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SCHWEIZER

Nr. 20 14. Mai 1998 Fr. 4.-

Familie

ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR DAS ZUSAMMENLEBEN

INTERNET
Wo Einsame
sich finden

JUGEND 98
Was Mädchen
von Jungen
halten

EISHOCKEY-WM
Wundertrainer
Ralph Krueger

Eine perfekte Lady

Die Schweiz im Bann
von Hillary Clinton

FITNESS-JOURNAL
Sportarten
im Test

Interview the First Lady at the White House

Enter
The 21st Century

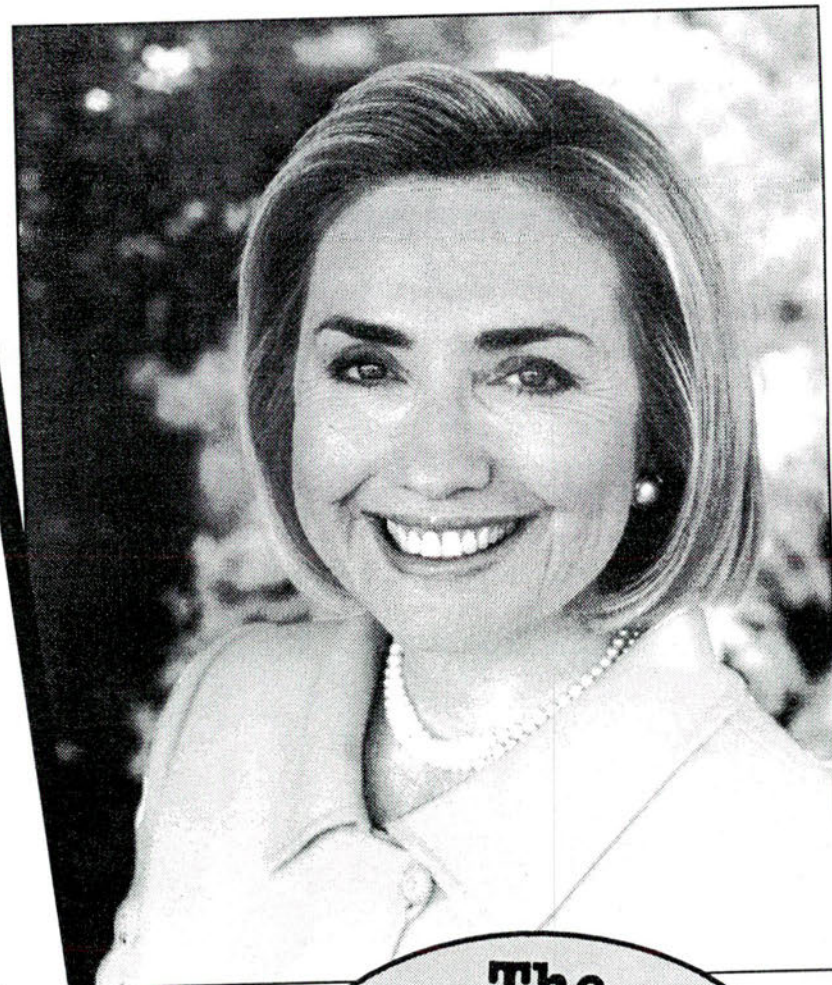
INTERVIEW CONTEST

It's easy:

1. Interview any person you choose.
2. Use a **Q**uestion and **A**nswer format.
3. Keep your interview between 500 and 3,000 words.
4. Follow submission guidelines on page 3.

The deadline is June 15, 1998.

The winning interview will be selected by the staff of The 21st Century. The winning author will meet the First Lady during the summer.



The Winner
will interview
Hillary Rodham Clinton
at the White House!

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PRESERVATION

[The 21st Century May 1998 Vol. 9 No. 9]

The winning answer
The 21st Century. The winning answer
First Lady during the summer.

will interview
Hillary Rodham Clinton
at the White House!

How do I do it?

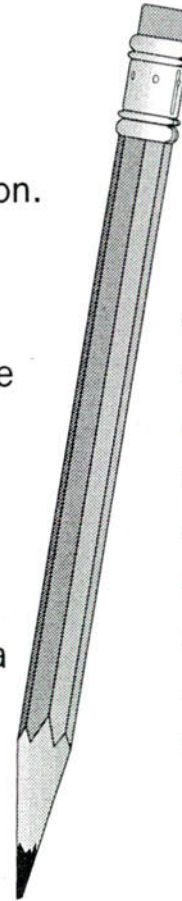
- Call a special person and ask for an interview.
- Ask your parents, teachers or friends if they can introduce you to an "interesting" or "famous" person.
- Ask thought-provoking questions.
- Use a tape recorder. Be sure to get your subject's permission to do this.
- When writing the interview, be sure the answers are accurate quotations of the person you interviewed.
- Be sure to use the Question and Answer format.

Why an Interview?

- You can often gain access to celebrities and other important people if you are doing an interview for a nationwide paper, such as *The 21st Century*.
- You can learn about different professions, lifestyles and backgrounds.
- You can meet someone special, face-to-face.
- It's fun!

Consider interviewing a:

- Friend, relative, neighbor
- Teacher, coach, counselor
- Politician or government official
- Physician, nurse, scientist
- Lawyer, business owner, contractor
- Firefighter or police officer
- Author, artist, musician, actor
- Reporter or TV personality
- Or anyone who interests you



Send your interview by June 15th to:

Interview / The 21st Century
Box 30 • Newton, MA 02161

Chornobyl



Chronicle

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND NATIONAL NEWSLETTER SPRING 1998 VOL. XIII

A CONTINUING LEGACY

As the world commemorates the 12th Anniversary of Chornobyl approaches, the people of Eastern Europe and Ukraine must cope with a stubborn and unrelenting health crisis:

THYROID CANCER: The number of children stricken with thyroid cancer continues to rise. In some areas the rate is 80 times higher than normal.

BIRTH DEFECTS: According to health studies conducted by Japanese and American public health experts, the rate of birth defects (including deformed limbs, multiple digits and cleft palates) has doubled.

INFANT MORTALITY: The United Nations Office on Population has expressed concern about the declining population of Belarus and Ukraine – the two countries most affected by radioactive fallout from Chornobyl. In Ukraine, the number of deaths has exceeded the number of live births by hundreds of thousands for several years, and infant mortality is at least twice the European average.

INFERTILITY & BIRTH COMPLICATIONS: The rate of infertility among Ukrainian men is believed to be the highest in the world; (Source: Boston Globe); A recent peer-reviewed study by Belarusan and American doctors found that the rate of major prenatal and birth complications is significantly higher among women living in radiation-contaminated zones near Chornobyl.



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and First Lady of Ukraine Liudmilla Kuchma are greet the arrival of CCRF's ambulance at the Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinical Hospital. The ambulance was donated by CCRF with the financial support of John Deere & Company. (From left to right) Dr. Yarema Voznytsia (Chair of the Pediatric Department), Dr. Oleksander Myndiuk (Director, Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinical Hospital), First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady Liudmilla Kuchma, Nadia Matkiwsky (CCRF Executive Director), Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky (CCRF President), Dr. Mykola Kobzey (Chairman, Lviv Oblast Ministry of Health).

CCRF extends its gratitude to John Deere & Company for its corporate sponsorship of our medical programs in Ukraine. Deere has contributed \$350,000.00 towards our lifesaving mission.

New York Times Features Work of CCRF Connecticut Chapters

In the Sunday January 11th edition of the New York Times, the Connecticut Section featured a full-page article about the work of the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund and its chapters in Connecticut. Entitled "Chernobyl, Help for a Deadly Legacy", the article provided extensive coverage on the long-term health effects of Chornobyl and a detailed overview of some of the successful projects initiated by the "state's small but determined Ukrainian-American community". The article also included four photographs showing parish life at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven – one of the bastions of CCRF activities since 1990. Other communities cited for their efforts on behalf of the Chornobyl children included Hartford, Danbury, Bridgeport, Stamford, New Britain and Willimantic. The article quoted Dr. Martin Cherniack, an associate professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center and a former director of thyroid cancer field studies in Belarus who predicted that between 17,000 and 50,000 more fatal cancers will occur worldwide as a result of radiation exposure from Chornobyl. Cherniack praised CCRF's strategy which has "evolved beyond concern with the immediate accident to a broader interest in the health of the society."



FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON HIGHLIGHTS CCRF

On February 17th a large number of CCRF volunteers were invited to attend a public briefing by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton who reported on her goodwill mission to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Ukraine.

The First Lady's report was delivered to over 800 government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations in the Dean Acheson Auditorium at the US State Department

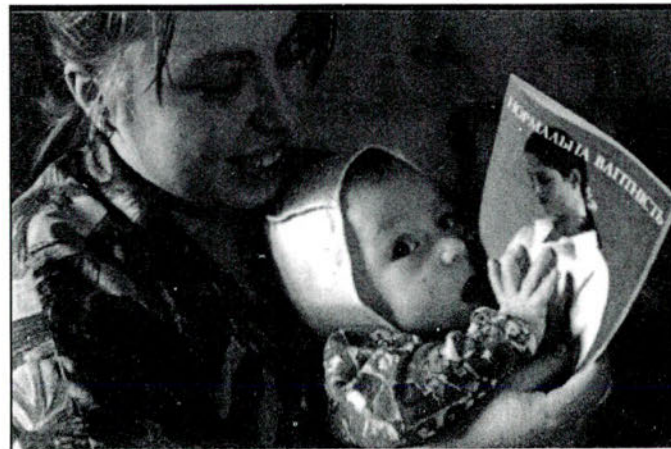
Building. Mrs. Clinton's report was preceded by welcoming remarks from Ambassador Richard Morningstar, Special Adviser to the President on the Newly Independent States, Brian Atwood, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Both the First Lady and Secretary Albright specifically cited the work of CCRF as an example of a non-govern-



(left to right) Volunteers and Board Members Luba Klaczko, Irene Holynskyj, Dr. James Hagen, Luba Lapychak-Lesko, Tamara Hordynsky, Michael Lesko, Lida Welyczkowski, Ambassador Richard Morningstar, Orest Dubno, Irene Jarosewich, Marta Popovich, Dr. Silvia Bilobron, Orest Fedash, and Larissa Wowk at the briefing given by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

mental organization that has had a significant impact on the lives and the quality of health care of ordinary citizens in Ukraine.

The glowing remarks were especially encouraging for CCRF Board members and activists who had never traveled to Washington before, but had volunteered so much of their time and resources to provide training and assistance to the Chornobyl survivors.



In a Dnipropetrovske clinic, a young mother and her baby examine a popular booklet on prenatal care.

The book was published and distributed by CCRF with the aid of a grant from the Monsanto Company. CCRF hopes to publish thousands more copies of this pamphlet to help ensure

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY





United States Information Agency

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What Happens To FLEX Students When They Return Home?

This is the question most frequently asked of FLEX program staff. After a year living in the U.S., FLEX students have changed tremendously. Most FLEX alumni say they have learned to appreciate their home country more; but it is clear they have learned about and integrated many aspects of American society and culture, as well. Alumni of many international exchange programs often say that the most difficult adjustment they have to face is the reverse culture shock they experience when they go home. To facilitate this adjustment and to help FLEX students perpetuate their American experience, the program offers a network of alumni associations throughout the NIS which returning students are encouraged to join. These associations meet regularly for discussions, American movies and holiday celebrations, debates, speaker nights, career counseling, and community service activities. The alumni associations provide both an outlet and a forum for these bright, young citizens and give them opportunities to participate in activities that support their movement towards positions of leadership in their countries.

"To have a strong democratic system, there must be people who really understand how it works."
Russian student from California

Why Is The FLEX Program Important?

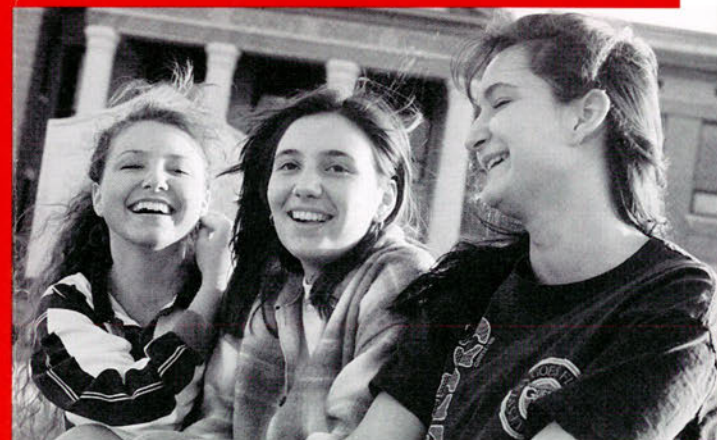
FLEX assists NIS young people in developing the qualities they will need to lead in the transformation of their countries in the 21st Century. The American people, through their government institutions, spent untold billions of dollars over five decades in an effort to contain the threat of totalitarianism. The FLEX program provides an opportunity to build up the societies of the New Independent States and thereby ensure that the peoples of the former Soviet Union and the United States will continue on a path towards peace and understanding and not return to a state of hostility. Together we CAN make a difference!

How Can You Get Involved?

Involvement is available at many levels—as a grantee organization helping to run part of the program, as a host family accommodating a FLEX student, and as a host school welcoming the student for an academic year. Interested individuals, schools, and private, not-for-profit organizations may contact the FLEX program office at USIA for general information (202/619-6299) or may read about the program on the USIA World Wide Web (www.usia.gov).

The United States Information Agency
Future Leaders Exchange Program, E/PY, Rm 568 
301 4th St. SW • Washington, DC 20547
phone: 202 619-6299/fax: 202 619-5311 

a rewarding way to
promote peace
and understanding
between the
United States and the
former Soviet Union



The Future Leaders EXchange



What Is FLEX?

The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) is a federal government program which provides opportunities for high school students (ages 15-17) from the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union to spend a year in the United States, living with a family and attending an American high school.

FLEX participants come from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

What Are The Goals of The FLEX Program?

The program was created out of former Senator Bill Bradley's conviction that the best way to ensure long-lasting peace and understanding between the U.S. and the emerging democracies of the former Soviet Union is to enable NIS young people to learn about democracy firsthand through experiencing it. The program's major goal is democracy-building—exposing likely future leaders of the emerging NIS democracies to our democratic society and free market economy. Since the program's inception in 1993, thousands of young citizens from the former Soviet Union have been awarded scholarships to participate in this program. They have returned to their countries imbued with a new enthusiasm and a desire to help lead their countries towards a democratic future.

How Are FLEX Participants Selected?

Participants are recruited and selected through a multi-level, merit-based, open competition that spans the 11 time zones of the former Soviet Union. Academic performance, English language competence, and personal qualities (e.g., adaptability, flexibility, openness) are important factors in the selection process. Applicants must have the equivalent of at least a "B" average; are tested in English speaking, writing, and comprehension; and are interviewed individually and in groups. About 20% of the initial applications make it to the final round and are sent to Washington, D.C. where specially trained committees of private sector volunteers make the final selections. Approximately 1 in 30 of the initial applicants are ultimately selected as participants. A large-scale competition based solely on merit, such as this one, is totally unprecedented in the NIS.



Who Administers The FLEX Program?

The FLEX program receives an annual allocation from Congress, which has entrusted the United States Information Agency (USIA) with responsibility for administration of the program. USIA awards grants to private, not-for-profit organizations which submit bids to help run different components of FLEX. Grantee organizations help with recruitment and selection, placement of students with families and in schools, monitoring of students while they are in the U.S., liaisons with natural families in the NIS, civic education programming, facilitation of programming for disabled students, and coordination of alumni activities. The FLEX program staff also acknowledges major in-kind contributions from the private sector, without which the program would not be possible. These include accommodation of students in the homes of many private citizens, waiver of normal tuition and fees by hundreds of schools (both public and private), and pro bono assistance for FLEX students by countless medical and dental personnel.

"Through this program, we can break down misconceptions and stereotypes."

John Hughes, high school principal from Mississippi

FACT SHEET

The **UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY (USIA)** is an independent foreign affairs agency within the executive branch of the U.S. Government. USIA explains and supports American foreign policy and promotes U.S. national interests through a wide range of overseas information programs. The agency promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other nations by conducting educational and cultural activities. USIA maintains 190 posts in 142 countries. Overseas, USIA is known as USIS, the U.S. Information Service. Dr. Joseph Duffey has served as USIA Director since June 3, 1993.

BUDGET - The Commerce/State/Justice Congressional subcommittee appropriation covering USIA's budget provides \$1.125 billion for USIA in fiscal year (FY) 1998.

PEOPLE - After implementing reductions in 1997, USIA has 6,414 employees, of whom 848 are Foreign Service personnel and 2,605 are locally hired foreign service nationals overseas. There are 2,961 Civil Service employees based in the United States, of whom 1,706 work in international broadcasting and 1,255 are engaged in USIA's informational and educational programs.

USIA'S INFORMATION AND CULTURAL WORK ABROAD - The overseas operations of USIA are carried out mainly by its 485 Foreign Service officers who are assigned to American missions abroad. With guidance, support and material from Washington headquarters, they manage cultural and information programs in support of American foreign policy objectives and greater mutual understanding between the U.S. and foreign societies.

EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES - USIA operates the U.S. Government's programs of educational and cultural exchange. The best known of these is the Fulbright exchange program, which operates in over 125 countries. Additionally, each year over 2,400 foreign leaders and professionals come to the United States at USIA's invitation as International Visitors, and some 1,800 - 2,000 voluntary visitors come under private auspices for up to 30 days of professional appointments arranged by USIA. Many partners cooperate in USIA exchange activities: the academic community, U.S. private organizations, foreign governments and American volunteers.

BROADCASTING - The International Broadcasting Act of 1994 established a Broadcasting Board of Governors to oversee USIA's Voice of America (VOA), Radio and TV Martí, and WORLDNET Television, as well as two surrogate international broadcast services -- Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the new Radio Free Asia. Unlike USIA's other federally funded broadcast services, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, a non-profit private corporation, and Radio Free Asia receive funding through grants from the USIA's Broadcasting Board of Governors.

VOA broadcasts 660 hours of programming weekly in 52 languages, including English, to an international audience. Radio Martí, established in 1985, broadcasts 24 hours a day in Spanish to Cuba. TV Martí telecasts 4-1/2 hours daily. Programming consists of news, information, and entertainment from a variety of sources. WORLDNET, USIA's satellite television network, transmits news, educational and cultural programming 24 hours a day to millions of foreign viewers through American embassies, USIS posts, and foreign television and cable networks. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, including its Czech and Polish affiliates, broadcasts over 500 hours per week in 23 languages to Central Europe, Russia, and the republics of the New Independent States.

(more)

INFORMATION PROGRAMS -

Electronic and Printed Materials: The *Washington File* information service provides both time-sensitive and in-depth information in five languages. The File includes full transcripts of speeches, Congressional testimony, articles by Administration officials, and materials providing analysis of key issues. Other materials include on-line publications dealing with democratic developments, trade, security, and other issues. The Agency has worldwide web sites (www.usia.gov) for domestic and overseas audiences which contain information about the United States, USIA programs, and key international events and issues.

Speaker and Specialist Program: The Speakers and Specialists Program enables hundreds of Americans to share their expertise with audiences abroad. For speakers who are requested on short notice, required for a single event, or are unable to travel, digital video conference programs allow foreign audiences to communicate electronically with their U.S. counterparts.

Information Resource Centers: Over 100 information resource centers are electronically equipped for rapid delivery of information relevant to U.S. interests abroad to foreign leaders in government, media and academia. In some developing countries, USIA supports public-access libraries that encourage serious study and understanding of American society and institutions.

Foreign Press Centers: USIA operates foreign press centers in Washington, New York, and Los Angeles to assist resident and visiting foreign journalists. The centers work cooperatively with privately sponsored international press centers in Chicago, Houston, Atlanta, Miami, and Seattle.

U.S.-NIS EXCHANGES - USIA programs for the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union focus on academic, cultural and information exchanges that encourage the development of democracy and free market economies. Examples include: 1) the Edmund Muskie Fellowship program, and the Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Program, which brings qualified NIS college graduates to the U.S. for graduate study programs in law, business, economics, and public administration; 2) programs for post-doctoral scholars and research fellowships in the social sciences and humanities at U.S. institutions; and 3) under the Freedom Support Act Undergraduate Program, USIA enables undergraduates to study at U.S. universities for one year.

EASTERN EUROPE INITIATIVES - USIA participates in the Support for Eastern European Democracies (SEED) program, an initiative begun in FY 1990 to help Central and Eastern European countries develop democratic and free market institutions. Since FY 1990, USIA has funded training programs in a range of fields, including management, English teaching, educational reform, the rule of law, and library training.

RESEARCH AND MEDIA REACTION - This is the only office in the U.S. Government responsible for advising the President, Secretary of State, and other foreign affairs policy makers on foreign public opinion about the U.S. and its policies and their impact on U.S. public diplomacy programs. The research staff commissions public opinion surveys in nearly every country of the world. It also provides twice-daily reports on foreign media commentary around the world on various issues that are provided to officials throughout the government.

HISTORY - USIA was established by President Eisenhower in August 1953 and operated under that name until April 1978, when its functions were consolidated with those of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and the agency was called the International Communication Agency (USICA). The agency's name was restored as USIA in August 1982.

AUTHORITY - The agency's basic legislative mandates are the Smith-Mundt Act of 1948 and the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961. The International Broadcasting Act of 1994 reorganized and consolidated all non-military U.S. Government international broadcasting into USIA, supervised by the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

USIA, Office of Public Liaison, 301 4th Street S.W., Room 602, Washington, D.C. 20547
Tel: (202) 619-4355. E-mail: inquiry@usia.gov Homepage: www.usia.gov

February 1998

JOSEPH D. DUFFEY
Director
United States Information Agency

Joseph Duffey was named by President Bill Clinton as Director of the United States Information Agency on April 15, 1993. His appointment was confirmed by the United States Senate on May 24, 1993.

Dr. Duffey previously served as President of The American University in Washington, D.C. From 1982 to 1991 he was Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. In 1989 he was elected by the Board of Trustees of that university as President of the four campus UMASS system. He served in that capacity as well as Chancellor of the Amherst campus, the first and only university administrator in Massachusetts asked to serve in both positions.

Dr. Duffey was Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs and Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities under Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Previous to his appointment as Assistant Secretary of State, he was a member of the faculty at Yale University and a Fellow of the JFK School of Government at Harvard University. In 1978 and 1980 Duffey served as a United States delegate to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In 1991, Dr. Duffey was joint head of the U.S. Delegation observing national elections in Ethiopia.

Dr. Duffey holds 14 honorary degrees from American colleges and universities and in 1993 was awarded the honorary Doctor of Letter by Ritsemaken University in Japan. In 1980 he was named Commander of the Order of the Crown by the King of Belgium. He has been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations since 1979.

A native of West Virginia and a graduate of Marshall University, Dr. Duffey received graduate degrees from Yale University, Andover Newton Theological School and the Hartford Seminary Foundation. He has published widely on themes relating to higher education and social and economic issues. Dr. Duffey has been Stern lecturer at Syracuse University, Lund lecturer at Northwestern University, Sparkman Lecturer at the University of Alabama, and Lesser lecturer at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Duffey has served as a director of the Baybank Valley Trust Company in Springfield and as Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Mature Industries in Massachusetts. He was a member of the National Business-Higher Education Forum and on the Executive Committee of the National Council on Competitiveness. He was a founder and co-chairman of the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Conference.

Dr. Duffey is married to Anne Wexler and has four sons.

“...What better way is there for you to learn the concepts of democracy and a civil society than experiencing them firsthand through spending a year in the U.S. and participating in this Washington, D.C. program. I know you have made a tremendous impact on your host families, your teachers, your fellow students, and your communities. . .” -- **Joseph Duffey, Director, U.S. Information Agency, on the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program**

AMBASSADOR RICHARD MORNINGSTAR

On April 4, 1995, President Clinton appointed Richard Morningstar to be Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State on Assistance to the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union and Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to the NIS. On June 11, 1996, the Senate confirmed him with the rank of ambassador. According to his charter signed by the President, Ambassador Morningstar oversees all bilateral assistance and trade and investment activities of the sixteen U.S. government agencies engaged in technical assistance, trade and investment, exchange, weapons dismantlement and other programs in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union.

From June 1993 to April 1995, Amb. Morningstar served as Senior Vice President for Policy and Investment Development at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. In that position, he was responsible, among other things, for development and implementation of strategies for the opening of new investment programs in Russia and the other New Independent States of the former Soviet Union, as well as new programs in Eastern Europe, Gaza/West Bank and South Africa. He coordinated OPIC's seven-fold increase in NIS finance and insurance programs in 1994.

Before OPIC, Amb. Morningstar had twenty years of business, policy and legal experience. For over ten years, he served as Chairman and CEO at Costar Corporation, which was listed by Forbes Magazine as one of the top 200 small companies in the country and recognized as one of the nation's fastest growing exporters. He has advised the Department of Commerce on international trade and technology issues; he served on the Economics and International Trade Cluster and prepared analysis of the Trade and Development Agency for the 1992 Presidential Transition.

From 1970 to 1981, Amb. Morningstar practiced law with the firm of Peabody & Brown in Boston, Massachusetts, and from 1976 was a Partner and Administrator of the Litigation Department.

He has been Adjunct Professor of Law at the Boston College Law School and Commissioner of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Amb. Morningstar graduated from Harvard College with high honors and received a law degree from Stanford Law School. A baseball enthusiast, he was part-owner of the Lowell Spinners, a minor league baseball team in Lowell, Massachusetts. Amb. Morningstar is married with four children.

July 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 1998
Release No. 021-98

CONTACT: Melissa Butler
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PHONE: (202) 619-4359



United States Information Agency

NEWS RELEASE

WHITE HOUSE HOSTS PARTICIPANTS IN USIA FUTURE LEADERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Washington, DC -- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted an event today at the White House for United States Information Agency (USIA) Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program participants at 12:00 noon in the East Room. Eighty-eight students from the New Independent States (NIS), in Washington participating in a Civic Education Program, attended along with representatives of USIA's Office of Citizen Exchanges, NIS/Secondary School Initiative Division, School Partnership program. USIA Director Joseph Duffey, Ambassador Richard Morningstar, 11 ambassadors from the NIS and several host families also attended.

The FLEX program, funded under the Freedom Support Act and USIA based-funds, provides opportunities for high school students from the NIS to spend a year in the United States, living with a family and attending an American high school. FLEX participants come from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgystan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The program was created out of former Senator Bill Bradley's conviction that the best way to ensure long-lasting peace and understanding between the U.S. and the emerging democracies of the former Soviet Union is to enable NIS young people to learn about democracy firsthand. The program's major goal is democracy building by introducing likely future leaders of these countries to our democratic society, community-based civic initiatives, and market economy.

USIA's School Partnership program allows NIS and U.S. students, teachers, and school administrators from paired schools to participate in reciprocal exchanges of three weeks to one academic year in the host country. This program stimulates community support, kindles an interest in specific thematic areas (such as civic education, entrepreneurship, or environmental studies), and fosters ongoing institutional ties. It also provides access to resources for curriculum development and educational training that promote educational reform and institution building.

"What better way is there for you to learn the concepts of democracy and a civil society than experiencing them firsthand through spending a year in the U.S. and participating in this Washington, D.C. program. I know you have made a tremendous impact on your host families, your teachers, your fellow students, and your communities." --

Joseph Duffey, Director, U.S. Information Agency, addressing participants in the 1997/98 Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program

(more)

"Over the past several years, we have come to understand that the reforms taking place in the NIS are part of a generational process. You are going to be in the driver's seat of that process. You will be in a position to lead your communities and countries in their transition to a market-based democratic system." -- Ambassador Richard Morningstar

FLEX program students reside throughout the United States. Media interested in interviewing a FLEX student should contact Melissa Butler in USIA's Office of Public Liaison at 202/619-4359.

Media interested in photographs of the events can download them from www.usia.gov/usiahome/pdfforum.

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The United States Information Agency, headed by Dr. Joseph Duffey, is an independent foreign affairs agency within the executive branch that explains and supports U.S. foreign policy and national security interests abroad through a wide range of information programs. The Agency promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through a series of educational and cultural exchange activities.

USIA's programs include the Voice of America, Radio and TV Martí, the WORLDNET satellite television system, the daily Washington File newswire, the Fulbright scholarship program, the International Visitor Program, the Speakers and Specialists Program, three Foreign Press Centers in the United States, and a network of overseas resource and cultural centers. The Agency has 190 posts in 141 countries.

The USIA domestic server can be accessed through <http://www.usia.gov> or through most search engines on the Internet.

The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Civic Education Program

In October 1992 Congress passed and the President signed the Freedom Support Act (FSA), a comprehensive package of financial aid to the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union. Included in this package was a provision for the Secondary School Initiative, a series of programs that have been administered by USIA, designed to support educational and cultural exchanges involving high school students and educators between the U.S. and the NIS countries. The centerpiece program of the Initiative is the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), which brings specially-selected NIS high school students to the U.S. for an academic year, when they live with host families and attend American high schools. Since the program's inception, close to 6,000 NIS young people have participated in the FLEX program, including 858 who are here for the 1997/98 academic year.

A major goal of the FLEX program is for participants to gain a real understanding of concepts such as democracy and free market economy through *living* them, so they can take these concepts back to their communities in the emerging democracies of the former Soviet Union. A focal point in the year is a week-long Civic Education workshop conducted by Meridian International Center in Washington, D.C., which gives students the opportunity to learn firsthand how the Federal system of government works. Given budget constraints, all FLEX participants must compete for a limited number of places in the workshop. This year's students were invited to enter an essay contest to win one of 88 places in a May 7-13 workshop. Each student who submitted an essay had to address the following question: "Describe a social or political issue that is important to you. What is your position on this issue and why." In addition, students were required to attach a letter of recommendation from one of their teachers, preferably one in a Civic Education-related subject. A volunteer group of private citizens (coordinated by Youth For Understanding) reviewed the 525 essays submitted and selected the 88 finalists.

Workshop activities will include a May 11 meeting at the White House with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (12 noon); a May 11 (10:00 a.m.) briefing on Capitol Hill with Senator Robert F. Bennett (R-UT); simulations on the Constitutional Convention and the U.S. political process, a debate on "current challenges facing the U.S. political system;" a visit to the Washington Post, focusing on the importance of a free press in a democratic society; and community service activities involving the Capitol Area Community Food Bank in the Brookland area of N.E. Washington, and Minister Brown's Mission Church and the Union Temple Baptist Church, both in S.E. Washington. Some students may also have the opportunity to meet individually with U.S. Senators and Representatives from their host states.

The broad network of FLEX alumni activities in the NIS has given past participants an excellent opportunity to continue their American experience after they have returned home and to use the skills and concepts they learned in the Civic Education workshop. They have brought concepts such as student government, debate, citizen empowerment, volunteerism and community action into their schools and communities. Alumni surveys have shown that program alumni who have participated in these workshops frequently have had a profound impact on those around them.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 1998
Release No. 019-98

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United States Information Agency

NEWS RELEASE

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

WHITE HOUSE HOSTS PARTICIPANTS IN USIA FUTURE LEADERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Washington, D.C. —The United States Information Agency (USIA) Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program provides opportunities for high school students (ages 15-17) from the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union to spend a year in the United States, living with a family and attending an American high school. FLEX participants come from **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgystan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan**. The program, established in 1993, enables young people from the NIS to learn about democracy firsthand.

**WHAT: White House Reception for USIA's
Future Leaders Exchange Program Participants**

WHEN: Monday, May 11, 1998, at 12:00 noon

WHERE: The White House East Room

This year 88 of the 860 NIS students currently participating in the 1997/98 FLEX program have been selected, through competition in an essay contest, to participate in a week-long Civic Education Program in Washington, D.C., May 7-13. They will meet with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House, May 11 at 12:00 noon.

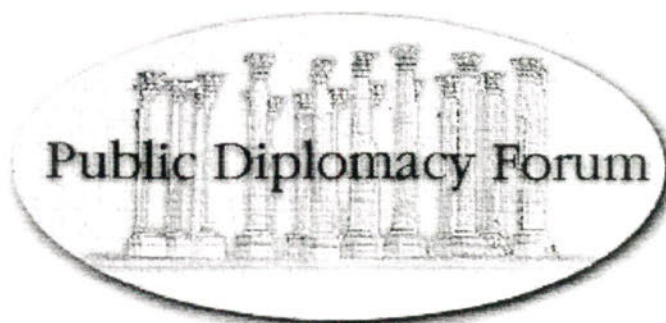
*I'll always remember walking into Soviet-style schools and finding students inside learning for the first time about democracy. Under the Freedom Support Act, many of these students had studied in U.S. high schools. If the American people could hear how they had been transformed by the experience, I believe they would want to invite more. --
Hillary Rodham Clinton, from "Report From the Road", Newsweek, November 24, 1997*

FLEX program students reside in most states and major metropolitan areas. Media interested in interviewing a FLEX student should contact Melissa Butler in USIA's Office of Public Liaison at 202/619-4359. Media interested in covering this event must contact Steve Cohen in the First Lady's press office at 202/456-2960. **Media interested in photographs of the civic education events can download them from www.usia.gov/usiahome/pdforum.**

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Comment](#)[Public Diplomacy
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Launched April 8, 1998

**ADDITIONAL
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**Public Diplomacy
Calendar:**May 4-9
ITU Africa Telecom
98 Forum,
JohannesburgMay 4-9
Biological Diversity
conference,
BratislavaMay 11
FLEX Future Leaders
exchange students
conference, the White
House[USIA Homepage](#)



A Foreign Affairs Resource of the United States Information Agency

Welcome to The Public Diplomacy Forum (PDForum), a foreign affairs resource of the United States Information Agency (USIA). The PDForum is designed to provide internet users with current information about USIA's work and the issues of public and citizen diplomacy.

Public Diplomacy Forum Features:**Spotlight** Updated April 28

PDForum's online journal of public and citizen diplomacy

- [Conflict Reporting in West Africa](#)
- [Free Market TV in Kyrgyzstan](#)

**The Rostrum** Updated April 27

Viewer stories & comment about international exchanges.

Theme 1: Teaching abroad

- [Senegal women's health studies](#)
- [Thailand campus life](#)

Theme 2: Disabilities & exchanges

**Public Diplomacy Nationwide****and Overseas** Updated May 5

- Activities by state & world region

**The Citizen Diplomat: Links**

Updated April 28

- A guide to government, non-profit and educational sites
- **Further Reading** about public diplomacy



STUDENT AND TEACHER ATTENDEES

A. FLEX STUDENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Host City/State</u>	<u>Home Country</u>
1. Farid Abasov	Athens, TN	Azerbaijan
2. Natalia Abdullayeva	Papillion, NE	Belarus
3. Maria Aghajanian	Shawano, WI	Armenia
4. Maxim Akulenko	Cadillac, MI	Ukraine
5. Helen Aladashvili	Lacrosse, WI	Georgia
6. Nargiz Allahverdiyeva	Chula Vista, CA	Azerbaijan
7. Rano Anvari	Perkasie, PA	Uzbekistan
8. Ekaterina Baranova	Bountiful, UT	Russia
9. Ilima Bokosheva	Robins A.F.B., GA	Kyrgyzstan
10. Natalie Bolohan	Grants Pass, OR	Moldova
11. Andrei Boyarshinov	Lakeville, MN	Russia
12. Alexandru Braiescu	Urbandale, IA	Moldova
13. Dmitrii Bukhtenkov	Merrill, WI	Russia
14. Sveta Buko	Riverside, CA	Ukraine
15. Elena Chernousenko	Winona, MN	Ukraine
16. Yaroslava, Chohey	Gilroy, CA	Ukraine
17. Elena Fomchenko	Allen, TX	Russia
18. Konstantin Galimov	Macon, GA	Belarus
19. Natic Ganiyev	Logansport, IN	Azerbaijan

20. Yefim Glouzman	Palmer, AK	Russia
21. Tamara Gotovchenkova	Livonia, MI	Russia
22. Iryna Grabets	Enka, NC	Ukraine
23. Nina Gurdis	Boone, IA	Moldova
24. Umedjon Hoshimov	Brunswick, GA	Tadzhikistan
25. Christine Isayan	Posen, MI	Armenia
26. Iryna Ivashchuk	Rochester, NY	Ukraine
27. Irina Izbrodina	Linden, TN	Kyrgyzstan
28. David Janelidze	Seattle, WA	Georgia
29. Katherine Kalashnikova	Port Austins, MI	Russia
30. Anton Klimenko	Calvin, OK	Ukraine
31. Alexander Kolpakov	Jacksonville, AL	Russia
32. Svetlana Kotova	Central Lake, MI	Russia
33. Azat Kuliev	Cowete, OK	Turkmenistan
34. Mohira Kurbanova	Jacksonville, AR	Uzbekistan
35. Yulia Kuznetsova	Campbell, CA	Belarus
36. Darya Lopatenko	Mission, KS	Ukraine
37. Anna Malovannaya	Greenbay, WI	Ukraine
38. Oksana Malysheva	Austin, TX	Kazakhstan
39. Teymur Mamedov	Mead, WA	Azerbaijan
40. Polina Manukhina	Shelley, ID	Russia
41. Galina Mistreanu	Concord, NH	Moldova
42. Karen Mkrtchian	Fairport, NY	Armenia

43. Mariya Mokrousova	Ukiah, CA	Russia
44. Yulia Molodtsova	Proctor, VT	Russia
45. Olga Movchan	Missouri City, TX	Ukraine
46. Natalia Muchaidze	Wilmington, OH	Georgia
47. Elvira Muftakhutdinova	Stoddard, WI	Russia
48. Dariya Murchenko	Bay City, MI	Russia
49. Darya Nachinkina	Tucson, AZ	Russia
50. Alesya Nazarova	Coral Springs, FL	Belarus
51. Rozalia Nigmatullina	Van Nuys, CA	Russia
52. Madina Nurullaeva	Pearl City, HI	Uzbekistan
53. Akmaral Omarova	Albuquerque, NM	Kazakhstan
54. Anna Orlova	Grinnel, IA	Russia
55. Vitaliy Pavlus	Kirkland, WA	Ukraine
56. Svetlana Potiagailo	Naples, FL	Russia
57. Tatyana Pronoza	Kansas City, MO	Ukraine
58. Irina Protas	Hesperia, CA	Ukraine
59. Anastasiya Putilova	Moore, OK	Russia
60. Svetlana Pyatakova	Homedale, ID	Belarus
61. Timur Radjabov	Tigard, OR	Tadzhikistan
62. Veras Rantchinskaia	Broken Arrow, OK	Belarus
63. Olesya Rezhenko	Hilliard, OH	Turkmenistan
64. Irina Rodionova	Des Moines, IA	Russia
65. Elena Russu	Enterprise, AL	Moldova

66. Oleksandr Sabadosh	Streator, IL	Ukraine
67. Shuhrat Sadyrov	Concord, CA	Kazakhstan
68. Elena Selyuk	Gas City, IN	Kazakhstan
69. Anna Sereda	Soledad, CA	Russia
70. Natalia Shashko	Lakeview, OR	Belarus
71. Elena Shishkina	Everett, WA	Russia
72. Alexander Shnaydruk	Grants Pass, OR	Moldova
73. Anna Smirnova	Trenton, SC	Russia
74. Danil Smirnyagin	San Rafael, CA	Russia
75. Anton Solovyov	Philadelphia, PA	Russia
76. Mahmud Suleymanov	Havertown, PA	Uzbekistan
77. Andrei Takhteyev	Lakeside Mt, MT	Russia
78. Anna Tokhtamysh	Barrytown, NY	Ukraine
79. Alexander Trinca	Moretown, VT	Moldova
80. Natalia Tulei	Eagle River, AK	Moldova
81. Baktigul Turdubekova	Warsaw, MO	Kyrgyzstan
82. Nadezhda Vasyutina	Hardwick, VT	Russia
83. Anna Vdovitza	Issaquah, WA	Russia
84. Dmitry Vorobyov	Wausau, WI	Belarus
85. Marina Vorontsova	Nyssa, OR	Russia
86. Olga Vvedenskaya	Norcross, GA	Kazakhstan
87. Dmitry Yegorov	Rialto, CA	Russia
88. Yulia Yesmukhanova	La Salle, MI	Ukraine

B. FLEX Teachers

89. Mrs. Catherine Rex
Roxborough High School
Philadelphia, PA
Teacher of American Literature

90. Mr. Darin Maier
Stratford Academy
Macon, GA
Teacher of Government

91. Mr. Brian Gibson
Haverford Highschool
Havertown, PA
Teacher of American History

92. Mr. Mark Ludlow
Pennridge High School
Perkasie, PA
Teacher of U.S. History

93. Mr. Richard Walker
Red Hook Central Highschool
Red Hook, NY
Chairman of the Social Studies Department

C. School Linkage Participants

The Charter School of Wilmington

94. Michael Picollelli (student)
Wilmington, DE

95. Deirdre Casey (student)
Wilmington, DE

96. Danielle Larason (student)
Middletown, DE

97. Kelly Ann Astro (teacher)
Phoenixville, Pa

Julia R. Masterman Laboratory & Demonstration School

98. Elizabeth Pearson (student)
Philadelphia, PA

99. Kira Kuhn (student)
Philadelphia, PA

100. Allison Koran (student)
Philadelphia, PA

101. David Scott Meketon (teacher)
Philadelphia, PA

Conestoga High School

102. Kate Pomper (student)
Berwyn, PA

103. Melissa Amster (student)
Strafford, PA

104. Kathleen Parker (student)
Strafford, PA

105. Lois Heist (teacher)
Yardley, PA

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May 5, 1998

Dee Aaronson
Future Leaders Exchange Program

Dear Dee,

Here is a list of our board members:

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Elizabeth Ferrell Wallace, *Immediate Past Chair, Community*

Representative

Boyd Hollingsworth, *Treasurer, Government Relations*

Michelle Tingling-Clemmons, *Secretary, Food Research & Action*

Center

Edward Barron, *US Senate Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry*

Committee

Mildred Brooks, *Nutritionist*

Michael Danzansky, *Washington Financial Group*

Gregory TenEyck, *Safeway, Inc.*

Judi A. Hadfield, *Marriott International, Inc.*

Judy R. Hodgson, *The National Foundation for the Improvement of*

Education

Thomas Lewis, *The Fishing School*

Sheri Link, *Columbia Baptist Church*

Marion Mattingly, *Juvenile Justice*

Curtis Nelson, *DC Board of Parole*

Angela Owens, *WRC-TV*

Neal J.B. Simon, *William Kent International, Inc.*

Kathy Soulia, *The Washington Post*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John I. Grant

To the best of my knowledge, we have had no notable people volunteer at the Food Bank in recent memory though we have had notable guests: Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman to name one. I might also add that we hold every volunteer in the highest regard and value their commitment to the active pursuit of social justice. I want each volunteer to feel that they are respected personally when they come here and that their gift of time and energy is valued.

Our PR staff has been alerted that members of the press may be here that day.

Thanks again for sending your group to volunteer here! I am looking forward to talking and working with them! If you have any other questions, please let me know!

Sincerely,



Mark Agee
Volunteer Coordinator
202-526-5344 ext. 235