

### **Thousands Immunized Through Atlanta Project Children's Health Initiative**

In one week in April, nearly 17,000 preschool children were immunized or certified as having up-to-date shots by The Atlanta Project (TAP) in the most comprehensive immunization program ever mounted in this country.

"What was done in Atlanta is very significant in terms of preventing diseases that could be fatal to young children," said Julius Richmond, M.D., who served as U.S. surgeon general and assistant secretary of health and is now professor emeritus at Harvard Medical School. "By bringing health agencies and other groups together for this immunization effort, The Atlanta Project is developing a model for the nation," he said.

TAP'S Immunization/Children's Health Initiative got underway April 17, when more than 7,000 volunteers went door-to-door in a "Neighbor-to-Neighbor Community Walk-Through." Their goal was to identify children under age 6 and provide information about vaccinations to protect them from preventable childhood diseases. The walk-through preceded a weeklong free immunization drive held April 24-May 1 to coincide with National Preschool Immunization Week, sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Two of the volunteers were former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter. "The levels of immunization of preschool children in our country are dangerously low," said Mrs. Carter, cofounder with former Arkansas First Lady Betty Bumpers of "Every Child By Two," a national campaign to immunize children by age 2. "We must take whatever steps are necessary to protect them against these preventable diseases, such as measles, which can be fatal. Most states require that children receive immunizations by the time they enter kindergarten. We want to find a way to ensure that all children are immunized by the appropriate age, which is 2 years old," she said. The CDC estimates that 40-60 percent of children under age 2—1.6 to 2.4 million infants and toddlers—are not fully immunized for their age group.

In 1991, The Carter Center launched TAP as an unprecedented community-wide effort to attack the social problems associated with poverty in urban areas. Since then, volunteers have joined with residents of 20 cluster communities, other nonprofit organizations, government service providers, businesses, and universities to identify needs and avenues for change.

#### **Overwhelming response**

As they visited each household in April, volunteers filled out questionnaires to document the age and number of children who lived there. Volunteers also gave out maps and provided information about transportation to 43 sites that were open extended hours the following week to provide free immunizations.

Their efforts were fruitful. When the two-day immunization walk-through was completed, volunteers had knocked on the doors of nearly half the homes in TAP'S cluster communities in DeKalb, Fulton, and Clayton counties.

"The response was overwhelming," said David Allen, M.D., TAP health secretary and director of the initiative. "Our goal was to see 6,000 children during immunization week; more than three times that number came to clinics to be vaccinated or to have their records certified."

At each immunization site, volunteers and TAP staff distributed materials, answered phones, filled out questionnaires, and even helped translate for parents who spoke Spanish, French-Creole, or Vietnamese. Volunteers also helped parents dry a few tears as their children received shots.

"This will be your last one until the year 2003," one mother told her 4-year-old son. Because he was vaccinated, his name was entered into a computer data base. All three counties in the TAP area plan to computerize all health records by the first of next year.

"Although this initiative was important, it was only the first step in protecting our children," said Michael Heisler, M.D., a member of The Carter Center's Task Force for Child Survival and Development and a consultant to TAP. "It is essential that we continue to work with county and state health departments, community health centers, and others to institutionalize the tracking system and to find ways to increase 'user friendly' health care services for children."

"TAP will never be a service provider," said President Carter. "Our job is collaboration and coordination. We find an arena or playing field where volunteer organizations and individuals can participate in a worthy cause."

In planning the initiative, TAP officials looked for a program that would bring community members and resources together to focus on an issue. Children's health was a common denominator that allowed people to unite.

"TAP created a grass roots network that provided the opportunity to find these children," Dr. Allen said. "But we didn't do it alone." To plan the initiative, TAP joined with Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center, the CDC, Every Child By Two, and others to form a resource group. The group put together a plan to identify households, find volunteers, knock on doors, distribute information, and help residents get to local health clinics. "We did everything we could to eliminate the barriers," said Judson Hawk, M.D., senior advisor for children's issues to TAP.

Yvonne Fry, M.D., a pediatrician and medical director of the Oakhurst Community Health Center, co-chaired the group. In her view, the community walk-through was educational because it reached potential patients—something she finds difficult to do.

"We always have problems with people not understanding what's important about their health. We're not able to teach patients as well as we'd like to. But this was an opportunity for neighbors to go door-to-door saying, 'Look, your child needs immunization. Here is some material on it. Did you know there is a community health center right down the street?'"

### **Martialing volunteers**

By the time the immunization week ended May 1, volunteer numbers had swelled to 12,000; 60 percent were residents of cluster communities.

"The cluster coordinators did a remarkable job of finding volunteers," said President Carter. "The Atlanta Project's corporate partners were instrumental in helping them recruit volunteers and organize the initiative in each cluster."

Atlanta Project officials hope to build on that base for the future. "We feel good about the immunization program because it exceeded our wildest dreams," said Dan Sweat, coordinator for TAP. "We now have residents who are saying 'let's do something else.' Now that we have that base of support, we can listen to the people who can articulate other problems in the neighborhoods and give us direction as to how we should proceed."

Although immunization week has ended, the work of TAP'S first initiative will continue. TAP will work with county health departments and community health centers to continue to improve preschool immunization rates. They also will study information on questionnaires filled out by parents during immunization week.

"The questionnaires will tell us what is lacking in their lives concerning health care," President Carter said. "We'll have a much better sense of what is going on—the problems and the successes—in the delivery of health services."

TAP residents and cluster coordinators also are considering other projects; housing, drug abuse, and teenage violence top the list.

"No one can answer the question about where we'll move next," said President Carter. "That's up to the communities. But whatever they decide, they'll have a lot of help from their neighbors and those they choose to bring in from other neighborhoods to help them accomplish their goals."

### **Delegation's Presence Assures Fair National Elections in Paraguay**

On May 9, voters in Paraguay elected Juan Carlos Wasmosy as the country's first civilian president in four decades. To assure fairness, former President Jimmy Carter, chairman of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government, led a 31-person international delegation to observe the elections. The observer team was jointly sponsored by the Council, based at The Carter Center of Emory University (CCEU), and the Washington, D.C.-based National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).

The elections offered Paraguay its first opportunity in history to complete peacefully two consecutive democratic elections for president.

Approximately 75 percent of voters turned out to elect Mr. Wasmosy, a member of the ruling Colorado Party, with 40 percent of the vote. He will be inaugurated on Aug. 15, succeeding Gen. Andres Rodriguez. President Rodriguez was elected in 1989, after the fall of dictator Gen. Alfredo Stroessner.

Other top candidates for president were Guillenno Caballero Vargas of the centrist coalition National Encounter and Domingo Laino of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party. Thirty-three percent of voters cast ballots for Mr. Laino; Mr. Vargas received 25 percent of the vote.

Although Paraguay held a democratic national election in 1989, many people there were concerned about the integrity of the May 9 elections. During the campaign, Gen. Lino Oviedo stated that the military's alliance with the long-ruling Colorado Party would remain unbreakable. Gen. Oviedo's statement and other concerns prompted the three presidential candidates to write to former President Jimmy Carter and urge him to observe the elections.

"This kind of activity would not be so serious in most countries, but in one like Paraguay, just emerging tenuously from military dictatorship, it was truly intimidating and threatening," President Carter said.

The observer delegation was present in Paraguay from May 5-11. Observers were deployed throughout the country on election day and reassembled in Asuncion after the elections to analyze the electoral process.

Overall, elections in Paraguay went smoothly, although voting in some areas was marred by fraud and sabotage. Telephone lines used by SAKA, a nongovernmental organization conducting a parallel vote count, were cut. In addition, volunteers trained to observe the vote counts and deliver the results were excluded from some voting tables.

Despite the irregularities, the observer team determined they were not significant enough to affect the election outcome. "The overall voting process was satisfactory at 92.5 percent of the voting tables that we surveyed," President Carter said.

Rodrigo Carazo, former president of Costa Rica and a member of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government, and Sen. Al Graham of Canada, who has led two previous NDI observer missions to Paraguay, joined President Carter in leading the international delegation.

"Although international observers did not personally witness any significant negative incidents, there is no doubt our presence helped to stabilize the situation in moments of crisis and

made it possible for the major candidates to accept the results calmly and graciously," said President Carter. "Also, we believe our strong condemnation of military interference will have a beneficial effect."

Last fall, the Council's two-year project in Guyana culminated with that country's first verifiably free election in 28 years. "Because Paraguay's presidential election was similarly successful in being respected by all parties, every country in South America has now held free, competitive elections," said Robert Pastor, executive secretary of the Council and director of CCEU's Latin American and Caribbean Program. "The next step for the hemisphere is to forge new bonds to preserve, consolidate, and deepen the new democracies."

## **In Perspective**

### **Proposed Tobacco Tax Would Raise Money and Save Lives**

*by Jimmy Carter*

As our new president searches for ways to improve health care and reduce budget deficits, he should seriously consider a major increase in federal tobacco taxes. He could save hundreds of thousands of lives and simultaneously raise tens of billions of dollars for health care reform or deficit reduction.

I know the incalculable toll of suffering and human loss caused by tobacco use. My father, my mother, both sisters, and my brother died of cancer. Every one of them smoked cigarettes. Each year nearly one-half million Americans die from direct and passive smoking.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that direct use of tobacco kills more than 8,300 Americans each week. This is roughly double the total of all deaths caused by alcohol, car accidents, AIDS, suicide, homicide, fires, crack cocaine, and heroin. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified environmental tobacco smoke as a known human carcinogen that causes lung cancer and death among non-smokers. The EPA also found that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is particularly dangerous for children and babies.

The single most effective way to reduce tobacco use and nicotine addiction, especially among children, is to increase substantially the price of tobacco products. The country's leading health organizations, including the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, and American Medical Association, are urging President Clinton and Congress to raise the cigarette excise tax \$2 a pack.

Our children are the most important reason for a major tobacco tax increase. We know that 90 percent of all smokers begin as teenagers, who are more sensitive to higher prices than adults. We can deter millions of young people from ever starting to smoke, saving hundreds of thousands of them from addiction and premature death. Health groups estimate that a \$2-a-pack tax increase would reduce smoking rates enough to save nearly 2 million lives—more than the total lives lost in all U.S. wars combined.

This proposal would raise more than \$30 billion a year in new revenue that could be put to good use funding health care reform, childhood immunization efforts, and other high priorities. In this way, tobacco could begin to pay its fair share of the tremendous costs it imposes on our society, including the estimated half-trillion dollars in health care costs for current smokers.

It is a bitter irony that cigarette taxes were twice as high in real terms in the 1950s, before we knew the lethal and addictive nature of this product, than they are today. While a \$2-a-pack tax increase may sound high, it would only begin to bring U.S. tobacco tax rates into line with

other industrialized nations. Canada, for example, has seen a 40 percent decline in smoking since it raised its tobacco taxes from rates comparable to the United States to more than \$3 a pack. While teenage smoking rates in the United States have remained persistently high, teen smoking in Canada has fallen by two-thirds since taxes began rising in the early 1980s.

Tobacco manufacturers will argue that tobacco taxes disproportionately affect the poor. Yet, it is the industry's own marketing activities that have the most regressive impact, targeting the youngest, poorest, and least educated for addiction—those groups least able to afford the added health care costs. Economists expect higher tobacco taxes to have a highly positive economic impact on low-income communities when long-term health benefits are considered. These benefits would be even greater if tobacco tax revenues are used to fund programs that serve the poor.

In addition to health and economic benefits, tobacco taxes are the most popular revenue-raising option. This has been confirmed by national polls and by voters themselves in statewide referenda to raise tobacco taxes.

We have before us a measure that could save 2 million American lives and raise \$30 billion in annual revenues. Especially for our children, I urge President Clinton and the new Congress to take this historic opportunity and boost the tobacco tax.

*Portions of this article were published in The New York Times, Feb. 16, 1993.*

**Profile: Andrew Agle**  
**Director of Operations, Global 2000**

Opportunity knocked when Andrew Agle graduated from San Jose State College in 1963. The English major had the good fortune of choosing among three job offers. The path taken led to a 27-year career with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and numerous travels to Africa and Asia. Now he is putting that experience to use as director of operations for The Carter Center's Global 2000 program.

"When I graduated from college, I took the CDC offer because it sounded interesting despite the fact that it paid the least," said Mr. Agle, who joined Global 2000 in September 1990. "I've never regretted it."

Three years after signing up with the CDC, Mr. Agle was assigned to the smallpox eradication program and worked 10 years in Togo, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. Initially, CDC tried to eradicate smallpox through mass vaccination. But as Mr. Agle and his CDC colleagues discovered, that strategy did not work. Among his co-workers then were William Foege, M.D., now executive director of Global 2000, and Donald Hopkins, M.D., director of Global 2000's Guinea Worm Eradication Program.

"We discovered two things about smallpox eradication," said Mr. Agle. "First, the mass vaccination strategy was flawed. It was too difficult to reach everyone. Second, we discovered we did not need to. If we knew where the cases were occurring and who had been or was likely to be exposed, we could concentrate our immunization efforts there. Dr. Foege was the one who came up with this strategy, which is known as surveillance and containment."

The strategy worked. The last known case of smallpox occurred in 1977 in Somalia; in 1980 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the disease eradicated. Today, Global 2000 is using the same strategy to target Guinea worm, a debilitating disease contracted through contaminated drinking water that affects more than 2 million people in 16 African countries, India, and Pakistan each year.

"We're relying on disease surveillance to know precisely where the cases are occurring so we can concentrate our eradication efforts there," Mr. Agle said. "We make sure people who have the disease do not spread it."

After WHO declared smallpox eradicated, the CDC reorganized its smallpox staff as the International Health Program Office (IHPO). Mr. Agle became assistant director for IHPO operations and child survival coordinator for Combating Childhood Communicable Diseases (CCCD). Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the \$150-million program provided immunizations, diarrheal disease control, and malaria treatment for children in Africa.

"One of the most impressive things the CCCD project accomplished was streamlining disease surveillance systems by introducing computers in various ministries of health," said Mr. Agle. "As a result, health officials are now responding quickly to what is going on. It really has enhanced disease-control activities."

Such experiences have made Mr. Agle's move from the government to the private sector a smooth one. "Coming to this job has been an easy transition because the approach Global 2000 uses is similar to what we used at the CDC," Mr. Agle said.

Global 2000 plays an advocacy role by merging its health and agricultural programs with those of each country instead of creating separate programs. That technique has worked throughout Africa and Asia since Global 2000 began in 1987.

For instance, countries that have implemented Global 2000 consultant and Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug's farming techniques have increased grain and corn production by at least 250 percent. The program predicts it will eradicate Guinea worm disease by the end of 1995. And recently, Global 2000 launched an environmental program to help African countries preserve their forests.

There are challenges. Last year, Global 2000 closed its agriculture office in Sudan because of the conflict there. In Kenya, the government considers Guinea worm eradication a low priority. Global 2000 staff intend to keep trying.

"We have the tools to eradicate Guinea worm, but each country affected has to be involved in the effort," Mr. Agle said. "By doing so, we free up resources for other diseases and have a positive effect on the economy of developing countries."

### **A Time For Celebration**

Atlanta Project-area children were treated to an evening of entertainment to celebrate their good health. "The real stars of The Atlanta Project's (TAP) Immunization/Children's Health Initiative are the kids who got their shots and the parents who cared enough to take them," said former President Jimmy Carter.

Preschoolers who were immunized or had their vaccination records certified during the week of April 24-May 1 received a special reward: Each child and one of his or her parents were entitled to a free ticket for The Atlanta Project Kids' Celebration on May 5. Project volunteers also received a ticket. President and Mrs. Carter participated in back-to-back performances, which included a special guest appearance by singer Michael Jackson.

"I wanted to see Michael Jackson, and I had all of my shots," said Gerald Gresham, a preschooler from southwest Atlanta. The event, hosted by Atlanta-born singer Gladys Knight, included performances by the popular three-girl rap group, TLC; the Soweto Beat Street Dancers; the Washington High School Marching Band; Ronald McDonald; and The Atlanta

Project Kids' Celebration Choir, which included the Douglass High School Choir and 150 children from Atlanta Project neighborhoods.

In a moving tribute to Mr. Jackson, the choir performed his song "Heal the World," bringing the audience to its feet when Mr. Jackson and President and Mrs. Carter joined them on stage. President Carter serves as co-chair of Mr. Jackson's "Heal Our Children/Heal The World" initiative, created in 1993 to aid children in urban areas. In January, President Carter and Mr. Jackson announced "Heal L.A." to provide immunization, mentoring, and drug prevention programs to children in that city.

"I believe in my heart that the greatest challenge facing our nation—and the world—is to improve the quality of life for our children," Mr. Jackson said at a press conference. "President Carter, and The Atlanta Project, share my deep concern about the suffering of children all over the country."

The Kids' Celebration was sponsored by Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities of Greater Atlanta and Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.

### **Volunteers Key to Success**

TAP'S Immunization/Children's Health Initiative brought together people from all walks of life to help Atlanta's children. Countless individuals and businesses, including TAP'S corporate partners, donated goods, services, and time to the effort. The project was supported by a major grant from the Prudential Foundation.

Here is what some volunteers and observers had to say about the initiative:

"The majority of volunteers were from TAP neighborhoods. It was very gratifying to watch neighborhoods come together for this effort." —Gerry Conroy, TAP Volunteer Coordinator

"Atlanta is not perfect, but it is the best city in America primarily because Atlantans love Atlanta and work together for the common good. We have taken public/private partnership to an art form and Atlanta is better off because of that." —Mayor Maynard Jackson

"This project means that there is more security for my own children, and it was heartwarming to know that all these children will not be sick but will be well. And I never had so much fun helping others." —Betty Wells, BellSouth, Volunteer

"It was wonderful to see the collaboration of our 'Tri-Cities' health committee reinforced by the members of our steering committee who worked together to involve hundreds of community volunteers. These volunteers not only walked door-to-door but assisted with phone banks and the activities of the health center, and for example, our steering committee chairperson painted children's faces at the College Park health center." —Janette McDonald, Delta Air Lines (Tri-Cities Corporate Advisor)

"Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center knows well that childhood immunizations build the foundation for early intervention and better health for our little ones. We congratulate and thank the volunteers who stepped forward to help their neighbors. We commend all parents who brought their children to health centers for immunizations April 24-May 1." —Paul E. Manners, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center.

### **CCEU Appoints Two Fellows in Urban Affairs**

Two specialists in urban affairs have been appointed as fellows at The Carter Center of Emory University (CCEU). Emory political science Professor Micheal Giles has been named a fellow after serving one year as a visiting fellow at CCEU. Emory law Professor Frank

Alexander began his appointment as a fellow on June 1. Both will work with The Atlanta Project (TAP), The Carter Center's initiative to address social problems associated with urban poverty.

Dr. Giles has been professor of political science at Emory since 1983 and, as a visiting fellow to The Carter Center, has been senior advisor for research and evaluation for TAP. His role was especially strategic during TAP'S organizational phase. Drawing on the expertise of scholars at area universities and practitioners from around the nation, Dr. Giles has helped shape TAP'S development.

Professor of law at Emory since 1982, Mr. Alexander is an expert on real estate and related issues, including federal housing policies and homelessness. In addition, he has a special interest in law and theology, holding degrees in both disciplines from Harvard University. As a CCEU fellow, he will support TAP'S housing secretariat with his work on problems of housing and homelessness.

### **INN Seeks Cooperation to End Internal Conflicts Coordination Among Government Organizations is Key**

Five regional conflicts took center stage in February as The Carter Center of Emory University (CCEU) hosted its second annual International Negotiation Network (INN) consultation.

Two hundred people from 25 countries participated in the event, chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The three-day conference asked visiting scholars, world leaders, relief agency heads, and representatives of warring parties to discuss how nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations can better coordinate their efforts to stop or prevent internal strife.

The consultation had several goals: • to bring together a "critical mass" of people involved in conflicts—many of whom had not met face to face before; • to open discussions between intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations on their respective roles in conflict resolution; • to elicit from participants steps they can take to bring about the end of specific conflicts; and • to form task forces of participants to implement recommendations made at the consultation.

In her opening remarks to the INN, CCEU Conflict Resolution Fellow and Director Dayle Spencer characterized their mission as "firefighting."

"We know that there are some 35 major wars being fought in the world at this minute," she said. "We also know that about 70 more conflicts are ongoing but have not escalated to the point of becoming a major war. We have signals that even more conflicts are in the early stages of development. "Just imagine," she said. "What if we could develop a system of detection devices, of alarms, of means of containment that would stop these conflicts in their tracks before they destroyed whole cities or nations or regions of the world? If they are already blazing, what if we could marshal every conceivable resource to put them out? That is the challenge for us this week."

INN members directed their attention to the ongoing conflicts in Burma, the Caucasus region of the former Soviet Union, Haiti, Zaire, and Macedonia and Kosovo. Those conflicts have proven especially difficult for other organizations to address.

Organizations like the United Nations are often barred by the terms of their charters from intervening in such internal disputes, President Carter explained. Independent groups like The Carter Center and the INN have no such constraints and therefore have a much greater potential, he said, to resolve the many conflicts now raging within, instead of between, nations.

"Let other organizations be timid because of restraints on their charters," said President Carter. "We don't have to have that same timidity. If all parties in a conflict invite us, we'll make every effort to prevent the conflicts from growing and to resolve differences peacefully." He also stressed the need for private groups to pool their resources to make their voices heard.

In addition to discussing specific conflicts, INN members met in small groups to draft proposals on the roles that various groups should play in monitoring potential conflicts and the flow of small arms. President Carter has shared the groups' findings with Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Joining President Carter and Mr. Perez de Cuellar in hosting the meeting were INN Council members Olusegun Obasanjo, former president of Nigeria; Lisbet Palme, Swedish Committee for UNICEF member; Shridath Ramphal, former secretary-general of the Commonwealth of Nations; and Andrew Young, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

The INN presently is engaged in follow-up activity drawn from the recommendations from the consultation. These activities include further discussions with task force members, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, and meetings with some of the parties to the conflicts.

### **Burma: An INN Case Study**

During the second annual International Negotiation Network (INN) consultation, the Burma focus group developed several recommendations to help that country seek a peaceful transition toward democracy. More than 20 anti-government forces have fought against the central government of Burma in a conflict that has continued since the country gained independence from the British in 1947. Although national elections were held in 1990, the military government—the State Law and Order Restoration Council—refused to accept its defeat at the polls. Winners of the national election established a National Coalition Government of the Union (NCGUB) of Burma in 1991. The NCGUB claims to be the legitimate government of Burma based on its victory in the 1990 elections and its broad-based support from the Democratic Alliance of Burma.

In light of these factors, the Burma focus group recommended that the INN express support for a negotiated settlement of the civil war in Burma. Other recommendations included:

- The plight of the more than 300,000 Burmese refugees in Bangladesh and Thailand should be given maximum publicity, focusing on the urgent need for effective international monitoring of their return to Burma.
- The drug eradication work of the Kachin ethnic nationality should be publicized. Their drug eradication program led to a 75 percent reduction in opium planting in the area under their control. The program achieved this with no external assistance or aid.
- Representatives of the united opposition—National Council of the Union of Burma—should be encouraged to make visits to members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other neighboring countries to discuss the Burma situation before the July 1993 meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers.
- The U.N. secretary-general should appoint a special envoy to sound out ways of negotiating an end to the civil war in Burma. The envoy would first visit neighboring countries.
- The role of U.N. development agencies in Burma needs to be assessed.

### **Mental Health: Coverage Vital to Health Care Reform**

**Rosalynn Carter, Tipper Gore Urge Attention to Mental Health Issues**

On June 24, the Mental Health Program of The Carter Center of Emory University (CCEU) will sponsor a daylong conference in Washington, D.C., regarding the Clinton administration's health care reform package.

"We're pulling together representatives of major mental health groups to review the health care reform package as it pertains to mental health," said John Gates, who became director of CCEU's Mental Health Program in March.

Among those scheduled to speak are Rosalynn Carter, chair of CCEU's Mental Health Task Force, and Tipper Gore, advisor on mental health issues to the Task Force on National Health Care Reform.

In March, Mrs. Carter addressed the U.S. House of Representatives' Working Group on Mental Illness, chaired by Rep. Mike Kopetski (D-Ore.). She asked legislators to include mental health coverage in the health care reform package, pointing out that mentally ill patients historically have suffered from discrimination and a lack of adequate care.

Mrs. Carter also recommended broad-based coverage of both severe and mild forms of mental illness and noted that early treatment is highly cost-effective because it often prevents the onset of more severe illness.

Dr. Gates attributed Mrs. Carter's commitment to mental health as a key reason for accepting his new job. "I have lived and worked in Georgia a long time and developed a great respect for President and Mrs. Carter when they served as governor and first lady of Georgia," Dr. Gates said. "Mrs. Carter has demonstrated a strong interest in furthering the needs of people with mental illness. I was drawn to The Carter Center's potential to make a difference."

Dr. Gates comes to CCEU from the Georgia Mental Health Institute, where he was deputy superintendent. He also directed the Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse in the Georgia Department of Human Resources. He has served on the board of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors and chaired that group's Prevention Committee. He previously worked with Mrs. Carter as a board member of the Rosalynn Carter Institute of Georgia Southwestern College.

"Another one of our initiatives is to focus on the promotion of mental health, especially through early childhood education programs," Dr. Gates said. "We're trying to think of ways we can identify program resources around the country for early intervention."

## **Moving Toward Democracy in Ethiopia**

### **Workshops Focus on Human Rights, Democratic Constitution**

Representatives from The Carter Center of Emory University (CCEU) traveled to Ethiopia in May for a "Symposium on the Making of the New Ethiopian Constitution." The Inter-Africa Group, an independent, nonpartisan organization based in Addis Ababa, organized the symposium in conjunction with CCEU's Human Rights Program.

The symposium helped the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE) start drafting a democratic constitution in order to move forward with general elections in 1993.

Traveling to Ethiopia were Richard Joseph, director and fellow of CCEU's African Governance Program; Stevens Tucker, program manager; and Susan Palmer, program coordinator for CCEU's Conflict Resolution Program.

"Defections from the transitional government can imperil the entire constitutional process," said Dr. Joseph. "During our stay in Addis Ababa, our team participated in discussions on the role of the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) in conflict resolution and in the 'Symposium on the Making of a New Ethiopian Constitution.' At the same time, we pursued a

round of discussions with the various political factions and parties with an eye to developing a program for long-term involvement in the mediation process."

The constitutional symposium is one of several projects developed by CCEU's Human Rights Program to ensure lasting implementation of human rights safeguards and establishment of institutions to protect these rights at all times.

In February, Human Rights Program Director Jamal Benomar and three international experts led a workshop in Ethiopia on the nation's judiciary. Fifty participants explored how the judiciary could operate independently of the government and incorporate international human rights standards and procedures. Participants included Ethiopia's chief justice and members of its supreme court, high court judges, lawyers, and others.

The workshop was designed to help Ethiopia reform its judicial system. Under the former military regime, most judges were political appointees and members of the ruling party. President Meles Zenawi heads the transitional government, formed in 1991 after the Mengistu regime was overthrown.

While in Ethiopia for the workshop, Dr. Benomar addressed 600 judges concerning the rule of law and the role of judges in promoting international human rights standards.

The judiciary session was one of three human rights workshops held since last fall. Previous workshops focused on incorporating human rights safeguards into the training of Ethiopian police and into the educational system. Thirty senior Ethiopian police officers attended the police training workshop, marking the first time in Ethiopian history the police force had debated the issue of human rights.

Ethiopia's minister of education and officials in charge of curriculum development and teacher training attended the human rights education workshop. A human rights education library is being developed in Ethiopia for the ministry of education to use as a resource. Workshops for educators and the police force were taped for broadcast on the public television station and to use as training tools.

The next workshop, scheduled for fall, will focus on how to develop an ombudsman position to monitor human rights in Ethiopia. The workshop will involve international experts in this field.

"Each of these initiatives reflect the direction the Human Rights Program is taking in promoting human rights on an institutional and structural basis," said Dr. Benomar. "Such techniques are proactive instead of reactive, promoting the implementation of human rights safeguards on a fundamental and institutional level by preventing abuses instead of reacting to them."

### **Carter Center Fellow Urges U.S. to Support Democracy in Africa**

Richard Joseph, fellow and director of The Carter Center's African Governance Program, has urged U.S. legislators to pay as much attention to the democratization of Africa as to similar changes occurring in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

"Any good news about Africa is usually drowned out by daily reports of conflicts and famine," said Dr. Joseph, who testified in April before the Subcommittee on Africa of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. "It is up to our elected political leaders to call attention to the fact that nearly a quarter of African states are now constitutional democracies. By the end of 1993, that proportion could well rise to a third. Compare that with the percentage of less than 10 percent four years ago."

In his remarks, Dr. Joseph outlined a program of U.S. support for democratic transformations in Africa "whose aim would be to ensure that the number of countries taking 'the gamble of democracy' continues to increase." In addition to recognizing the rise of democracy in Africa, the program should include: • Investing in Africa's emergent democracies, which could make them less vulnerable to popular unrest and military coups. • Mobilizing U.S. and international financial assistance to support democratizing states and withholding it from governments that continue to resist democratic reforms. • Promoting "societal engagement" involving universities, health care institutions, legal communities, business groups, and civic organizations in long-term partnerships with their African counterparts. "The resources that can be mobilized—in personnel, technology, and materials—would greatly exceed what can be provided in dollar terms in overseas assistance," Dr. Joseph said. • Extending international cooperation beyond helping countries in crisis to those undergoing fundamental political and economic transformations. "Only resolute American action, in alliance with that of like-minded nations, will send a clear message to both African and non-African nations that we will not renege on our commitment to the installation of fully democratic nations throughout the African continent," Dr. Joseph said. • Supporting the demilitarization and the downsizing of some military establishments in Africa. The U.S. support package for Russia includes funds for housing and retraining demobilized troops previously stationed in Central Europe. Dr. Joseph proposed similar packages be tailored for African military troops. • Assisting with the reconstruction of countries that have experienced armed conflicts as a direct or indirect consequence of cold-war geopolitics. Dr. Joseph concluded his testimony with a prediction: that the United States will become more involved in countries affected by the global post-cold war crisis. Increasingly, countries and organizations will bear collective responsibility for nations fragmented by conflict and complex emergencies.

Efforts like "Operation Restore Hope" in Somalia show that Africans are prepared to accept American involvement in ways that would have been anathema a few years ago, Dr. Joseph said. "To say that we have lost interest in African nations now that they are singing the same tune as we are—while we are simultaneously showing enhanced interest in other nations of the world—is to raise troubling questions about how far we have really come as a nation in giving equal consideration to the aspirations of all peoples, regardless of their color, culture, or national identities."

### **U.S., Haitian Groups Honored for Human Rights Work**

The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation in December honored two U.S. organizations for their outstanding work to protect the rights of Native Americans and refugees in the United States.

Receiving the seventh annual Carter-Menil Human Rights Prize during a Washington, D.C., ceremony were the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) of Boulder, Colo., and the Haitian Refugee Center (HRC) of Miami, Fla. The \$100,000 prize, divided between the two groups, has been awarded each year since 1986 on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The award recognizes groups or individuals for their sacrifices to advance and protect human rights.

Past awards have been given to organizations abroad. But in 1992, said former President Jimmy Carter in his keynote address, the foundation decided it was time to focus attention on the United States.

"I think it's wise every now and then to take a look at ourselves and to reassess the policies of our own government and our own personal attitudes toward others who might be different from us," said President Carter, who chairs the foundation. "In that process, we'll strengthen our own voices and our own actions in bringing about a dream which we all share: to enhance human rights for all people in countries throughout the world, including our own."

Accepting the prize on behalf of NARF, Executive Director John Echohawk called for legislation to protect Native American religious practices, which have been undercut by recent Supreme Court decisions. Founded in 1970, NARF is concerned not only with issues of religious freedom, but also with preservation of tribal existence and self-determination, the protection of natural resources, the promotion of human rights, the development of Indian law, and governmental accountability.

"With determination and intelligence the Indigenous Americans have raised their voices louder and louder," said Dominique de Menil, foundation president. "They have a right to be heard."

Speaking for the Haitian community, HRC Director Rolande Dorancy called for the restoration of democracy in Haiti and for the United States to honor international treaties granting asylum to those escaping political persecution.

Formed in 1980, HRC provides free legal support to indigent Haitian refugees, including assistance preparing asylum claims. HRC lawsuits have established rights for all refugees.

## **GLOBAL 2000**

### **After Successful Elections, Center Helps Guyana With Transition to Democracy**

The Carter Center has embarked on its first major effort to help a country consolidate democracy. The Human Rights Program, the Latin American and Caribbean Program, and Global 2000 have formed the Guyana Task Force to assist that country following elections last October.

Former President Jimmy Carter and members of The Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government, based at The Carter Center of Emory University (CCEU), had observed the free and fair election in Guyana on Oct. 5, 1992, after two years of monitoring the process.

"The Carter Center is now collectively looking at ways to support a government and help that government consolidate its transition to democracy after successful elections," said Dennis King, Guyana mission coordinator for CCEU's Latin American and Caribbean Program.

In February, Mr. King accompanied Jamal Benomar, director of the Human Rights Program, and Bekki Johnson, assistant director of operations for Global 2000, to Guyana to seek information on electoral reform, the environment, health, and human rights. They met with representatives of the Guyanese government, the opposition People's National Congress (PNC), nongovernmental organizations, civic groups, churches, and members of the private sector.

The team submitted a list of proposed initiatives to the Guyana Task Force, co-chaired by Marion Creekmore, The Carter Center's ambassador in residence, and Robert Pastor, director of the Latin American and Caribbean Program. The Task Force also is helping the University of Guyana form partnerships with U.S. universities.

In June, two delegates from the Georgia Institute of Technology will visit the University of Guyana to explore how both schools can work together. Another partnership with the Emory University School of Public Health will provide training for Guyanese public health workers at the University of Guyana and at Emory in Atlanta.

To help preserve Guyana's rain forests, Global 2000 has proposed a national land use consultation to develop a definition for sustainable development for the country. The University of Guyana is organizing the conference, to be held this fall. The meeting "will be a major consultation where all sides are represented to examine issues thoughtfully and come up with recommendations that will be useful in forming government policy," said Mr. King. Participants will represent government, industry, forestry, agriculture, and other organizations.

"Following the election in Nicaragua in February 1990, we have tried to help that country's leaders periodically—at their request—to surmount obstacles to reconciliation," said Dr. Pastor. "In Guyana, at the request of governmental and other leaders, we hope to do the same kind of work on a more sustained and comprehensive basis."

### **Quality Protein Maize Project Reaps Success in Ghana**

The Quality Protein Maize (QPM) project in Ghana promises to be an extraordinary tool in addressing that nation's nutritional needs, according to William Foege, M.D., executive director of The Carter Center's Global 2000 program.

"Global 2000 introduced the QPM strain in Ghana four years ago," Dr. Foege said. "By March of 1992, the first 400 acres were harvested, and the product was licensed in Ghana." Global 2000 currently has about 80 tons of QPM seed for the 1993 season, which is being used to plant between 5,000 and 8,000 acres. That figure could increase to 100,000 acres by 1994.

QPM is a strain of corn to which two amino acids, lysine and tryptophane, have been added. According to a forthcoming paper by Dr. George Graham of Johns Hopkins University, the amino acids provide twice the protein content of regular maize, giving it the "growth equivalent of the best infant formulas." QPM thus can help alleviate protein deficiency in young children, which Dr. Graham said is the chief factor that retards their growth. QPM also is a superior source of livestock feed.

"QPM can provide the basis for an ideal infant formula in maize-eating areas of the world," Dr. Foege said, "and it should be especially important in relief operations. It will probably provide an improved oral rehydration solution for diarrhea in children of weaning age, and it may also help feed the many orphan children whose mothers die of AIDS in Africa."

The QPM project is underway only in Ghana, but if its success continues, it soon may be expanded to include other maize-eating nations.

### **Guinea Worm Eradication Efforts Get Boost Global 2000 Receives \$7.6 Million Over Next Four Years**

King Fahd, Custodian of the two Holy Mosques and King of Saudi Arabia, has donated \$7.6 million to help The Carter Center's Global 2000 program eradicate Guinea worm disease by December 1995.

Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States, presented the first of four annual \$ 1.9-million donations during a press conference at The Carter Center in March.

"With less than three years remaining until the target date for eradication of Guinea worm, this gift is perfectly timed to help mobilize the final stages of the global campaign," said former President Jimmy Carter, who accepted the gift from Prince Bandar.

The gift will provide support for national Guinea worm eradication secretariats in African health ministries, for technical consultations, and for community education projects. In those efforts, village health workers are trained to teach their neighbors about the source of the Guinea

worm larvae and how to eliminate it through drinking water management techniques, such as boiling and filtering water.

"King Fahd commends his long-time friend President Carter for undertaking this most noteworthy project and for coordinating with the World Health Organization (WHO) to serve human beings from all races and religions," said Prince Bandar.

The gift from Saudi Arabia is one of several recent major donations to the eradication effort. In August 1992, UNICEF allocated \$5.7 million to its agencies in Nigeria, Benin, Niger, Ghana, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, and Mauritania. In addition, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has earmarked \$1 million to its mission in Mali.

The Carter Center's Global 2000 program has rallied international support to help make Guinea worm the second disease to be eradicated worldwide. The first was smallpox in 1977. Agencies collaborating on the project include the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, USAID, and WHO. Major donors include the governments of Nigeria, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates, and corporations including DuPont, American Cyanamid, Precision Fabrics Group, Georgia Pacific, and ARCO.

Overall, eradication efforts are underway in more than 70 percent of the 23,165 villages in India, Pakistan and 16 nations in Africa. The disease infects more than 2 million people each year and puts 100 million at risk.

Guinea worm larvae contracted from impure drinking water grow inside the human body into thin, thread-like worms that emerge after a year of gestation through painful blisters in the skin.

### **Efforts show signs of success**

Eradication efforts are showing signs of success. Ghana and Nigeria, the two most highly affected African countries, have reduced their combined total of cases from about 820,000 in 1989 to less than 240,000 in 1992—a reduction of 70 percent in three years.

"Of the 18 countries where Guinea worm disease is still endemic, it may be eradicated this year in Pakistan, which had only 23 cases in 1992," said Donald Hopkins, M.D., director of the Global 2000 eradication program. "It will probably be eradicated this year in Cameroon, which had 127 cases in 1992. And it is on the verge of eradication in Senegal and India."

In March, program managers from countries in the eradication effort met with Global 2000 staff in Benin to review strategic plans and provide new information on intervention.

This fall, President Carter will visit Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya to help stimulate increased efforts there.

## **THE JIMMY CARTER LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

### **World War II Through the Eyes of Combat Artists**

#### **Upcoming Exhibit Captures Life on the Front Lines**

During World War II, artist Alexander Russo volunteered for special duty. He served with a small corps of military and civilian artists who went to the front lines to record their experiences firsthand through paintings, drawings, and sketches.

On Sept. 1, "World War II: The Artist's View" will open at The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum featuring 43 original works created by these artists. The works are part of a traveling exhibit sponsored by the National Archives to commemorate the 50th anniversary of U.S. participation in World War II.

Generations born since the war have seen photos and newsreels taken by journalists assigned to the front lines. Also present—and unknown to many—were soldier-artists from each branch of the military.

"The exhibit is a departure from the works of photo journalists whose cameras recorded the images they saw before them," said Sylvia Naguib, Museum curator. "The difference is that the artists also recorded how they felt about what they saw."

According to the National Archives, exhibit works were selected for their ability to relate the impact of war rather than on artistic merit. The exhibit features oil and watercolor paintings; field sketches in pencil and charcoal; pastels; pen-and-ink drawings; and lithographs. The works are on loan from the permanent collections of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. All depict varied impressions: the discomforts and small pleasures of life on the front, the fear and isolation of soldiers, and the destruction and aftermath of the war.

"Interestingly, the exhibit includes several examples of German combat art," said Don Schewe, director of The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum. "Like many of the Allied Powers, Germany and Japan also sent combat artists to the front, and some of their works were captured by American forces. In 1981, Congress declared that captured military art be returned to its homeland." A clause in the agreement allowed the United States to retain a few German pieces for a study collection.

In the forward to the combat art catalog, Mr. Russo recalls how he spent D-Day when Allied forces invaded Western Europe on June 6, 1944.

"Almost all of the time, when I wasn't ducking for cover, I made brief 'thumbnail' sketches on my small sketch pad," he wrote. "Later, I was to develop these—and perhaps more importantly, the vivid visual memories and feelings of the horror of battle burned into my memory—into larger pen and wash drawings, watercolors, and oil paintings—It took me about 10 years to recover from the experiences of World War II."

The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum is one of eight presidential libraries hosting "World War II: The Artist's View," prepared by the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Kansas and funded, in part, by the United Services Automobile Association.