

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 12, 2000

CONTACT: LISSA MUSCATINE
ERIKA BATCHELLER
202-456-2960

STATEMENT BY THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

Washington, D.C. — The Office of the First Lady today notified sponsors of the Mosaic Foundation's May 3rd gala benefit that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton would no longer be able to serve as the event's honorary chair.

A letter released by the Office of the First Lady to Princess Haifa Al-Faisal, chairman of the Mosaic Foundation Board of Trustees, said:

"As you know, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton lends her name every year to numerous charitable causes. For the past three years, she has been pleased to serve as Honorary Chair of the Mosaic Foundation's gala benefits, which have generated much-needed support for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, National Race for the Cure, and Save the Children. While we understand that only a limited number of invitations are extended to the diplomatic corps, it has come to Mrs. Clinton's attention that the event's sponsors have chosen not to invite representatives of the Israeli government because certain Arab states do not recognize the state of Israel.

Under these circumstances, Mrs. Clinton will no longer be able to serve as honorary chair of the Mosaic Foundation event."

###

The Mosaic Foundation

Board of Trustees and Gala Committee

Shaikha Feryal D. Al-Sabah, Gala Chair
Embassy of the State of Kuwait

H.R.H. Princess Haifa Al-Faisal
*Chairman, Board of Trustees
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia*

Mrs. Lynne Muasher, *Gala Vice-Chair*
*Secretary, Board of Trustees
Embassy of the
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*

Mrs. Malea Abdel Rahman
*Treasurer, Board of Trustees
Palestine National Authority*

Mrs. Mariam Al-Mahmood
Embassy of the State of Bahrain

Mrs. Amina Farah Olhaye
Embassy of the Republic of Djibouti

Mrs. Nermin Fahmy
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Mrs. Rim Abboud
Embassy of Lebanon

Mrs. Zakyia Abdulla
Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman

Mrs. Karima Mejdoub
Embassy of Tunisia

Charter Trustees currently without
Mosaic representation, include Algeria,
Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

Embassy Representatives

Mrs. Malika Ghozlani
Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco

Dr. Zahia Matraji Al-Zoubi
Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic

Mrs. Ghafoora Alwadi

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MOSAIC FOUNDATION

requests the pleasure of your company
at their Third Annual Benefit Gala



A mystical evening of music, dance and regional cuisine

TO BENEFIT PROGRAMS OF SAVE THE CHILDREN®
THROUGHOUT THE ARAB WORLD

Wednesday, the third of May 2000
at seven o'clock
National Building Museum
G Street Entrance
between 4th and 5th Streets, Northwest
Washington, D.C.

Valet Parking

Black Tie

Finance Committee

Timothy Coughlin, *Chair*
Riggs National Bank

The Honorable Richard Cheney
Halliburton

Lester Crown
General Dynamics

Deborah I. Dingell
General Motors Foundation

Lucio A. Noto
Exxon Mobil

David J. O'Reilly
Chevron

Congressional Committee

Senator and Mrs. Spencer Abraham

Congressman and Mrs. Ken Bentsen

Senator and Mrs. John B. Breaux

Mrs. David E. Bonior

Senator and Mrs. Thomas A. Daschle

Congressman Thomas M. Davis, III

Congressman and Mrs. John Dingell

Congressman and Mrs. Calvin Dooley

Congressman and Mrs. Joseph Knollenberg

Congressman Ray LaHood

Senator and Mrs. Trent Lott

Congressman and Mrs. Robert Matsui

Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II

Senator and Mrs. Ted Stevens

The Kuwait Television Folklore Troupe

The Kuwait Television Folklore Troupe was formed in March 1978 under the auspices of Kuwait's Ministry of Information and serves as the country's ambassador of folkloric art. The Troupe's skillful use of traditional Kuwaiti musical instruments produces a unique and distinctive sound which reflects the authenticity of values, habits, way of life and traditions of the Kuwaiti people. The Kuwait Television Folklore Troupe performs on National holidays and in festivals, as well as for official guests and foreign dignitaries. The Troupe has performed abroad in France, Great Britain and China.

Lucy

Lucy, one of the most famous dancers in the Arab world, is an Egyptian star who has brought elegance and grace to the ancient art of dancing.

Together with her band, they have performed for over 15 years throughout the Arab world, Europe and the United States.

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Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco

Honorary Patrons

Mrs. Nazek Rafic Hariri

Kuwait Financial Centre

Corporate Benefactors

General Motors Foundation ✓

Riggs National Bank ✓

Corporate Patrons

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The Boeing Company
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Phillips Petroleum
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Texaco

Corporate Supporters

CMS Energy Corporation
Conoco
First Union National Bank
General Electric
Hughes Space & Telecommunications
Kuwait-America Foundation
IMED Link, Inc.

Lockheed Martin
Marriott International
National Bank of Kuwait
Raytheon
Saudi Aramco
Shell International EP

Individual Supporters

Mr. Adil Hamad Al-Ayyar
Mr. and Mrs. A. Huda Farouki
Mr. Qutayba Al-Ghanem
Mr. Adel Al-Jubeir

Shaikha Najla bint Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa

Mrs. Amina Farah Othay
Embassy of the Republic of Djibouti

Mrs. Nermin Fahmy
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Embassy of the Republic of Yemen

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Raytheon

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Mr. Qutayba Al-Ghanem

Mr. Adel Al-Jubeir

Shaikha Najla bint Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa

H.E. Shaikh Nasser M. Al-Sabah

*We wish to express our profound gratitude to our friends
for their generous contributions to this event.*

(as of March 14, 2000)

Gala Benefit Committee

Mrs. Samia Farouki, *Chair*

Mrs. Salwa Abou Richeh

Dr. Joseph Afram

Joe L. Allbritton

Wilma Bernstein

Mr. and Mrs. Arnaud de Borchgrave

Dr. Herschelle Challenor

Ambassador and Mrs. Mohamad B. Chatah

The Hon. Esther Coopersmith

Ambassador and Mrs. Walter Cutler

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The Hon. and Mrs. Frederick G. Dutton

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Mr. and Mrs. Philip L. Geyelin

Mrs. Christina "Ina" Ginsburg

The Hon. and Mrs. Najeeb Halaby

The Hon. and Mrs. Lloyd N. Hand

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Wilhelmina Holladay

Mrs. Edmond Howar

Alice Stone Ilchman

Doro Bush Koch

Mrs. Climis G. Lascaris

Joanne Leedom-Ackerman

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lilac

Dr. Charles MacCormack

Drs. Clovis and Hala Maksoud

Mrs. Malak Mamish

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Mario

Mrs. Sarah Papineau Marshall

Sally Marx

Ambassador John McCarthy

Ms. Amy McLaughlin

Mr. Thomas Murphy

Lissa Muscatine

Mr. and Mrs. Mandell J. Ourisman

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perkins

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald W. Pettit

Sally Pratt

Mrs. Najla Prothro

The Hon. and Mrs. Paul G. Rogers

The Hon. Selwa Roosevelt

The Hon. and Mrs. George R. Salem

Mrs. Hala Adra Al-Senusi

James R. Sheffield

Scott Spangler

George Stephanopoulos

Donald Stone

The Hon. and Mrs. Alexander Trowbridge

The Hon. and Mrs. William Webster

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Weinmann

The Mosaic Foundation

The Mosaic Foundation is an American charitable organization formed in 1998 by the spouses of Arab Ambassadors to the United States. Mosaic is dedicated to improving the lives of women and children while fostering deeper cultural, educational and professional relationships between the people of the Arab world, from western Africa to the Gulf, and the people of the United States.

Mosaic, a traditional art form in the Arab world which uses stones of many colors, each individual and unique in its qualities to create a single beautiful object, has become a metaphor for the organization. Each of its trustees retains her individual identity while combining similar interests and a vision to form the whole.

To date, the Mosaic Foundation has donated more than \$1 million dollars to the following: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, Columbia Hospital for Women in Washington, D.C., National Race for the Cure, International Red Cross/Red Crescent Kosovo Refugee Relief and American Red Cross Turkish Earthquake Disaster Relief.

Save the Children

Proceeds from this year's gala will support Save the Children, an international, non-profit child assistance organization working in 46 countries worldwide, including the United States. Founded in 1938, their mission is to make lasting, positive changes in the lives of children in need. Save the Children is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, a partnership of 26 individual country members working with children and families in more than 100 nations.

Save the Children has offered a helping hand in the Arab world for nearly 50 years and has moved into the millennium in a strong position to reach even more of the region's neediest persons with the generous support of the Mosaic Foundation.

The money raised this year will help Save the Children provide assistance to nearly 500,000 children and adults in the Arab world where Save the Children works, including Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and the West Bank/Gaza Strip. Money will be directed to support programs in health, education and economic opportunities.

Clinton Tries to Avert New Arab-Jewish Flap

By KENNETH R. BAZINET
Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to head off a new crisis with the Jewish community last night when she abruptly withdrew as honorary chairwoman of an Arab-American charity dinner because Israelis were not invited.

The First Lady has supported the charity work of the Mosaic Foundation for three years but said in a statement last night that when she learned representatives of the Israeli Embassy were not invited, she pulled out of the group's May 3 dinner.

Clinton, who is running for Senate in New York, where 12% of the population is Jewish, has been carefully wooing Jews — as has her opponent, Mayor Giuliani — after several missteps. "The event's sponsors have chosen not to invite representatives of the Israeli government because certain Arab states do not recognize the state of Israel," her campaign said. "Under these circumstances, Mrs. Clinton will no longer be able to serve as honorary chair."

Giuliani's campaign called the action "blatantly political."

"Mrs. Clinton invited this group to the White House in '98, attended their dinner last year, so her decision to flip-flop seems to be motivated more by politics than by principle, as usual," said Kim Serafin, a spokeswoman for the mayor.

The group raises money for charities, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Save the Children.

Clinton stepped into the equivalent of a minefield in November when she sat silently by as Suha Arafat, wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, accused Israel of using poison gas on Palestinian women and children.

In February, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert called Giuliani "the greatest friend of the City of Jerusalem."

Meanwhile, Clinton, who was campaigning upstate yesterday, has begun a dialogue with Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn), an influential voice in the Orthodox Jewish community who has criticized the First Lady's comments on Israel. The two are expected to meet soon, sources said.

With William Goldschlag and Lisa Colangelo

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Hillary Chairing Arab Charity Event That Excludes Envoys of Jewish State

Lott, Daschle Join Syrians And Sudanese

Giuliani Sees an Opening

By ELI LAKE

FORWARD STAFF

WASHINGTON -- Five months after her hug of Suha Arafat, Hillary Rodham Clinton is serving as the honorary chairwoman and host of a charity event organized by the wives of the ambassadors of Syria and Sudan, a charity that has excluded Israeli representatives from its past activities.

The May 3 event is sponsored by the Mosaic Foundation, a charitable organization formed in 1998 by the wives of Arab diplomats. The group has held three major events, sending out invitations to almost the entire diplomatic corps, but snubbing the Jewish state every time. Mrs. Clinton has been an honorary chairwoman of the organization since its inception and, according to one of the group's founding members, has always helped the organization when asked.

Mrs. Clinton's relations to the Mosaic Foundation are attracting attention in the context of her bid to succeed Senator Moynihan. Her likely opponent in the November election, Mayor Giuliani, was praised last week by Senator McCain as a strong supporter of Israel, according to press reports of their joint appearances. Mr. Giuliani's campaign is already criticizing Mrs. Clinton for lending her name to a group that singles out Israel for exclusion. Others linked to the Mosaic Foundation, including Senators Lott and Daschle and Chicago Jewish megadonor Lester Crown, may become ensnared in this flap, but Mrs. Clinton is in the spotlight owing to her campaign for the Senate from the state with the largest Jewish population. Mrs. Clinton had already stirred controversy by her early support for a Palestinian-Arab state and her embrace of Suha Arafat after Mrs. Arafat accused Israel of poisoning Arab children. Mrs. Clinton eventually condemned Mrs. Arafat's remarks, blaming the delayed reaction on a poor translation and a desire to avoid creating a diplomatic incident.

"Considering that they don't invite Israelis to any of their events, it's surprising that Mrs. Clinton would lend her name and support to an organization that has a policy that is not only exclusionary but seems to be inconsistent with the spirit of the peace process," a spokeswoman for the Giuliani campaign, Caroline Nolan, said.

Two of the Mosaic Foundation's member embassies, Syria and Sudan, are on the State Department list of state sponsors of terrorism.

A spokeswoman for the first lady at the White House, Erika Batcheller, said, "Hillary Clinton as first lady regularly agrees to serve as honorary chair of charitable events. This particular event benefits Save the Children. Last year's beneficiary was Race for the Cure, and sponsors include the congressional leadership of both parties. The question of exclusion or discrimination has never been raised. Mrs. Clinton would not support or lend her name to an event that practiced discrimination."

Israel's deputy chief of mission in Washington, Lenny Ben-David, said he wished the charity Mrs. Clinton chairs would drop its policy of excluding Israel. "We admire the efforts made by the general Washington diplomatic corps to raise funds for worthy causes. And whenever possible Israeli diplomats in Washington attend these events to show our support. Frequently we encourage Washington philanthropists to join," Mr. Ben-David said. "Therefore, I have deep regret that the Mosaic Foundation, working for such worthy charities, has never invited Israeli diplomats. The needs of children's charities transcend the politics and tensions of the Middle East. We wish the Mosaic Foundation great success in their endeavor and look forward to the day when we can join together to help children."

The vice chairwoman of the Mosaic Foundation, Lynne Muasher, who is the wife of Jordan's ambassador to America, tried to explain the group's policy of keeping Israeli diplomats off the invitation list. "If there are no relationships with Israel, how can you invite somebody to an event when you don't have political relationships with them?" she asked. The majority of the Mosaic Foundation's member embassies do not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Mrs. Muasher said that each year's gala has attracted a significant crowd, not only from the Washington diplomatic corps but from the corporate and political worlds as well. "Many European embassies showed up last year and the year before, and of course Arab embassies," she said.

The group started, according to Mrs. Muasher, through informal gatherings between the diplomats' wives, becoming more organized in 1998. From its inception, Mrs. Clinton has served as the group's honorary chairwoman, hosting fund-raisers with corporate donors. "She has been our honorary chair ever since we started. She is there if we need her," Mrs. Muasher said.

In the past two years, the foundation's annual galas have raised more than \$1 million for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and for the National Race for the Cure, a charity for breast-cancer research. This year the proceeds from the event will go to a British charity, Save the Children, and specifically to its programs in Morocco, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

The event, dubbed an "Arabian Night," is scheduled to feature a Kuwaiti dance troupe and dinner at the National Building Museum. Attendance at the event costs \$400 per person. For \$50,000, a donor buys "podium recognition," a dinner table for 10, preferred seating and access to VIP events, according to an invitation.

The list of congressional sponsors for the event includes the Senate majority leader, Mr. Lott, as well as his Democratic counterpart, Mr. Daschle. Also involved is an ABC News commentator and former Clinton political aide, George Stephanopoulos.

Corporate sponsors include companies involved in the petroleum industry, including Chevron, Texaco, ExxonMobil, Shell International EP, Phillips Petroleum, BP Amoco and Halliburton. A number of defense contractors are also sponsoring the event, including the Boeing Co., General Dynamics, General Electric and Hughes Space & Telecommunications. Also on the list of corporate sponsors is The Slim Fast Food Co., which is owned by a Jewish American, S. Daniel Abraham, who has been a frequent guest at the White House and who is active in

shuttle diplomacy between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"Each year you get to build up credibility and people get to know you more and more, so many corporations have sponsored tables for this event," Mrs. Muasher said. Mrs. Muasher insisted that the event was nonpolitical, but added that it helped strengthen ties between Arab countries and America. "We are a nonpolitical organization, we deal with cultural events and fund raising. One of our objectives is, of course, to build relationships with Americans and Arabs and to introduce Arab culture to the Americans," she said.

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FORWARD *home page*



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS OFFICE

PHONE: (202) 456-2960

FAX: (202) 456-7805

TO:

KEN. BAZING

FAX:

467-6070

PHONE:

DATE:

TIME:

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER):

5

FROM:

GRIKA BATCHELOR

COMMENTS:

COPY OF THE ENTIRE INVITATION w/
COMMITTEE, SPONSORS, ETC.

T. B. BAZING

Office of FL

Hillary Clinton, as First lady, regularly agrees to serve as Honorary Chair for charitable events.*

This particular event benefits ~~the~~ children (last year's beneficiary was Race for the Cure), and sponsors include the Congressional leadership of both parties.

~~We are~~ The question of exclusion or discrimination has never been raised. Mrs. Clinton would not support or lend her name to an event that ~~was~~ practiced discrimination.

[* Being Honorary Chair does not mean attending; she usually does not attend.]

To: ERECA
FLORUS Press

From: Ann Lewis

4/12/00

As discussed with
Lissa - to be called in
right away. Please
call if you have questions

212-239-2006

x231



Date: Monday, April 10, 2000

To: Save Washington Committee
Ms. Lissa Muscatine
Phone: 202-337-3171
Fax: 202-456-7805

From: The Webster Group
Lynda Webster
Phone: 202-338-3777
Fax: 202-333-8016

Pages: 2

*Joelyn - John
was Israeli
Ans. invited?*

Subject: Mosaic Foundation letter/photo

Hello! The attached is a sample of the daily letters I get from the Mosaic ladies....they are really working hard on this event and together we have raised over \$950,000 for Save the Children. You will see that they have advanced their deadline for Mrs. Clinton's letter and photo. Is there any chance you could help me get something together by Wednesday? I can come get the letters at any time so just let me know if it's possible. Many many thanks!



The Embassy of Lebanon
2560 28th St, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Tel: 202-939-6300
Fax: 202-939-6324

Date: April 8, 2000
To: Webster Group / Lynda
Phone: 3383223
Fax: 333 8016

Pages (including cover):
From: Rim Abboud
Phone: (202) 483 9255
Fax: (202) 667 5323

Comments:

Dear Lynda,

I am still expecting the letters from the white house and from the President of Save the Children. Our deadline is Friday noon; and the Menu and the evening program are still not finalized. It takes us at least 2-3 days to finalize any draft with Dave the designer. That means that I desperately need the above by Wednesday April 12th. The letters could be scanned but the Menu and the evening program need to be edited. So please fax me anything you have as soon as possible.

The 26 and 27 April are O.K. for seating committee meeting. Marea said that she mailed the people working on our mailing list, their check a week ago. Thank you

This message is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity for which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you have received this communication in error, please call 202-939-6320 immediately.

Rim Abboud



*I - please call Lissa
on Monday and see if
Mrs. Webster's letter is
en route. Jan 4-10-2000*

Date: Wednesday, April 05, 2000

To: Save Washington Committee
Ms. Lissa Muscatine
Phone: 202-337-3171
Fax: 202-456-7805

From: The Webster Group
Lynda Webster
Phone: 202-338-3777
Fax: 202-333-8016

Pages: *1*

Subject: Mosaic Program Book

Hello Lissa! The Mosaic committee is putting together the program book for the May 3 event for which Mrs. Clinton has offered her good name as honorary chairman. They need as soon as possible (drop dead date is April 12) a letter from Mrs. Clinton to include in that program. I've attached a copy of last year's letter.

Mosaic has raised over \$900,000 for the event so far--extraordinary! Save the Children stands to get over a half million dollars if the expenses stay within reason. The one thing that Mosaic wants from Save the Children is our help in turning out VIPs--including government officials and press. I know you are very busy but if you have suggestions for me on how we can best encourage top administration representatives to attend, I'd be most grateful and I know Mosaic would appreciate our help. Perhaps we could do packets with special letters (like the one I sent you for Sec. Shalala) and invitations with a personal note from you if you know the person? If you'd be comfortable with that process, let me know. If not, perhaps you'd have another suggested way to approach the VIP's who I don't know personally. Thank you!

10-81211A - NYd, THE MOSAIC LADIES HAVE

RAISED OVER 1 MILLION DOLLARS !!

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 26, 1999

Dear Friends:

As chair of the Honorary Gala Committee, I am pleased to have this opportunity to send greetings to each of you attending the Second Annual Gala of the Mosaic Foundation.

I am pleased to note that tonight's event benefits the National Race for the Cure. I commend the interest and dedication of the spouses of the Arab Ambassadors to the United States and each of you gathered this evening who recognize the importance of educating and informing women about breast cancer. As members of the diplomatic corps, business and art communities, public officials and supporters of the Mosaic Foundation, you represent the model of a community working together, creating opportunity for those who are most vulnerable in our society and taking responsibility for the future. In partnership you have the power to transform the lives of not only the women who benefit from the groups you support but entire families, neighborhoods and communities. Your efforts recognize that if women flourish, then their families will flourish. When families flourish, communities and nations flourish. It is my hope that your efforts will inspire people across the nation and the world to become involved in the well-being of the women in their own communities.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful evening with the Cairo Opera Ballet.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton



Paul_Batcheller@daschle.senate.gov (Paul Batcheller)

04/13/2000 02:31:11 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Erika A. Batcheller/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Fwd:From the HOTLINE...

Here it is...

Forward Header

Subject: From the HOTLINE...

Author: Jeff Navin

Date: 4/13/00 1:17 PM

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NEW YORK: Another Arab Controversy For HRC?

The Jewish Forward's Lake reports, "five months after her hug of Suha Arafat," First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) "is serving as the honorary" chair and host of a charity event organized by the wives of the Ambassadors of Syria and Sudan, "a charity that has excluded Israeli representatives from its past activities." The 5/3 event is sponsored by the Mosaic Foundation, a charitable org. formed in '98 by the wives of the Arab diplomats. "The group has held three major events, sending out invitations to almost the entire diplomatic corps, but snubbing the Jewish state every time." HRC has been an honorary chair of the org. "since its inception and, according to one of the group's founding members, has always helped the" org. when asked. And, of course, HRC's "relations to the Mosaic Foundation are attracting attention in the context of her bid to succeed" Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D). NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani's (R) campaign "is already criticizing" HRC for lending her name to a "group that singles out Israel for exclusion. Others linked to the Mosaic Foundation," including Senate Leaders Trent Lott (R) and Tom Daschle (D) and "Chicago Jewish megadonor Lester Crown "may become ensnared in this flap," but HRC "is in the spotlight owing to her campaign for the Senate from the state with the largest Jewish population." Giuliani spokesperson Caroline Nolan: "Considering that they don't invite Israelis to any of their events, it's surprising that Mrs. Clinton would lend her name and support to an organization that has a policy that is not only exclusionary but seems to be inconsistent with the spirit to the peace process." Two of the Mosaic Foundation's member embassies, Syria and Sudan, "are on the State Department list of state sponsors of terrorism." HRC spokesperson Erika Batcheller: "Hillary Clinton as first lady regularly agrees to serve as honorary chair of charitable events. This particular event benefits Save the Children. Last year's beneficiary was Race for the Cure and sponsors include the congressional leadership of both parties. The question of exclusion or discrimination has never been raised. Mrs. Clinton would not support or lend her name to an event that practiced discrimination" (4/14 issue).

Clinton Tries to Avert New Arab-Jewish Flap

By KENNETH R. BAZINET
Daily News Washington Bureau

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Hillary Chairing Arab Charity Event That Excludes Envoys of Jewish State

Lott, Daschle Join Syrians And Sudanese

Giuliani Sees an Opening

By ELI LAKE

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Mrs. Clinton's relations to the Mosaic Foundation are attracting attention in the context of her bid to succeed Senator Moynihan. Her likely opponent in the November election, Mayor Giuliani, was praised last week by Senator McCain as a strong supporter of Israel, according to press reports of their joint appearances. Mr. Giuliani's campaign is already criticizing Mrs. Clinton for lending her name to a group that singles out Israel for exclusion. Others linked to the Mosaic Foundation, including Senators Lott and Daschle and Chicago Jewish megadonor Lester Crown, may become ensnared in this flap, but Mrs. Clinton is in the spotlight owing to her campaign for the Senate from the state with the largest Jewish population. Mrs. Clinton had already stirred controversy by her early support for a Palestinian-Arab state and her embrace of Suha Arafat after Mrs. Arafat accused Israel of poisoning Arab children. Mrs. Clinton eventually condemned Mrs. Arafat's remarks, blaming the delayed reaction on a poor translation and a desire to avoid creating a diplomatic incident.

"Considering that they don't invite Israelis to any of their events, it's surprising that Mrs. Clinton would lend her name and support to an organization that has a policy that is not only exclusionary but seems to be inconsistent with the spirit of the peace process," a spokeswoman for the Giuliani campaign, Caroline Nolan, said.

Two of the Mosaic Foundation's member embassies, Syria and Sudan, are on the State Department list of state sponsors of terrorism.

A spokeswoman for the first lady at the White House, Erika Batcheller, said, "Hillary Clinton as first lady regularly agrees to serve as honorary chair of charitable events. This particular event benefits Save the Children. Last year's beneficiary was Race for the Cure, and sponsors include the congressional leadership of both parties. The question of exclusion or discrimination has never been raised. Mrs. Clinton would not support or lend her name to an event that practiced discrimination."

Israel's deputy chief of mission in Washington, Lenny Ben-David, said he wished the charity Mrs. Clinton chairs would drop its policy of excluding Israel. "We admire the efforts made by the general Washington diplomatic corps to raise funds for worthy causes. And whenever possible Israeli diplomats in Washington attend these events to show our support. Frequently we encourage Washington philanthropists to join," Mr. Ben-David said. "Therefore, I have deep regret that the Mosaic Foundation, working for such worthy charities, has never invited Israeli diplomats. The needs of children's charities transcend the politics and tensions of the Middle East. We wish the Mosaic Foundation great success in their endeavor and look forward to the day when we can join together to help children."

The vice chairwoman of the Mosaic Foundation, Lynne Muasher, who is the wife of Jordan's ambassador to America, tried to explain the group's policy of keeping Israeli diplomats off the invitation list. "If there are no relationships with Israel, how can you invite somebody to an event when you don't have political relationships with them?" she asked. The majority of the Mosaic Foundation's member embassies do not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Mrs. Muasher said that each year's gala has attracted a significant crowd, not only from the Washington diplomatic corps but from the corporate and political worlds as well. "Many European embassies showed up last year and the year before, and of course Arab embassies," she said.

The group started, according to Mrs. Muasher, through informal gatherings between the diplomats' wives, becoming more organized in 1998. From its inception, Mrs. Clinton has served as the group's honorary chairwoman, hosting fund-raisers with corporate donors. "She has been our honorary chair ever since we started. She is there if we need her," Mrs. Muasher said.

In the past two years, the foundation's annual galas have raised more than \$1 million for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and for the National Race for the Cure, a charity for breast-cancer research. This year the proceeds from the event will go to a British charity, Save the Children, and specifically to its programs in Morocco, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

The event, dubbed an "Arabian Night," is scheduled to feature a Kuwaiti dance troupe and dinner at the National Building Museum. Attendance at the event costs \$400 per person. For \$50,000, a donor buys "podium recognition," a dinner table for 10, preferred seating and access to VIP events, according to an invitation.

The list of congressional sponsors for the event includes the Senate majority leader, Mr. Lott, as well as his Democratic counterpart, Mr. Daschle. Also involved is an ABC News commentator and former Clinton political aide, George Stephanopoulos.

Corporate sponsors include companies involved in the petroleum industry, including Chevron, Texaco, ExxonMobil, Shell International EP, Phillips Petroleum, BP Amoco and Halliburton. A number of defense contractors are also sponsoring the event, including the Boeing Co., General Dynamics, General Electric and Hughes Space & Telecommunications. Also on the list of corporate sponsors is The Slim Fast Food Co., which is owned by a Jewish American, S. Daniel Abraham, who has been a frequent guest at the White House and who is active in

shuttle diplomacy between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"Each year you get to build up credibility and people get to know you more and more, so many corporations have sponsored tables for this event," Mrs. Muasher said. Mrs. Muasher insisted that the event was nonpolitical, but added that it helped strengthen ties between Arab countries and America. "We are a nonpolitical organization, we deal with cultural events and fund raising. One of our objectives is, of course, to build relationships with Americans and Arabs and to introduce Arab culture to the Americans," she said.

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1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

April 14, 2000, Friday, Home Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 5B

LENGTH: 1144 words

HEADLINE: The Political Ticker: QUICK HITS FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL;
CAMPAIGN 2000

BYLINE: Ernie Freda, Staff

SOURCE: CONSTITUTION

BODY:

Together again, for the first time

George W. Bush and John McCain will meet on May 9 in Pittsburgh for the first time since the Arizona senator, Bush's toughest party rival, folded his candidacy. "Of course I want his support, but I don't know if it will happen as a result of the meeting," Bush said Thursday in Austin, Texas. "John wants to visit. I want to visit," he added. McCain, speaking to reporters just off the Senate floor, said, "I'm sure we'll have a fruitful discussion" including possible ways of helping out in the GOP campaign. McCain already has pledged to support the nominee of his party, but has said the enthusiasm he puts into the effort will depend in part on Bush's willingness to adopt elements of the senator's "reform agenda."

Perhaps they better vet the report now

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, smarting from news that its leader contributed to Hillary Clinton's campaign, on Thursday postponed public discussion of a report said to criticize Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's New York Police Department. The commission denied any connection. Mary Frances Berry contributed to the first lady's campaign. Berry gave \$ 250 last year to Clinton and another \$ 300 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Said Giuliani: "It doesn't take much to figure out this is a political operation." How much help on health?

Reaction to George W. Bush's proposal to give \$ 2,000 tax credits to help poor families pay for health insurance received mixed reviews, as such proposals generally do. Some see it as a generous plan that will assist millions; others say the "tiny" credits won't help most families. John Goodman, president of the National Center for Policy Analysis, a conservative research group, says the tax credits will help 18 million low-income Americans buy health insurance, including 4 million to 5 million who couldn't afford it before. Ron Pollack, president of Families USA, which lobbies for universal health care, countered that most uninsured families still couldn't afford coverage because the tax credits would cover too little of their out-of-pocket expenses.

Making hay with Ventura

The word Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura and his wife, Terry, used repeatedly to describe their dinner with Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, was "fantastic," said the Minneapolis Star Tribune. The private dinner at the vice presidential residence Wednesday night lasted more than four hours. The newspaper reported that the two couples traded jokes, told stories of raising children in the public eye, and went out to the nearby Naval Observatory telescope to observe the moon. Gore's association with Ventura may be an effort to reach out to independents and establish credentials as a reformer. This second meeting was said to have gone so well that the Gores accepted an invitation to the Ventura ranch on their next visit to Minnesota.

Take me out to the ballgame

Hillary Clinton never quite stated it, but pretty much everything she did in Rochester, N.Y. --- her fourth upstate visit in six days --- was intended as a reminder of which Senate candidate had not shown up as promised. Rudolph Giuliani had decided abruptly to scrap an upstate campaign swing Wednesday so he could attend the Yankees home opener. At nearly every opportunity, Clinton has managed to slip into her remarks the number of times she had been upstate and the places she had visited. This time, she was supposed to visit only Buffalo, but added a quick trip to Rochester, the second of two cities Giuliani was supposed to visit. She stayed just long enough for a glass of iced tea and a sit-down chat with voters.

New York Senate state of mind

Hillary Clinton scrapped plans to headline a May 3 charity dinner for an Arab-American group because representatives from the Israeli Embassy were not invited. Certain Arab countries do not recognize Israel. The Mosaic Foundation is made up of the wives of Arab ambassadors to the United States who raise money for charity, and Clinton began support of the group when she was a Washington, not a New York, Hillary. This year's dinner on May 3 is to benefit Save the Children. Rudolph Giuliani's campaign spokeswoman Kim Serafin called Clinton's decision to back out "a classic Clinton flip-flop."

No politics, on general principles

Five years after he ruled out running for president, retired Gen. Colin Powell still gets The Big Question about a political future. "I have never had any political inclination," he told the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, stressing "never." "Political life is not for me." But Powell, a registered Republican, said later he would consider any nonpolitical role offered to him, keeping alive the possibility he'd end up in the Cabinet if George W. Bush is elected president. Powell already has ruled out being Bush's running mate.

Helping hand? That's debatable

The Reform Party's Pat Buchanan expects Al Gore to give him a helping hand. Buchanan told USA Today that Gore may support his bid to be included in presidential debates in the fall. "I wouldn't be surprised to see Gore say, 'He belongs in the debate, too.' And that would put terrible pressure on (George W.) Bush." Gore would be acting on the assumption that Buchanan's candidacy would

hurt Bush more, but Buchanan said that calculation could be a mistake.
Riding off with SUV vote

A new poll conducted for House Republicans reveals that John McCain is a more popular running mate than Colin Powell for George W. Bush, according to the Washington Times. Meanwhile, 25 percent of Americans told Gallup interviewers last month that they own a sport utility vehicle. Of this group, Roll Call reports, 57 percent said they'll vote for Bush and 35 said Al Gore.

Start saving young

George W. Bush remains undaunted by critics and continues to hawk his plan for reducing poverty and improving public health. But the Los Angeles Times, detailing the latest pieces of Bush's "New Prosperity Initiative," found a problem. Among Bush's proposals: special bank accounts for education and small business in which banks would match deposits made by the poor up to \$ 300 a year in return for tax credits. At that rate, saving enough for a semester of college could take 20 years.

Staying up late for the VP

He didn't arrive until after midnight Thursday morning, but that wasn't going to stop Al Gore from keeping an appointment with a local teacher who was serving as host for the night in Charlotte. Gore has made a point of sleeping over the night before at the home of a teacher from the chosen school. This time, it was Laurel Warfield's turn. The sixth-grade language arts teacher was told Gore's late-night visit was running an hour late, but she and her family were waiting up.

Compiled by Ernie Freda from staff and news reports

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2000

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

April 14, 2000, Friday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section B; Page 4; Column 1; Metropolitan Desk

LENGTH: 544 words

HEADLINE: First Lady Moves to Improve Relations With Jewish Voters

BYLINE: By ADAM NAGOURNEY

BODY:

On Wednesday, Hillary Rodham Clinton hastily ended a news conference in a Rochester suburb so she could fly back for an unannounced meeting with Jewish leaders in Manhattan. The day before, the first lady called one of the city's leading Orthodox Jewish leaders, Assemblyman Dov Hikind of Brooklyn, while he was visiting his father in the hospital to offer words of sympathy and arrange a meeting about her Senate candidacy.

And yesterday, Mrs. Clinton's aides said that she had abruptly withdrawn as the honorary chairwoman of a charity dinner organized by an Arab-American group after learning, they said, that the organization had refused to invite representatives of the Israeli Embassy to its charity events. Mr. Hikind, a Democrat who was once one of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's most ardent Jewish supporters, was quick to applaud the gesture.

These events come in the midst of a concerted, if unannounced, effort by Mrs. Clinton's campaign to try to repair her shaky relations with many Jewish voters. Over the last two months, barely a week has gone by without Mrs. Clinton's appearing at a synagogue or a Jewish women's luncheon and holding a private meeting with Jewish leaders.

Mrs. Clinton has had problems with some Jewish leaders because of some of her positions, including her support of the creation of a Palestinian state, and her visit to the West Bank last year where she sat silently as the wife of Yasir Arafat seemingly accused Israel of poisoning Arab women and children. Given that history, Bruce J. Teitelbaum, Mr. Giuliani's campaign manager, expressed skepticism that her recent actions would dislodge doubts about her among Jewish voters.

"Given Mrs. Clinton's relationship with Al Sharpton, embrace of Suha Arafat and waffling on Jerusalem," Mr. Teitelbaum said, "and given Mr. Hikind's extremist right-wing sentiments, it just goes to show you that Mrs. Clinton will do and say just about anything to get elected."

Mr. Hikind said that Mrs. Clinton had "a long way" to go to convince him that she would adequately represent Jewish interests in the Senate. But Mr. Hikind,

who had a falling out with Mr. Giuliani six years ago -- Mr. Giuliani, he said, had yet to call him offering sympathy for his father -- said he was moved to hear Mrs. Clinton offering sympathy.

"She was very gracious and very, very warm," Mr. Hikind said yesterday. "What can I tell you? Her warm words about my father -- all I can tell you is that it was nice."

Her rapid decision to pull out as the honorary chairwoman for the dinner sponsored by the Mosaic Foundation, which is made up of wives of Arab ambassadors to raise money for charity, stood in sharp contrast to her much slower response to the dispute with Mrs. Arafat.

This was to be the third year that Mrs. Clinton served as the honorary dinner chairwoman. Mrs. Clinton's aides said she was not aware of its policy regarding the Israelis before, and noted that the dinner's sponsors included Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, and Tom Daschle, the minority leader.

Mr. Teitelbaum was skeptical of the explanation. "Mrs. Clinton has a history of supporting this organization," he said, "so you have to wonder about her past support and the reasons why she suddenly canceled."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2000

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

April 14, 2000, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 243 words

HEADLINE: U.S. Panel Delays Report on N.Y. Police

BODY:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, smarting from news that its chairwoman contributed to Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign, yesterday postponed public discussion of a report said to criticize Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's New York Police Department.

The commission denied any connection.

Meanwhile, the first lady scrapped plans to headline a charity dinner for an Arab American group because representatives from the Israeli Embassy were not invited. Certain Arab states do not recognize the state of Israel. "Under these circumstances, Mrs. Clinton will no longer be able to serve as honorary chair of the Mosaic Foundation event," a statement from the first lady's office said.

The Mosaic Foundation is made up of the wives of Arab ambassadors to the United States who raise money for charity. This year's dinner on May 3 is to benefit Save the Children. Clinton has served as honorary chairwoman for the dinner for the past three years.

Giuliani campaign spokeswoman Kim Serafin called Clinton's decision to back out "a classic Clinton flip-flop."

Also yesterday, Giuliani denounced a civil rights commission investigation of the NYPD after Newsday reported that the panel's head, Mary Frances Berry, contributed to Clinton's campaign. Berry gave \$ 250 last year to Clinton and another \$ 300 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "It doesn't take much to figure out this is a political operation," Giuliani said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2000

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Associated Press
AP Online

April 13, 2000; Thursday

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 245 words

HEADLINE: NYC Police Report Talk Delayed

BYLINE: SHANNON MCCAFFREY

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY: ..

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 13, 2000

6TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Daily News, L.P.
Daily News (New York)

April 13, 2000, Thursday SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 298 words

HEADLINE: HIL TO SKIP ARAB DINNER BECAUSE ISRAELIS LEFT OUT

BYLINE: By KENNETH R. BAZINET DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU With William Goldschlag and Lisa Colangelo

BODY:

WASHINGTON - Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to head off a new crisis with the Jewish community last night when she abruptly withdrew as honorary chairwoman of an Arab-American charity dinner because Israelis were not invited.

The First Lady has supported the charity work of the Mosaic Foundation for three years but said in a statement last night that when she learned representatives of the Israeli Embassy were not invited, she pulled out of the group's May 3 dinner.

Clinton, who is running for Senate in New York, where 12% of the population is Jewish, has been carefully wooing Jews - as has her opponent, Mayor Giuliani - after several missteps. "The event's sponsors have chosen not to invite representatives of the Israeli government because certain Arab states do not recognize the state of Israel," her campaign said. "Under these circumstances, Mrs. Clinton will no longer be able to serve as honorary chair."

Giuliani's campaign called the action "blatantly political."

"Mrs. Clinton invited this group to the White House in '98, attended their dinner last year, so her decision to flip-flop seems to be motivated more by politics than by principal, as usual," said Kim Serafin, a spokeswoman for the mayor.

Clinton stepped into the equivalent of a minefield in November when she sat silently by as Suha Arafat, wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, accused Israel of using poison gas on Palestinian women and children.

In February, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert called Giuliani "the greatest friend of the City of Jerusalem."

Meanwhile, Clinton, who was campaigning upstate yesterday, has begun a dialogue with Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn), an influential voice in the Orthodox Jewish community who has criticized the First Lady's comments on Israel.

LOAD-DATE: April 13, 2000

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By KENNETH R. BAZINET
Daily News Washington Bureau

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With William Goldschlag and Lisa Colangelo

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Hillary Chairing Arab Charity Event That Excludes Envoys of Jewish State

Lott, Daschle Join Syrians And Sudanese

Giuliani Sees an Opening

By ELI LAKE

FORWARD STAFF

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