

THE CARTER CENTER



One Copenhill
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307
Summer 1996

IN THIS ISSUE

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In the Spirit of Global
Citizenship. 2

FEATURES

Carter Center Steps Up
Efforts To Control
River Blindness 1, 5-6
Video Offers Help
and Hope for People
With Mental Illnesses . . 1, 5

NEWS STORIES

Carter Center-NDI Observe
Dominican Elections . . 2, 6
'Passport' Provides Healthier
Start for Children 3
African Leaders Address
Great Lakes Crisis 4
In Brief 7

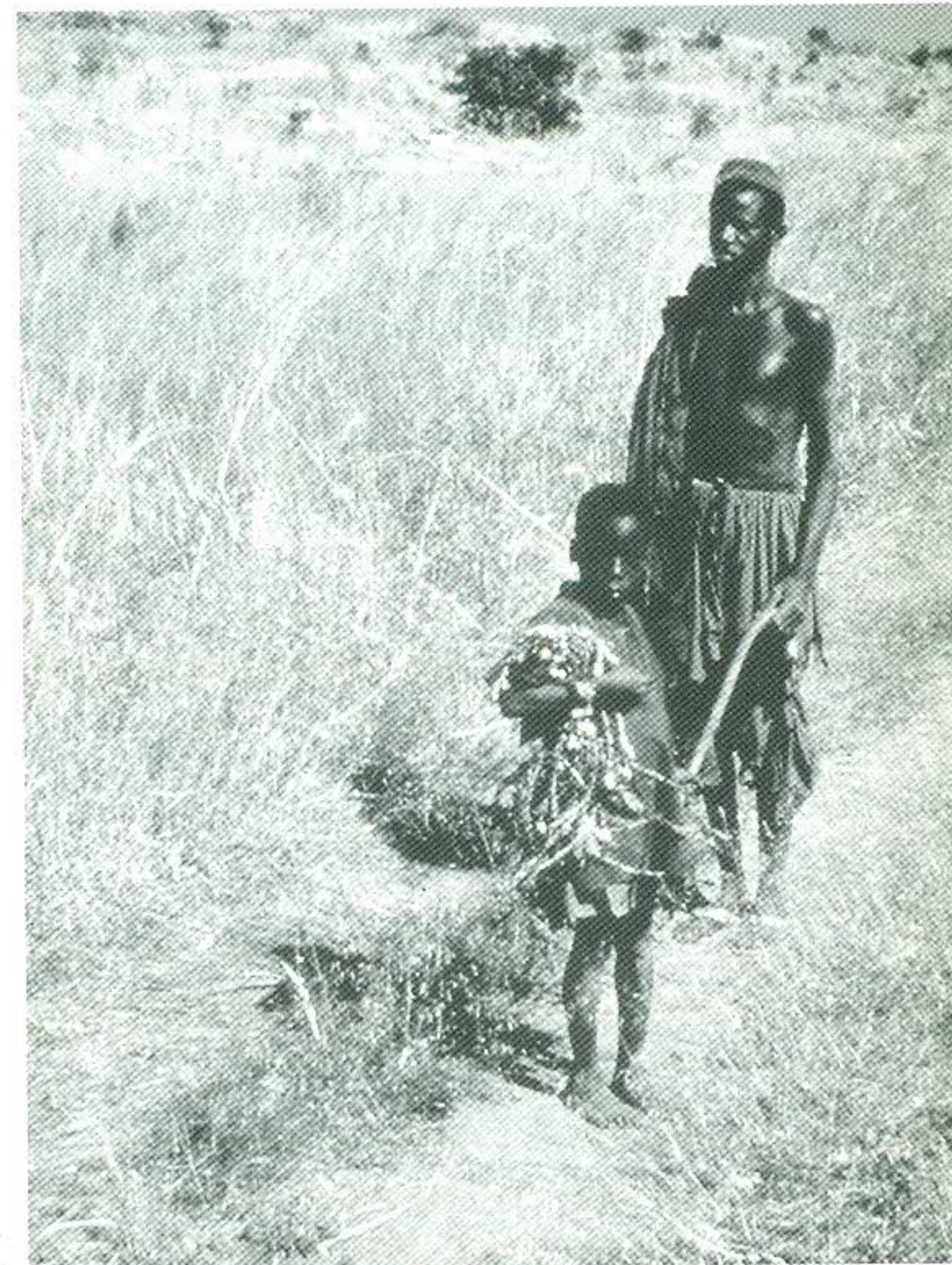
Carter Center Steps Up Efforts To Control River Blindness And Save Eyesight

The Carter Center and the River Blindness Foundation have joined forces in the effort to fight river blindness disease.

"The Carter Center and the River Blindness Foundation (RBF) have long had a common goal: to prevent the needless suffering of millions of people in the developing world who contract this disease," said former President Jimmy Carter. "Our new Global 2000 River Blindness Program, which has acquired most of the Foundation's operations, allows us to expand our role in the coalition working to control river blindness, while continuing to fulfill the Center's mission of action-oriented involvement that does not duplicate efforts made by others."

RBF was founded by John and Rebecca Moores of Houston, Texas, in 1990. "I believe that combining the powerful resources of these two institutions will have a significant impact on the global effort to control this horrible disease," said

continued on page 5



Jeffrey Goldstein/Courtesy of Merck & Co. Inc.

A boy leads an adult who has lost his sight because of river blindness. Some 18 million people in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East are at risk of the disease.

Video Offers Help and Hope for People With Mental Illnesses

"The diagnosis of depression was a great relief for me. If what I had was an illness with a name and a treatment, then I knew there was hope," said Kathy Cronkite, daughter of broadcast journalist Walter Cronkite.

In April, Ms. Cronkite joined academy award-winning actor Rod Steiger for "Coping With the Stigma of Mental Illness," the last program of this year's "Conversations at The Carter Center" series. Both shared candid accounts of their battles—and victories—with clinical depression. Hosted by Rosalynn Carter and moderated by Carter Center Mental

Health Program Director John Gates, the discussion helped educate the public about the myths of mental illnesses and strides that have been made in diagnosis and treatment.

To further that cause, a videotape of the program will be distributed to civic organizations and mental health associations nationwide this summer. Actress Joanne Woodward, a member of The Carter Center's National Advisory Council on Mental Illness, narrates the 27-minute video, which premiered to

continued on page 5

African Leaders Gather To Address Great Lakes Crisis

Rwanda, with its lush green hills and fertile valleys, boasts one of central Africa's most majestic countrysides—a stark contrast to the daily life of its people, who are struggling to recover from the worst genocide since World War II. This is the land where at least 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in 1994 and where 1.7 million refugees remain in camps just across the borders in Zaire and Tanzania. In neighboring Burundi, ongoing violence between the same two ethnic groups since 1993 fuels a “creeping genocide.”

For nearly a year, The Carter Center has been bringing together heads of state in the Great Lakes region of Africa to try to find joint solutions to their countries' interrelated political and social problems. In March, the presidents of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire met in Tunis to revisit pledges made at a summit organized by The Carter Center in Cairo last fall. Their goal is to promote regional stability, stimulate large-scale repatriation of refugees to Rwanda, and curb escalating violence in Burundi. Despite

substantive commitments by the leaders and a comprehensive plan of action, refugees are returning to Rwanda only in small numbers, violence has escalated in Burundi, and cross-border tensions have increased between Zaire and Rwanda.

“It's not possible to solve the complex problems of this region in just a few months. But I think that progress is being made,” said President Carter during a worldwide telecast on CNNI in May. “By bringing these leaders together, perhaps we have prevented even greater problems, and I hope, we are creating the basis for future progress in this neglected region.”

In May, President Carter, former Mali President Amadou Toumani Touré, and Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko held separate meetings in Geneva with U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata. They discussed cross-border raids and the large populations of refugees camped along the border with Rwanda. In addition, they discussed a proposal to move camps at least 95 miles within Zaire to alleviate tensions. President Mobutu also agreed to consider joint means of monitoring military activity

GREAT LAKES NATIONS MAKE SOME PROGRESS IN EASING TENSIONS

Some positive steps have been taken since two summits were organized by The Carter Center to help resolve the Great Lakes crisis in Africa:

- Rwanda is rebuilding its judicial system, which is necessary to process tens of thousands of cases relating to the 1994 genocide.

- Rwanda and Burundi agreed to expand the number of human rights observers in their countries.

- Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko agreed to permit international observers at the country's airports in Goma and Bukavu to assist in efforts to prevent illegal entry of arms into the region.

- Visits by Rwandan officials to refugee camps in Zaire are being planned—steps hoped to ease tensions between these neighboring countries.

- Former Tanzania President Julius Nyerere convened in Mwanza, Tanzania, a series of talks among Burundi's main political parties. President Nyerere is a co-facilitator of the heads-of-state initiative along with President Carter, former Mali President Amadou Touré, and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu. ■



The Carter Center

Rwanda President Pasteur Bizimungu, Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko, former Tanzania President Julius Nyerere, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and former Mali President Amadou Toumani Touré were among the leaders who met in Tunis to address the Great Lakes crisis.

along Zaire's borders with Rwanda and Burundi, possibly involving international monitors.

“The Carter Center will stay engaged in the Great Lakes region until the wider international community steps forward to provide this neglected region with the help it needs to recover from the past and finally find the peace, justice, reconciliation, and stability that is possible,” said President Carter. ■



Kay Hinton

Author Kathy Cronkite (left), actor Rod Steiger, and Rosalynn Carter emphasized the importance of education to dispel stigma and discrimination against people who suffer from mental illnesses. All are featured in the video "Coping With the Stigma of Mental Illness," available from The Carter Center's Mental Health Program.

Mental Health continued from page 1

positive reviews at the National Mental Health Association's annual meeting in June.

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Carter has been a leading advocate on behalf of people with mental illnesses. Although treatments and services have improved, many people are still ashamed to talk about their condition.

"Mental illnesses can be diagnosed and treated much like diabetes or heart disease," said Mrs. Carter, who chairs

The Carter Center's Mental Health Task Force. "There is no reason for anyone with a mental illness to be ashamed. Yet that stigma is so pervasive. We must let the world know that most people with mental illnesses can live at home, hold jobs, and function as contributing members of society."

Copies of the video "Coping With the Stigma of Mental Illness" are available to the general public for \$7 each. To order the video, contact the Mental Health Program, The Carter Center, One Copenhill, 453 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, Ga. 30307, (404) 420-5165. ■

River Blindness continued from page 1

Mr. Moores. "The Carter Center's proven success in other disease control and eradication efforts and President Carter's personal commitment to the program underscore this position."

The program's mission is to bring about the global control of river blindness (*onchocerciasis*), a parasitic infection spread through the bite of blackflies that breed in fast-flowing rivers and streams. Victims of the disease are afflicted with incessant itching, eyesight damage, and possible blindness. More than 100 million people are at risk in 34 endemic countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Experts estimate that 18 million people are infected and 1 million suffer from serious sight impairment, 400,000 of whom are blind.

Carter Center, Task Force Oversee Distribution of Mectizan®

The Carter Center has been active in the *onchocerciasis* effort since 1988. In 1987, Merck & Co. Inc. decided to donate Mectizan® to all people infected with river blindness for as long as necessary. A single yearly dose controls the disease. Merck approached William Foege, M.D., then-executive director of the Center, for help with the global distribution of Mectizan®. Together, they created the Mectizan® Expert Committee and housed it at The Task Force for Child Survival and Development, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Center. The committee, which determines the appropriate distribution of Mectizan®, is comprised of internationally recognized *onchocerciasis* and public health experts and is chaired by Dr. Foege, now Carter Center health policy fellow and Task Force executive director.

"The opportunity for the Center to operate river blindness control programs in the field is an exciting addition to our current programs in health and agriculture," said Dr. Foege. "The Center is uniquely positioned to continue the work begun by the Foundation."

Since 1990, RBF has raised more than \$30 million for use in controlling river

continued on next page

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS

- Avoid using discriminatory slang such as "crazy," "nuts," or "wacko" to describe people or situations.
- Write to editors of books, newspapers, or magazines that include expressions or descriptions that may demean someone suffering from a mental illness.
- Call television and radio stations if a program includes inappropriate references or descriptions of people afflicted with mental illnesses.
- Point out to store managers displays that use discriminatory advertising.
- Realize that people with mental illnesses usually are not dangerous or violent. More often, they are victims, not perpetrators, of crime. ■



Art Kaufman, Merck & Co. Inc.

A woman in a village in Benin, West Africa, receives a tablet of Mectizan® from a village health worker. Just one dose of the drug each year prevents river blindness.

River Blindness continued from page 5

blindness. In addition to operating field programs in Africa and supporting a regional office in Latin America, RBF has provided technical assistance to other endemic countries and has been a major builder of the coalition battling the disease. RBF has worked with villagers and ministers of health; organizations such as the World Bank, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization; and other local and international nongovernmental development organizations.

The Carter Center's Global 2000 River Blindness Program complements its Guinea Worm Eradication Program. Global 2000 leads a worldwide coalition

working to eradicate Guinea worm disease (*dracunculiasis*). Guinea worm has been reduced by 97 percent and soon will be only the second disease after smallpox to be wiped from the face of the earth.

Donald Hopkins, M.D., Global 2000's senior consultant for health and director of its Guinea worm eradication efforts, also has been named director of the River Blindness Program. "In Africa, health workers at the village level are already skilled in medical treatment, data management, and educational training techniques for Guinea worm disease," said Dr. Hopkins. "Adding responsibility for the control of river blindness to the current offensive against Guinea worm will continue to build on what has so far been a marvelous public health success story." ■

NIGERIA TACKLES CHALLENGES POSED BY RIVER BLINDNESS

In February, Nigeria observed its second annual National Onchocerciasis Day to raise awareness about the disease and its prevention. Approximately 4.2 million Nigerians received Mectizan® in 1995. While it is still short of the estimated 40 million Nigerians at risk for river blindness, the 1995 total nearly doubled the number of persons treated in 1994. It also illustrates how countries in Africa and Latin America are taking more responsibility for treating the disease.

On National Onchocerciasis Day, Nigeria's federal minister of health summarized the challenge that river blindness poses to his country. "We need to remind ourselves that we cannot afford to depend entirely on organizations and agencies for help," said Ihechukwu Madubuike, M.D. "The problem is ours. The task is to put in place a community-based, self-sustaining program.... The fight against onchocerciasis is a fight that must be won." ■

Dominican Elections continued from page 2

elections as free and fair as possible," said President Carter, who chairs the Council of 26 current and former leaders from the Western Hemisphere. Formed in 1986 by the Center's Latin American and Caribbean Program (LACP), the Council mediates and observes elections to assure fairness and assists with the post-election process to sustain democracy.

In 1990, a Council/NDI delegation observed one of the closest and most disputed presidential elections in the country's history. The voting resulted in a narrow victory by President Joaquin Balaguer. Although questions were raised about that election and the count, observers did not find adequate evidence that would have changed the outcome.

Results of the 1994 presidential election also were disputed. Observers from NDI and other organizations estimated that roughly 45,000 of the total 3 million voters were excluded from the final voter rolls and thus not allowed to cast ballots. President Balaguer was re-elected with a margin of only 22,281 votes (.74 percent).

In August 1994, the government and opposition political parties negotiated a "Pact for Democracy," which promised new elections in two years, prohibited two successive terms for a president, and required a second round of voting if no presidential candidate received a majority of the votes. But the JCE and the 1996 candidates felt the pact was not enough. Consequently, they invited the Council, NDI, and others to monitor this year's elections.

The Dominican Republic has held numerous elections, but most have been disputed as either unfair or manipulated. "The 1996 election offered people of the Dominican Republic the opportunity to cross a crucial threshold of democratic consolidation," said Robert Pastor, LACP director. "The elections proved to be a historic moment for the country as the losing candidate of an extremely close election accepted the results within 18 hours of the close of voting." ■

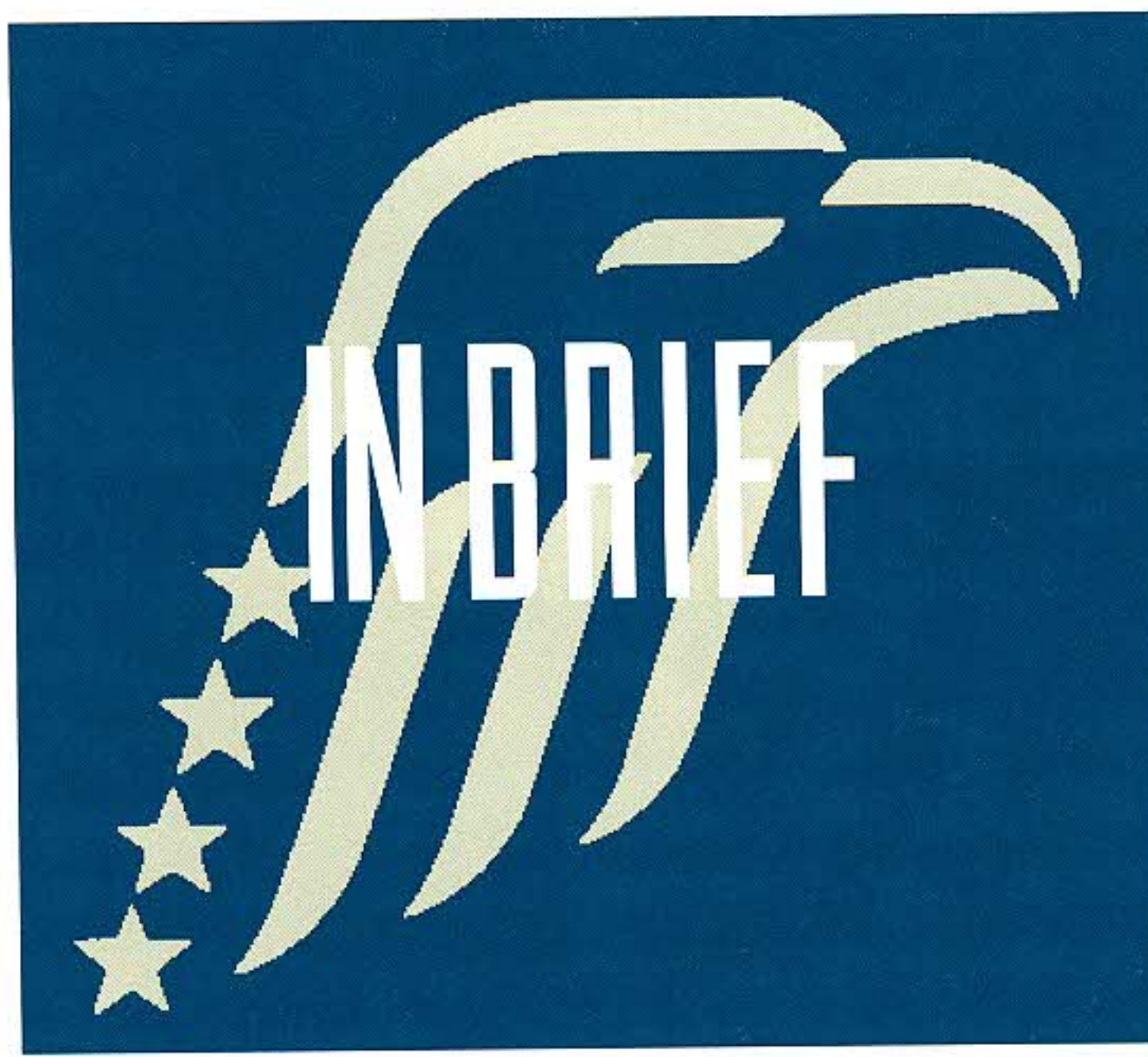
Carter Center Sends Agricultural Mission To North Korea

At the invitation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), The Carter Center, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation, sent a team of agricultural experts to North Korea in early June. The delegation's goals were to assess the agricultural situation and to discuss prospects of increasing long-term grain production. The team did not focus on the current short-term food crisis resulting from recent flooding.

Led by Norman Borlaug, Global 2000 senior agriculture consultant, The Carter Center delegation shared information about new technologies in agriculture. Particular focus was placed on possible linkages with some of the 16 existing International Agricultural Research Centers, including the International Center for Improvement of Maize and Wheat in Mexico, the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, and the International Potato Center in Peru.

Arrangements also are under way to provide an exchange of scientists between North Korea and The Carter Center's Quality Protein Maize (QPM) program in Ghana. QPM is a genetically improved strain of maize that, unlike regular maize, contains all the essential amino acids. The Center's Global 2000 Program, working with the Ghanaian Agriculture Ministry, has grown QPM there since 1989, thereby helping to alleviate protein malnutrition in Africa.

"The trip was very productive," said Andy Agle, director of operations for Global 2000. "By creating partnerships with agricultural research centers, North Korean farmers will have the technology available to address chronic problems such as depleted soil. We expect test seeds for winter wheat and barley to arrive in time for planting this October." ■



Atlanta Faith Groups Spread Good Health In Their Communities

Jung Ja Kim suffers from high blood pressure. After taking a few of the pills prescribed by her doctor, she felt better, and didn't take anymore. The elderly woman, who speaks only Korean, didn't understand why she shouldn't stop. Fortunately, Youngmi Kim was able to help.

"I explained to her how dangerous it was and that she must take all medication as prescribed," said Youngmi. "Otherwise, she could have a heart attack—or even a stroke."

Youngmi's advice reflects the value of her training as a "congregational health promoter" by the Atlanta Interfaith Health Program (AIHP) and the Emory



Kathryn Kolb

Jimmy Carter was on hand to congratulate Youngmi Kim for completing her training as a congregational health promoter.

University School of Nursing. Emory trains two members from participating faith groups how to conduct health assessments, connect with health resources in the community, make referrals, and build a health ministry in their congregations. Their goal: to improve health in underserved areas of the city.

AIHP is part of The Carter Center's Interfaith Health Program (IHP). Founded in 1992, IHP helps faith groups nationwide promote wellness and prevent disease, especially in areas where residents may be at risk because of factors such as economics or age.

Youngmi, who works as a parish nurse with St. Joseph's Hospital, is a member of an Atlanta-area Korean congregation. She learned about AIHP's health promoter program when she helped translate letters to Korean ministers, asking them to get their congregations involved. In June, Youngmi and 33 members of African-American, Hispanic, Vietnamese, and Korean faith groups were commissioned as congregational health promoters at a special church service.

"Youngmi is a wonderful example of how one person can make a difference in his or her community," said Tom Droege, project coordinator for AIHP. "I have watched Youngmi take what she has learned and use it to help others."

As part of her work as a parish nurse, and now as a congregational health promoter, Youngmi spends eight hours each week at the Johnson Ferry Clinic, near the housing complex where Jung Ja lives. The women met at the clinic.

"Jung Ja is one of more than 100 Korean senior citizens who live in that complex," Youngmi explained. "Because most of them do not drive or speak English, many feel more comfortable coming to the local clinic instead of trying to arrange transportation to a doctor's office and getting someone to translate."

According to Elizabeth Downes, clinic coordinator and a trainer for the AIHP health promoter program, "The number of Korean senior citizens visiting the clinic has risen from an average of three

continued on next page

or four to almost 20 a week. Youngmi is the first permanent, salaried nurse we've had on staff here who can both translate and deliver direct care. It's making a very positive difference." ■

Museum Pays Tribute To White House and Two Former Occupants

Visitors to The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum now can tour the White House without leaving Atlanta. The Museum is featuring a 20-by-60-foot replica of the historic home, on display through the end of the 1996 Olympics.

With steady hands and lofty dreams, John and Jan Zweifel have worked on "The White House in Miniature" since 1960. Their goal was to reproduce the White House on a "1-inch-equals-1-foot" scale, down to the last ticking clock, lit chandelier, and ringing telephone.

Another new exhibit focuses on two of the White House's former occupants. "Beyond the Boundaries" provides visitors with an overview of the post-presidential activities of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. Much of the work of the nonprofit Carter Center, which



adjoins the Museum, is represented in the exhibit, along with personal items and mementos of the former first couple.

"Beyond the Boundaries" illustrates the Center's role in resolving conflicts from Haiti to North Korea; observing democratic elections in Latin America and Africa; helping farmers in developing countries improve their crop yields; speaking out on behalf of individuals whose human rights have been violated; and empowering people to overcome the problems associated with urban poverty.

"Both of these exhibits coincide with the 1996 Olympic Games, offering visitors from all over the world a glimpse of American history and culture," said Don Schewe, director of the Library and Museum. " 'Beyond the Boundaries' "

provides a personal look at what the Carters have accomplished since leaving Washington. 'The White House in Miniature' shows all of its rooms in fascinating detail—something visitors would not see if they toured the White House in Washington."

Both exhibits are on display through Aug. 4. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and free for ages 16 and under. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4:45 p.m. For more information, call (404) 331-3942. ■



Fifty million people in Japan, Europe, and the United States have toured "The White House in Miniature" since it debuted in 1976.

The Carter Center
One Copenhill
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Atlanta, GA
Permit No. 329