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RECORD ID: 0303621
RECEIVED: 16 APR 03 13

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: CARTER, JIMMY

DOC DATE: 16 APR 03
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: HUMAN RIGHTS

PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR FM PRES CARTER RE CARTER CENTER

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES

DUE DATE: 28 APR 03 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: NONE

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JIMMY CARTER

March 2003

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500-0003



Dear President Bush,

I believe you share something important with Rosalynn and me: a deep concern for the current condition of this world and its future in the 21st century. That is why I am writing to tell you about The Carter Center and to invite you to join us in our work here.

After leaving the White House, Rosalynn and I searched our hearts for ways to use our unique position to help those less fortunate around the world. We knew that two issues were of paramount importance: promoting peace and preventing human suffering.

So in 1982 we took a leap of faith and founded The Carter Center. Waging peace and fighting disease became the core of the Center's mission - a mission that remains extremely urgent today!

Preventable disease and suffering still cripple hundreds of thousands of lives each year, and forces of hatred and violence still make freedom a distant dream in too many places. What's more, when wars erupt -- whether in Kosovo, Macedonia, Rwanda, the Middle East, or anywhere in our world - for every soldier killed, nine civilians perish from stray bullets, bombs, landmines, and deliberate deprivation of food and medical care.

The toll taken by armed conflicts extends beyond the pain of immediate victims; America's peace and well-being are threatened as well. By preventing disease and suffering,

THE CARTER CENTER • ONE COPENHILL • ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30307

<http://www.cartercenter.org>

Recycled Paper

promoting democracy, and nurturing hope and freedom, The Carter Center makes the world a safer, freer place for you and me, for our children, and for our grandchildren.

The Carter Center has a relatively simple approach that really works. We form partnerships with other organizations, with corporations, foundations, and citizens and officials of other nations -- and with individual supporters like you. We create a unified team that is far more effective than any one of us could hope to be. This principle governs our actions, and, as these examples show, our results speak for themselves.

Waging Peace

Resolving conflict is a first step toward improving any society. The Carter Center, with its reputation for independence and its commitment to peace, has played both public and behind-the-scenes roles in conflict resolution in many countries.

In Haiti, for example, my colleagues General Colin Powell and U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and I helped negotiate the departure of military leaders so Jean Bertrand Aristide could return as the nation's first democratically elected president.

Half a world away, in North Korea, the Center helped ease tensions over a probable confrontation on the Korean peninsula and prepared the way for the first talks between the United States and North Korea in more than 40 years. Many of the relationships forged by our efforts are important to resolving the current impasse.

In Sudan and Uganda, we are building on the momentum of a Center-negotiated agreement among factions that once refused to even talk to one another. Even as I write you, our representatives are working in both countries to promote peace, disarm rebels, and return abducted Ugandan children to their homes.

In addition, the Center observes elections, helping to ensure that the democratic process is free and fair. In Nigeria and Indonesia, just two examples of election missions in more than 20 countries, the Center helped to end many years of dictatorship and let free people choose their own leaders.

Fighting Disease

In many African and Latin American nations, The Carter Center works to give people hope for a healthier future by preventing disease.

A worldwide campaign led by The Carter Center has achieved a 98 percent reduction in Guinea worm disease. People become infected with Guinea worm when they drink water contaminated with microscopic larvae that migrate through the body and grow into worms up to three feet long. A year after infection, the worms emerge from the body through painful blisters, causing permanent scarring and, at times, temporary crippling.

This horrific disease still affects people in 13 African nations. Though no cure exists, the disease can be prevented by teaching villagers how to filter their water to make it safe for drinking. As a direct result of Carter Center efforts, Guinea worm cases have fallen from 3.5 million in 1986 to fewer than 60,000 reported cases today - a dramatic reduction in human suffering.

We are confident that with continued efforts Guinea worm will be the second disease in human history to be eradicated, after smallpox in 1977.

The Carter Center also is playing a major role in the fight against river blindness, a parasitic disease spread by bites from blackflies that breed in fast-flowing water. Victims experience chronic and severe itching, skin rashes, and eyesight damage that can lead to permanent blindness.

The World Health Organization estimates that 18 million people are infected, and 120 million are at risk. In some communities, 15 percent of the population is blind, and up to 40 percent of adults are visually impaired.

In short, river blindness causes the social and economic fabric of entire communities to unravel. Agricultural production drops, children must care for their sick parents, and adolescents, concerned about the stigma associated with the disease and fearing they may become blind or disfigured, leave home.

All of these ruinous outcomes can be prevented by giving people a single annual dose of Mectizan®, a drug

donated by Merck and Co., that eliminates the terrible progression and symptoms of river blindness.

The Carter Center has made free distribution of this miraculous medicine the centerpiece of our assault on river blindness. So far, we have helped to provide more than 40 million treatments to people in Nigeria, Sudan, Cameroon, Uganda, and Latin American countries. The Carter Center is the only non-governmental organization fighting river blindness on a global scale -- an approach that's needed to combat this dreadful disease.

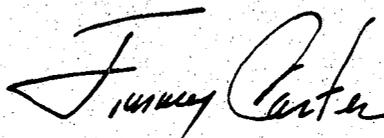
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This work makes Rosalynn and me very proud. Whether the borders that divide us are picket fences or national boundaries, we are all neighbors in a global community. Individually, we can improve millions of lives!

I encourage you to accept my invitation to support The Carter Center and participate in our vital humanitarian work. Having good people like you involved will help ensure that the Center remains a strong and effective organization.

For your convenience, I am enclosing an envelope addressed to my attention. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "With best wishes,".

P.S. On October 11, 2002, I was proud and humbled to learn that I had been awarded the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize. Rosalynn and I deeply appreciate this affirmation of the importance and effectiveness of the Carter Center's mission to wage peace, fight disease, and build hope around the world.

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Dear Friend,

During these trying times for our country and for people around the world, the Carter Center's mission is more important than ever. We must continue our work to bring peace, health, and hope to our fellow human beings so that we can create a better world for us all. Please join our effort.

Jimmy Carter

'93

Dear President Carter,

YES, I want to support the work of THE CARTER CENTER and help give others hope. Please find my fully tax-deductible contribution of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 Other \$ _____

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500-0003

* A gift of this amount will greatly help us! Thank you.

Jimmy



<input type="checkbox"/> ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK. OR, <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE CHARGE MY:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express
Credit Card # _____	
Print name as it appears on card _____	
Exp. Date _____	Signature _____

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH DONATIONS.

291 028 611
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ROSALYNN CARTER

Dear Friend,

All over the world we want the same things for our families: love, happiness, education, and good health.

Unfortunately, there are so many people with so little who give up because the obstacles they face are overwhelming.

Please take this opportunity to join our efforts to bring hope and a promising future to those less fortunate all over the world.

Thank you,

Rosalynn Carter