

file mongolia

SABRE FOUNDATION, INC.

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June 8, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington DC

Dear Mrs. Verveer:

I am writing to report on the success of the Mongolian book program which was launched at the request of the First Lady. I have just returned from a wonderful one-week stay in Ulaanbaatar where I visited over a dozen kindergartens, schools, universities, and libraries. Dr. Dendeviin Badarch, President of the Mongolian Technical University and head of the Mongolian Universities Consortium, Sabre's NGO partner in Mongolia, organized my itinerary.

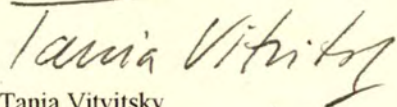
I also met with President Bagabandi; appeared on television twice; and was featured on the front-page of the daily Mongolian-language newspaper. These events are mentioned simply as evidence of the high profile and popularity of Sabre's donated books program.

The first container, with close to 20,000 new books, was sent last year. In October, 5,000 of these volumes were displayed at the Mongolian Technical University; in two days, over 4,000 people visited the exhibition. 18,124 books then were distributed by the Consortium to a total of 149 institutions, including universities, colleges, schools, and other organizations throughout the country (please see attached distribution report). In addition, Peace Corps volunteers distributed another 1,854 books.

The Mongolian people consider Mrs. Clinton to be the initiator and sponsor of this very popular and much-needed program. To show their gratitude and appreciation, I was asked to bring back several presents, including two lovely old-style Mongolian paintings, children's drawings and paintings, and "thank you" plaques (in old Mongolian script) from the Mongolian Technical University and the Consortium. What would be the best way of delivering these presents to Mrs. Clinton? Might a brief presentation ceremony be appropriate? Perhaps the Mongolian Ambassador could participate in a photo/op, along with Peace Corps Director Gearan and USIA Director Duffey. (Such a photograph most certainly will be featured in the Mongolian press!)

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Tania Vitvitsky
Project Director

(Press release and selected trip photographs included)

No	The members of Mongolian Universities Consortium	Schools	Books
1	Mongolian National University	1	946
2	Mongolian Technical University	1	839
3	Mongolian Pedagogical University	1	616
4	Mongolian Medical University	1	433
5	Mongolian Agricultural University	1	758
6	University of Art & Culture	1	224
7	Police academy	1	426
8	Ulaanbaatar University	1	206
9	Economical Institute	1	255
10	Otgontenger Institute	1	525
11	Ulaanbaatar College	1	153
		11	5381

Institutes & Colleges

1	Information Technology school	1	342
2	State security Institute	1	141
3	"Shikhikhutag" Institute	1	131
4	Computer Science & Management school	1	406
5	Pedagogical College of Arkhangai	1	90
6	College of Culture	1	102
7	Trade & Industry Institute	1	130
8	Mechanical school	1	243
9	"Education" College	1	98
10	Genko College	1	102
11	"Mongol Business" Institute	1	206
12	Mining engineering school of Erdenet city	1	179
13	Building engineering School of Darkhan city	1	377
14	Parliament Management Development Institute	1	66
15	Building vocational School of UB company	1	94
16	Zhamyngarav College	1	100
17	Institute of Education	1	60
18	"Gurvan erdene" Institute	1	73
19	"Kharkhorum" Institute	1	61
20	Information center "Itgel"	1	55
21	"Ikh shavi" Institute	1	104
22	"Orkhon" Institute	1	80
23	Construction school	1	66
24	European Language Institute	1	81
25	"Ikh zasag" Institute	1	73
26	"Khataavch" Institute	1	117
27	Graduate school of MTU	1	530
28	Military Academy	1	439
29	Foreign Language school	1	510
30	Institute of design & production	1	42
31	Railway engineering College	1	115
32	Schools of MTU	6	1161
33	Mongolian Turkish College	1	59
34	"Tsakhim" Institute	1	89
35	Tourist Management Institute "Gazarchin"	1	91
36	"Tsagaan lavai" Institute	1	67
37	Pedagogical College	1	98
38	"Seruuleg" College	1	77
39	Medical College of Dornogobi	1	100
40	Medical College of Gobi-Altai	1	100
41	Nurs. College of Ulaanbaatar	1	117
42	Financial Institute "Mandakh"	1	75
43	Institute of Art & Film	1	87
		48	7334

Other organizations

1	Ministry of Education	1	89
2	National Development Center "Buteemj"	1	32
3	Mongolian Children's House	1	127
4	Library of Arkhangai	1	106
5	Information Center of Arkhangai	1	50
6	MN 25 Channel TV	1	18
7	Young Constructor's Center of Khentii	1	49
8	Ulaanbaatar city Library	1	53
9	President office	1	138
10	Jet English Centre	1	15
11	Non-formal education center	1	29
12	Light Industry Training Center	1	31
13	English club of Bayankhongor	1	54
14	School of Education Development	1	32
15	City Education Department	1	51
16	Ulaanbaatar Newspaper	1	25
17	Educational Government Foundation	1	10
18	Academic department of MTU	1	20
19	Library staff	1	68
20	Parliament Member Hulan	1	5
21	Science Academy	1	24
22	"Zasgiin medee" Newspaper	1	25
23	Medical books for reserve	1	52
		17	1103

Primary & Secondary schools

1	Secondary school No 1 of Arkhangai	1	76
2	Secondary school of Bayan - Ulgii	1	75
3	Secondary school of Bayankhongor	2	98
4	Secondary school of Bulgan, Khishig-Undur	2	112
5	Secondary school of Gobi - Altai	3	182
6	Secondary school of Gobisumber	1	49
7	Secondary school of Darkhan - Uul	2	110
8	Secondary school of Dornod	1	54
9	Secondary school of Dornogobi	1	59
10	Secondary school of Dundgobi	1	57
11	Secondary school of Zavkhan	1	60
12	Secondary school of Orkhon	1	57
13	Secondary school of Uburkhangai	2	148
14	Secondary school of Umnugobi	1	59
15	Secondary school of Sukhbaatar	1	80
16	Secondary schools of Selenge	5	306
17	Secondary school of Tuv	1	66
18	Secondary school of Uvs	2	215
19	Secondary school of Khovd	1	55
20	Secondary school of Khentii	2	134
21	Secondary school of Khuvsgul	1	64
22	Secondary school "Future"	1	63
23	Primary school "Uri"	1	89
24	Secondary school No 2	1	119
25	Secondary school "Oin bulag"	1	105
26	Secondary school No 3	1	61
27	Secondary school No 20	1	65
28	Secondary school "Manlai"	1	50
29	Secondary school & kindergarden "Ireedui"	1	91
30	Young Constructor's school	1	86
31	Secondary school No 11	1	120
32	Secondary school of Eng. Language "Ground"	1	102
33	Secondary school of Zuunkharaa	1	55
34	Secondary school No 75	1	68
35	Primary school "Erdem"	1	56

36	Secondary school No 1	1	66
37	Secondary school No 3 (Russian)	1	59
38	Secondary school No23	1	166
39	Secondary school No 8	1	81
		51	3618

Kindergardens

1	Kindergarden No 17	1	44
2	Kindergarden No 22	1	80
3	Kindergarden No 129	1	40
4	Kindergarden No 147	1	40
5	Kindergarden No 115	1	36
6	Kindergarden No 52	1	36
7	Kindergarden No 8	1	43
8	Kindergardens of President	5	80
9	Kindergarden of Selenge	1	27
10	Kindergarden of Parl. member Elbegdorj	2	42
12	Kindergarden of Minister of Education	2	66
13	Kindergarden No 72	1	40
14	Kindergarden No 37	1	38
15	Kindergarden No 16	1	29
16	Kindergarden of state seciratory of education	2	47
		22	688

Subtotal	149	18124
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Grand total		18124
All books		18124
Rest of books		0

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June, 1998
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FROM GENGHIS KHAN TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: MONGOLIA BUILDS A NEW IMAGE

Mongolia -- home of the Gobi Desert, land of snow-mountain peaks, vast deserts, high winds, both freezing cold and searing hot temperatures -- home also of an ancient people, descendents of the famed Genghis Khan, who between himself and his grandson, Kublai Khan, managed to build the biggest land empire in the history of the world. Many modern-day Mongolians still live in the same large, round, flat tents made of felt, called *ger*, which their ancestors used, and raise livestock.

The Mongol Empire declined in the 13th century when it became too unwieldy administratively. Today Mongolia is a developing country, doing its best to care for a sparse population of 2.4 million people scattered across a vast land of 1,566,500 square kilometers sandwiched between the two powers of China and Russia.

Mongolia's outstanding literacy rate of 97% attests to its commitment to education. So does the fact that it finds creative ways to keep up that commitment. Last year the Mongolian Universities Consortium (MUC), a group of 15 public and private institutions, set up a partnership with the Sabre Foundation of Cambridge, Mass, to organize a

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shipment of 19,978 new donated books to be distributed at all educational levels. In May, Sabre Project Director Tania Vitvitsky made a week-long tour of Mongolia to assess the Sabre project's success, and received a warm welcome she will not soon forget -- from the Consortium partners, to children at the Oin Bulag Kindergarten and Secondary School, to a meeting with His Excellency Mr. N. Bagabandi, President of Mongolia.

"Everyone is learning English," says Ms. Vitvitsky. "From the kindergarten children to the Police Academy director. Mongolia was under incredible isolation as a satellite of the Soviet Union. English is so important now particularly because Mongolians realize that information networks and Internet-related technologies play an ever-increasing role in the transition of emerging democracies."

The Universities Consortium, under the directorship of Dr. D. Badarch, has done an exceptional job distributing the nearly 20,000 books, collaborating with the Peace Corps and others to get the books to 54 private and public universities and colleges, 72 secondary schools, 20 kindergartens, and another two dozen educational institutions. Parliamentarian Mrs. H. Hulan provided logistical help in getting the books to dozens of schools in the rural areas. Even President Bagabandi and the First Lady carried books on their travels to the outlying regions.

Mrs. Bagabandi is not the only First Lady to lend her support to this project: the impetus for the program actually came from Hillary Rodham Clinton who, at a White House event launching earlier Sabre book programs for Bosnia and Romania, suggested that Sabre begin a project in Mongolia. With the help of many hands, Mrs. Clinton's idea

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has borne full fruit.

Soon after the arrival of the book shipment in October of last year, a two-day, 5,000-book exhibition was set up at the Mongolian Technical University in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. The Minister of Education, members of parliament and presidents of the Consortium's institutions all participated. The event was attended by 4,200 people who showed particular interest in the *World Book Encyclopedia* and *World Book's Young Scientist Encyclopedia*. Ms. Vitvitsky says that children at the preschools she visited love the McGraw-Hill flip chart "Big Books." Among both scholars and students, science and technical books are very sought after. "The wide range of books really seems appreciated," says Vitvitsky.

Mongolia has opened up for tourism, trade, and industry. While Ms. Vitvitsky was on her tour, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright also paid a visit to Mongolia and was captured on the front page of the country's leading English-language weekly enjoying a tame encounter with one of Mongolia's famed wild horses under the headline, "Everything's Alright, says Albright."

The Mongolian book donation program was made possible by a grant from the International Research And Exchange Board (IREX) with matching funds from the United States Information Agency. Ocean freight shipping costs were covered by a grant from U.S. Agency for International Development's Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program.

Sabre Foundation has sent over three million books to people in need in over 50 countries around the world. While working primarily in Eastern Europe and the former

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Soviet Union, recent Sabre initiatives include programs for South Africa, Brazil, Grenada, Cuba, and Tibetan refugee schools in India.

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Sabre Foundation, Inc., founded in 1969, works to build free institutions and to examine the ideals that sustain them. Its largest current project makes millions of dollars' worth of donated new books available to needy individuals in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and other developing regions through non-governmental partner organizations, libraries, universities, schools, research organizations and other similar institutions. In its newest initiative, Library and Information Technology Services, Sabre helps organizations in these regions take advantage of rapidly evolving Internet and related information technologies. Sabre also sponsors domestic and international symposia and philosophical publications exploring the nature and accountability of free institutions.

For more information, see Sabre's World Wide Web site: <http://www.sabre.org>

Sabre is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and is registered as a Private Voluntary Organization with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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BC-HILLARY-MONGOLIA

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Hillary Clinton visits nomads in Mongolia

By Laurence McQuillan

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (Reuter) - First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Thursday visited a family of Mongolian nomads and sipped mare's milk, nibbled cheese made from fermented cow's milk and learned about their wandering ways.

After arriving in the Mongolian capital from China, Clinton and a group of aides, secret service agents and journalists drove for some 45 minutes on gravel roads that cut through the green expanse of the nomads' homeland.

Clinton stopped at a ger, a round white tent, of Zanabaatar, an ageing grandfather whose place at the head of his family means he has no first name.

After entering the ger, which by custom always faces south to avoid harsh northerly winds, Clinton quickly learned that in this part of the world -- where the nomadic lifestyle has developed over thousands of years -- tradition means a lot.

She was promptly offered a silver bowl brimming with the fermented milk of a mare which she accepted. It would be considered an insult to reject the potion.

"It tastes like what we call yogurt," she said smiling.

She also tried some cheese, made from the fermented milk of a cow, and smiled graciously suggesting that the handful of reporters who had squeezed into the ger also taste it.

Clinton, through an interpreter, chatted amicably with the extended family -- which included seven round-faced children.

She was shown some of their prized possessions, including small snuff boxes -- including one that has been handed down in the family for generations and another that was described as modern.

"It's so beautiful," said Mrs. Clinton, who stopped short of sampling any of the contents. Instead, she sniffed the outside of the containers.

As horses, cows and yaks roamed outside, the U.S. first lady was told about life where home is where your ger is. The family expects to move three to four times between now and November -- each time searching for better grazing areas and a safe location from the harsh winter.

Ulan Bator is the world's coldest capital -- with temperatures plunging to minus 40 Fahrenheit.

Clinton was also taken outside, past piles of flattened dung, to watch a mare be milked.

And she watched the grandchildren compete in a horse race, and promptly rewarded all of the contestants with candies.

Later, she had lunch with Mongolian President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat, and was entertained by a series of performers including singers who made their voices sound like electronic instruments and a 13-year-old female contortionist who twisted her body into seemingly impossible positions.

In an arrival statement for the mainly symbolic two-day visit, she announced a new \$4.5 million aid package for Mongolia.

Her visit was part of American efforts to build close ties with Mongolia since it became independent from the former Soviet Union five years ago and adopted a democratic form of government.

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