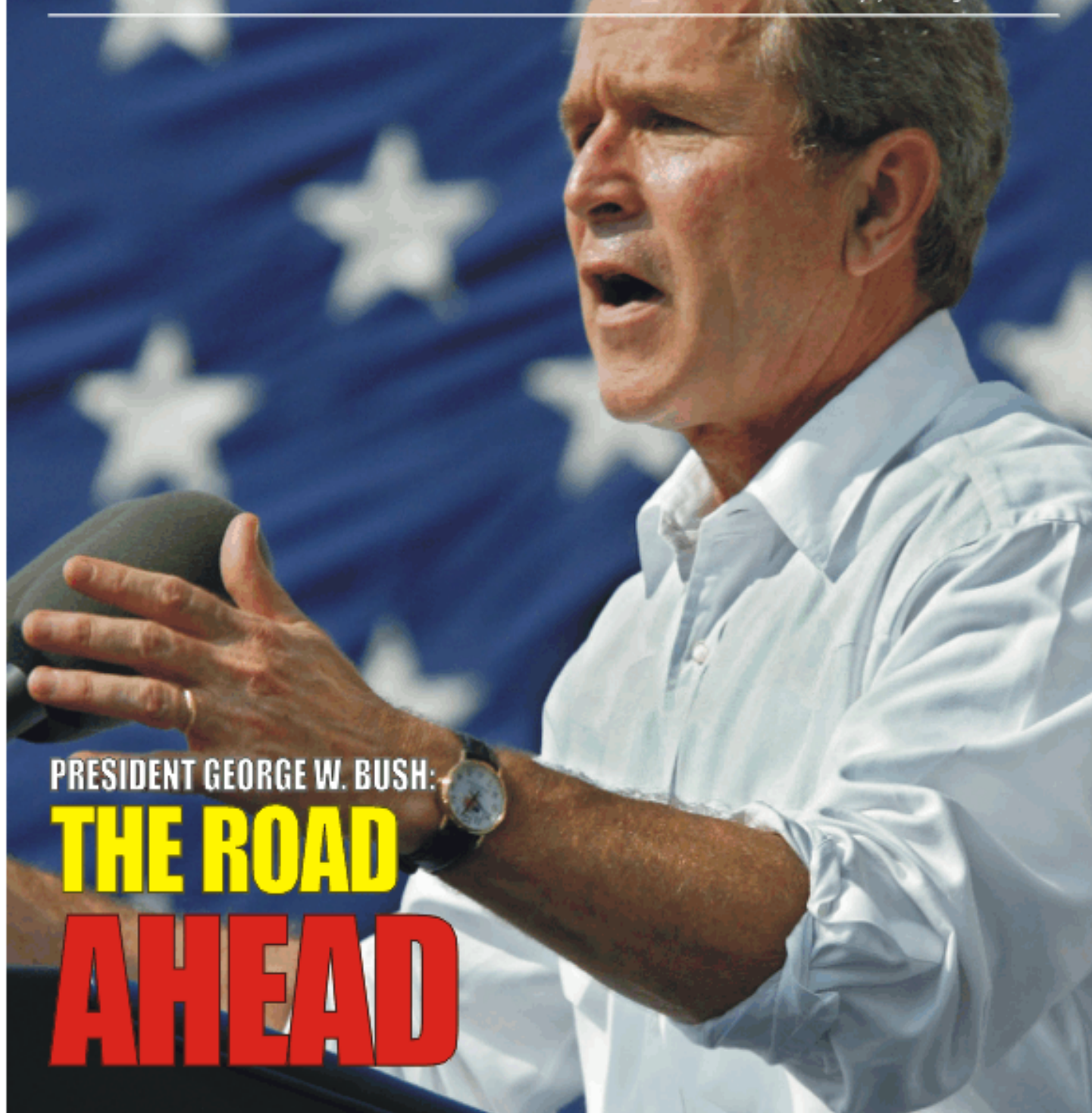


Jan.
& Feb.
2005

CROSSROADS

Vol. 12
Number 1

A Newsletter of the United States Embassy, Nigeria



PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH:

THE ROAD AHEAD



- PEPFAR Comes to the Rescue Against HIV/AIDS
- Thomas P. Furey is New Deputy Chief of Mission
- HOME, A Place Everyone Wants to Go





Halting the HIV/AIDS Scourge

This issue of *Crossroads* is brimming with news of changes and challenges. Among the changes is the new Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, Mr. Thomas

Furey. Tom comes to Nigeria from the U.S. Embassy in London where

he was Consul General. We also feature an article on Tom's first trip outside Abuja to staff schools at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and Bayero University, Kano where he awarded scholarships to 30 needy students.

The cover story for this issue is President Bush's second term; his inaugural speech and his state of the union address that lay out his domestic policy and foreign policy goals. The common theme of Ms. Condoleezza Rice and President Bush is democracy. Ms. Rice is the new Secretary of State and first African American woman and only the second woman to fill that post. In her

confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that began the day after the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, Ms. Rice credited Dr. King and the civil rights movement with making her nomination as Secretary of State possible. There are two articles describing the Embassy observance of Dr. King's, birthday.

Last, but most importantly, this issue focuses on HIV/AIDS - the greatest health challenge confronting the world today. *Crossroads* provides details of the U.S. Nigeria partnership to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria and the launch of the partnership by Ambassador Campbell and President Obasanjo on December 1, World AIDS Day. President Bush's centerpiece program for Africa, the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), is providing \$180 million for the US-Nigeria partnership for AIDS prevention and treatment, that include anti-retroviral treatment and treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission. The goal of the partnership is to have 350,000 persons in treatment programs over the next five years. ❖

Quotable Quote

“We have been labelled with N20 (twenty naira). It is disgraceful.”

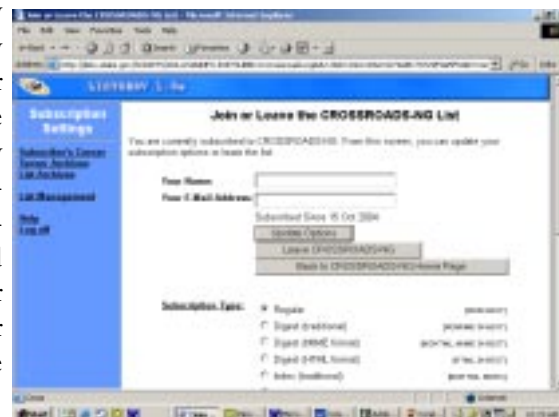
- Sunday Ehindero
Inspector-General of Police talking about corruption, and warning officers and men of the Nigeria Police against bribery and extortion.

Editor's letter To Crossroads Readers

DEAR CROSSROADS READERS,

We are still building our on-line access to an expanded version of *Crossroads*. Our virtual community distribution list continues to grow by the day. Some of you have already subscribed to the list by logging on to <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>

We have gone a step further by creating an easily accessible way for readers to directly join or leave our mailing list using the LISTSERV system. Simply send your name and e-mail address to: CROSSROADS-NG@LIST.STATE.GOV and you are on. Direct all further enquiries on how to join or leave the electronic list to the Editor at crossroads@state.gov





Iraqi women waiting to cast their vote during the January 30 elections.

Leaving Fear Behind

Although the heroic vote for freedom in Iraq was humbling, it did not surprise many. Since the transition to Iraqi sovereignty several months ago, we have seen daily manifestations of Iraqi courage and determination. Once again, as in South Africa, El Salvador, and Ukraine, democracy proved stronger than fear.

President Bush said, “the people of Iraq have spoken to the world, and the world is hearing the voice of freedom from the center of the Middle East.” It was a voice long muted by the tyranny of the former regime but now resoundingly heard thanks to the extraordinary efforts of so many extraordinary people.

The critical first line of defense came from Iraqis with important Coalition support. It was a proud day for Iraq’s soldiers and police, and a proud day for those of us who worked hard to help train and

equip them to preserve and protect Iraq’s precious sovereignty.

In addition to those increasingly capable, brave, and patriotic Iraqis, all the Coalition countries, the United Nations, the European Union, and many NGOs and volunteers helped make these elections a success. So did journalists who chronicled this victory of ballots over bullets, not to overlook the herculean and indispensable efforts of American servicemen and women, diplomats, civilians, and contractors. And when the votes were counted, it was clear that the voice heard on Sunday, January 30 was indisputably Iraqi in character.

Stiff challenges lie ahead for Iraq. No constitutional process is easy. The attributes and values enunciated in UN Security Council Resolution 1546 — “a federal, democratic, pluralist, and unified Iraq, in which there is full respect for political and human rights” —

will test Iraq’s will and imagination. They are the indispensable elements of an Iraq where the rule of law prevails, justice is served, and freedom is guaranteed. Ultimately, this is how the virulent insurgency that besets Iraq will be eliminated; undermining any rationale for violence by offering a fair, open system of political cooperation and participation to all.

The nascent democracy in Iraq will, we know, continue to require the steadfast support of friends in the world community, but we look forward to cooperating with the Transitional Iraqi Government as it pursues its mission. The United States and the Coalition will make every effort to support Iraq’s efforts through diplomacy, security cooperation, economic development and reconstruction assistance, and the kinds of international contacts that strengthen civil society. ♦

President Bush Charts Course Ahead

President Bush delivered his annual State of the Union address on February 2, saying the January 30 elections for Iraq's national assembly "opens a new phase" of U.S. involvement in the country as the United States increasingly focuses its efforts toward training and preparing Iraq's security forces.

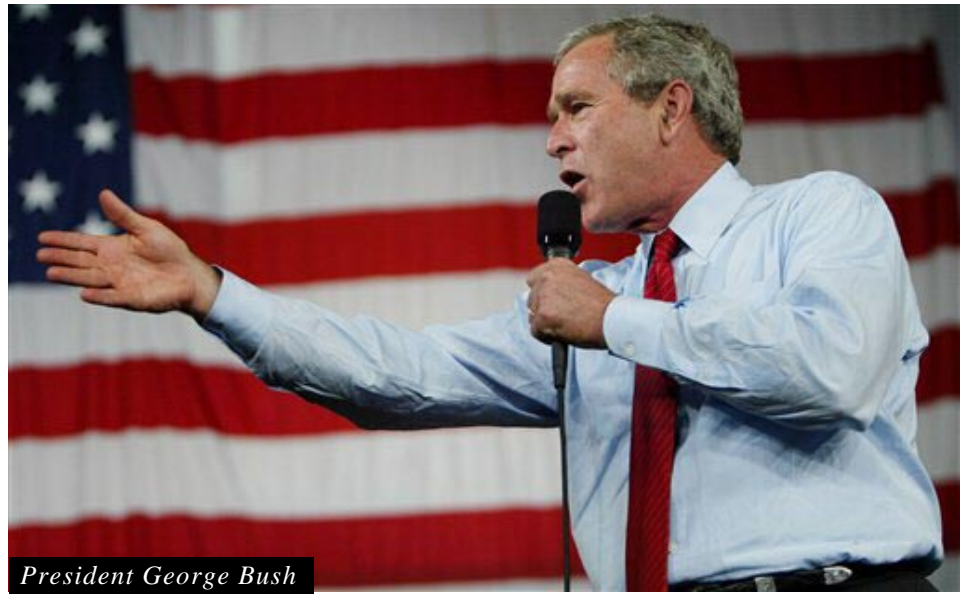
"We will increasingly focus our efforts on helping prepare more capable Iraqi security forces – forces with skilled officers, and an effective command structure," Bush said in his address to members of Congress, his cabinet, and the American people.

He said U.S. and coalition forces will increasingly play a "supporting role" as Iraqi forces become more self-reliant and assume greater security responsibilities. However, the president said he would not set a timetable for withdrawing U.S. forces from the country "because that would embolden the terrorists and make them believe they can wait us out."

"We are in Iraq to achieve a result: A country that is democratic, representative of all its people, at peace with its neighbors, and able to defend itself," Bush said. He said his administration's commitment to advancing global freedom, particularly in the Middle East, "is now being tested and honored in Iraq."

The president said he expected success because, by voting in elections, the Iraqi people showed the world that they "value their own liberty."

"In any nation, casting your vote is an act of civic responsibility; for millions of Iraqis, it was also an act of personal courage, and they have earned the respect of us all." He also paid special tribute to Iraqi democracy and human rights advocate Safia Taleb al-Suhail, who attended the



President George Bush

speech as the guest of First Lady Laura Bush.

The president said that, in the long term, global peace can only be achieved by "eliminating the conditions that feed radicalism and ideologies of murder," and ending tyranny through "the force of human freedom."

"The United States has no right, no desire, and no intention to impose our form of government on anyone else. That is one of the main differences between us and our enemies. Our aim is to build and preserve a community of free and independent nations, with governments that answer to their citizens, and reflect their own cultures," he said.

The United States will promote peace and stability in the Middle East by working with its friends in the region "to fight the common threat of terror, while we encourage a higher standard of freedom," he said.

President Bush also said the goal of having two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, coexisting peacefully, "is within reach" and that the United States "will help them achieve that goal."

The President will ask Congress for \$350 million to support

Palestinian political, economic, and security reforms.

The president also pledged to build international coalitions to "defeat the dangers of our time" during his second term in office. He called upon Syria to end its support for terrorism and to allow greater freedom and described Iran as "the world's primary state sponsor of terror."

He said the United States was working with its European allies to end Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and support for terror, but told the Iranian people, "As you stand for your own liberty, America stands with you."

The first half of the president's speech largely concerned domestic U.S. issues, particularly the Social Security, which he said "is headed toward bankruptcy" by the year 2042 and would need higher taxes, massive government borrowing or benefit cuts in order to survive.

The president also called for immigration reform which would permit temporary guest workers to "fill jobs Americans will not take," and would allow U.S. authorities to better track who is entering and leaving the United States. ❖

Staying Focused



President George Bush

George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, was sworn into office on January 20, 2005, for his second term. During his campaign for reelection, President Bush set ambitious goals, including making America and the world safer with decisive action to win the war on terror; keeping America on track for a more prosperous future; strengthening health care for millions of Americans; and building a better and more compassionate America for all.

During his first term as president, Bush, on the domestic front, signed into law initiatives to improve America's public schools by raising academic standards, requiring teacher accountability, and strengthening local control. He signed historic tax relief measures that have provided rebate checks and lower tax rates for everyone who pays income taxes in America. He increased pay and benefits for America's military and is working to save and strengthen the Social Security and Medicare programs.

The attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, changed America. In President Bush's words, "in our grief and anger we have found our mission and our moment."

Speaking in Washington January 20 shortly after being sworn in for his second term as president, Bush said leaders and nations throughout the world must choose between oppression and freedom.

"We will encourage reform in other governments by making clear that success in our relations will require the decent treatment of their own people," he said. Human rights, he said, "must be more than the grudging concessions

of dictators; they are secured by free dissent and the participation of the governed."

"America is a nation with a mission, and that mission comes from our most basic beliefs. We have no desire to dominate, no ambitions of empire. Our aim is a democratic peace — a peace founded upon the dignity and rights of every man and woman. America acts in this cause with friends and allies at our side, yet we understand our special calling: This great republic will lead the cause of freedom."

Shortly after these attacks, President Bush declared war against terror, and he has made victory in the war on terrorism and the advance of human freedom the priorities of his administration. Already, the U.S. military and a coalition of nations have liberated the people of Afghanistan from the brutal Taliban regime and denied al Qaeda a safe haven of operations. Thousands of terrorists have been captured or killed and operations have been disrupted in many countries around the world. In the President's words, "our nation — this generation — will lift a dark threat of violence from our people and our future. We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage. We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail."

To the people of Iraq, President Bush committed the support of the United States, pledging "I will not lose my will; that we will help Iraq become free and peaceful; that we will stand with those who want a new Iraq after Saddam Hussein to develop, where mothers and dads can raise their children in a peaceful world, where shopkeepers can grow their businesses, where the education system works well."

"So it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world," Bush said. ❖

The Bush Family

President Bush comes from a family that has long seen politics as a worthy calling. George Bush's paternal grandfather, Prescott Bush, was a U. S. senator from Connecticut from 1952 to 1963. His father, George Herbert Walker Bush, began his career in electoral politics in 1966, when voters in Houston, Texas, sent him to the House of Representatives. The senior George Bush was vice president under Ronald Reagan from 1981 to 1989 and president of the United States from

1989 to 1993. The president's younger brother, Jeb Bush, is governor of the state of Florida.

"My grandfather Prescott Bush believed a person's most enduring and important contribution was hearing and responding to the call of public service," says President Bush in his autobiography, *A Charge to Keep*. "Money and material things were not the measure of a life in the long run, he felt, and if you had them, they came with a price tag: the obligation to serve." ❖

President Bush Lays Ambitious Domestic Agenda

Using the State of the Union Address as a launching pad, President George Bush laid out ambitious goals for the future, behind which all Americans can unite, and urged the Nation to move forward with the work that needs to be done this year. The four specific areas of focus laid out by the president are growing the U.S. economy and renewing great institutions; saving social security for America's future generations; protecting America's families and promoting compassion across the United States; making the United States safer with decisive action to win the War on Terror and spread freedom. Below are extracts of his domestic priorities for the second term.

Growing the Economy and Renewing Great Institutions

Over the past four years, we have provided tax relief to every taxpayer, overcome a recession, opened new markets abroad, prosecuted corporate criminals, raised home ownership to the highest level in history, and - in the last year alone - created 2.3 million jobs for Americans. The President believes we must add to those achievements to keep America the economic leader of the world.

To ensure prosperity for future generations, we must reform institutions - retirement plans, the tax code, our health care system, and worker training programs - that were created for the world of yesterday, not tomorrow. We must transform these systems so that all Americans are equipped and prepared to realize the American Dream. The President will continue to promote pro-growth economic policies and exercise responsible spending restraint to meet his goal of cutting the budget deficit in half by 2009.

Making Tax Relief Permanent: The tax relief enacted over the past



President Bush speaks to Tameron Clark during the launch of No Child Left Behind school program.

four years will be made permanent. Raising taxes on families and small businesses will hurt economic growth and job creation.

Strengthening High Schools: The President wants high standards to be applied to America's high schools to ensure that every student graduates with the skills needed to succeed in college and a globally competitive workforce. His Fiscal Year 2006 budget will provide \$1.5 billion in funding for a new High School Initiative to help states hold high schools accountable for teaching all students and to provide effective and timely intervention for those students who are not learning at grade level.

Making Health Care More Affordable: President Bush believes all Americans should have access to affordable, high-quality health care. — The President has proposed a comprehensive, consumer-driven plan to address the problems of rising health-care costs and uninsured. His plan includes Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), Association Health Plans (AHPs) for small businesses, civic groups, and community organizations, tax credits for low-income families, medical liability reform, and a goal of electronic health records for most Americans within 10 years.

— The President's plan will help re-

duce the rising cost of health care while improving quality and safety. It will provide new and affordable health coverage options for all Americans - targeted to those who need it most: low-income children and families and employees of small businesses and the self-employed.

Fixing the Current Social Security System: The President wants to strengthen Social Security for the 21st century. By 2018, Social Security will owe more in annual benefits than the revenues it takes in, and when today's young workers begin to retire in 2042, the system will be exhausted and bankrupt. As currently structured, Social Security cannot afford to pay promised benefits to young workers. President Bush has laid out basic principles to guide reform:

—We must make Social Security permanently sound;

—We must guarantee no change for those 55 years or older (born before 1950);

—We must not jeopardize our economic strength by raising payroll taxes;

—We must ensure that lower-income Americans get the help they need;

—We must make sure any changes in the system are gradual

—We must make Social Security a better deal for younger workers through voluntary personal retirement accounts.

Helping America's Youth: — The President announced a new outreach effort, to be led by Mrs. Laura Bush, to focus on young Americans, especially young men, to help ensure a successful future. The President proposed a three-year, \$150-million initiative to help youth at risk of gang influence and involvement through grants to faith-based and community organizations. ❖

America's Diplomatic Tasks

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.
Washington File Staff Writer

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has laid out an American foreign policy for President Bush's second term that calls for greater multilateral diplomatic efforts and alliance building.

"We must use American diplomacy to help create a balance of power in the world that favors freedom. And the time for diplomacy is now," Rice said during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee January 18-19.

Rice, a former Stanford University political science professor and provost, said American diplomacy faces three tasks:

- Uniting the community of democracies in building an international system based on shared values and the rule of law;
- Strengthening the community of democracies to fight the threats to its common security and alleviate the hopelessness that feeds terror; and

— Working to spread freedom and democracy throughout the globe. "That is the mission that President Bush has set for America in the world, and the great mission of American diplomacy today," Rice said.

Rice said the underpinnings of American foreign policy in the next Bush term are based on the view that "alliances and multilateral institutions can multiply the strength of freedom-loving nations." That, she said, will guide her actions as secretary of state.

She said the United States must continue to work, to support and to uphold the system of international rules and treaties.

"Our interaction with the rest of the world must be a conversation, not a monologue," she told the committee.

Rice has served the past four years as the president's national security advisor. She was nominated by Bush to succeed Colin L. Powell as secretary of state. Powell is a close friend of Rice and was a mentor to her. ❖



Forging Ahead: President George Bush and Secretary Condoleezza Rice

Secretary Rice Vows To Use "Tools of Diplomacy" to Advance Democracy

Promising to use American diplomacy to help create a balance of power that favors freedom, Condoleezza Rice was ceremonially sworn in as secretary of state by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on January 28 at the State Department.

Rice took the official oath of office as the 66th secretary of state on the evening of January 26 at the White House, following her confirmation that day by the full Senate.

During her subsequent swearing-in ceremony at the State Department — attended by the president and first lady Laura Bush, members of Rice's family, congressional representatives and State Department employees —



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg swears in Secretary Rice. At left is President Bush, Jan. 28.

the new secretary spoke of the need to work in partnership with allies and others around the world "putting the tools of diplomacy to work to unite, strengthen and widen the community of democracies."

She said the terrorist attacks of

September 11, 2001, made it clearer than ever how U.S. values and interests "are linked and joined across the globe. That day of fire made us see that the best way to secure a world of peace and hope is to build a world of freedom."

"We do not simply seek the absence of terrorism; we seek a world where the aspirations for freedom of men and women triumph," Rice continued.

President Bush said former Secretary of State Colin Powell "leaves big shoes to fill but Condi Rice is the right person to fill them." Bush said Rice most recently provided leadership as his national security advisor "during a time when events not of our choosing have forced America to the leading edge of history." ❖

Commitment, Strong Partnership Will Check AIDS Spread in Nigeria - Campbell



President Olusegun Obasanjo unveiling the PEPFAR plaque during the launch of the project in Abuja.

If the campaign to check the spread of HIV/AIDS is to succeed in Nigeria, efforts must be made to build solidarity amongst civil society groups, ensure the commitment of the Nigerian government and continue to forge strong bilateral partnerships with other governments. U.S. Ambassador John Campbell assured the U.S. Government commitment to this when he joined President Olusegun Obasanjo in Abuja to launch the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

PEPFAR commits \$194 million

dollars over the next five years to address the growing demand for treatment, prevention, care and support services against the spread of HIV/AIDS. Campbell noted that a sobering 7 million people in Nigeria are infected with HIV and "more than half of the estimated 7 million are women—mothers, daughters, wives, sisters," he added.

Eleven States, Lagos, Kano, Edo, Anambra, Cross Rivers, Niger, Adamawa, Bauchi, Nasarawa, Rivers and the Federal Capital Territory, representing the six-geopolitical regions of Nigeria are to serve as

focus states for the PEPFAR project in Nigeria. Nigeria's \$194 million allocation comes from the signing into law by President Bush of the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003. The law authorizes \$15 billion to be spent over the next five years to help 15 countries, including Nigeria, combat HIV/AIDS.

With the launch of the PEPFAR project, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy plans to focus its HIV/AIDS awareness programs on the media and universities within the country. This serves the dual purpose

of reaching the general public through the media and engaging the future of Nigeria, - it's youth. The program geared towards universities will combat HIV/AIDS using targeted, innovative and cutting-edge programs on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness on campuses.

Today, the HIV/AIDS pandemic is one of humanity's greatest challenges. The economic burden of HIV/AIDS on families and communities is enormous. In 2003, 36 million adults and 2 million children were living with HIV/AIDS – more than 98 percent of them in developing countries and 66 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa. Estimates suggest that the disease costs the average patient three or four months of lost earnings, which can represent up to 30 percent of annual household income. The launch of PEPFAR is seen by many as providing a great opportunity for Nigeria and the U.S. to work together to accomplish a



Ambassador John Campbell welcoming President Obasanjo to the PEPFAR launch. Third from right is Health Minister Eyitayo Lambo.

dream described by Ambassador Campbell as a “place where fewer people live with HIV/AIDS, and where people living with the disease

have access to the care needed and an environment free of stigma, where vulnerable women are empowered to make life-saving choices.”❖

PEPFAR Grants (HIV/AIDS FUND): Guidelines for Participation

PEPFAR Fund for Universities

Projects that may be funded through the university program include, but are not limited to the following:

- Projects that promote awareness about HIV/AIDS;
- Behaviour change interventions;
- Projects that promote enabling environments for voluntary HIV/AIDS testing, which is also a critical entry point to prevention and care;
- Projects that create and strengthen referrals to Voluntary Testing Centres (VCTs), care and treatment sites;
- Projects that promote best practices to support people living with HIV/AIDS; formulation of an HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy; peer education programs; curriculum review to include education on HIV/AIDS; hotlines to provide information services and promote interpersonal communication and confidential counselling; integration of HIV/AIDS programs into reproductive health services;
- Projects that strengthen the technical and

PEPFAR Fund for the Media

Projects that may be funded through the media program include, but are not limited to the following:

- Projects that promote awareness about HIV/AIDS;
- Behaviour change interventions;
- Reduction in the level of HIV/AIDS stigmatization by the community
- Projects that develop skills and motivate positive HIV/AIDS reporting;
- Drama sketches that run for several months that use English or the vernacular to convey general HIV/AIDS messages;
- Broadcast effective programs on the issues of HIV/AIDS in the targeted communities;
- Projects that promote an enabling environment for voluntary HIV/AIDS testing, which is also a critical entry point to prevention and care;
- Projects that create and strengthen referrals to Voluntary Testing Centres (VCTs), care and treatment sites;

Continued on page 10

PEPFAR Fund for Universities (continued)

administrative capacities of universities and their personnel to design and initiate community-specific programming, including training in professional HIV/AIDS counseling;

- Projects that promote de-stigmatization;
- Projects that encourage linkages with U.S. institutions for sharing of best practices, collaborative research, and programming.

Project Selection Criteria

Project proposals selected for funding should incorporate the following:

- Involve a holistic approach to HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention on campus;
- Increase HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention;
- Be feasible;
- Involve key decision makers and benefit the entire university community;
- Provide detailed methodologies and objectives;
- Involve high-impact, quickly implemented activities;
- Be completed within one (1) year;
- Be linked to integrated treatments, care and support and other development activities to create synergies;
- Have visible benefits for the universities and be self-sustaining;
- Both have an immediate impact as well as potential for continued funding beyond PEPFAR resources;
- Must not duplicate efforts made by other entities;
- Have linkages with other projects of a similar nature;
- Include a technical report on the status of HIV/AIDS;
- Documents surveys on current awareness level on issues of HIV/AIDS in the institution;
- Provide an evaluation of the project;
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation technical working group to manage project;
- Provide extension services to high-risk groups in host communities.

The Application

All requests for funding should be made on a “PEPFAR Application” form. To assess applications, the Public Affairs Section will consider the objectives and methods for executing projects, short and long-term goals, evaluation plans and, where appropriate, sustainability plan, with potential grantees.

Direct all inquiries regarding the **PEPFAR Fund for Universities to:**

Program Specialist
Public Affairs Section, United States Embassy
No. 9 Mambilla Street, Abuja, FCT Nigeria
Tel: 09-523-5226/7 or 0803-785-0153
Email: baloguny@state.gov
or visit <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>

PEPFAR Fund for Meida (continued)

· Projects that promote best practices to support people living with HIV/AIDS; formulation of an HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy; peer education Programs; hotlines to provide information services and promote interpersonal communication and confidential counselling;

- Campaign slots and jingles in both print, and broadcast media (radio and television) to create awareness about the dangers of contracting HIV/AIDS and the need for safe practices.

Project Selection Criteria

Project proposals selected for funding should incorporate the following:

- Involve a holistic approach to HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention in focus states;
- Increase HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention;
- Be feasible;
- Involve key decision makers and benefit some or all of the communities in the focus states;
- Provide detailed methodologies and objectives;
- Involve high-impact, quickly implemented activities;
- Be completed within one (1) year;
- Be linked to integrated campaign, care and support and other development activities to create synergies;
- Have visible benefits for the focus states and be self-sustaining;
- Both have an immediate impact as well as potential for continued funding beyond PEPFAR resources;
- Must not duplicate efforts made by other entities;
- Have linkages with other projects of a similar nature;
- Include a technical report on the status of HIV/AIDS;

The Application

All requests for funding should be made on a “PEPFAR Media Application” form. To assess applications, the Public Affairs Section will consider the objectives and methods for executing projects, short and long-term goals, evaluation plans and, where appropriate, sustainability plan, with potential grantees.

Direct all inquiries regarding the **PEPFAR Fund for Media Project to:**

Program Specialist
Public Affairs Section
United States Embassy
No. 7 Mambila Street, Abuja, FCT Nigeria
Tel: 09-523-5226/7 or 0803-4081196
Email: HamzaD@state.gov
or visit <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>

The Public Affairs Section will partner with NACA, NUC, and the network of PLWHA to provide support and general oversight for all programs.

Ambassador Campbell Donates Books to Four Schools in Ilorin

An aspect of U.S. commitment to education in Nigeria was demonstrated on December 9, when U.S. Ambassador John Campbell donated books valued at USD \$2,500 to four secondary schools in Ilorin, Kwara State.

The grant was given to the Muslim Welfare League, Ilorin to buy books for Baboko High School, Barakat Community Secondary School, Banni Community Secondary School and Ilorin Grammar School. Four of

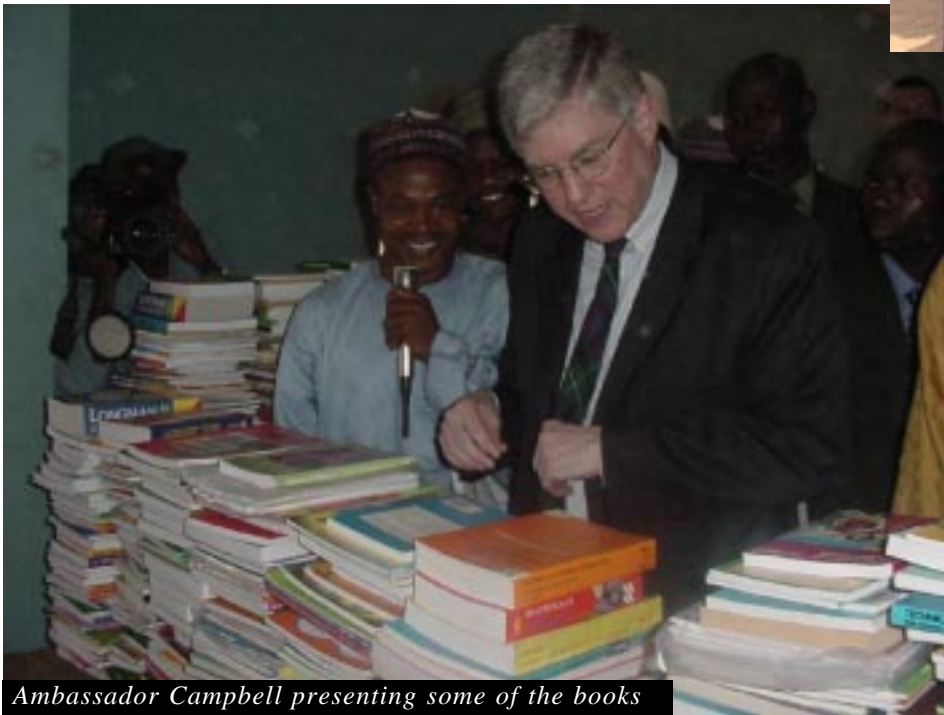
these schools are within the Ilorin Municipal Area.

Ambassador Campbell said, "by helping with the purchase of these books, for example, we are investing in the long-term intellectual well-being of this community, and that is very important."

Prior to the book donation, the Ambassador paid courtesy visits to the



Students of Baboko Community Secondary School, Ilorin, welcome Ambassador Campbell during the book donation.



Ambassador Campbell presenting some of the books to one of the principals, while members of the school's PTA look on.

Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari and the Executive Governor of the State, Bukola Saraki.

The book donation comes under the Ambassador's Self-Help Program. The program assists communities or groups to realize projects that bring about positive impact to the lives and well being of the community or group. Currently, the American contribution to any given project ranges from USD\$3,000 to \$USD10,000. ❖

— <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/> —
or e-mail: abujash@state.gov

Visa Interviews: Important Information

Misrepresentation

Applying for a visa to the United States can sometimes be a difficult, hard and even upsetting experience. While we at the United States Consulate are dedicated to facilitating legitimate travel to America, we are responsible for detecting fraud and abuse. Whenever a visa applicant has lied or presented false documents to a Consular Officer they face some pretty

stiff penalties. Most notably, willful fraud that is material to the case in question can result in the individual being barred from the United States until they reach the age of 90, as per the Immigration and Nationality Act. So please, while the process may be demanding, it is always better to tell the truth, let the Consular Officer help you as best as he or she can, then risk practical permanent exclusion from the United States. ❖

Immigrant Visa Update

5,697 Nigerians naturalized in the United States throughout 2003. This was the greatest overall total for all African nations represented. The next closest African nation was South Africa, registering only 2,237 naturalizations.

— <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/> —



Thomas P. Furey

Thomas Furey is New Deputy Chief of Mission

recent assignment was as Consul General at the U.S. Embassy in London, England.

Joining the Foreign Service in 1975, Mr. Furey started his career as a consular officer in Belize City in Central America. He then worked in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the Department of State, followed by an assignment as a political officer at the U.S. Embassy in East Berlin. Most of Mr. Furey's assignments since then have been as a consular manager, including

Affairs in the State Department. Prior to London, Mr. Furey was Consul General and Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Furey was born in Portland, Oregon in 1951 and grew up in Lake Oswego, a suburb of Portland. He received a B.A. in International Relations from American University in Washington, D.C. in 1973 and a M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, in 1975. He lives in Abuja with his wife Dorothy, whom he met when she was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Belize, she is from Minnesota. They have two daughters — Allison, who is a student at Bard College in New York; and Sarah, who is attending high school in Switzerland. ❖

A new Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) has arrived at the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. He is Thomas P. Furey. He replaces Rick Roberts who completed his assignment in mid-October last year. Mr. Furey's most

tours in Kathmandu, Nepal; Johannesburg, South Africa; Bombay, India; Bangkok, Thailand; and Mexico City, Mexico. He also served several assignments in the Bureau of Consular Affairs and as a Desk Officer for South Africa in the Bureau of African

20 Students Get Life-Line Access to Good Education

For the next three years, twenty lucky students from Kano and Kaduna are to benefit from a 3.9 million naira scholarship grant under the U.S. Government sponsored ACCESS Micro-Scholarship Program. The grant estimated at 65,000 naira per annum will cover school fees, textbooks, transportation and uniforms for each student. Presenting certificates of the award to the successful students during a well-attended ceremony witnessed by parents and teachers on December 7, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Thomas Furey said the students deserved to be praised for successfully completing a rigorous selection process. Ten of the recipients in Kaduna are senior high school students from the Demonstration Secondary School,



Thomas Furey presents a grant certificate to a recipient of the Bayero University Demonstration Secondary School, Kano.

Staff Secondary School, Bayero University, Kano.

The Access Micro-Scholarship Program assists highly talented needy high school students to acquire a good education through enhanced English language teaching. Students undergo a very selective and competitive process. Schools that participate in the program also receive materials and equipment. So far, both schools have received computers, English teaching materials, videos and CD ROMs valued at thirty thousand U.S. Dollars as part of

Ahmadu Bello University, while the other ten are currently enrolled at the

the English Teaching Program funded by the U.S. Government. ❖

Soul Music

U.S. vocalist and cello player Ellison Arttison completed a four-day music tour of three cities in Nigeria - Ibadan, Lagos and Abuja, from February 17 through 20. At the MUSON Center in Lagos, Arttison



played before a thrilled audience of over 300 guests. The audience was made up of members of the diplomatic corps, captains of industries, and government officials. In Ibadan, students of the Music Department of the University of Ibadan participated in a music class conducted by the visiting U.S. artist. ❖



(L), Arttison on stage at the MUSON, (r), a music class for Music students at the University of Ibadan.

Back Home with EAC Career Connect

For students who will benefit from the Educational Advising Center (EAC) Career Connect Program, coming back to Nigeria after their study in the U.S. to get a well-paid job may no longer be a problem. Seven companies, - MTN Nigeria, Coca Cola, Nigeria Flour Mills, Nestle, Fountain Trust Bank, Nigerian Breweries Plc, Phillips Consulting and United Parcel Service (UPS), said at a press conference on February 8, that they are prepared to make such opportunities



Coca Cola Public Affairs Director Laolu Akinkugbe, assuring members of the press on the commitment of participating companies to EAC Career Connect program in Lagos.

happen.

EAC along with this corporate partners said Career Connect is aimed at providing internship opportunities for young Nigerians to gain valuable work experience while pursuing a collegiate level

degree in the U.S. Career Connect will match talented young Nigerians with established local businesses in the Lagos area to provide quality non-paid internship work opportunities for EAC members. Each of the corporate partners will provide up to 2 internships per-year at their company for students who return to Nigeria during the U.S. summer vacation from May to August each year. These internships are non-paid but a modest stipend will be provided for transport and meals.

Membership of the EAC is open to the public with free general orientation sessions every Wednesday of the week at the Public Affairs Office, 2, Broad Street, Lagos. ❖

<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/>

Expanding Healthcare Beyond Borders

Global Fund for Women has awarded Family-Centered Initiative for Challenged Persons (FACICP) a grant of USD\$6,000. The grant is to be used for research into ways of increasing access to healthcare to Nigerian women with disabilities. Based in Benin City, Edo State, FACICP is a non governmental organization that works to protect the constitutional rights of women with disabilities in Nigeria using advocacy, counseling and support. Global Fund for Women, is a US based international grant making organization working

to improve the human rights of women by supporting the works of women organizations worldwide. Direct all enquiries on FACICP through e-mail at facicp4all@yahoo.com



Judith Ekaete Umoh, Executive Director FACICP



Dr. Marshall takes questions from the press at a media event.

Staying Alive and Free: U.S. Activist Speaks to Youths

interviewed at both the Abuja and Lagos Nigerian Television Authority headquarters, and addressed work groups and student assemblies.

His dynamic message, which calls on young people to take ownership of their destiny by learning to read the danger signs of drugs, alcohol,

cultism and teen pregnancy, was well received by the audiences he addressed.

During his time in Lagos, Dr. Marshall met with over 100 students at the Public Affairs Section before addressing approximately 400 students and faculty at Babcock University. In addition to this, he ran a workshop at the Public Affairs Section that was well attended by local community activists.

Author of best seller, *Street Soldiers*, Dr. Marshall has received numerous awards in the United States for his work with children, and is also radio host of a nationally syndicated talk show. ❖ www.street-soldiers.org ❖

Dr. Joseph E. Marshall, founder and Executive Director of the Omega Boys Club, visited Nigeria January 15 – 22 as part of the U.S. Mission to Nigeria’s celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

As part of his visit to Abuja and Lagos, Dr. Marshall served as keynote speaker at the U.S. Embassy’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event, was



Students listen with rapt attention to Dr. Marshall.

U.S. Recruiter Holds Advising Session with EAC Members

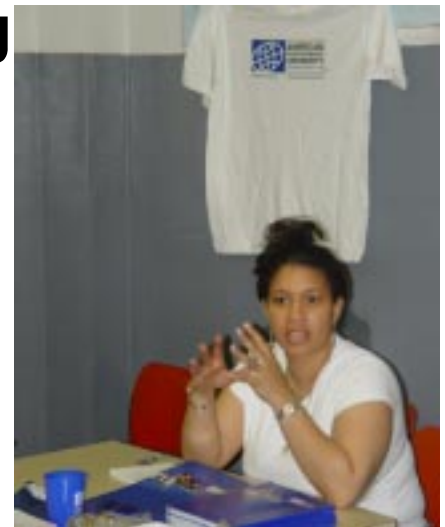
The International Admissions Advisor and recruiter for the American Intercontinental University (AIU) Christianah Coker, visited Nigeria February 2, to discuss different career focused academic programs offered by AIU with members of the Educational Advising Center (EAC) in Lagos.

Ms. Coker, who is on a three-nation tour of Nigeria, Ghana and India, said her sessions with prospective students show that a lot of Nigerians are thirsty for U.S. education. Ms. Coker discussed the admission process, career choices, funding, scholarships and financial aid to international students. Speaking specifically about AIU, she said the university values diversity and offers cultural opportunities within a booming international business community. Students and instructors she said, inspire each other to study and learn. “Students can gain real-world career skills while working toward a degree

and we refer to this as career-oriented education,” she added.

With multiple campus locations on three continents - United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and the U.S. - AIU exposes students to a multicultural environment with the global perspective required for a competitive international job market. ❖

❖ <http://www.aiudunwoody.com/> ❖



AIU recruiter Christianah Coker (top). Coker reviews the documents of a student in EAC Lagos, (Bottom).

Dr. King Remembered



U.S. Country Public Affairs Officer Claudia Anyaso, presents a painting of Dr. King to Bukhari Bello.

A photo presentation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and a program on the reflections on the life and times of Dr. King, were the highpoints of this year's activities commemorating the birthday of Dr. King in Abuja and Lagos respectively. King was murdered on April 4, 1968 while supporting a strike by the city garbage workers in Memphis, Tennessee.

In Abuja, U.S. Embassy Country Public Affairs Officers, on January 25, visited the Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Commission, Bukhari Bello and donated a large portrait of the late Dr. King. In Lagos, events to commemorate King's legacies opened with the reflections of the lives of Dr. King by the Consul General Brian Browne. Paying special tribute to Dr. King as the world's most effective advocate of civil rights and non-violence change, Browne said Nigeria can tap into any of King's rich legacies of non-violent social change in the country's efforts to mould a truly democratic system of government. ❖

HOME, A Place to Go



Rising Stars: Omonor Imobhio (Pattie Mae) and Kunle Dada (Cephus Miles) in HOME.

On Thursday, January 20th, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General collaborated with Collective Artists

to host a large number of Nigerians to a performance of HOME, a rib cracking and poetic comedy directed by

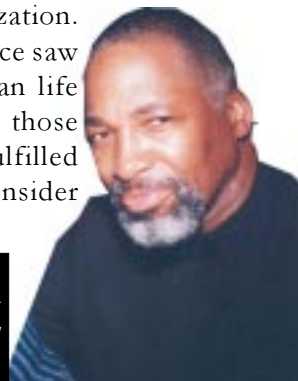
Chuck Mike. The scene was South Carolina and Cephus Miles (played by Kunle Dada) was an orphaned African American farm boy whose mother had tried without success to make him religious. Abandoned by his childhood sweet-heart Pattie Mae (Omonor Imobhio) and jailed for refusing to fight in Vietnam, Cephus heads up North where the fast city life leaves him broke and abandoned. Like the prodigal son, Cephus decides to return home to his rural farm in **Crossroads** and things begin to look up for good. Then Cephus who thought God had deserted him during his travail exclaims, "God must be back from vacation."

A powerful and moving story, HOME was written by Samm-Art Williams who hails from North Carolina. The play was first produced in 1974 on Broadway and received numerous accolades including the Tony nomination as Best Broadway play.

HOME effectively depicts issues in the U.S. in the 70s spotlighting the contradictions of society through the sharp edge of the Vietnam era, segregation, poverty and urbanization.

Many in the audience saw parallels to Nigerian life and observed that those who lead an unfulfilled city life should consider returning home. ❖

*Editor's Note:
We are pleased that Williams named HOME - Crossroads*





Black History Month Honors Activists of the Niagara Movement

In declaring February 2005 as Black History Month, President George Bush has described the Niagara Movement of 1905 as the turning point for the generation of African Americans in the pursuit of the promises of America. “In this year's National African History Month, we honor the determination and commitment of generation of African Americans in pursuing the promises of America”, Bush said.

The theme of this year's National African American History Month is on the Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn, 1905 – 2005. Activities marking the centenary celebration honors grassroots movements of 1905 to 1910 that were organized to fight racial discrimination in America. Led by W.E.B. DuBois, the movement called for voting rights for African Americans, opposed school segregation, and worked to elect officials committed to fighting racial prejudice.

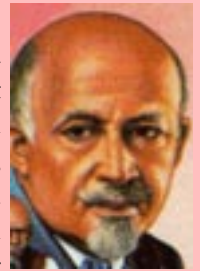
In Lagos, a collection of paintings depicting Africans in the Diaspora is on display at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This colorful art display is in collaboration with the AkinBosede International Center for Africans in the Diaspora

Originally established as Negro History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American author and scholar, this event evolved into the establishment in 1976 of February as “Black History Month.”

The National Theme for the celebration of Black History Month in the year 2005 marks the 100th anniversary of the Niagara Movement. The month of February is also significant and recognized in African American history for hosting the birthdays of great African American pioneers and institutions like Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Eubie Blake, NAACP and the first Pan African Congress. ❖

FAST FACTS -

The Niagara Movement was founded in Niagara Falls, Canada. W.E.B. Du Bois, an African American professor at Atlanta University,



W.E.B. Dubios

led the organization. The movement placed the responsibility for racial problems in the United States on whites. At its height, the Niagara Movement had 30 branches in various U.S. cities. Although it failed to win the support of most blacks, but many of its ideas were adopted in 1909 by a new interracial organization—the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). To date, the primary focus of NAACP continues to be the protection and enhancement of the civil rights of African Americans and other minorities. ❖



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March Events	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	3	4	5
	6	7	8 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	9 <i>Women History Month (Oshogbo)</i>	10 <i>Women History Month (Oshogbo)</i>	11	12
	13	14	15 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	16 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	24	25	26
2005	27	28	29	30	31		

Please note that ALL events on this calendar are STRICTLY by invitation. For enquiries please call the telephone numbers listed above.