

THE CARTER CENTER



NEWS

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Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford lead a Q&A session with members of The Carter Center's Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government during a press conference at CNN in Atlanta.

COUNCIL MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THE AMERICAS' AGENDA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

A recent article in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* concluded "the Carter Center conference on Latin America generated solid proposals to improve cooperation through the hemisphere."

In late April, former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford and the Center's Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government hosted a consultation to discuss relations in the Americas. Participants included Latin American and Caribbean leaders, U.S. officials, heads of international organizations, and members of the media. The Council, which includes current and former leaders from the Western Hemisphere, promotes democracy and economic cooperation in the region.

For two days, the "Agenda for the Americas for the 21st Century" focused on issues related to drugs, trade, arms sales, border disputes, social inequities,

and the spread of democracy. Through intensive discussions, participants sought to reinvigorate action toward goals outlined at the 1994 Summit of the Americas, hosted by the United States.

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Agriculture Program Helps Ethiopia Achieve Food Surplus

In 1985, the Live Aid concert alerted the international community to the plight of hundreds of thousands of starving Ethiopians.

Now, in a stunning turnaround, Ethiopia not only can feed its own people but also export food, due in large part to assistance from The Carter Center. Its

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"A recent report released by Harvard Medical School described the state of world mental health as an 'unheralded crisis,' " said John Gates, director of The Carter Center's Mental Health Program. "It is the goal of Mrs. Carter and all committee members to help regions of the world provide the best mental health care possible."

The Carter Center and the World Federation for Mental Health convened the Helsinki meeting on "Mental Health Impact on Families and Society: The Influence of Public Policy, Effective Treatment, and Self-Help Supports." Attendees produced a joint statement outlining key steps to address mental health concerns in each of their countries. Steps include:

- supporting initiatives that raise awareness of mental health issues,
- helping establish international mental health programs, and
- promoting at least one activity in their respective countries to improve the mental health of citizens.

It is imperative that all nations support and keep mental health at the top of the international agenda."

*—Rosalynn Carter,
former First Lady*

Co-sponsored by the European Regional Council of the World Federation for Mental Health, the World Health Organization, and the Finnish Association for Mental Health, the meeting served as a forum through which prominent women from countries as diverse as Israel, Poland, and Denmark could meet on common ground.

"Sadly, in some countries, it is still common for mentally ill persons to be shunned to the point of near isolation," said Mrs. Carter, chair of The Carter Center Mental Health Task Force. "We cannot afford to ignore such pain. It is imperative that all nations support and keep mental health at the top of the international agenda." ■

Agenda for the Americas

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The meeting's importance was clear from those in attendance. Among the 130 participants were U.S. Vice President Al Gore, U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Mexico President Ernesto Zedillo, Bolivia President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, Dominican Republic President Leonel Fernández, and Jamaica Prime Minister P.J. Patterson. Kofi Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations; Cesar Gaviria, secretary-general of the Organization of American States (OAS); and Enrique Iglesias, president of the International Development Bank, also attended.

"The 1994 summit defined a vision of a democratic community in the hemisphere, but little progress had been made since then," said Robert Pastor, director of the Center's Latin American and Caribbean Program and consultation coordinator. "The level of attendance at this meeting made it possible to contemplate real breakthroughs on the issues, and the candor and quality of the dialogue made them happen."



Photo by Billy Howard

"Free trade agreements throughout the Americas are transforming our economies and making us stronger competitors in the world marketplace."

*—Mexico President
Ernesto Zedillo*



Photo by Billy Howard

"Our future is inextricably bound in the Western Hemisphere, and there are many good things we could do together."

*—U.S. Speaker of the House
Newt Gingrich*

At the consultation's conclusion, the Council issued a statement on ways to promote free trade, end illegal drug trafficking, pursue peace, and reinforce democracy. Of all its recommendations, a proposal for an arms moratorium generated the most controversy as well as support.

Trade and Integration

Council members affirmed their commitment to the 1994 summit goal of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by the year 2005.

Until the U.S. Congress approves fast-track negotiating authority, no serious FTAA negotiations are possible. Congress has been deadlocked over provisions to protect labor and the environment. However, as a result of the consultation, Speaker Gingrich announced he would accept provisions to protect labor and environmental rights, provided they are trade-related.

"I am deeply dedicated to passing fast-track legislation this year," Speaker Gingrich said. "I think it will be good for America and good for the hemisphere."

Vice President Gore applauded the Council's efforts to promote the FTAA: "Forty percent of U.S. exports now goes

to markets in the Western Hemisphere. Our future depends greatly on seizing these opportunities.”

Illegal Drug Trafficking

Regarding illegal drug trafficking, the most controversial issue was the U.S. policy of “certification,” under which the United States imposes penalties against countries with anti-drug efforts it deems unsatisfactory. Latin American and Caribbean leaders said the policy was “arbitrary” and made hemispheric cooperation more difficult.

Council members suggested a multi-lateral approach as an alternative. Speaker Gingrich concurred: “Let us agree our goal is to wipe out the drug dealers, to wipe out the cartels, to save our children, to protect our political structures, and let us work together.”

The Council has proposed a hemisphere-wide plan to Congressional leaders, who have introduced it as draft legislation.

Border Disputes and Arms Restraint

Although democracy now prevails in Latin America, border disputes—such as between Ecuador and Peru—persist. The Council proposed that the OAS secretary-general empower regional leaders and outside parties to mediate these lingering conflicts.

Currently, Latin America spends relatively less on defense than most other regions. Still, buying sophisticated weapons diverts funds from other investments, such as education. The Council urged Latin American governments to accept a two-year moratorium on purchasing weapons and meanwhile negotiate a conventional arms-restraint agreement. It also asked the United States and other arms-selling nations to affirm their support for a moratorium. Since the consultation, President Carter has written letters seeking support from other foreign leaders.

Democracy and the Social Agenda

Cuba remains the only nation in the

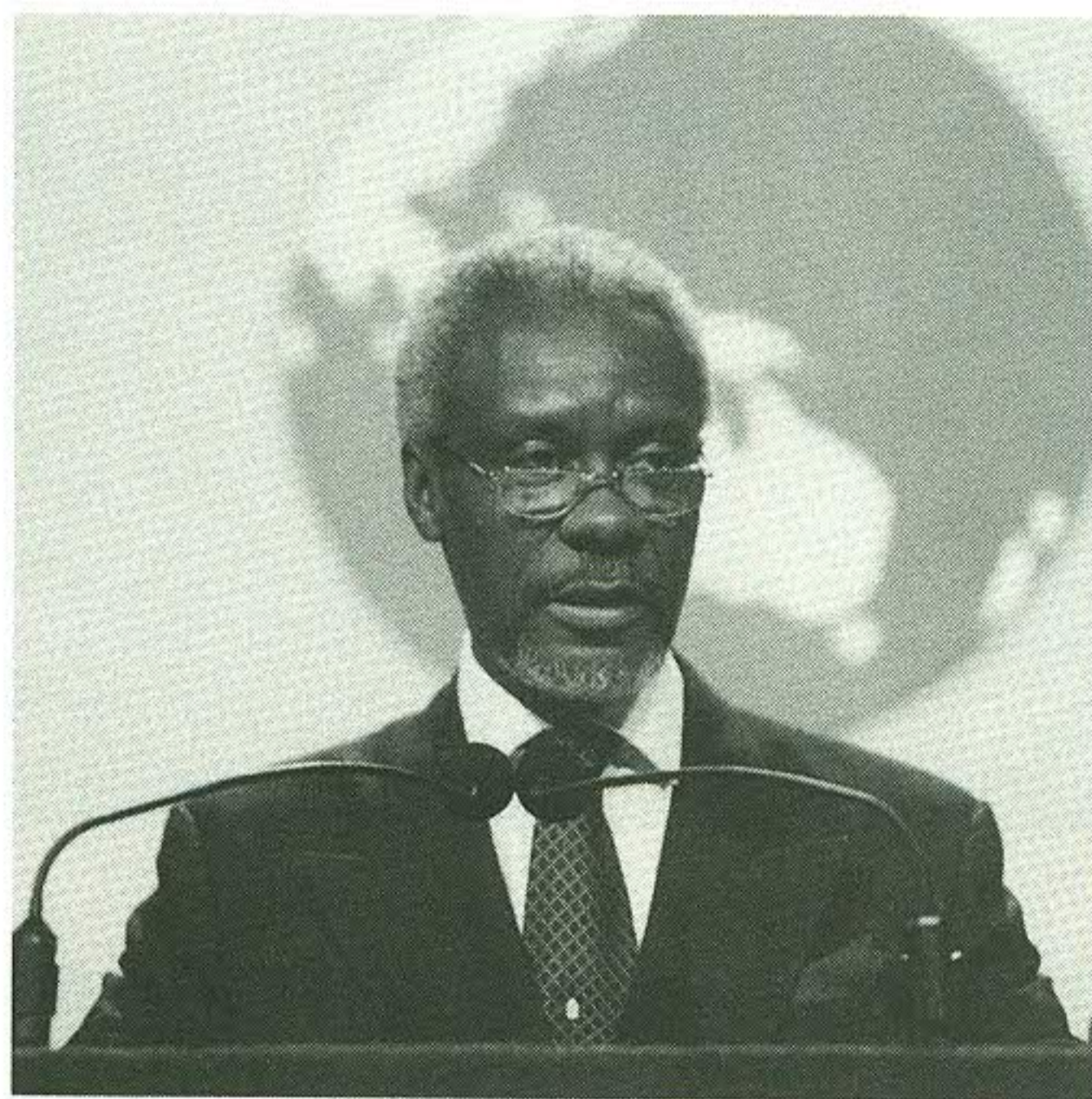


Photo by Billy Howard

“When the threat of decertification is used as a lever to coerce agreement for a particular aspect in the fight against drugs, it is obvious the process does more harm than good.”

**—Jamaica Prime Minister
P.J. Patterson**

hemisphere not to have held competitive elections. “The most appropriate and effective way to bring democracy to Cuba is through a policy of engagement rather than isolation,” the Council said.

It also urged the United States to repeal or significantly modify the 1996 Helms-Burton law, noting it has generated more problems between the United States and its allies than for Cuba. “Cuba

should be invited to participate in hemispheric events, provided the government is prepared to accept the standards of human rights and democracy,” the Council added.

To strengthen democracy, the Council recommended governments and parties reform campaign finance practices; endorsed a free press without fear of harassment, censorship, or intimidation; and called on all governments to sign agreements against corruption and bribery.

After the Consultation

In early May, President Carter and Dr. Pastor met in Washington, D.C., with Speaker Gingrich and John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO, to talk about trade policy. President Carter and Dr. Pastor also called on Indiana Rep. Lee Hamilton, ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee, to discuss his proposal to replace the U.S. “certification” policy with a multinational plan to combat illegal drugs.

Also following the consultation, President Clinton sent a letter to President Carter, pledging to respect a Latin American moratorium on arms. In addition, Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) have introduced legislation endorsing the moratorium.

“We hope an arms race can be stopped before it begins, Dr. Pastor said.” ■



Photo by Billy Howard

Vice President Al Gore was among the 130 participants who attended the “Agenda for the Americas for the 21st Century.” After the consultation, he briefed President Bill Clinton before the president’s May trip to Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.

CARTER CENTER WITNESSES TRANSFER OF PRISONERS IN COLOMBIA

"I am so happy to know the end of this nightmare has become a reality," a mother sobbed as she held her freed son in a remote area of Colombia.

He was among 60 Colombian soldiers and 10 marines released on June 15 by the guerilla group known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). FARC captured the men last year but agreed to release them to a group of international observers as "an act of humanity."

Robert Pastor, director of The Carter Center's Latin American and Caribbean Program, witnessed the delivery along with members of the International Committee of the Red Cross, ambassadors from six countries, and representatives of the Colombian National Conciliation Commission. The prisoners were flown by helicopter to Cartagena del Chairá, a town in the nation's southern



region, where they were freed to the arms of their families.

"After nine months of negotiations, the agreement to release the Colombian soldiers is welcome, not just for them and their families, but for all those who hope for peace and justice in Colombia," Dr. Pastor said.

The release occurred as part of the government's recent agreement to end the yearlong clash by evacuating its military and ceding temporary control of an area the size of Connecticut. Colombia's government has struggled for nearly 50

years to end guerrilla movements such as FARC.

Last September, Jimmy Carter, together with Dr. Pastor and other Carter Center senior officials, met at the Center with Colombia's former Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, now a leader of the Conciliation Commission, and former Presidents Belisario Betancur and Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, who are members of the Center's Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government. They discussed Colombia's guerrilla war and possible negotiations to end the conflict.

In Colombia, Dr. Pastor met with President Ernesto Samper and Foreign Minister Maria Emma Mejia Velez. He also had extensive conversations with FARC's commander, Joaquin Gomez, who was responsible for capturing and subsequently releasing the soldiers.

"All expressed appreciation for The Carter Center's assistance in negotiating the release of the soldiers and hope that the Center would facilitate future talks that could end the longest-running guerilla war in South America," Dr. Pastor said. ■

Donald Hopkins Elected To National Academy

This fall, The Carter Center's Donald Hopkins, M.D., will be inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for his contributions to public health.

Dr. Hopkins heads the Center's global and domestic health efforts as associate executive director for the control and eradication of disease. Among his accomplishments is leading the Center's Global 2000 campaigns to eradicate Guinea worm disease (*dracunculiasis*) and to control river blindness (*onchocerciasis*). Dr.

Hopkins first witnessed Guinea worm 14 years ago. Since then, he has worked with global partners to teach people in Asia and Africa how to filter their drinking water to avoid the disease. As a result of their efforts, the number of Guinea worm cases decreased 95 percent, from 2 million in 1989 to about 150,000 in 1996.

To mobilize funding for the Center's Guinea worm eradication initiative, Dr. Hopkins, with the support of former President Jimmy Carter, organized a donor conference in Nigeria, which raised \$10 million. They also persuaded DuPont Co. and Precision Fabrics Group Inc. to donate the materials necessary for filtering larvae-infested water. American Home Products (formerly American Cyanamid) also contributes Abate, a nontoxic chemical that kills Guinea worm larvae.

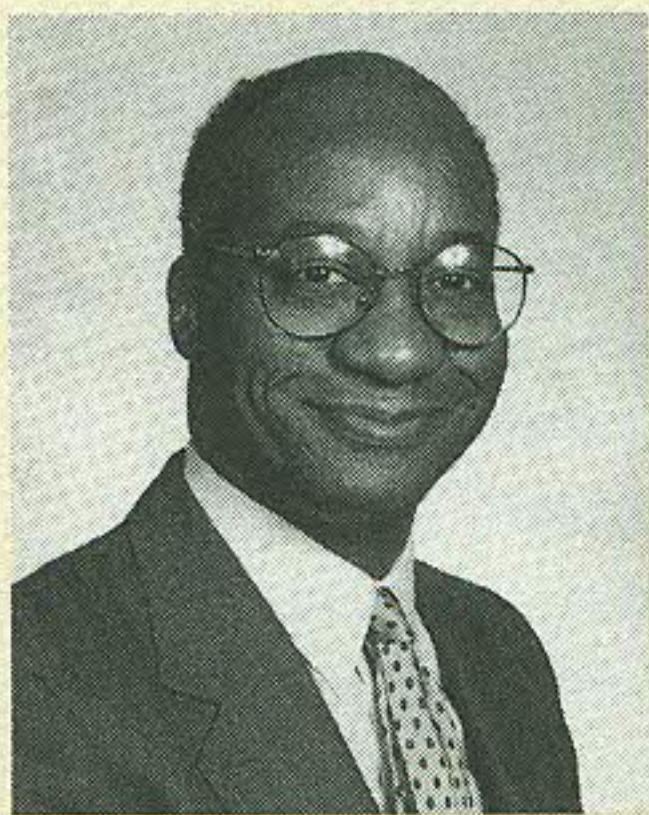
While The Carter Center foresees

eradication of Guinea worm (except from Sudan) in the next two to three years, Dr. Hopkins will continue his efforts to improve public health throughout the world. "I'm going to run out of breath long before we run out of diseases," he said. ■

William Foege Joins Faculty At Emory University

William Foege, M.D., has stepped into the classroom as a professor at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. He will continue as The Carter Center's senior health policy fellow while teaching and writing about international health at Emory.

Dr. Foege served as executive director of The Carter Center from 1987-92. Before coming to the Center, he established



Donald Hopkins

Carter Museum Presents Exhibit on Presidential Fitness Memorabilia

A soccer ball from Poland adorned with images of President Jimmy Carter and an old pair of President Bill Clinton's running shoes are among the fitness memorabilia on display in "Flexing the Nation's Muscle: Presidents, Physical Fitness, and Sports in the American Century" at The Museum of the Jimmy Carter Library this summer.

More than 110 artifacts with accompanying texts and photographs illustrate how 20th century presidents have used the executive office as a "bully pulpit"—borrowing Theodore Roosevelt's phrase—to encourage the nation toward health and strength through fitness and sports.

"The objects also reveal how the emphasis on physical activity grew during this century as the United States rose to become a world power," said Don Schewe, director of The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum. "American presidents often have served as role models for physical

fitness, but they also have been avid fans of the nation's outstanding sports stars."

The National Archives and Records Administration and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports created the exhibit, which premiered last year at the White House Visitor Center in Washington, D.C. More than a quarter of a million people viewed it.

The Carter Museum will display "Flexing the Nation's Muscle" from Aug. 2 through Sept. 14. For more information, call (404) 331-0296. ■

Ethiopia Food Surplus

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Global 2000 Agriculture Program collaborates with the Sasakawa Africa Association to teach farmers in 12 African countries how to grow more food in an effort known as Sasakawa-Global 2000 (SG 2000).

In January, Ethiopia sent its first shipment of maize to Kenya, which had declared a drought emergency and issued an appeal for international assistance. "I

always had hoped to live to see Ethiopia producing enough grain to feed its people but had never expected it to happen so soon and so fast," Ethiopia Prime Minister Meles Zenawi wrote to former President Jimmy Carter. "We all are very grateful for what you have done to make our wildest dreams come true."

Since 1993, SG 2000 has operated in Ethiopia as part of the national extension service of the Ministry of Agriculture. "Together, we show farmers how to plant extension management training plots (EMTPs)," explained Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug, Global 2000's senior consultant for agriculture. "Farmers cultivate these two-acre sites using high-yielding seeds; new fertilizer methods; and more productive timetables for planting, weeding, and harvesting."

A turning point occurred in 1994 when Prime Minister Meles accompanied President Carter to one of the Ethiopian EMTP sites.

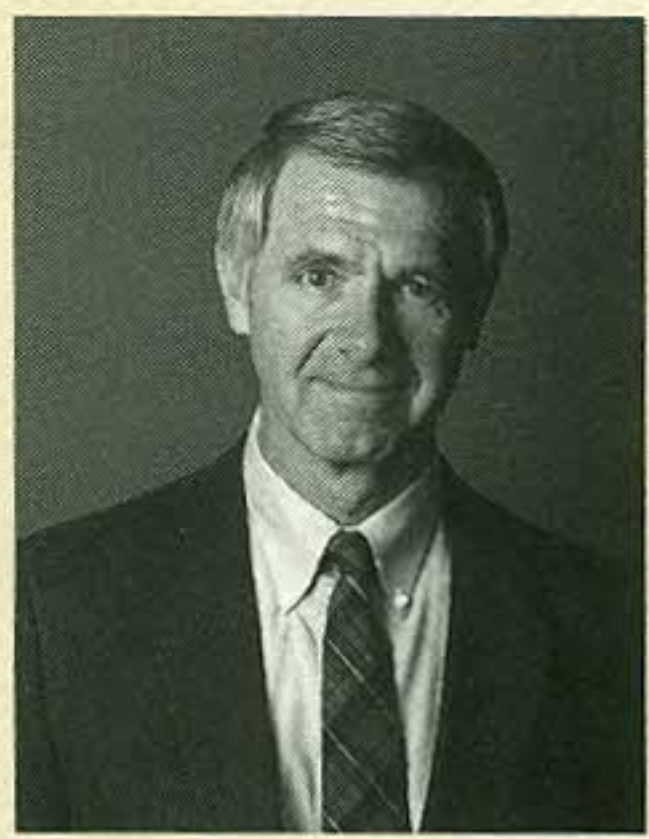
"We traveled in farm clothes, so as not to attract attention," President Carter said. "As we talked to local farmers who were using the SG 2000 methods—farmers who had no idea who we were—Prime Minister Meles became increasingly impressed with their very high crop yields, which exceeded traditional production by 200 to 400 percent, and



The Carter Center

In contrast to near-famine conditions in 1985, Ethiopians now enjoy a food surplus, thanks in part to The Carter Center.

The Task Force for Child Survival and Development and served as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he worked to eradicate



William Foege

smallpox in the 1970s. He also has worked to bring injury control, tobacco-related diseases, and other issues to the forefront of domestic and international health policy.

"Dr. Foege was critical in helping The Carter Center give life to President Carter's dream of an institution that improves the world through knowledge application," said William Chace, president of Emory. "As the Center and Emory grow even closer, Dr. Foege's presence as a professor cannot help but enhance this relationship." ■

with their enthusiasm for the new techniques."

Upon returning to Addis Ababa, the nation's capital, Prime Minister Meles instructed his minister of agriculture and SG 2000 Country Director Marco Quiñones to use the EMTP approach throughout Ethiopia. One year later, Ethiopia's farmers produced an all-time record grain harvest of 9.7 million tons. By the end of 1996, the country set another record—11.7 million tons—and became an exporting nation.

Although the country's investment has paid handsomely, many challenges remain. The government and SG 2000 are just beginning to address the lack of adequate storage facilities, transportation systems, and marketing mechanisms. "It is time for us to redouble our efforts, encouraged by our achievements so far," Prime Minister Meles said. ■

CARTER CENTER DELEGATION OBSERVES VILLAGE ELECTIONS IN CHINA

From the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949 until the 1980s, the Chinese voted publicly with the count often done in secret. In 1987, the government passed a law to reverse this process—secret ballots with a public count—at the village level.

This marks an important political development for China, a Carter Center delegation concluded in March after observing village elections in China's Hebei and Fujian provinces.

"The village elections we saw demonstrate a level of technical proficiency," said Carter Center Fellow Robert Pastor, who led the seven-member international delegation. "According to many of the people we met, the elections have permitted the kind of peaceful change that has improved people's lives. And it was clear voters now hold their village leaders more accountable since they did



Robert Pastor

Carter Center delegation member Mary Brown Bullock consults with officials during a village election in China's Hebei Province. An expert on China, Dr. Bullock is president of Agnes Scott College.

not re-elect those who had not fulfilled their promises."

Dr. Pastor visited China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan in July 1996 to discuss elections. As a result of his talks with China's Ministry of Civil Affairs (MOCA), the Center was invited to observe the March 1997 village elections and to advise MOCA on ways to improve the voting process.

Elections Evolve from Reform

Local elections are one of the results of economic reforms begun 20 years ago by China's late premier, Deng Xiaoping. In 1987, the National People's Congress passed a law establishing the framework for holding direct elections by secret ballot with multiple candidates for office. MOCA now organizes elections in about 1 million rural villages, where approximately 900 million people—75 percent of China's population—live.

Results of these elections have been surprising. Between 25 and 40 percent of village committee members elected in the last 10 years have not been members of the Communist Party.

"People do believe there is a spirit of participation," said Mary Brown Bullock, a China expert and member of the delegation. "People do feel they have some very good success stories in local government."

Following the elections, the Center's

delegation met with government officials in Beijing to discuss ways of improving the electoral process and possible future areas of cooperation between the Center and China.

"This was an opportunity to begin collaborating with the Chinese government in an area that is very important to them and in which we can bring some expertise," Dr. Pastor said.

This summer, former President Jimmy Carter will lead a small team to China to continue discussions about possible collaboration with The Carter Center, including village elections. Accompanying him will be Rosalynn Carter; former Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and his wife, Colleen; Michael Oksenberg, Carter administration national security advisor for China; and Dr. Pastor. ■

"The Chinese official who was in charge of this process recently stated ... that he can now anticipate a time in the not-too-distant future when direct elections will move from the village level up to the county level."

—U.S. Vice President Al Gore during an official White House visit to China in March

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