

MEMORANDUM

To: Harold Ickes, White House Deputy Chief of Staff
From: Pat Parisi, Region II *PP*
Re: Harlem International Trade Center Corporation

You may already know about this project. But it is better to have the information twice than not at all. I am always keen for regional news that might help the Administration.

Yesterday (August 15) I attended a conference of Federal Regional administrators on the Harlem International Trade Center (HITC). This project has significant sponsorship from Congressman Charles Rangel and other leaders of Harlem including Hon. Percy Sutton.

HITC is the centerpiece of the New York City Empowerment Zone, which was initiated by Congressman Rangel. The leaders of the Harlem community believe that HITC can be the cornerstone of a true renaissance for this vital but under employed community. This massive building project will employ many people in the community. Completion is set for early 1998, it will serve as a magnet for private sector business.

The building project will include 150,000 square feet of state of the art office space, and a much needed hotel. The conference yesterday was to inform and offer space to Federal Government agencies for their Regional office needs. Interested Federal agencies include: Passport, Small Business, and Labor.

This Administration seeks to support those in Congress who support us. I believe that HITC is a very important project to Congressman Rangel, and the Harlem community. This is an opportunity to help Harlem leaders achieve their dream of urban renewal. Federal Agencies can participate in HITC by leasing office space, thus anchoring the project. The Clinton Administration can help secure the success of the Harlem Empowerment Zone. This success serves as tangible proof of our commitment to big cities.