

# THE CARTER CENTER NEWS

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## Leaders Build Consensus on Election Finance

Leaders from the Western Hemisphere called on their governments at the conclusion of a Carter Center conference to implement partial public funding of campaigns and fully disclose election donations and expenditures to help restore confidence in government.

The conference, *Financing Democracy in the Americas*, addressed the growing

disillusionment with political parties, perceptions of quid pro quos for campaign donations, and ways to finance parties and elections more honestly and legitimately. The Carter Center's Americas Program and its Council of Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Americas, in collaboration with the Organization of American States, hosted the conference of nearly 100 business leaders, politicians, multilateral organization representatives, media professionals, scholars, and nongovernmental organization representatives from throughout the hemisphere.

The council issued a detailed statement with recommendations, such as the

need for systematic enforcement of spending limits, sanctions for parties and candidates who break the rules, and free and equitable access to the media. In addition, the leaders said governments should ensure that those responsible for auditing campaign finance reports have

Photo by Annemarie Poyo



Bolivia Vice President Carlos Mesa gave his keynote speech on challenges facing his country.

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## Accelerating the Eradication of Guinea Worm Disease in Ghana and Togo

As cases of Guinea worm disease are steadily disappearing from Africa, The Carter Center is expanding assistance to national Guinea worm eradication programs to operate temporary care centers, where patients may stay without fear of spreading the disease to drinking water sources.

In Ghana and Togo, villagers with Guinea worms are being detected the same day the worm emerges through the skin and invited to remain, on a voluntary basis, at one of 15 care centers in



Photo by Elizabeth Wolfe

Each person in the center is well cared for and can return to his or her village with a positive story about the experience.

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## From the Executive Director

During recent difficult times for the global community, many people asked The Carter Center, as an organization committed to resolving conflicts, for leadership and advice. Our staff answered by staying focused on our core mission: building hope for suffering people around the world.

As President Carter reminds us: “Peace is more than the absence of war. There’s an inner peace that comes from personal security and personal freedom. Peace also includes the sense of a mother and father that their children will live, that they’ll have food for them to eat, that they won’t be subject to a lifetime of suffering that could have been prevented.”

The Carter Center addresses many of the root causes of violence by improving lives in ways that will narrow the gap between the world’s poor people and those who are more fortunate — preventing unnecessary diseases, strengthening democracies, increasing crop production, and promoting sound national development planning.

*continued from cover page*

### Finance Conference, cont.

subpoena powers, access to bank accounts to facilitate investigation of abuses, and the



*Daniel Zovatto of International IDEA (left) and former Ecuador President Osvaldo Hurtado (right) participate in a discussion on enforcement of campaign finance laws.*

Recent months saw our staff working with Nigerians as they struggled to fulfill the demands of their new democracy, creating consensus among former heads of state in the Western Hemisphere on more equitable approaches to financing political campaigns, renewing a process for public participation in development planning in Albania, and stepping up the push against Guinea worm disease in its last remaining strongholds in Africa.

We continue to work with those in need, sharing knowledge, helping them access resources, and stimulating greater cooperation among networks of organizations with useful resources. In this way, we build the effectiveness of the international community, the capacity of nations, and the confidence of individuals to sustain permanent solutions to once seemingly intractable social problems.

These efforts cut across all races and religions, intrinsically treating people as members of one family of humankind, and as peacemakers do, emphasizing the benefits of working together and the basic goals

ability to grant whistle-blower protection.

The council also called on hemispheric governments to adopt the proposed Principles on Political Financing at the next Summit of the Americas and for nongovernmental and multilateral organizations to develop a set of standards and benchmarks to assess progress on implementing these principles.

“With political power at stake, government leaders will need support if they are to succeed at implementing political finance reforms,” said



*John Hardman, M.D.*

and desires shared by all people. We strive to be neutral brokers concerned not with politics but with the promotion of the basic human rights increasingly accepted as universal values. These include not only the right to live in peace but to adequate health care, shelter, food, and economic opportunity.

These are the seeds of peace.

Dr. Jennifer McCoy, director of the Center’s Americas Program. “The support of the international community is needed to share information about effective laws and best practices, and citizens’ groups can press for those measures to be adopted and implemented.”

The council selected the topic to express its concern about recent campaign finance scandals that have deeply damaged governments in the Western Hemisphere, such as the Samper government in Colombia and the Mahaud government in Ecuador. In North America, escalating campaign costs and concerns have led Canada and the United States to reform their campaign finance legislation, and in the Caribbean, traditionally stable party systems have suffered from corruption and increasing concerns of drug money going into party coffers.

*continued on page 3*

## Nigerian Elections Assessed

Nigeria needed to make significant changes in electoral preparations if it was going to hold free and fair elections, the National Democratic Institute and Carter Center said after a pre-election mission in late March.

In a report of the mission's findings, NDI and the Center called on Nigeria's elections commission to put the voter register out for public review, publicize the number of registered voters, inform citizens how to acquire a voter card, and simplify the process for accrediting election observers.

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*Nigeria needed to make significant changes in electoral preparations.*

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In addition, the government was urged to establish a national security plan for the elections. Nigeria's pre-election period was marked by violence, including the assassination of candidates and political activists.

"Based on our pre-election assessment,

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*Finance Conference, continued from page 2*

"Like their neighbors in the United States and Canada, our citizens fear that special interests have captured politics, especially where governments do not have the resources to offer public financing," said former Ecuador President Osvaldo Hurtado. "In those cases, the business sector is the main source of campaign funds."

Recent polls show that citizens in Latin America and the Caribbean are losing faith in political parties and democratic institutions, though many of the positive ideas put forth by the council emerged from innovative practices in Latin America and Caribbean countries. For example, in Mexico, public financing leveled the electoral playing field and allowed the historic election of opposition candidate Vicente Fox in 2000, and in Chile and Brazil, television advertisements for candidates are prohibited.

we are concerned that the kinds of fraud that we observed in the 1999 election could be repeated in 2003," said David Carroll of the Center's Democracy Program.

The Center did not observe election day, April 19. Due to world events, staff were not sent overseas.

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## Coordinated Development Strategy for Albania Endorsed

Albania's top leaders renewed their support in February for Carter Center facilitation of a long-term national development strategy.

The Center's Global Development Initiative staff met with Prime Minister Fatos Nano and opposition leader Sali Berisha, in addition to representatives of donor countries and civil society groups. All said such an overall Albanian strategy is needed to align the current development efforts supported by donors and international financial institutions and to enhance prospects for Albania achieving its overall development goals.

"The strategy will deal with all aspects of development — social, economic, and political," said Edmund Cain, director of the Center's initiative. "The broad consensus we reached on this will enable the Center to help put into motion a national visioning process and will allow Albanians to take charge of their destiny and define their own path to sustainable development."

The Center first helped civil society make meaningful contributions to the country's short-term poverty reduction strategy promoted by the World Bank. Cain said this most recent support set the stage for the long-term strategy process the Center will now help to facilitate.

## Center Addresses Unrest in Venezuela

After five months of intense negotiations, the Organization of American States and The Carter Center have helped Venezuela's government and opposition agree on terms for a possible referendum on whether embattled President Hugo Chavez should step down.

Under the country's constitution, such a recall vote can be held after the midway mark in Chavez's term — August. The National Assembly now must decide whether the 2.5 million signatures collected by the opposition to hold the referendum are valid or as Chavez contends, must be gathered after August.

"We are committed to working with all Venezuelans to help advance a genuinely inclusive strategy to bring their country back from the brink," said Matthew Hodes of the Center's Conflict Resolution Program.

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Opposition groups view President Hugo Chavez as widely undemocratic and have organized general strikes and large street protests to call for his resignation and early elections. In January, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter traveled to Caracas to put forth two proposals to both sides: hold a national referendum to shorten Chavez's presidential term and hold early elections or use the existing constitutional provision for a recall referendum midway through the presidential term of office, with guarantees of international observation of the referendum. Since President Carter's visit, opposition leaders have been arrested and charged with treason, and violent protests have continued.

# Lymphatic Filariasis Targeted in Africa

A Carter Center program in Nigeria is showing that a dreadfully disfiguring disease, lymphatic filariasis, can be prevented with drugs and health education, leading health officials to consider prospects for its eventual eradication.

Lymphatic filariasis, one of the most disabling of all diseases, is ranked by the World Health Organization as the fourth leading cause of permanent disability. Victims often suffer prolonged fevers that keep them from work and normal personal activities as well as the physical and psychological pain of grotesquely swollen arms, legs, breasts, or genitals. The disease is transmitted from infected to uninfected people by mosquitoes.

“Life with lymphatic filariasis is miserable. Men feel helpless because they cannot work to support their families, and young unmarried women suffer the pain of rejection by suitors,” says Dr. Donald Hopkins, Carter Center associate executive director. “It is amazing the difference

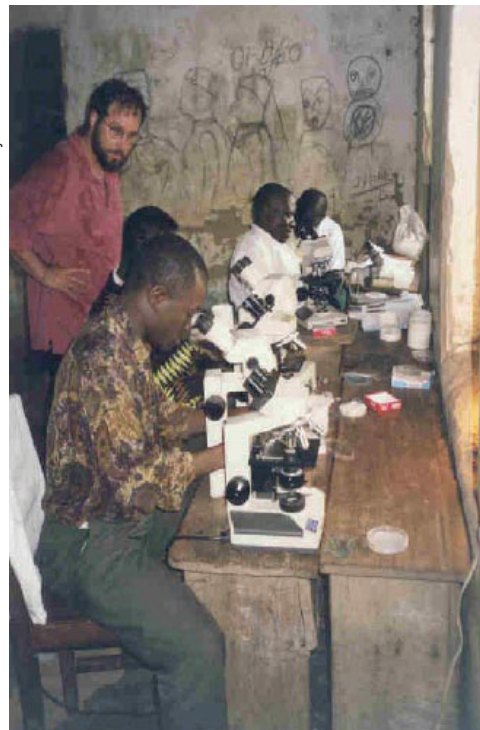


Photo by The Carter Center

*Infection from a parasitic worm causes lymphatic filariasis, and bites of mosquitoes transmit the disease from person to person.*

disease prevention can make. Families, local communities, and national economies all grow stronger as the disease disappears.”

The primary approach calls for administration of the drugs albendazole, donated to the Center by GlaxoSmithKline, and Mectizan®, donated by Merck & Co. Health educators also teach people how to avoid transmitting the disease and, if necessary, how to reduce its effects.

In 80 tropical countries, 1.2 billion people are at risk of lymphatic filariasis. Since 2000, the Center has focused its efforts in the third most endemic country in the world, Nigeria, where it hopes to reach 3.6 million people in Plateau and Nasarawa states in 2003. About 22 percent of Nigerians are infected with the disease, which occurs sporadically throughout the country, making Nigeria the country with the most cases in Africa.

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*Brochures, posters, calendars, flip charts, radio jingles, and television documentaries are teaching Nigerians how to avoid contracting lymphatic filariasis.*

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“Lymphatic filariasis is one of only six diseases in the world believed to be eradicable because you can break the



Photo by J.D. Scott

*This man, who lives in Plateau state of Nigeria, suffers from lymphatic filariasis, a disease that makes limbs swell dramatically.*

transmission cycle, and the disease lives almost exclusively in humans,” Dr. Hopkins said. “Eradication will require a coordinated global effort of many organizations. Our work in Nigeria is an important part of the work toward that goal.”

Taking advantage of health care delivery systems already in place, the project in Plateau and Nasarawa states also combines health education and treatment for lymphatic filariasis with comparable interventions against schistosomiasis and river blindness (onchocerciasis). The Center’s Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program assists the only treatments for this disease underway in Nigeria.

## Mental Health Funding Crisis Looms in Eastern Europe

A project to help fund mental health services in Eastern Europe, Russia, and the New Independent States has drawn support from the Carter Center's Mental Health Program. The Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry, a Netherlands-based mental health and human rights organization, and Respect International, an Alabama-based organization, are spearheading the efforts to avert "disastrous human consequences" in the region.

In some countries, conditions are so

subhuman that nearly 40 percent of the patients confined to psychiatric hospitals die of malnutrition in the first year of hospitalization. Nearly 20 percent of patients die of hypothermia every winter because they do not have blankets or coats to stay warm.

The stigma toward people with psychiatric challenges is so cruel that parents will abandon their child at the steps of a state psychiatric hospital. Once hospitalized, these children are confined

in unlit basement cells. "At the core of this global dilemma is the absence of respect for the humanity of persons with mental illness," says Joel Slack, founder of Respect International.

Carter Center Mental Health Program Director Thomas Bornemann, who moderated an international summit on the subject at the Center on March 13, says, "Restoring people's basic human rights and fundamental dignity is at the heart of the Center's work and is a necessity for recovering from mental illness." The summit, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, focused on the support national and multinational organizations can offer to the effort.

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## Guinea Worm, cont.

each country, where they receive food, shelter, and care of their lesions until they are no longer a threat to their communities.

"The disease is transmitted when villagers with emerging Guinea worms enter and contaminate sources of drinking water or if they unwittingly drink water

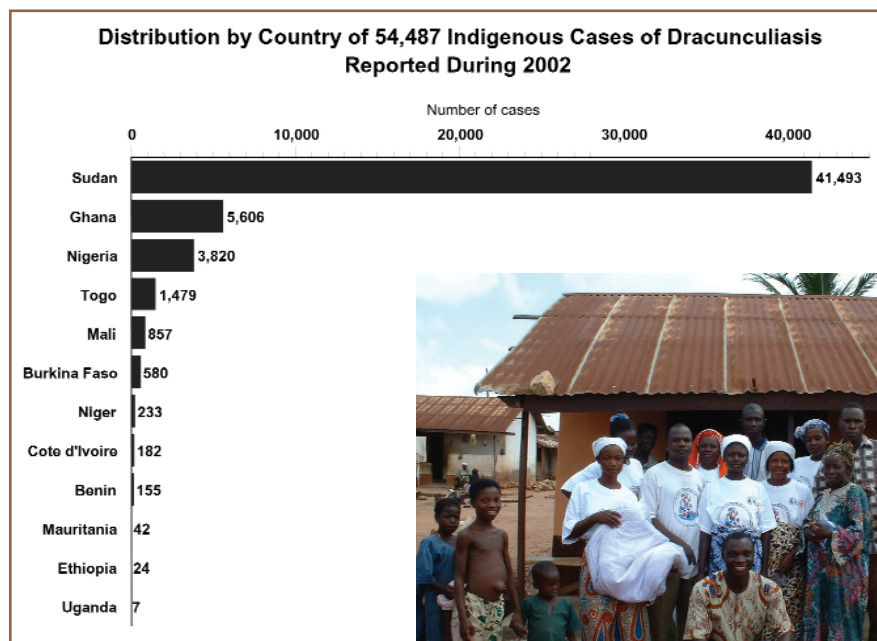
from contaminated sources," said Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben, technical director, Carter Center Guinea Worm Eradication Program. "With the help of trained workers at the care centers, patients receive good health care and health education so that they do not re-enter water sources. The disease cycle can be broken much more rapidly."

Strategically located in the most endemic areas, care centers have been used

to expedite the last stages of eradication in individual countries since 1991, when Pakistan became the first nation to eliminate Guinea worm disease. The strategy was transferred to Africa in 1992, and international guidelines and standards were adopted in 1994.

Care centers are opened only when the number of infected individuals in an area is low enough for the centers to operate efficiently and other interventions also are in place to prevent the disease. There is no medication to treat or vaccine to prevent Guinea worm disease or dracunculiasis. Therefore, intensive health education, the free distribution of cloth filters enabling people to strain the larvae from drinking water, and treatment of infected ponds with the larvicide ABATE<sup>®</sup>, donated by BASF Corporation, also must take place.

"While war-torn Sudan remains the most endemic country for the disease," said Dr. Ruiz-Tiben, "caseloads in the vast majority of endemic villages outside of Sudan are well within the ideal range for intensified case containment and personal attention. Dedicated country staff and local health care workers are making this happen as part of the push to wrap up West Africa's remaining Guinea worm disease. We are anticipating a significant case reduction in 2003."



*In one of Ghana's 15 care centers, workers found a patient from a region they thought free of Guinea worm disease. In this way, they learned that the disease remained in that area and began health education activities at the community level.*



Photo by Elizabeth Wolfe

# Donors Benefit From Lessons Learned at Key Conferences

Continuing support from our generous donor community enables the Carter Center's peace programs, such as the Americas Program and Global Development Initiative, to share knowledge with key stakeholders at international conferences to promote positive action and change for the future.

The *Financing Democracy in the Americas* conference recently held at the Center was made possible by the support of The Coca-Cola Company, Open Society Institute, Organization of American States, U. S. Agency for International Development, the government of Germany, Delta Airlines, Americas Gateway Strategy, and the Kirsch Foundation.

Lessons learned from the conference will help the participants to promote full disclosure of election financing and the implementation of partial public funding of campaigns to restore confidence in the political process in the Western Hemisphere.

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*Without our partners, we could not do groundbreaking work.*

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The W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the governments of the Netherlands and Norway, with the Carnegie Corporation, made possible the 2002 Development Cooperation Forum, bringing together key members of the international development community to identify specific and practical ways to improve development cooperation globally.

The Carter Center's Global Development Initiative promotes a new model of development cooperation based on country ownership of policies and programs, broad-based participation in governance and planning, and more effective global development cooperation. Using these principles, partner countries

can design and implement their own national development strategies.

"Without our partners, we could not do groundbreaking work, and it's important to thank them publicly," said Gordon

Streeb, associate executive director, peace programs. "Through donor-supported conferences and programs, the Center can bring together key players to share experiences and promote practical change."

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## Government of Denmark Aids Eradication of Guinea Worm Disease

The government of Denmark recently awarded a \$700,000 grant to The Carter Center for the Guinea Worm Eradication Program. Denmark's contribution will enable the Center to accelerate efforts to eradicate Guinea worm disease in the remaining endemic countries, where both the needs and challenges of the global campaign are greatest.

The government of Denmark, through the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish International Development Agency, helps to reduce poverty in more than 20 developing countries around the world. The Danish government has been a committed partner of the Center since 1991, supporting our efforts to resolve conflict, improve health, and strengthen democracy in Africa and the Americas.

"The Guinea Worm Eradication Programme is more than an investment in the health sector. In a wider perspective, it will generate access to clean water and make it possible for children to receive education," says Ulla Schiøtt Frederiksen, head of section, Department for East, West, and Central Africa, Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The project will improve conditions for the poorest, especially women, in many African

countries, all of which is in line with Denmark's priorities for development cooperation."

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*The Center's effort to fight Guinea worm disease has helped reduce annual incidences from 3.5 million in 1986 to fewer than 51,000 in 2002.*

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Thanks in part to a previous grant from Denmark, The Carter Center and its partners have reduced the incidence of Guinea worm disease more than 98 percent by educating people about how to prevent the disease and promoting safe water sources.

"With the generous support of partner organizations, such as the government of Denmark, we will soon rid the world of this terrible illness and put an end to the unnecessary suffering caused by Guinea worm disease," said Dr. Donald Hopkins, associate executive director, health programs. "This gift illustrates further the commitment of the Danish people to reach out to their neighbors abroad, helping them to improve their own lives and build a brighter future."

## Auction Raises \$1 Million to Support Center

Winter Weekend 2003, held at Utah's Snowbird Mountain Resort Feb. 20-23, drew a record-setting group of more than 300 friends and supporters of The Carter Center. A highlight of the annual event was the culmination of a silent auction and a spirited live auction.

"Rosalynn and I are grateful for the support our partners and friends show for the Center during our annual auction each year," said President Carter. "Their enthusiasm and belief in our mission inspire us and our staff at The Carter Center as we work to wage peace, fight disease, and build hope around the world."

The highest bids were \$275,000 for a walnut coffee table handmade by President Carter; \$165,000 for a baseball signed by Cuba President Fidel Castro and President Carter during his historic trip to Cuba in May 2002; \$70,000 for a one-week vacation on a luxury yacht; and \$65,000 for a photo of five presidents and six first ladies autographed by each of them.



Photo by Deanna Congilio

Each year, Dr. Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben, technical director of the Center's Guinea Worm Eradication Program, and his wife, Emilia, design and hand quilt a work of art from Guinea worm eradication cloth. Many endemic countries design their own cloth. Health workers wear clothes made from the cloth to raise awareness of the effort to eradicate the disease.

## Charitable Bequests Establish Legacies

Charitable bequests are an excellent way to provide for organizations whose missions are meaningful to you. Many Carter Center friends, recognizing the future needs of the Center and their own desire to do more, have chosen to provide for the Center through a bequest.

"I am proud to be a part of the Carter Center's splendid work," says Adalyn Davis of Hilton Head Island, S.C., who has established a bequest to benefit the Center in addition to her annual support. "I trust The Carter Center and know that my commitment will be used in a way that is helpful—not wasted, bringing hope and effective assistance to millions of people." By virtue of her bequest, Ms. Davis is a

member of the Carter Legacy Circle, which recognizes individuals who have informed the Center of their commitment to contribute through their wills or other forms of planned gifts.

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*The Carter Center depends on the regular support of individuals for the success of our programs in peace and health, and these resources are vitally important to ensuring our ability to improve the lives of others.*

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A qualified attorney can help structure charitable designations. When establishing bequests for individuals or charities, it is important to check carefully the proper name and address of each person or organization selected, as errors may result in bequests not reaching their intended destinations.

Questions about how you can provide for The Carter Center through a bequest or other methods of long-term support should be directed to Rhonda Schultz, associate director for Gift Planning, at (800) 550-3560, ext. 868, or via e-mail to [RSCHUL2@emory.edu](mailto:RSCHUL2@emory.edu). For additional information about planned gifts, see Support Our Work on our Web site at [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org).

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Georgia Honors President Carter as *An Enduring Light*

Friends, family, and dignitaries gathered at Atlanta's Symphony Hall on March 19 to honor former President Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, in a Georgia tribute to the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Speakers included former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, who served as President Carter's ambassador to the United Nations; Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize; Arthur Blank, co-founder of The Home Depot; and Douglas Daft, chairman of Coca-Cola Company.

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*"Like Martin Luther King Jr.,  
Jimmy Carter had a dream."*

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The event included musical tributes from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, the Spelman College Glee Club, and Harmony, Atlanta's International Youth Chorus.

In awarding the Peace Prize in October, the Nobel Committee honored President Carter for "his decades of

untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development." Mrs. King said the Carter and King legacies were linked. "Like Martin Luther King Jr., Jimmy Carter had a dream," she said.



Photo by Stephen Cord

*Georgians arranged a special tribute to celebrate President Carter's Nobel Peace Prize.*