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NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

Working to
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worldwide



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P R O G R A M

welcome

KENNETH D. WOLLACK
President of NDI

remarks

PAUL G. KIRK, JR.
Chairman of NDI

*remarks & presentation
of award*

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
United States Senator

remarks

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE
President of Georgia

*remarks & presentation
of award*

MONICA MCWILLIAMS
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

remarks

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
First Lady of the United States

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON



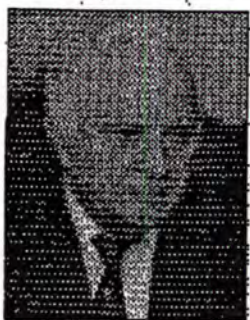
During her trips to more than 70 countries, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has been a powerful advocate of women's rights, religious tolerance, humane economic development, and inclusive democratic institutions. The First Lady has made a point of visiting remote places where people are struggling against tremendous odds to establish pluralism and local democracy. In so doing, she has focused attention on democratic activists who rarely receive the international support they need and deserve. In the hills of Thailand, in Afghan refugee camps and in African villages, Mrs. Clinton has brought her own involvement and a sense of hope. She has promoted micro-credit as a means to create market activity at the grassroots level, and has pushed for equality in education for boys and girls.

The First Lady has led the *Vital Voices: Women in Democracy* initiative, which empowers women through public-private partnerships to become full participants in the economic and political lives of their countries. In Africa, Eastern Europe, Northern Ireland and Latin America, she has helped unite women from diverse backgrounds to support and strengthen each other in their efforts to solve common problems. She has reached out to the poor and marginalized, giving them a sense of significance and increasing the pool of qualified women to compete for leadership positions.

These international engagements have reflected her belief: "that a nation's progress depends on the progress of women; that the strength of democracy depends on the inclusion of women; that the richness of civil society depends on the full participation of women."

For her efforts internationally to support democratic transitions and political participation by women, NDI is honored to present First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with its 1999 W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award.

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE



When Eduard Shevardnadze returned to Georgia in 1992, his homeland was near disintegration and convulsed by ethnic warfare. The country's statehood, its very existence, were at stake. President Shevardnadze met these seemingly insurmountable challenges through what he described as a policy of "democratic transformation, national reconciliation and peaceful settlement of conflicts."

Today, Georgia, under President Shevardnadze's leadership, offers the most promising example of democratic development among the states of the former Soviet Union. Georgia continues to contend with external and internal forces seeking to undermine its territorial integrity, and obstacles to sustained economic and political reform are formidable. Yet a written constitution grounded in democratic principles is in place and peaceful polls have yielded a popularly elected president and parliament.

In contrast to those leaders inordinately concerned about their personal image, President Shevardnadze remains committed to building institutions. The Georgian parliament enjoys nearly equal authority to the presidency and has not hesitated to assert that authority. An independent press proliferates and judicial reform is establishing an accountable legal system. Newly elected local councils represent an important step in the decentralization process, and the growth of nongovernmental organizations reflects the emergence of a vibrant civil society.

Georgia remains a work in progress. But the progress achieved, and the promise of the future, owe much to Eduard Shevardnadze. For his courageous leadership and contributions to democratic government, NEI is proud to honor President Eduard Shevardnadze as a recipient of the 1999 W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award.



საქართველოს საელჩო აშშ-ში Embassy of Georgia in the USA

PRESIDENT EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE

President Shevardnadze of Georgia was described by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as "a man I am proud to call my friend." They worked closely together to maintain peace in Europe during the historic events that led to the end of the Cold War and the reestablishment of sovereign governments, democratic institutions and free markets throughout East-Central Europe and eventually the Soviet Union.

As Soviet Foreign Minister from 1985 until his dramatic resignation in December 1990, Shevardnadze was one of the principal architects of glasnost and perestroika and a leader of the movement for democratic reforms and self-determination. He directed the policies that led to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, reduction of nuclear arms, the independence of the countries of East and Central Europe, and the reunification of Germany.

In 1992, the Georgian State Council invited Shevardnadze to return to his native Georgia to help restore peace and democracy following an uprising in northwest Georgia, where ethnic Abkhaz nationalists and military units of foreign mercenaries embarked on a policy of "national cleansing," expelling 250,000 Georgians amid fierce fighting. With considerable personal courage and risk to his life, Shevardnadze rallied the Georgian forces at the front and then negotiated a cease-fire.

In 1995 elections, his Citizens Union won a majority in the Georgian parliament and he was elected President. He introduced democratic and economic reforms that restored political stability, economic growth and increased cooperation throughout the region. He also launched a program of privatization.

Born in the rural village of Marnati, Georgia, in 1928, Shevardnadze was the son of a teacher. He graduated from Tbilisi Medical College and later, graduated in the field of history. He began his political career to help cure what he saw as his nation's numerous social ills. He rose through the political ranks to become head of the Georgian Central Committee in 1972. He gained a reputation as an innovative, reform-minded leader who was particularly tough on party bureaucrats who had betrayed the public's trust. He took the first steps toward a free-market system and liberalized controls over the arts, cinema and the press. As Hedrick Smith reported in his book "The New Russians," perestroika began in Georgia in the 1970s. When Mikhail Gorbachev came to power, he invited the reform-minded Shevardnadze to Moscow to take over the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

President Shevardnadze and his wife, Nanuli, a journalist, have two children. Their son, Paata, is on the staff of UNESCO in Paris. Their daughter, Manana, is a musician and the director of a television studio. The Shevardnadzes' granddaughter, Tamar, is a law student at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

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NDI PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA



NDI has supported political development efforts in Georgia since 1992 when it organized an international delegation to observe parliamentary elections. Two years later, the Institute opened its office in Tbilisi to help strengthen political parties, encourage citizen participation in political and governmental processes, and build an accountable and effective parliament.

Parliamentary elections in October will mark the end of the Georgian parliament's current term. NDI has contributed to efforts to reform the parliament's structures and operations in cooperation with its chairman, staff and the leadership of the legislature's major political parties. NDI also provided assistance as the parliament has confronted key legislative issues that provide the foundation for continued reform—ethics, access to government information, decentralization, civil-military relations and press freedom. Efforts to improve parliamentary outreach and accessibility range from a regular program of visits for students to the use of public committee hearings in cities across the country.

In its civic programs, NDI assists the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), a nationwide organization that has engaged thousands of Georgians as nonpartisan pollwatchers to protect the integrity of elections. Between polls, ISFED organizes community advisory committees throughout the country to serve as links between citizens and elected officials. NDI has also worked closely with the country's major democratic parties to help them build their organizations and communicate with voters. Increasingly, Georgian experts are traveling with NDI to assist in the development of legislatures and civic groups in other emerging democracies. This sharing of ideas and experiences is central to NDI's democratic development mission.

NDI programs in Georgia have been supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the National Endowment for Democracy.

I N T E R I M T R I B U T E

LANE KIRKLAND The dignity of working people is the foundation of democracy. This was the philosophy of Lane Kirkland, the president of the AFL-CIO from 1979 until 1995, who died on August 14, 1999. A founder of the National Endowment for Democracy, Kirkland was a friend and ally of NDI. In 1991 he was honored, along with Czech President Vaclav Havel, with the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award.

Eloquent but direct, Kirkland commanded attention. His commitment to democracy building causes was visceral: for Kirkland, it was simply the right thing to do. To Kirkland, no society could be democratic if working men and women were deprived of fair compensation, safe working conditions, and a voice in society. Lane Kirkland mobilized critical support for democratic labor movements in every part of the world. In Poland, he provided the unstinting support that helped Solidarity survive martial law and reemerge as a national movement. Lane Kirkland's career will remain an inspiration to advocates of democracy for years to come. These were the sentiments expressed by leaders of Solidarity's underground movement in their moving tribute to Lane Kirkland: "We feel emptiness and sorrow that time is without mercy, but all that he did accomplish in his life will endure."

GALINA STAROVITOVA Russian democrats lost a valiant leader on November 20, 1998 when Galina Starovitoiva was assassinated in St. Petersburg. A member of the Russian parliament, she had been widely respected for her human rights advocacy and an outspoken critic of corruption. In many ways, Galina Starovitoiva was a politician ahead of her time. She protested against the suppression of Prague Spring in 1968. After the collapse of the Soviet regime, she was a founder of Democratic Russia, one of the first liberal parties in her country and a training ground for democratic activists. NDI will remember Galina Starovitoiva as a friend and partner. To the people of Russia, she symbolized the hope for a society unchained from its past.

NEELAN TIRUCHELVAM was killed on July 29, 1999 by a suicide bomber. A human rights figure respected throughout Asia, Tiruchelvam had risked death for years in pursuit of a settlement of the strife between Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority. Tiruchelvam, himself a Tamil, favored a peaceful resolution that would provide his people with autonomy within a united Sri Lanka, an idea that separatists rejected. As a member of parliament, he had been a critic of successive governments for their refusal to address Tamil grievances, but he always promoted negotiations and legal reforms. Tiruchelvam's death deprives Sri Lanka of a moderate, stabilizing force, and the people of Asia, and NDI, of a friend and visionary.

W. AVERELL HARRIMAN DEMOCRACY AWARD



Averell Harriman was a politician who revered public life and respected the democratic arena of debate and competition. And he was a diplomat who represented our country's interests around the globe. With this annual award, NDI pays tribute to Governor Harriman's legacy and his dedication to democracy and internationalism.

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Calling on a global network of volunteer experts, NDI provides practical assistance to civic and political leaders advancing democratic values, practices and institutions. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

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SANA'A DECLARATION

June 30, 1999

Working to strengthen
and expand
democracy worldwide

We who attended the Emerging Democracies Forum in Sana'a, Yemen from June 27 to 30, 1999 from 16 countries, assembled to acknowledge our democratic achievements, to address common challenges we face in the transition to full democracy and to reaffirm our commitment to democratic rights and principles. The Forum was a unique gathering, bringing together a diverse group of participants and countries whose democratic advances are less known.

We recognize that the transition process is not complete and that much needs to be done to consolidate our democratic systems and to implement further political and economic reforms. While we are proud to have joined the growing community of democracies, the international community has tended to focus on countries that are considered strategically more important or are in crisis. However, democratic progress in our states contributes to peace, stability and prosperity both within and beyond our borders.

Reflecting the importance of all sectors of society in this endeavour, the participants at the Forum included government officials, members of governing and opposition parties, and representatives of labor, business and civic groups from Benin, Bolivia, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Macedonia, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal and Yemen. We represent a diversity of democratic experience, but our attendance at this Forum demonstrates the universality of the democratic idea. This group of nations with different traditions, cultures and historical experiences was brought together by a shared commitment to democracy and a belief that the promise of economic prosperity enjoyed by all citizens is more likely realized in a democratic political environment based on respect for human rights, popular participation and the rule of law. Further we share a commitment to:

- pursue economic reforms and secure fundamental workers' rights, while making every effort to educate and build widespread consensus for these goals;
- improve protections for human rights for all our people;
- hold regular free and fair elections, with special attention to the need to build public confidence in the process;
- develop our legislatures as an essential instrument for broad public participation and representation as well as for policy debate and oversight of government;
- empower democratic governance at local levels;
- deepen our commitment to, and implement measures to ensure, the full participation of women in political life;



- ensure that the rights of minorities are respected and that every effort is made to engage marginalized groups in the political process;
- broaden the democratic experience by adopting all reasonable means to encourage public access to, and participation in, the policy making process;
- support the strengthening of civil society;
- uphold the freedom of the press;
- address the urgent challenge of corruption by instituting meaningful reforms, including those that increase governmental transparency; and
- foster judicial independence, enhance public access to legal redress and ensure that the laws are fairly applied to all.

These are the principles that brought us to Yemen, which we discussed in the context of our specific experiences. Following are some examples of measures recommended by Forum participants that give concrete expression to our shared democratic principles.

The successful implementation of economic reforms is advanced by:

- transparent and inclusive decision making, the involvement of civil servants, the public, labor, business groups and political parties in the design and implementation of reforms;
- a social safety net to meet basic human needs and/or a complementary poverty alleviation program; and
- a recognition of the role of the civic sector in the implementation of economic reforms, including the use of such groups to help deliver government-funded social services.

Public confidence in elections is enhanced by:

- working towards the establishment of independent election commissions that are nonpartisan or politically balanced;
- regulating, by legislation, government financing of elections to ensure that they are fair and equitable for all parties; and
- inviting election observers, whether domestic or international, to mount more comprehensive efforts, including the monitoring of registration and campaign periods;

The legitimacy of parties and legislatures is advanced by:

- the adoption by political parties of internal democratic procedures, ongoing training of political leaders and elected officials, and public accountability and transparency;
- the implementation of legislative procedures that ensure public access to plenary and committee meetings, the holding of public hearings, and the provision of committee documents and bills to the public.

Public participation in democratic decision making is enhanced by:

- providing for private ownership of media and ensuring the impartiality of state-owned media through independent boards or other means;
- ensuring that governments and political parties take measures to increase the number of women in parliament and appoint women to key government posts;

- conducting civic education in schools, nongovernmental organizations, parties and the media to address cultural attitudinal and legal barriers to the political and economic participation of women;
- encouraging governments and legislatures to enhance the viability of nongovernmental organizations, including removing legal barriers and providing tax exempt status, and engaging nongovernmental organizations in policy debates;

The achievement of good governance, the improvement of administration, controlling corruption and strengthening the rule of law can be advanced by:

- instituting public information mechanisms, such as budget transparency, freedom of information laws and the publication of regulations;
- depoliticizing and professionalizing the civil service;
- implementing a comprehensive program to fight corruption, including institutions such as politically independent anti-corruption commissions, ombudsmen and auditors general, codes of conduct and financial disclosure rules, and open procurement processes.

As a result of this conference, we hope to establish mechanisms between our countries to continue the sharing of ideas and experiences through consultations, exchange programs, an interactive web site and other means. We also look forward to working together in a variety of international fora to promote democratic principles and practices. We intend to support the efforts of other countries that are beginning the process of democratic transition.

The international community should renew its commitment to countries working to build democratic institutions and processes and dedicate the resources for this task. In particular, the donor community and the international financial institutions, in considering loans, aid and debt policy, should give priority to those countries implementing political as well as economic reforms. These political reforms would include measures that advance popular participation, build public trust in elections and legislatures, and enhance government transparency and accountability.

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