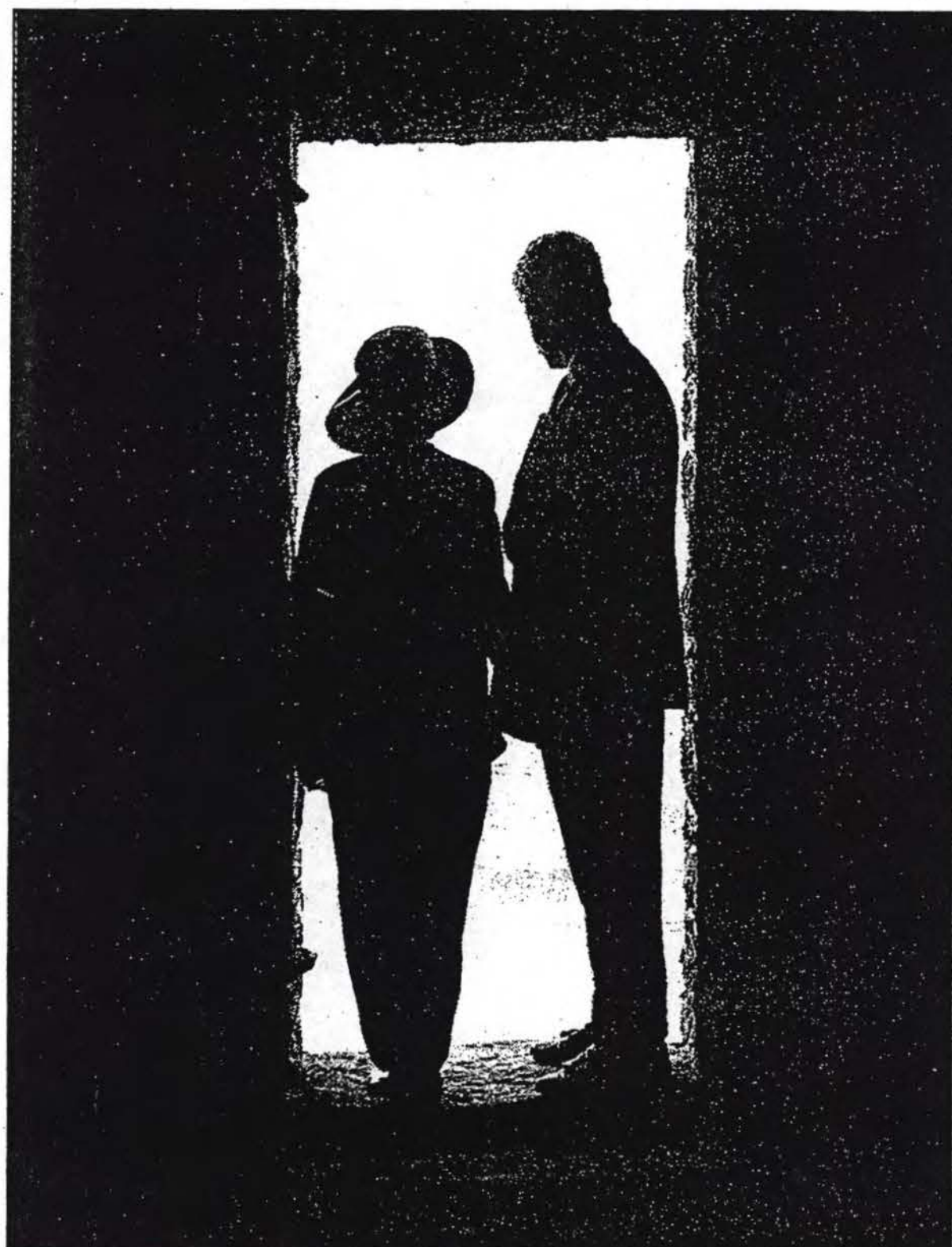


HRC Clips



Africa Trip
March 22 - April 3, 1998



'No return': The Clintons tour a slave house on Goree Island, Senegal. Story, A6.

AP

The Washington Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1998



Associated Press

President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton at the "Door of No Return" in a former slave house on Gorée Island, Senegal, yesterday.

The New York Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1998

The Clintons as Teammates, Dovetailing in Africa

By JAMES BENNET

GORÉE ISLAND, Senegal, April 2 — Over the last 12 days, Bill and Hillary Clinton have treated Africans — and Americans watching from home — to a full dose of the buy-one-get-one-free Clinton partnership, sprinkling images of a fun-and-policy-loving First Couple across the continent.

This trip, which was longer in gestures than new proposals, was intended to produce a partnership "that will outlive my Presidency," Mr. Clinton said before flying home today. But the partnership most vividly spotlighted here was not between Africa and America but that of the Clintons. And it was shown to a degree not seen since Mrs. Clinton presided over her husband's failed health care plan in 1994.

Together, the Clintons danced with schoolchildren in a sun-splashed Ugandan meadow; together, they roamed the Kalahari, pointing out the big game to one another and merrily describing their adventures to reporters; and today, they stood hand-in-hand in a former slave house here, gazing somberly out through a gaping doorway at the gray Atlantic and the forced route of Africans to the New World.

Not just the symbol-conscious but the substantive Clinton & Clinton was on display today. This morning, the Clintons met in Dakar with activists from across Africa to discuss democracy and human rights. It was the last of what seemed an unbroken stream of transcontinental round-table talk, during which the Clintons discussed recovering from genocide with Rwandans, fighting poverty with South Africans, and protecting the environment with Botswanans.

"I look forward to the conversation," Mrs. Clinton said, in greeting the group today.

On this tour, one Clinton adviser said, "There's been one schedule, rather than two."

On Wednesday, the Clintons appeared in the isolated village of Dal Diam, swept with dust by the hot wind off the encroaching desert, to admire work done there over four years by the Agency for International Development and private groups: a well dug, cattle bought, reading taught, and a village store started with a small loan.

Taking a microphone to perform an introduction for the villagers, Mrs. Clinton referred to a song some of them had just sung. "I liked the song very much where he was called Hillary's husband," she said, "but, usually, we call him the President of the United States."

In return, Mr. Clinton, wearing an ankle-length silver gown over his shirt and tie, invoked his wife's book, "It Takes A Village," which took its title from an African proverb. "Your village has lifted our hearts," he told the crowd.

On Wednesday night, the Clintons received word that Paula Corbin Jones's sexual misconduct case against the President had been thrown out. The news provided an unexpected personal and political lift, helping Mr. Clinton to return to the United States on a high note, his

aides said. But for the most part, such matters did not intrude on the African trip; watching this couple tour Africa, one would have little idea that back in the United States, the husband was being buffeted with new charges of extramarital affairs, which the White House has angrily denied.

White House aides acknowledged that the Clinton partnership had been more visible in Africa than it had been since 1994. Mrs. Clinton kept a lower profile at home after the health care plan collapsed, concentrating on less hotly debated issues like foreign development and education. But in her foreign travels, Mrs. Clinton never stopped campaigning on behalf of women, declaring over and over that women's rights were also human rights.

Like the trip itself, the display of the strength of the Clintons' marriage came at a propitious time, with accusations about the President's personal conduct still at a boil in Washington despite the decision in the Paula Jones case. But White

House advisers said Clinton & Clinton became more prominent on this trip simply because, in Africa, Mrs. Clinton's cherished issues moved to the fore. "She clearly has been a primary tutor of him" on Africa, said Michael D. McCurry, the White House press secretary.

Mrs. Clinton, who traveled in Africa a year ago, lobbied her husband to make this trip and guided him to sites she visited before, like a South African housing cooperative and this small island of sandy lanes and pastel-colored colonial houses. "It was so important for her to have him do this," said one of her advisers.

Staff members who have watched the Clintons in private over the last two weeks said they continued their policy chatter away from the cameras, swapping impressions and ideas. "There are times you can see tension between them, when they're not agreeing," one Administration official said. But in Africa, this official added, "the two of them seem incredibly happy with each other."

As is generally the case abroad,

Mrs. Clinton has been a political asset to the President here, partly because of her previous trip and her advocacy of foreign development. "Thanks for visiting us Hillary," read one sign in the Senegalese village on Wednesday.

The President has been invoking Mrs. Clinton since his arrival in Africa, in Ghana on March 23. "We need to come to know Africa as a place of new beginnings and ancient wisdom from which, as my wife, our First Lady, said in her book, we have so much to learn," he said in a speech to hundreds of thousands there.

Mrs. Clinton accompanied the President to nearly all of his public events. While she spoke at many of the same events as the President, Mrs. Clinton also spoke on her own, always to highlight women's issues. At a day care center in Ghana, she declared, "We must speak out to insure that no girl is ever denied an education" and "to end violence against women in all forms."

Today, Mrs. Clinton met with a group of activists here to condemn the practice of female genital cutting.

In the village of Dal Diam on Wednesday, the Clintons, in the presence of reporters, lingered despite staff protestations to have their pictures taken with the family of Amadou Sou, whose compound of thatched huts they were visiting. "Should we take pictures with each group?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"We can if you like," Mr. Clinton replied.

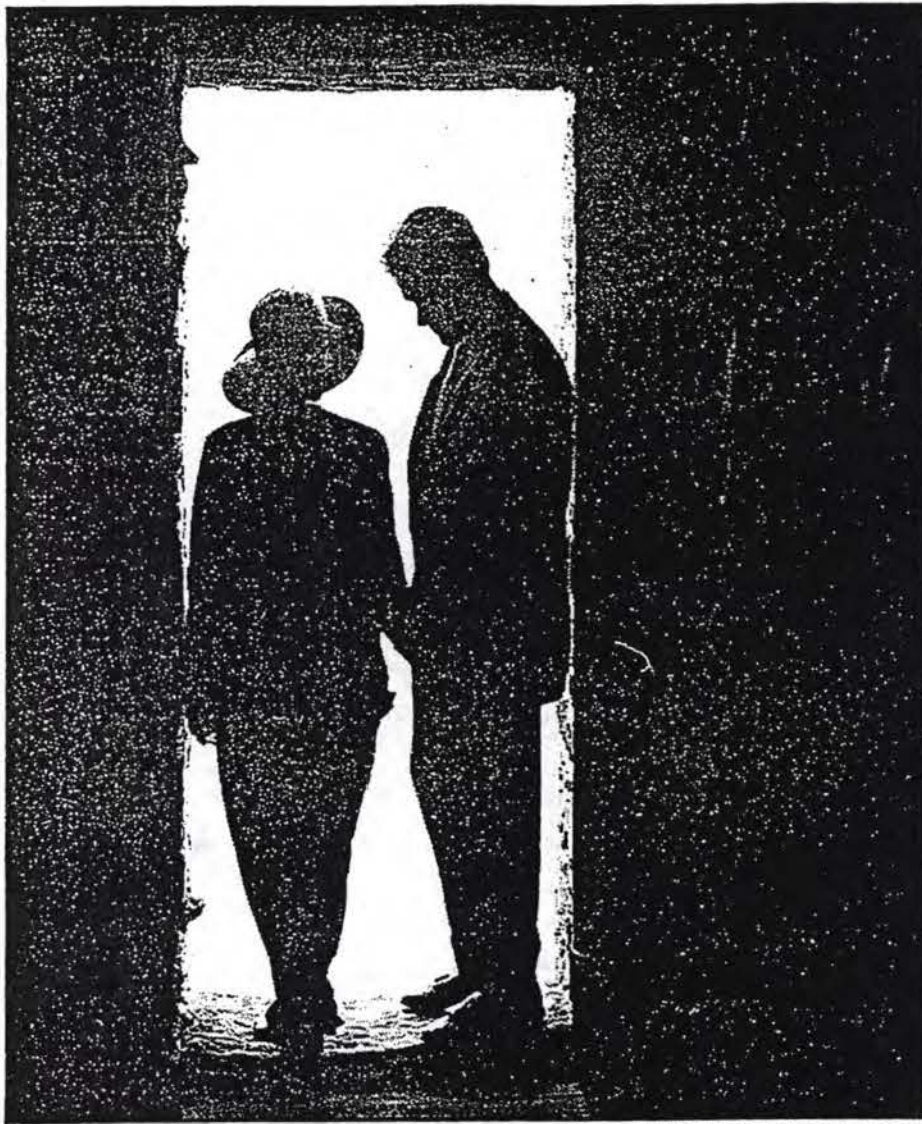
With his wife beaming nearby, Mr. Clinton was then presented with a baby goat, which he cradled in his arms and kissed repeatedly on its forehead, baahing back as it cried to him. "What's the name of this goat?" he asked, and was told, inevitably, that it was Bill Clinton — a Billy goat.

"You must take very good care of this goat!" Mrs. Clinton declared.

The New York Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1998

Clinton wraps up Africa trip with visit to past



By Paul J. Richards, Agence France-Presse

African, American history: President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton stand in the 'door of no return' Thursday on Senegal's Goree Island, once a principal site for the slave trade in Western Africa. The visit was part of the Clintons' final stop of their 12-day African trip. (Story, 1A)

USA TODAY • FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1998



By Greg Gibson, AP

In Africa: President and Mrs. Clinton during a visit to a village in Senegal.



Africa's women sing of their hopes, dreams

The women my husband and I met on our trip to Africa greeted us with song. Everywhere we stopped, they sang of their lives, they sang of their hopes for themselves and their families, and they sang of the new Africa.

In Ghana, the women who greeted us were dressed in aqua, orange, yellow and other bright colors. They were united by a common mission — the chance to become full participants in their country's political and economic development. They showed me the microenterprises they've created selling jewelry, art, clothing and other goods. But nothing delighted them more than showing me their day care center, where children were being cared for while their mothers worked to support their families.

Last year, when I visited South Africa, the women sang to me of strength, money and knowledge. When my husband joined me there last week, we witnessed the remarkable changes born of these three ingredients.

As we approached the Victoria Mxenge Housing Project, we could still see the shanties where homeless squatters — mostly women — lived. Now, on the other side of the street, we found a vibrant community that women have built by pooling their resources, securing small loans and constructing homes together.

Last year, I asked the women if they believed they would own a home themselves someday. Their answer was a resounding "yes." This time, when I asked how many had become homeowners, hands shot up throughout the group. In just one year, the number of homes in that village has increased from 18 to 104.

Roads once made of dirt are now paved. The concrete slab where we gathered last year is now a community center, complete with a day care center and a store. And the women have just bought a larger plot of land that will provide fertile soil for new businesses and new homes.

In Rwanda, I was anguished as women spoke of the struggle to rebuild lives ripped apart by genocide. In Uganda, I heard the stories of women striving to provide education for every boy and girl and using microcredit loans to increase their incomes and improve their lives. And in Botswana, I listened to women leaders who are helping combat the scourge of AIDS and promote legal rights.

In Senegal, I met with a group of women from the Malicounda Bambara village who have done something truly remarkable. Although female genital mutilation affects less than 20 percent of women in Senegal, in many villages like Malicounda, it is considered a rite of passage for all girls.

These women decided that female genital mutilation had harmed their daughters' bodies and spirits for too long. They decided that it was time to end the pain, hemorrhaging, infections, AIDS and childbirth complications caused by this deadly tradition.

They showed me a skit that they have used to educate their religious leaders, their husbands and their neighbors. Malicounda Bambara villagers have now banned female genital mutilation, and in the process, they are inspiring others to do the same. Just last month, 13 villages with a combined population of more than 8,000 people joined together to end female genital mutilation in their communities. And now, Senegal's President Diouf has called for a new law to abolish it throughout the country.

In Thies, Senegal, I visited a group of parents at the Mode Kane School who are improving their children's lives by improving their own education, literacy and health. They, too, sang a song of their journey, a song they called "Women's Rights": "All people . . . have equal rights. The right to education. The right to health. These rights have changed our lives . . . in our homes, in our neighborhoods and in our country."

As I leave this remarkable continent to return home, I am reminded of how one of Senegal's greatest authors, Ousmane Sembene, described a group of women from Thies who marched and sang in the name of simple fairness and progress. He wrote, "Ever since they left Thies, the women had not stopped singing. As soon as one group allowed the refrain to die, another picked it up and new verses were born. . . . No one was very sure any longer where the song began, or if it had an ending. It rolled out over its own length, like the movement of a serpent. It was as long as a life."

With every generation, the chorus of African women becomes stronger and more powerful. No one remembers where the song began. But I hope the song of Africa's women never ends.

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1998

AFRICAN ANTE

President Clinton has made numerous promises of American financial aid while making his way through a six-country African tour. The following is a running tally of the president's bounty:

Ghana

- A \$67 million guaranteed loan for two barge-mounted power plants.
- A \$1 million donation over three years to link 1,000 African primary schools with sister schools in the United States via the Internet.
- \$2 million for an endowment to preserve biodiversity sites in Ghana.
- A \$500,000 donation to help train and improve the management of Ghana's police force.

Uganda

- \$120 million for continentwide assistance programs for African schools and universities.
- A \$61 million program aimed at improving the quality, safety and distribution of crops across Africa.
- A \$1 million initiative to share scientific research to fight malaria and other infectious diseases.

Rwanda

- \$30 million to train judges, prosecutors and police officers in the Great Lakes region, encompassing Rwanda, Congo and Burundi.
- A \$2 million contribution to Rwanda's genocide-survivors fund.

South Africa

- An increase in overall U.S. aid to sub-Saharan Africa of more than \$100 million over the current level of about \$700 million a year.
- Two aid funds totaling \$650 million, backed by the U.S. government, to promote U.S.-Africa private-sector relations.
- A \$30 million write-off of debts owed to the U.S. government from some of Africa's poorest countries.

Botswana

- \$4.8 million for a new Radio Free Africa program, to be taken from the Voice of America budget, to broadcast to such continent trouble spots as Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Angola.
- A \$200,000 NASA program to use U.S. satellites and ground-based technology to conduct the first environmental review of southern Africa.

Senegal

- \$1.2 million for a "safe skies for Africa" program to help sub-Saharan nations meet international air-safety standards.

The Washington Times

AFRICAN TOUR

This is the last day of President Clinton's 11-day, six-nation tour of sub-Saharan Africa, the most extensive ever taken by a U.S. president.

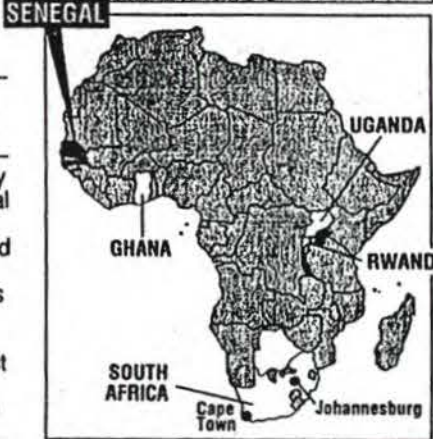
Senegal at a glance

Land: The country covers 75,954 square miles, slightly less than South Dakota. Senegal's capital, Dakar, is the westernmost point in Africa.

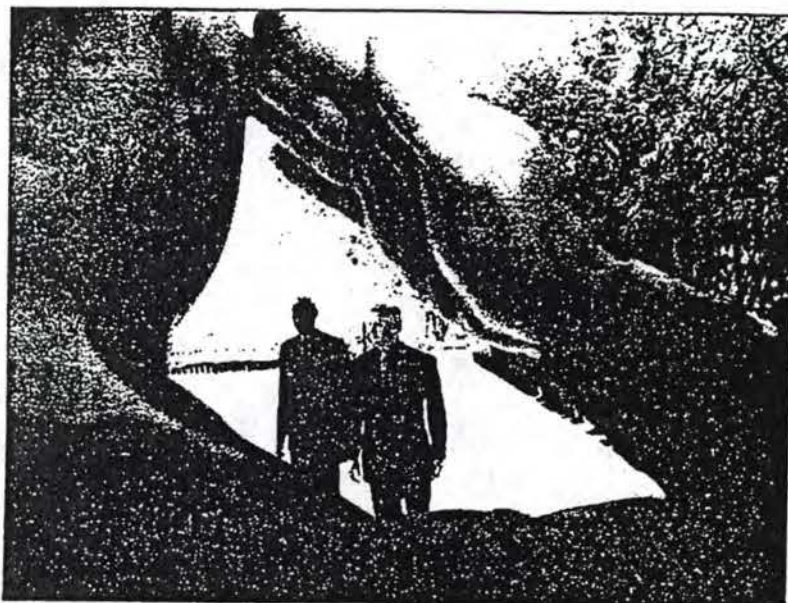
People: The population is 8.5 million. An estimated 92 percent are Muslim; 6 percent, traditional religions; and 2 percent, Christian. French is the official language, while ethnic tongues are widely spoken.

Economy: Leading exports are fish, ground nuts and phosphate minerals.

History: A former French colony and slave-trading center, Senegal joined the French union in 1946. In 1960, the country was declared independent. President Abdou Diouf took office in 1981 and was re-elected in three subsequent democratic elections, the last in February 1993. A rebel separatist group has waged a 15-year guerrilla war for independence in the southern Casamance region.



The Washington Times



AP

Senegal's President Abdou Diouf accompanies President Clinton yesterday during a review of U.S. troops at the Thies Military Base.



Reuters

First lady Hillary Clinton watches students tackle a math problem at the Moda Kane School, a pilot project of the Senegalese government.

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1998

Clintons Have a Beastly Day in Africa

Lions, Tigers and Bears in Botswana? . . . Well, Lions, Anyway

By JOHN F. HARRIS
Washington Post Staff Writer

GABORONE, Botswana, March 30—President Clinton's day started with the discordant sound of a snorting hippo and ended with the sight of two elephants frolicking on the banks of the Chobe River.

In between were baboons, buffalo, crocodiles, kudus, impala, vultures and, allegedly, lions. Also reporters, one of whom was skeptical about the lions.

It was all in a day's nonwork for Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who ditched most of their traveling delegation for a day on safari deep in the Botswana bush.

Although the Clintons had no public schedule, they made time for a five-minute exchange with a small pool of reporters, who started off by asking dutifully about the latest reports from Russia.

Told that Russian President Boris Yeltsin was hinting that he would not seek reelection in 2000 but might endorse former prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, whom he fired just last week, Clinton sounded surprised.

"Chernomyrdin?" he asked.

Yes, said a reporter.

"That's interesting," said Clinton, without elaboration.

He sounded more convincingly interested a moment later as he launched into a recitation of what he had seen on that morning's safari at Chobe National Game Park.

"Probably 20 or 30 different kinds of birds—fascinating ones—including some eagles I had never seen before," the president said, "and some storks I had never seen before, and obviously the vultures, and then a lot of the smaller, very beautiful birds, like those rollers."

The interrogation by the news media continued, albeit with no more questions about Russia—and none at all about Monica Lewinsky, Kenneth Starr or certain other topics lately in the news.

"Any warthogs?" asked a reporter. "We saw some."

"No," said Clinton.

"We saw hippos," interjected the first lady.



President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton take a break on their six-nation African tour to visit Chobe National Game Park in Botswana.

"We saw a lot of hippos," agreed the president.

"Crocodiles," added the first lady. But when she mentioned that they had seen lions, ABC's legendarily aggressive Sam Donaldson was incredulous.

"Oh, you didn't see the lions," he said.

"We did, Sam, we did," said Mrs. Clinton. "Yes, we saw a mother lion and four cubs."

The president endorsed this account. "Oh, yes," he said. "They were up underneath a tree."

The Clintons' day at Chobe reserve was intended essentially as a day off in the middle of a six-nation, 11-day tour of sub-Saharan Africa. A handful of aides went along, including national security adviser Samuel R. "Sandy" Berger, deputy chief of staff Sylvia Mathews, longtime confidante Bruce Lindsey and press secretary Michael McCurry.

The rest of the delegation was left hundreds of miles away from here in Botswana's capital. So were most of the 200 or so reporters, producers and camera operators who are covering the Africa tour. Under terms laid down by the White House, only a small group of reporters—serving as pool reporters for their colleagues—were taken to Chobe.

There was a smidgen of work. Berger, wearing a snazzy safari hat, briefed Clinton on Russia. That came after an early morning drive around the park, but before an evening boat ride down the

Chobe River, back to the Mowana Safari Lodge in Kasane, where the group will stay until Tuesday morning.

For the river trip, the Clintons' boat was preceded and followed by several other boats, carrying security personnel sitting behind mounted guns.

Botswana, a peaceful, prosperous country the size of Texas but with about the population of Dallas (1.4 million), is considered by many to be one of post-colonial Africa's great success stories. The former British territory places a premium on conservation, with 17 percent of the land in national parks and preserves.

Robert Krueger, a former member of Congress from Texas who is U.S. ambassador here, said the Botswanan government hopes Clinton's visit will be a publicity bonanza for the tourism industry.

Clinton was plainly struck by much of what he saw. Among the more vivid sights was that of a Cape buffalo with bright red entrails hanging from its chest cavity after an apparent lion attack.

"He won't survive, will he?" Clinton asked his safari guide, Richard Randall, who responded: "Probably not." (As it happened, the wounded buffalo was a female).

While Clinton enjoyed a visual feast at Chobe, he ingested a literal one. The Mowana lodge has a buffet featuring exotic meats, such as zebra and crocodile.

Clinton, a culinary adventurer, told reporters, "I tried it all."

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1998

'Amazing day' with hippos, vultures and, yes, lions

The Clintons take a break touring game preserve

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

GABORONE, Botswana — Sam Donaldson was skeptical.

The first lady had made a definitive statement about what she had seen, but the ABC White House correspondent wasn't buying her claim.

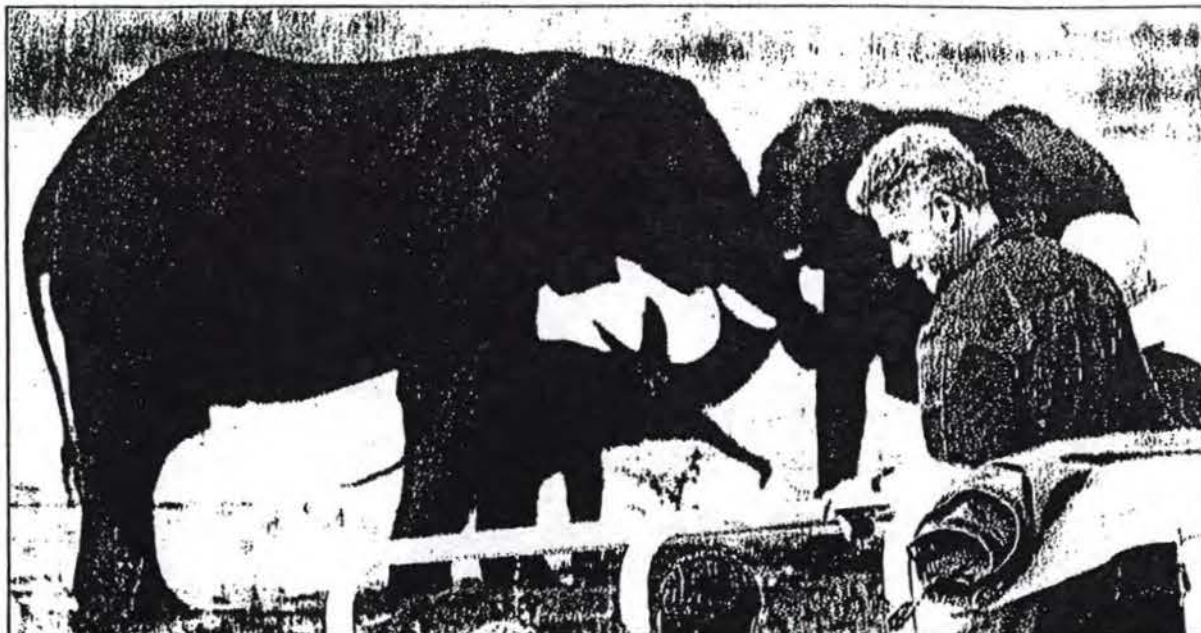
"Oh, you didn't see the lions," he told her.

"We did, Sam," Hillary Rodham Clinton insisted. "We did."

President Clinton and his wife saw lions and a lot more of Africa's exotic wildlife Monday on a daylong safari in Chobe National Park, a pristine wilderness that is home to the largest concentration of elephants in Africa.

The Clintons, on a 12-day tour of the continent to promote emerging democracies, left most of their traveling entourage and the press 500 miles south in Gaborone.

They took a 4½-hour, 30-mile drive in an open-air off-road vehicle in the early morning, and a short boat ride on the Chobe River in the evening. They saw a lion playing with her four cubs under a tree, a 12-foot-long crocodile, a lot of snorting hippos, dozens of baboons, several elephants, a few dozen Cape buffalo with their helmetlike horns and a kudu an antelope with white stripes



By Greg Gibson, AP

Of elephants and men: President Clinton's vehicle stops by the Chobe River during a safari Monday in Botswana's Chobe National Park, home to the largest concentration of elephants in Africa. His tour of the continent ends Thursday.

across the back.

Not to mention the birds.

"We've seen probably 20 or 30 different kinds of birds — fascinating ones, including some eagles I had never seen before and some storks I had never seen before and, obviously, the vultures," Clinton told the small traveling pool of reporters who accompanied him to the park.

Park officials sent spotters ahead of the group to scout for animals and radio back directions.

At one point on their drive, the Clintons spotted a group of Cape buffalo snorting and thrashing on a riverbank. One buffalo stood with its entrails hanging down from its gut, slashed open in what Clinton's safari guide said was probably a lion attack.

"He won't survive, will he?" Clinton asked.

"Probably not," guide Richard Randall replied before the group moved on.

Clinton is recovering from a cold, and his well-known allergies reportedly were kicked up by the park's tall grasses. But he seemed to relish a quiet day in the middle of a fast-paced tour of Africa. Since March 23, the president has been to Ghana, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa and Botswana with his party of 700 staffers, Secret Service agents, members of Congress, business guests and journalists. The trip ends Thursday in Senegal.

"It's amazing," he declared. "It's

Clinton's itinerary

Gaborone, Botswana
Today: Meets with environmentalists and with President Ketumile Masire.

Dakar, Senegal
Wednesday: Visits Senegalese peacekeeping trainees, Thies military base; visits Dal Diam village.

Thursday: Meets with human rights activists; tours former slave shipping point at Goree Island.



USA TODAY

been an amazing day."

It was a day made more amazing by the fact that during an exchange with reporters that included no fewer than a dozen questions and answers, Clinton was not asked once about his continuing troubles at home.

Clinton did get one query about reports that Russian President Boris Yeltsin will not run for re-election in 2000. But what followed was a long back-and-forth about the animals.

It has been a remarkable week that way.

Since Clinton left Washington a week ago Sunday, he has been asked only once about independent counsel

Kenneth Starr's investigation. That question came on the second day of the trip, in Uganda, when reporters asked him to explain his decision to invoke executive privilege to prevent certain grand jury questioning of aides. Clinton did not answer and referred reporters to his lawyers in Washington.

A few days later in South Africa, during the only formal press conference of the trip, White House aides were expecting at least one question about Monica Lewinsky, Paula Jones, Starr or something, anything, related to the investigation.

But some reporters couldn't bring themselves to ask unseemly questions in front of such a distinguished statesman as Nelson Mandela. Others were tired of asking what Clinton already had declined to answer and didn't want to waste a question. In the end, U.S. reporters were granted only four queries and nothing scandal-related was asked.

Still, no one on the trip is pretending the story doesn't exist. Aides eagerly await copies of each day's newspaper clippings to be faxed from Washington. As Clinton crisscrosses Africa, the front pages from home are delivering updates every day.

And out in the bush Monday, Donaldson reminded Clinton that politics awaits back in Washington.

"Can a Democratic president admire an elephant?" Donaldson baited, referring to the symbol of the Republican Party.

"Yes," Clinton replied. "And I like to see them concentrated here."

Sowetan, Johannesburg, S.A.
 March 30, 1998
 (Circulation: 225,580)



President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary after laying a wreath at the Hector Peterson Memorial in Soweto. BY JEN KUMALO



United States first lady Hillary Clinton, Alma Brown, wife of former U.S. secretary of commerce Ron Brown, and U.S. president Bill Clinton at the opening ceremony of the Ronald H. Brown Commercial Centre in Johannesburg. Brown was killed in an airplane crash last year.



LEND A HAND: US President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, meet children at an East Rand primary school

Picture: ADIL BRADLOW/AP

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has planted a new symbol of hope in the African soil, writes HENRY LUDSKI.

Paying homage to the thousands of South Africans who laid down their lives in the struggle against apartheid, he and First Lady Hillary Clinton planted a tree at the Soweto memorial of Hector Petersen, the 12-year-old who became a world symbol of resistance when he became the first victim of the 1976 Soweto uprisings.

Clinton's four-day visit to South Africa

Clinton sows symbolic hope

chapter in trade relations.

Soweto residents took advantage of every conceivable vantage point to hear Clinton speak about what he described as a "symbol of new life".

The event was marred by protests from PAC supporters — demanding the release of jailed freedom fighters — who blocked entrances to the area around the Orlando West memorial, threatening

A heavy security blanket was thrown around the event, one of the last public engagements in Clinton's hectic sweep of South Africa. The proceedings were delayed for more than an hour.

The protest was in sharp contrast to Clinton's earlier reception at the Maphanzela Primary School in Thokoza, on the East Rand, where a chorus of voices greeted him and his wife.

spirit of Clinton's 12-day Africa visit in the Zulu traditional song *Unzima lomphoalo*, which translates into "Heavy Burden", imploring the US president to assist South Africa in "lightening the heavy load of an African continent" yearning "for wonderful things".

Clinton said: "I didn't want to leave the country without having the chance to have a kind of an informal conversation with young people who are making the future of this country."

Sunday Times, Johannesburg, S.A.
March 29, 1998
(Circulation: 459,551)

Sunday Times, Johannesburg, S.A.
March 29, 1998
(Circulation: 459,551)

SOCIAL DIARY



PRESIDENTIAL SWEETS: Bill and Hillary Clinton with Graça Machel and President Nelson Mandela at the Vergelegen banquet

Picture: ELIZABETH SEJAKE

Sunday Independent, Johannesburg, S.A.
March 29, 1998
(Circulation: 38,393)



Bill and Hillary Clinton with Graca Machel and Nelson Mandela; top right, Vergelegen wine estate with its 300-year-old camphor trees and...

A first-class First Lady: Hillary and her muscle-bound faith

Hillary Clinton, I read recently, survives the turmoil of her public and private life by dint of her "muscular Christianity", a lovely phrase that evokes an image of religious faith wielded with a whip. She is Mother Teresa crossed with Joan of Arc, a dash of Diana, a touch of Thatcher, a jot of Jackie Kennedy and - dare I say it - a wee bit of Winnie. A defiant survivor.

She will, I think, eventually be judged the most significant woman of her time, outstripping her only rival - the grocer's daughter Thatcher, who ruled Britain with an iron handbag for what seemed an eternity - by virtue of carrying not only political but social significance. As a politician, a career woman, a mother and wife, she has redefined the way we think about women; if and when America does elect a female president, it will be because Hillary cleared the path.

As anyone who has seen her in the flesh can testify, there is steel in those bones - an air of strength, a confidence that radiates not as cockiness or ego, but as a quiet certainty of who and what she is. It is all buttressed by a fierce intelligence and mental discipline that enables her, publicly at least, to treat Monica Lewinsky not as The Other Woman but as a problem to be solved.

There are stories that this brave public face hides private pain and ferocious anger at her husband's behaviour (my favourite tale concerns an ashtray flung across a room in the White House, aimed squarely at Bill's head). And I am told there is complete truth to the story that Hillary gave Bill a fine slap across the face in front of witnesses when Jennifer Flowers emerged as First Bimbo back in 1992.

My one encounter with Hillary occurred four years ago, on the night of Madiba's inauguration, when the American Embassy in Pretoria hosted an intimate gathering for the First Lady, myself and a handful (okay, 27 000 - a very big handful) of others. At the end of the evening, the First Lady joined arms with Al and Tipper Gore and Jesse Jackson and led us in *We Shall Overcome*, the anthem of the civil right's struggle in the 1960s.

It could well be Hillary's personal anthem these days (not to mention that of a few seriously irritated Cape Town

motorists: *Deep in my heart/ I do believe/ We shall get to Claremont one day*). How did we cope? How does she cope?

I'd like to tell you I got close enough to find out this week, but my only involvement in the Clinton visit has been as a Drain Cover Consultant, employed secretly by the Secret Service to secretly secrete myself in various holes around town to establish whether a potential assassin could fit in said orifices for the purpose of blowing up the Clintons. I have a theory they were actually looking for Monica Lewinsky, who, it is said, would do anything to get close to Bill. But I was assured this was a hunt for bombers, not bombshells.

In initial meetings with the Secret Service, an odd bunch who spend a lot of time mumbly into their shoulder pads, I tried to explain that no South African would bother hiding in the drains. Here we carry our guns and bombs around quite openly, and if we want to shoot someone we have no qualms about doing it out in the open. It's called "transparency", the byword for the New South Africa.

But they were not to be dissuaded, and so I have spent weeks traipsing around the sewers (was that you, Ken Starr?). Fortunately, a career in journalism prepared me for this. The Clinton presidency has given hacks everywhere the opportunity they have longed for: to be able to wallow in the mud, spicing up dull political stories with a dash of oral sex, and call it responsible journalism.

Which brings me, in a long roundabout way, back to Hillary, and that question: how does she cope?

Her life has been exposed to scrutiny at once ferociously intense yet haphazardly mindless: sound and fury signifying, I suspect, nothing much at all. The hysteria would long ago have destroyed lesser beings than Hillary, and yet here she is in Cape Town, at Bill's side, standing tall.

Why and how? Pick your theory: muscular Christianity? A marriage of convenience? I'd opt for old-fashioned guts and dignity. And she needs it, along with a healthy dose of disdain. As Jackie Kennedy once said: "The river of sludge will go on. It has nothing to do with me."

NEIL
McMAHON



WALTZING WITH ME

CAPE TIMES
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1998 ★
A-3

BILL'S HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Americans dish out pots of cash, wisdom

BILL CLINTON once worked as a builder, but found the job too strenuous and became a politician instead. Yesterday he showed he could still lay the odd brick. **TROYE LUND** reports.

A THREE-LEGGED African cooking pot and R15 million is how residents, who poured out of every corner to see the "Izingwili zaAmerica" (rich people from America), will remember the presidential visit.

As the cavalcade screeched up to the famed Victoria Mxenge housing project in Philippi, talking heads nodded and agreed: Hillary and Bill had come to join their savings scheme, bring jobs, houses and a better way of life.

Women involved in the project save their money under the Homeless People's Federation to build their own homes. To date the scheme has 280 members, and 303 houses have been built.

After adding some bricks to the structure, the president said: "Some 30 years ago I spent time building houses. When I learned what hard work it was I went into politics where you do not have to work as hard."

When it was Hillary's turn to speak she produced the pot the

women builders had given her on her previous visit with the instruction to cook her husband a meal in it.

"Unfortunately I live in a very big house with many cooks, who would be unhappy if their work were taken from them."

"I will save this pot to cook for my husband when he is not the president any longer."

The reason why she logged the pot back was to explain why the Victoria Mxenge project reminded her of a story about a man with a pot but no food.

After filling the pot with water, she lit a fire and put a stone in the water.

"Every passer by thought he was mad boiling only a stone and added something to the water like carrots, peas or potatoes. Pretty soon the pot was filled with a delicious stew that could feed the whole village," said Hillary.

Like the people in this story, Philippi's women builders had worked together, contributed what they had and, brick by brick, turned empty land into a "beautiful suburb".

The first lady was then informed by Ms Patricia Matolengwe, a former domestic worker who spearheaded the scheme, that the women had bought more land nearby to build a second phase, and one of the new streets would be named Hillary Clinton Street.

After the president announced that he would be giving \$3 million US dollars (about R15 million) to new housing in South Africa, Mr Zak Msimba turned to his friends and said: "You see, I told you this man is here to improve the way we live."

As true entrepreneurs, the women builders would not let the couple leave without having dipped into their pockets.

A R200 membership fee for Hillary to join the savings scheme and some R30 T-shirts later, the couple eased towards their limousine.



I hope he stops the shoplifting'

ROYE LUND

R Manuel Janse popped across the road to buy a latch for the new double-storey home he is building for himself in Philippi.

He came back to find the American president standing on his stoep.

"I come back and am told I cannot go near my house, but I am glad he is here. If he can, I am sure that he will create jobs and peace."

"I hope he will also stop the robbing and shoplifting that goes on."

"Do you think he realised just how poor we South Africa are? No, I think he is surprised. I thought everyone lives as good as they do in America," said Janse, perched on a mound of building rubble and straining to see what Hillary and Bill were doing.

They had moved from his porch and it was clear they were not going into his house, but Janse was sure it would be blessed with good fortune after those shoes had been near it.

When the novelty of staring at the first couple had worn off, Janse extended his gaze.

When he noticed the bodyguards with "telephone cords" plugged into their ears and the black armoured vans filled with stern looking men dressed in black gear, he said: "This man must have many enemies."

"But I suppose if he is important there are lots of people trying to make friends and get close to him."



MR PRESIDENT: As residents strained against barricades to touch Bill Clinton, who yesterday visited the Victoria Mxenge housing project in Philippi, bodyguards looked stressed. The crowds were impressed that he was a master of Africa's double handshake.

INTON VISIT

CAPE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 27, 1998



dy Hillary Clinton received an enthusiastic welcome from the people of Philippi yesterday.

PICTURES: KIM LUDBROO

The same dreams

From Page 1
Hall of Freedom."

"Different races, different religions, different native tongues, but underneath, the same hopes, the same dreams and the same values," he said.

Referring to the "real heroes" of South Africa's transformation as its people, "who first walked away from the past now move with determination, patience, and courage toward a new day and a new millennium."

While not directly referring to a rainbow nation, Mr Clinton said: "The promise before you is immense, a people unshackled, free to give full expression to their energy, intellects and creativity, a nation embraced by the world, whose success is important to all our futures."

Jackson, who worked closely with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in forging the American disinvestment campaign against the apartheid government, was the first to rise for a standing ovation, with black American activist the Rev Leon Sullivan, when SA Democratic Party MP Ms Dene Smuts spoke.

"Here in the Cape of Good Hope, at the tip of our continent,

the tide of history has turned towards hope, and in favour of open societies and free markets."

She had earlier referred to Clinton's words when he accepted his nomination for president: "I still believe in a place called 'hope'. Not just your birthplace Hope, Arkansas, but that metaphorical place from which and towards which, we all travel."

A howl of approval greeted the warm handshake Clinton gave South African Communist Party national chairman Dr Blade Nzimande.

Afterwards Nzimande said "Madiba" had introduced him to Clinton "as a leader of the Communist Party. He (Clinton) just said 'hi' and that he was pleased to meet me," said Nzimande.

Members of Parliament and journalists in the parliamentary press gallery caught their breath as they waited to see if Mandela would introduce Clinton to his ex-wife, Winnie.

But the president of the ANC Women's League appeared to turn her attention away from the two men.

Clinton spent last night at a private function at the US ambassador Mr James Joseph's residence.

President to view images of '76 uprising

THEMBA SEPOTOKELE

JOHANNESBURG: US President Bill Clinton will be confronted with stark images of the 1976 student uprising when he visits Soweto.

One of the sites he will visit is the Hector Peterson Memorial precinct in Orlando West, which houses hundreds of pictures taken during the uprising.

Yesterday world-renowned photographer Peter Magubane, some of whose pictures are on display, was putting the final touches to his exhibits.

Other pictures on display were taken by veteran photographers of the period, Sam Zima and Alf Khumalo.

Sowetans were excited yesterday about Clinton's visit and said they would take their places along the route and at the memorial from early in the morning.

"This place will be full of people because of the president's arrival. We all want to get a glimpse when he comes," said Thoko, a Grade 6 pupil at Belle Higher School.

Presidential couple try hand at bricklaying

Clintons sweep into Flats

CAPE TOWN. — United States First Lady Hillary Clinton yesterday became a member of a self-help housing scheme, run largely by black women on the windswept Cape Flats, while her husband Bill howled he still remembered the bricklaying skills he learned on a summer job decades ago.

President Clinton said the project could prove a model for the rest of Africa and the world, and promised an extra \$3 million (\$15 million) in aid for it and similar projects in South Africa.

The Victoria Mxenge project at Philippi was the surprise first public appearance by Pres Clinton after his arrival at Cape Town International Airport.

Mrs Clinton alone had been scheduled to put in an appearance at the project — which she first visited last year — but journalists waiting there were told at ten minutes' notice that Pres Clinton himself would be with her.

The presidential couple swept into the project in a convoy of at least 17 vehicles, shadowed by a police helicopter, shortly before 11.30 am.

A beaming Pres Clinton climbed out of his black

Parly had US flag problem

CAPE TOWN. — A ceremonial United States flag was obtained for Parliament at the last minute because of the quick and efficient work of a Bellville flag manufacturer.

Due to a misunderstanding, Parliament found itself without a US flag and its normal suppliers were unable to provide one.

At the 11th hour, Mrs Janeen de Souza, of National Flag, was able to arrange for a US flag to be couriered down from Johannesburg and her staff personally delivered it to Parliament.

The South African flag which was flown atop the National Assembly building is to be presented to President Clinton by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Frene Giniewala. — Sapa.

limousine and shook hands with cheering women behind wire barriers.

The couple were shown into the home of project founder member Veliswa Mbeki, where the Clintons listened as SA Homeless People's Federation national chairwoman Patricia Matolongwe explained how the house was built.

They also tried their hand at laying mortar and cement blocks on a house which was being built, under the watchful eye of the women builders.

Asked for a professional judgment on the president's skills, one of them, Rose Maso, said: "He was very good, and Mrs

Clinton also... it seems to me maybe she did practice this before."

Pres Clinton revealed later that about 30 years ago he had spent almost a whole summer building houses and realised then what hard work it was.

"That's why I went into politics, so I wouldn't have to work so hard anymore," he joked.

He also said he believed the project — which is funded partly by communal savings — should be a model for poor people in the rest of Africa and the world.

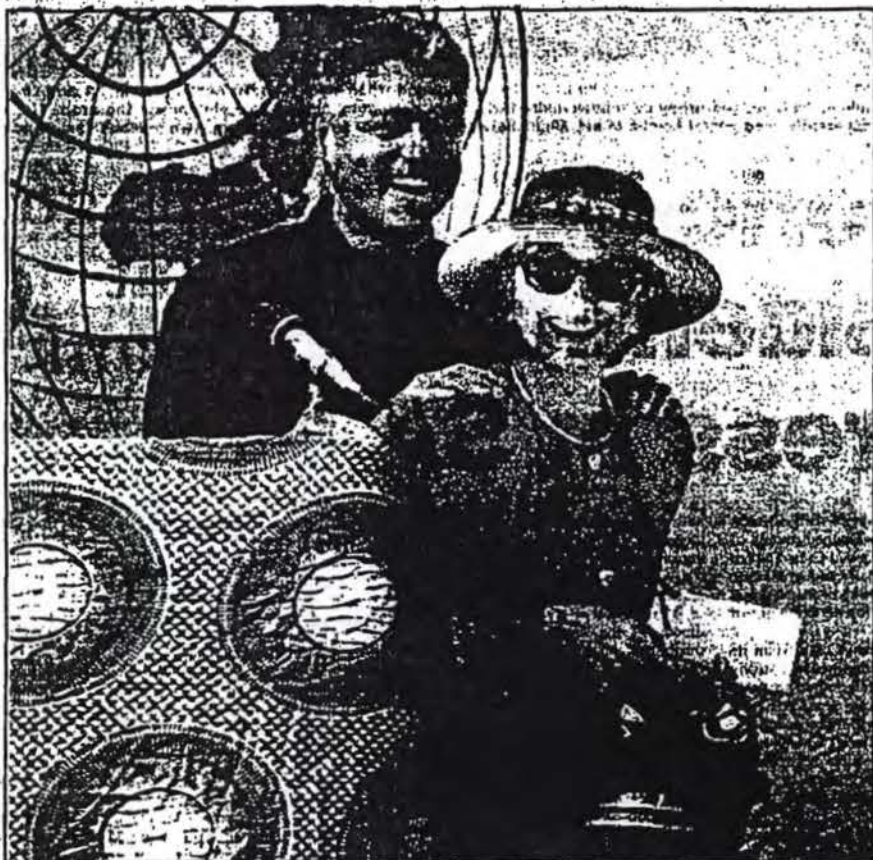
"If you can do it, then in villages all over the world people can do the same thing," he said. — Sapa.



US First Lady, Mrs HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, accompanied by President CLINTON hugs resident VELISWA MBEKI during a visit to a housing project in Philippi township outside Cape Town yesterday.

© Picture by Win MaNones, Reuters.

Clinton calls for closer SA-US ties



US president Bill Clinton with his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton after her speech yesterday during a visit to a housing project for disadvantaged women in the black township of Guguletu, outside Cape Town. The US president visited the violence-scarred Cape Town suburb on the first day of his visit to South Africa.

PIG: AP

By Ida Lakota

UNITED STATES President Bill Clinton, in a historic address to a joint sitting of Parliament, has called for closer political and economic ties between South Africa and the US.

Clinton, who became the first US president yesterday to address the South African Parliament, said the US sought partnerships with South Africa based on mutual benefit.

He said the partnerships could be struck despite the reality that South Africa and the US would not agree on everything. "That happens even in family partnerships," he said.

To rounds of applause, Clinton said the US-SA Binational — chaired by President Thabo Mbeki and US vice president Al Gore — had formed a stronger foundation for increased cooperation between the two countries.

He pledged cooperation in information technology, transportation and fighting crime, for instance drugs.

"The US needs a strong South Africa and we're committed to work with you as you build a strong Africa. In the past, our focus was on aid and assistance, now we want to work as equal partners. Africa remains the greatest development channel in the world... what we're seeing in South Africa is what Deputy President (Thabo) Mbeki refers to as the African renaissance. In coming to Africa my motive was to help African people see the United States with new eyes," he said, adding that US policy had changed from doing things for Africa to doing things with Africa.

The US president also called upon the various South African political parties to work together in strengthening their newly found democracy.

Clinton said despite their political differences, hate and fears these par-

'Even in the preamble of your constitution you say South Africa belongs to all who live in it ...'

ties were obviously committed to building a common future that ensures that their children never suffer social injustice or poverty.

"Even in the preamble of your Constitution you say South African belongs to all who live in it... in the context of your history and what you have achieved so far those simple words are a clarion call for all those committed to unity... an assurance that those who build can triumph over those who break down."

Clinton's address to Parliament was preceded by a colourful ceremony outside Parliament where he was officially welcomed with a 21 gun salute. He then inspected the guard of honour.

Earlier in the day, he accompanied his wife Hillary to the Victoria Mxango housing project in Philippi, outside Cape Town, where he pledged \$3-million (R15-million).

His visit was also accompanied by protests. A group of about 20 demonstrators opposed to his visit gathered in Roeland Street, near Parliament, soon after the arrival of the cavalcade taking Clinton to address a joint sitting of Parliament's two Houses.

The protesters were prevented from reaching the gates of Parliament by a wire-mesh barrier and scores of uniformed riot police.

● See pages 2 and 3

Bill shows he still knows how to lay a brick

CAPE TOWN — US First Lady, Hillary Clinton yesterday became a member of a self-help housing scheme run largely by black women on the Cape Flats while her husband Bill showed he still remembered the bricklaying skills he learnt on a summer job decades ago.

President Clinton said the project could prove a model for the rest of Africa and the world and promised an extra \$3m in aid for it and similar projects in SA.

The Victoria Mxango project at Philippi was the surprise first public appearance by Clinton after his arrival at Cape Town International Airport in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Hillary Clinton was scheduled to put in an appearance at the project alone — which she first visited last year — but journalists waiting there were told at 10 minutes' notice that

Clinton himself would be with her.

The presidential couple swept into the project in a convoy of at least 17 vehicles, shadowed by a police helicopter, shortly before 11.30am. A beaming Clinton climbed out of his black limousine and shook hands with cheering women behind wire barriers.

The couple were shown into the home of project founder member Veliswa Mbeki, where the Clintons listened as SA Homeless People's Federation national chairwoman Patricia Matolengwe explained how the house was built.

They also tried their hand at laying mortar and cement blocks on a house which was being built, under the watchful eye of the women.

Asked for judgment on the president's skills, one of them, Rose Maso, said: "He was very good and Mrs Clinton also ... it seems to

me maybe she did practise this before."

Clinton revealed later that about 30 years ago he had spent almost a whole summer building houses and realised then what hard work it was. "That's why I went into politics, so I wouldn't have to work so hard anymore," he joked. He also said he believed the project — which is funded partly by communal savings — should be a model for poor people in the rest of Africa and the world.

"If you can do it, then in villages all over the world people can do the same thing," he said.

"I came here today partly in the hope that in the coverage from the news media, people all over the world will see what you are doing in this neighbourhood and say, I want my neighbourhood to be like this, I want my children to live in good house, I want them to have a good life, I want people to believe that they

can do better with their lives."

To cheers from the assembled onlookers, Hillary Clinton signed a card making her a member of the Victoria Mxango scheme and paid a R200 membership fee.

Matolengwe announced that a street in the project would be named after Hillary Clinton, and handed her a large green and white street sign bearing her name.

Thanking the community for the welcome, the US first lady said she could not believe what it had achieved since she was last there.

She produced a three-legged black cooking pot, which she said was given to her on her last visit with the instructions that she take it home and cook a meal for her husband in it.

"I will save this pot to cook for my husband when he is not the president any longer," she said. — Sapa.



US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton laughs as she watches local dancers during a visit by her and US President Bill Clinton to the Victoria Mxango housing project in Gugulethu township near Cape Town yesterday.

Picture: AFP

• **Clintons enjoy safari** By Roger Simon
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

NIETVERDIENT, South Africa When the president of the United States comes to Africa and wants to see an animal, it is not all that easy.

Even taking a simple boat ride while on safari is, in reality, far from simple. When President Clinton climbed aboard a boat Monday in Chobe National Game Park in Botswana in search of hippos, crocodiles and other wildlife, he was accompanied by several gunboats fore and aft, containing Secret Service agents, frogmen and military personnel behind mounted guns.

All this underscores the first order of business when the president travels: his security. The Secret Service, the military and people we are not even supposed to know about all have to go along, not to mention about 70 presidential staff members.

It is quite a schlep.

So when the Clintons decided to take a day of rest and relaxation in Kasane, Botswana, they were the only ones who got the rest and relaxation. Everybody else worked like crazy.

Even the reporters who were allowed to accompany them. Under the rules of the game, the president is almost never left alone when he leaves the White House. There must always be a pool of reporters who go with him. These reporters share their information with all the other reporters who can't go along.

Not that a president can merely go and see an animal and leave well enough alone. He has to hold a mini-news conference to talk about it, which produced the following pool report:

The president: "It's amazing. It's been an amazing day."

Question: "Any wart hogs? We saw some."

The first lady: "We saw hippos."

The president: "We saw a lot of hippos."

The first lady: "Crocodiles."

Question: "Did you check out the stars last night?"

The president: "It was amazing, wasn't it? The stars were amazing."

The first lady: "We saw the lions too."

Question: "Oh, you didn't see the lions?"

The first lady: "We did, Sam (Donaldson), we did."

Question: "You saw a lion?"

The first lady: "Yes, we saw a mother lion and four cubs."

The president: "Oh, yes, they were up underneath a tree."

And so it went, on and on, animal after animal, page after page.

As it turned out, the Clintons saw water buffalo, baboons, impalas, birds, elephants, kudus and a lot of other stuff.

The First Tourists were delighted; the press was informed, though, that the president is suffering from a cold.

But just to prove that the day was not all fun and frolic, White House press secretary Mike McCurry, who was on the safari, told reporters that National Security Adviser Samuel "Sandy" Berger, who also was on the safari, briefed Clinton on world events, including the situation in Russia.

That was the morning safari. The afternoon safari, which was a boat ride, produced another pool report, in which the Clintons saw a crocodile.

At the end of the boat ride, McCurry announced that the day had been "perfect."

Not quite. A president cannot go off and leave 200 reporters back at their hotel with nothing to do.

So a variety of safaris were arranged for them, including one to the Tau Game Lodge, just across the Botswanan border in Nietverdiend, South Africa.

There, reporters climbed aboard Jeeps and in a driving rainstorm set out to see gnus, birds, a termite mound and leopard droppings before being forced to turn back because of the bad weather.

The game preserve also contains a herd of elephants from Mozambique that are known for their bad tempers because of how badly

they were treated by soldiers during violence in that country.

Some of these elephants were shot, and some were injured by land mines. This has made them permanently upset.

"Some will chase the cars until they catch up with you," a guide told reporters. "An elephant never forgets how it is treated."

There was some speculation as to why the White House might want to place the national press corps in the path of angry elephants. The most popular answer: The White House never forgets how it is treated either.



Photos by Greg Gibson, AP

Tribute: President Clinton, during his visit Thursday to South Africa's National Parliament, saluted his counterpart Nelson Mandela's 'heroic sacrifice' in the struggle against apartheid.



Return visit for first lady: President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton lay bricks at the Victoria Mxenge project in Cape Town, where homes are being built for the needy. When the first lady visited the site last year, there were 18 houses; Thursday there were 104.

The President, in Rwanda, calls for 'global vigilance' against genocide.

Clinton Administration had just been scalded by its peace mission in Somalia, in which 18 American soldiers died.

Tutsi rebels, operating from bases in Uganda, succeeded in replacing the Hutu regime that year with what is essentially a military government. The President here, Pasteur Bizimungu, is a Hutu, and the Clinton Administration is persuaded that the Tutsi-dominated Government is bent on national reconciliation and democracy.

But the genocide still reverberates here. Hutu insurgents are fighting in the northwest, and Rwandan troops have been accused of killing civilians in reprisals for their raids.

"Our post-genocidal society is fragile," warned President Bizimungu, in a speech in which he thanked Mr. Clinton for his "commitment to helping our people overcome the ravages of genocide." He said that in judging the progress of Rwanda, other nations should treat it as a "special case."

As he listened to the survivors' stories, the President appeared moved, thanking some in a voice choked with emotion. Venuste Karasira was among nearly 4,000 people who took refuge during the genocide in a school protected by Belgian paratroopers. But the troops were withdrawn; Hutu militia members entered the school and killed all but 400 of those hiding there.

"I had to find some dead corpses," said Mr. Karasira, who lost his right hand in the attack. "I swim in their blood to survive." He added, "We died because we were left by the United Nations soldiers." When he finished, Mr. Clinton appeared unable to speak. He simply nodded for the next account.

One of those who met with Mr. Clinton, Gloriosa Uwimpuhwe, said later that he "behaved as a real, real human being who felt what people were saying, even though he did not see it himself." Ms. Uwimpuhwe said that she considered Mr. Clinton's acknowledgment of United States inaction to be an apology. "He said that he not only is sorry, but he's looking forward to taking positive options for the future," she said.

The audience for his subsequent speech enthusiastically greeted Mr. Clinton today, and interrupted him with applause each time he acknowledged error by the international community.

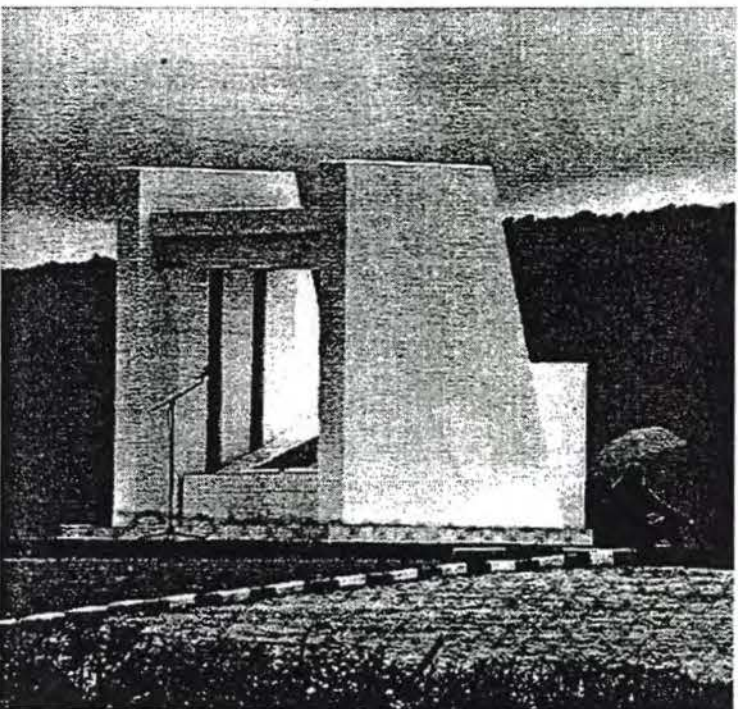
Several Rwandans here said that the United States, like other nations, should have acted earlier to stop the genocide, but they seemed less interested in pointing fingers than in moving on. "Everybody is to blame," said Sam Nkusi, a government official. He said that "to feel the President of the United States shares our sadness and the tragedy with us is very good."

Rwanda was added late to Mr. Clinton's tour of Africa. Administration officials said that Secret Service nervousness, not White House fears of addressing genocide, delayed the decision. After analyzing the situation here, the Secret Service agreed to a Presidential visit, officials said. But Mr. Clinton did not leave the airport during his three and a half hours here, and the engines of Air Force One never ceased idling.

To the disappointment of some



After a brief stop in Rwanda, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton were seen off by President Pasteur Bizimungu, right.



Photographs by J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

A tour of a memorial to the victims of mass killings in Rwanda was eliminated from Mr. Clinton's itinerary because of concern over security.

Rwandan officials, Mr. Clinton did not even visit the genocide memorial built at the airport in advance of his visit. The Secret Service considered the site, on a hillock, to be too exposed to the surrounding hills, said Michael D. McCurry, the White House spokesman.

In his speech, Mr. Clinton pointed to three errors by the international community: not acting quickly to halt the killing; permitting refugee camps in neighboring Zaire to become havens for Hutu killers, and not immediately labeling the slaughter "genocide."

Although the killing here was widely reported, Mr. Clinton suggested that he did not appreciate its magnitude at the time. "All over the world there were people like me sitting in offices, day after day after day, who did not fully appreciate the depth and the speed with which you were being engulfed by this unimaginable terror."

But Mr. Clinton looked to the future as well. "We must have global vigilance," he said. "And never again must we be shy in the face of the evidence."

The President said that "at the dawn of this new millennium there is only one real division" among people, and that it was not that between Hutu and Tutsi or Arabs and Jews. "It is really the line between those who embrace the common humanity we all share and those who reject it."

Mr. Clinton then looked up and declared with emotion: "When you look at those children who greeted us as we got off that plane today, how could anyone say they did not want those children to have a chance to have their own children? To experience the joy of another morning sunrise? To learn the normal lessons of life? To give something back to their people?"

The New York Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1998

By Hillary Rodham Clinton



In northern Uganda, children fear the worst

KAMPALA, Uganda. For most Ugandans, the night of Oct. 9, 1996, marked the end of a day celebrating the country's Independence Day. For Angelina Acheng, it was the beginning of a nightmare.

That evening, her 14-year-old daughter, Charlotte, was kidnapped from St. Mary's School in Aboke, Uganda, by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a terrorist group based in Southern Sudan that abuses civilians in Northern Uganda. The kidnappers broke the windows of this girls' boarding school. They tied up the girls, all of whom were younger than 16. They beat those who dared to cry. And then they took away 139 of them — 75 percent of the student body — and sent them into a life of unspeakable horror. Many, like Charlotte, have not returned.

When I met with Angelina at the White House a few weeks before I came to Uganda, she spoke movingly about her daughter and told me about the organization she and other local parents had formed — the Concerned Parents Association. They work to save their children and all the other children held captive by this group.

Since 1994, with the shameful support of the Sudanese government, the LRA has kidnapped as many as 10,000 children in Uganda. These children are literally being snatched away from their homes. The boys are used in battle as human shields. The girls are sent into slave labor, raped and given away as "wives" to rebel commanders. They are often forced to kill other children who don't obey or — worse yet — who try to escape.

The LRA invokes the name of the Lord, but there is no greater sin than making children kill children or even the parents who brought them into this world. Followers of the LRA call themselves soldiers, but they are cowards. Only cowards would hide behind children in battle.

The plight of these children is part of a growing and alarming trend. It used to go without saying that innocent women and children were not supposed to be the targets of war; now, increasingly, they are not only targets but even compelled to participate.

According to a 1996 U.N. report, "Impact of Armed Conflict on Children," war affects millions of children all over the world. It steals their lives, violates their innocence and destroys their families, leaving them to fend — often unsuccessfully — for themselves. Unaccompanied children are far more likely to be raped and assaulted. War forces vulnerable children as young as 8 to become soldiers. It deforms their sense of right and wrong, turning 12-year-olds into cold-blooded killers. It ends hope. More than 60 percent of Rwandan children interviewed in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide said they did not care whether they ever grew up.

One of Charlotte's classmates who managed to escape talked about what happened when another girl tried to flee: "The girl was brought in front of us, and the rebels told us to stomp her to death. We killed the poor, innocent girl. . . . If we did not kill the girl, we were going to be shot by guns. We prayed for that girl in our hearts, silently, and asked God to pardon us and forgive us because it was not our will to kill her."

Another rescued student from St. Mary's School said: "I saw people's legs being cut with either a panga or an ax. I saw a young baby of a few months held in hand and beaten to death against a tree. Innocent people were being killed in a way I never thought a human being could [act toward] another human being."

One girl simply wrote: "I'm pleading with you to find a way of stopping this rebel activity so that we children of Northern Uganda could also share in the peace that other children around the world are sharing in. . . . We need peace."

I hope every citizen listens to these calls for peace and reaches out to Ugandans like Angelina who are answering them. Already, groups like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International are shining a spotlight on this tragedy. UNICEF is helping to investigate child abductions and get assistance to groups working at the local level. And nongovernmental organizations like World Vision and Save the Children are operating trauma centers to care for children who escape.

But we must join with the Ugandan people to do much more

— both to care for the victims and address the root causes of this tragedy.

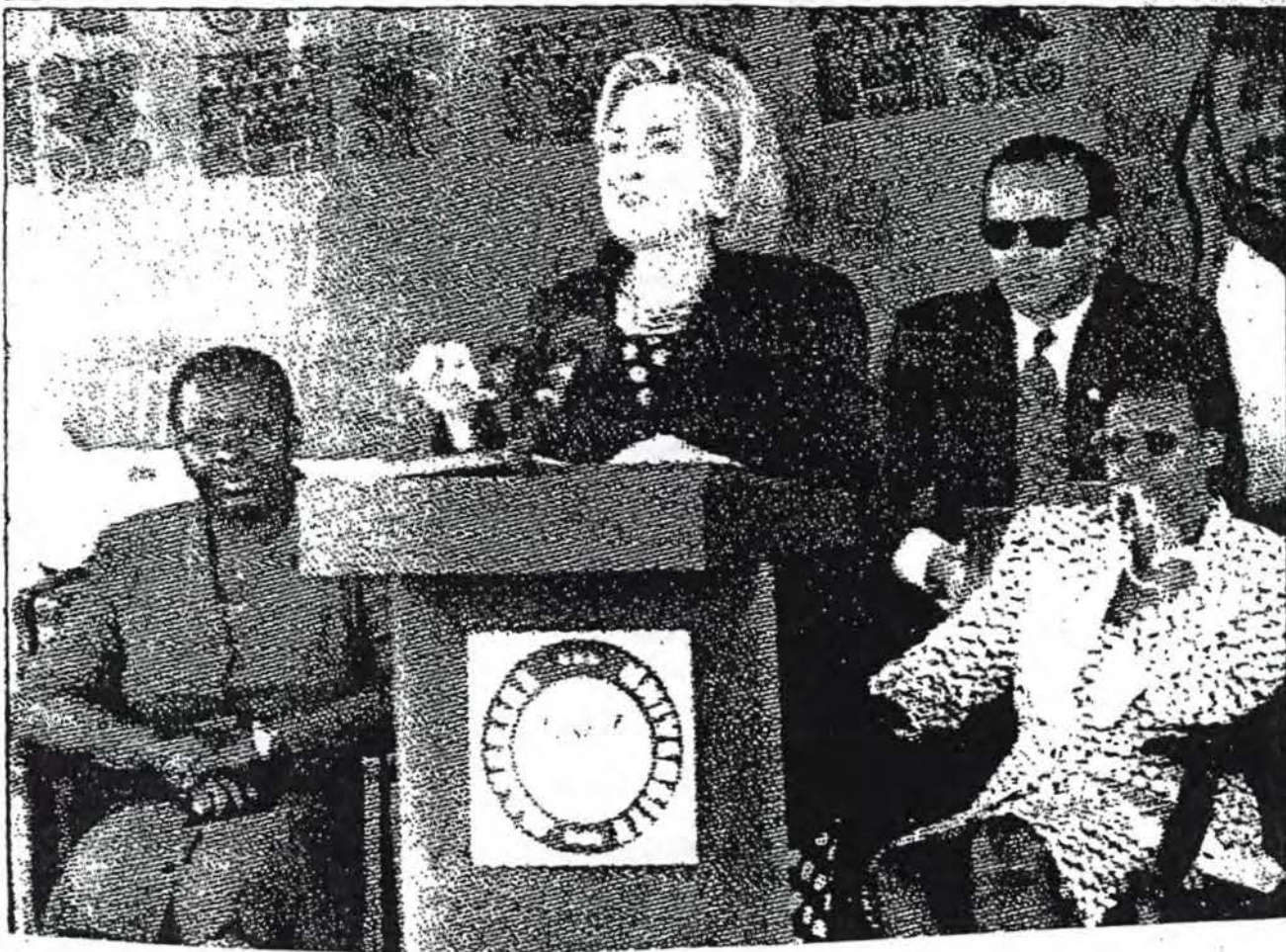
During a speech at Makerere University in Kampala this week, I was pleased to announce, on behalf of the president, new steps that the U.S. government is taking to provide assistance to local groups like the Concerned Parents Association to help them find abducted children and give them the medical care they need to heal. The United States will provide \$2 million to help people plagued by rebel activity in Northern Uganda get jobs rebuilding roads, dams, schools, health clinics and ultimately their own lives and communities.

Finally, all nations should pressure Sudan to end its support for the LRA and its cowardly abductions of children.

Children should never be used as weapons of war. If we speak with one voice against these atrocities, then, next Independence Day in Uganda, parents like Angelina will be able to celebrate freedom in the best possible way — surrounded by their children.

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1998



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Clinton on historic visit to S. Africa

Lays brick to symbolize rebuilding country

March 26, 1998
Web posted at: 8:39 a.m. EST (1339 GMT)

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (Reuters) -- In an unexpected detour from his schedule, U.S. President Bill Clinton laid a brick for a shack-dweller's new home on Thursday, symbolically helping to build a new South Africa as he kicked off a four-day state visit.



The Clintons lay bricks at a women's housing project

The president, who is traveling with his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton on a six-nation Africa tour, flew into Cape Town in the early hours from Uganda. He unexpectedly joined his wife Hillary on a visit to a model housing site on the impoverished Cape Flats that flank the beautiful city.

Clinton is the first U.S. head of state to visit the country once shunned for apartheid's racial segregation but now hailed as a beacon of hope under President Nelson Mandela.



Uganda:
Battling AIDS

Senegal:
Unshackling history

Rwanda:
The genocide and after

Ghana:
An economy in shambles

Botswana:
Making hay of ivory

South Africa:
Combating crime

The Clintons went to see the partially U.S.-funded project where women are building their own homes to escape a life in the shacks of squatter camps like those that glare at visitors as they drive into the city from the airport.

"What you are doing here, building your homes and saving for them, should be a model for people who do not have very much all over Africa and all over the world," he told a cheering and singing crowd.

"All over the world people will see what you are doing in this neighborhood and will say, I want to do that."

Revisiting a now-completed home

Mrs. Clinton expressed delight when she revisited the same house, made of concrete bricks and with a corrugated tin roof, that she saw last year on a visit with her daughter Chelsea.

"It is very nice, congratulations," her husband told its proud owner Veliswa Mbeki, who showed them her newly painted two bedrooms, kitchen, lounge and indoor flush toilet.

Mandela officially welcomes Clinton later before he delivers a speech at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT) to parliament -- at the same venue used by ex-president F.W. de Klerk to repudiate apartheid.

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FROM WASHINGTON

Don't give Hillary less than her due

She is a battle-scarred, veteran defender of her husband, writes Rich Mkhondo

There she was, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the resolute, unflinching and unflappable First Lady of the United States, whose husband's alleged scandals have become the talk of the world and the butt of late-night comedians, urging us to feel at home in the White House map room.

Then she went on to relate to us, members of the African Correspondents' Association, the history of the room. It was the one in which President Franklin Roosevelt directed the war, and she described the history of each map, including the one the president was staring at when he died.

During her description of the room, I was wondering what it is like to live with constant scandals: whether, like President Roosevelt, she was also making strategic decisions, directing the war against her husband's detractors and the swirling allegations of his alleged sexual infidelities.

Then, confidently, she declared Clinton's trip to sub-Saharan Africa the beginning of a partnership founded on a common commitment to democratic principles and universal respect for human rights, economic growth and mutual security.

But throughout her address, I kept asking myself: Isn't she hurt? Doesn't she feel embarrassed by the sexual innuendoes and the unrelenting attacks on herself and her husband?

I wondered if she didn't hate the president for the humiliation he caused her.

Then I remembered the speculation about his resignation or impeachment, when she had seized control of her husband's defence, to protect not only his position and legacy but her own as well, calling the scandals a "vast, right-wing conspiracy" which had dogged them for years.

"I probably know him better than anybody alive in the world," she told NBC Today anchor Matt Lauer, offering her credentials as his ace defender. "I've just been through it all before. We've been married for 22 years - and I have learnt a long time ago that the only people who count in any marriage are the two that are in it," she said.

She is standing by her man amid all the allegations of his intimate encounters with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and other women.

Indeed, there will always be women - and men - who use their strength to get out of a marriage, and those who use their strength to hold it together. Hillary Clinton refuses to be a weak-kneed victim. While other Americans are reeling, she's the one who stays focused.

What motivates her to stay at his side, no matter what? Her detractors say the answer is nothing more than a cold and pragmatic arrangement of shared power. They take a cynical stance, saying their relationship is a complicated partnership, and that she has stuck with him through allegations of sexual infidelities because her success rides on his.

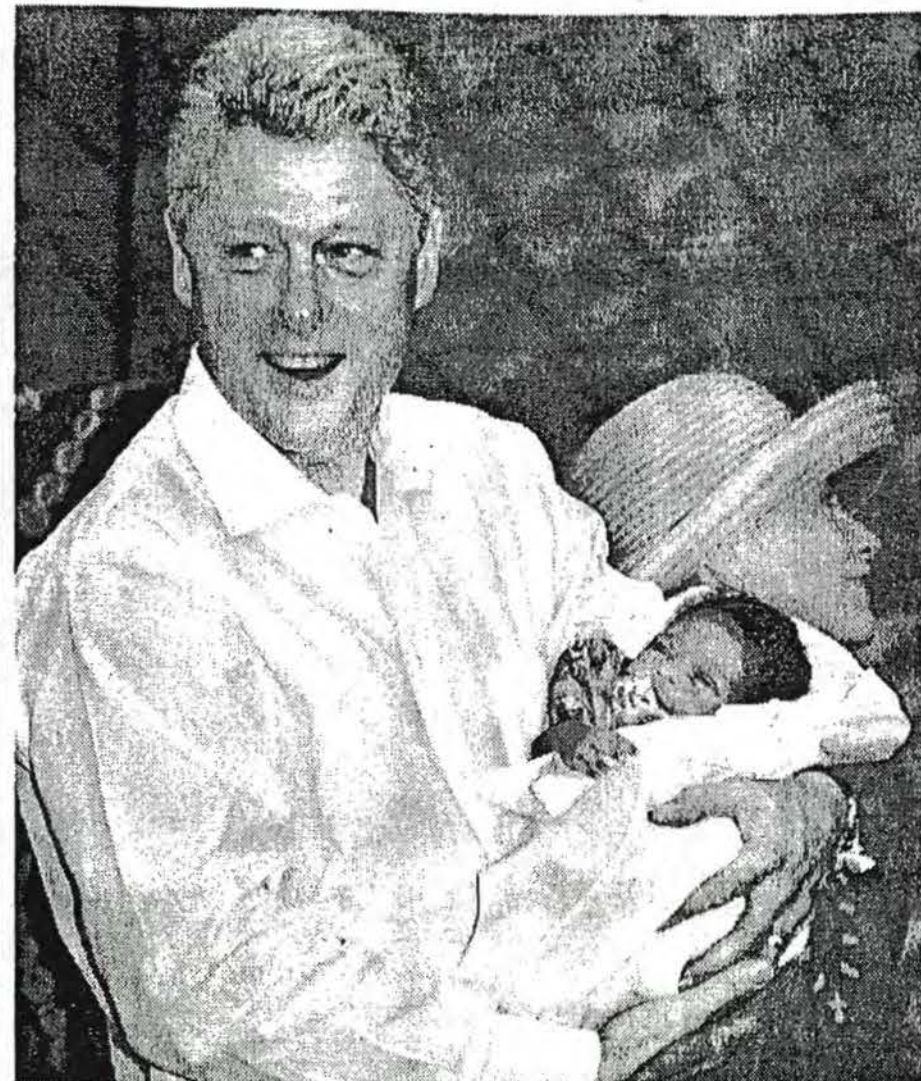
Her friends say it can be explained by pride and love. Sure, the high-octane economy is Clinton's principal buttress, but she is the defender-in-chief who cherishes her role as First Lady at all costs and believe they are on a mission to put a humane face on politics. She is married to politics, just as he is.

Both friends and critics alike agree that in times of crisis, what Hillary does best is to take action. She is a resilient, engaged and focused fighter.

So what you are seeing in South Africa this week is vintage Hillary Clinton. While Americans examine the president's utterances for flaws, dissecting his wife's every expression for puffiness around the eyes and misery around the mouth, all they have found is the unfazed certitude of a battle-tested veteran. - Staff Foreign Service

The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1998 |



Photographs by Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton, in African dress, strolled yesterday through the gardens at the State Lodge in Kampala, accompanied by Janet Museveni, Uganda's First Lady. And President Clinton, on a visit to a village called Wanyange, held a newborn Bill Clinton, a two-day-old boy named in honor of the President's visit. Mr. Clinton said: "This baby is my namesake. People should not be written off because they were born or grew up in a poor area."

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Sinners and Spinners on the Equator

MUKONO, Uganda

Jesse Jackson smiled contentedly as he got off Air Force One and sauntered along the crooked red carpet on the tarmac at the airport in Ghana.

The ambulance-chaser of American politics had snagged a couple of juicy cases. Monica and Africa. Astride the Equator, Mr. Jackson, an ordained minister, was back in full plumage before the cameras he loves.

He is the President's spiritual guru, guiding Mr. Clinton through the turbulence of Monica Lewinsky. And he is the President's special envoy to Africa, guiding Mr. Clinton through the turbulence of sub-Saharan politics.

At the airport on Monday, when the sprawling delegation from Washington arrived, Sam Donaldson kiddingly asked the Spiritual Adviser whether the sinner in the White

House would ever repent. "Don't bring that mess over here," Mr. Jackson replied with a grin. "Leave that mess at home. You're in the Mother Country now."

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Clinton make a fascinating pair. For a long time they circled each other uneasily, with occasional public flashes of hostility. But in that vertiginous weekend after the Monica story broke, when there was much grave talk about resignation and impeachment, Mr. Clinton reached out to Mr. Jackson, inviting him to watch the Super Bowl at the White House.

Some jaded souls have wondered if the scalded Mr. Clinton had allowed Mr. Jackson to "pastor" him as a way to shore up his base and curry favor with blacks, who did, in the end, overwhelmingly stick with the President.

Some jaded souls have wondered if

a panicked White House needed Mr. Jackson, who is friendly with Betty Currie, to run interference on conflicting stories and help smooth over tense relations with the President's secretary after she suddenly disappeared and turned up as a cowering witness before Kenneth Starr's grand jury. The President has tried to shift blame for Ms. Lewinsky's visits and presents to Mrs. Currie, and his fate, to a large degree, is in her hands.

Mr. Clinton certainly wants to keep Mrs. Currie happy. The secretary, who does not ordinarily travel with the President, is an honored guest on the Africa tour (designed to make all American blacks happy). Sometimes she is seen hanging out with her fellow grand jury expatriate Bruce Lindsey. The President even singled her out in a speech he made in Ghana, talking about how she used

Pastoring in the Mother Country.

to work for the Peace Corps in the African division.

Mr. Jackson says he has prayed with the prayerful Mrs. Currie. "She's not Vernon, who could collect himself for the cameras," he said. "She's not a professional. She's not into the politics of confrontation. She's an humble spirit, a basic, Christian, just comes-in-and-does-her-work sort of woman."

The man who counsels the President on sex has empathy, at least. His wife, Jackie, also told reporters to

back off when they began asking about womanizing rumors during the 1988 campaign. And Mr. Jackson says he understands the extremes of politics — adulation at a big speech and then the loneliness of a hotel room.

The Reverend, decked out for the African sun in navy safari suit and khaki safari hat, said he and Bill had been praying together. "Obviously, there was a lot of torment there," he told me as he waited for the President to speak to Ugandan grade-school children here yesterday. "Some can turn pain into despair. He can turn pain into energy."

Mr. Jackson said the President was not distracted. "He doesn't have one eye in his forehead, like a Purple People Eater. He can be circumspect."

He was asked how Mrs. Clinton can bear to get up in the morning.

"She believes in him," he replied. "They grew up together, fighting for a vision of America. She really believes they are in a war, that there is a right-wing conspiracy against him." Referring to Kathleen Willey, he added, "On the one hand, you get the big drama of '60 Minutes,' and the next week this same person who was the paragon of virtue kind of comes apart. So Hillary has been in the ebb and flow of this."

He recalls praying with Chelsea over the phone. "Chelsea has a certain toughness, with tenderness, that grows out of experience. If she had been weakened by it, it would have had a devastating effect on Hillary and Bill."

So what is the moral of the story? "Sex is not the one string on the guitar," Mr. Jackson replies. "There are nine more Commandments." □

The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1998



ABOVE: US First lady Hillary Clinton acknowledges cheering students as she arrives at Makerere University to deliver a speech yesterday. Reuters photo.

Hillary vows to stop Kony

By Erich Ogozo Opolot
THE United States First Lady, Hillary Clinton, yesterday sharply criticised Joseph Kony's rebels in northern Uganda and announced that her government will put pressure on Sudan to end its support for the rebels.

Speaking at Makerere University last evening, Hillary also announced a US government contribution of US\$2 million (sh2 billion) for a new three-year northern Uganda initiative to rebuild infrastructure, and sh500m to non-govern-



Hillary Clinton

mental organisations helping children abducted by Kony rebels.

From page 1

Mrs. Clinton also announced a grant of US\$2 million (sh2 billion) for training women local council executives in Uganda and US\$10 million (sh10b) to NGOs working to improve food security and responses to conflicts in the Great Lakes region.

Describing Kony as a coward, Mrs. Clinton said, "My husband and our government will increase efforts to pressure Sudan to end the war. We will work with you to end this tragedy. All nations should pressure Sudan to end its support for LRA (the Lord's Resistance Army) and their cowardly abductions of children."

The 30-minute address was attended by Vice-President Wandira Kazibwe, Mrs. Janet Museveni, the Speaker of Parliament, James Wapakhabulo, Cabinet ministers, university lectures, Government officials, over 6000 students, three former child abductees, Sister Rachele Frassera, and the deputy Headmistress of Aboke.

Except for the VIPs who sat in a raised shade of papyrus mats and barkcloth, the audience braved the mid-afternoon heat wave, after the protocol told them to fold up their umbrellas, to hear out Mrs. Clinton.

Unlike the other speakers, who students interrupted

Unlike the other speakers, who students interrupted Mrs. Clinton's oratory captivated them.

"Perversely, the LRA claims to be doing the Lord's work, but there is no greater sin than forcing children to murder children, family members, and even the parents who brought them into this world.

"There is no greater sin than raping young girls and sending them into slave labour. And there is no greater sin than using children as human shields in battle. The LRA calls themselves soldiers, but they are cowards. For only cowards would hide behind children in battle," Hillary said amid applause.

Mrs. Clinton, who arrived at Makerere amidst tight security at 4.05 p.m. in a deep blue US government Cadillac, accompanied by motorcycle outriders, greeted her audience in Luganda, *Muli mutyano*. Last year I made the promise that I would return with my husband. I have followed your progress with great interest," she said.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. PK Ssebuwufu, welcomed her as the first sitting 1st Lady of the United States to visit the university since its inception in 1922.

BC-CLINTON-AFRICA-HILLARY

Hillary Clinton wants to help end north Uganda war

KAMPALA, Uganda (Reuters) - First Lady Hillary Clinton on Wednesday pledged further American support for efforts to end rebel violence in northern Uganda and rebuild the lives of civilians caught in the conflict.

She also pledged \$14.5 million in aid for projects to boost women's leadership training in Uganda as well as alleviate the suffering of children abducted by rebels, improve crop security and reviving economic activity in the north.

Mrs. Clinton was speaking to students at Kampala's Makerere University, East Africa's oldest, while President Clinton was attending a summit of regional African leaders in Entebbe on the second and last day of a visit to Uganda.

The Clintons were to leave in the evening for South Africa, the third leg of the president's groundbreaking 11-day tour through six countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Lord's Resistance Army insurgents have been fighting government forces for more than 10 years in northern Uganda, abducting children, killing civilians and destroying infrastructure and property, including farm plots.

President Yoweri Museveni's government accuses neighboring Sudan of supporting the rebels while Khartoum in turn accuses Kampala of backing the secessionist Sudan People's Liberation Army.

"The U.S. government and my husband will continue to pressure Sudan to cease its support of the Lord's Resistance Army ... We will work with you to end this terror," Mrs. Clinton told 4,000 students and staff at the state university.

"We will work with you to build your country."

Clinton spoke emotionally of her meeting with the mother of a girl abducted by suspected rebels in northern Uganda.

"There is no greater sin than to rape young girls and send them into slavery," she said in a 30-minute address delivered from a shaded dais constructed specially for the occasion to ward off the fierce equatorial sun.

Clinton urged Ugandans to speak out against injustice and inequality.

"For you here, you have not only the power to speak but the obligation," she said, adding that the observance of human rights was not the sole preserve of Western societies but was universal and timeless.

"We should stand up for the right of all persons to be fully human," Clinton said.

Speaking of her visit earlier in the day to Rwanda with her husband, she spoke with feeling about the suffering she had witnessed in the faces of the victims of its 1994 genocide.

Extremists ethnic Hutus slaughtered about 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and Hutu moderates before Tutsi rebels toppled the Hutu-led government.

Mrs. Clinton said the perpetrators had to be brought to book.

Ugandan First Lady Janet Museveni, Vice-President Specioza Wandira Kazibwe and several other high-ranking Ugandan officials accompanied Hillary Clinton to the university.

She hoped Uganda would take up her challenge to secure the human rights of its people far into the future.

"You have a historic opportunity to build a future, not only for your children, but as beacon, not only for Africa but for the whole world," she concluded her address to vigorous applause.

AM-Africa-Mrs Clinton, 350

Mrs. Clinton condemns rebels who use child soldiers

With AM-Clinton-Africa, Bjt

By KARIN DAVIES= Associated Press Writer=

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) Rebels who force children to fight for them are cowards, and Uganda's insurgents are among the worst, Hillary Rodham Clinton said Wednesday.

"Nothing so offends any definition of human rights as the use of children as pawns of war, and the mistreatment and abuse of women as a tactic of war," Mrs. Clinton said.

The United States will try to end the insurgency of the Sudanese-backed Lord's Resistance Army, and help rebuild Uganda, she pledged in a speech at Makerere University.

"My husband and our government will increase their efforts to pressure Sudan to end its support for the LRA, and their cowardly abductions of children," Mrs. Clinton said.

Led by Joseph Kony, who claims to be a spirit medium, the LRA has fought for 12 years in the north, purportedly to oust President Yoweri Museveni, but it is his own people who suffer the most.

An estimated 250,000 child soldiers are serving in militias worldwide, including in Cambodia and Afghanistan. The LRA is especially cruel it has abducted up to 10,000 children and as much as 80 percent of its troops are children ages 7 to 17.

"The LRA call themselves soldiers, but they are cowards, for only cowards would hide behind children in battle," Mrs. Clinton said. Earlier, she met three children who escaped from Kony.

"Like terrorists and dictators throughout history, the LRA claims to be doing the Lord's work," Mrs. Clinton said.

"But there is no greater sin than forcing children to murder each other, family members, and even the parents who brought them into existence. There is no greater sin than raping young girls and sending them into slave labor. And there is no greater sin than using children as human shields in battle."

The U.S. Agency for International Development will provide \$500,000 to groups that help find abducted children and give them medical care, Mrs. Clinton said.

PM-Africa-Mrs. Clinton,310

First lady celebrates African village that ended female circumcision

With PM-Clinton-Africa Bjt

By TIM SULLIVAN= Associated Press Writer=

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton, meeting with villagers who have ended the practice of female circumcision in their community, praised the village for having started "a great movement."

"It was not easy for women and men to come together to stand against and speak out against a key ancient custom," said the first lady after a handful of village women acted out a play meant to educate others about the potentially dangerous health effects from the practice.

"The courage and commitment of the women, the men and the religious leaders of Malicounda has served now as an example to bring together thousands and thousands of other Senegalese," she said after meeting with them at a Dakar hotel.

The women of Malicounda, a 2,000-person village about 100 miles from Dakar, decided two years ago to stop circumcising the village's girls. The decision was taken up by Malicounda's men, some of whom went from town to town to discuss the problems that can go along with the practice.

Since then, the decision has spread to at least 10 other villages in Senegal, where an estimated 20 percent of girls are circumcised.

The practice, sometimes called female genital mutilation, can range from cutting the hood of the clitoris to the removal of the clitoris and some vaginal tissue.

Health problems include difficult childbirths and bleeding and sometimes even death. However, it is considered an important tradition in dozens of countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East where girls are often seen as unclean and undeserving of marriage if they have not undergone it.

The Clintons were ending a 12-day trip to Africa Thursday evening.

AM-Africa-Mrs Clinton,310

Retransmits a0629 to delete period from slugline

Hillary Clinton praises model Senegalese schools program

With AM-Clinton-Africa

By TIM SULLIVAN= Associated Press Writer=

THIES, Senegal (AP) Sitting in the shade of a tree where children normally play, Hillary Rodham Clinton bobbed her head in time Wednesday while Senegalese women chanted a poem extolling their newfound power.

"We, the women of this class have found a new friend," they said in the Wolof language, as a translator whispered in Mrs. Clinton's ear. "A wonderful friend who is righteous and just and who now guides us."

The name of this friend? "Women's rights," they told the crowd gathered at the Moda Kane elementary school, which has gone beyond reading and writing in what it teaches to children and some adults.

The women took a literacy class that includes such topics as political power and health issues. Most of the school's programs, however, revolve around its more than 1,500 children.

In classes and activities developed with the help of educators, parents and community members, the students are learning such things as entrepreneurial skills by running a school store and growing vegetables to eat and sell.

Moda Kane is designated a model primary school and is one of Senegal's "New Schools," which allow communities to tailor educational programs to individual needs.

While praising UNICEF and the Christian Children's Fund for their support of the school, Mrs. Clinton said, "The main reason why this school is different is because of the parents, the teachers and the students, and how you understand how you need to prepare your children for the future."

Mrs. Clinton came to Thies, 35 miles east of Dakar, while President Clinton watched African peacekeepers train at a nearby military base. The Clintons, winding up a 12-day tour of Africa, leave for Washington on Thursday.

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March 25, 1998, Wednesday 15:44 Eastern Time

SECTION: State and regional

LENGTH: 1320 words

HEADLINE: Clinton commemorates Rwandan genocide in Kigali; holds regional summit
at Entebbe

BODY:
Copley News Service

While the president was striving to build new relationships with Africa, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was delivering a strong message on the need for these African leaders to stop the human rights abuses that are rampant in many of their countries.

In a speech at Makerere University in Kampala, she echoed her husband's human rights remarks and attacked the notion that is popular here that human rights are defined differently in Africa.

'There are still apologists who claim that human rights are a Westerner's luxury not inalienable but alien,' she said. 'How wrong they are ... Human rights are the foundation of Africa, the foundation of Asia, the foundation of the Americas because they live in the human soul.'

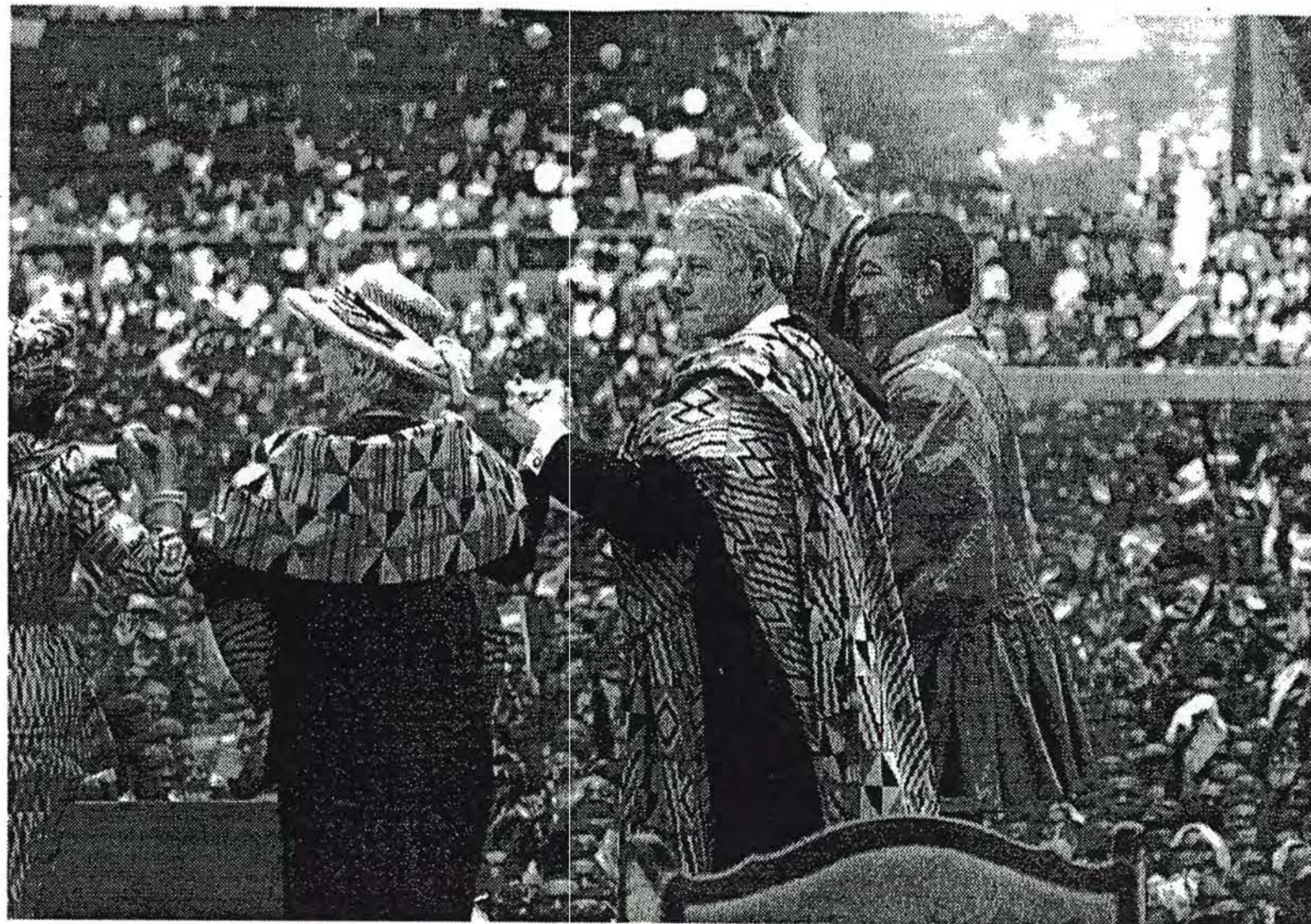
PAGE 14

Copley News Service, March 25, 1998

She used her speech to announce grants of \$500,000 to help children in Uganda, \$2 million to rebuild infrastructure in northern Uganda, and \$10 million to several African nations to help avoid starvation.

LOAD-DATE: March 26, 1998

The New York Times
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1998



Associated Press

President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton acknowledged the cheers of a huge crowd in Accra yesterday after Jerry Rawlings, the country's leader, presented them with kente cloths, Ghana's traditional fabric.



USA TODAY • TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1998

Ugandans want focus on abductions

By Daniela Deane
USA TODAY

Human rights activists and parents of Ugandan children hope the Clintons will use their time in Uganda to focus international attention on a guerrilla war in which rebels have kidnapped about 8,000 children and sent them to the front line as human fodder for government troops.

Angelina Atyam, the mother of a 15-year-old girl abducted by rebels in 1996, met Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House two weeks ago to urge her to speak out against the rebel war that has plagued Uganda for the past 12 years.

"I told her the story of my daughter Charlotte and she listened so attentively," says Atyam, a nurse-midwife and the mother of six. "She promised me she would say something about it." During the Clintons' two-day stay in Uganda, the first lady is to give a speech at a Kampala University. White House aides say she will focus on human rights and touch on the abductions.

Rebels kidnapped Atyam's daughter Charlotte, then 14, along with 138 other girls after breaking into their dorm at St. Mary's Catholic school in northern Uganda in the middle of the night in October 1996.

Atyam has not heard from her daughter since. But a friend who escaped told Atyam that Charlotte was raped by a rebel commander and is now pregnant with his child. She is being held in southern Sudan, across the border from Uganda. "They use a lot of the girls as sex slaves," Atyam says. "They want to make them pregnant so

they will stay, and they will get more fighters."

Human rights activists say the children, some as young as 8, are abducted mostly from schools in isolated villages. The kidnapers target schools because they are vulnerable.

The children then are compelled to fight on the front lines against the government army and are forced to beat other children to death when they try to escape, says Human Rights Watch, which published a report on the issue. If they don't, they face execution themselves. Many of the children are murdered. A large percentage die in battle or from disease or starvation after enduring months, sometimes years, in captivity.

The rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army, is led by Joseph Kony, a religious fanatic who wants to overthrow Uganda's government. Kony, who claims to be in communication with the Holy Spirit, says his words are the word of God. Human rights groups say 80% of Kony's recruits are abducted children.

Aid groups say 3,000 to 5,000 children have escaped rebel captivity. They come out psychologically damaged and in need of intensive rehabilitation.

"An entire generation of Ugandans are emotionally and physically scarred by being forced to take part in these atrocities," says Jo Becker of Human Rights Watch. "Anytime children are used in warfare, they grow up having experience only in war-making. It makes future armed conflict much more likely and it's a real obstacle to the progress of the country."

Hillary calls for equality, day care

Women's rights top her Ghana agenda

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a return visit to Africa, called yesterday for equal opportunities for women and day care for their children.

"I cannot think of a better way to start my journey than right here," she said at an Accra day care center as she accompanied President Clinton on his first African trip and the first for a U.S. president in 20 years. "This is where a country is really judged, isn't it, what we do for our children."

At the 31st December Women's Movement Day-Care Center — named for the day that president Jerry Rawlings completed his 1981 coup — the first lady was welcomed by Ghana's first lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, and children who performed traditional dances and recited poetry.

Mrs. Clinton said equal access to education, to the law and to such things as inheritances, would give women the chance to succeed freely.

"Not that we dictate what a woman's choice will be, but we empower women to make the right choices for themselves," she said, adding that "too many women are treated as children under the laws of their own nations."

Celebrating the roles women have played in Africa, she said, "I have seen women building with their own hands their own homes. I have seen women working against diseases that are ravaging the children of your continent."

Mrs. Clinton announced a \$1 million grant that would allow African and American women to communicate over the Internet and share ideas.

Mrs. Clinton, with a traditional kente cloth draped over her shoulder, praised Ghana for its recent outlawing of genital mutilation — which is practiced mostly in the north of the country — as well as moves to encourage Ghanaians to change their views on the tradition.

"I want to congratulate this nation for your leadership, not only by passing a law outlawing this practice but by making sure this law changes hearts and minds so that individuals understand what the law means and why it should be enforced in every village," she said.

Genital mutilation, the traditional cutting of part of a girl's vagina or clitoris, is widely practiced in many parts of Africa and the Middle East.

The Clintons arrived in Accra yesterday to begin an 11-day African tour. It has been billed by the White House as a way to encourage more trade and investment in the continent.

Mrs. Clinton visited Africa last March with her daughter, Chelsea, including stops in South Africa, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Eritrea.

Cost of raising children averages over \$150,000

By Barbara Hagenbaugh
REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

The cost of raising children in the United States rose again last year as parents spent more on child care and bought bigger homes, according to a report released by the government yesterday.

Middle-income, two-parent families will spend \$153,660 over the next 17 years for a child born in 1997, up from \$149,820 in 1996, the Agriculture Department said in its annual study.

Low- and high-income families also will spend more money raising children born last year, the report showed. Low-income families will spend \$112,710 for each child, up from \$110,040 in 1996. Children born in high-income families last year will cost \$224,040, up from \$218,400 in 1996.

Report author Mark Lino said the rising costs can be attributed to general inflation in the U.S. economy and the increasing use of child care by working parents.

"People are buying more goods

and services, especially child care," he said.

In 1960, the first year the department started tracking the figures and when most mothers stayed at home, parents could expect to spend \$25,229 to raise a child.

Mr. Lino also said families are buying bigger homes, which is another reason for the increasing cost of raising children. Housing is the largest cost of raising a child, accounting for 33 percent of the total expenditures.

Single parents spend 5 percent less raising their children than two-parent families, the report showed.

However, the average income of the single parents was lower than the average combined income of two-parent families, indicating that single parents spend a larger proportion of their income on their children, according to the report.

The study covered the cost of raising a child through age 17 and did not include the cost of child-bearing or of a college education.

AM-Africa-Mrs Clinton,330

Mrs. Clinton lashes out at female circumcision

With AM-Clinton-Africa, Bjt

By TIM SULLIVAN= Associated Press Writer=

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) Moved by discussions she heard during her last trip to Africa, Hillary Rodham Clinton lashed out Monday at the traditional practice of female genital mutilation, calling the custom "sometimes deadly but always inhumane."

Mrs. Clinton, in Ghana on the first day of a 12-day presidential journey across Africa, praised this West African country for outlawing the tradition.

"I want to congratulate this nation for your leadership, not only by passing a law outlawing this practice, but by making sure this law changes hearts and minds so that individuals understand what the law means and why it should be enforced in every village," she told representatives of dozens of women's groups at an Accra day-care center.

Female genital mutilation, also known as female circumcision, involves cutting part of a girl's vagina or clitoris. It is commonly practiced in many countries throughout Africa and the Middle East.

It has, in recent years, become a divisive issue in many countries defended as an important rite handed down through generations to protect a girl's honor, cleanliness and virginity but criticized as an abusive custom that can lead to years of pain and medical treatment.

Aides said that while Mrs. Clinton had long been concerned with the health problems that can go along with the practice, she became increasingly interested in the issue after prominent Eritrean women talked about the custom and its effects during her visit to Africa last March.

Mrs. Clinton made her comments after being welcomed to the 31st December Women's Movement Day Care Center named for the day President Jerry Rawlings completed his 1981 coup.

Accompanied by Ghana's first lady, Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, Mrs. Clinton was greeted with traditional dances and poems recited by children who attend the center.

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**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 03/24/98 at 09:19EST ****

Mutilation Seen as Risk For the Girls Of Immigrants

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

More than 160,000 girls and women in immigrant communities in the United States may have been victims of the traditional practice of genital mutilation or are at risk of being subjected to it, according to a report to be published today by a New York State Congresswoman active in a campaign to prosecute practitioners.

The estimate — extrapolated from the 1990 census — does not distinguish between those on whom the operation has been performed and those who are deemed at risk.

Information is only beginning to be collected on the prevalence of the operation to remove all or part of the female genital area, a practice most common among immigrants from Africa. It has been illegal in the United States since 1997. Much evidence is anecdotal, but public health officials say there is enough to cause concern.

In January the Congresswoman, Louise M. Slaughter, a Democrat from Rochester, asked the Health and Human Services Department to survey the situation. The department based its report on a statistical analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Officials say precise figures are difficult to collect because the only sure medical measurement of the practice is physical examination. But doctors and women's groups in immigrant communities are accumulating enough accounts to cause concern in Congress and the Administration.

Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, has been developing educational material for health professionals encountering the problem for the first time.

"It's illegal, it's inhumane and we've got to be clear about that," Ms. Shalala said. "At the same time, we have to be culturally sensitive in explaining to those immigrants who might put their girls at risk that the practice has harmful physical and psychological consequences."

The practice, which women's groups call female genital mutilation, affects about 100 million women

worldwide, international health experts say. It may involve the removal of only the clitoris or all of the external genitalia.

The World Health Organization says the practice often includes infibulation, in which the vagina is sewn shut to prevent the woman from having sexual relations with anyone but her husband. Infections and perpetual leakage of urine are among the side effects. Many girls die of bleeding or shock.

David Smith, associate director of the office of international and refugee health at the Department of Health and Human Services, said: "The issue is not simply new surgeries. There are lifelong medical consequences as a result of these surgeries that have to be attended to."

Ms. Slaughter said she was disturbed by arguments that this is an acceptable cultural practice.

"I appreciate that a lot of people are very sensitive to the cultural notion that this is something done in other places, but we don't do it here any more than we would let a group put chastity belts on little girls over 11," she said in an interview.

At Equality Now, a women's human rights organization in New York that works extensively with immigrants, Jessica Neuwirth, the director, said that to avoid cultural clashes over the issue, "there is a strong feeling that the movement against this must be led by African activists."

Experts say it is too early to determine whether the practice, now under attack in Africa, will die in the United States as immigrants move into mainstream society. But Ms. Neuwirth, who receives letters from African women asking for help in combating the rite here, says she has heard accounts of operations done by immigrants themselves or by foreign practitioners who perform the cutting either in the ancestral country or in the United States at the invitation of families seeking to evade the law.

A number of African countries have curtailed the practice or are advising against it. In a landmark ruling last year, Egypt's highest court not only banned the practice but also ruled against Muslims who advocate it by declaring in the decision that there is nothing in the Koran or Islamic law that prescribes or condones the operation.

The New York Times

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U.S. To Provide One Million Dollars For Women's Network

March 23, 1998

ACCRA, Ghana (PANA) - United States first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced Monday that the U.S. government would provide one million dollars for the creation of a network that would enable women across the world share ideas to improve their societies.

Mrs. Clinton, who arrived in Accra earlier with husband President Bill Clinton to begin a six-nation tour of Africa, said the "Power Net" would serve as an electronic bridge linking women from all segments of society to learn from each other, share strategies and successes.

"We want to speak with one voice, women from all over the world. There is a lot American women can learn from you," she said. "We have women building houses with their own hands and teaching other women about their right."

This drew loud cheers and applause from a cross-section of Ghanaian women and a handful of men at a durbar organised in her honour.

The durbar, a festive occasion held for honoured guests, was attended by Nana Rawlings, wife of Ghana President Jerry Rawlings; ministers and parliamentarians. The event was held at the 31st December Women's Movement Day Care Centre at the ministries, the first of the over 900 centres established by the movement. The movement's president is Mrs. Rawlings.

Mrs Clinton, an advocate of women and children's rights, underscored the importance of educating the girl-child and urged the government to ensure that all girls of school going age were educated.

"If you educate a woman, you educate the family, the community and the nation," she said. "If women are given the power to pursue their own programmes, they would make their societies better."

She noted that despite the hard work and efforts of women to develop their countries, they continued to face injustices and abuses.

She urged "African women to speak up against gender violence as a crime and not to dismiss it as a cultural practice or a trivial issue."

Mrs. Clinton commended Ghana for promulgating a law to abolish the practice of female genital mutilation and for educating communities to stop the practice.

Speaking about the objectives of the tour of her husband, she said the United States had the desire to improve health care, education, democracy human rights and economies of African states to enable women to make the right decisions that would improve their lots.

Mrs. Rawlings credited Mrs. Clinton's efforts at promoting family values, empowerment of women and the rights of children.

"Mrs Clinton's interest in children and families dates back to her university days at Yale, where she worked to protect the interest of children and families," Mrs Rawlings said.

Mrs Clinton founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and introduced a pioneering programme called the Home Instruction Programme for Pre-school Youngsters.

"Mrs Clinton also has interest in a wide range of activities. No wonder President Clinton said, 'We have a first lady of many talents whom most of all can bring people together around complex and difficult issues to hammer out consensus and get things done,' Mrs Rawlings said.

She also said women needed to occupy high positions in political, social, public and economic institutions to be able to influence decision-making and policies which affected women and children.

"We need good leadership and support to be able to promote peace, development, and the positive things that women stand for," Mrs. Rawlings said.

Mrs. Rawlings' own movement, established to improve the quality of life of women in both rural and urban areas, has some two million members.

With the establishment of day-care centres and income generating activities, she said, the movement had been able to make more women economically independent and break the cycle of poverty in many families.

At the day care centres, pupils are given balanced-diets and immunised against the six childhood killer diseases.

Clinton lauds South Africa's move from pariah to partner By Roger Simon Chicago Tribune (KRT)

CAPE TOWN, South Africa In the first visit by an American president to South Africa, President Clinton said Thursday the former land of apartheid had moved from pariah to partner.

Clinton used the masakhane, common to both the Zulu and Xhosa languages, to describe what he called "the act of building together."

"As we look toward the future, we will seek to build together new partnerships in trade and investment," Clinton told a joint session of the South African parliament in the only state visit of his 12-day, six-country Africa tour.

Clinton also said that though America and South Africa were different places, they had important similarities.

"Our paths do converge," he said, "by a vision of real multi-racial democracy bound together by healing and hope, renewal and redemption."

Accompanying Clinton was South African President Nelson Mandela, 79, who walked haltingly by Clinton's side as the two entered the wood-paneled House of Assembly.

Surrounding them were members of parliament who were white, black, Asian and of mixed-race. Such a scene would have been unimaginable in Africa just four years ago, when parliament was virtually whites only.

Under the system of apartheid, dismantled just seven years ago, the nation's 28 million blacks were not able to vote, live where they wished or travel freely. They were ruled by the nation's 5 million whites.

Popo Molefe, who is black and heads the lower body of parliament, introduced Clinton, saying, "Four years ago, such a visit would not have been possible because the apartheid system had turned our beloved South Africa into a pariah of the world."

He then thanked America and five individual Americans: Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy, Randall Robinson, who heads the group Trans-Africa, Jesse Jackson and Harry Belafonte "for helping to topple the apartheid system that he called 'a crime against humanity.'"

Although the races now share power in South Africa, nobody would claim racial discrimination has ended or deep divisions do not persist within South African society. Some members of the former white ruling National Party demonstrated that by staying away from Clinton's speech and leaving about two dozen empty chairs.

Several of the white members of parliament who did show up, but who are still angry with America for its economic and other sanctions against South Africa during the apartheid years, refused to applaud before, during or after Clinton's 17-minute speech.

Clinton stressed the positive, however, stating the black-white power sharing achieved in South Africa "inspires all of us to be animated by the belief one day humanity all the world over can at last be released from the bonds of hatred and bigotry."

Turning to Mandela, Clinton said, "Mr. President, for millions and millions of Americans, South Africa's story is embodied by your heroic sacrifice and your breathtaking walk out of the darkness and into the glorious light."

That phrase appears on the tomb of Oliver Tambo, the founder of the African National Congress, Mandela's party. The ANC now has a majority of seats in parliament, but was once outlawed.

Earlier in the day, the president and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a low-income housing project in Cape Town where homeless women have formed a collective to buy cinder blocks, mortar and tin to build their own homes. Once each woman has constructed her home, she is expected to train another woman in home-building.

Hundreds of cheering residents watched Clinton, who tried to demonstrate his blocklaying skills by gingerly tapping down some mortar with a trowel. Afterward, the president told the women 30 years ago he had actually spent an entire summer building houses.

"And when I was out helping you," he continued, "I realized it's pretty hard work, and that's why I went into politics, so I wouldn't have to work so hard anymore."

Clinton announced that the United States would give South Africa an additional \$3 million to fund some of the similar 800 self-help housing projects around South Africa.

Mrs. Clinton was presented with a street sign bearing the name "Hillary Clinton Str.", which will eventually go up in the new development.

Later in the day, Clinton went by motorcade to the square in front of the parliament building, where Mandela officially greeted him with a brass band, a troop review ceremony and a 21-gun salute.

Clinton and Mandela then made the short walk into parliament, followed by Mrs. Clinton and Mandela's companion, Graca Machel,

the widow of the former president of Mozambique.

Mandela's former wife, Winnie Mandela, a member of parliament and a controversial figure in South Africa, sat in the back of the chamber, but did not greet Clinton.

In parliament, where Mandela listened but did not speak, Clinton noted that he had brought a large delegation of African-Americans with him from both public and private life.

"It is especially important for them to be here," Clinton said, "because it was not so long ago in the long span of human history that their ancestors were uprooted from this continent and sold into slavery in the United States. But now they return to Africa as leaders of the United States."

And now, Clinton continued, they sat next to the "leaders of the new South Africa, united in the powerful poetry of justice."

Afterward, White House spokesman Mike McCurry was asked whether by bringing so many black officials with him, Clinton was not misleading the Africans as to how many blacks really are in government in America.

McCurry replied that the delegation was not "assembled by quota" but "assembled by interest."

He acknowledged that at least two white members of the delegation traveling with Clinton: Ron Burkle, a Los Angeles multimillionaire, and Maurice Tempelsman, a wealthy investor who was the former companion of the late Jacqueline Onassis, were large contributors to the Democratic Party.

McCurry also said, however, that some people in the delegation, "contribute to the Republican Party in excess to what they contribute to the Democratic Party", and that all the business people are "involved in business transactions with Africa that will build a better future for workers and working families" in the United States and Africa.

Clinton also met Thursday with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who is expected to succeed Mandela when he retires next year. Clinton emerged from the meeting saying that Africa deserves both "trade and aid."

One stated purpose of Clinton's trip has been to move Africa away from grants made by the U.S. government and into more commerce. But after Mbeki was quoted by a French reporter as saying he disagreed with that policy, Clinton said: "While it's true that we're putting much more emphasis on trade and investment in the last five years, I don't think that we should abandon our aid approach." Mbeki said he was misquoted.

At the same meeting, Clinton said the United States Defense Department had just made its first purchase from South Africa, a mobile unit that locates and destroys land mines. Clinton noted that the unit was called "Chubby."

"Named after me, maybe," he said.

On Friday, Clinton is scheduled to hold a joint news conference with Mandela and visit Robben Island, where Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years.



Women's Day reveals continued inequalities

Two and a half years ago, representatives of 189 countries met in Beijing for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. They articulated this vision: A country's progress depends on the inclusion of women, the vibrancy of an economy depends on the full contribution of women, the richness of civic life depends on the participation of women, and women's rights are human rights.

Even in the few years since the Beijing conference, governments, nongovernmental organizations and individuals have made tremendous progress throughout the world. All around the globe, I have seen women striving to become full participants in their societies, to build democracies and to turn their lives and communities around.

In Costa Rica, I've met women working to end domestic violence and opening an astonishing array of businesses through the magic of microcredit. In Africa, I've seen women beating the odds to bring health care to rural Senegal, to construct homes in South Africa and to speak out for women's rights in Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Uganda. And in Thailand, I've learned firsthand about what people are doing to stop young girls from being sold into prostitution and to care for those — some as young as 12 — who are dying of AIDS.

Everywhere I go, I am reminded of how much our nation's assistance — and our example — contributes to this progress. I've seen a women's health care clinic opened in Kazakhstan. I've met women whose lives have been rebuilt in Rwanda and Bosnia. And I've witnessed the United States and Ukraine working together to stop the buying and selling of women and girls.

There is much to celebrate, but much also remains to be done. In too many countries, women are barred by law, tradition or ignorance from exercising their God-given rights. Too many are trapped in an endless cycle of poverty, unable to get access to education and economic opportunity. Too many live in fear of daily violence.

In Afghanistan, for example, women are brutalized and silenced by the Taleban militia. Girls are barred from school. Thousands of women cannot go to work, leave home alone or get the health care they need. Those who don't follow every rule of attire or conduct are punished with beatings, even with death.

This week at the White House, in recognition of International Women's Day, the president is

taking several steps to assure that women's rights — in this country and in every country — are respected and protected. With the support of the secretary of state, the attorney general, the secretary-general of the United Nations, members of Congress and women from around the world, he is once again calling upon the Senate to consent to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

CEDAW, which has already been ratified by 161 other countries, seeks to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. In its failure to ratify CEDAW, the United States remains alone in this hemisphere, alone among industrialized democracies and alone among our allies in NATO and Asia. Approval would be a fitting tribute to the vision of the men and women who gathered in Seneca Falls, N.Y., 150 years ago this July for the first Women's Rights Convention.

The president is also directing his Interagency Council on Women, the secretary of state and the attorney general to continue — and expand — their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world.

Let us call violence against women what it is — a violation of human rights. It doesn't matter if it's by law or custom, ignorance or inaction. It doesn't matter if it's in war or peace, in our homes or streets. No woman should ever be degraded by violence.

Finally, the president is announcing several measures to strengthen our fight against the trafficking of more than a million women and girls all over the world. Desperate for economic opportunity, and believing they're applying for jobs as baby sitters, waitresses and sales clerks, they find themselves instead in a nightmare — sold as part of an international trade in human beings and forced into prostitution and modern-day slavery.

Under the president's leadership, we are giving the issues that affect women's lives — whether they live in Thailand or Tunisia, Bangladesh or Boston — the status they deserve as part of our domestic and foreign policy. Only by assuring that the circle of citizenship and human dignity is extended to include every person will democracy continue to thrive and the agenda we adopted in Beijing continue to improve the lives of women and girls around the world.

U.S. Failed To Face Rwandan Slaughter, Clinton Says

By **TERENCE HUNT**
The Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — Shaken by horror stories from the worst genocide since World War II, President Clinton grimly acknowledged Wednesday that "we did not act quickly enough" to stop the slaughter of up to a million Rwandans four years ago.

"One survivor told Clinton he had to hide among thousands of corpses and "swim in their blood to survive." Although his hand was hacked off, Venuste Karasira lived — one of only 300 survivors out of 5,000 people who sought refuge at a technical school that had been protected by Belgian paratroopers.

"When the troops withdrew, Hutus armed with machetes rushed in — just one murderous episode in a countrywide bloodbath orchestrated by the former Hutu government against minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus who supported efforts to share power.

"Clinton said that he and other world leaders — sitting in faraway offices — "did not fully appreciate the depth and the speed with which you were being engulfed by this unimaginable terror."

"The United States and the rest of the international community periodically condemned the killings but

failed to stop the 90-day spree that Clinton called "the most intensive slaughter in this blood-filled century we are about to leave."

"Never again must we be shy about the evidence," the president said in his second expression of contrition in two days. On Tuesday, he said the United States was wrong to have engaged in slave buying long ago and was guilty more recently of neglect and ignorance toward Africa.

Clinton, halfway through a six-country trip, made a 3½ hour visit to the Kigali airport in this tiny Central African nation to acknowledge the failure of world leaders to act. He pledged the United States will improve efforts to identify and spotlight nations in danger of genocidal violence.

Arriving from Uganda, Clinton and his wife, Hillary, were greeted by barechested dancers jumping, twisting and waving spears. It was perhaps the only festive moment on a sobering visit.

Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimunga called Clinton's visit "an eloquent statement of your condemnation of genocide, a show of solidarity with the victims and a challenge to the international community to work together to stem the recurrence of genocide."



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENOCIDE MEMORIAL: President Clinton looks at a sculpture that represents the 1994 killings in Rwanda. The art was presented to him on Wednesday in Kigali, Rwanda.

First Lady Denounces Use Of Children as Ugandan Rebels

By **KARIN DAVIES**
The Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda — Rebels who force children to fight for them are cowards, and Uganda's insurgents are among the worst, Hillary Rodham Clinton said Wednesday.

"Nothing so offends any definition of human rights as the use of children as pawns of war, and the mistreatment and abuse of women as a tactic of war," Mrs. Clinton said.

The United States will try to end the insurgency of the Sudanese-backed Lord's Resistance Army, and help rebuild Uganda, she pledged in a speech at Makerere University.

"My husband and our government will increase their efforts to pressure Sudan to end its support for the LRA, and their cowardly abductions of children," Mrs. Clinton said.

Led by Joseph Kony, who claims to be a spirit medium, the LRA has fought for 12 years in the north, purportedly to oust President Yoweri Museveni, but it is his own people who suffer the most.

An estimated 250,000 child soldiers are serving in militias world-

wide, including in Cambodia and Afghanistan. The LRA is especially cruel — it has abducted up to 10,000 children and as much as 80 percent of its troops are children ages 7 to 17.

"The LRA call themselves soldiers, but they are cowards, for only cowards would hide behind children in battle," Mrs. Clinton said. Earlier, she met three children who escaped from Kony.

"Like terrorists and dictators throughout history, the LRA claims to be doing the Lord's work," Mrs. Clinton said.

"But there is no greater sin than forcing children to murder each other, family members, and even the parents who brought them into existence. There is no greater sin than raping young girls and sending them into slave labor. And there is no greater sin than using children as human shields in battle."

The U.S. Agency for International Development will provide \$500,000 to groups that help find abducted children and give them medical care, Mrs. Clinton said.