Halting War To Fight Disease

Historic Cease-fire Enables Health Workers To Attack Guinea Worm, Other Diseases in Sudan

A historic cease-fire negotiated by former President Jimmy Carter has enabled health workers to reach remote regions of Sudan to treat Guinea worm and other diseases. The agreement marks the longest cease-fire ever negotiated to fight disease and implement preventive health programs.

The disputing parties in Sudan's 12-year-old civil war took a bold step this spring by agreeing to a two-month cease-fire. President Carter and Sudan's military leader, Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan al-Bashir, announced the cease-fire in late March, with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) and the South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) signing on a few days later. The announcement came during a trip to Africa by President Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter to assess progress toward Guinea worm eradication. In late May, the government, the SPLM/A, and the SSIM/A extended the cease-fire for another two months.

"The primary purpose of the cease-fire is to permit the leaders and citizens of Sudan, working with others, to carry out a major effort to eradicate Guinea worm disease, prevent river blindness, and immunize children against polio and other diseases," President Carter said.

More than 1 million people, mostly civilians, have died as a result of fighting or famine and disease caused by the war, which has pitted the northern-based Islamic government against southern Sudanese rebels. Because of the cease-fire, health workers are able to distribute cloth filters used to prevent Guinea worm disease; deliver the drug Mectizan©; and treat more than 10 million people for river blindness and 2 million people for onchocerciasis. 

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A Message From the Executive Director
Progress Through Partnership

How many times have you heard someone say, “I couldn’t have done it alone?” At The Carter Center, these words echo throughout our halls every day.

The Center was founded on the principles of partnership and collaboration. We believe that, in many cases, there are already adequate resources available to address a problem. The challenge is to use those resources most effectively by finding unique ways to combine the strengths of institutions and individuals, without competing with each other or duplicating efforts. Each of our diverse programs and projects in more than 30 countries, including the United States, draws on these principles in an attempt to improve overall quality of life.

Our method is twofold. First, we identify creative ways to address problems that affect the most vulnerable people—those who have access to the fewest resources. Then we build partnerships to implement solutions that achieve lasting results. Because the Center and its programs are not aligned politically with any particular party, group, or government, we are sometimes able to step in where governments and other agencies cannot go and mobilize diverse world leaders and others to bring about change.

Health Initiatives Fight Disease in Sudan

This newsletter is full of stories about how we can combine resources with others to resolve a dispute, fight a disease, or implement human rights standards. One of the most striking examples is happening in Sudan.

In late March, President and Mrs. Carter traveled to that country, where the most recent war has raged for 12 years. The Carter Center began health and agriculture programs in Sudan in the late 1980s, and President Carter has met many times with the warring parties to try to bring about a resolution. But the bloody war, rooted in hundreds of years of religious strife and economic deprivation, went on.

Many traditional and nontraditional methods of intercession have failed to stop the carnage. But by acting as an impartial mediator, President Carter was able to convince all major parties to the conflict to honor a two-month cease-fire. The parties didn’t agree to stop fighting because they had suddenly resolved their differences; rather, they stopped fighting because President Carter got them to agree on a common goal: improving the health of people all over the country.

The cease-fire was crafted so the Center, working with others, could implement a wide range of health initiatives.

Immediately after the cease-fire was announced, The Carter Center and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began providing technical assistance to complement pre-existing activities conducted by UNICEF and other nongovernmental organizations. Working together, we already have trained 1,265 additional community health volunteers and visited 2,000 villages, many of which had not been reached before. More than 100,000 people have been taught how to prevent Guinea worm disease, and more than 30,000 children have received critical vaccines (see more on this story on page 1).

Shortly before the cease-fire was to expire in May, the Sudanese government and opposition parties agreed to extend it another two months. President and Mrs. Carter will travel to Sudan in July to explore how the peace process might be advanced.

Carter Center Continues Work in Nicaragua

This is but one example of how collaboration and partnership can help people in need. There are many others.

In Nicaragua, our Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government is working with the United Nations Development Program to resolve property issues that stem from the redistribution of land during the Sandinista government. In Ethiopia, we’ve teamed up with other groups to conduct workshops on human rights protections, and in Liberia, we’ve formed a consortium of U.S.-based nongovernmental groups to advance the peace process at the grassroots level.

In Guyana, we’re working closely with USAID and other donor agencies to coordinate aid programs and to help the government develop the internal capacity to meet its own needs. And at home, the Center’s Atlanta Project brings residents from the city’s neediest neighborhoods together with businesses, service providers, and government agencies to encourage them to work together toward common goals.

Working together—that’s what it’s all about. Individually, we can make a difference. Together, we can change the world. ★
Atlanta Project Shares in City’s Empowerment Zone Award

Four Atlanta Project (TAP) clusters will reap benefits from Atlanta’s new “Empowerment Zone” (EZ) designation. Atlanta and five other cities—Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, New York, and Philadelphia-Camden—were named to the economic development program by President Clinton late last year.

The Carver, Grady, Southside, and Washington clusters are part of a 9.3-square-mile network of 30 neighborhoods that will receive $100 million in federal funds and $150 million in tax incentives over the next two years. The tax incentives will attract new businesses to the area, providing long-term jobs for thousands of local residents.

TAP's The Carter Center's program to address the social problems associated with urban poverty, was one of several organizations that helped the city prepare its EZ application.

“The Empowerment Zone designation offers both a means to provide additional resources for some of our clusters and a tremendous opportunity to advance the development of Atlanta’s neediest communities,” said Fred DeMent, TAP’s economic development coordinator. “It is a natural partnership because of TAP’s philosophy about community involvement in decision-making.”

Before the application was submitted, staff and steering committee members from each cluster helped identify four funding priorities in their neighborhoods: new jobs and businesses, safe and livable communities, adequate housing, and lifting youth and families out of poverty.

TAP's involvement continues as a member of the EZ Executive Board, which also includes community residents, the private sector, service providers, the Atlanta Public Schools, and the Atlanta Housing Authority. In addition, a 36-member Community Empowerment Advisory Board comprised of neighborhood representatives is charged with selecting the agencies and programs that fulfill the mission of Atlanta’s EZ program. Jane Smith, program director for TAP, serves on this board.

Thus far, some 180 private organizations have committed more than $700 million in investments to neighborhoods.

State and city governments have pledged $290 million.

“The Empowerment Zone is a wonderful collaboration of dreams and opportunities,” said Brenda Muhammad, coordinator of the Southside Cluster. “Finally, communities can connect with the resources that are sorely needed to implement their plans for improvement. The Atlanta Project is facilitating that connection.” *

Loan Fund Spurs Business Expansion in TAP Clusters

Lack of access to capital is one of the most pressing problems owners of small businesses face. The Atlanta Project (TAP) and its corporate partners have teamed up to help solve that problem with a new initiative that provides low-interest loans and business assistance to minority entrepreneurs.

Launched last spring, the Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund (EDLF) is a collaborative effort of TAP, the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Atlanta Small Business Project (GRASP), and six financial institutions—Bank South, First Union, NationsBank, SouthTrust, Wachovia Bank, and Trust Co.

The five-year, $11.5 million fund is managed by GRASP and controlled by the six lenders through the Atlanta Business Community Development Corporation.

In its first six months, the EDLF approved more than $1.6 million in loans for 26 start-up and existing businesses in the Brown, Central DeKalb, Decatur, Grady, and Harper clusters.

For Toby Sanders, who was trying to make a go of an independent video rental business in a small neighborhood, the $40,000 line of credit through EDLF impacted his store's growth in a number of ways. “For starters, I was able to take some of the money to expand my inventory of tapes and become more competitive with the major chains,” Mr. Sanders said. “I then had monies freed up to start a cart business at a local mall, which in turn, advertised the video store to shoppers.”

EDLF makes loans of $25,000 to $100,000, with terms of up to five years and interest rates that are competitive with bank rates—approximately 2 to 4 percent above prime. The money may be used for working capital, inventory, supplies, furniture, fixtures, machinery, or equipment.

“We’re trying to make a difference in the clusters by providing minority entrepreneurs with a point of entry into the marketplace,” said Jim Harris, director of the Micro Loans Program at GRASP. “We especially want to help those entrepreneurs whose businesses may be considered too new or too risky.” *
continued from page 1

tan® to treat river blindness; vaccinate children against polio, measles, and other diseases; and distribute Vitamin A, an essential nutrient for children.

The Center’s Global 2000 program is leading the effort to eradicate Guinea worm disease by the December 1995 target date. Guinea worm affects people in India, Pakistan, Yemen, and 16 African nations. The total number of cases worldwide has dropped almost 95 percent since 1986.

The Center has many partners in this effort: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the U.S. Agency for International Development; UNICEF; lands; and others. In addition, DuPont Co., Precision Fabrics Group, and American Home Products have donated cloth filters, larvicide, and educational materials.

Of all endemic countries, Sudan has the highest number of Guinea worm cases remaining. In 1994, Sudan had more than 53,000 cases out of 163,000 reported in the world. Ninety percent of Sudan’s cases were in the south.

The same region has some of the most severe cases of river blindness in Africa. Spread through the bites of black flies, river blindness causes persistent itching, rashes, and depigmentation of the skin. Ultimately, it can cause blindness.

Eighteen million people in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East are infected. Of those, 400,000 are permanently blind.

Guinea worm disease is also devastating. People become infected by drinking water contaminated with microscopic larvae. A year later, mature, thread-like worms up to a yard long work their way out through painful blisters on the skin. Emergence of the worm and resulting infections can cause permanent scarring and crippling similar to polio.

More than half of a village population may be unable to farm or attend school for weeks or months. No cure exists. But Guinea worm is preventable by:

- straining drinking water through a cloth;
- treating drinking water with the nontoxic chemical Abate; or
- finding other ways to provide safe drinking water sources, such as drilling borehole wells. These techniques are now being used in Sudan.
“The southern warring parties have both said they can get rid of Guinea worm if the logistics and supply lines are provided,” said Donald Hopkins, M.D., senior health consultant for Global 2000. “The cease-fire has clearly provided these requirements.”

After the cease-fire began, the Sudanese government, UNICEF, and UNDP provided planes and trucks to deliver health supplies and educational materials. Health teams have made substantial progress. By mid-July, they already had:

- visited 2,253 Guinea worm villages;
- distributed 115,425 cloth filters to households;
- vaccinated 34,481 children for polio and 40,000 children for measles;
- given Vitamin A supplements to 35,000 children;
- treated 9,031 children with oral rehydration therapy for diarrhea; and
- delivered 200,000 Mectizan® tablets, donated by the American pharmaceutical firm Merck & Co. Inc., for distribution in the field to treat river blindness.

Merck and The Carter Center have worked together since 1988 to facilitate 

"The dove is the usual symbol of peace. But in Sudan it is the worm."
—Al-Ahram, Cairo's English language weekly, April 6-10, 1995

drug distribution through the Mectizan® Donation Program. The program is administered by The Task Force for Child Survival and Development, an independent partner of the Center. A committee of experts oversees distribution of the drug, which, when given once a year, prevents river blindness.

"Since the beginning of the cease-fire, the government of Sudan, U.N. agencies, and the NGO communities in Khartoum and Nairobi have made significant progress in public health promotion," said Health Policy Fellow William Foege, M.D., chair of the Mectizan® Expert Committee. “This is proving to be a circular process. The success of the public health initiatives has strengthened the cease-fire.”

The Carters will return to Sudan in July to assess progress on the health initiatives and explore the possibility of advancing the peace process.

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MacArthur Grant Honors Donald Hopkins for Guinea Worm Eradication Efforts

Donald Hopkins, M.D., who has devoted his career to eradicating preventable disease, was among 24 people honored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in June.

Dr. Hopkins, senior health consultant to The Carter Center’s Global 2000 program, received a five-year MacArthur Fellowship grant of $320,000 in recognition of his work to eradicate Guinea Worm disease (dracunculiasis).

A distinguished career in public health made Dr. Hopkins a logical recipient of the grant. Before joining the Center in 1987, he was deputy director with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he worked to eliminate smallpox, the first and only disease ever eradicated by medical science.

“Dr. Hopkins is a model international civil servant. He is highly motivated, concerned, competent, skilled in negotiating, and tenacious in pursuit of better health,” said Health Policy Fellow William Foege, M.D., who worked on smallpox with Dr. Hopkins at the CDC. “The Carter Center is fortunate to have him, as is the world.”

“I’ve been interested in tropical medicine since I saw so many people affected by trachoma (an infection of the eye) in Egypt while visiting there as an undergraduate student in 1961,” Dr. Hopkins said. “I decided then and there that I wanted to work on tropical diseases.”

Dr. Hopkins now focuses his efforts on the eradication of another devastating disease. If all goes as planned, Guinea worm, a debilitating parasitic infection that once afflicted hundreds of thousands

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Carter Team Visits Haiti To Assess Progress Since President Aristide’s Return

Retracing the mission that returned President Jean-Bertrand Aristide peacefully to power, former President Jimmy Carter, Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell returned to Haiti in February to assess the country’s progress. The team first traveled to Haiti last September to convince the country’s military leaders to step down.

The team’s second visit to the island nation—and President Carter’s ninth—focused on the transfer of authority from American-led forces to the United Nations, and on Haiti’s preparations for parliamentary and presidential elections. The team found signs of progress but also warned of pitfalls that could later mar June elections.

During their visit, team members met with President Aristide and his cabinet, representatives of 18 political parties, leaders of the Haitian human rights and religious communities, the American ambassador, the commander of the Multinational Force, and trainees at the new National Police Academy. The delegation included former First Lady Rosalynn Carter; Robert Pastor, director of the Center’s Latin American and Caribbean Program; George Price, former prime minister of Belize and member of the Center’s Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government; and others.

“Continued international support will be affected by whether the elections in June and December will be fair and perceived as fair,” the team reported. “At the current time, most of the parties do not believe that the electoral playing field is fair.”

June 25 Vote Confirms Team’s Concerns

That belief continued through the parliamentary and municipal elections, held on June 25. Dr. Pastor was an unofficial observer and confirmed the fears of many candidates and international observers. “I personally witnessed a degree of chaos that I have never seen in any previous election,” Dr. Pastor said. “The counting process was seriously flawed.”

Twenty-two of Haiti’s 26 political parties demanded annulment of the elections, whether they won or lost, even before the outcome was announced, and both the results of canceled elections and scheduled runoffs had to be delayed.

“The technical and administrativest problems were proof of the difficulty of conducting an election in a country so poor and uneducated,” Dr. Pastor said. “However, compared to 200 years of dictatorship and repression, the election was a step out of the past. Whether it will be a step forward or sideways remains to be seen.”

Dr. Hopkins, a model international civil servant . . . The Carter Center is fortunate to have him, as is the world.”

—William Foege, M.D., Health Policy Fellow

Dr. Hopkins has been a member of seven U.S. delegations to the World Health Assembly. His book, Princes and Peasants: Smallpox in History (University of Chicago Press, 1983), was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

But none of these awards and honors sit on Dr. Hopkins’ desk, only a Guinea worm he calls “Henrietta,” preserved in a jar of formaldehyde. Soon she will be the last of her kind.

“By the end of 1995, it appears that Guinea worm will have been reduced about 95 percent or more since 3.5 million cases were estimated to have occurred in 1986,” Dr. Hopkins said. “Final eradication should be completed within one or two years after that. To help make that happen will be quite an honor.”

Rosalynn Carter, Colin Powell, Jimmy Carter, and Sam Nunn returned to Haiti in February to assess progress on preparations for parliamentary and municipal elections.
For the first time, Nicaraguan leaders have reached broad consensus on an issue that has divided their country since the 1979 revolution: the ownership of property.

They made significant progress on the issue when The Carter Center convened a meeting in Montelimar on July 4-5. U.S. foreign aid law requires that the secretary of state certify progress on property issues by July 30 to continue aid to Nicaragua.

"With perhaps 40 percent of the households in Nicaragua involved in an actual or potential property dispute, the issue has impeded investment and economic recovery," said Jennifer McCoy, coordinator of the Center's Nicaragua Property Project. "But with Sandinista leaders sitting next to individuals whose property was confiscated in the revolution, the meeting was a visible reminder of Nicaragua's remarkable transformation from a society torn by war in the 1980s to one committed to finding solutions to national problems through peaceful and legal means."

The Center's Latin American and Caribbean Program (LACP) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) co-sponsored the forum, which was chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Belize Prime Minister George Price.

"The conference helped Nicaraguans take a major step toward resolving the property problem," said Robert Pastor, LACP director. Participants included members of President Violeta de Chamorro's cabinet, the president and key committee chairpersons of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, leaders of the major political parties, members of the Supreme Court, leaders of organizations representing former property owners (confiscados), current occupants (beneficiados), workers, ex-combatants, and ambassadors from several countries, including the United States and Spain.

Project Seeks To Resolve Property Disputes Fairly

Property problems in Nicaragua impact 171,890 beneficiaries of agrarian and rural reform and other distribution of property under the Sandinista government (1979-90), and 5,288 former owners affected by confiscations and expropriations who now are demanding the return of their property or satisfactory compensation. The amount of land claimed by the former owners constitutes 25 percent of the nation's cultivable land area, and the estimated cost of compensating them (U.S. $650 million) is the equivalent of 35 percent of Nicaragua's economy or two years of exports.

Center Facilitates Democracy in Nicaragua

The Carter Center has a long history of involvement in Nicaragua. In 1990, President Carter led an international delegation to observe the presidential election. The delegation was formed under the auspices of the Center's Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government, a group of 25 former and current leaders from the Western hemisphere. President Carter made five trips to Nicaragua during the election process and returned again in 1991 to help forge a pact to combat hyper-inflation.

In 1994, President Chamorro invited The Carter Center to become involved in the property issue, and the Supreme Court asked the Center to send a group of legal experts to advise them on how to handle the expected 5,000 property cases to be brought to the courts.

Since then, the Center and UNDP have worked closely with Nicaraguans to develop a comprehensive property project.

"Establishing a clear and secure framework for property rights is absolutely essential for investment and economic recovery in Nicaragua," Dr. McCoy said. "We hope Nicaraguans will take advantage of the progress made at the conference to put the property issue behind them."
President Carter Testifies on Bosnia Before Senate

Former President Jimmy Carter traveled to Capitol Hill in June to urge the Senate to press for a peaceful end to the war in Bosnia.

President Carter testified jointly with Gen. John Galvin, former supreme allied commander in Europe and the first American representative to Bosnia after it declared its independence. In hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee, they urged the Congress to use American influence to bring warring Muslims, Croats, and Serbs back to the negotiating table, rather than withdraw U.N. peacekeepers or lift the international arms embargo.

The hearing marked the first time President Carter had testified before a Congressional committee and made him the first former president since Harry Truman to testify on the Hill.

"The United Nations is facing an almost impossible dilemma," President Carter said, "serving as a peace enforcer where there is no peace ... With almost no prospect for ending the crisis through military means, it is time to reassess the possibilities for a mediated settlement."

Center Urges Peaceful Settlement

President Carter first pushed for such a settlement last December, when he traveled to the former Yugoslavia with his wife, Rosalynn, and Harry Barnes and Joyce Neu of The Carter Center’s Conflict Resolution Program. The team brokered a four-month cease-fire and called on all sides to use the time to open peace talks in a neutral setting, under the auspices of the five-nation Contact Group.

The cease-fire passed, with sporadic fighting between both sides, and without further talks. It expired at the end of April and immediately gave way to a Bosnian offensive. Serb forces took several hundred U.N. peacekeepers hostage and shot down an American pilot flying a NATO mission in the region. The return to violence prompted many in Congress to renew their calls for a unilateral end to the U.N. arms embargo. President Carter and Gen. Galvin, however, advised restraint, echoing the testimony days before of Defense Secretary William Perry and Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I think if we do eventually decide to lift the arms embargo," said President Carter, "a prerequisite must be to exhaust the peace effort after good-faith attempts using the maximum influence of the Contact Group members to get both sides to sit down together. The United Nations forces also will have to be withdrawn before lifting the arms embargo."

But, he warned, "I think such a course would result ... in a great chance of high levels of casualties, an increase in hatred and animosity, and maybe a spreading of the conflict outside Bosnia to neighboring countries."

"If we’re going to lift the embargo," Gen. Galvin added, "we have got to be prepared for the kind of ugliness that is going to come—which is going to be a lot worse than perhaps what we’ve seen so far." Lifting the embargo, he said, "would be a fundamental mistake."

The key, President Carter and Gen. Galvin said, is to resume talks without extensive preconditions. They urged the Contact Group and the Muslim-Croat Federation to be flexible in their insistence of a 51-49 percent split of the region, noting that the Bosnian Serbs have offered to reduce their holdings to 53 percent of the former Yugoslavia. That 4 percent difference is too small, President Carter said, to scuttle talks before they begin.

"The question is, where can we go from here? Although no one can guarantee ultimate results, there are two basic alternatives: the escalation of military conflict or a determined attempt to negotiate a comprehensive peace agreement."

"Both sides, the Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs, must be at the negotiating table. All those interested in peace, including the government of the United States, should urge both sides to seek a peaceful resolution of this continuing crisis."

"Obviously, we cannot speak for any parties to the dispute or for those involved in peacekeeping, but there is every reason for exploring these ideas as a reasonable alternative to the existing deadlock and the strong possibility of another surge in bloodshed."—from President Carter’s testimony on the Bosnian conflict before the Senate Armed Services Committee, June 14, 1995

"We want to make it clear," President Carter said, "that we do not excuse or condone any of the human rights abuses, the violation of cease-fires, the taking of hostages, or the failure to comply with U.N. resolutions by any of the combatants in the area. But it’s a tragedy," he said, "that the whole thing could break down on the basis of ... semantics."
Fellowships Increase Journalists’ Understanding of a Free Press

What constitutes fair usage by the media? How does violence reported on television impact society? What are the root causes of ethnic conflicts, and how can they be covered fairly?

This spring, six broadcast journalists from Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union studied these and other issues as visiting media fellows.

"Many of the fellows come from emerging democracies, where they are learning about new press freedoms while dealing with complex economic and social problems."
—Dee Reid, program director, DeWitt Wallace Center at Duke University

They were hosted by the Commission on Radio and Television Policy, a joint project of The Carter Center and the DeWitt Wallace Center for Communications and Journalism at Duke University. Founded in 1990 by former President Jimmy Carter, the Commission encourages the development of democratic broadcast media through effective policy choices.

Fellows spent their first two weeks at Duke where they studied the role of television in democracy with 10 other journalists from around the world. They spent their final week in Atlanta, where they met privately with President Carter and with media experts at CNN, a local public television station, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Commission began the fellowship program last year for journalists from the former Soviet Union to exchange ideas with other journalists and media policy-makers. Funded in part by the Eurasia Foundation, the fellowships are an adjunct to the Visiting Media Fellows Program at Duke, begun in the early 1970s.

"The idea is to help journalists prepare for an increasingly complicated world," said Dee Reid, program director of the DeWitt Wallace Center. "Many of the fellows come from emerging democracies, where they are learning about new press freedoms while dealing with complex economic and social problems." For example, evolving press freedoms in Russia have made it possible for journalists to provide comprehensive coverage of the conflict in Chechnya, including some reports and viewpoints that contradict government information.

Last year's fellows were from Armenia, Belarus, and Russia. All initiated new projects with their respective television stations after their fellowships. For example, Nellie Alekova launched the first independent television station in Armenia. Nicolai Ignatenko of Belarus introduced television programming from diverse cultures, including Jews and minorities.

"We have been fortunate in the selection of Commission fellows," said Ellen Mickiewicz, director of the Commission and the DeWitt Wallace Center. "They are among the most pioneering and independent voices in the former Soviet Union, and they are on the 'frontline' of the region's television revolution."

United States, North Korea Agree on Implementation of Nuclear Accord

The United States and North Korea agreed June 13 on how to implement the provision on nuclear reactors in the accord reached last October, ending a nuclear standoff between the two nations. The October accord came after former President Jimmy Carter reopened talks between the United States and North Korea last summer.

Based on the Carter breakthrough, North Korea agreed to halt its current nuclear program, which Western observers feared could provide the North with nuclear weapons. In exchange, the North's nuclear plants will be replaced with safer light-water reactors, which are incapable of producing weapons-grade materials.

Talks then turned to how to implement that agreement. At issue was the North's refusal to accept new reactors built in South Korea. "Creative phrasing" finally overcame those objections, producing an agreement that Secretary of State Warren Christopher hailed as "a very important step forward."

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Carter Center Program Director Marion Creekmore, who accompanied President Carter on his mission to Korea last year, agreed. "President Carter closely monitors developments on the Korean Peninsula," Dr. Creekmore said, "and remains willing to be helpful should an appropriate opportunity arise."

**INN's Olusegun Obasanjo's Future Uncertain**

Four months after his arrest for alleged crimes against the government, the fate of former Nigerian head of state Olusegun Obasanjo remains uncertain. Gen. Obasanjo, who led his country from military to civilian rule in the 1970s, was detained in March. Although never officially charged, he was accused of taking part in a coup attempt against the military government of Gen. Sani Abacha.

A week after Gen. Obasanjo's arrest, former President Jimmy Carter, who was in Nigeria to assess its progress toward Guinea worm eradication, asked that Gen. Obasanjo be allowed to return home. Within 24 hours, Gen. Obasanjo was back at his farm in Orta, held under house arrest.

However, in June, Gen. Obasanjo was taken to a military garrison in Lagos, where he is undergoing a secret trial. At press time, it was unclear if a verdict had been decided.

According to Ahuma Adodoadjji, acting director of The Carter Center's African Governance Program, "We at The Carter Center believe public trials are the only way to ensure fairness and due respect for the legal process."

"We are deeply concerned about Gen. Obasanjo and other political detainees. This is a flagrant violation of their human rights," President Carter said.

"Gen. Obasanjo serves as a member of The Carter Center's International Negotiation Network, and I have the utmost respect for him. We will continue to push for his release."

**Kiwanis International Honors Work To Immunize Children**

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and Betty Bumpers, wife of Arkansas Sen. Dale Bumpers, received the 1995 Kiwanis World Service Medal in June. They were honored as co-chairs of Every Child By Two (ECBT), their national campaign to promote vaccination against measles and other preventable childhood diseases by age 2.

The Kiwanis International Foundation also presented them with a $10,000 grant for ECBT, which they accepted at Kiwanis International's 80th annual convention in Las Vegas.

Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Bumpers began their campaign in 1991 at the height of a U.S. measles epidemic, which started in 1989. By 1991, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had recorded more than 55,000 cases and 123 deaths nationwide. Rates of other vaccine-preventable diseases also rose from 1989-91.

Since then, the co-chairs have begun campaigns in 38 states, many with the help of governors' and Congressional spouses, to raise awareness about early childhood immunization. ECBT also has provided technical information about immunization to Great Britain, Armenia, Canada, and the former Soviet Union. According to ECBT, measles vaccination rates have risen from about 50 percent in 1991 to 82 percent in the United States today.

"The efforts of Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Bumpers through Every Child By Two complements Kiwanis' All Their Shots While They're Tots program," said Ian Perdieu, president of Kiwanis International. "Their determination to keep youngsters healthy is admirable, and they are clearly deserving of such an award."

**Carter Center Launches Site on the Internet**

From Korea, to Haiti, to Bosnia, to cyberspace—The Carter Center is on-line. The Center recently unveiled a site on the Internet's World Wide Web, the most popular and fastest-growing portion of the 'net.' The site allows Internet users from around the world to point and click their way through a library of information about the Center.

"In the past year, public awareness of both the Internet and The Carter Center's work has increased enormously," said Carrie Harmon, director of public information. "Through our web site, we can now provide both the press and public with up-to-the-minute information about President and Mrs. Carter's projects and travels, and about the Center's ongoing work to alleviate suffering and promote democracy around the world."

The web site features a hypertext collection of more than 100 documents and nearly 70 photos, including a library of current Center news, brief biographies of fellows and directors, a photographic tour of the grounds, an order form for the Center's publications and a growing selection of reports available on-line, and a library of links to dozens of related sites. The Carter Center site is located at:

http://www.emory.edu/CARTER_CENTER
CONVERSATIONS AT THE CARTER CENTER

Want to learn more about The Carter Center? Join us for “Conversations at The Carter Center.” As part of each program, the audience is invited to ask questions and discuss issues with leading Center associates. The 1995-96 series features:

A Conversation with Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter
Sept. 19, 1995
7:30-8:30 p.m.
Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter discuss their work at The Carter Center at home and around the world.

The Changing Face of Africa
Nov. 21, 1995
7:30-9 p.m.
A wide-ranging forum focuses on the fascinating, ever-changing continent of Africa and The Carter Center’s work there. Senior staff discuss their successes and challenges in promoting democracy, eradicating and preventing disease, protecting human rights, and resolving conflict. Speakers include Ahuma Adobodji, associate director of the African Governance Program; William Poege, M.D., health policy fellow; Donald Hopkins, M.D., senior consultant for the Global 2000 program; Susan Palmer, assistant director for projects for the Conflict Resolution Program; and Gordon Streich, director of the Sustainable Development Program.

The Atlanta Project: New Hope for Our Inner Cities
Feb. 22, 1996
7:30-9 p.m.
Jane Smith, program director of The Atlanta Project (TAP), leads a discussion of the Project’s current work and future goals. Panelists will include TAP activists from area neighborhoods as well as contributors from the worlds of business and education.

Coping with the Stigma of Mental Illness
April 17, 1996
7:30-9 p.m.
Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter hosts a frank discussion on the stigma attached to mental illness and efforts being made to address negative perceptions. Joining Mrs. Carter and John Gates, director of the Center’s Mental Health Program, will be individuals who have learned to cope with the difficulties of being mentally ill.

Tickets
Tickets to each event can be purchased by calling The Carter Center’s Volunteer Office at (404) 420-5104 or (404) 420-5105. Tickets are $6 per person per event.

Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Domenici Urge Fair Treatment of the Mentally Ill

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and Nancy Domenici, wife of Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), toured Capitol Hill in May to raise awareness about fair treatment of people with mental illness in legislative health insurance reform proposals and the budget process.

“We believe members of Congress should be careful to avoid the historic unfair limitations placed on people with mental illness,” Mrs. Carter said.

The former first lady and Mrs. Domenici—both long-time mental health advocates—called for parity to protect people with mental illness against discriminatory cuts in benefits as federal Medicaid and Medicare health programs are restructured. They urged that only those limitations placed on physical illness should be placed on mental illness and specifically called for nondiscrimination against medically necessary mental illness services.

“We hope Congress will listen to our message,” Mrs. Carter said. “We are long past the time when people with mental illness can be arbitrarily excluded from benefits or coverage on the stigmatizing assumption that they are not truly disabled or truly in need of care.”

South African Activist Joins Carter Center

A noted scholar and activist for reform in South Africa has been named fellow for human rights at The Carter Center.

Johan David van der Vyver, who taught law at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, is a scholar in the field of religion and human rights and a leading proponent for constitutional and human rights reform in his native country.

“Dr. van der Vyver joins us at a time when the Center’s Human Rights Program is working with our International Human Rights Council (IHRC) to find ways to renew and advance the cause of human rights worldwide,” former President Jimmy Carter said. The IHRC was formed last year.

In collaboration with program staff, Dr. van der Vyver will help shape projects to promote respect for basic human rights, prevent abuses, and establish institutions to protect human rights in emerging democracies.

“We will continue to focus on issues such as the creation of an international human rights court and the status of economic and social rights in the international human rights arena,” Dr. van der Vyver said. “Religious freedom also deserves special attention because religious differences have emerged as a source of political conflict in many parts of world.”

Johan David van der Vyver
To Our Friends and Partners:

Thank you for your continued support of The Carter Center. Without you, we would not be able to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people all over the world.

Some of you have asked how you can do more. You can—through a planned gift. Many of our supporters have included the Center in their estate and financial planning. Planned gifts, through wills, trusts, or charitable gift annuities, provide substantial tax and financial benefits to charitable donors, while significantly strengthening The Carter Center’s endowment.

Rosalynn and I are committed to establishing an organization that will endure well beyond our lifetimes, so we would be honored to have you consider the Carter Center in your estate or financial planning. The Center is your legacy as well as ours.

Every day we work to make this world a better place for our children and grandchildren. We especially appreciate these planned gifts because they help guarantee that future generations will benefit from the Center’s mission of peace and healing. If you would like more information about making a planned gift, please drop us a note in the envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

Rosalynn and I hope that you and your families are having a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Carter  Jimmy Carter

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