Africa itself.... The purpose of this most extensive African visit by a U.S. president is to put Africa back on the global agenda as an economic partner rather than a basket case. It is no whim on Clinton's part. It is an important part of his secondterm foreign policy agenda. Clinton's other stopovers in Uganda and Botswana plus South Africa...are designed to underline America's view of the type of governance necessary to lead the continent's economic revival. ... The status of the South African leg of Clinton's trip demonstrates that South Africa is considered the U.S.' number one partner on the continent.... The United States must accept that South Africa is entitled to an independent foreign policy. The United States should not be put out when South Africa does not toe the Washington line like some client states.... Washington's reward for acknowledging that independence should be that South Africa halts its petulant, excessively demonstrative display of support for Washington's enemies, especially those tyrants whose activities endanger world peace. When that has happened, it will be possible to say that the South Africa-U.S.

relationship has truly matured."

TANZANIA: "Will Clinton Visit To Africa Bring A New Marshall Plan?"

Privately owned, English language weekly Democrat had this column by Aman Latiff

(3/24): "The Americans would like the world in general and Africa in particular,

to believe that President Clinton's six nation trip to Africa will benefit Africa and the Africans. The trip will benefit Americans more than Africans unless

President Clinton uses the trip to announce cancellation of all the debts that African countries owed the United States and/or announces his intention to

launch a Clinton plan, similar to the famous Marshall Plan.... President Clinton will certainly use his trip to Uganda to throw a few heavy political punches

to President Museveni to make him see the sense of introducing multiparty democracy in Uganda sooner (rather) than later. Honestly, the United States does not believe in 'no party democracy.'... It might seem that the United States is helping Uganda to restore peace in its northern frontiers. But, in reality, the United States will be enforcing its antiterrorism foreign policy."

X' hp x (# "Uganda's MultiParty Advocates Optimistic Over Clinton's Visit"

X' hp x (#

X' hp x (# Correspondent David Mukholi wrote from Kampala for the privately owned, English language Guardian (3/23): "America's President Bill Clinton arrives

in Uganda tomorrow morning. This is a monumental event in the history of Uganda, seen as an endorsement of President Yoweri Museveni and his government....

Multiparty advocates are unhappy with the remarks and say President Museveni has stolen the show by marketing the no party political system democracy to the detriment of democratic pluralism.... The United States has picked... Uganda as a beacon of hope for Africa. Uganda has become the base of America's economic and political interest in Africa. Although critics are suspecting that one other significant area for the Uganda/U.S.

cooperation is military. There is common belief that the United States is strengthening ties with Uganda for military operation against the Sudanese government. Uganda is steadily moving up America's list and is probably going to become one of its (America's) most favored states in Africa. Political activists fear that if Uganda becomes one of the number one America's friends, then there won't be any political reforms. Just as.. .China the most favored state by the United States is not being criticized for its human rights abuses and political rigidity."

"Clinton To Africa: Why Should Those He Bypassed Follow Him To Kampala?"

Makwaia Kuhenga wrote an analysis in largest circulation, privately owned Kiswahili language Majira (3/22), "In East Africa, President Clinton chose to visit Uganda only. Nevertheless, it has been arranged that presidents whose countries have been bypassed to meet him in Kampala!... Where is the national pride? What if President Mubeki toured Canada, would Clinton travel to Ottawa to meet him even under the pretext of a meeting?... Where is the right to summon our presidents to Kampala like schoolchildren?"

"Master U.S. Inspects Its African Labourers"

Munga Tehehena's "Sunday Message" in largest circulation, privately owned Kiswahili language Majira made this point (3/22), "I have no quarrel with Clinton, but I am disturbed to learn that he represents an oppressive system of the United States against small nations. I get more annoyed to hear that the world's most powerful leader will receive a rousing welcome while his visit is only to bluff the Africa he destroys everyday.... It is unfortunate for leaders of Senegal and Uganda who are panicking and behaving like children in preparation of Clinton's visit. Clinton's visit...is similar to a master who inspects his naked day labourers for the sake of it and hears them list their clothing needs without knowing whatever their master offers them is just a fraction of their own sweat

t. Clinton is not to be honoured but he should honour us because we receive no thing in return from him. African leaders are confused because they lack confidence, an economic base and are wishywashy."

ZAMBIA: "U.S. Set To 'Colonize' Africa?"

The GRZowned owned Sunday Times of Zambia had this oped piece (3/22) by its political editor, John Phiri: "Clinton's trip to Africa begins today. For some it is pregnant with sentimentalism, while for others it will be fulfillment of prophecies of growing U.S. hegemony. But for its sponsors, it is President Clinton's vision to help Africa realize its economic potential and find new markets for U.S. products to boost further the economic boom his country is currently enjoying.... The significance of his first stop meeting with several African heads of state and government, including our own President Chiluba is clear. There is an untapped

market of 600 to 700 million people here and a start has to be made towards capturing a huge part of it to ensure continuity of the American dream. There is no better way to make this start than this meeting with the leaders of Africa (in) Kampala, Uganda.... But still, there is a matter over which President Clinton will need to compromise, at least in terms of understanding what benefits can come from the cooperation envisaged by the (Africa Growth and Opportunity) bill. It is the issue of products from SubSaharan Africa...(which) the transAfrica lobby...sees as a threat to the sovereignty of African nations...(or as) a colonization of Africa....

"It is (also) bewildering that the United States can accept the explanation from President Museveni that his country would be fragmented along tribal lines if political parties were legalized. At the same time, Kabila's banning of political activities for some time to consolidate a disintegrated Congo has met the most vehement attacks from the United States."

EUROPE

FRANCE: "Trade War To Replace Cultural Battles"

Francois Clemenceau told listeners of privately run Europe One radio (3/24):

"The United States has known three different Africas: Cold War Africa and the fighting between the KGB and the CIA; an Africa of famine and civil wars; and an Africa of cliches, where aid and corruption dominate. Today, a new Africa is emerging, an Africa of promise. Bill Clinton does not want to miss it, even if he was late in reacting.... One of the major challenges in Clinton's African trip is to put an end to the strategic and cultural battles between the francophones and anglophones, and to replace them with a basic trade war, hoping that Africa will know how to profit from it."

"Clinton's New Africa"

Stephane Dupont pointed out in rightofcenter Les Echos (3/24): "President Clinton's trip to Africa will surely be discussed during today's meetings in

Ouagadougou at the FrancoAfrican Summit.... Hubert Vedrine is sure to speak about the close relations that tie the African continent to France. Not because Paris is afraid of the U.S. diplomatic and commercial initiative in Africa...but because the media blitz accompanying the visit is a bit irritating to the French.

After all, the United States is promising 4.3 billion francs to SubSaharan Africa, while France has granted over 11 billion.... Faithful to its 'trade not aid' policy, the United States is not about to do much more in the future, despite Bill Clinton's great promises of 'partnership.'"

X hp x (#

"LongTerm Commitment Or Passing Curiosity?"

X hp x (#

JeanJacques Mevel noted in rightofcenter Le Figaro (3/23): "Under the banner of

commerce and human rights, Washington wants to celebrate a new African era in six carefully selected countries.... This African trip has the makings of a s

pectacularly successful foreign policy initiative....
France's withdrawal from Central Africa is one of the reasons for this success, even if Washington and Paris have carefully avoided making an issue of it.... The other reason for its success comes from Africa's new economic growth.... But for African leaders the question remains whether Clinton's interest is a sign of a longterm commitment or just a passing curiosity."

"Clinton's Africa"

X' hp x (#
Dominique Lagarde declared in rightofcenter weekly L'Express (3/20): "The United States appears to be discovering Africa, a continent until now considered to be very secondary in EastWest confrontations. This renewed interest in Africa is closely related to Clinton's diplomacy and commercial aspirations: In this era of globalization, no market should be ignored.... The notion of protected 'hunting grounds', including French hunting grounds, has become obsolete.... For the United States, Africa is also a dangerous and unstable continent

where it is essential to resolve crises without endangering the lives of U.S.

soldiers. Thus the creation of ACRI."

X' hp x (#

X' hp x (# "Clinton's Africa"

X' hp x (#

Leftofcenter weekly Le Nouvel Observateur commented (3/19): "At the last minute,

the Clinton administration added a stop in Kigali, where the president wanted to

'pay homage to the victims of the 1994 genocide.' This short Rwandan stop

however will not change the fact that Clinton's African tour will be dominated by

'business.'... With Paris watching closely, Bill Clinton will be launching a

trade war to control African markets. Africa is a willing partner, because it

is aware of the laws of the market. Africa is also a useful partner, because

it possesses immense natural resources which are of great interest to U.S. companies."

BRITAIN: "Africa Welcomes President Clinton"

BBC Radio had this scenesetter (3/23) for President Clinton's Africa trip:

"American officials say President Clinton wants to encourage democracy throughout Africa and promote trade, not aid. What Washington sees as sound economic policies will be rewarded. Africans on the whole seem to greatly welcome this visit, hoping it will encourage investment. But more than this, Africa is slowly emerging from an era when dictators have been more common than good government and, rightly or wrongly, many Africans have great faith in the United States' ability to encourage democracy."

"Clinton In Africa"

The independent Financial Times' editorial made these observations (3/23):

"President Clinton's six-nation visit to Africa could hardly be more timely. The continent is at a critical stage in its economic reforms, needing substantial foreign investment as well as carefully targeted aid if the recovery is to be sustained.... The Clinton administration is right to stress that faster recovery requires more trade and investment, and the African Growth and Opportunity bill, about to go to the Senate, will reward African reformers with greater access to American markets. But few African countries are in a position to take advantage of this.... Mr. Clinton should do some frank talking. If Africa is to catch up with its international competitors and win the foreign investment essential to growth, it must do more to reduce bureaucracy, curb corruption and expand privatization. In return, President Clinton should offer aid as well as trade: For all the progress of recent years, Africa remains a fragile continent."

"Clinton Embraces Africa"

The independent weekly Economist said in its editorial (3/20): "In theory,

Bill Clinton's 12-day trip to Africa is meant to cement a new American relationship with Africa.... In practice, it will be a photogenic and symbolic extravaganza

a. Yet presidential visits are often more about symbolism than substance. Mr. Clinton's presence alone should send a strong signal of American interest in a continent too often forgotten. Already America is doing more, at least in some areas, than most rich countries to think anew about how to work with Africa.. .. Mr. Clinton can make clear that America seeks a realistic partnership with Africa's reformers. He can visit entrepreneurs, discuss obstacles to investment, and help to dispel the stereotype of a continent with nothing to offer the world but a begging bowl. He can also remind even the most reformist Africans of how much more remains to be done. Even for the success stories, economic reform is far from complete. And for many, an economy first has to be created before it can be reformed."

BELGIUM: "Clinton Visits African Market"

Under the above heading, Nathalie Mattheiem wrote in independent Le Soir (3/23): "Since (the visit to Africa) by Jimmy Carter, 20 years ago, times have changed. The continent is no longer

a pawn of the Cold War or a 'good cause' in which the AfroAmerican electorate takes pride; it has become a market the Americans are eager to exploit.... Beyond the budget, it is the philosophy of the partnership that has changed, summed up by the slogan 'trade, not aid.'... On the political (side), the White House has scheduled a series of symbolic initiatives, among others, meetings with survivors of the Rwanda genocide. The establishment of a ministerial dialogue on an annual basis between Africa and the United States, like the one that exists with Europe or Asia, should also give some weight to the declaration of intentions the White House expressed last year in Denver at the G8 Summit, the summit of the wealthiest nations."

"Washington Puts Pressure On Kabila"

Catholic Vers l'Avenir observed (3/19): "Human rights and democratization,

tw
o main themes of Bill Clinton's African tour are clearly highlighted. The
choi
ce of the six countries which he intends to visitGhana, Senegal,
Rwanda, South
Africa, Botswana and Ugandareflects the message he will
repeat at each stopover
: The continent's salvation requires the
liberalization of the economy and dem
ocratization. All the countries that
will welcome the U.S. president have opte
d, in various degrees, for liberal
economic reforms meeting the requirements of
the IMF, as well as for a
democratization of their political system. Those th
emes will be at the
center of the Entebbe summit, to which Kabila is invited, a
s well as the
other leaders of Central and Eastern Africa.... But so far, the
Congolese
president has remained deaf to all the warnings addressed to him, me
rely
repeating that the ban on political parties is a 'temporary measure' which
will be lifted before the elections scheduled for 1999. A gesture by Kabila
w
ould definitely enhance the U.S. influence in the region."

DENMARK: "The Importance Of Clinton's Visit"

An editorial in centerright JyllandsPosten (3/24) stressed, "The trip is
conve
nient in more ways than one for Clinton. He is in great need of
attracting med
ia attention in areas other than those that have been
highlighted over the last
few weeks. Politically, the United States wants to
strengthen its position in
Africa...and it is hoped that the American
people's impression of Africa as a (
continent) characterized by AIDS, hunger,
mad dictators and tribal wars, can be
altered. The countries Clinton has
chosen to visit represent, therefore, the s
o-called 'New Africa.' In
addition, half of America's oil consumption is covered
by imports, and Africa
provides more than a quarter of these. With this in min
d, it is hardly
surprising that the United States is interested in African stab
ility. It is
important that Africa gets the chance to present to the world a po
sitive
picture of itself. Therefore, Clinton's visit is important."

GERMANY: "Pope, Clinton Deliver Message To Nigeria"

Hanko Westermann raised these points in an editorial in rightofcenter Maerkisc he Oderzeitung of Frankfurt on the Oder (3/24): "The Western world is now focusing on the 'Black Continent.' (Western countries) are honoring the efforts, which can be observed in several (African) countries, for democratization and the beginnings of a new market economy.... The pope has now told Nigeria's military dictator Sani Abacha that he violated human rights and that he is the head of a corrupt government. This deserves to be praised. Millions of Nigerians heard the message, too, and it will certainly not fail to have an effect. President Clinton also condemned the situation in Nigeria during his first stopover in Ghana. The (African) countries that adhere to minimum standards can count on a preferential treatment in the future...and the 'fair partnership' President Clinton mentioned in Ghana will now be redefined."

"Washington's New Discovery Overseas"

Maritta Tkalec penned this editorial for leftofcenter Berliner Zeitung (3/23): "President Clinton's announcement to make U.S. policy towards Africa one of his priorities this year is now seriously being implemented. With a view to the latest economic data...the reasons for this policy are clear.... The other subjects of the talks are part of the U.S. standard program: the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, whereby terrorism means the danger emanating from Islamic fundamentalist regimes.... The Englishspeaking states Uganda and Ethiopia are considered the most important elements of the antiIslamic wall that runs across Africa. In the West African state of Senegal, which is an Islamic country with a Christian president, Clinton dares to break into the French sphere of influence. But in those countries where a climate of tolerance prevails, Bill Clinton wants to find new partners."

"Clinton Comes Empty Handed"

X' hp x (#U.S. correspondent Carola Kaps filed this for rightofcenter Frankfur
ter
Allgemeine (3/20): "President Clinton...wants to proclaim a 'new U.S.
part
nership with Africa.' After Jimmy Carter, he is the second U.S.
president to
attach great importance to the African continent (and) to pay a
visit to seve
ral African countries. Washington has taken over the thesis of
South Africa's
Vice President Thabo Mbeki who spoke of an 'African
renaissance.'... Neverthe
less, Clinton's visit and his message lose a great
deal of their splendor and
credibility because the president literally comes
emptyhanded to Africa. It is
true that the position of a trade
representative for Africa was established i
n the U.S. government, but the
bill (Africa Growth and Opportunity Act), which
is to set the framework
conditions for new economic cooperation, is still await
ing Senate
endorsement. The promised opening of the U.S. market for African
pr
oducts...must, therefore, wait (for) the creation of an investment fund for
inf
rastructure investments and for equity participation. Clinton is even
unable
to give assurances to his African hosts that the Senate will discuss
the bill
this year."

THE NETHERLANDS: "What Are U.S. Intentions In Africa?"

Centrist, independent Haagsche Courant asked (3/21), "What is behind the
Unite
d States' increasing interest in Africa?... 'This is the new
colonization of A
frica through American speculation,' according to an
observer. 'America's poli
tical and military power are being used by American
multinationals to exploit Af
rica's resources.' Bill Clinton's visit is meant
to counteract the negative im
age in a sense.... Those who are proAmerica's
Africa policy point to a country
such as Uganda as an excellent example of
how the United States and African co
untries work together on economic
(development), democratic reforms, and milita

ry peacekeeping operations. It is the last activity that actually raises question marks. America's military involvement in the continent is constantly increasing but a clear, well-defined plan is lacking.... But the question remains unanswered what will be the role of the United States if these troops actually are to be used just like the other question remained unanswered over the intentions of the Americans in Africa."

"Move To Woo Black American Voters"

According to Calvinist left Trouw (3/21), "Political elements play a considerable role in this visit, both in Africa and in the United States. It is no secret that more and more black Americans have joined the Republican Party. The Democratic Party hopes to win back the black middle class.... But Clinton is not giving away a lot of money. U.S. assistance to Africa will only increase by \$30 million to a total of \$730 million.... For the time being, the only fruits of Clinton's visit are that some African capitals are being beautified."

X hp x (# ITALY: "Monica's Ghost Follows Clinton To Africa"

Under the above headline, Arturo Zampaglione filed from Accra for left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (3/23): "There is no doubt that the visit to Africa will give the White House a breath of fresh air after two months of continuing sex scandals. But it would nonetheless be a mistake to underestimate the strategic importance of the trip.... The United States, which has just succeeded in digesting the disastrous military intervention in Somalia, intends to encourage the new trends (the fight against corruption and for progress toward a free market) in Africa, building political and economic bridgeheads in that continent, with a very noble goal:

to contribute to African recovery. And also with less noble objectives: Africa controls about one-fourth of the votes at the United Nations, and historical

ly, it has always been linked to Europe, which now, however, seems to be distracted by the euro and the debate on the 35-hour working week."

"An Unprecedented Trip"

Leading rightist opposition *Il Giornale* featured this comment (3/20) by Alberto Pasolini Zanelli: "To come to Africa for the U.S. leader is really an unprecedented novelty which has no terms of comparison.... The most powerful man on earth is putting Africa almost at the top of his foreign policy agenda, at least in 1998. Clinton is traveling to Africa in person after exploratory visits by U.S. lawmakers and economists, and by Secretary Albright.... Clinton has chosen Uganda as the penultimate stop on his tour. That will be the most significant stop along with South Africa, since it is in Uganda where the contradictions characterizing the human condition in Africa are most evident."

POLAND: "Prominent Figures In The Dark Continent"

Under the headline above, the weekend edition (3/21/22) of center-left daily *Gazeta Wyborcza* said in an article by Wojciech Jagielski, "Nigeria is a hard nut to crack for the Americans, who after years of treating Africa solely as a test field for Cold War games and a source of valuable minerals, have [recently] resolved to start dealing seriously with the 'lost continent.' Condemning Abacha for his dictatorial rule, Clinton did not include Nigeria in the itinerary of his African visit.... Nigeria is not only a regional power which put an end to civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone, but is also one of the largest oil producers.... Americans do not want to alienate the Nigerians. Therefore, speaking before Clinton's trip to Africa, the U.S. secretary of state has weighed words carefully when she assessed the political situation in Nigeria.... Clinton is coming to Africa with a message of 'renewing the African elites.' The list of countries he is visiting is not incidental. Beyond South Africa, where politicians of the

whole world line up to pay the tribute to 'Saint' Nelson Mandel
a, the [U.S.]
president is visiting the states whose leaderseven if they do not
fully
meet all the criteria of democracyhave efficiently reformed their econom
ies
in accordance with the guidelines from the World Bank and International
Mon
etary Fund."
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"Visiting The Dark Continent"

Centrist Rzeczpospolita commented (3/23), "More than 30 years after gaining
i
ndependence, Africa is opening a new chapter in its history. The
breakthrough
changemodel transition from apartheid to democracy in South
Africagave rise to
further transformations. The end of the Cold War
helped reinforce the proces
s of democratization. Still, much remains to be
done. Accordingly, the Ameri
canswho like to voice laudable slogans,
nurture democracy and struggle for huma
n rightsfelt obliged [to address
these issues] right now and right in Africa."

X` hp x (# RUSSIA: "Clinton Eagerly Expected"

Dmitry Zharnikov pointed out in reformist Noviy Izvestia (3/24): "The
America
n (president) was eagerly awaited, with the hosts talking of the
United States'
having turned to face Africa. It may be President Clinton's
longest, if not m
ost productive, venture abroad, 'the dark continent'
remaining, for the most pa
rt, a backward and unstable region. Following the
logic of Washington's policy
of distant relationships with African friends,
you may assume that the current
tour will go down in the history of
international relations as one of little c
onsequence for either side."

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SPAIN: "Focus On Black Africa"

Barcelona's centrist La Vanguardia opined (3/22): "Bill Clinton is
beginning
an elevenday, sixnation trip to subSaharan Africa, an area that,

since the end of the Cold War, has not overly occupied American diplomatic attention.... The
re are indications of progress; in some countries there are signs of economic a
nd political liberalization despite ethnic tensions that break out in cyclical
violent conflicts, and the predominance of dictatorships.... Yet, African stab
ility and development do have a certain effect on Western interests, although t
he attention Black Africa is now being accorded is not in the mold of past pate
rnalistic patterns. Clinton's trip comes just days after Congress passed a law
designed to assist in the region's development by placing more emphasis on inv
estment than on aid."

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MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT: "Economic Interests Overshadow Other Themes"

Progovernment daily AlAhram judged (3/24): "Despite all the political claims t
he White House has issued about the trip's focusing on supporting democracy, hu
man rights, and development, the facts show that improving American economic an
d trade interests is the main purpose of the tour."

"Conflicts Of Interest"

Columnist Abdel Azim Hammad opined in progovernment Al Ahram (3/23):
"Certain
ly, there is friction between Egyptian policy and this American diplomatic cong
uest of Africa, concerning mainly the Nile basin and the Great Lakes area, in w
hich there are vital Egyptian interests. Most of the leaders of this region ha
ve studied in the United States and are adopting a project under American spons
orship to rebel against the existing cultures and Islamic traditions. Undoubte
dly, impeding Somali reconciliation according to the Cairo declaration, as well
as Garang's refusal to attend the Sudanese opposition conference, have certai
nly been instigated by U.S. hands. The EgyptianAmerican strategic dialogue ha
s come at the right time. It is the best way to tackle problems and friction."

"Clinton Hopes To Divert Attention"

Anis Mansour wrote in progovernment AlAhram (3/19): "The U.S. turn toward Africa is very late. If President Clinton's tour to Africa helps open markets for American products, then it is an attempt to divert the attention from the battles between lawyers in American courts and Congress."

SAUDI ARABIA: "A Ray Of Hope"

Riyadhbased, moderate AlJazira ran this editorial (3/23): "The U.S. president's tour to Africa comes nearly eight years after the demise of the Soviet Union, which was a strong contender, along with former colonial powers such as France and the U.K., against America for influence in the 'Dark Continent.'... The visit represents a great ray of hope for all states on the continent that the United States will open a new chapter of relations based on partnership, respect, confidence and principles of mutual equality. We hope, that the visit contributes to solving some of the problems of the continent.... The United States will gain more by providing help and support to the states of the continent to solve their economic and development problems than it will gain through establishing alliances with some of the states against other states."

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SYRIA: "U.S. Hegemony"

Samir AbdulRahman commented in governmentowned AlBath (3/24): "Is the United States planning to present an initiative for justice during President Clinton's tour in Africa, or does it seek to strengthen the American presence there by strengthening the African regimes?!... It seems that the the new generation of African leaders will be the means by which the United States will promote its hegemony in the African continent."

X` hp x (#EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

X` hp x (# CHINA: "Profound Significance Of Clinton's Trip To Africa"

Guo Jiwen penned this for official Chinese Youth Party China Youth Daily (Zhongguo Qingnianbao, 3/24): "Years after the end of the Cold War, the United States is now shifting its attention to Africa in an attempt to exert its superpower influence in that region. The six African countries that Clinton has chosen are quite typical. By visiting Senegal, Clinton wants to hint that Africa will no longer be under French influence and that the United States also needs to strengthen its influence in the region. His visit to South Africa represents encouragement to demolish racial segregation policies. His forthcoming tour in Uganda sends a signal for cooperation in dealing with 'terrorist countries.' Clinton's trip to Rwanda displays American concern for the massacre following racial disputes. American media take the view that Clinton's African trip embodies a significant change in U.S. policy toward Africa."

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"U.S.French Rivalry In Africa"

Li Yunfei wrote this comment for official Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ribao, 3/24): "The implementation of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act implies an important direction in U.S. policy towards Africa, from 'aid' to 'trade.' U.S. policies in Africa will naturally incur disputes between the United States and France.... Certainly the United States will have to face the French challenges."

"Clinton To Visit Africa"

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Li Xinfeng penned this for official, Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ribao, 3/20): "Apparently, the United States now attaches greater importance to Africa and emphasizes economics and trade as the focus of U.S. policy toward Africa.... For several years, Western countries have attempted to impose their own political and social models upon Africa. The result was

political turmoil
and economic recession in some African countries. Bearing
in mind the past mis-
sery, the African people hope the United States will
remember the lesson learned
from the past, and that Clinton's visit will help
promote stability and development
in Africa."

SOUTH KOREA: "The U.S. Shakes Hands With Africa"

Independent DongA Ilbo (3/23) commented that "the symbolic significance of
President Clinton's Africa visit is that it upgrades the continent's status
from aid recipient to economic partner. The U.S. House of Representatives
has just passed legislation for the visit which will waive tariffs for
African countries pursuing economic reforms.... President Clinton places
more importance on his visit to Uganda than anywhere else because that
country is working hard to secure foreign investment and to adopt various
economic reforms. Aware that he might have been criticized for visiting only
countries doing well economically, President Clinton decided to stop in
Rwanda. He is expected to renew the U.S. commitment to human rights and
democratic values during his visit. The black community in the United States
is expecting the president's visit to be an opportunity to change the general
view of the continent in the United States."

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===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====