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Folder Title:

Africa / CBI [Caribbean Basin Initiative] Bill Signing 5/18/00 Caribbean / Central America [2]

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 Richard M. Samans
05/12/2000 03:05:42 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP, Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP@EOP, Tomasz P. Malinowski/NSC/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: africa/cbi speech material

 
base memo-030800.dgs-capacity building ministerial-0502 here's material for signing speech. lael feels strongly that we should have a passage in the speech that places enactment of the bill in the broader context of our overall international economic policy regarding developing countries. the second attachment above provides some thoughts in this regard (the Davos speech as written plowed some of this ground as well. thanks.

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CBI/Africa

I. Points:

What are the prospects of passage of the Africa/CBI trade bill?

- I was disappointed that we were unable to enact this important legislation before the end of the session last year. However, based on my recent discussions with Congressional leaders, I believe they are committed to reconciling the differences in the House and Senate bills. The President has asked them to complete this process and send him a bill this month. With the proper attention and effort, it should be able to do so no later than Easter.
- The African Growth and Opportunity Act and Caribbean Basin Enhancement legislation will help strengthen a partnership that will cement economic and political ties, increase trade, and boost economic growth and opportunity in Africa, the Caribbean and Central America. It will strengthen the relationship between our nation and regions entering a new era of democracy and economic progress. *overall goals*
- Sub-Saharan Africa constitutes a market of more than 700 million people, and is potentially one of the largest markets in the world. America's trade with Africa, however, is less than 1% of our nation's total trade. *size of African mkt.*

Is the Administration prepared to compromise on textile and apparel benefits? Do you prefer the Senate or the House bill?

- The House's Africa provision is similar to ours (expansive tariff benefits for textile and apparel), whereas the Senate's CBI provision is similar to the Administration's (duty-free treatment only for apparel made with US fabric). So we naturally prefer a compromise that comes close to the House bill on Africa and close to the Senate bill on CBI. However, we are prepared to work with both Houses and both parties to reach a sensible compromise that is in the interest of the US as well as Africa and the Caribbean Basin.

II. Background

Status: Conferees met last Wednesday for an initial discussion of the bill. They plan to meet again soon with a view to completing work on the bill before the Easter Congressional recess. In his African Summit speech, the President asked for Congress to send him a bill by the end of this month.

During their meeting, members made comments on various parts of the bill. The tone was constructive; however, Lott was not there, which limited the value of the discussion. On textiles and apparel, Crane/Archer indicated flexibility and suggested imposing caps on third country

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fabric for Africa. Moynihan seemed supportive of this. Roth didn't reveal much, as he is probably on a short leash with Lott. Helms said he supports the US-fabric only approach of the Senate bill. On Harkin's proposal making trade benefits contingent upon effective enforcement of the child labor convention, Crane/Archer said they didn't see how it could be administered. Roth indicated support for the provision's intent. There was agreement that the staff should work on options. On AIDS, no one expressed support for adding new provisions to the bill (e.g., AID authorization, appeal to IFIs to do more, etc.). And there is a fair amount of opposition on the Republican side even to keeping the Feinstein provision, which would codify our flexible IPR policy on AIDS-related pharmaceuticals in poor countries. On TAA for farmers, Archer indicated opposition; however, staff was instructed to continue to talk. On carousel, Archer said he's not willing to recede at this point. Levin said it would be best to leave the issue open for now. Roth said we should pursue the matter further. The assumption here is that they will do something on this issue (however, the interplay with FSC is something we might want to raise to the attention of Members directly in an effort to change the dynamic).

In general, we have not been asked and are not now offering to lay down a compromise proposal as we did at the end of the last session. We remain prepared to do so if discussions break down. There is some unofficial indication that, instead, the Senate may prepare an offer to present to the House, perhaps next week.

Interagency work is being conducted on the following key issues:

Textiles and Apparel: In general, we thought it probably didn't make sense for us now to put down on paper a possible compromise in the textile and apparel areas. Better to see what positions the key actors take, whether this has changed at all from last year, and whether they are going to engage in offers and counteroffers. We have been preparing our own ideas internally, but did not want to vet them at this week's deputies meeting.

- *CBI* The key issue is the extent of regional CBI fabric that could be included in the bill's coverage as a compromise between the Senate (and our) bill (US fabric only) and the Crane proposal that has never passed the House (regional fabric and third country fabric up to certain limits): Deputies discussion again confirmed that there is no reliable estimate of the extent of existing regional production (a number that would be useful to have in the event there was a decision to grandfather in existing production subject to a cap). We will be doing further work to come up with estimates we can live with on a contingent basis.
- *Africa* The issue here is what extent of regional and, perhaps, third country fabric would be deemed eligible for duty free treatment. Our bill is the same as the House's in this respect in calling for unlimited eligibility. The Senate bill requires US fabric. The issue is what will Lott accept (Roth, left to his own devices, would probably be quite flexible). There is disagreement within agencies as to what the traffic will bear on regional and third country fabric in Africa. I believe our position going in ought to be to support some degree of third country fabric perhaps phased out over time and/or limited in volume. However, we did not feel it appropriate to debate this this week.

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- *Customs enforcement.* The bills contain customs provisions which we support that would ensure that countries have adequate export licensing procedures and permit Customs enforcement personnel into African ports and factories to verify that there is no transshipment. The Hill is interested in seeing Customs add resources (staff) to textile and apparel enforcement and wants to authorize money to this effect. Customs' budget this year provides for an expansion of personnel; however, the controversy over the financing of its computer upgrade (user fees) is a continuing source of irritation on the Hill. In the Deputies meeting, Treasury was tasked put together a fact sheet about its budget for use communicating how we will be bolstering our ability to enforce the anti-transshipment rules in the Africa bill and avoid diversion of Asian fabric and garments.

AIDS. The Senate bill now has a Feinstein provision that codifies our new policy to administer our intellectual property laws in a flexible enough manner to permit poor countries to make HIV/AIDS drugs as widely available as possible (i.e., we won't go after them under Special 301 and other trade authorities). USTR is fine with the provision. However, there is an emerging interest among particularly the Senate conferees to add additional AIDS legislation in the bill. There are several bills pending, with many of them overlapping our proposals. We and they agreed to work together to identify possible provisions for inclusion in the conference report, ranging from additional authorizations, to the creation of an international trust fund, to our vaccine tax credit. Although suited to the Africa/CBI bill in the sense that it is a revenue provision, the tax credit costs about \$1 billion over ten years (none in the first five), which could complicate passage of the bill. It is unclear, however, whether Members would feel the necessity to fully pay for the bill (although a 60 vote point of order would lie against a bill in the Senate if it were not paid for over ten years). At Deputies, Lael tasked out to Sandy Thurman, Treasury, and us the task of working up contingent proposals. I've attached a spread sheet comparing the pending bills on HIV AIDS. The specifics released in the POTUS event on vaccines next week should help focus conversation with the Hill in this regard.

Harkin child labor amendment: The Senate bill includes a Harkin provisions supported by Helms to would make trade preferences under the bill (Africa, CBI, and GSP) contingent upon a country's implementation and "effective enforcement" of ILO Convention 182-Worst Forms. There has been discussion about folding this into the general worker rights eligibility criteria, which has the effect of making the provision discretionary (which makes some sense because countries are only now ratifying the Convention). However, there is a clear desire by everyone (with the possible exception of Archer/Crane) not to be on the wrong side of an issue like this, particularly considering that it passed by a vote of 96-0 and Helms is a vocal supporter. Deputies tasked out further work on options to Labor and us.

Levin labor amendments. Levin's ideas have been covered in my background memo for the Africa Summit last weekend. Essentially, we are comfortable with his proposals with the exception of one, which would require annual renewal of CBI eligibility based on consideration of compliance with the worker rights criteria. Our position is that we don't want a formal annual eligibility review process; however, we could support a report on country worker rights practices and conditions in the triennial CBI report to the Hill, which USTR is willing to make biennial. We'd also be willing to make more explicit that parties could bring complaints about worker

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rights issues in beneficiary countries to USTR and, as now happens under GSP, USTR would conduct a review that could result in the reduction or withdrawal of benefits.

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers: Sens. Conrad and Grassley inserted a provision in the Senate-passed bill to create a separate, new component of the TAA program for farmers. Farmers would receive income maintenance if prices for a commodity they produced was 20% or more below the average for the past five years and either imports contributed significantly to the price drop or imports accounted for a significant proportion of the domestic market. Program benefits would be capped at \$10,000 and could be paid even if the farmer were turning profits on other crops he or she grew. Labor and USDA do not favor the proposal, as it would be difficult to administer and would siphon funds away from other TAA reform priorities (i.e., shifts in production). Roth two weeks ago requested a GAO report on a number of TAA reform topics, including farmers. Conrad and Grassley are reportedly not wedded to their proposal, but they are looking for something. Deputies asked USDA and DOL to work together on contingency options.

The bill also would legislatively certify textile and apparel industry workers (Thurmond amendment), which is clearly more relevant to the bill than the farmer proposal; however, it would cost about \$50 million. DOL does not like the proposal, but it is not strongly opposed (as it is to the farmer proposal).

Carousel. This amendment is part of the Senate bill. We heard from staff that it is likely to be included in the conference report unless the Administration announces it will do something like this on its own. Some people (Chuck, I believe) think that this may end up in the bill regardless of whether we do something on our own. However, to me this is not at all clear. And, in any event, we ought to do what we can to shape the final outcome by developing our own position on what such a provision should look like, whether we seek to implement through executive action or the Hill insists on legislating it in the conference report.

SE Europe: Although the legislation hasn't been introduced yet, deputies agreed to ask conferees to include it in the package. If they resist, we should use as leverage to obtain a commitment to introduce bill and hold hearings.

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Talking Points

Consultative and Technical Assistance Forum for African Trade Ministers

Very pleased you have come to Washington to participate in this forum. Your timing couldn't have been better:

- Congress at long last appears poised to approve the African Growth and Opportunity Act --- one of the principal pillars of the President's strategy to deepen the partnership between our two regions and stimulate investment, economic development, and poverty reduction in Africa. AGOA
one of 2
pillars
- This is also a time when we are intensifying our efforts to rally international support for greater assistance in areas that are complementary to trade: capacity building, debt relief, infectious diseases, and basic education. pushing
other
priorities
as well

The President is determined that the world community move forward on trade and on each of these four fronts in order to meet the challenge of broadening participation in the benefits of the global economy.

1) Africa Trade Bill

Trade is an indispensable engine of economic growth and poverty reduction. That's why the African Growth and Opportunity Act is so important.

- Appreciate work by Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. Appreciate the work of the African diplomatic community. And want to thank Ambassador Barshefsky, Ambassadors Esserman and Fisher, and especially our Assistant USTR for Africa, Rosa Whitaker, for their tireless efforts. Aches.
- House is tentatively scheduled to vote on final bill on Thursday with Senate action soon thereafter.

The bill is a win-win proposition for Africa and America. Will boost investment, economic growth, and job creation in Africa while improving the global competitive position of US industries as they develop mutually beneficial partnerships with African counterparts.

- Will provide Sub-Saharan African countries with the most open access to our market of any outside of a Free Trade Area (e.g., NAFTA): new incentives for market-led investment and economic growth would be created through the elimination of tariffs on nearly all African exports. overall:
win-win

sub-sahara
gets new
access,
cuts
tariffs
- While the bill is not all the President wanted on textiles and apparel, it does include very substantial trade preferences for African apparel that have the potential to stimulate major Not all
we wanted
on textiles

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expansion of job-creating investments in an industry that has historically played a key role in economic development.

*benefits
to
African
apparel*

- Would permit sustained annual growth of an estimated 30% in duty-free exports to the US of African apparel made from African fabric. All told, the bill has the potential to turn a \$500 million to \$600 million export business over time into a \$4 billion to \$5 billion business competing mainly against East and South Asian producers.
- Specifically, the bill's apparel provisions provide for:
 - Unlimited duty-free access to our market for garments made in Africa from US fabric and yarns not available in the US;
 - Duty-free access to our market for garments made in Africa from African fabric up to limits that increase over time, ultimately reaching an estimated 15 times the current volume of such exports.
 - Duty-free access to our market for garments made in least developed African countries from fabric originating anywhere in the world (so-called third country fabric eligibility) for the first four years of the program. This special investment incentive for the poorest of the poor is aimed at providing a market stimulus to economic development in areas with little existing industry of any kind.
- Strong safeguards against transshipment and disruptive import surges, including a requirement that countries provide open access to US Customs Service compliance personnel and provisions that create a procedure to review and address import surges from individual countries.

*Benefits "3rd
country"
developing
nations*

*safeguards vs.
import surges;
compliance*

*but not
alone is
not
enough*

While expanded trade is essential to economic growth and poverty reduction, it is often not sufficient, particularly in the poorest countries. The President understands this and using his leadership position in the world economy to push for progress on four additional fronts:

- 1) Capacity Building Assistance. Very pleased you are here this week to discuss institution capacity building. We understand the importance of this topic for you and want to be not only partners but also catalysts for greater international action.
 - In December, POTUS took unprecedented step of convening 15 international organizations to directly ask them to improve the level and coordination of their capacity building assistance to developing countries.
 - He urged them to improve the coordination and level of their efforts.
 - He appealed to them to place trade-related capacity building assistance in the mainstream of country assistance strategies.

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- And by inviting such a broad range of organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labor Organization, the International Telecommunications Union, and the UN Environment Programme, he sent the clear signal that, just as the scope of trade negotiations has broadened so should the scope and scale and capacity building assistance.
- We are working in the G-8 and in the WTO to make the President's vision a reality, building on the work Ambassadors Barshefsky and Esserman did with Lesotho, Nigeria, Senegal, Zambia and Bangladesh to develop a proposal to strengthen the assistance the WTO provides to developing countries that try to put in place modern trade institutions, customs systems.
- US AID spends roughly \$150 million per year on various forms of capacity building assistance for developing countries. We hope to familiarize you with the opportunities for cooperation this week. Our goal is to get other bilateral donors and IFIs to increase their efforts, "mainstreaming" capacity building in their programs as well.

* 2) Debt relief:

- The President has said he believes that no country committed to reform should be prevented by an unsustainable debt burden from meeting the basic human needs of its people.
- Last winter, POTUS encouraged the Treasury Department to develop the proposals that ended up forming the basis for the Cologne Initiative, which will provide up to 70% reduction of the debts for between 26 and 33 countries, most of which are in Africa.
- Last September, he announced that we are prepared to go beyond the Cologne terms and forgive 100% of non-concessional loans to countries qualifying for the Cologne program. This would cancel all of the \$5.7 billion in USG debt owed by qualifying countries. *see DLC*
- In addition, the Cologne Initiative aims to transform the way economic reform (conditionality) is designed and implemented in very poor, heavily indebted countries. To put people first by stressing poverty reduction and social protections and by involving citizens and governments in the design of reform programs.
- But to make debt relief a reality for all eligible countries, the US needs to provide its fair share of financing. Last year, Congress passed the first \$110 million of the President's \$920 million request for the Cologne Initiative. And it passed part of the authority we need to use IMF gold sales for its debt relief.
- However, the President strongly believes that Congress ought to appropriate the remaining \$810 million, starting with the \$210 million for the HIPC Trust Fund that he requested as a supplemental appropriation. Passage of these funds remains a very high, personal priority of the President.

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3) Infectious Diseases:

The major components of the Millennium Vaccine Initiative include:

- \$50 million in the President's FY2001 budget as a contribution to the vaccine purchase fund of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI);
- Presidential leadership to ensure that the World Bank and other multilateral development banks dedicate an additional \$400 million to \$900 million annually of their low-interest rate loans to health care services;
- Significant increases in federally funded basic research on diseases that affect developing nations;
- A new tax credit for sales of vaccines for infectious diseases to accelerate their invention and production (\$1 billion cost over 10 years);
- A call to our G-7 partners to join our efforts to ensure a future market for these vaccines.

4) Basic Education and Child Labor:

US endorses goal set by UN, OECD and World Bank of achieving universal access to basic education by 2015. President sent me to Dakar to lead US delegation to demonstrate his commitment to this issue. Believes this is a critical economic policy and economic development issue --- too important to be left only to education ministers.

- Finance, Trade, and Economics Ministers must also view education as a key element of a strategy to make the most of opportunities in the world economy.

The US wants to help. This year, building on past efforts, President Clinton is proposing a 50% increase in assistance to expand access to basic education in developing countries, particularly in areas where child labor is prevalent. This increase includes:

- \$55 million in new, targeted bilateral educational assistance to promote school rather than work in areas where exploitative child labor is prevalent.
 - ✓ Lack of educational opportunity is a major contributor to child labor. Poor parents faced with inaccessible, expensive, or ineffective schools may see no better choice than to have their kids work.
- A 50% increase in the U.S. contribution to the ILO's International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) -- from \$30 million to \$45 million.
 - ✓ IPEC projects target children working under forced labor conditions and in bondage, children in hazardous working conditions and occupations, and especially vulnerable children, such as working girls and very young children (under 12 years of age).

- ✓ Programs increase awareness about the extent, nature, and dangers of child labor and remove specific groups of children from exploitative work by providing their parents with economic and educational alternatives to sending their children to work.

Senegal trip

While in Senegal, met with new President and Finance Minister. Was impressed by their commitment to pursue greater trade and investment. Commitment symbolized by the young team of people recruited from lucrative private sector work overseas. Sense of new opportunity in the air.

One of topics of great interest was capacity building assistance. Look forward to working with Senegal and many other African countries to tailor assistance where the need is greatest.

But also want to emphasize that our strategy is comprehensive. It's trade with debt relief, institutional development, assistance to improve public health and basic education.

*Comprehensive
strategy*

This is the kind of comprehensive partnership we seek with Africa. This is the President's vision for expanding participation in the world economy.

Thank you again for coming to Washington.

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press

The Associated Press State & Local Wire May 12, 2000

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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May 12, 2000, Friday, BC cycle

7:49 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 702 words

HEADLINE: Major Africa trade bill clears Congress

BYLINE: By JIM ABRAMS, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Six years after the last big trade bill and just two weeks before a crucial House vote on China trade, Congress is sending the White House major trade legislation to make it easier for sub-Saharan Africa and Caribbean nations to sell their goods in the United States.

"Both the administration and Congress have shown their deep commitment to a revitalized Africa," said U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, praising the rare confluence of opinion on foreign trade policy.

The legislation, which took some five years to move through Congress, passed on a 77-19 Senate vote Thursday after a House vote of 309-110 last year.

President Clinton said he was eager to sign legislation that "will encourage these nations to continue building open economies, bolster their efforts to alleviate poverty and improve long-term prospects for democracy and stability around the world."

The African diplomatic corps in Washington unanimously endorsed the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. "It makes sense out of the fact that there must be other ways beyond foreign aid. You are putting people to work and it's been proved that the magic of the marketplace can do wonders," said Chitmansing Jesseramsing, ambassador from Mauritius.

Under the bill, nations that meet certain human rights and labor standards would enjoy duty-free and quota-free status for shipments to the United States of apparel made with U.S. yarn and fabric.

Clothing made in Africa from African fabric would be allowed to rise from 1.5 percent of U.S. imports to 3.5 percent over eight years, boosting African exports of these products from about \$250 million a year now to as much as \$4.2 billion.

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African nations where the gross domestic product is less than \$1,500 a year per person, all but six of the 48 sub-Saharan nations, would have four years of quota-free benefits for apparel made with third-country fabric.

The inclusion of Caribbean nations helps level the trade playing field that tilted in Mexico's favor after the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.

Barshefsky said it was the first major trade legislation to be approved by Congress since a 1994 bill that led to the creation of the World Trade Organization. Since then the White House and the Republican-led Congress have frequently been at odds on such issues as fast-track negotiating authority for the president, the Kyoto treaty on greenhouses gases and the chaotic WTO meeting in Seattle last year.

"This is something we should take a moment and relish," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. He called the bill "a significant step forward in our trade policy and a victory for free trade."

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., a senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus and a chief sponsor, said that "at last, like other ethnic groups in America, African Americans will be able to point to a special partnership that connects the United States to our ancestral homes."

Both members of Congress and the administration also said they hoped impetus from the **Africa trade** vote would boost the chances for passage of what is expected to be a close House vote this month on putting U.S. trade relations with China on a permanent status.

But the legislation also had its detractors, led by lawmakers from textile industry states who warned of losing American jobs, those wanting provisions to forgive African debt and others angered that the final bill dropped language making it easier for AIDS-devastated Africa to get cheaper drugs.

"Unless we get serious about reducing Africa's debt burden and fighting the region's devastating HIV/Aids crisis, any effort to stimulate trade and investment is simply an act of political theater," said Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., who with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., unsuccessfully tried to get AIDS language in the bill.

Clinton responded to that omission Wednesday by issuing an executive order making clear that the U.S. government will not stand in the way of efforts by African states to get cheaper generic AIDS drugs.

The bill number is H.R. 434

On the Net: A Senate Finance Committee summary:
[http://www.senate.gov/\(tilde\)finance/106-375.htm](http://www.senate.gov/(tilde)finance/106-375.htm)

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Africa News, May 11, 2000

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Africa News

May 11, 2000

SECTION: NEWS, DOCUMENTS & COMMENTARY

LENGTH: 562 words

HEADLINE: Africa-at-Large;
Africa Trade Bill Will Create Thousands Of Jobs - Biwott

BYLINE: Kevin J. Kelley Special Correspondent, The East African (Nairobi)

BODY:

Nairobi - The US House of Representatives' approval last week of a new **trade** plan for **Africa** stands as "an historic landmark" for Kenya, according to Tourism, Trade and Industry Minister Nicholas Biwott.

When cleared by the US Senate and signed into law by President Bill Clinton - actions expected to occur within the next two weeks - the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act should enable Kenya to create thousands of jobs and add millions of dollars to its national economy, said Mr. Biwott during a visit to Washington last week.

He expressed confidence that Kenya will meet conditions laid down in the bill for the removal of punitive quotas on Kenyan apparel and textile exports to the US.

American trade authorities had imposed sharp limitations on Kenya's yearly shipments to the US of certain shirts and pillowcases because it had violated US rules against trans-shipment of fabrics manufactured in Asia. The US sanctions resulted in the loss of 11,000 jobs in Kenya's textile industry, Mr. Biwott said.

Kenya and Mauritius are the only two sub-Saharan nations required to make specific improvements in their Customs procedures in order to qualify for the new terms of trade.

The legislation passed by the US House on May 4 on a 309-110 vote stipulates that Kenya and Mauritius will not be eligible for new quota-free and duty-free benefits unless they adopt "an effective visa system to guard against unlawful trans-shipment of textile and apparel goods and use of counterfeit documents."

Speaking with The EastAfrican the day after the House action, Biwott said that "Kenya is very sensitive to trans-shipment issues." The country will establish effective means of preventing any violations of US rules governing trade in textile and clothing, he vowed. Kenyan officials are already receiving technical assistance from the US, with the aim of strengthening protections against illegal trans-shipments.

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If Kenya does satisfy the bill's special requirements, it will be eligible to sell steadily larger quantities of textiles and apparels to the US over the next four years without having to pay tariffs. These goods may be made from fabric produced in any country, not only in Kenya or in another sub-Saharan nation.

Kenya potentially qualifies for this broad duty-free arrangement because it is ranked among Africa's poorest nations. Only six sub-Saharan nations have a per capita GDP of more than \$1,500 a year - the ceiling set in the trade legislation for determining whether a country is eligible for the poverty-linked exemption from tariffs. Tanzania and Uganda would also qualify for such treatment of their clothing and textiles sales to the US.

All sub-Saharan countries would be subject, however, to a cap on textile and clothing exports to the US. The legislation says that the total of sub-Saharan African sales cannot initially exceed 1.5 per cent of all textile and apparel exports to the US. The proportion permitted for Africa is scheduled to rise annually to a maximum of 3.5 per cent of US clothing and textile imports by 2008.

potential
Currently, sub-Saharan countries account for slightly more than one per cent of all such exports to the US. As a result of the new trade plan, total sub-Saharan sales of textiles and apparel to the US are expected to increase from \$250 million a year in 1998 to \$4.2 billion in 2008.

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SECTION: EDITORIALS; Pg. 2J; EDITORIALS

LENGTH: 298 words

HEADLINE: African, Caribbean Trade;
Legislation would be a boon to the regions' poor countries

BODY:

Congratulations to the House of Representatives for passing a compromise measure that would grant preferential trade benefits to certain poor countries in Africa and the Caribbean Basin. The Senate, which is scheduled to vote next week, should pass the measure as well, and President Clinton should carry out his promise to sign it.

The Caribbean Basin has enjoyed preferential access to the U.S. market for 15 years, allowing the region's poor countries to pay no or low tariffs on certain of their exports to the United States. This has allowed them to increase their prosperity.

However, the advent of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994 diverted much investment away from the Caribbean Basin to Mexico, leaving the region's countries in a less advantageous economic position. Once the trade measure becomes law, it will correct the imbalance and put the countries on more of an equal footing with Mexico.

The **Africa** portion of the **trade** measure is designed to help the large concentration of poor people who inhabit sub-Saharan Africa and to encourage economic reform. Its principle element is to grant preferential access to the U.S. market for textiles produced in certain poor African countries.

As William Roth, a Delaware Republican and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, correctly points out, "This legislation opens new avenues for trade, which will create jobs and strengthen the economies of all the countries involved. The most important thing that [ellipsis] Americans can offer our partners in Africa and the Caribbean is the opportunity to establish a foundation for economic growth and future prosperity."

This is the first significant trade measure that Congress has passed since 1994. May it lead to bigger and better things.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The New York Times, May 5, 2000

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May 5, 2000, Friday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 1; Column 6; Foreign Desk

LENGTH: 964 words

HEADLINE: HOUSE TRADE BILL FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND AFRICA PASSES

BYLINE: By ERIC SCHMITT

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 4

BODY:

The House today decisively approved legislation that grants more than 70 African and Caribbean countries broad new trading privileges by expanding duty-free access to American markets.

In an unusually strong bipartisan vote, 309 to 110, lawmakers backed a compromise bill that House and Senate negotiators worked out over the last several months, with aides toiling into the early hours this morning to finish the fine print.

Supporters hailed passage of the bill as a boost for the flagging economies of sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean because it would reduce or eliminate tariffs and quotas on a range of goods made in those regions. Opponents, largely from textile-producing states, warned of devastating job losses in the American apparel industry.

President Clinton strongly supports the measure, which now goes to the Senate for a vote and likely passage as early as next week. The legislation would be the first substantial trade measure enacted in the United States since approval of the Uruguay Round in 1994, which established the World Trade Organization.

"This important measure will strengthen our economic partnership with these nations, lower trade barriers and help developing nations to lift their people out of poverty," Mr. Clinton said today.

Passage of the bill may enhance the prospects for an even larger China trade bill that the House will vote on this month. About five wavering House Democrats have conditioned their support for the China measure in part on passage of the African and Caribbean bill, including some members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"It certainly does provide momentum, and it's an encouraging development for trade votes in general," Charlene Barshefsky, the United States trade representative, told reporters in a conference call.

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market, up from 1.1 percent now, with that share rising to 3.5 percent over eight years.

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said that could increase U.S. imports of African apparel made with African fabric from the current \$250 million - a "drop in the bucket" - to \$923 million in 2000 and \$4.2 billion in 2008.

The poorest African countries, those with per capita gross domestic products below \$1,500, would for four years face no duties or quotas for apparel made in Africa from third country fabric. Bill sponsors said all but six African nations would qualify for that category.

The original House bill passed a year ago dealt only with Africa. The Senate version added the Caribbean states, fulfilling a commitment to give them parity with the benefits Mexico enjoys under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Barshefsky said it had been a half-dozen years since there had been such strong bipartisan support for a trade bill, and the vote would "provide some sense of positive momentum" for what is expected to be a much closer vote on China's trade status.

Leading the opposition were lawmakers from textile states who argued that it would result in American jobs being lost and that provisions to stop the shipping of articles from third countries through Africa were not strong enough.

"It imperils the livelihoods of thousands of U.S. textile workers, it creates the opportunity for massive customs fraud, turning sub-Saharan Africa into a transshipment superhighway," said Rep. Robin Hayes, R-N.C.

In the Senate, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., was angered by the decision of House-Senate negotiators to drop her provision that would have facilitated the sale of AIDS drugs to Africa. Feinstein wrote Clinton a letter saying she needed to know the administration's policy on AIDS drugs for Africa before she decides how she will deal with the trade bill when it reaches the Senate floor.

The bill number is H.R. 434.

On the Net: Republican Conference summary of bill:
<http://hillsourc.house.gov/LegislativeDigest/FloorPrep/index.html>

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Chicago Tribune, May 5, 2000

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May 5, 2000 Friday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 3; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 918 words

HEADLINE: HOUSE OKS TRADE BREAKS FOR AFRICA, CARIBBEAN;
BILL CUTS APPAREL TARIFFS; SENATE APPROVAL LIKELY

BYLINE: By William Neikirk, Washington Bureau. Tribune staff writer Jeff Meredith contributed to this article.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The sharply divided House came together Thursday and approved a compromise bill that would open the U.S. economy to more goods from the poor countries of Africa and the Caribbean Basin.

In granting billions of dollars in new trade concessions to these regions, the House gave President Clinton a long-sought victory on a bill that a staunch Illinois conservative, Republican Rep. Phil Crane, personally guided through the chamber.

Crane, who had taken a 24-day leave of absence from the House to undergo rehabilitation for alcoholism, returned April 10 to negotiate a breakthrough with recalcitrant members of Congress who were blocking the legislation, according to colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee.

He was rewarded with a 309-110 vote in favor of a measure scaled back from a more ambitious one originally sought by the White House. But supporters called it the best deal that could be achieved considering House politics.

The Senate is expected to approve the African-Caribbean Basin trade bill next week and send it to the president. The measure would dramatically slash tariffs on apparel made in 48 nations in sub-Saharan Africa, where annual per-capita gross domestic product is less than \$1,500 a year, and in 25 nations in the Caribbean and Central America.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) said the bill would help increase political stability in the two regions and "help their countries grow. For the United States, this bill means an expanded market for American manufactured goods and agricultural products."

Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), the House Democratic leader, voted against the bill. But in general, Democrats supported it. Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Texas) said, "This bill make a very profound statement for the poorest countries in Africa" while at the same time helping American corporations.

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire May 5, 2000

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May 5, 2000, Friday, BC cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 628 words

HEADLINE: Africa-Caribbean trade bill moves through Congress

BYLINE: By JIM ABRAMS, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

A major trade bill moving through Congress would elevate 48 nations of sub-Saharan Africa to full trading partners and expand market access for Caribbean nations.

The bill passed the House Thursday by 309-110 and is expected to win Senate approval next week. President Clinton said the vote was a "key milestone" for a measure that would "help developing nations to lift their people out of poverty and create a more secure world."

The strong House vote for free trade comes some two weeks before the critical vote on whether to put U.S. trade relations with China on a permanent status.

The Africa bill, a House-Senate compromise months in the making, was pushed hard by lawmakers who stressed that the United States for too long has ignored the economic potential of the 700 million people of Africa.

"The 48 African countries have been begging for this type of encouragement for investment, so they can get out of poverty, increase their citizens' disposable income, and become true partners with the United States," said Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee.

"They have not been on our trade screen in the past," said Ways and Means trade subcommittee head Rep. Philip Crane, R-Ill., who has worked five years on the bill. He said it was a "unique opportunity to help the countries that are struggling" economically.

Under the legislation, African nations that meet certain labor and human rights standards would be free from duty and quotas when selling Americans apparel made from U.S. yarn and fabric.

Apparel made in Africa from regional fabric would get up to a 1.5 percent share of the American

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"This bill would imperil the livelihood of thousands of textile workers," said Representative Robin Hayes, a North Carolina Republican. But the Textile Manufacturers Institute, a trade group, said it would not oppose the measure.

The compromise dropped a provision in the Senate bill aimed at helping make AIDS drugs more affordable in Africa. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, urged the White House to carry out the provision by executive order.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

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But some lawmakers may use their vote in favor of today's bill to give them political cover to vote against the China measure.

In Congress today, foes and supporters of the China measure held dueling news conferences. Proponents announced the names of 10 new supporters -- 6 Democrats and 4 Republicans -- but acknowledged that they did not change the mathematics of the coming vote because they had already included the lawmakers in their head counts.

Representative David E. Bonior of Michigan, the measure's chief Democrat opponent, announced a new web site for the opposition ([http:// No2PermanentMFN.house.gov](http://No2PermanentMFN.house.gov)). A wavering Democrat, David Phelps of Illinois, said he was now leaning against the measure.

The African and Caribbean measure's bipartisan support -- unusual for trade bills these days -- saw 126 Democrats joining 183 Republicans in favor. Voting against were 78 Democrats, including Richard A. Gephardt, the Democratic leader; 30 Republicans, and 2 independents.

"By promoting expanded trade, the United States will be minimizing the need for foreign aid and disaster relief," Speaker J. Dennis Hastert said.

Supporters helped grease the vote by tucking in several provisions with little or no relation to Africa or the Caribbean. For instance, the measure offers breaks for Israeli nylon woven into Caribbean-made garments and men's suits made with Canadian wool.

Another provision directs the trade representative to change the method of punishing countries whose trade practices are deemed unfair to the United States. The office would be told to rotate its punishments among different product groups, to spread the pain and to make the retaliation less predictable. This was, in part, a favor to Carl H. Lindner, an Ohio executive and political fund-raiser, whose Chiquita Brands International is in a trade war with Europe over bananas.

Last year, the House and Senate approved different versions of the measure. Since then, negotiators sought a compromise. But it took the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, and Mr. Hastert of the House to break the logjam three weeks ago.

Under the compromise, the House agreed to grant many of the same duty-free benefits to 24 Caribbean and Central American countries that 48 African nations will get.

The House had not included the Caribbean in its legislation because of objections from lawmakers in textile states who fear that a flood of imports from the region could imperil American jobs.

The Senate dropped its insistence that duty-free imports from Africa be made with fabric, yarn or thread from the United States.

In a concession to textile-makers, the agreement initially caps the volume of duty-free goods at 1.5 percent of all textile imports. That cap grows to 3.5 percent over eight years.

As a result, the value of textile imports from Africa is expected to rise to \$4.2 billion in 2008 from \$250 million last year.

The poorest African countries -- all but six of sub-Saharan nations -- would be eligible for duty-free status with no restrictions for four years.

"This means investment and investment means capital, which will enable these countries to clear the land, build the factories, train the workers, produce something, and know there's a market for it," said Representative Charles B. Rangel of New York.

The compromise includes tougher provisions against Asian imports that are passed off as African-made apparel. But lawmakers from textile-producing states predicted disaster.

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Tariffs on apparel would be eliminated and no quotas would be applied as long as the countries in the two regions manufacture their exported clothing from U.S. yarn. Apparel made from locally made fabric would be limited by an annual quota, one that would rise each year.

For Africa, the ceiling on local-fabric clothing would begin at 1.5 percent of U.S. apparel imports and rise to 3.5 percent over eight years. This would boost shipments of African apparel over that period to \$4.2 billion from \$250 million, according to the administration.

Caribbean Basin nations would be subject to a different cap, the equivalent of 250 million square meters for knit apparel except socks. This cap could rise 16 percent a year for the first three years. Africa would be able to enjoy lower customs duties on many other products that are now excluded from the U.S. system of trade preferences extended to developing countries. Existing quotas on Kenya and Mauritius would be removed. The bill calls on the president to negotiate free-trade agreements with the countries involved.

Another provision would require the office of the U.S. Trade Representative to rotate goods sanctioned in trade disputes, so that one industry would not be forced to make all the sacrifices when penalties are applied. The bill would also make Albania and Kyrgyzstan eligible for normalized trade relations with the U.S.

Crane, scoring one of the biggest victories of his 30-year career in the House, said the measure "works to the interest of people less fortunate than ourselves." He was praised by some of the House's most liberal members, including Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), for negotiating the compromise.

During the roll call, several AIDS activists representing the group Act Up shouted protest from the House gallery. Negotiators had rejected an amendment by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) that would have provided AIDS drugs to Africa more cheaply.

The protesters were ushered out of the chamber by Capitol Police and arrested.

The bill contains a weak AIDS provision, one that merely encourages the U.S. private sector to take a more active role in eradicating the disease in Africa and calling on the administration to make AIDS elimination a top priority.

There was little opposition to the trade measure on the House floor, but Rep. Robin Hayes (R-N.C.) said the bill would "imperil the livelihood of thousands of U.S. textile workers" who would lose jobs because of increased African exports.

Hayes said that while the bill had been presented to the House as "something good for the U.S. textile industry, it creates the trans-shipment superhighway."

He was referring to a provision that allows the poorest sub-Saharan African countries to use fabric from third countries to make apparel for export to the U.S. Critics of the African trade bill have long contended that **Africa** could be used as a conduit for fabric made by more-developed countries.

But Crane said the bill seeks to prevent this by making these imports subject to the caps. Also, if there is a surge in imports of apparel using third-country fabric, duties would increase. And \$5.9 million would be set aside to strengthen enforcement by the Customs Bureau.

Rangel, the ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, said **Africa** has been left out of free-trade agreements in the past. Nations on the continent are grateful for the new respect, he said.

"The 48 African countries have been begging for this type of encouragement for investment, so they can get out of poverty, increase their citizens' disposable income, and become truly partners with the United States," he said.

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Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : [Presidential Documents](#)Terms: [trade w/5 africa and date geq \(05/12/1990\)](#) ([Edit Search](#))*Public Papers of the Presidents**Public Papers of the Presidents*

February 5, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 194**LENGTH:** 562 words**HEADLINE:** Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Comprehensive **Trade** and Development Policy for **Africa****BODY:***Dear Mr. Chairman:*

I am pleased to submit the first of five annual reports on the Administration's Comprehensive **Trade** and Development Policy for **Africa** as required by section 134 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

This first report examines the trade and development challenges confronting Sub-Saharan Africa, reviews the policies currently being pursued to address those challenges; and presents a policy framework for the United States as it seeks to support and facilitate African initiatives to address these challenges. With this first report, it is my intention to open a wider dialogue with the Congress, and with public and private sector representatives in Africa and the United States. This dialogue will sharpen the focus of the U.S. role in assisting Africa to meet its development challenges and, in the process, to promote U.S. trade and investment in the region. Subsequent reports to the Congress will highlight progress in implementing new initiatives and reflect the necessary evolution of U.S. policy.

The challenges facing Sub-Saharan Africa are difficult and varied. Solutions will not be easy or quick. The most critical element of any development strategy, upon which the success of all other elements depends, is the willingness of the people and their leaders to make the correct, and often difficult, policy choices. It is this point that gives us cause for optimism about Africa today. Increasingly, democratic governments in Africa are implementing market-based economic policies that are placing their countries on proven paths to success.

We must seize this opportunity for partnership with the countries of **Africa** because promoting **trade** and sustainable development in **Africa** is important for the United States as well as for Africa.

My Administration understands that, in a time of shrinking Federal funding, any strategy to support **trade** and development in Sub-Saharan **Africa** will need to rely heavily on increased U.S. commercial involvement in the region. American firms and workers stand to gain a great deal by doing business in Africa. By playing an active role, both in direct commercial relations in the region and in cooperation with the United States Government, the private sector will generate significant benefits for themselves and for the United States and Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole.

I invite the Congress to work closely with my Administration in forging a constructive partnership

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with the people and leaders of Sub-Saharan **Africa** to pursue the **trade** and development objectives that are so clearly in our mutual interests. The people of the United States have a vested interest in Africa's future, and I hope that this report will mark the first step toward a closer dialogue between the Administration and the Congress on this important issue.

I am also pleased to transmit the report prepared by the United States International Trade Commission that my Administration requested on U.S.-African trade and investment flows and the potential for growth.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; William Roth, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; and Bill Archer, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means.

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February 18, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 207

LENGTH: 521 words

HEADLINE: Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Second **Africa Trade** and Development Report

BODY:

Dear :

I am pleased to submit the second of five annual reports on the Administration's Comprehensive **Trade** and Development Policy for **Africa** as required by section 134 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act. Our policy seeks to accelerate the pace of sustainable economic development for the countries of **Africa**.

This Second **Africa Trade** and Development Report reflects our conviction that economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa will benefit both Africans and Americans. Stronger economies will better enable African nations to address a variety of complex problems that transcend regional boundaries. In an increasingly competitive global economy, the United States cannot afford to neglect a vast region that contains almost 10 percent of the world's population. Our efforts to help Africa develop will also create more export opportunities for U.S. goods and services and more jobs at home. These efforts to strengthen African economies will also reduce the cost in later years for large-scale U.S. humanitarian aid and enhance local and regional capacity to address transnational problems that threaten regional stability.

Many African countries have made significant progress in the struggle for development in recent years. With assistance from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, more than 30 Sub-Saharan African nations have instituted economic reform programs, and, since 1990, nearly as many have held elections.

Nevertheless, there is much more to be done. The United States and other developed nations must do our part to promote economic growth and development in the region. Additionally, African governments must recognize that the failure of many to open their markets to increased international trade has inhibited regional economic growth.

This second report summarizes the status of ongoing programs discussed in last year's African trade and development report and introduces several initiatives designed to spur investment, development, and trade over the near to medium term. These programs and initiatives seek to achieve five basic objectives set forth in the first report: trade liberalization and promotion, investment liberalization and promotion, development of the private sector, infrastructure enhancement, and economic and democratic reforms implemented by many Sub-Saharan African governments in recent years.

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Working with the Congress, the U.S. private sector, the countries of Africa, and our other trading partners, the Administration looks forward to developing additional initiatives to promote **trade**, investment, and development in **Africa**.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; William V. Roth, Jr., chairman, and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, ranking member, Senate Committee on Finance; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and Bill Archer, chairman, and Charles B. Rangel, ranking member, House Committee on Ways and Means.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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December 23, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2105

LENGTH: 731 words

HEADLINE: Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Comprehensive Trade and Development Policy for Africa

BODY:

Dear Mr. :

I am pleased to submit the third of five annual reports on the Administration's Comprehensive Trade and Development Policy for Africa as required by section 134 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act. This year marks a watershed in our economic and trade relations with the countries of Africa.

On June 17, I announced a new strategy to promote economic growth and opportunity in Africa. The Partnership for Growth and Opportunity in Africa opens the door to real, positive change, as only nations carrying out serious reforms will reap the full benefits. Those that strengthen their democracies, reform their trade regimes, and invest in their people will see their efforts pay off in increased trade that will create new jobs, increase wages, spur growth, and improve the quality of life for their people. Also this year the United States Congress has had before it the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This legislation and our initiative constitute a collective American effort to help fulfill the promise of a stable, prosperous, and democratic Africa. I urge the Congress to pass quickly the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Our goal remains the achievement of sustained economic development for Africa and we continue to be guided by the conviction that economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa will benefit both Africans and Americans. African countries continue to make progress toward political and economic reform, but this progress is fragile and must be supported.

The Administration's Partnership for Growth and Opportunity in Africa has five key elements. First, we intend to provide increased access to our markets for African exports. The most committed African reformers will receive the greatest access. In the future, the United States will be prepared to negotiate free trade agreements with these countries. Congressional action is particularly important if we are to implement successfully these elements of the Partnership. This report discusses the steps we are currently taking to ensure improved access for African and American products in our respective markets and to bring about increased mutually beneficial trade.

Second, we will increase technical assistance to enable African countries to take the fullest advantage of these new programs. This report discusses the ways that we are assisting African countries to undertake reforms that will enable them to grow through increased trade and investment.

Third, we are working to increase private investment in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through the Overseas

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Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), we have created a new \$ 150 million equity fund to finance increased private investment, and will create funds up to \$ 500 million for infrastructure investment. We also are undertaking an initiative to strengthen the transportation infrastructure in Africa.

Fourth, we will work to eliminate bilateral debt for the poorest of the reforming nations, and maintain our leadership in the effort to reduce their debts to the multilateral institutions. This report highlights the progress we have made working with our Economic Summit Partners and with the international financial institutions to ensure that we have a coordinated approach to reducing African debt and its adverse impacts on African economic reform and development.

Fifth, the United States will hold annual economic meetings at the ministerial level with all reforming African nations. In the last 6 months we have held more discussion with African leaders on trade and investment matters than ever before, and we expect this dialogue will intensify in the future.

The Administration will continue working with the Congress, the U.S. private sector, the countries of Africa, and our trading partners, to implement policies that promote reforms and result in increased **trade**, investment, and development in **Africa**.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Bill Archer, chairman, and Charles B. Rangel, ranking member, House Committee on Ways and Means; William Roth, chairman, and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, ranking member, Senate Committee on Finance; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations.

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34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 483

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : [Presidential Documents](#)Terms: [trade w/5 africa and date geq \(05/12/1990\)](#) ([Edit Search](#))*Public Papers of the Presidents**Public Papers of the Presidents*

March 23, 1998

CITE: 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 483**LENGTH:** 1644 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to the People of Ghana In Accra**BODY:**

Thank you. President and Mrs. Rawlings, honorable ministers, honorable members of the Council of State, honorable Members of Parliament, honorable members of the Judiciary, *nananom* [to the chiefs], and the people of Ghana. *Mitsea mu. America fuo kyia mo* [My greetings to you. Greetings from America]. Now you have shown me what *akwaaba* [welcome] really means. Thank you, thank you so much.

I am proud to be the first American President ever to visit Ghana and to go on to Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana, and Senegal. It is a journey long overdue. America should have done it before, and I am proud to be on that journey. Thank you for welcoming me.

I want to listen and to learn. I want to build a future partnership between our two people, and I want to introduce the people of the United States, through my trip, to the new face of Africa. From Kampala to Cape Town, from Dakar to Dar-Es-Salaam, Africans are being stirred by new hopes for democracy and peace and prosperity.

Challenges remain, but they must be to all of you a call to action, not a cause for despair. You must draw strength from the past and energy from the promise of a new future. My dream for this trip is that together we might do the things so that, 100 years from now, your grandchildren and mine will look back and say this was the beginning of a new African renaissance.

With a new century coming into view, old patterns are fading away: The cold war is gone; colonialism is gone; apartheid is gone. Remnants of past troubles remain. But surely, there will come a time when everywhere reconciliation will replace recrimination. Now, nations and individuals finally are free to seek a newer world where democracy and peace and prosperity are not slogans but the essence of a new Africa.

Africa has changed so much in just 10 years. Dictatorship has been replaced so many places. Half of the 48 nations in sub-Saharan Africa choose their own governments, leading a new generation willing to learn from the past and imagine a future. Though democracy has not yet gained a permanent foothold even in most successful nations, there is everywhere a growing respect for tolerance, diversity, and elemental human rights. A decade ago, business was stifled. Now, Africans are embracing economic reform. Today from Ghana to Mozambique, from Cote d'Ivoire to Uganda, growing economies are fueling a transformation in Africa.

For all this promise, you and I know Africa is not free from peril: the genocide in Rwanda; civil wars

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in Sierra Leone, Liberia, both Congos; pariah states that export violence and terror; military dictatorship in Nigeria; and high levels of poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, and unemployment. To fulfill the vast promise of a new era, Africa must face these challenges. We must build classrooms and companies, increase the food supply and save the environment, and prevent disease before deadly epidemics break out.

The United States is ready to help you. First, my fellow Americans must leave behind the stereotypes that have warped our view and weakened our understanding of Africa. We need to come to know Africa as a place of new beginning and ancient wisdom from which, as my wife, our First Lady, said in her book, we have so much to learn. It is time for Americans to put a new Africa on our map.

Here in Independence Square, Ghana blazed the path of that new Africa. More than four decades ago, Kwame Nkrumah proposed what he called a "motion of destiny" as Ghana stepped forward as a free and independent nation. Today, Ghana again lights the way for **Africa**. Democracy is spreading. Business is growing. **Trade** and investment are rising. Ghana has the only African-owned company today on our New York Stock Exchange.

You have worked hard to preserve the peace in Africa and around the world -- from Liberia to Lebanon, from Croatia to Cambodia. And you have given the world a statesman and peacemaker in Kofi Annan to lead the United Nations. The world admires your success. The United States admires your success. We see it taking root throughout the new Africa. And we stand ready to support it.

First, we want to work with Africa to nurture democracy, knowing it is never perfect or complete. We have learned in over 200 years that every day democracy must be defended and a more perfect union can always lie ahead. Democracy requires more than the insults and injustice and inequality that so many societies have known and America has known. Democracy requires human rights for everyone, everywhere, for men and women, for children and the elderly, for people of different cultures and tribes and backgrounds. A good society honors its entire family.

Second, democracy must have prosperity. Americans of both political parties want to increase **trade** and investment in **Africa**. We have an "African Growth and Opportunity Act" now before Congress. Both parties' leadership are supporting it. By opening markets and building businesses and creating jobs, we can help and strengthen each other. By supporting the education of your people, we can strengthen your future and help each other. For centuries, other nations exploited Africa's gold, Africa's diamonds, Africa's minerals. Now is the time for Africans to cultivate something more precious, the mind and heart of the people of Africa, through education.

Third, we must allow democracy and prosperity to take root without violence. We must work to resolve the war and genocide that still tear at the heart of Africa. We must help Africans to prevent future conflicts.

Here in Ghana, you have shown the world that different peoples can live together in harmony. You have proved that Africans of different countries can unite to help solve disputes in neighboring countries. Peace everywhere in Africa will give more free time and more money to the pressing needs of our children's future. The killing must stop if a new future is to begin.

Fourth and finally, for peace and prosperity and democracy to prevail, you must protect your magnificent natural domain. Africa is mankind's first home. We all came out of Africa. We must preserve the magnificent natural environment that is left. We must manage the water and forest. We must learn to live in harmony with other species. You must learn how to fight drought and famine and global warming. And we must share with you the technology that will enable you to preserve your environment and provide more economic opportunity to your people.

America has good reason to work with Africa: 30 million Americans, more than one in ten, proudly trace their heritage here. The first Peace Corps volunteers from America came to Ghana over 35 years ago; over 57,000 have served in Africa since then. Through blood ties and common endeavors, we know we share the same hopes and dreams to provide for ourselves and our children, to live in peace and worship freely, to build a better life than our parents knew and pass a brighter future on to

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our children. America needs Africa, America needs Ghana as a partner in the fight for a better future.

So many of our problems do not stop at any nation's border, international crime and terrorism and drug trafficking, the degradation of the environment, the spread of diseases like AIDS and malaria, and so many of our opportunities cannot stop at a nation's border. We need partners to deepen the meaning of democracy in America, in Africa, and throughout the world. We need partners to build prosperity. We need partners to live in peace. We will not build this new partnership overnight, but perseverance creates its own reward.

An Ashanti proverb tells us that by coming and going, a bird builds its nest. We will come and go with you and do all we can as you build the new Africa, a work that must begin here in **Africa**, not with aid or **trade**, though they are important, but first with ordinary citizens, especially the young people in this audience today. You must feel the winds of freedom blowing at your back, pushing you onward to a brighter future.

There are roughly 700 days left until the end of this century and the beginning of a new millennium. There are roughly 700 million Africans in sub-Saharan Africa. Every day and every individual is a precious opportunity. We do not have a moment to lose, and we do not have a person to lose.

I ask you, my friends, to let me indulge a moment of our shared history in closing. In 1957 our great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, came to Accra to help represent our country as Ghana celebrated its independence. He was deeply moved by the birth of your nation.

Six years later, on the day after W. E. B. Du Bois died here in Ghana in 1963, Dr. King spoke to an enormous gathering like this in Washington. He said these simple words: "I have a dream, a dream that all Americans might live free and equal as brothers and sisters." His dream became the dream of our Nation and changed us in ways we could never have imagined. We are hardly finished, but we have traveled a long way on the wings of that dream.

Dr. Du Bois, a towering African-American intellectual, died here as a citizen of Ghana and a friend of Kwame Nkrumah. He once wrote, "The habit of democracy must be to encircle the Earth." Let us together resolve to complete the circle of democracy, to dream the dream that all people on the entire Earth will be free and equal, to begin a new century with that commitment to freedom and justice for all, to redeem the promise inscribed right here on Independence Arch. Let us find a future here in Africa, the cradle of humanity.

Medase. America dase [I thank you. America thanks you]. Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. in Independence Square. In his remarks he referred to Nana Konadu Rawlings, wife of President Rawlings.

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36 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 332

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Public Papers of the Presidents

February 17, 2000

CITE: 36 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 332**LENGTH:** 4567 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to the Opening of the National Summit on Africa**BODY:**

Thank you very, very much. It's a wonderful thing to be introduced by an old friend. Old friends and people you have appointed to office will tell false, good stories about you every time. [Laughter]

Africa never had a better friend in America than Andrew Young, and I thank him. I want to say I'm honored to be in the presence today of so many distinguished Africans. Secretary Salim, thank you for your visionary remarks and your leadership. President Moi, thank you for coming to the United States and for giving me another chance to visit with you and for the work we have done together. Vice President Abubakar, thank you for what you are doing in Nigeria to give that great country its true promise at long last. We thank you, sir.

I welcome all our distinguished guests from Africa: Mrs. Taylor, foreign ministers, ambassadors. I thank all the Americans who are here, beginning with Andy's wife, who puts up with this relentless travel of his around Africa. Mayor Williams, thank you for welcoming us to Washington. There are three Members of our Congress here today representing what I hope will be a stronger and stronger bipartisan commitment to the future of Africa, Congressman Royce and Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, I thank you for being here.

I want to thank Leonard Robinson and Herschelle Challenor and all the people responsible for this remarkable conference. Thank you, Noah Samara, and thank you, Bishop Ricard, for being here. And I want to say a special word of appreciation to all the people in our administration who have worked so hard to give us an Africa policy that we can be proud of, that I hope will light up the path for America's future.

I know that Secretary Slater has already spoken here. Our AID Director, Brady Anderson, will speak. Our Vice President will be here. You said, Secretary Salim, you hope future administrations will follow our lead in Africa. I know one that would. [Laughter]

I want to thank Susan Rice at the State Department, Sandy Berger, Gayle Smith, all the people in our White House, all the ones who have helped us here.

Secretary Salim said Africa lacks a strong constituency in the United States. Well, I open this National Summit on Africa with a simple message: Africa does matter to the United States.

Of whatever background Americans claim -- Leonard Robinson told me when I came here, we even have 17 delegates from Utah here. There they are, you see? [Laughter] Africa matters, not simply

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because 30 million Americans trace their heritage to Africa -- though that is profoundly important; not simply because we have a strong interest in a stable and prosperous Africa -- though 13 percent of our oil comes from Africa, and there are 700 million producers and consumers in sub-Saharan Africa -- though that is important. Africa's future matters because the 21st century world has been transformed, and our views and actions must be transformed accordingly.

For most of history, the central reality in international relations was that size and location matter most. If you were a big country or on a trade or invasion route, you mattered. If not, you are marginalized. The average American child growing up in the past saw African nations as colorful flags and exotic names on a map, perhaps read books about the wonderful animals and great adventures. When colonialism ended, the colors on the flags were changed and there were more names on the map. But the countries did not seem nearer to most Americans.

That has all changed now, for the central reality of our time is globalization. It is tearing down barriers between nations and people. Knowledge, contact, and trade across borders within and between every continent are exploding. And all this globalization is also, as the barriers come down, making us more vulnerable to one another's problems: to the shock of economic turmoil, to the spread of conflict, to pollution, and, as we have painfully seen, to disease, to terrorists, to drug traffickers, to criminals who can also take advantage of new technologies and globalization, the openness of societies and borders.

Globalization means we know more about one another than ever before. You may see the Discovery Channel in Africa. I was thinking of that when that little film was on. The Discovery Channel followed me to Africa and talked about how they were building communications networks in African schools to share knowledge and information. We can find out within seconds now what the weather is in Nairobi, how a referendum turned out in Nairobi, how a referendum turned out in Zimbabwe, how Cameroon's indomitable Lions performed in the latest soccer match. [Laughter] We can go on-line and read the Addis Tribune, the Mirror of Ghana, the East African, or dozens of other African newspapers. We sit in front of a television and watch people in a South African township line up to vote. We also, now, bear witness to the slaughter of innocents in Rwanda or the ravages of AIDS in scores of lands or the painful coincidence of remarkable growth and abject poverty in nation after nation.

In other words, it is no longer an option for us to choose not to know about the triumphs and the trials of the people with whom we share this small planet. Not just America and Africa. I would imagine millions of Africans identified with the Muslims of Kosovo when they were run out of their country, all of them at one time. We know about each other. We can no longer choose not to know. We can only choose not to act, or to act.

In this world, we can be indifferent or we can make a difference. America must choose, when it comes to Africa, to make a difference. ~~Because we want to live in a world which is not dominated by a division of people who live on the cutting edge of a new economy and others who live on the bare edge of survival, we must be involved in Africa. Because we want to broaden global growth and expand markets for our own people, we must be involved in Africa. Because we want to build a world in which our security is not threatened by the spread of armed conflict, in which bitter ethnic and religious differences are resolved by the force of argument, not the force of arms, we must be involved in Africa. Because we want to build a world where terrorists and criminals have no place to hide and where those who wish harm to ordinary people cannot acquire the means to do them harm, we must be involved in Africa. Because we want to build a world in which we can harness our natural resources for economic growth without destroying the environment, so that future generations will also have the chance to do the same, we must be involved in Africa.~~

 That is why I set out in 1993, at the beginning of my Presidency, to build new ties between the United States and Africa, why we had the first White House conference, the ministerial, and that wonderful trip in the spring of 1998 that I will remember for the rest of my life. I went to Africa as a friend, to create a partnership. And we have made significant progress. There are challenges that are profound, but in the last 2 years we have seen thousands of triumphs large and small. Often they don't make the headlines because the slow, steady progress of democracy and prosperity is not the

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stuff of headlines.

But for example, I wish every American knew that last year the world's fastest growing economy was Mozambique; Botswana was second; Angola fourth. I wish every American knew that and understood that that potential is in every African nation. It would make a difference. We must know these things about one another.

People know all about Africa's conflicts, but how many know that thousands of African soldiers are trying to end those conflicts as peacekeepers and that Nigeria alone, amidst all its difficulties, has spent \$ 10 billion in these peacekeeping efforts?

For years, Africa's wealthiest country, South Africa, and its most populous, Nigeria, cast long, forbidding shadows across the continent. Last year South Africa's remarkable turnaround continued as its people transferred power from one elected President to another. Nigeria inaugurated a democratically elected President for the first time in decades. It is working to ensure that its wealth strengthens its people, not their oppressors. These are good news stories. They may not be in the headlines, but they should be in our hearts and our minds as we think of the future.

No one here, no one in our Government, is under any illusions. There is still a lot of work to be done. ~~Hardly anyone disagrees about what is needed: genuine democracy, good government, open markets, sustained investment in education and health and the environment and, more than anything, widespread peace. All depend, fundamentally and first, on African leadership. These things cannot be imported, and they certainly cannot be imposed from outside.~~

But we must also face a clear reality, even countries making the right policy choices still have to struggle to deliver for their people. Each African government has to walk down its own road to reform and renewal. But it is a hard road. And those of us who are in a position to do so must do our part to smooth that road, to remove some of the larger barriers so that Africa can fully share in the benefits and the responsibilities of globalization.

I tell the American people all the time, and they're probably tired of hearing it now, that I have a very simple political philosophy: everybody counts; everybody has a role to play; everybody deserves a chance; and we all do better when we help each other. That is a rule we ought to follow with Africa.

There are five steps in particular I believe we must take. ~~First, we must build an open world trading system which will benefit Africa alongside every other region in the world. Open markets are indispensable to raising living standards. From the 1970's to the 1990's, developing countries that chose trade grew at least twice as fast as those that chose not to open to the world.~~

Now, there are some who doubt that the poorest countries will benefit if we continue to open markets; but they should ask themselves: What will happen to workers in South Africa and Kenya without the jobs that come from selling the fruit of their labors abroad? What will happen to farmers in Zimbabwe and Ghana if protectionist farm subsidies make it impossible for them to sell beyond their borders?

~~Trade must not be a race to the bottom, whether we're talking about child labor, harsh working conditions, or environmental degradation. But neither can we use fear to keep the poorest part of the global community stuck at the bottom forever. Africa has already taken important steps, forming regional trade blocks like ECOWAS, the East Africa Community, and SADC. But we can do more. That is why our Overseas Private Investment Corporation in Africa is working to support 3 times as many business projects in 1999 than it did in 1998, to create jobs for Africans and, yes, for Americans as well. That is why we are working with African nations to develop the institutions to sustain future growth, from efficient telecommunications to the financial sector.~~

And that is why, as soon as possible, ~~we must enact in our Congress the bipartisan "African Growth and Opportunity Act."~~ This bill has passed in one version in our House and another version in our Senate. I urge the Congress to resolve the differences and send me a bill for signature by next

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month. [Applause] And I ask every one of you here who just clapped -- and those who didn't, but sympathize with the clapped -- [laughter] -- to contact anyone you know in the United States Congress and ask them to do this. This is a job that needs to be done.

We must also realize the ~~trade alone cannot conquer poverty, or build a partnership we need~~. For that reason, a ~~second~~ step we must take is to continue the work now underway to provide ~~debt relief to~~ African nations committed to sound policies. ~~Struggling democratic governments should not have to choose between feeding and educating their children and paying interest on a debt.~~ Last March I suggested a way we could expand debt relief for the world's poorest and most indebted countries, most of which are African, and ensure the resources would be used to improve economic opportunity for ordinary African citizens. Our G-7 partners embraced that plan.

Still, I felt we should do more. So in September I announced that we would completely write off all the debts owed to us by the countries that qualified for the G-7 program, as many as 27 African nations in all. The first countries, including Uganda and Mauritania, have begun to receive the benefits. Mozambique, Benin, Senegal and Tanzania are expected to receive benefits soon. Mozambique's debt is expected to go down by more than \$ 3 billion. The money saved will be twice the health budget -- twice the health budget -- in a country where children are more likely to die before the age of 5 than they are to go on to secondary school.

Last year I asked Congress for \$ 970 million for debt relief. Many of you helped to persuade our Congress to appropriate a big share of that. Keep in mind, this is a program ~~religious leaders say is a moral imperative, and leading economists say is a practical imperative.~~ It's not so often that you get the religious leaders and the economists telling us that good business is good morals. It's probably always true, but they don't say it all that often. [Laughter] We must finish the job this year, we must continue this work to provide aggressive debt relief to the countries that are doing the right thing, that will take the money and reinvest it in their people and their future. I ask you, especially the Americans in this audience, if you believe in what brought you here, help us to continue this important effort.

A third step we must take is to give better and deeper support to African education. Literacy is crucial to economic growth, to health, to democracy, to securing the benefits of globalization. Sub-Saharan Africa has the developing world's lowest school enrollment rate. In Zambia, over half the school-children lack a simple notebook. In rural parts of Tanzania, there is one textbook for every 20 children. That's why I proposed in our budget to increase by more than 50 percent the assistance we provide to developing countries to improve basic education, targeting areas where child labor is prevalent. I ask other nations to join us in this.

I'll never forget the schools I visited on my trip to Africa, the bright lights in the eyes of the children, how intelligent they were, how eager they were. It is wrong for them to have to look at maps of nations that no longer exist, without maps of nations in their own continent that do exist. It is wrong for them to be deprived of the same opportunities to learn that our young people have here. If intelligence is equally distributed throughout the human race -- and I believe it is -- then every child in the human race ought to have a chance to develop his or her intelligence in every country in the world.

A fourth step we must take is to fight the terrible diseases that have afflicted so many millions of Africans, especially AIDS and also TB and malaria. Last year 10 times as many people died of AIDS in Africa as were killed in all the continent's wars combined. It will soon double child mortality and reduce life expectancy by 20 years.

You all laughed when Andy Young said that I was going to get out of the Presidency as a young man. Depending on the day, I sometimes feel young, or I feel that I'm the oldest man my age in America. [Laughter] The life expectancy in this country has gone from 47 to 77 in the 20th century. An American who lives to be 65 has a life expectancy in excess of 82 years. AIDS is going to reduce the life expectancy in Africa by 20 years. And even that understates the problem, because the people that escape it will live longer lives as African economies grow and strengthen.

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The worst burden in life any adult can bear is to see a child die before you. The worst problem in Africa now is that so many of these children with AIDS have also already lost their parents. We must do something about this. In Africa there are companies that are hiring two employees for every job on the assumption that one of them will die. This is a humanitarian issue, a political issue, and an economic issue.

Last month Vice President Gore opened the first-ever United Nations Security Council session on health issues, on a health issue, by addressing the AIDS crisis in Africa. I've asked Congress for another \$ 100 million to fight the epidemic, bringing our total to \$ 325 million. I've asked my administration to develop a plan for new initiatives to address prevention, the financial dimensions of fighting AIDS, the needs of those affected, so that we can make it clear to our African partners that we consider AIDS not just their burden but ours, as well. But even that will not be enough.

Recently, Uganda's Health Minister pointed out that to provide access to currently available treatments to every Ugandan afflicted with AIDS would cost \$ 24 billion. The annual budget of Uganda is \$ 2 billion. The solution to this crisis and to other killer diseases like malaria and TB has to include effective and expensive vaccines.

Now, there are four major companies in the world that develop vaccines, two in the United States and two in Europe. They have little incentive to make costly investments in developing vaccines for people who cannot afford to pay for them. So in my State of the Union Address, I proposed a generous tax credit that would enable us to say to private industry, "If you develop vaccines for AIDS, malaria, and TB, we will help to pay for them. So go on and develop them, and we'll save millions of lives."

But I have to tell you, my speech -- and I don't want anybody else but me to be responsible, ~~my speechwriters were so sensitive, they didn't put this in the speech.~~ But I want to say this: AIDS was a bigger problem in the United States a few years ago than it is today. AIDS rates are not going up in African countries, all African countries. They're actually going down in a couple of African countries.

Now, I know that this is a difficult and sensitive issue. I know there are cultural and religious factors that make it very difficult to tackle this issue from a preventive point of view. We don't have an AIDS vaccine yet. We have drugs that will help to prevent the transmission from pregnant mothers to their children, which I want to be able to give out. We have other drugs that have given people with AIDS in our country normal lives, in terms of their health and the length of their lives. I want those to be available. But the real answer is to stop people from getting the HIV virus in the first place.

I got to see firsthand some of the things that were being done in Uganda that were instrumental in driving down the AIDS rate. Now, I don't care how hard or delicate or difficult this is; this is your children's lives we're talking about. You know, we who are adults, when our children's lives are at stake, have to get over whatever our hang-ups or problems are and go out there and do what is necessary to save the lives of our children.

And I'll help you do that, too. That's not free; that costs money. Systems have to be set up. But we shouldn't pretend that we can give injections and work our way out of this. We have to change behavior, attitudes. And it has to be done in an organized, disciplined, systematic way. And you can do more in less time for less money in a preventive way, to give the children of Africa their lives back and the nations of Africa their futures back, with an aggressive prevention campaign than anything else. And there is no excuse for not doing it. It has to be done.

Finally, let me say there is one more huge obstacle to progress in Africa, that we are committed to doing our part to overcome. We must build on the leadership of Africans to end the bloody conflicts killing people and killing progress. You know the toll: tens of thousands of young lives lost in the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea; thousands killed and disfigured at unbelievably young ages in the civil war that nearly destroyed Sierra Leone; 2 million killed by famine and war in Sudan, where Government sees diversity as a threat rather than a strength and denies basic relief to citizens it claims to represent.

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Most of the world's conflicts pale in complexity before the situation in the Congo. At least seven nations and countless armed groups are pitted there against each other in a desperate struggle that seems to bring no one victory, and everyone misery, especially the innocent people of the Congo. They deserve a better chance. Secretary Albright has called the Congo struggle Africa's first world war. As we search for an end to the conflict, let us remember the central lesson of the First World War: the need for a good peace. If you mess up the peace, you get another World War.

A year ago, I said if the nations of the region reached an agreement that the international community could support, I would support a peacekeeping operation in the Congo. The region has now done so. The Lusaka cease-fire agreement takes into account the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Congo, the withdrawal of foreign forces, the security of Congo's neighbors, the need for dialog within the nation, and most important, the need for the countries within central Africa to cooperate in managing the region's security. It is more than a cease-fire; it is a blueprint for building peace. Best of all, it is a genuinely African solution to an African problem.

There is still fighting in Congo. Peace will not happen overnight. It will require a steady commitment from the parties and the unwavering support of the international community. I have told our Congress that America intends to do its part by supporting the next phase of the U.N.'s peacekeeping operation in the Congo, which will send observers to oversee the implementation of the agreement.

We need to think hard about what is at stake here. African countries have taken the lead, not just the countries directly affected, either. They are not asking us to solve their problems or to deploy our military. All they have asked is that we support their own efforts to build peace and to make it last. We in the United States should be willing to do this. It is principled and practical.

I know -- I see the Members of Congress here. I say again -- I see Congressman Payne, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Congressman Royce -- we need to stand by the people of Africa who have decided how to solve this most complex and troubling problem. We have learned the hard way in the United States, over decades and decades, that the costliest peace is far cheaper than the cheapest war. And we need to remember that as we approach our common responsibilities in central Africa.

Finally, let me say that I intend to continue to work hard on these things for every day that I am President. For me, the remarkable decade of the 1990's began with the liberation symbolized by Nelson Mandela's first steps from Robben Island. In a few days, I will have the opportunity to join by satellite the conference in Tanzania that President Mandela is organizing to build peace in Burundi.

A lot of people look at Africa and think, oh, these problems are just too complicated. I look at Africa, and I see the promise of Africa and think, if the problems are complicated now, think how much worse they'll be if we continue to ignore them.

Other people grow frustrated by bad news and wish only to hear good news. But empty optimism does Africa no more service than groundless cynicism. What we need is not empty optimism or groundless cynicism but realistic hope. We need to see the promise, the beauty, the dreams of Africa. We need to see the problems clear and plain and stop ignoring the evident responses. We in the United States need to understand that our obligations to be good partners with Africa are not because we are certain that everything will turn out all right but because it is important. Because we're human beings, we can never expect everything to turn out all right.

Africa is so incredibly diverse. Its people speak nearly 3,000 languages. It is not a single, monolithic place with single, monolithic truths. A place of many places, each defined by its own history and aspirations, its own successes and failures. I was struck on my trip to Africa by the differences between Ghana and Uganda, Botswana, and Senegal, between Capetown and Soweto. I was also struck by what bound people together in these places.

In George Washington's first draft of his Farewell Address, he wrote, "We may all be considered as the children of one common country." The more I think about globalization and the interdependence it promises and demands, the more I share that sentiment. Now, we must think of ourselves as

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children of one common world. If we wish to deepen peace and prosperity and democracy for ourselves, we must wish it also for the people of Africa. Africa is the cradle of humanity, but also a big part of humanity's future.

I leave you with this thought: When I think of the troubles of Africa, rooted in tribal differences; when I think of the continuing troubles in America, across racial lines, rooted in the shameful way we brought slaves here from West Africa so long ago, and our continuing challenges as we integrate wave after wave after wave of new immigrants from new places around the world; I am struck by the fact that life's greatest joy is our common humanity; and life's greatest curse is our inability to see our common humanity.

In Africa, life is full of joy and difficulty. But for too long, the African people have lacked for friends and allies to help the joys overcome the difficulties. The United States will be a friend for life.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to master of ceremonies and summit national co-chair Andrew Young and his wife, Carolyn; Salim A. Salim, secretary general, Organization for African Unity; President Daniel T. Moi of Kenya; President Olusegun Obasanjo and Vice President Atiku Abubakar of Nigeria; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Noah Samara, chairman and chief executive officer, WorldSpace Corp.; Gayle Smith, Director of African Affairs, National Security Council; Minister of Health Crispus W.C.B. Kiyonga of Uganda; former President Nelson Mandela and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa; and the following National Summit on Africa officers: national co-chair Bishop John Ricard, board of directors members Andrea L. Taylor and Herschelle S. Challenor, and president and chief executive officer Leonard H. Robinson, Jr. The President also referred to ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States, and SADC, the South African Development Community.

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March 16, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 443

LENGTH: 2733 words

HEADLINE: Remarks to the Conference on United States-Africa Partnership for the 21st Century

BODY:

Thank you. Good morning. Let me say, first of all, to Minister Ouedraogo, thank you for your fine address and for your leadership. Secretary General Salim, Secretary-General Annan, Secretary Albright, to our distinguished ministers and ambassadors and other officials from 46 African nations and the representatives of the Cabinet and the United States Government. I am delighted to see you all here today. We are honored by your presence in the United States and excited about what it means for our common future.

A year ago next week I set out on my journey to Africa. It was, for me, for my wife, and for many people who took that trip, an utterly unforgettable and profoundly moving experience. I went to Africa in the hope not only that I would learn but that the process of the trip itself and the publicity that our friends in the press would give it would cause Americans and Africans to see each other in a new light, not denying the lingering effects of slavery, colonialism, the cold war, but to focus on a new future, to build a new chapter of history, a new era of genuine partnership.

A year later, we have to say there has been a fair measure of hope, and some new disappointments. War still tears at the heart of Africa. Congo, Sierra Leone, Angola, Sudan have not yet resolved their conflicts. Ethiopia and Eritrea are mired in a truly tragic dispute we have done our best to try to help avoid. Violence still steals innocent lives in the Great Lakes region. In the last year, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam became battlefields in a terrorist campaign that killed and wounded thousands of Africans, along with Americans working there for a different future.

But there have also been promising new developments. The recent elections in Nigeria give Africa's most populous country, finally, a chance to realize its enormous potential. It's transition may not be complete, but let's not forget, just a year ago it was unthinkable. This June, for the first time, South Africa will transfer power from one fully democratic government to another.

More than half the sub-Saharan nations are now governed by elected leaders. Many, such as Benin, Mali, and Tanzania, have fully embraced open government and open markets. Quite a few have recorded strong economic growth, including Mozambique, crippled by civil war not long ago. Ghana's economy has grown by 5 percent a year since 1992.

All of you here have contributed to this progress. All are eager to make the next century better than the last. You share a great responsibility, for you are the architects of Africa's future.

Today I would like to talk about the tangible ways we can move forward with our partnership. Since

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our trip to Africa, my administration has worked hard to do more. We've created a \$ 120 million educational initiative to link schools in Africa to schools in this country. We've created the Great Lakes Justice Initiative to attack the culture of impunity. We have launched a safe skies initiative to increase air links between Africa and the rest of the world; given \$ 30 million to protect food security in Africa and more to be provided during this year. In my budget submission to Congress I have asked for additional funds to cover the cost of relieving another \$ 237 million in African debt on top of the \$ 245 million covered in this year's appropriation.

We're working hard with you to bring an end to the armed conflicts which claim innocent lives and block economic progress, conducting extensive shuttle diplomacy in an effort to resolve the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea. In Sierra Leone, we're doing what we can to reduce suffering and forge a lasting peace. We have provided \$ 75 million in humanitarian assistance over the last 18 months. And with the approval of Congress we will triple our longstanding commitment of support for ECOMOG to conduct regional peacekeeping.

We have also done what we can to build the African Crisis Response Initiative, with members of our military cooperating with African militaries. We've provided \$ 8 million since 1993 to the OAU's Conflict Management Center to support African efforts to resolve disputes and end small conflicts before they explode into large ones.

Nonetheless, we have a lot of ground to make up. For too much of this century, the relationship between the United States and Africa was plagued by indifference on our part. This conference represents an unparalleled opportunity to raise our growing cooperation to the next level. During the next few days we want to talk about how these programs work and hear from you about how we can do better. Eight members of my Cabinet will meet their African counterparts. The message I want your leaders to take home is, this is a partnership with substance, backed by a long-term commitment.

This is truly a relationship for the long haul. We have been too separate and too unequal. We must end that by building a better common future. We need to strive together to do better, with a clear vision of what we want to achieve over the long run. Ten years from now, we want to see more growth rates above 5 percent. A generation from now, we want to see a larger middle class, more jobs and consumers, more African exports, thriving schools filled with children -- boys and girls -- with high expectations and a reasonable chance of fulfilling them.

But we need the tools to get there, the tools of aid, trade, and investment. As I said when I was in Africa, this must not be a choice between aid and trade; we must have both. In my budget request for the next fiscal year, I've asked for an increase of 10 percent in development assistance to Africa. But the aid is about quality and quantity. Our aid programs are developed with your involvement, designed to develop the institutions needed to sustain democracy and to reduce poverty and to increase independence.



To expand opportunity, we also need **trade**. Our administration strongly supports the **Africa Growth and Opportunity Act**, which I said in my State of the Union Address we will work to pass in this session of Congress. The act represents the first step in creating, for the first time in our history, a genuine framework for U.S.-Africa trade relations. It provides immediate benefits to nations modernizing their economies, and offers incentives to others to do the same. It increases U.S. assistance, targeting it where it will do the most good.

The bill clearly will benefit both Africa and the United States. Africans ask for more access to our markets; this bill provides that. You asked that GSP benefits be extended; this bill extends them for 10 years. You said you need more private investment; this bill calls for the creation of two equity investment funds by OPIC, providing up to \$ 650 million to generate private investment in Africa.

We agree that labor concerns are important. This bill removes GSP benefits for any country found to be denying worker rights. You told us we needed to understand more about your views on development. This bill provides a forum for high-level dialog and cooperation.

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It is a principled and pragmatic approach based on what will work. No one is saying it will be easy, but we are resolved to help lower the hurdles left by past mistakes. I believe it represents a strong, achievable, and important step forward. There are many friends of Africa in Congress and many strong opinions about how best to help Africa. I hope they will quickly find consensus. We cannot afford a house divided. Africa needs action now.

There's another crucial way the United States can hasten Africa's integration. One of the most serious issues we must deal with together, and one of truly global importance, is ~~debt relief~~ ^{debt relief}. Today I ask the international community to take actions which could result in forgiving \$ 70 billion in global debt relief -- global debt. Our goal is to ensure that no country committed to fundamental reform is left with a debt burden that keeps it from meeting its people's basic human needs and spurring growth. We should provide extraordinary relief for countries making extraordinary effort to build working economies.

To achieve this goal, in consultation with our Congress and within the framework of our balanced budget, I proposed that we make significant improvements to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative at the Cologne Summit of the G-7 in June. First, a new focus on early relief by international financial institutions, which now reduce debt only at the end of the HIPC program. Combined with ongoing forgiveness of cash flows by the Paris Club, this will substantially accelerate relief from debt payment burden.

Second, the complete forgiveness of all bilateral concessional loans to the poorest countries.

Third, deeper and broader reduction of other bilateral debts, raising the amount to 90 percent.

Fourth, to avoid recurring debt problems, donor countries should commit to provide at least 90 percent of new development assistance on a grant basis to countries eligible for debt reduction.

Fifth, new approaches to help countries emerging from conflicts that have not had the chance to establish reform records, and need immediate relief and concessional finance.

And sixth, support for gold sales by the IMF to do its part, and additional contributions by us and other countries to the World Bank's trust fund to help meet the cost of this initiative.

Finally, we should be prepared to provide even greater relief in exceptional cases where it could make a real difference.

What I am proposing is debt reduction that is deeper and faster. It is demanding, but to put it simply, the more debtor nations take responsibility for pursuing sound economic policies, the more creditor nations must be willing to provide debt relief.

One of the best days of my trip last year was the day I opened an investment center in Johannesburg, named after our later Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown, a true visionary who knew that peace, democracy, and prosperity would grow in Africa with the right kind of support. I can't think of a better tribute to him than our work here today, for he understood that Africa's transformation will not happen overnight but, on the other hand, that it should happen and that it could happen.

Look at Latin America's progress over the last decade. Look at Asia before that. In each case, the same formula worked: Peace, open markets, democracy, and hard work lifted hundreds of millions of people from poverty. It has nothing to do with latitude and longitude or religion or race. It has everything to do with an equal chance and smart decisions.

There are a thousand reasons Africa and the United States should work together for the 21st century, reasons buried deep in our past, reasons apparent in the future just ahead. It is the right thing to do, and it is in the self-interest of all the peoples represented in this room today. Africa obviously matters to the 30 million Americans who trace their roots there. But Africa matters to all Americans. It provides 13 percent of our oil, nearly as much as the middle East. Over 100,000 American jobs

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depend upon our exports to Africa; there could be millions more when Africa realizes its potential. As Africa grows it will need what we produce, and we will need what Africa produces.

Africa is home to 700 million people, nearly a fifth of the world. Last year our growing relationship with this enormous market helped to protect the United States from the global financial crisis raging elsewhere. While exports were down in other parts of the world, exports from the United States to Africa actually went up by 8 percent, topping \$ 6 billion. As wise investors have discovered, investments in Africa pay. In 1997 the rate of return of American investments in Africa was 36 percent, compared with 16 percent in Asia, 14 percent worldwide, 11 percent in Europe.

As has already been said, we share common health and environmental concerns with people all over the world, and certainly in Africa. If we want to deal with the problems of global warming and climate change, we must deal in partnership with Africa. If we want to deal with a whole array of public health problems that affect not only the children and people of Africa but people throughout the rest of the world, we must do it in partnership with Africa.

Finally, I'd like to just state a simple truth that guides our relations with all nations. Countries that are democratic, peaceful, and prosperous are good neighbors and good partners. They help respond to crises. They respect the environment. They abide by international law. They protect their working people and their consumers. They honor women as well as men. They give all their children a chance.

There are 46 nations represented here today, roughly a quarter of all the countries on Earth. You share a dazzling variety of people and languages and traditions. The world of the 21st century needs your strength, your contribution, your full participation in the struggle to unleash the human potential of people everywhere.

Africa is the ancient cradle of humanity. But it is also a remarkably young continent, full of young people with an enormous stake in the future. When I traveled through the streets of the African cities and I saw the tens of thousands, the hundreds of thousands of young people who came out to see me, I wanted them to have long, full, healthy lives. I tried to imagine what their lives could be like if we could preserve the peace, preserve freedom, extend genuine opportunity, give them a chance to have a life that was both full of liberty and ordered, structured chances -- chances that their parents and grandparents did not know.

The Kanuri people of Nigeria, Niger, and Chad say, "Hope is the pillar of the world." The last decade proves that hope is stronger than despair if it is followed by action. Action is the mandate of this conference.

Let us move beyond words and do what needs to be done. For our part, that means debt relief, passage of the "Africa Growth and Opportunity Act," appropriate increases in assistance, and a genuine sense of partnership and openness to future possibilities. For your part, it means continuing the work of building the institutions that bring democracy and peace, prosperity and equal opportunity.

We are ending a decade, the 1990's, that began with a powerful symbol. I will never forget the early Sunday morning in 1990 when I got my daughter up and took her down to the kitchen to turn on the television so that she could watch Nelson Mandela walk out of his prison for the last time. She was just a young girl, and I told her that I had the feeling that this would be one of the most important events of her lifetime, in terms of its impact on the imagination of freedom-loving people everywhere.

We could not have known then, either she or I or my wife, that we would have the great good fortune to get to know Mr. Mandela and see his generosity extended to our family and to our child, as it has been to children all over his country. But in that walk, we saw a continent's expression of dignity, of self-respect, of the soaring potential of the unfettered human spirit.

For a decade, now, the people of South Africa and the people of Africa have been trying to make the

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symbol of that walk real in the lives of all the people of the continent. We still have a long way to go. But let us not forget how far we have come. And let us not forget that greatness resides not only in the people who lead countries and who overcome persecutions but in the heart and mind of every child and every person there is the potential to do better, to reach higher, to fulfill dreams. It is our job to give all the children of Africa the chance to do that.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:38 a.m. in the Loy Henderson Auditorium at the State Department. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yousouf Ouedraogo and Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim, Organization of African Unity (OAU); United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; and President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. The President also referred to the Economic Community of West African States Observer Group (ECOMOG) and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

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Public Papers of the Presidents

June 17, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 898

LENGTH: 2015 words

HEADLINE: Remarks Announcing the Africa Trade Initiative

BODY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Micek, for your testimony and your work. Congressman Crane, Congressman Rangel, Congressman McDermott, thank you all for what you have said today, and even more important, for what you have done.

Mr. Ambassador, to you thank you for your words. And to all of your colleagues, welcome and thank you for coming and for being a part of this important initiative, for testifying before the Congress and giving your ideas to help us put this together.

Thank you, Senator Lugar, for your leadership in the Senate on this issue. I thank all the Members of Congress who are here. There are so many, I think just to show you the depth of the interest, I would like to ask the Members of the House who are here to stand and be recognized so you can see them all. Thank you.

I thank Secretaries Glickman, Daley, Slater, and Herman for being here; Ambassador Richardson, Ambassador Barshefsky, our AID Administrator Brian Atwood; the Director of the USIA, Joe Duffy; the new leader of the ExIm Bank, Jim Harmon, thank you for being here.

There are so many people from the business community here and distinguished American citizens -- I do think I would be remiss if I did not especially thank Jack Kemp. Thank you for coming. And thank you, Jim Wolfensohn, for coming. And now he will go back to the World Bank and write the appropriate checks, I know. [Laughter]

Thank you, Mayor Dinkins, for being here. Thank you, Reverend Sullivan. I thank Maxine Waters, who is chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, for the emphasis she has put on Africa. And many of the members here, most recently Congresswoman McKinney, have talked to me about Africa on a regular basis.

But I would be remiss if I did not thank four people especially who are personally responsible for making sure that I know about Africa. First, Congressman Donald Payne, thank you, sir, for all the times you have talked to me about it. Thank you, Congressman Bill Jefferson. Thank you Andy Young, Reverend Andrew Young, thank you. Andy Young was talking to me about Africa before he ever thought I would be in a position to do anything about it. [Laughter] And I would like to say a special word of thanks to C. Payne Lucas and the Corporate Council on Africa for the wonderful work they have done. Thank you, sir.

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~~This is a moment of tremendous promise for the people of Africa.~~ For the last 4 years we have tried to put our country in a position to be more active on Africa than we have been in the past. We had the first White House Conference on Africa. We have done a number of things. I think it's fair to say that the trip that Hillary and our daughter took to Africa was one of the most meaningful experiences they have had. I think it changed Hillary forever. I know it changed what I now believe I know and feel about what we should be doing forever. And so, I'd like to thank her for that because I think she's done a fine job on that.

We look at Africa today as a continent full of bright hopes and persistent problems. Everyone knows about the conflict; they make a lot of news, from Sudan to Sierra Leone. We know that we have a responsibility to continue to work for peace in Africa's troubled areas. But somehow, we have to find a way to highlight and celebrate Africa's successes, and yes, even to participate in them in ways that work to the advantage of the American people. We have to dedicate ourselves to seeing that these gains will not only be maintained but will be enhanced.

These stories don't make the headlines, but there really is a dynamic new Africa out there and the far greater number of nations there are now making dramatic strides toward democracy and prosperity. Since 1990, the number of democracies in Sub-Saharan Africa has more than quadrupled. Now more than half the region's 48 states have freely chosen their leaders. Many are embracing economic reform, opening markets, privatizing, stabilizing their currencies. Growth has more than tripled since 1990. The economies in such countries as Senegal, Ghana, Mozambique, Cote d'Ivoire are expanding at rates up to 7 percent a year. Ethiopia was not long ago gripped by famine; it grew 12 percent last year. Uganda, once a byword for tragedy, has become a magnet for investment; it grew almost 10 percent last year.

~~As Africa's nations join the global march toward freedom and open markets, our Nation has a deep interest in helping to ensure that these efforts pay off. An Africa that is gaining vitality while technology, trade, communications, and travel are bringing millions into the global economy is a continent of greater stability, growing markets, stronger partners. A nation that can help us work for peace, to preserve the environment, to fight disease, to grow our own economy, that's a nation, wherever it is located on the globe, that America should be a good partner to, should be involved with, should be committed to building the future with.~~

Today, I am proud to announce our collective effort with the Congress to help fulfill the promise of a stable, prosperous, and democratic Africa. And like Congressman Rangel and Congressman Moran before me, I want to say to you, Congressman Crane, and to you, Senator Lugar, we are well aware of the numbers in the United States Congress, and we would not be here today if there weren't a number of Republicans in leadership positions who care deeply about the future of Africa. And we thank you for that.

~~This new initiative upon which we have agreed has five key elements.~~

~~First,~~ at the heart of our effort will be ~~significantly increased access to our markets for African exports.~~ African countries will be able to export almost 50 percent more products to the United States duty free. The most committed African reformers will receive even greater access. And in the future, the United States will be prepared to negotiate free trade agreements with these countries.

~~Second,~~ we will ~~increase technical assistance~~ to enable African countries to take the fullest advantage of these new programs.

~~Third,~~ we will ~~work to increase private investment in Africa.~~ Through ~~OPIC,~~ we are creating a new \$ 150 million equity fund to finance increased private investment, and a \$ 500 million fund for infrastructure investment in the Sub-Saharan region.

~~Fourth,~~ we will ~~work to eliminate bilateral debt~~ for the poorest of the reforming nations, and maintain our leadership in the effort to reduce their debts to the multilateral Institutions. I heard you, Mr. Ambassador, and I know that you're right.

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to maintain our momentum, the United States will hold ~~annual economic meetings~~ at the ministerial level with all reforming African nations.

~~as we deepen our commerce, I believe there will be a continued need for bilateral and multilateral development assistance. We know that. I am committed to maintaining funds for the USAID programs, the international financial institutions, and IDA. But aid cannot substitute for economic reform. We know that we must have both.~~

Our initiative opens the door to real, positive change. Only nations carrying out serious reforms will reap the full benefits. Those who strengthen their democracies and invest in their people will see their efforts pay off in increased trade that will create new jobs, increase wages, spur growth, and improve the quality of lives of people who have suffered some of the world's worst poverty.

~~As these economies grow, America's prosperity and our security will benefit. The potential of a Sub-Saharan market with some 700 million people is truly immense. The United States supplies just 7 percent of Africa's imports today, but already that supports 100,000 American jobs. Just imagine what this initiative can mean to the United States, as well as to Africa.~~ Mr. Micek's company has shown what we can do for Africa and for our own people.

I also want to emphasize to all of you that ~~this is about more than economics. A stronger, stable, prosperous Africa will be a better partner for security and peace, will join us in the fight against the new common threats of drug trafficking, international crime, terrorism, the spread of disease, environmental degradation.~~ We need partners in Africa on every single one of these issues, and in the years ahead we will have to have more of them.

Everyone who has looked at the future, who has predicted the challenges we will face, knows that the globalization of our societies will mean that all these problems will be transnational. They will cross all borders. They will sweep across continents. They will move in the flash of an eye, and we must be ready to work together.

By transforming our trade, I'd like to say one other personal thing. We're building on the legacy of another person who is not here, the late Ron Brown, who believed so much in the promise of Africa.

It builds on our work to resolve conflicts in Liberia, Burundi, Angola; to save hundreds of thousands of lives at risk from famine in Somalia and the Horn of Africa; to save so many in Rwanda and Burundi from the adversities they have faced. We are proud of our support for democratic transition and reconciliation in South Africa and for elections throughout the continent. We are proud when President Mandela takes the lead in trying to restore peace and harmony to troubled lands. And I love to see the United States not in a leadership position but in a position of saying, we support President Mandela. And I want more of that to occur.

I do look forward to visiting Africa later this term to pay tribute to the nations that have made such historic progress. And as has already been indicated by previous speakers, I do intend in Denver in just a few days to ask our partners from the other leading industrial democracies to join us in this effort. We have to work so that all of our nations coordinate policies toward Africa so that we can all encourage reform in trade and investment and relief to heavily indebted countries and so that we can all participate not only in the responsibilities but in the benefits of a growing, prosperous, freer Africa.

I will ask our partners to join us in urging the international financial institutions, the World Bank, the IMF, the Africa Development Bank, as well as the United Nations, to create innovative new programs so that reforming African nations can succeed in integrating themselves into the global economy.

And if we all persist at this, if we keep working at this, then people will look back at this moment as a pivotal one for Africa, for America, and for the global community. The Members of Congress of both parties who have shown such leadership in this effort have recognized that a prosperous, democratic America in the 21st century needs a prosperous, democratic Africa.

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They are committed to cementing the ties of culture that bind us in heritage. And I might say, this is just the latest sterling example of ~~what happens when we put the interests of our people and the values of our country throughout the world first and foremost.~~ When we get beyond our partisan differences and reach to the depths of the human spirit and give light to our vision, we prove that we can ~~advance the cause of America, improve the lives of our people, and, in this case, give hope to hundreds of millions living on the African continent.~~

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:07 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Ernest Micek, chief executive officer, Cargill, Inc.; Ambassador Roble Olhaye of Djibouti; Jack Kemp, 1996 Republican candidate for Vice President; James D. Wolfensohn, president, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; David Dinkins, chairman of the board, Constituency for Africa; Reverend Leon H. Sullivan, chairman and founder, Opportunities Industrialization Centers International; former Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young; C. Payne Lucas, president, Africare; and State President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

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Public Papers of the Presidents, November 30, 1993

Public Papers of the Presidents

November 30, 1993

CITE: 29 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2472

LENGTH: 3626 words

HEADLINE: The President's News Conference With President Ramiro De Leon of Guatemala

BODY:

President Clinton. Good morning. This morning it was my great honor to welcome seven outstanding Central American leaders to the White House: President Cristiani of El Salvador, President Endara of Panama, President Callejas of Honduras, President Calderon of Costa Rica, President Chamorro of Nicaragua, President De Leon of Guatemala, and Prime Minister Esquivel of Belize.

These leaders have made an historic contribution to our hemisphere by helping to build democracy and peace in a region that until very recently was riven by civil strife. I'm grateful that they were able to break away from the Miami conference on the Caribbean, which they are attending with leaders from the private sector, from throughout the Caribbean Basin, to discuss ways to advance regional prosperity.

President De Leon has struggled heroically on behalf of democracy and human rights in Guatemala. And he's just achieved an important political accord that will bring more accountable government to his nation. President Cristiani played a central role in ending El Salvador's civil war and has been critical to the success of the peace accords. President Chamorro has worked hard to bring reconciliation and democracy to Nicaragua. I want to acknowledge President Callejas for his leadership in consolidating democracy in Honduras and President Calderon for advancing Costa Rica's traditions of social justice and the rule of law. President Endara has safeguarded Panama's return to democracy. And Prime Minister Esquivel has earned praise for his government's sound economic policies and his own personal integrity.

~~For years, a few regions of our world endured more suffering than Central America. But today, few regions are better poised to reap the benefits of the end of the cold war.~~ This is the first time in the 20th century that all of these nations have come here to the White House to meet the President of the United States, every one of them being headed by democratically elected leaders. It is an historic and very important moment.

The people of Central America are clearly dedicated to ~~the harvest of reconstruction and renewal. They are re-healing divided societies, reviving stalled economies, and working toward closer integration among themselves and their other neighbors.~~ My message today to these distinguished leaders and the millions whom they represent is simple: ~~the United States will be there as your partner to help.~~ We will not make the mistake of abandoning this region when its dramatic recovery is not yet complete. We will remain engaged to help Central America attain peace, consolidate democracy, protect human rights, and achieve sustainable development. ~~Our Nation has a direct stake in Central~~

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America's stability and prosperity. The United States exports \$6 billion in goods to these countries,
 supporting over 100,000 American jobs.

Today we discussed steps that Central America's nations can take to strengthen our economic ties, including further trade liberalization and better protection of worker rights, intellectual property, and the environment. We also discussed the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which all of these leaders strongly supported. The Vice President is leaving this afternoon for Mexico where he will deliver a major address on American engagement in Latin America. This morning we agreed that NAFTA's historic passage can serve as a catalyst for the expansion of free trade to other market democracies throughout the hemisphere, something I have long supported. And we shared concerns about NAFTA's potential short-term effects on the flow of trade and investment to central America. I pledged that my administration will work with Congress and Central American governments to design affirmative strategies to stimulate regional trade.

As our economic relationship evolves, so must the nature of the United States support for economic development in Central America. We will continue bilateral aid programs. At the same time, the region's rising creditworthiness has allowed international financial institutions to increase their role, and we strongly support that. ~~We will work to develop a new, more mature economic partnership with Central America based on trade expansion, multilateral support for economic reforms, and better coordination of bilateral and multilateral aid programs.~~

These leaders today have told us that they seek to work together to become a model region for sustainable development. And we are prepared to work with them in that enterprise. I can think of no more important common endeavor.

With the elections of the last several years, democracy has taken root in Central America's rugged terrain. Now the challenge facing this region is to build democratic institutions that endure, that are honest, that are responsive, that are effective. We are prepared to work closely with Central America to promote reform in the judiciary, the civil service, education, and health care. Good governance will advance our mutual objectives to bolster democracy, promote social opportunity, and clear the path for freer trade.

Just a few years ago, this morning's meeting would have been literally unthinkable. Now, in the midst of this great progress, it would be unthinkable for us not to meet. The prosperity and security of this hemisphere which we share depends more than ever on our continued cooperation.

It is now my honor to introduce President De Leon, who will also speak for his fellow Central American leaders.

Mr. President.

President De Leon. Thank you very much. Good morning. At this time of great and transcendental changes in the world order, in Central America, in the United States, and especially in our reciprocal relations, today we just had a Presidential meeting which we consider not only a very pleasant one but an extremely constructive one. We were able to exchange with President Clinton, whom we would like to thank for his invitation, our points of view on issues and problems of great importance having to do with our bilateral relationship as well as recent events in Central America on the one hand and in the United States on the other hand.

I would like to summarize what we have discussed as follows. As far as democracy and governance, first of all we underscored the efforts made in our region for the consolidation of pluralistic and participatory systems, giving special priority to respect for individual, civil, and political human rights, which have shown great progress in the recent years in the solution of the great conflicts we have.

We showed that we Central American countries continue to work to achieve true participatory democracy involving growth with social justice and without confrontation and that solidarity and dialog are essential principles to which we are giving priority as the underpinnings of the

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35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 384

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Public Papers of the Presidents

March 9, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 384**LENGTH:** 861 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to the Community at the Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras**BODY:**

President Flores, Colonel Ramirez, General Wilhelm, Colonel Rosner, members of the Honduran and American militaries, to the people of Honduras, the American delegation and Members of Congress who came here with me, ladies and gentleman. Yesterday in Nicaragua, today in Honduras, we see that this disaster has taught us that what happens to one in the Americas affects us all. It reminds us that in good times and bad, *todos somos Americanos*.

Mr. President, I thank you for your kind words about the First Lady. I spoke with Hillary last night, and she asked me to give you her best. She remembers so well her trip here, and she wishes you well.

Mr. President, as our military leaders know, at this Honduran air base, our Armed Forces trained together for this sort of disaster just a few months before the storm. When the real test came, they passed with flying colors.

This long runway, turned into a lifeline, connected the countries all over the world. Over 47 million pounds of supplies came through here. Helicopters performed daring rescues and delivered food; engineers repaired roads; medical teams gave treatment and comfort; relief workers provided clean water, built schools and shelters, and restored faith in the future that nearly washed away.

Operation Fuerte Apoyo turned into one of the largest humanitarian missions performed by the United States military since the Berlin airlift 50 years ago. To all who were a part of it, I thank you for your courage, your confidence, your compassion.

I believe the United States must do more. I have asked Congress for \$ 956 million to support the reconstruction effort in Central America. We expect almost a third of that to come to Honduras to improve public health, to build homes and schools, to rebuild roads so farmers can move their produce to market, and to prepare for future hurricanes. It will also forgive and defer Honduran debt, and it will be targeted to local communities to make sure the people who need it get the assistance.

I would also like to announce \$ 56 million to expand our New Horizons program which brings civilian guardsmen and reservists to the region for 2 weeks of training and relief work.

Mr. President, I know Hondurans are determined not just to rebuild but actually to create something better out of this tragedy: to build a reconstruction that protects the environment so that people are not exposed to unnecessary risks in the next storm; to build a reconstruction that ensures that those

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who suffered most participate fully and benefit equally; to build a reconstruction that consolidates democracy by engaging local government, NGO's, and the private sector.

I would like to especially thank the members of our Armed Forces for their hard work to advance these goals, for their enthusiasm and good cheer, even when you have to sleep in hootches in Tent City -- [laughter] -- for your cooperation between the services and between our U.S. personnel and our Honduran hosts. You have shown the people of Central America the true colors of our men and women in uniform.

Today I am proud to announce the award of Humanitarian Service Medals to all those members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in support of the relief effort in Central America. And to announce that I have just presented to Colonel Rosner a Joint Meritorious Unit Award to JTF Bravo for its sustained commitment to our mission in this region. Congratulations on a job well done.

Later today I will see the Juan Molina Bridge in Tegucigalpa. It was built jointly with U.S. assistance and Honduran efforts. I can't think of a better symbol of JTF Bravo's efforts or our cooperation, building bridges between people and nations in Central America, with Central America itself the bridge between North and South America.

In this tragedy's aftermath, Hondurans and Americans have given new meaning to the words written by Juan Molina in his poem "Eagles and Condors": *Pueblos Americanos en este continente debemos ser hermanos*.

Not far from here is Comayagua, the old capital of Honduras, built because it was near the center of Central America and of the entire New World. That city boasts a clock said to be the oldest in the Americas, made by Spanish-Moors in the 12th century. When that clock began ticking, about 900 years ago, the world was a smaller place in every way. Now that clock is ticking away the final hours and days of the 20th century, headed toward a new millennium. But one thing remains as true today as the day the clock was built: We humans still have the urge to chart a new course for the future and the obligation to make it a better one for our children.

Thanks to your work here, a new and better world truly lies within our grasp. Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in Hanger 1 at the Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. In his remarks, he referred to President Carlos Roberto Flores of Honduras; Col. Alberto Ramirez-Mathia, Honduran Base Commander; Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm, USMC, Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command; and Col. Elliot J. Rosner, USA, Commander, Joint Task Force Bravo.

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From: Malibea Burguillo, *MB* Assistant to the
Chief of Staff

Company: OPIC
Phone: 202-336-7946
Fax: 202-408-5133

Date: 5/17/00

**Pages including this
cover page:** 2

COMMENTS: Please find attached a letter from OPIC Chief of Staff,
Nelson Reyneri.



cc: Jeff She501

Deliverable

For tomorrow's signing event, OPIC would like to offer the President, as a deliverable, the following idea.

"I've asked George Munoz, the President of OPIC, to host an investment conference in Panama in July. This conference will highlight the new opportunities that exist for American investors in a post CBI world. The conference will bring together American investors, lenders and companies from the region seeking US partners, and will help increase opportunities and job creation at home and abroad".

Background

The mission of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is to support investment by U.S. companies, especially small and medium sized companies, in developing countries that are of strategic interest to the United States of America.

Central America and the Caribbean are high priority regions where OPIC has a critical role to play in promoting U.S. private sector involvement in economic development. President Clinton and Vice President Gore, together with the U.S. Congress, have requested that U.S. trade and investment agencies take action to raise awareness of the economic ties that the U.S. has to the region and help U.S. companies tap into the potential of the region.

OPIC has an impressive record of success in this area. We have supported approximately \$3.2 billion in investments in Central America and the Caribbean over the last five years. We have also identified \$2 billion in additional projects that are in various stages of development. These projects are in such sectors as power, communications, agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing. OPIC can help these projects through our loan and loan guarantee programs of up to \$200 million; by providing political risk insurance that covers expropriation, political violence, and currency inconvertibility; and through our support of private equity funds.

Action

For more information, please contact Nelson Reyneri, Chief of Staff, at 202/ 336-7942; 202/669-9455 cell; nreyn@opic.gov

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Public Papers of the Presidents

March 11, 1999**CITE:** 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 401**LENGTH:** 3832 words**HEADLINE:** *Closing Remarks at the Central America Summit in Antigua and an Exchange With Reporters***BODY:**

The President. Good afternoon. President Aleman, thank you for your words and your leadership. President Arzu, thank you so much for bringing us to this magnificent place and for hosting this very valuable meeting. To all my fellow leaders of the Americas, I thank you for the examples you are setting within your countries and by working together.

As we see here in Guatemala and, indeed, in all the nations represented in this extraordinary region, they are blessed with natural and with man-made monuments of ancient grace and spectacular beauty. Now the people have built a new monument -- also spectacular and, hopefully, just as enduring -- the monument of peace.

Kosovo

Because of developments in Washington and in Europe, I hope my fellow leaders will forgive me if I take my only opportunity today to appear before the press to say something about another area in which we are working for peace -- in Kosovo, where a serious civil conflict has been occurring and where much bloodshed might still occur.

Today our House of Representatives in Washington is debating a resolution on the potential deployment of American troops. I hope the House will act in a way that supports our efforts to achieve a strong peace agreement. I have and will continue to work closely with the Congress as we seek to bring peace to Kosovo. As I have repeatedly said, a final decision on whether we would send our troops as part of a peace force depends upon the achievement of a genuine agreement, on an immediate cease-fire, on rapid withdrawal of most Serbian security forces, and demilitarization of the insurgents.

Both sides must agree to a NATO force. Europe's troops must make up the great majority of the forces. And we must have a NATO strategy that includes a clear plan for bringing our forces home. If, and only if, these conditions are met, I strongly believe United States forces should contribute to securing the peace in Kosovo. We have a strong stake in bringing peace there, just as we have a strong stake in peace in Central America. If we don't end the conflict now, it will spread; and when it does, we will not be able to avoid participating in stopping it; and when we do, it will come at far greater risk and far greater cost.

Central America Summit

Now, let me talk a moment about what we have met about today, how to turn this region of peace and shared values into a region of joint endeavors and common progress. I have made it clear that the United States supports greater debt relief, and I outlined my proposal for that; that we support more open trade to create jobs and opportunity through an enhanced initiative of the Caribbean Basin, the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, and eventually through a free-trade area of the Americas.

We also discussed other economic issues: what can be done to increase investment in tourism, what can be done in the environment. Our United States Agency for International Development, I am pleased to say, will contribute another \$ 25 million to support CONCAUSA, the agreement we signed in 1994 in Costa Rica to promote environmental cooperation among us. This contribution will help the people of Central America to protect their forests and costlands, to reduce industrial pollution, to fight climate change.

We talked a lot about immigration, as you might imagine. I reaffirmed my intention to support our immigration laws fairly and justly but to work strongly for the elimination of any disparities in our law so that they treat Central Americans equitably, whatever their country of origin.

We also spoke today about the danger of gangs and guns and drugs. In many ways, they represent the final stage of Central America's internal conflicts. We talked about what we could do together to combat them.

Let me just say in closing that this has been a very moving trip for me, personally. When my wife came here a few months ago, in the aftermath of the hurricane, she came home and talked to me a lot about what she saw and what people were doing. But no description can adequately replace the personal experiences of what I have seen.

In Honduras and Nicaragua, I met people who were devastated, but undaunted, determined to rebuild in a way that reinforces the transformation of this region. In El Salvador, and today in Guatemala, I have been privileged to see two nations that have found the courage to face a painful past and move forward to build a truly hopeful future.

At this summit I have seen Central America's leaders working together for the future. And I have tried to demonstrate that for the future, beyond the service of my Presidency, America must be a partner and a friend, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is in our interest to do so.

We have never been closer to realizing the dream of a hemispheric community based on genuine respect and genuine partnership. Something great has happened here in Central America in the last decade. As we move out of the past and away from the damage of the hurricanes, we do so in a way that we are determined to see this area emerge from adversity, in a way that places all of us on higher ground. I am proud to have been given the chance to be a part of it.

Thank you very much.

Global Strategy for Central America

Q. Good afternoon to all the Presidents. My question is for the President of the United States, Mr. Clinton. What do you think of the statement by President Alvaro Arzu with regard to the need to have a global strategy, a long-term strategy for the Central American region?

The President. I think he's right about that. One of the things that I pointed out in our morning meeting is that Central America, for all of its economic difficulties, basically is being well managed. And I believe that if there were a way for all these leaders together to demonstrate to the world that they are determined to avoid the kinds of financial problems and economic problems, for example, that have caused such trouble in Asia and, frankly, caused difficulties for all developing economies -- caused the interest rates for funds even in Central America to go up -- if there were a way for this

region to say as a region, look, we know what caused those problems there; we're not going to do that here; this is a good place to invest -- then I believe not just the United States but people in Europe, people in South America, people in Asia would be far more likely to invest here, to bring Central America not just into a better partnership with the United States but with all the world in a way that would lift the lives of people here.

So I agree with President Arzu that there should be a global strategy. But I believe that because we're neighbors, for the foreseeable future, for the next 50 years, our major economic relationship should be one with another. And that imposes special responsibilities on the United States, but it also gives us a lot of opportunities.

The President said to me, and I'd like to say to my fellow Americans not only here but those who might be listening to this press conference or who will hear the reports of it, that our trade with Central America far outstrips our trade with countries that are much, much larger than the combined population of Central America. And it has an enormous potential to benefit not just the people of this region but the people of the United States, as well.

U.S. Congress and Kosovo/Apologies for Past Administrations

Q. For President Clinton. Mr. President, particularly given that part of your reason for being down here is to express your regret and apologies for what past White Houses have done over the objections of Congress, can you please explain why it is that your administration has been so adamant about Congress not registering its opinion on the situation in Kosovo, and what exactly is your exit strategy if U.S. troops are sent over there?

The President. Well, first of all, Congress has a right to express its opinion on anything it likes. I have two things to say about it. One is, it's premature. I do not believe that -- until we know that we have maximized the chances for both sides to say yes to the peace agreement -- it's not at all clear that they will -- I do not believe that the Congress should take any action that will, in effect, preempt the peace process or encourage either side to say no to it. So I thought it was premature. I don't object to Congress expressing its opinion on anything. That's their job.

Secondly, every President has reserved the right to both receive the advice and consent and support or endure the opposition of Congress, but not to give up the constitutional responsibility to deploy United States forces in peacetime. And I think that my predecessors were right about that.

It's not that -- what I apologized for has nothing to do with the fact that there was a difference between the policy of the administration and the Congress in previous years, going back for decades, and including administrations of both parties. It is that the policy of the executive branch was wrong. And what we're doing here is in the open; it's not a secret.

What was your other question? Oh, the exit strategy. Well, the exit strategy should be defined by the missions. You will be able to see that we have an exit strategy if we define the missions properly -- just as in Bosnia we defined the missions and we have cut, I think, reduced our troop strength by more than 70 percent now. And we continue to bring them down.

I'm in a sort of a double bind here, you know. We tried in Bosnia to give a date certain for when we thought we could withdraw, based on what the Pentagon said they believed would happen in cooperation with our other agencies. We turned out to be wrong. Then people said, "Well, maybe the President misled us about how long we would stay there."

So we decided in Kosovo the right thing to do was to say what the benchmarks of the mission would be, and the Congress has to approve money every year for such things so they would be able every year to see whether we were meeting the benchmarks, but we wouldn't mislead them about knowing in advance exactly how long it would take. So when we did it that way, then people said, "Well, we're making an open-ended commitment." That's not true. I don't intend to make an open-ended commitment; I think that would be wrong.

Guatemalan Peace Process

Q. Question for the President of the United States, Bill Clinton. What is your personal opinion of the peace process of Guatemala?

The President. Well, first of all, I think the fact that you had elections and that people are free to speak their minds, that I met with an elected Vice President of Guatemala, who is a representative of the indigenous population, yesterday, that the differences are freely expressed, and that according to President Arzu, you have a free and sometimes contentious and critical press -- I'd say that's all healthy.

I also think this commission report was a brave thing to do. And I think you know that the United States supports the peace process, including the effort to find the truth, even if it's not that favorable to the United States. We contributed a million and a half dollars to the work of the commission; we declassified 4,000 documents at the request of the commission. So I basically support what you are trying to do, strongly.

No nation can tell another exactly how to come to terms with its past and to move into the future. And the answer will necessarily be different from nation to nation. What South Africa did, what Chile did, what El Salvador did will not necessarily work in Guatemala. Neither will what you do necessarily work for some other country. The main thing is, is there an honest effort being made to bring about reconciliation and the rule of law and human rights and genuine freedom? And I don't think there is any question that Guatemala has been moving in the right direction. And for that, all of us who believe in freedom and human rights can be grateful.

Chinese Nuclear Espionage/Calls for NSC Director's Resignation

Q. President Clinton, did your administration ignore evidence of nuclear espionage by the Chinese in order to further your policy of engagement? And what do you have to say to Republicans calling for Sandy Berger's resignation?

The President. Well, first of all, we did not ignore evidence. Quite the contrary; we acted on it. Let me say for the benefit of all the press, both American and others, looking at this issue there are two questions that need to be looked at separately. One is, did we respond in an appropriate, timely, and aggressive way to indications of espionage? The second is, is our policy toward China of engagement the right one?

Now, the answer to the first question is, I believe the record is clear that we did respond in an appropriate way. In 1996 we were notified that there was some indication of a breach of security at one of the energy labs and that the appropriate agencies were investigating. The appropriate congressional committees were notified at the same time. Since then, they have received at least 16 briefings on this issue.

Now, in 1997, in July, we were notified that the scope of the potential espionage might be very broad and might be directly related to lax security at the energy labs. At that time, we moved quickly and decisively not only with the continuing FBI investigation and with the CIA review but also with an intense review of the counterintelligence capacities of our energy department labs.

As a result of that, in February of '98, I signed a Presidential directive to dramatically improve the counterintelligence capacities of the lab. In April of '98 we set up a counterintelligence office by the energy labs, headed by a 35-year FBI veteran with a record of dealing with espionage. We doubled the counterintelligence budget. We raised the standards for foreign visitors to the labs; we said foreign scientists had to be accompanied to the labs. I think we began to polygraph DOE employees at some point. Only two agencies, DOE and the CIA, have their employees subject to polygraphs.

Simultaneous with that, in terms of technology controls, we subject China to the tightest restrictions of technology transfer that we have on any country that is not on an embargo list for the United States. So I think the record is that we acted aggressively. I think Mr. Berger acted appropriately,

and therefore, I would not release him or ask for his resignation. I just don't think there's any evidence to support that.

Now, let me say, the second question -- and this affects the welfare of everybody else in the world, if you realize how China is growing, both economically and the size of their population; this affects the welfare of every person in Central America -- whether the United States and China are at odds in a conflict or have a constructive relationship that has honest disagreements, where nobody is under any illusions that the facts are different than they are.

I would argue that our efforts to have an honest and open policy with China, so that they don't think that we have made a decision in advance to try to contain and limit them in their economic growth and their development as a nation, has paid dividends. I do not believe that China would have signed the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; I do not believe they would have practiced the restraint they have practiced in the transfer of various dangerous materials to countries like Iran and Pakistan if we had not been constructively engaged with them.

I do not believe that we would have had the level of cooperation in Korea in trying to limit North Korea's ability to develop nuclear capacity that we have had. I do not believe we would have had the cooperation we have had in trying to limit the impact of the Asian financial crisis, which has plunged tens of millions of people from the middle class into poverty in Asia, and represents the biggest short-term threat to democracy and to stability in Asia. I do not believe those things would have occurred if we had not had an open, candid, honest relationship with China, aware of all the facts.

Keep in mind, this is about a case that developed in the mid-eighties. We have known about China's nuclear capacity and their capacity to pose a strategic threat and, more or less, what the dimensions of that were since the 1980's. And this raises the question of whether some espionage in the eighties was somehow related to that capacity. We have investigated it; we continue to investigate it. We have dramatically increased our counterintelligence. I believe we have taken all appropriate steps.

I do not believe that that evidence justifies an isolated no-contact relationship with China when we have gotten the benefits not only to ourselves but to the rest of the world of our engagement policy.

Central American Immigrants

Q. I have a question for President Clinton. What are the commitments that the U.S. has acquired with Central America with regard to the migratory problem?

The President. Well, as you know, for one thing, I stayed all the deportations for all the countries affected by the hurricanes. I had to lift the stay for all the countries, other than Honduras and Nicaragua, because under our law a temporary stay because of the collapse, in effect, of the national infrastructure of a country due to natural disaster, is very specific in our law.

The fundamental problem with American law is that, essentially, with regard to people who have been in the United States a long time, is that we treat people from different Central American countries differently based on the source of the oppression of human rights, rather than whether people had hardships that caused them to come to the United States.

The commitment I made was twofold: One, that within the law -- and I brought Doris Meissner, our Immigration Commissioner here with me -- that within the law, I would do all I could to avoid a disruptive return to people because of the law that I think we all admit is unfair; but that in the end, to fix the problem entirely, we would require legislative change. And I would seek that from the Congress, and I believe there is support from Members of both parties for that sort of change.

Now, beyond that, I recognize that most of the people who might still want to come to the United States, particularly in the aftermath of the hurricanes, are not by nature lawbreakers. They're people looking for a better life for themselves and for their families. But we have to enforce our immigration laws. And if we don't, it's not fair not only to people in other parts of the world but to other Central Americans. There are thousands and thousands of Central Americans who have registered to come to

our country under the laws that exist now in a lawful way. There is no reason that people who line up like that and try to do it should be deprived of their legal right to come to the United States as a result of a reaction in our country because of the large flow of illegal immigrants.

So I made a commitment to try to be as reasonable as possible under the existing law, but I have to uphold the law. I made a commitment to try to change the law to treat all people from all Central American countries the same. And finally, let me say, I believe the most important commitment that I made is the commitment on debt relief, to pass our aid package to help the reconstruction effort -- which is a genuine emergency -- to try to expand trade, to try to develop the economy.

In the end, economic development at home will stem the flood of illegal immigration -- genuine opportunities for people -- more than anything else we can do. So those were the commitments that I made.

NATO and Kosovo

Q. President Clinton, you've said often that NATO is prepared to act if the Serbs attacked ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Violence is now on the rise. Why isn't NATO responding, and what are you doing to keep the peace talks from collapsing there?

The President. Well, as you know, Senator Dole has just come back from Kosovo, also I think quite frustrated. The real problem, of course is -- I don't want this to be misinterpreted -- there is no, in my view, moral equivalence between what has been done by the Serbs and what has been done by the Kosovar Albanians to try to secure the autonomy which was unlawfully striped from them a decade ago. But it is clear that in this interim period, when they went home from Rambouillet and they're arguing about whether they should take this peace agreement, there are a lot of tensions and crosscurrents.

The consensus among our NATO allies now is that in the next few days we should be doing everything we possibly can to get these people on both sides to realize that this is -- it is crazy for them to go to war, to kill each other, to compromise their children's future, when they have an agreement which, from the point of view of Mr. Milosevic, only requires him to do what the law requires him to do anyway -- to respect the autonomy of the Kosovar Albanians -- which, from the point of view of the Kosovars, avoids a bloody war and gives them a chance to establish the mechanisms of self-government without foreclosing or guaranteeing a future of independence, to see how they do in the next 3 years.

It seems to me that a present war is the worst of all circumstances. Now, if the prospect of the agreement were totally destroyed by an outright military offensive, I would be the first to argue that our NATO allies have to take action and take action now. But the situation is, frankly -- even though you're absolutely right; there have been some actions by the Serbs -- the situation is sufficiently murky and the present status of the peace agreement and whether either side can bring itself to agree is sufficiently shaky, that all the NATO allies at this moment on this day believe that we should devote all of our energies trying to get the agreement.

But I can speak for myself and, I believe, at least for most of my NATO allies, that if this thing come apart at the seams, we still have a commitment. And I'm determined to honor our commitment.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:07 p.m. in the Casa Santo Domingo, Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to President Arnoldo Aleman of Nicaragua; President Alvaro Arzu and Vice President Luis Alberto Flores of Guatemala; former Senator Bob Dole; and President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The President also referred to the Joint Central American-United States Declaration (CONCAUSA) and Presidential Decision Directive (PDD-61).

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Public Papers of the Presidents

March 10, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 395**LENGTH:** 2383 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion on Peace Efforts in Guatemala City**BODY:**

President Clinton. Thank you very much. Mr. President, first let me say how much I appreciate this opportunity that has been provided for me to meet with citizens of your country to hear about the progress of the peace process and the challenges ahead. Because of the involvement of the United States, I think it is imperative, as we begin, for me just to say a few words about the report of the Historical Clarification Commission.

The commission's work and the support it has received from the government shows how far Guatemala has traveled in overcoming that painful period. I have profound respect for the victims and the families who had courage to testify and for the courage of a nation for coming to terms with its past and moving forward.

For the United States, it is important that I state clearly that support for military forces or intelligence units which engage in violent and widespread repression of the kind described in the report was wrong, and the United States must not repeat that mistake. We must, and we will, instead, continue to support the peace and reconciliation process in Guatemala. As many of you know, we provided one and a half million dollars in support for the commission. We classified over 4,000 documents at the commission's request. Now we will encourage the translation of the report into indigenous languages, and its wide dissemination. Consistent with the commission's recommendations, we also will continue our support of development programs in those communities which suffered most from violence and repression. This year, we plan to provide an additional \$ 25 million to support the peace accords through aid to the justice sector, to education, to literary training, to the generation of income, and to citizen participation in government.

You have come a long way, as President Arzu just said, in forging a consensus in support of democracy and human rights and in finding a way to discuss your differences openly and peaceably. I applaud the difficult but essential effort you have undertaken.

Beyond the commission issues, I would also hope to discuss other matters critical to peace and to development and reconciliation, including economic liberalization, market opening measures, increased trade and investment -- all of which are crucial to the overall well-being of the people of Guatemala. Now that you have chosen democracy and peace, it is imperative that the United States be a good partner in making sure that it works for all your people.

And again, Mr. President, I'd like to thank you and the government and the people of Guatemala for the road you have taken and for making me feel welcome today. Thank you, sir.

[At this point, the discussion continued.]

President Clinton. Well, first of all I would like to say how very impressed I was by the presentations. And I would like to say a few things at the end, but for now, I was asked a couple of questions, so I would like to respond.

First, I was asked about possible opportunities, greater opportunities, for women and young girls and children, generally. I think that the model which has worked best throughout the world for economic empowerment for women has been the whole -- particularly rural women and indigenous populations -- has been the whole concept of microcredit, as I'm sure my wife talked about quite extensively when she was here.

But I think even more important is getting schooling going and providing -- you know, I'm involved in this effort to try to end child labor that's abusive, worldwide. But it's not as -- it's also important to get the children into schools -- all kinds of children -- including the children of indigenous people, and girls as well as boys, for a longer period of time. This is a big problem not just in Latin America; it's a huge problem in Asia; it's a huge problem in Africa. But I think the United States should be heavily involved, particularly in light of our past. We have a heavy responsibility to Guatemala and, indeed, to all of Central America to do more in this area.

I have asked the Congress of the United States to pass an aid package, tied to what happened in the hurricane, of something over \$ 950 million. A lot of it is designed just to support the rebuilding that has to be done, and that is important. But there is quite a lot of money for education and economic development and, to go to another point you made, for the efforts to institutionalize the rule of law, both for commercial and economic reasons and for human rights reasons.

This is an area in which I think those who have and those who have not, in Guatemala and throughout Central America, have a common interest, because the rule of law is essential to get more investment and more economic opportunity and to protect the investments that exist. It is also essential to establish, in an orderly way, human rights and the institutions of justice.

So, Mr. Atwood, our AID Director, is here, and he can talk more about that with you. But we have worked quite hard to put together a package that I hope will be helpful. And I will be prepared, over the next couple of years, to try to do more.

On the question of trade, I sent last Friday to the Congress another bill to try to provide more parity between our trading relationships with Mexico and Canada and our trading relationships with Central America and the Caribbean. And I believe we have a reasonable chance to pass that bill this year. And if we do, it obviously will lead to more opportunities for the sale of Guatemalan products in the United States, and more jobs, therefore, for the people here. I will work very hard to pass it.

I was asked about the immigration issue, and I would like to speak briefly about that. I gave a more extended statement today to the National Assembly of El Salvador, but I will briefly say what I said there.

I think it's important for every country to enforce its immigration laws and try to protect its borders. We have very generous legal immigration laws, and we have many, many immigrants from Central America making a major contribution, positive contribution, to the United States. On the other hand, most of the illegal immigrants from Guatemala and other Central American countries are not lawbreakers by nature; they're people who are seeking a better life. It's hard to leave your family and your home and take the risks inherent in coming to a strange land without the approval of the law. And people do it because they want a better opportunity for themselves and their families.

I think there are two things that should be noted as we do try to enforce our immigration laws. The first is that we have to be sensitive and act with justice and understand the impact of recent events. The second is that the present American law is completely unfair in that it treats different -- people from different countries in Central America differently. And it is a vestige of our, sort of -- kind of, our

cold war mentality and how we were involved here.

I can do two things about that. The first is to try to change the law. And we will aggressively work to try to change the law to get parity, equal treatment for all people from Central America without regard to the political past and whether the difficulties of the past were seen as coming from the right or the left. I think that's irrelevant. We should treat all countries the same.

The second is to use, to the maximum extent possible, whatever flexibility I have under present law to achieve the same goal. I will do that. But in the end, the problem cannot be fixed -- the immigration problem cannot be completely fixed until there is a change in the law so that all countries would be treated the same under the law. And I will actively seek that this year.

Anyway, I think that responds to the questions that were asked of me. If I were to ask a question -- if I could ask one question, I would like to say that, one of you said that we needed a dignification program, with priority given to the widows and orphans. And I would like to know whether you have specific suggestions over and above the programs I have already mentioned for what the United States could do to be helpful to deal with the large number of orphaned children and widows you have? What else could we do? What specific suggestions do you have for me, over and above what has been mentioned?

[The discussion continued.]

President Clinton. Well, I think it is in the nature of such meetings that you only scratch the surface of what needs to be done and what the possibilities are. I will say again, I intend to go back home and do my best to pass the aid package, to pass the trade parity bill, and to get improvements in the immigration difficulties. Within the aid package, we will be able to support education initiatives and economic power initiatives like the women's credit program that President Arzu mentioned.

I think it is important that, after I leave Central America, the United States develop with every country the most specific possible plan for what it is you want to achieve that we can help you achieve, whether it is in dealing with the specific problems of the widows and orphans; the need for the education of the children; the need for the economic empowerment of women; the need for greater efforts with indigenous groups; the need to go further in the search for human rights, the rule of law; how to come to terms with the issues related in the commission report.

And I guess what I would like to leave you with is my commitment that I am willing to continue to push, Mr. President, to have these sorts of specific commitments on the part of the United States so we know we have a good roadmap for where we're going into the future, and you know what you can expect of our partnership. And of course, tomorrow, we'll have a greater chance to talk about what we can do regionally when you get all the Presidents together.

I would like to just leave you with this one thought. For all of your terrible suffering and the continuing difficulties you face, please do not underestimate how far you have come and what you have done. It is my responsibility as President of the United States to travel the world to deal with all of these problems that I see cropping up in other places. You know this, but I would like to just say, the last few years have brought a floodtide of changes in the way people work and live, and in the political and social and economic relationships of people -- the end of the cold war, the growth of the global market, the explosion in information technology -- it has changed everything. And all over the world, people are searching for a new balance.

Most of these changes are good, but there are -- not all of them are good. And they all present people everywhere with dilemmas. There is the question of integration versus disintegration. And I'll give you -- you have it in Guatemala. You want -- how do you balance the need for the nation to be sovereign with the legitimate rights of individuals and groups? How do you balance the need for the nation to be sovereign with the need to have greater cooperation with other countries? How do you balance the need to develop your economy with the imperative of preserving your natural resources? How do you balance the need for security and order with the imperative of individual rights to privacy and liberty and the rule of law, for both commercial and human reasons?

All of these challenges you face are being faced by other people elsewhere. In South Africa, for example, to go back to what many of you talked about, they had this Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which perhaps went a little further than your report. And I thought that they -- we think they're making real progress there. But in the last week, four different political leaders have been killed. In central Africa, where there was tribal slaughter in Rwanda and Burundi, I met with indigenous peoples. I met a woman whose husband and six children were all killed, and she woke up and for some miracle reason she didn't die from the wounds she sustained. And she, like the woman here, is devoting her life to this reconciliation. And I thought we were making progress, and just last week the majority tribe killed a bunch of Americans and other people.

So I say, as awful as this is for you and as frustrating as it is, it is astonishing how much has been done in Guatemala and in the other countries of Central America, and the direction you have taken. For all the economic frustrations you face, you're doing better than many much larger countries in Asia and in Latin America, because you've shown greater discipline and innovation.

So I urge you to not get discouraged, and I urge you to -- I have tried very hard to change the historic relationship between the United States and Central America, to be a genuine partner and to think about the future in different terms. And we won't solve all the problems today or tomorrow, but I think we have to say we are on a different track. We have turned a real corner. And I came here as much as anything else just to express my respect for you and to ask you not to get too discouraged.

You think about Europe as being a very rich continent, but look at these problems we're having in Kosovo and Bosnia, where they haven't been able to, in Kosovo, do what you have decided to do. They still think they can shoot their way out of their difficulties. And we're hoping and praying they will take a different decision in the next few days.

So I thank you for talking to me, and before me, to my wife when she came here, and for all the work you are doing. But I just want you to know that I am committed to changing our relationship over the long run in all these areas we have mentioned. And I will do my best to make sure that we have the kind of partnership that will make both our countries stronger and address the specific concerns you have outlined today.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The roundtable began at 4:45 p.m. at the Reception Hall in the National Palace of Culture. In his remarks, the President referred to President Alvaro Arzu of Guatemala.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

March 10, 1999**CITE:** 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 395**LENGTH:** 296 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on Arrival in Guatemala City, Guatemala**BODY:**

Mr. President, representatives of the Guatemalan Government, and people, we thank you for your warm welcome. I am honored to have the chance to be greeted here, in a place that recalls both Guatemala's cultural heritage and its past of conflicts and pain.

And I am especially grateful for the chance to meet you today, at a time when Guatemala is building a future of democracy, reconciliation, and peace. You have ended a cruel war. You have given your people -- all your people -- a chance to shape their destiny and to stand on their own. You have faced the past with candor and found the courage to move forward. You are teaching the world that no conflict is so bitter, no gulf is so wide that it cannot be overcome by the power of the government and by people of goodwill.

In a few moments, I will have the opportunity to discuss, with a broad range of Guatemalan citizens, the progress of peace in your country. I will reaffirm America's commitment to shed light on the dark events of the past, so that they are never repeated, and to help you implement the peace accords in a way that ensures that the human rights of the Guatemalan people are always respected.

Tomorrow I will meet with President Arzu, and we will join with the leaders of Central America in a summit in Antigua to continue our efforts to build in this hemisphere a community of true democracies in which all our nations finally can prosper together. That is our common goal. *Lo lograremos como socios y como amigos.*

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:15 p.m. in the courtyard at the National Palace of Culture. In his remarks, he referred to President Alvaro Arzu of Guatemala. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

March 10, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 391**LENGTH:** 2958 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador in San Salvador**BODY:**

To the president of the Legislative Assembly, thank you very much for your welcome and your fine comments. To the president of the Supreme Court, the leaders and members of the Assembly; to the other leaders from Central America who are here; members of the diplomatic corps; other distinguished public officials from El Salvador; members of the American delegation. Mr. President, I noticed you said you would officially certify the results of the recent Presidential elections today, so I don't want to jump the gun, but apparently, the President-elect is here. And I'm delighted to see him as well.

I have come to Central America with gratitude for our partnership, gratitude for the warm reception that my wife received when she came here recently, and later the wife of our Vice President, with a distinguished delegation of Members of Congress, heads of our Federal agencies, members of the White House staff, my new Special Envoy to Latin America, former Lieutenant Governor of Florida, Buddy Mackay, and others.

For 2 days now, we have been seeing and speaking with many different kinds of people in Nicaragua and Honduras, now in El Salvador, about efforts to recover and rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. We have met people who have lost everything but hope. I have been moved and humbled by their refusal to be defeated in the face of the deaths of their children, their husbands, their wives, their parents, the loss of all source of income.

I am very proud and grateful that the United States, through our soldiers, our aid workers, and our Peace Corps volunteers, our private donations, have had the opportunity to work alongside the people of Central America in the rebuilding process.

The message I have heard from all kinds of people is that it is not enough now simply to fix things which were destroyed and move on; that, together we must build a better life for future generations, restoring people's lives and livelihoods as soon as possible, in a way that strengthens freedom and peace and the rule of law over the long run.

No one can forget that just a few years ago, the people of Central America were suffering from a legion of manmade disasters far more cruel than anything nature can bestow on us. There was a time not long ago when many in this region believed they could only defend their point of view at the point of a gun, a time when civil war and repression claimed tens of thousands of lives and cast many thousands more into exile, a time when farmers were pushed off their land and children were torn from their parents, a time which provoked, in the United States, bitter divisions about our role in

your region.

You have worked hard here in El Salvador to shed light on that dark and painful period. Now, all of us as friends and partners, can and must join in building a common future, determined to remember the past but never to repeat it.

I hope the people of Central America now see the United States in a new way, as a partner, a friend, a colleague in the process of strengthening democracy, in reconstruction, in reclaiming your rightful future.

The wars are over. Every country in Central America now is governed by elected leaders accountable to their people. What once was a no-win contest for power has turned into a win-win contest for better schools, safer streets, and economic opportunity. A battlefield of ideology has been transformed into a marketplace of ideas. Decades of struggle have brought a victory for democracy, the only revolution of our time that has not betrayed its principles.

In so many other parts of the world things are different. Nations still short-change schools and hospitals to pay for arms in the vain pursuit of weapons of mass destruction -- not in Central America and certainly not in El Salvador. In so many other places in the world financial turmoil has undermined confidence in open markets and societies -- not in Central America and certainly not in El Salvador. In so many other places people still try to resolve ethnic, religious, and political tensions by the force of arms rather than the force of argument -- not in Central America. And no nation has traveled a greater distance to overcome deeper wounds in shorter time than El Salvador. You reached another plateau through your elections on Sunday.

A hurricane can transform villages full of life into valleys of rubble and death. But it will not wash away the foundations of good government and goodwill the people of Central America have laid. It cannot, it will not, take away from you the power to shape your own destiny.

All the Central American leaders with whom I have visited have told me that if reconstruction is managed in the right way, if it clearly benefits all segments of society in a transparent way, if it carves out new roles for local government and voluntary organizations, if it reflects the necessity of protecting the environment, then this region will emerge in stronger shape than before the storm.

You are striving to build true democracies in which all people have a stake and human rights are respected; to build more equitable societies that have conquered not only the bitter divide between right and left but the embittering divide between poverty and wealth; to build safer communities in which people can live in peace and have faith in police and judicial institutions; to build a more integrated community of the Americas in which borders are open to travel and trade but closed to deadly traffic in drugs and guns and human beings.

The United States will work with you to realize that vision from relief to reconstruction to renewal. It is the right thing to do. Clearly, it is in America's interests. Years ago, we learned that when Central America suffers, we suffer, too. In the last 10 years, we have learned how very much we benefit when Central America prospers in peace. Our exports to Central America and trade between us have more than tripled in this decade of reconciliation and hope. But to keep rising together, we have much more to do.

First, we need to keep in mind the extent of the challenge just before us, the hurricane-damaged infrastructure that will cost \$ 8.5 billion to repair. Hope cannot be restored by aid alone. We also must expand trade and investment to restore growth. I have asked our Congress for funds totaling over \$ 950 million to help restore Central America.

On Friday I sent to Congress a new proposal for an enhanced Caribbean Basin Initiative that would provide for Central America and the Caribbean even greater benefits than the proposal I made last year before the hurricane. It would eliminate our tariffs on all textiles assembled here from U.S. fabric, as well as on all textile handicrafts. It would allow us, also, to treat all nontextile imports from Central America exactly as we treat such imports from Mexico under NAFTA. The only requirement is

that all nations must meet their obligations under the World Trade Organization and participate in the effort to create a free-trade area of the Americas.

Now, if our Congress agrees, clearly this will help people in Central America find jobs, market their exports, stand on their feet. It will bring us closer to a day when goods move freely from Alaska to the tip of South America with benefits to all nations.

In every country, including the United States, the progress of open markets is met by some skepticism and resentment. But look at the facts. Hundreds of millions of people on every continent have risen from poverty because finally they had the chance to produce goods and services for buyers beyond the borders of their nation. This will continue if we continue to tear down barriers that shut off countries from their customers. Exports have been the main engine of your country's growth the last few years. They have helped the United States, too. Our expanding trade with Latin America clearly has lifted our own growth and limited the impact on us of the global financial crisis.

As we build a free-trade area of the Americas, however, we must remember that trade has to work for ordinary citizens everywhere, to contribute both to wealth and fairness. We must build a trading system that upholds the rights of workers and consumers, so that competition is a race to the top, not the bottom. We must conclude a treaty to ban abusive child labor everywhere in the world this year.

But I know it is not enough to keep children out of work. We must get them into school in every nation. Today I am pleased to announce that the United States will provide over \$ 8 million in new funding to help the children of America start school and stay in school.

I must say, as I drove along the streets of San Salvador today -- first, to see the President and then to come here -- I was very moved by the friendly faces of people waving to me. But the most touching of all were the children that stood out in front of their schools in their uniforms with their little signs and their smiling faces. And I could only think that our obligation is to give all the children of this region the chance to stand in those lines, in those uniforms, and learn what they need to know to prosper in the century ahead.

We must also protect our environment. It is essential to the wealth of our nations and the health of our people. One of the central lessons of this hurricane is that we have to protect the environment to protect people. It was the deforested hillsides, for example, that experienced the deadliest mudslides. In places that retained their trees, lives were saved.

Now, we cannot stop hurricanes or earth-quakes or storms, but we can minimize the damage they do so that every act of God is not a disaster of biblical proportions. We can reforest watersheds and preserve wetlands. We can grow crops in a way that preserves instead of spends the fertility of our soil. We can build more safely for the future. We in the United States are providing computer software and aerial imagery to Central America to tell you where flooding and mudslides are most likely to occur during the next storm, where roads and infrastructures must be rebuilt to last.

But we also can do more. We must join together to stop the warming of our planet. Otherwise, there will only be more of the storms, floods, droughts, and record-breaking temperatures that have caused so much misery in the last few years, not only in our own backyard but throughout the world. We can do this together, and we can do it without forgoing economic growth. Each year we are developing cleaner technologies and cleaner sources of energy.

For example, here in Central America you have an abundance of geothermal energy in hot springs just waiting to be tapped. We simply must face the fact -- all of us -- that in this new information age, nations need not, indeed, nations cannot continue to grow their economies by clinging to the industrial age energy practices and land management practices and water management practices of the past. We can do better. And if we do, we will create more jobs and grow our economies faster, whether it is in Central America or the United States. And it is a critical lesson for the leaders of every nation to teach the people.

Each time -- [applause] -- it's okay if you hesitate on that; my Congress is not sure I'm right, either. [Laughter] But I am. I can only tell you this from our own experience. Each time the United States has set higher environmental standards, our businesses have created the technologies to meet them, and we have actually had more jobs and faster growth as a result. Of course, this has to be done in a sensible way. It matters how it is done, but it can be done.

Healthy market economies, in the end, cannot resist change, they must adapt to change. Like protecting the environment, protecting our people from drugs and crime is a challenge we must meet together. We have come far in the last few years in building a common understanding of the drug problem. The United States has recognized that we have a fundamental responsibility to reduce demand for drugs. The nations of Central America have recognized that drugs cannot pass through a society without leaving addiction and crime in their wake. So we are fighting the scourge together today for the sake of all our children.

We also have to join forces to fight the proliferation of small arms to criminal gangs. For all the deadly advanced weapons technology in the world today, the weapon most responsible for the most death and destruction is not a missile or a bomb but the rifle. In too many parts of the world it is easier and cheaper to buy a gun or a grenade than to buy a schoolbook or a life-saving drug. No country suffered more in Central America's civil wars than El Salvador. Today, no country suffers more from the weapons and gangs left over from the war than El Salvador. This assembly here can help to meet this challenge by expanding our extradition agreement and preventing criminals from escaping punishments by flight across borders.

But America must also do our part to meet this threat to us all. We will continue to help you to train police forces that can fight gangs and gunrunners while respecting human rights. We have tightened our laws to prevent Americans from making arms deals abroad that would be illegal at home, beefed up controls on our southern border, and stepped up prosecution of smugglers. Together we helped to negotiate an OAS convention that criminalizes the unregulated manufacture and sale of firearms, mandates strong export controls, and requires all firearms to be marked so they can be traced from one end of our hemisphere to the other.

I am determined to try to extend that convention to the entire world by the year 2000, and I hope I can count on your support for that endeavor. Now, if we can do these things, if we can create jobs, lift people out of poverty, protect our environment, build safer communities, we also will diminish the pressure that causes so many people in this hemisphere to leave their homes in search of a better life. Legal migration from Central America has enriched the United States greatly. It has made us a stronger, a more vital, a more enterprising, a more diverse society. But poverty and the yearning for a better future have also brought many illegal migrants to our Nation.

As the President said, people do not leave their families and their homes and risk a dangerous journey for the uncertain prospects of life in a strange land willingly. Most illegal immigrants are not, by nature, lawbreakers. Most are simply looking for the chance to live in dignity and provide for their children. Nevertheless, we must continue to discourage illegal immigration, for it undermines the control of our borders, which every nation is entitled to pursue. And even more, it punishes hardworking people who play by the rules and who wait for their turn to come to the United States. Therefore, we must enforce our laws, but we will do so with justice and fairness. I believe fairness means treating people equitably, whatever their country of origin.

Now, during the 1980's, many Central Americans fled oppression by both the right and the left. Some were hurt by soldiers, some harmed by rebels. All whose lives were shattered have a right to sympathy, safety, and justice. Many who have been in the United States for a long time have established deep roots in our communities. At my request, following the Central American summit in Costa Rica 2 years ago, our Congress passed legislation to help them. But it did so by establishing different treatment among groups of Central Americans, depending upon where they were from. I will do everything I possibly can to overcome that different treatment.

And I will work with our Congress to write laws that are more evenhanded. Our treatment of people from Central America should reflect what they suffered, rather than who caused the suffering. This is

wrong, and we should change it.

Now, it is important for all of us to stop looking backward and start thinking forward about the future we want to build for our children. More than half the people of your nation today are under the age of 20. The same is true in Guatemala and Nicaragua and across Central America. These young people with no adult memories of war will not be defined by the need to take sides in a bitter struggle between two ideological extremes.

Instead, they will come of age in the 21st century with the unquestioned right to choose their leaders and shape their destinies. Now they will use that right, I believe, to demand of their representatives better education, good jobs, fair justice, clean water, safe streets. They will want the things that will give them the tools to live their own dreams, that can help them to give value and meaning to their lives.

I believe we have a solemn obligation to make democracy deliver for them so they will see a bright future, a future that is their future here in Central America. *Juntos para un mejor futuro. Se lo debemos a los fallecidos; se lo debemos a nuestros hijos.* We owe it to the fallen; we owe it to our children.

Muchas gracias. Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the Legislative Assembly Hall. In his remarks, he referred to the President of the Legislative Assembly, Juan Duch; Supreme Court President Eduardo Tenorio; and President-elect Francisco Flores and President Armando Calderon Sol of El Salvador. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

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I'd like to thank Buddy MacKay, my Special Envoy for the Americas, who has worked tirelessly for this day as my point person on CBI. Over the past year, he traveled throughout this country and the CBI region to explain the benefits of the CBI for workers and communities. At key points in time when the outcome wasn't clear, Buddy worked with many here to get our efforts back on track and re-focus on final passage. Thank you Buddy.

Jeff.

Attached are hardcopies
of my 3 e-mails which include a
"blurb" on MacKay, CBI + AGOA
materials, POTUS comments on trade in
this hemisphere.

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Jeff Trevino