

Summary of Dialogue on U.S.-African Policy Roundtable: featuring Ambassador Dr. Jendayi Frazer, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, U.S. State Department Monday, September 26, 2005 from 2:00pm-4:00pm at the U.S. State Department

The Constituency for Africa, (CFA), in partnership with the Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, organized this unique forum to bring together stakeholders and decision-makers from the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for an in-depth dialogue about the Bush Administration's U.S.-Africa foreign policy agenda, its challenges and accomplishments. The U.S.-African Policy Roundtable session was an "off-the-record" meeting and included a frank and open discussion with the newly-confirmed U.S. Department of State's Assistant Secretary of African Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer, on critical topics of discussion to include the HIV/AIDS Pandemic, Debt Relief, Conflict Resolution, Democracy and Governance, and Trade and Investment as well as the role of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) to assist many African leaders in making progress toward promoting democratic values, reducing corruption and improving the governance of the African countries.

Prior to Ambassador Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer's appointment as the U.S. State Department's Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, she was the U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, and prior to that appointment she served as special assistant to the President of the United States and was Senior Director of African Affairs at the National Security Council (NSC). Dr. Frazer's resume is augmented by academia as an Assistant Professor at the University of Denver and at Harvard University, coupled with her Department of Defense experience in African Affairs. Her appointment reflects the utmost confidence of both President George W. Bush and Dr. Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State. Ambassador Frazer has visited twenty-one of the forty-eight countries located in the Sub-Saharan Africa and worked extensively on African issues for more than twenty five years. During the 2005 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series she was presented with the African Advocacy Leadership Award in recognition for their steadfast advocacy in support of a proactive U.S.-Africa foreign policy agenda and for her ongoing accomplishments towards building a positive dialogue between American and African leaders as well as with advocates for Africa from around the world. In 2003, she received the "Constituent of the Year" Award from the Board of Directors of the Constituency for Africa in recognition of her significant contributions to the advancement of U.S.-Africa foreign policy.

Congressman Dellums provided welcome and opening remarks by stating that he read somewhere that "*everything in life changes except for the way that people think*". He then explained that in a similar context, the world has significantly changed and yet we as a people have not kept up with the changes. The world is highly interrelated and interdependent more then ever before due to the

advent of the need for “global security” which begets a “shared vulnerability”. Several examples are global terrorism, global health crises, global environmental hazards and global economics. Therefore, we must look at Africa in a more enlightened and self-interest way based on our “mutually shared vulnerabilities”. Moreover, our concern for Africa should not be based on a sense of a “noblesse oblige” but more importantly seen as a moral necessity that is profoundly influenced by 21st century global security challenges. With these brief introductory remarks he then asked for Ambassador Frazer to provide her opening remarks to the assembled group.

Ambassador Frazer thanked Congressman Dellums for his tone-setting remarks and reiterated her great pleasure with the opportunity to host the closing session of the 2005 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series. She stated that the NGO community has been very helpful in their continued efforts to strategize on the agenda for Africa within the Bush Administration and Secretary Rice has been very explicit in her belief that Africa does matter and has equal standing within the U.S. State Department’s portfolio of the world. Moreover, President Bush sees it as vitally important that the United States utilize its diplomatic powers to make the world a better place based on the principles of human dignity. Consequently, the Bush Administration has decided to make global security a national issue and that in Africa’s situation an increased emphasis on democratization and economic freedom are imperative toward gaining measurable successes on the continent.

In fact, President Bush has stated that America cannot “buy stability at the price of democracy” and a global agenda of open transparency and good governance has been further refined for Africa within the global diplomatic community as a result of post 9/11 for the second term of the Bush Administration. Dr. Frazer also stated that this global agenda is consistent throughout the U.S. State Department’s mandate but that Africa is faced with different crises that require a greater focus on public health and governance. She firmly believes that the United States must assist African nations to implement an integrated holistic approach to the global challenges. In fact, several African countries receive similar resource commitments as for other parts of the world (i.e. - Columbia and Sudan). Obviously Iraq and Afghanistan stand out with similar comparisons to China and Russia.

Ambassador Frazer then proceeded to outline her priorities as the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs as follows:

1st- Conflict Resolution with a particular focus on Sudan, the Great Lakes Region and Liberia. She reiterated her belief that the U.S. State Department must reinforce African-led initiatives to end conflict and fight terrorism on the continent.

2nd- Economic Transformation on the African continent. She stated that the U.S. State Department should seek out ways to “level the playing field”, cancel unjust debt, and increase developmental

assistance. She reiterated her belief that the U.S. State Department should continue to support domestic reforms which are necessary to generate the jobs and resources essential for economic growth.

3rd- Public Health Focus on HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa but also continue to institutionalize Africa's national health care capacity. This will require a more urgent campaign to fight contagious diseases on the African continent, especially the HIV/AIDS pandemic, tuberculosis and malaria.

4th- Democratization must be strengthened by encouraging election reforms, political stability, term limits of heads of state, and above all politically empowering the citizenry. Several focus areas will be on Zimbabwe and Cote D'Ivoire. She emphasized that the U.S. State Department should support the efforts of African people to achieve real democracy through government accountability in order to promote the spread of freedom and democracy across the African continent.

In closing, Ambassador Frazer stated that she would also rely upon the potential teamwork within the U.S. government's interagency network to ensure increased collaboration, cooperation and consistency. She also emphasized that she intended to reinforce this approach by encouraging "mobile teams" in Africa that will create strategic linkages and build synergy between U.S. government agencies working on the African continent. Lastly, she stated that she definitely needs our help and assistance as an advocacy focused constituency in order to further build upon the U.S.-Africa foreign policy agenda but that she also needs everyone's patience. She concluded her remarks by thanking everyone again for their show of support and opened up the meeting for questions and comments.

Congressman Dellums thanked everyone for their participation in the Dialogue on U.S.-African Policy Roundtable featuring Ambassador Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer. He stated that he would certainly hope for many more opportunities to convene such roundtables during Ambassador Frazer's tenure as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and that CFA was ready, willing and able to facilitate such roundtables. He also stated that he was extremely pleased with this opportunity for an ongoing dialogue which is healthy for U.S.-Africa foreign policy and the global community. Congressman Dellums then officially concluded the roundtable session at 4:00pm.

This highly informative session is a continuation of CFA's previously successful meetings with U.S. Assistant Secretaries of State for African Affairs, Walter Kansteiner in 2003 and Constance Newman in 2004. According to Melvin P. Foote, Chief Executive Officer of CFA, "*The purpose of this particular meeting is to have a meaningful discussion about U.S.-Africa Foreign Policy agenda amongst key influential individuals from within both the public and private sector with the Department of State. Everyone in attendance was a friend of Africa, although some may have*

differing ideas about how to best proceed with improving upon the Bush Administration's U.S. foreign policy agenda on Africa. A follow-up to this particular forum will be the formation of a strategic plan of action for consideration by the Bush Administration with regard to a robust and sustainable foreign policy agenda for Africa, especially as it relates to empowering African-Americans and their African counterparts in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the African Union.

As a close-out to the 2005 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series, the Constituency for Africa coordinated the "Dialogue on U.S.-Africa Policy Roundtable" featuring Ambassador Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs at the U.S. State Department. The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums, Chairman of the Constituency for Africa, led the discussion and the following individuals participated as a part of the delegation: Melvin P. Foote, CFA's Chief Executive Officer; Steven D. Cashin, Chief Executive Officer, PanAfrican Capital Group, LLC and member, CFA Board of Directors; Ambassador Hank Cohen, Johns Hopkins University and member, CFA Board of Directors; Honorable Vivian Lowery Derryck, Senior Vice President, Academy for Educational Development and member, CFA Board of Directors; Luddy Hayden, Managing Director, Governmental Relations, ChevronTexaco and member, CFA Board of Directors; Honorable Lauri J. Fitz-Pegado, Principal, The Livingston Group and member, CFA Board of Directors; Stan Straughter, Special Assistant to OIC International, Inc., and member, CFA Board of Directors; Ray Almeida, Bread for the World; Kristen Krapf-Campbell, George Washington University; Dr. Maria Carrington, U.S. Department of Education; Leroy R. Charles, George Washington University; Cynthia Ferguson-Colas, National Council of Negro Women (NCNW); Dr. Sheila Joyce Davis; National Medical Association (NMA); Dr. Badi G. Foster, Phelps Stokes Fund; Fay Housty, CARICOM; Bonnie Jenkins, The Ford Foundation; Ambassador Howard F. Jeter, Goodworks International; Crispian Kirk, NAACP; Leslie Watson Malachi, Consultant, African-American Unity Caucus (AAUC); Ambassador George Moose, George Washington University; Ralph L. Moss, Seaboard Corporation; Sherryl Hobbs Newman, Secretary of the District of Columbia; Bernadette Paolo, the African Society; Jessica M. Rockwood, Development Finance International; Charles Stephenson, Dellums and Associates and CFA consultant; Judge Mary A. Terrell, Superior Court of the District of Columbia; Walker Williams, Education Africa; Evelyn House, CFA Intern; Sophia Magill, CFA Intern; Jim Parsons, CFA Intern; Sean Stiff, CFA Intern; Dr. Ada Adler, U.S. State Department; Robert L. Dance, U.S. State Department; Ambassador Dr. Ruth Davis, U.S. State Department; Ajan Husbands, U.S. State Department Fellow; Lindamarie "LW" Koengeter, U.S. State Department; Nicole Peacock, U.S. State Department; and David J. Saunders, Program Director, Constituency for Africa.

Prepared by David J. Saunders, Program Director, Constituency for Africa, September 28, 2005.