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First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Briefing of the First Lady
On Her Trip to the New Independent States

The Department of State
Dean Acheson Auditorium
February 17, 1998





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Secretary of State *Madeleine Korbelt Albright*

You directly can access all the speeches, testimonies, interviews, and other remarks by Secretary Madeleine Albright under "What the Secretary Has Been Saying" at:

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Follow the Secretary on her foreign trips under "Travels With the Secretary," where you can read all the

material released while the Secretary was abroad and the press kits prepared for her trip. Under "Reaching Out to Americans," you can find the Secretary's speeches prepared for her visits to cities within the U.S. as well as the State Department's town meeting schedule. "Meet the Secretary" includes her biography, interview on

"60 Minutes," and her web chat with students from around the world.

The Secretary also wants to know your opinions on foreign policy which you can email to her at secretary@state.gov. The Bureau of Public Affairs reviews all emails sent to this address and responds on behalf of the Secretary.

"The influence of American leadership is as deeply felt in the world today as it has ever been. Our economy is strong, our alliances are firm, our military is the best, and the democratic values we cherish are embraced by a greater portion of the world than ever before."

—Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

The International Affairs Budget

To continue American leadership, the FY 1999 international affairs budget serves seven national interests on behalf of the American people:

- Protecting national security.
- Promoting economic prosperity.
- Protecting American citizens and U.S. borders.
- Curtailing international crime, narcotics trafficking, and terrorism.
- Promoting core values of democracy and human rights.
- Providing humanitarian assistance.
- Protecting American interests on a new range of global issues—particularly those relating to the environment, population, and the spread of contagious diseases around the world.

For more information on the NIS and the FY 1999 International Affairs Budget Request, please see the State Department's web site at:

<http://www.state.gov>



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"It is our obligation to stay engaged in this region for the foreseeable future. I believe that we must focus our programs in even greater emphasis on having direct impact on people to ease their transitional difficulties: to increase our credibility as a caring people; and to give hope and confidence to those undergoing this process. We should gear our programs to women, youth and small business enterprise, all of which are critical to democratic transformation. We should also build on and expand the Partnership for Freedom initiative which is designed to promote economic growth, particularly through small business in the regions and to develop civil society through humanitarian assistance, partnerships, work with non-governmental organizations, exchanges and training."

—Hillary Rodham Clinton

The Partnership for Freedom

The transition of the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union to stable market democracies will dramatically enhance our national security. The Partnership for Freedom is the cooperative mechanism by which the United States will participate in and influence this historic transition.

The Partnership for Freedom will encourage economic growth through entrepreneurship at the local level and will create relationships and linkages that will contribute to the transition to democracy.

Briefing of the First Lady On Her Trip to the New Independent States

**Dean Acheson Auditorium
February 17, 1998**

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2:40 pm | <i>Ambassador Richard Morningstar</i> : Opening remarks |
| 2:43 pm | <i>USAID Administrator J. Brian Atwood</i> : Introduction |
| 2:45 pm | <i>Secretary of State Madeleine Albright</i> : Remarks |
| 3:00 pm | <i>First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton</i> : Remarks and slide presentation

Question-and-answer period |
| 4:00 pm | <i>Ambassador L. Craig Johnstone</i> : Remarks

Question-and-answer period |
| 4:25 pm | Program concludes |

USIA Fact Sheet

U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY
PROGRAMS IN THE
NEW INDEPENDENT STATES

OVERVIEW

The United States Information Agency (USIA) programs in the New Independent States (NIS) promote the development of free-market economies and democratic institutions. The principal tool mechanism USIA employs in its programs is the exchange visit, which ranges from short-term visitor programs to academic degree programs. In-country training by U.S. experts, book programs, and broadcast news compliments USIA exchanges and information services.

USIA's programs in the NIS are funded through two mechanisms: base funding, appropriated directly from Congress to USIA; and Freedom Support Act funding, appropriated by Congress under the Foreign Assistance Act and targeted to promote democratic and economic reforms in the NIS. USIA Freedom Support Act-funded programs have focused specifically on the following issues: democratization, rule of law, free market reform, free and independent media, and educational reform.

In recent years, Freedom Support Act funding for the NIS has decreased as programs become self-supporting and private sector investment -- including cost sharing -- increases. Congress allocated approximately \$625 million in FY 97 (\$36.04 million to USIA) with special emphasis on democracy building programs in Belarus. Of the monies directed to Russia, priority was given to reaching out to the regions. In Russia, 80 percent of all USIA program funds reach outside the cosmopolitan centers of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

In FY 98, USIA expects to receive \$60.7 million in Freedom Support Act Funds to support the exchange of approximately 4,300 participants. These funds will be used to support a program created from the objectives of the Vital Voices Conference held in Vienna, Austria in July 1997; implement the U.S./EU Democracy and Civil Society Awards program that was announced at the May 1997 U.S. - EU Summit; and conduct the Presidential Management Training Initiative, a pilot program developed to meet President Yeltsin's request to train Russian enterprise managers in modern management techniques.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

High School Exchange Programs

NIS Secondary School Initiative: Launched in January 1993 by Senator Bill Bradley under the Freedom Support Act, this initiative promotes the exchange of high school students and teachers through grants to private not-for-profit organizations and educational institutions. The program now offers two types of exchanges:

Future Leaders Exchange Program(FLEX): Since 1993, more than 6,725 students from the NIS countries have spent one academic year attending schools and living with host families throughout the U.S. The recruitment and selection process for this program is conducted by the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) and Youth for Understanding (YFU). The selection is based on English ability, personality factors, social skills, academic achievement and leadership potential. All students receive an extensive orientation to life in America and pursue a full course of study at an American high school. School and host family placement and overall student monitoring is conducted by private U.S. organizations awarded USIA grants.

School Linkage Program: To date over 13,000 NIS and U.S. students, teachers, and school administrators have participated in reciprocal exchanges of three weeks to one semester in the host country. Partnerships were established between 100 U.S. schools and 100 NIS schools (except Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan). This program stimulates community support, kindles an interest in language acquisition and area studies, and fosters ongoing institutional ties. It also provides access to resources for curriculum development and educational training that promote educational reform and institution building. Grantees include exchange organizations, universities, and state and local school systems. For more information, contact:

NIS Secondary School Initiative
Office of Citizen Exchanges
Tel: 202-619-6299

Secondary School Teacher Exchange Programs

Awards for Excellence in Teaching: Funded by the Freedom Support Act, these high-profile, nationwide programs will recognize the best teachers of English and American Studies in the two countries. The regional winners will receive educational equipment and/or materials for their schools valued up to \$2,200; the national winners will attend a seven- to eight-week professional enrichment program in the U.S. Under the FY 98, 375 regional winners from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan will receive educational equipment for their schools and national winners will attend a six-week professional enrichment program in the U.S. FY-97 national winners will be selected in spring 1998 and travel to the U.S. during the summer of 1998. This program is administered by the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR). For more information, contact:

NIS Secondary School Initiative
Office of Citizen Exchanges
Tel: 202-619-6299

Freedom Support Act Funded Teacher Exchange Programs: During FY-97, seventeen teachers arrived from seven NIS countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian, and Ukraine) and five U.S. teachers placed in Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine completed their year-long exchanges in U.S. and NIS respectively. In FY 98, 100 secondary school teachers and school administrators from Russia and Ukraine will be selected to travel to the U.S. to learn about curriculum development and teaching methodologies. Participants will be placed in U.S. communities with previous linkages with their particular region. For more information on teacher exchange programs, contact:

Teacher Exchange Branch
Advising, Teaching and Specialized Programs Division
Tel: 202-619-4555

Freedom Support Act Partners in Education Program: This program supports democratic and educational reform in Russia and Ukraine by advancing the development of civics education in NIS school systems. Over the course of two semesters (Spring 1998 and Fall 1998) 90 secondary school social studies educators and administrators from ten oblasts in Russia and Ukraine will participate in five-week community-based training and internship programs at U.S. secondary schools. Participants will be provided with homestays and will be paired with a faculty mentor at the host institution. Internship activities will include class observation, presentations, school board and PTA meetings, collection of teaching materials, and professional development workshops. Recruitment in Russia is limited to educators and administrators from the oblasts of Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Nizhniy Novgorod, Rostov, Samara and Yekaterinburg. Recruitment in Ukraine is limited to Kharkiv, Kiev, Lviv, and Odessa oblasts. An outbound program component for 20 U.S. participants will be included in this program. A grant was awarded to ACTR/ACCELS to administer the program. For more information, contact:

Teacher Exchange Branch
Advising, Teaching and Specialized Programs Division
Tel: 202-619-4555

Faculty-level Academic Exchange Programs

Fulbright Scholarship Program: USIA's Fulbright Senior Scholar Program brings university faculty from all countries of the NIS to the United States to conduct research for periods ranging from one semester to one academic year. Their American counterparts travel to the NIS on lecturer or lecturing/research programs where they are based at NIS institutions of higher learning. During FY 97, 65 U.S. and 82 NIS professors participated in the program. Prospective foreign scholars should submit applications to the USIS or Fulbright Office in the individual's home country. Prospective U.S. participants should contact the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) at 202-686-4000 (tel) or 202-362-3442 (fax). Additional information can be obtained from:

European Program Branch
Academic Exchange Programs Division
Tel: 202-619-4420

Regional Scholar Exchange Program: The Regional Scholar Exchange Program (RSEP) is a merit-based open competition that selects scholars in the social sciences and humanities from all countries of the NIS to receive research fellowships at U.S. universities. Similarly, the RSEP selects Ph.D. candidates and scholars from the U.S. to receive research fellowships at universities and institutes in the NIS. Fellowships are one semester or up to one academic year. All fellows are matched with host advisors who guide their research. The RSEP empowers scholars to research, write, and publish--based on access to the resource materials and specialists of the host country--studies that advance the state of knowledge in their specific fields in their home countries. In FY 98, 100 NIS and 10 U.S. scholars will be selected to begin their fellowships in March and August 1998. USIA awarded a grant to the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), in partnership with the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies to administer the program. For more information, contact:

European Programs Branch
Academic Exchange Programs Division
Tel: 202-205-0525

Freedom Support Act Fellowships in Contemporary Issues: This merit-based open competition selects highly qualified citizens of the NIS who are engaged in the political, economic, social, and educational transformation of their countries to receive fellowships at U.S. universities, think tanks, NGOs, or government offices. All FSA Fellows in Contemporary Issues conduct research on topics that help to advance the transition to democracy, free markets, and the building of a civil society in their countries. Fellows are matched with U.S. host advisors who guide their research, writing, professional development, advocacy skills, and participation in U.S. conferences and seminars. FSA Contemporary Issues fellowships are awarded for periods of three, six, or eight months. Sixty-seven NIS policy-makers, NGO leaders, professionals, and scholars will be selected to begin their programs in spring/summer 1998. The International Research & Exchanges Board and the Kennan Institute received a partnership grant to administer the program. For more information, contact:

European Programs Branch
Academic Exchange Programs Division
Tel: 202-205-0525

Faculty Incentive Fellowship Program: Junior faculty in the field of social sciences and humanities from universities in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine are selected through a merit-based competition to receive awards for this program. Fellows spend one semester per year at host universities in the U.S. developing new teaching methodologies and curricula, and one semester per year at their home universities testing new courses and materials. For more information, contact:

European Programs Branch
Academic Exchange Programs Division
Tel: 202-205-0525

Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP): This Freedom Support Act-funded program is an open, merit-based competition that offers fellowships at U.S. universities in the fields of business administration, communications/journalism, economics, law, library administration, library science, public administration, and university administration to promising young faculty from Russia and Ukraine. JFDP fellows are placed at U.S. universities for one academic year where they conduct research, attend classes, and work with a mentor to develop curriculum in their fields. During the 1997-1998 academic year, 27 scholars (22 Russian, 5 Ukraine) are being hosted by universities in the U.S. The JFDP is administered in the U.S. by the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). In Russia and Ukraine, JFDP activities, including recruitment and selection, are administered by the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR). For more information, contact:

European Program Branch
Academic Exchange Programs Division
Tel: 202-619-4420

U.S. - Eurasia Internet Access and Training Program: The purpose of this program is to provide sustainable access to and training in e-mail, Internet, and the World Wide Web for alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange and training programs and their colleagues in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. In FY-98, IATP will establish and/or expand 25 new Internet Training Centers; conduct "training of Internet trainer programs"; provide Internet training to groups; assist NIS institutions to establish and maintain Web sites; and conduct pilot projects on distance education with the American Centers for Distance Education and an Internet training and online resource for women in Central Asia entitled "Women on the Web" For more information, contact:

European Programs Branch
Academic Exchange Programs Division
Tel: 202-205-0525

Graduate-level Academic Exchange Programs

Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program: The Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program selects outstanding citizens from the NIS and the Baltics to receive scholarships for Master's-level study and professional development programs in the United States in the fields of business administration, economics, law, and public administration. Candidates are recruited through an open, merit-based competition. Fellows enroll in graduate degree, certificate, professional development, and non-degree programs lasting one to two academic years, and take part in an eight- to twelve- week internship during the summer following the first academic year. In FY 97, 100 fellowships were awarded. To date 808 fellows have studied under this program. In FY 98, 106 scholarships will be awarded. For more information, contact:

European Programs Branch
Academic Exchange Programs Division
Tel: 202-205-0525

Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Program: Through a merit-based competition, this program selects outstanding citizens from the NIS to receive scholarships for Master's-level study and professional development programs in the United States in the fields of business administration, communications/journalism, economics, education administration, law, library and information science, public administration, and public policy. Fellows enroll in graduate degree, certificate, professional development, and non-degree programs lasting one to two academic years and take part in eight- to twelve- week internships during the summer following the first academic year. The 99 FY 97 fellows arrived in the U.S. in June 1997 to begin their programs. The program is administered by the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) and the Soros Foundations/Open Society Institute (Soros/OSI). For more information, contact:

European Programs Branch
Academic Exchange Programs Division
Tel: 202-205-0525

Undergraduate-level Academic Exchange Programs

Freedom Support Act Undergraduate Program: This program provides fellowships for undergraduate students from the NIS to study in the U.S. in the fields of agriculture, business administration, communications/journalism, computer science, criminal justice studies, economics, education, environmental management, government, library and information sciences, public policy, and sociology. Students are selected to study for one academic year in accredited four-year universities or colleges, or community college through an open, merit-based competition, and may either live on campus or with a host-family. In FY 97, USIA awarded fellowships to 176 NIS undergraduate students to study in the U.S. The American Council of Teachers of Russian and Youth For Understanding (YFU) received grants to administer this program. For more information, contact:

European Programs Branch
Academic Exchange Programs Division
Tel: 202-205-0525

Student Advising: USIA funds 15 NIS Educational Information Centers (EICs) directly or through cooperative agreements with IREX, ACTR, and Soros/OSI. In addition, USIA provides books and materials to approximately 20 independent educational advising centers which are typically affiliated with a university, or operated by NGOs or the Peace Corps. USIA also provides training opportunities for professional educational advisers from the NIS. NIS EICs provide information about opportunities for study in the United States and the admissions process, assist U.S. college and university recruiters in the region, and support recruitment, re-entry, and alumni activities for USIA's academic exchange programs.

Regional Educational Advising Consultancy (REAC): This consultancy position is based in Moscow and serves as a resource for all NIS educational information centers. The NIS REAC assists in the development of the network of NIS educational information centers (currently

estimated at 60) by setting up training activities for advisers, conducting site visits at the request of centers or USIS posts, distributing current information about the U.S. educational system, and providing guidance about establishing and maintaining advising centers according to professional advising standards. For more information on these programs, contact:

Advising and Student Services Branch
Advising, Teaching and Specialized Programs Division
Tel: 202-619-5434

University Affiliations/Partnerships: This program is designed to promote curriculum development and administrative reform in Russian and NIS colleges and universities. These grants support programs for up to three years in the fields of communication/journalism, law, economics/business, public administration, public policy, government, education, and educational reform. Although many of these grants expired at the end of FY 96, the linkages have been sustained through other activities and funding sources. In FY 97, a limited competition provided funding to seven partnerships. The majority of these funds were used to pay travel and related per diem costs for participants.

College & University Affiliations: This annual, worldwide program awards grants to support three-year affiliations which consist mostly of faculty and staff exchanges.

Russian University Social Science Partnerships: This Freedom Support Act-funded program is designed to promote curriculum development and administrative reform in Russian colleges and universities. Programs carried out under these partnerships include materials development, writing of new curricula, training and team teaching, library development and librarian training, and administrative development.

NIS Linkage Program: This program provides support for institutional partnerships between colleges and universities in the U.S. and the New Independent States (excluding the Russian Federation).

For more information on university linkage and partnership programs, contact:

Specialized Programs Unit
Advising, Teaching, and Specialized Programs Division
Tel: 202-619-5289

CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

To aid in the transition from communist to civil society, USIA developed a series of region-wide programs in Central and Eastern Europe countries that nurtured the development of indigenous materials and trainings and advanced the concepts of democracy and citizenship that the U.S. government promotes world-wide. USIA's civic education strategy in these regions emphasizes

teacher training and curriculum development; networking among government, NGOs and educators; and broadening support for civic education by governments, financial institutions, for-profit companies and others.

Civic education projects are supported through USIA exchanges, Democracy Funds, and Book programs. The Civic Education Curriculum Development Program assists educators from the NIS in developing a framework for civic education that advances democratic values which can be applied to the development of national and local curricula. In FY-97, one individual and four groups of participants traveled under the International Visitor Program to learn more about civic education in the U.S. To date, the Democracy Funds Small Grants Program has awarded more than eleven grants dedicated to civic education. Many University Partnerships/Affiliations linkages have civic education components and the Secondary School and Partnerships in Education programs promote civic education as a priority in student and teacher exchange programs and curriculum development. For more information on USIA's Civic Education Programs, contact:

Nancy O'Neill
Office of East European and NIS Affairs
Tel: 202-619-4563

ENGLISH TRAINING PROGRAMS

English Teaching Fellow Program: This program provides recent M.A. graduates in TESL/TEFL with the opportunity to teach abroad at universities, teacher training colleges, bi-national centers, or other host country institutions that use English teaching as a means to promote cultural understanding. Fellows' assignments may also include materials/test development or teacher training activities. The English Teaching Fellow Program is administered by the School for International Training (SIT).

EFL Fellow Program: This program sends mid-career EFL teacher-trainers and ESP/EFL specialists to the NIS and EE for one academic year to promote the teaching of English as a vehicle for developing democracies throughout the region. Fellows train local teachers of English or teach English for Specific Purposes (ESP) to professionals. Fellows may have additional responsibilities that could include curriculum development, developing in-service seminars for host-country teacher trainers, and the introduction of supplementary U.S. teaching materials.

The English Teaching Forum: Begun in 1963, this quarterly journal for teachers of English as a foreign or second language consists of articles contributed by readers worldwide. Additional material is provided by editors or commissioned by experts in the field. Articles discuss the theory and practice of teaching English and include methods, techniques and ideas to be used in the classroom.

For more information on English training programs, contact:

Programs Branch
English Language Programs Division
Tel: 202-205-3636

SPEAKERS AND ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS

English Language Academic Specialists: This program awards grants to U.S. experts in English language instruction and materials development to consult with colleagues at foreign educational or other institutions. Academic Specialists spend from two to six weeks abroad, conducting seminars and workshops. For more information, contact:

Programs Branch
English Language Programs Division
Tel: 202-205-3636

Academic Specialists Program: This program awards grants to U.S. experts (academics and distinguished professionals) to consult with colleagues at foreign educational or other institutions. Academic Specialists spend from two to six weeks abroad, conducting seminars and workshops.

Speakers Program: Similar to the Academic Specialists Program, but awarding grants for shorter visits. Speakers have traveled to Armenia, Belarus, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Tajikistan.

For more information on U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program, contact:

Democracy and Human Rights Branch
Thematic Programs Division
Tel: 202-619-6520

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAMS

International Visitor Program: USIA's International Visitor (IV) Program affords a unique opportunity for established or potential foreign leaders in government, politics, media, education, labor relations, the arts and other key fields to confer with their professional counterparts and to experience the U.S. firsthand. American embassies in the NIS nominate the visitors, who come to the United States from the NIS for a period of 3-4 weeks to meet with their U.S. counterparts in various cities around the country. Cultural and geographic diversity play a large role in these programs. In FY 97, 246 visitors from the NIS traveled to the U.S. on programs examining topics such as the American system of government, the environment, local government, economic development, trade, agriculture, politics, and journalism.

Freedom Support Visitor Grants/Parliamentary Exchanges: The Freedom Support Grants provide opportunities for individuals and/or groups from the NIS to participate in one to two week

programs which support democratic reform. Special emphasis is put on programs for parliamentarians and staffers. The carefully focused Freedom Support programs are intended to enable the participants to gain skills and information that can be applied to the development of democracy and a market economy in the NIS. Like International Visitors, the grantees are chosen by U.S. embassies. In FY 97, 404 individuals received grants, and examined topics such as economics/investments, the judicial system, small business, banking, journalism, arms control, privatization, state and local government, defense, and the U.S. political system. Visitors have included presidential staff, leading economists, and newly-elected regional leaders, as well as parliamentarians and key staffers.

For more information on individual grant programs, contact:

European Branch, Grant Program Division
Office of International Visitors
Tel: 202-619-5247

CITIZEN EXCHANGES

Citizen Exchanges: Each year, USIA awards grants to public and private sector non-profit organizations to develop training programs in the NIS. The overall goal of these programs is to support the transition to democracy and market economies in the region. The Agency identifies sector- and country-specific needs and solicits proposals responsive to these needs. Awards are granted on an open and competitive basis. In 1997, proposals were solicited for projects which support the growth of democratic institutions in Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. During FY 97, ten awards issued for projects on tax reform, intellectual property rights, public administration, media training, community and municipal problem-solving, and rule of law. In FY 98, awards will be issued for Distance Learning projects in Russia, Women's Political Leadership and Media Training.

Community Connections: Building on the success of the Business for Russia program, USIA expanded its community based programs to offer practical U.S. training experiences in the fields of business, government, and law. Participants from Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Armenia and Moldova are recruited through American organizations in close coordination with U.S. embassies in these respective countries. Each group of participants will spend approximately four weeks in the U.S. and will focus on small business development, legal reform, or local/regional government. Local communities host the participants, thereby creating grass-roots linkages between U.S. and NIS regions which may enhance opportunities for exchanges to be sustained beyond the life of the assistance program. During FY 97-98, an estimated 1,310 participants will take part in Community Connections.

Presidential Management Training Initiative: This pilot program has been developed to meet President Yeltsin's request to train Russian enterprise managers in modern management techniques.

USIA will provide over 300 Russian managers with short or long-term training programs that will involve internships in U.S. companies. USIA will also support the 34 Russian management training centers identified by the Russian government. Distance learning programs will be a key component of this effort. Through the Community Connections mechanism, recruitment for the initial pilot project for internships will take place in Spring 1998, with the first interns arriving in September 1998.

U.S.-NIS Municipal and Community Problem Solving Program: This program builds upon sister city linkages by providing small grants to U.S. cities for cooperative projects with Russian and Ukrainian cities in the areas of economic development, health, education and human services. A portion of the project is to be used to deepen community ties between defense/weapons cities of the United States and Russia. The project is funded through a cooperative agreement with Sister Cities International.

Productivity Enhancement Program: This program provides training to stimulate local manufacturing, production and services to ensure economic and political stability in Russia and Ukraine. Participants are selected and travel to the U.S. in sector-specific groups. Training is also offered to NIS municipal leaders who are working to encourage private sector development in their regions. This program is designed for non-English speakers and is administered through a grant to the Center for Citizen Initiatives. Under FY 96 funding, approximately 750 participants will travel to the U.S. by April 1998.

For more information on any of these citizen exchange programs, contact:

Russia/Eurasia Division
Office of Citizen Exchanges
Tel: 202-619-5326

Cultural Programs

Creative Arts Grant Programs: These programs exchange professionals in and create linkages among arts organizations throughout the world. In 1996 and 1997 grants were awarded to the American Association of Museums, the American Dance Festival, the Chicago Artists International Program, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, and the American Theater Exchange Initiative.

Museum Linkages: Since 1981, USIA has supported the International Partnerships Among Museums (IPAM) program to encourage linkages between U.S. and foreign museums. This program, which runs on a two-year funding cycle, is administered by the American Association of Museums. To date, ten museum linkages have been formed with the NIS.

The American Theater Exchange Initiative (ATEI): ATEI administers a two-year, three part project to strengthen Russian theater as it makes the transition to a free market economy. This project focuses on three areas: copyright - to create an enforceable means of protecting foreign and domestic authors' works in Russian theater; management - to create a network among theater managers that

will evolve into a Russian theater service organization; and translation - selects two plays for translation and preparation for production by chosen U.S. and Russian producing theaters.

Other Grant Programs: The American Dance Festival, Chicago Artists International Program, and Mid-America Arts Alliance are all world-wide programs that have included several NIS participants. For more information on specific activities under these programs, contact:

Creative Art Exchanges
Office of Citizen Exchanges
Tel: 202-205-2209

REGIONAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Announced at GCC-8, this special initiative was designed to create a climate for private investment in Russia's regions and attract foreign and domestic capital. Three target regions have been identified: Russian Far East, Samara, and Novgorod. This collaborative effort among U.S. and Russian governments, regional authorities and the private sector will develop a set of priorities for regional investment promotion to serve as the framework for a package of assistance programs and partnerships. Freedom Support Act funding has been provided to USIA to support university linkages in the fields of economic development, law and business administration; support Internet connectivity and access to information resources; exposure for regional officials to U.S. on topics related to the regional economic initiative including legislative reform to promote regional economic development.

The goals of the programs are: 1) to provide opportunities for citizens of the NIS countries to familiarize themselves with the U.S. educational, political and economic systems and the American way of life by visiting the U.S., and 2) to equip a broad base of current and future leaders and professionals in the NIS with specialized skills and practical experience and to foster attitudes needed to develop and support free enterprise and democratic governance, and 3) to build sustainable U.S.-NIS personal and institutional linkages which can facilitate trade, investment, technology transfer and cooperation on global issues of mutual concern.

DEMOCRACY FUNDS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

FY 98 marks the third year of this small grants program for the NIS. Administered by USIA's overseas offices, the Democracy Commission awards grants to local organizations or individuals who supports the further advancement of democracy, independent media and the free flow of information in their country. From FY 95 - FY 97, a total 220 grants have been awarded among the nine participating countries: Armenia (46), Azerbaijan (11), Belarus (19), Georgia (22), Kazakhstan (16), Kyrgyzstan (25), Moldova (30), Ukraine (16), and Uzbekistan (9), Russia (26). A

compendium of projects for the Democracy Funds Small Grants Program is done by USIA on a quarterly basis.

INFORMATION & PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMS

Book Translations and Rights Acquisition: USIA provides opportunities for foreign publishers to translate, print, and distribute articles, books, and other print and electronic publications related to U.S. policy goals. USIS posts work in cooperation with independent publishers abroad to produce translated versions or low-priced English-language reprints of the original works. Books chosen for translation focus on topics including business management and entrepreneurship, law, local government management, and public policy.

Agency Publications: USIA produces a range of print and electronic publications dealing with democratic government, the market economy, and American life. Many print publications, particularly the shorter pamphlets, are available in Russian, Ukrainian, Armenian, Azeri, Belorussian, Georgian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen, and Uzbek. These range from basic documents, "U.S. Constitution" and "Declaration of Independence", to educational pamphlets "What Is a Market Economy?" and "What Is Democracy?", to the book-length Outline series. Agency websites provide online access to speeches and texts related to U.S. foreign and domestic policy as well as American culture and society. For more information, contact:

Katherine Yemelyanov
Publications Program
Geographic Liaison
Tel: 202-619-4935

The I Bureau produces a series of biweekly electronic journals that appear on the Agency's international home page (address: www.usis.gov/usis.html). A new journal appears every three weeks in English, followed one week later by French and Spanish versions. Selected issues are also translated into Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, and Russian. Each journal focuses on a topic in one of five thematic areas: economics, politics, democracy/human rights, global issues/communications, and American society and values. USIA's international home page also carries the Washington File and a rich collection of Web pages dealing with such topical or regional issues as the environment, Bosnia, free press, the U.S. and the New Atlantic Community, and bribery and corruption. For more information, contact:

Information Bureau
Print & Publications Division
Tel: 202-619-4269

Information Resource Centers: In partnership with Russian universities and regional libraries, USIS has established Information Resource Centers in Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Tomsk, Rostov-on-Don and Yekaterinburg. The Centers feature 2500-volume book collections, CD-ROMs, e-mail hook-ups, periodical subscriptions, and student advising centers and serve an audience ranging from high school students to Duma deputies. Russian institutions supply space and staff; USIA contributes equipment, materials and training. For more information, contact:

USIS Moscow
Tel: 7-095-956-4490

BUREAU OF BROADCASTING

Media Training: USIA's Office of International Media Training designed several programs to aid the development of a free and independent media in Russia and Kyrgyzstan in FY 96.

Professional Development: USIA places NIS journalists at American universities for professional development programs in journalism, media management, and international communications.

U.S.-Based Workshops: USIA conducts training workshops in Washington, D.C. and New York for Russian journalists. The first workshop exposes NIS television managers to the concept of American television networks, network structure, legal considerations, affiliate relations, and sales at the network level. The second workshop focuses on financial management concepts and practices. For more information, contact:

International Media Training Center
International Broadcasting Bureau
Tel: 202-619-1982

VOICE OF AMERICA

NIS programming continues to be an important part of the Voice of America (VOA), the international radio service of the USIA. VOA broadcasts in several NIS languages: Armenian (1 hour daily), Azeri (1 hour daily), Georgian (0.5 hour daily), Russian (5 hours daily plus three and one half hour repeats), Ukrainian (2 hours daily), and Uzbek (30 minutes M-F , 45 minutes Sat. and Sund.). Tajik speakers in Tajikistan and other Central Asian republics can listen to Dari and Farsi programs (combined total of 4 and a half hours daily). Programming is received primarily through short-wave transmission, although satellite delivery and mail delivery of pre-recorded program tapes is increasing. As of Spring 1997, close to 100 state and private stations in the former Soviet Union receive either satellite (about 40 stations) or mailed programming from VOA's Russian Service. More than 50 percent of VOA Russian's audience is reached through affiliate stations, according to recent survey findings, and the number of radio stations affiliated with VOA's Russian Branch via cassettes, phone feeds and satellite delivery continues to grow. Other NIS countries with stations receiving satellite or mailed programs include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Ukraine. Overall weekly listenership to VOA non-English language programs in the NIS is estimated at 8.5 million adults.

VOA programs cover global, U.S., regional, and to the extent possible, local news and related political and economic events. Other programming informs foreign audiences about the United States. Along with music of all varieties, features on democratic institutions, market economies, science, medicine, sports and English teaching programs are included. Some programs, focus on immigrants and how they view life in the United States. VOA also interviews foreign guests that are in the U.S. under other USIA programs. This provides an opportunity to present the United

States through the eyes of a first-time observer, making the information more accessible to the target foreign audiences.

Recent program innovations include a live call-in program on VOA Russian and special hours targeting Russian-speakers in specific regions (Central Asia and the Russian Far East). The statewide radio network, Russia's Radio carries VOA's English lesson series. VOA Russia sends regular telephoned correspondent reports (feeds) to four major stations, including Russia's Radio. These pieces generally focus on the U.S. view on important issues of the day. For more information on VOA programs, contact:

Eurasian Division
Voice of America
Tel: 202-619-3422

or

Central Asian Division
Voice of America
Tel: 202-619-3921

WORLDNET

USIA's global satellite television network, presents a wide variety of programming about life in the United States. WORLDNET broadcasts to U.S. embassies and USIS posts around the world which receive its satellite transmissions and then make them available to select and mass audiences. In addition to U.S. embassies and cultural centers, various broadcast companies and cable systems can receive WORLDNET directly for retransmission of its programs for free if they sign usage contracts with WORLDNET. WORLDNET has over 100 affiliates in the NIS.

Acquisitions: Every year, WORLDNET's Acquisitions Department purchases broadcast and educational rights to new series and renews rights to old series. WORLDNET has acquired programs from many different sources, some on themes ranging from American history and culture to management and science; others targeted at the NIS and focused on market economies and building a democratic society.

Production: The WORLDNET Production Division regularly produces Russian language news pieces. USIS Posts in non-Russian speaking countries, such as Kazakhstan and Ukraine, have translated and adapted programs into local languages.

TV Co-Ops: Under this program, USIS posts select television crews from around the world to come to the U.S. for a two to three week period to film short documentaries on a variety of important themes.

Interactives: Interactive dialogues are live satellite television bridges which provide a forum in which international political leaders, journalists and professionals speak directly with American experts in government, business, science, education and the arts. USIA's first telebridge with

Moscow occurred in 1985, using a satellite dish USIA donated to Soviet Central Television. Since then, WORLDNET has hosted many bridges with TV stations in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan. USIS posts in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan have set up satellite dishes and now host interactive dialogues in-house. Other NIS USIS posts will work with local broadcasters, particularly in Georgia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. For more information, contact:

Program Coordination Division
WORLDNET Programs Directorate
Tel: 202-401-8955

Foreign Press Center: USIA's Foreign Press Center sponsors thematic reporting tours to facilitate access by NIS journalists to vital U.S. policy and newsmakers. NIS journalists have traveled with the Foreign Press Center to cover issues ranging from the U.S. Courts System to the Economics of the News Business, and Multiculturalism in the U.S. For more information, contact:

Foreign Press Center
Tel: 202-724-1640

Other Media Programs: The following programs are administered by the East European and NIS Area Office from Freedom Support Act-funded programs.

Resource Materials Development: Working with a nationally-recognized expert on the status of media development in Russia, USIA developed a comprehensive syllabus of media education reference materials for schools of journalism and libraries. USIA has purchased three sets of the books on the syllabus, which it is donating to key media libraries, in addition to hundreds of succinct, practical pamphlets on reporting techniques.

Internet Communications Packages: In FY 98, USIA will distribute more than 50 Internet access packages to selected papers and schools of journalism in Russia. Packages will include a computer/modem link, as well as necessary software, and will facilitate reporters' access to information databases as a means to promote fact-based reporting. The program, which will feature intensive training and individual consulting, will be administered by the Russian American Press and Information Center and USIS Moscow.

National Press Institute of the Russian Federation (NPI): Originally called the Russian American Press and Information Center (RAPIC), this center has worked on many fronts to establish press freedoms in Russia. Now largely supported by USAID, NPI is a registered Russian NGO with close links to its founding organization, the Center for War, Peace, and the News Media of New York University. In June 1997, USIS Moscow, using Freedom Support funds supported a Professional-in-Residence who specializes in using the Internet for investigative reporting. NPI still conducts programs that include educating journalists on their rights to government information; working with the media to lessen ethnic conflict in Russia; funding on-site consulting and training; particularly in the field of management; monitoring and analyzing elections coverage for use in a Russian-language source book on election coverage; developing curricula in areas such as fact-based

reporting; adapting and translating journalism text books; and sponsoring press briefings by government officials as well as non-governmental institutions. For more information, contact:

USIS Moscow
Tel: 7-095-956-4490



The Fiscal Year 1999 Budget for International Affairs (Function 150)

Fact Sheet released by the Office of Resources, Plans, and Policy, February 11, 1998.

"The influence of American leadership is as deeply felt in the world today as it has ever been. Our economy is strong, our alliances are firm, our military is the best, and the democratic values we cherish are embraced by a greater portion of the world than ever before."

Madeleine K. Albright,
Secretary of State

Overview of the Function 150 Budget

Recent public opinion polls show that 66% of Americans believe that the U.S. should take an active role in the world. U.S. engagement is supported by the fiscal year 1999 (FY 1999) international affairs budget request of \$20.15 billion. This amount is \$1 billion over FY 1998 funding and includes \$502 million for arrears to multilateral development banks. This budget is just one percent of the total federal budget--about one penny of each tax dollar.

The U.S. continues to rank last among the world's 21 wealthiest nations in the percent of its Gross National Product provided to foreign assistance. In 1985, the U.S. Government budget for international affairs programs accounted for 2.5% of the entire federal budget. Since then, foreign affairs spending dropped over 50% in real terms.

The FY 1999 budget represents a gradual reversal of the declining trend in our Federal Government spending for international affairs programs and activities; it provides a clear signal of the importance of our commitment to *maintain our investment in American leadership*.

What Programs Comprise the FY 1999 International Affairs Budget?

The international affairs budget supports programs and activities that bring positive benefits to American citizens.

Security programs establish and maintain alliances that promote peace worldwide. The budget invests over \$5.5 billion on nonproliferation, disarmament, and controls on weapons of mass destruction; peacekeeping, anti-terrorism, and training; and treaty implementation and economic support to avert regional conflicts and the threat of war through bilateral and multilateral programs and organizations. The Function 150 budget proposes strengthening the NATO alliance; progressing the Middle East Peace Process; and securing peace in Guatemala, Haiti, Ireland, the Great Lakes Region of Africa, and other nations in conflict.

Economic programs are approximately \$5 billion of the \$20.15 billion international affairs budget and support the Export-Import Bank, international financial institutions, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Trade and Development Agency, and other bilateral trade and economic investment programs. With U.S. exports of goods and services accounting for more than one-third of

U.S. economic growth in the past seven years, and U.S. export jobs growing five times more than any other sector, sustaining our investments overseas offers opportunity for greater future U.S. market expansion.

American citizens and U.S. border programs are supported through the U.S. embassy infrastructure overseas and over \$300 million in passport, immigration, and travel safety programs for Americans who travel and work abroad. In 1995 alone, more than 48 million Americans traveled beyond our hemisphere--more than half of them to developing countries.

Law enforcement programs managed by the State Department curtail the trafficking of illicit drugs, corrupt practices, and organized crime and are proposed at over \$550 million in FY 1999. Drug eradication and alternative production programs comprise over \$200 million, just about half of what Americans spent on flower garden bulbs in 1995.

Democracy and human rights programs encompass over \$1 billion of the budget and provide long-term benefits to Americans whether involved in international business or residing at home. Democracy programs include the promotion of civil society; democratic and judicial institution building; war crimes tribunals; and education and training in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the New Independent States.

Humanitarian response programs providing relief to world victims of disaster, emergencies, and civil strife will be supported by \$1.6 billion of the FY 1999 Function 150 budget. In 1997, one in 225 people worldwide were under the care of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees carrying out humanitarian relief programs the U.S. supports. Presidential Initiative "Demining 2010" proposes to increase humanitarian relief to 21 countries in eliminating land mines.

Environment, health, and population programs comprise about 10% of the FY 1999 international affairs budget serving global interests of U.S. citizens. At current growth rates, our world population increases by 90 million--the equivalent of a new Mexico--each year, or a new China every decade. Ninety percent of population growth is in the developing world. Overpopulation threatens even the best of resources--housing, health, and the environment--and it is a contributing source of illegal immigration. Education, health care, child survival, agricultural development, pollution control, and safe energy production are only a few of the development activities supported by the Function 150 budget.

Public diplomacy and diplomatic readiness represents \$3.5 billion proposed in the budget for maintaining our investment in the U.S. Government's embassies; its infrastructure platform; and services that support American diplomats, businesses, and citizens in their overseas activities. It also includes worldwide communications systems managed by the U.S. Information Agency. Scheduled construction and maintenance of embassies, upgrades of communications systems, and continuation of the availability of language proficient Foreign Service professionals at key posts throughout the world are all necessary to supporting U.S. leadership.

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SABIT

SPECIAL AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERNSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM



A U.S. Government-private sector partnership program providing technical assistance to the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union.

SABIT, the Special American Business Internship Training Program, was established in 1990 by the International Trade Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, DC. The program's goal is to support economic restructuring in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS) -- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. With an experienced staff in both Washington and the NIS, SABIT places mid- to senior-level managers, scientists, and engineers from the NIS in internships with small, medium, and large U.S. businesses and organizations throughout the United States. The internships focus on industry training and exposure to Western management concepts and market-based economic fundamentals which are crucial to foreign investment in the NIS. SABIT also provides both the U.S. host organizations and NIS "interns" or "trainees" with a unique opportunity to develop and maintain business partnerships that are the key to success in today's global market.



SABIT is a visible demonstration of NIS' transition to free-market only aim to revitalize industry and also seek to create a more investment-business development throughout the NIS. industry specialists to a new way of thinking in "bottom line" drive production. Interns return home armed with the practical knowledge needed for restructuring their businesses and transforming their economies into modern, efficient, private sector-oriented systems. U.S. companies that participate have an opportunity to network with contacts from the NIS, to expose their products and services to potential business partners or customers, and to expand U.S. exports and investment. Furthermore, SABIT increases American competitiveness by establishing relationships with a cadre of newly trained, influential business people in the NIS who are more favorable to doing business with the United States.

SABIT Programs

SABIT offers two types of training programs for specialists from the NIS: 1) the SABIT Grant Program and 2) the Specialized Training Programs. The Grant Program provides training to individual English-speaking managers and scientists from the NIS at a single U.S. company or institution for a period of 3-6 months. This program focuses on management training and commercial application of research and development and reimburses U.S. hosts for a portion of the training costs. Specialized SABIT programs bring groups of 15-25 specialists from the NIS to the United States for six weeks of industry-specific training at a variety of companies and sites across the country. Through this format, the trainees become familiar with a U.S. industry sector and its regulations, establish valuable business relationships, learn about innovative technologies, equipment, and services, and come to understand market-based business concepts.

For Further Information contact SABIT @ Tel: (202) 482-0073 or E-mail SABIT@usita.gov

PARTNERSHIP FOR FREEDOM

Rationale

The transition of the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS) to stable market democracies will dramatically enhance our national security. Our continued engagement with the NIS is critical to this process. Since late 1991, these twelve nations have been struggling to restructure their economies toward market mechanisms and reform their governments toward democracies--actions that clearly benefit U.S. national interests. The Partnership for Freedom is the cooperative mechanism by which the United States will participate in and influence this historic transformation.

Components

Three factors drive the Partnership for Freedom: 1) progress toward institutional reform in many of the NIS, 2) the need to supplement this progress by reinforcing the transition to democracy with strong relationships and linkages between our peoples, and 3) the need to encourage economic growth, particularly in the regions away from capitals.

- In several of the NIS, the foundations for democratic government and market economies are basically in place--constitutions, laws, courts, capital markets--often as a result of our assistance over the past five years. This is allowing us to phase out the technical assistance that has been instrumental in achieving this progress. This is most evident in Russia.
- Because economic and democratic reform in these countries is a generational process, we need to maintain our presence and influence in these societies. Hence, Partnership for Freedom emphasizes exchanges, partnerships and other cooperative activities that support the development of civil societies, provide benefits to both sides and establish long-term linkages between Americans and the peoples of the NIS.
- Finally, while the foundations for economic growth are in place, most of these economies are growing only slowly, if at all. The Partnership for Freedom--with its emphasis on removing barriers to investment, supporting small business particularly in the regions away from capitals, providing capital to small and medium enterprises and training to entrepreneurs--adds a bottom-up element to our support for economic reform. To be sustained, economic and political stability requires job-creating economic growth.

**Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to the NIS
United States Department of State**



Overview of U.S. Policy Toward The New Independent States Of the Former U.S.S.R.

**Fact Sheet Released by the Office
of Resources, Plans, and Policy
February 17, 1998**

U.S. policy toward the New Independent States is motivated by the memory that for nearly 50 years after the end of World War II the principal threat to the security of the United States came from the Soviet Union. Six years ago, 12 new states became independent. Since then, they have been engaged in a historic struggle to transform their societies from centrally planned communist authoritarian regimes hostile toward the United States and the West into more democratic forms of government, cooperating as partners with the United States and Western allies and building market-oriented economies. Our strategy is to use all the diplomatic and assistance tools available to ensure that this transformation is successful. We are advancing freedom and democracy and promoting economic opportunity for these peoples and for American business, so that no such threat ever again arises from this region.

Over the past 6 years, the United States has worked with other donors to engage actively in the NIS. We quickly established diplomatic missions. We instituted intensive government contacts and assistance programs to advance economic and political reform and to promote regional stability. Key among these have been Joint Commissions with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and, most recently, Uzbekistan. We successfully realized the denuclearization of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. We now confront a range of proliferation issues -- most importantly concerning Iran -- with Russia, Ukraine and various other states. Weak, cash-strapped states that inherited weapons of mass destruction and large parts of the Soviet Union's military-industrial complex will continue to pose proliferation challenges. We will need to pursue creative solutions, including, when necessary, tools, such as buyouts, to address specific problems.

U.S. engagement has helped to contain and to move toward resolution a number of ethnic conflicts in the NIS, especially in the Caucasus. As conflicts move toward resolution we will need to devote resources to reconstruction to solidify the gains. We have seen substantial, but mixed progress toward political and especially economic reform in most of the NIS, including the creation of important new trade and investment opportunities for U.S. business. We are working to help develop the energy resources of the Caspian Basin. We have forged close political and economic links with most of these countries that should ensure that they contribute to a stable, peaceful world.

Central elements of U.S. policies toward the region remain: political support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the NIS; advice and guidance in the process of nation building; and especially tangible economic and technical aid for these states' transition toward market democracy and integration into Western institutions. During the last 5 years, the United States has provided over \$9 billion in grant assistance for NIS programs. We have seen substantial positive results from this assistance toward democratization, institution-building, the rule of law, privatization, and development of sound tax laws and favorable investment climates.

These accomplishments, achieved by many U.S. Government agencies working together under the direction of the Department of State, have been a bargain for the American taxpayer.

Economic and political stability in the NIS contributes directly to the security and prosperity of the United States and is being strengthened by a relatively modest assistance budget carefully targeted toward building grass-roots support behind economic and political reforms in each of the 12 states.

Despite the success of these programs, considerable work remains, especially with regard to non-proliferation, crime, corruption, the rule of law, private investment, entrepreneurship, and the decentralization of reform. To help ensure that the direct, Cold War threat to U.S. national security never recurs, we must maintain, and in some cases expand, carefully targeted U.S. aid to the NIS.

In last year's budget, one of the President's top foreign policy priorities was to launch the Partnership for Freedom, a refocused program of assistance and cooperation with the NIS. This initiative, funded by Congress in FY 1998 at less than the request, has two major goals: first, to demonstrate that the U.S. is committed to a continued and leading role in fostering economic and political reform in this strategic region, reversing the steeply downward trend in our NIS assistance resources. And second, to refocus U.S. engagement with these countries on cooperative, mutually beneficial activities, phasing down technical assistance to central governments as appropriate and emphasizing -- in particular at the grass-roots and regional levels -- investment, economic growth, and linkages between Americans and peoples of the NIS.

The ultimate goal of this approach is to build support for democratic and economic reform from the ground up, by promoting the development of a civil society and the emergence of a new entrepreneurial class. This is a generational process which requires patience on the part of Americans and the citizens of NIS countries. The U.S. can help by offering the people of the NIS some of the tools necessary to make this transition by providing access to capital and know-how to grow the economy and create jobs. So far the transition has been difficult and painful for many sectors of NIS societies, particularly with respect to health care and other basic social needs. This is why the Partnership for Freedom places great emphasis on programs that have a direct impact on people, especially in such areas as maternal health and child immunization. By working at the grass-roots level, we will increase our credibility as a caring nation and help build long-term, durable ties with the peoples of the NIS, which will help us avoid conflict in the future and thus contribute to our own national security.

Through its assistance program, the U.S. has played a leading role internationally in supporting the democratic transformation of Russia and the NIS. U.S. leadership has helped to persuade other major donors, including the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Japanese Government, the World Bank, and private donors, to chip in sizable assistance programs for the NIS. For example the European Union has provided over US \$3 billion in assistance to the NIS since 1992, while the multilateral development banks offered \$13 billion in loans. The total from other donors and multilateral institutions through 1996 topped \$36 billion. U.S. leadership is necessary to ensure these contributions continue.

In FY 1998, Partnership for Freedom activities are focused on trade and investment programs, business development, exchanges and partnerships, and related programs. This includes an initial response to President Yeltsin's request for U.S. help to train business managers through a Presidential Management Training Initiative, as well as the increased demand for capitalization of the enterprise funds to foster small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

In FY 1999, President Clinton is requesting funds to bolster Partnership for Freedom activities, particularly those aimed at the grass-roots and regional levels. Some of the additional funding will be used to expand the PFF's Presidential Management Training Initiative beyond Russia to the rest of the NIS, to meet the increased capitalization needs of the enterprise funds, and to expand work in the health and environmental sectors. These activities

are designed to give citizens of the NIS states some of the needed tools to overcome important obstacles in the transition to a market economy.

It is important to recognize that this assistance is as much in the U.S. national security interest as any dollar spent as part of the defense budget. After having spent trillions of dollars to defend ourselves against Soviet-inspired communism, we have been able to reduce U.S. defense spending by approximately \$30 billion a year since 1989. Our request for the Freedom Support Act is less than \$1 billion a year -- roughly only 3% of the annual defense savings -- a bargain for the American taxpayer.

For more information, please see our web site at <http://www.state.gov/www/regions/nis/index.html>

Report From the Road

Again and again, I saw how much good American aid and investment can do. BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

LAST WEEK I TRAVELED to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia and Ukraine at the request of the president and Secretary of State Albright to see the historic transformation in the former Soviet Union. In many ways, this trip is a continuation of the work I have tried to do for the past four and a half years—and which I hope to continue in the years ahead. I want to help these newly independent nations promote democracy, economic reform and civil society, and to send a clear message that the United States will stand with those who are committed to them. I came to stress the important roles that women, young people and nongovernmental organizations must play in building a better future. At a time when Americans legitimately wonder what our responsibilities are in the aftermath of the cold war, I hope this trip will underscore why American assistance and involvement remain essential.

I have many memories of my trip: the mountains of Almaty, a thriving bazaar outside Bishkek, the mosques and synagogues of Bukhara, the universities of Yekaterinburg in

Novosibirsk, the beauty of Lviv. But the most powerful memories of my visit are of the people. Despite crumbling schools and rising tuition, classrooms were filled with exceptionally bright young people. I'll always remember walking into Soviet-style schools and finding students inside learning for the first time about democracy. Under the Freedom Support Act, many of these students had studied in U.S. high schools. If the American people could hear how they had been transformed by the experience, I believe they would want to invite more.

In the places I visited, the health-care system of the past has been left behind, leaving enormous gaps in care. Physicians told me about high infant and maternal mortality rates, and about the widespread cancers, birth defects and other illnesses caused by environmental damage. I officially opened two of the 13 new women's wellness centers that our government is



Supporting new societies: In Kazakhstan

helping to create in the former Soviet republics. They are the result of a true public-private international partnership, providing a full range of health care to women—including family-planning services. Over time, access to contraception could lower the abortion rate, as is already happening in Kazakhstan.

Everywhere I went I spoke with women who have overcome unimaginable odds to build a society that values their contributions. In Kyrgyzstan, women described to me how they are often the first

fired and last hired. With help from nongovernmental agencies and USAID, they have formed "Village Banks," which give them modest loans to buy goods to sell at market. Many have also been helped by vital nongovernmental organizations, which are cleaning up the environment, protecting the rights of disabled children and supporting a free press and independent judiciary.

Again and again, I saw how much good American aid and investment abroad can do. I also saw how American businesses and voluntary organizations have donated supplies for hospitals and clothing for children, through projects like Operation Provide Hope.

Peace Corps volunteers are teaching English and economics and cleaning up environmental damage.

Across Central Asia, Russia and Ukraine, we are making progress. But even in this age of rapid change, we cannot expect the legacy of communism to vanish overnight. These newly free people need our support. To do otherwise would be to abdicate our responsibilities and miss a historic opportunity to ensure prosperity not only in these countries, but in our own country and around the world.

Peace Corps: Volunteers Making a Difference

The Peace Corps is charting a course for the future that builds upon the lessons learned over the past 37 years in a way that makes sense for today's circumstances. Today, in 84 countries, nearly 6,500 Peace Corps Volunteers are living and working alongside local people to help fight hunger, bring clean water to communities, teach children, protect the environment, start new small businesses, and prevent the spread of AIDS. Since 1961, more than 150,000 Americans have joined the Peace Corps.

In his fiscal 1999 budget, President Clinton has proposed increasing the Peace Corps budget to put the agency on the path to having 10,000 Peace Corps Volunteers overseas by the year 2000. The President's proposal represents the largest funding increase requested for the Peace Corps since the 1960s.

Peace Corps Programs in the Newly Independent States

In November 1997, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited with Peace Corps Volunteers in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. These Volunteers work primarily in three areas: education (60 percent), business development (30 percent), and the environment (10 percent). The Peace Corps plans to increase the number of Volunteers serving in these and three other Newly Independent States during the coming year. Volunteers working in education are primarily English teachers, who also work with counterparts enhancing their teaching methodology skills. There are a variety of creative English instruction projects specific to each country as well. Business Development Volunteers provide consultation to newly created non-governmental organizations and local entrepreneurs. The work of the Volunteers in environment projects in these countries varies in focus but is fundamentally educational.

KAZAKHSTAN: Kazakhstan currently hosts 84 Peace Corps Volunteers, teaching English, promoting small business development and protecting the environment. In addition to English instruction, Volunteers work with both students and Kazakhstani teachers and create community-based resource centers. Environment Volunteers also perform epidemiological research.

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC: The 79 Peace Corps Volunteers in the Kyrgyz Republic work as either English instructors or in the business sector, strengthening non-governmental organizations that serve the private sector.

RUSSIA: There are currently 159 Volunteers serving in Russia. English instruction is the largest assignment area. Business Volunteers serve in business centers, city administrations, institutes, NGOs and business incubators. Other Volunteers are concentrating on environmental education and the development of non-profit, non-governmental organizations dedicated to the environment.

UKRAINE: There are 179 Volunteers serving throughout Ukraine, working at educational institutions, governmental agencies, business associations, privatization offices, and non-governmental organizations.

UZBEKISTAN: There are 55 Peace Corps Volunteers working in either education or business development projects.



First Lady Visits Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan

Hillary Rodham Clinton has traveled widely in her capacity as First Lady, meeting and talking with Peace Corps Volunteers all over the world. In November 1997, she met with Peace Corps Volunteers in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. A business development volunteer in Uzbekistan, John Smart of Fredericksburg, Va., teaches economics at a public secondary school. He recounts the First Lady's historic visit to his school in Bukhara, Uzbekistan:

Mrs. Clinton, accompanied by the First Lady of Uzbekistan, was greeted upon her arrival to our school by several of our students dressed in national costume. The students presented the First Ladies with the traditional bread of hospitality and hand-crafted gifts representative of Bukhara. Mrs. Clinton and 25 of our students sat in a circle and chatted for nearly an hour. One of our students had spent a year in the United States through the ACCELS program, and she told the First Lady that she visited the White House. "But you weren't at home," she said. Mrs. Clinton immediately responded: "That's why I came to Bukhara, because we missed each other in Washington." Another question was: "What do you think about the work of the Peace Corps?" Mrs. Clinton turned to look at me, and then asked, "Did Mr. Smart put you up to that question?" But she gave a clear answer concerning her support for Peace Corps. She said that it is probably the best foreign policy program America has, not only teaching the people of the world about America, and helping them to develop into full participants of the world community, but also teaching Americans about the rest of the world. She pointed out that she always makes contact with Peace Corps Volunteers wherever she goes on her travels. "They're the ones who know best about the people and places, because they live there," she said.

Mrs. Clinton said repeatedly how impressed she was with the students, their English skills and their curiosity. I think it was exactly what she came here to do, to break down old barriers and forge new understanding with the people of the former Soviet Union. I'm happy that Mrs. Clinton visited our city and school, and I hope that her visit will finally put Uzbekistan "on the map" for my fellow Americans. This is a fascinating country, and the Uzbek people are warm, generous and hospitable. Maybe her trip will help to get this story out.



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, DC 20523 USAID PRESS OFFICE

Contact: Ernie Gibble
(202) 712-4047

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THE FIRST LADY'S USAID SITE VISITS FROM HER TRIP TO KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYSTAN, UZBEKISTAN & RUSSIA

The First Lady visited many U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs during her trip to Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan and Russia, many of which will be pictured during her slide show. These programs highlight USAID's role in supporting democracy initiatives, health and education programs and economic reform and private sector development.

The following USAID programs (listed in the order visited) were seen by the First Lady. For more information on these and other USAID activities in the region, please contact Ernie Gibble at 202.712.4047.

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN - WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER

The USAID funded Almaty-Tucson (AZ) partnership is composed of a large group of Almaty health care institutions, including the Institute for Pediatrics and Children's Surgery, the Almaty City Emergency Hospital, the Almaty City Perinatal Center and others. The U.S. partners are a coalition of eight hospitals, the public health department and the Tucson, Arizona Medical Center.

Unlike traditional family planning oriented programs, the Almaty Center focuses on the full spectrum of women's health issues. The center is not restricted to serving only the reproductive health needs of women, but includes general health services, screening, education and health promotion activities in areas ranging from prenatal care to menopause. As such, the Women's Wellness Center serves as a new model for healthcare delivery which reduces duplication and fragmentation of health services in order to provide better health care and easier access to services for a population group which has long been ignored or under-served.

BISHKEK, KYRGYSTAN - WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

In 1994, USAID approved a \$6.2 million grant to the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA) to establish a microenterprise credit project in Kyrgyzstan. With the collapse of the Soviet system, many men lost their jobs. Families lost a comfortable lifestyle as food became expensive and scarce. Schools and medicine were no longer free. For some, self-employment became the only hope. With the help of FINCA, many women were able to obtain small working capital loans to buy rice, eggs, and other products which they could sell in the local bazaars. Through FINCA's village banking savings system, these women have increased their working capital and income. They can now purchase butter, sugar, and meat - luxuries they previously could not afford.

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN - WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER

The USAID funded Tashkent-Chicago Partnership is composed of the Second Tashkent State Medical Institute (TashMI II), one of the ten largest hospitals in the NIS, and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Medical Center. The partnership has developed a model comprehensive women's wellness center. This one-stop shopping approach will provide an integrated set of services (primary care, reproductive health, mental health and education in such topics as domestic violence and substance abuse) for women of all ages.

SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN - AID TO ARTISANS

USAID funded Aid to Artisans (ATA) has helped MEROS (Heritage) grow to serve a diverse membership of more than 90 artisan entrepreneurs, including master craftsmen, female home producers, fashion designers, teachers, apprentices and unemployed professionals from other fields. Services include assistance with product design and marketing, business training, international networking and advocacy. One focus of attention has been the revival of ancient crafts such as paper making and the adaptation of traditional crafts to modern usage.

Located in the Samarkand Art and History Museum across the street from the Registan, MEROS displays the works of over sixty members of the Association. MEROS is a democratically governed, non-governmental organization formed in 1996 by a group of artisans who believed that by working together, they could begin to solve many of the problems facing them during the time of transition to a market economy.

YEKATERINBURG, RUSSIA - URAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Business Development Program funded by USAID was directly responsible for the creation of the Ural Women's Business Association. This Association was founded in 1993. The Association was founded to help address the problem of high unemployment among women in the Ural region. The activities of the Association focus on developing entrepreneurial skills, business opportunities and improving the business environment.

In 1995, the Ural Women's Association and the Yekaterinburg Business Support Center (BSC) organized a national conference that resulted in 27 Chapters of Women's business associations being established throughout the country. With over 5000 members the confederation now has the strength to influence policy makers' and federal bodies' business strategy decisions. The Confederation also promotes inter-regional ties and impacts international decisions on women's business support.



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

REGION PROFILE

USAID Programs for Europe and the New Independent States

February, 1998

PROGRAM AND MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES.

With the pace of reform varying so greatly between sub-regions, USAID has had to adapt its management approaches and program interventions to meet substantially different circumstances. Resource allocation trends also reflect these differences as USAID phases-out successful programs in the CEE northern tier, exploits new opportunities for reform in the CEE southern tier, and intensifies efforts in the NIS where reform is slower and assistance will continue far into the next decade.

CEE Northern Tier Focus: Graduation.

USAID is actively graduating successful countries in the northern tier of Central Europe. Graduated and projected graduated countries include: Estonia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. At present, plans also include FY 1999 as the last year of funding for Slovakia, despite the fact that they have not achieved the same level of democratic freedom as other northern tier countries. The assistance challenge for all these countries is to ensure remaining funds are focused on the most critical constraints to graduation and that sufficient indigenous institutions are in place to support economic and political integration with the West in general, and the European Union, in particular. As part of its post-presence strategy in the CEE, USAID is developing various mechanisms to manage remaining activities and reinforce the sustainability of results achieved. In partnership with several major American foundations, USAID proposes the creation of a publicly- and privately-endowed trust to continue important civil society linkages with Central and Eastern Europe. Democratic reform in the CEE has spawned a network of non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups and professional societies. As these countries approach graduation, however, the challenge will be to ensure the vibrancy and endurance of such organizations absent direct transitional assistance. A trust of the magnitude of approximately \$100 million will be established as a bridge between traditional bilateral assistance and NGO self-sufficiency, and will include new, original grants to both stimulate organizations in-country and to shape hospitable climates for their success. The trust will be developed over the next year as part of the regional strategy and will begin in countries where USAID is phasing-out.

CEE Southern Tier Focus: Capitalizing on New Reform Opportunities.

Results of elections in Romania and Bulgaria have greatly improved prospects for success there and given U.S. assistance programs new opportunities to accelerate reform. The situation in Albania has also stabilized, enabling the U.S. government to proceed with its assistance program. In concert with development partners, USAID is focussing on economic restructuring and privatization, and melding earlier initiatives in grass-roots organization and local development with newer national level policy reform programs. Strategies are being put in place in all the southern tier countries to best affect new

opportunities for change. Provided the current pace of reforms can be sustained, graduation from U.S. assistance may commence by 2002, although Albania, starting from a much poorer base, may require a longer development assistance period. Resource allocations to southern tier countries represent 59% of the non-Bosnia portion of the FY 1999 SEED request, up from 54% in FY 1998.

Bosnia/Serbia and Montenegro: Bridging Reconstruction and Systemic Reform Needs.

Progress continues to be made in Bosnia, however many communities are still experiencing hardships brought about by the devastation of war. In addition, refugee and displaced person returns need to be accelerated. The Federation economy is slowly improving, but the economy in the Republika Srpska is stagnant. Overall, democracy remains fragile. Progress is needed in the reform of the media sector and in the installation of multi-ethnic governments resulting from the September 1997 municipal elections. Given the large problems remaining in the institutionalization process in Bosnia, USAID will continue to support implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords and cooperation between the entities. As part of that process, assistance toward a market economy and democratic system in Bosnia is consistent with and supportive of USAID's broader goals in the region. USAID will also expand support for the nascent democracy movement in Serbia and Montenegro as part of U.S. interests in regional stability. It is anticipated that targeted assistance in the democracy area will strengthen the Government's commitment to the terms and principles of the Dayton Peace Accords.

NIS Focus: Fundamental Reform and Partnership for Freedom.

Assumptions regarding U.S. assistance to the NIS have changed drastically during the last eighteen months as programs are tempered by two fundamental trends. First, these countries have the farthest to go in their transitions. Macro stabilization and economic growth continue to be new phenomena; private sectors remain small; and democratic reforms continue to lag, and in some cases have regressed. Second, the NIS transition path may be less sustainable than that experienced in the CEE. The inequities of the transition process have been much greater in the NIS: the gains and costs have been more concentrated; corruption and informal economies are bigger; and the will to reform is not as given as it is in most of CEE. Special country circumstances are also having an impact on the nature and duration of reform assistance. For instance, the Central Asian Republics are facing some typical sustainable development issues, such as poverty alleviation. Transition in the Caucasus is heavily influenced by the large oil and gas reserves of the Caspian Sea as well as political conflict among the countries. Ukraine has slowed its reform pace due to resistance in the socialist-led parliament and problems with corruption.

The Administration and the Congress renewed their commitment to the NIS last year through the Partnership for Freedom (PFF). This initiative extends the time period of U.S. involvement to FY 2006 and substantially increases resource allocations to the region. As progress is made in the NIS, resources will be focused on alternative mechanisms to traditional technical assistance, working more closely with the private sector (including small and medium enterprises) and local governments to consolidate reform efforts and make them irreversible by increasing trade, investment and other linkages between the United States and the countries of the former Soviet Union. Under the PFF, the new Presidential Management Training Initiative (PMTI) will have a major impact on business management skills through partnerships between U.S. and NIS business schools, expanded university scholarships, business internships and training.