

FEBRUARY 15, 1996.

Hon. WARREN M. CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary of State, Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: We are writing to express our deep concern regarding human rights violations occurring as a result of antinarcotics operations in Bolivia. On March 1, 1996 the Administration is slated to announce its annual "certification" of countries cooperating with U.S. antinarcotics objectives. As you undertake your review of antinarcotics efforts in Bolivia, we urge you to look closely at those violations to seek ways to work with the Bolivian government to implement measures that could improve the protection of human rights in that country.

Human rights abuses remain pervasive in the Chapare, the rural area in which most of Bolivia's coca is grown and cocaine base produced. For years, the antinarcotics police—trained and funded with U.S. assistance—has run roughshod over the local population, carrying out arbitrary searches and arrests, stealing the meager possessions encountered, and manhandling and beating individuals during raids and interrogations. Impunity for abuses committed by antinarcotics police is the norm. If investigations are initiated, they are cursory and incomplete; sanctions are rarely imposed.

Social unrest and conflict in the Chapare increased significantly over the second half of 1995, as a result of stepped-up coca eradication efforts. Last spring, the U.S. government sent the Bolivian government a letter stating that Bolivia would be treated as "decertified" and therefore ineligible for U.S. assistance if it did not, among other conditions, meet coca eradication targets. In response to the U.S. ultimatum, the Bolivian government stepped up antinarcotics operations despite well-founded fears that these actions would unleash a wave of violence. As predicted, the eradication efforts sparked violent confrontations with coca growers, resulting in at least seven deaths, scores wounded and hundreds arrested. Careless and indiscriminate use of force by the Bolivian police against those opposing coca eradication policies is disturbingly frequent.

Since mid-January, the Bolivian antinarcotics police have undertaken massive sweeps in the Chapare, arbitrarily detaining over three hundred people. Those detained are typically held several days and released without charges; indeed, without ever being presented to a judge. On January 29, the police also broke up a peaceful hunger strike in support of the women protesting the government's coca policies and threw over fifty people into jail. Neither Bolivian law nor international human rights standards permit these warrantless arrests of individuals against whom there is no evidence of participation in criminal conduct. The government is clearly using police powers to stifle lawful political opposition to its policies. Given the proximity of a decision on certification, we also suspect the Bolivian government is detaining hundreds in the hopes of impressing the United States with its antidrug commitment.

The Bolivian antinarcotics efforts also continue to rely on special judicial procedures that violate fundamental due process considerations. Under Bolivia's Law 1008, those who are formally charged with drug offenses—no matter how minor—are imprisoned without the possibility of pre-trial release and must, even if acquitted, remain in prison until the trial court's decision is reviewed by the Supreme Court, a process that takes years. The U.S. government provides funding for the salaries and expenses of special prosecutors for the antinarcotics courts.

We recognize the United States does not encourage or condone human rights abuses

by Bolivian antinarcotics forces. Nevertheless, the United States shares responsibility for those abuses. The U.S. government provides funds and technical assistance to all of the Bolivian agencies involved in counternarcotics activities and, as just noted, to the antinarcotics courts. Bolivia has passed laws, created institutions and adopted antinarcotics strategies shaped by U.S. concerns and pressure.

We urge you to ensure that the U.S. government no longer underwrites human rights abuses in Bolivia by adopting policies more sensitive to the political, economic and social cost of antinarcotics operations in Bolivia. Specifically, we urge the U.S. government to:

Support revisions in Law 1008 which would ensure that Bolivia's judicial procedures for drug offenses meet international due process norms and standards.

Ensure that Bolivian antinarcotics police receiving U.S. assistance and support comply with Bolivian and international laws when carrying out arrests.

Provide the necessary support to enable the Bolivian antinarcotics police to establish effective complaint and review procedures to hold abusive agents accountable.

Expand reporting on human rights abuses stemming from antinarcotics operations in the State Department's annual human rights report for 1996.

The issue of drug abuse is important to the American people and deserves the attention of our nation's leaders. U.S.-supported coca eradication efforts in Bolivia, however, have yielded little results in reducing the amount of cocaine coming into the United States, and few independent observers believe they can ever succeed in reducing the flow of cocaine to our country. At the same time, they have increased social tensions and fostered human rights abuses. In crafting future policy, adoption of the measures we have outlined could result in significant improvements in the human rights situation in Bolivia and would send an important message to the Bolivian people regarding U.S. concern for human rights.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Representatives from the following organizations signed on to the February 15, 1996 letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher addressing human rights concerns as a result of U.S. anti-narcotics policy in Bolivia:

Washington Office on Latin America.
Maryknoll Society Justice and Peace Office.

American Friends Service Committee, Washington, Office.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Catholics For Justice, Latin American Task Force, Diocese for Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri.

Center for Concern.
Church of the Brethren.

Clergy for Enlightened Drug Policy.
Columban Justice and Peace Office.

Comboni Peace and Justice Office, Cincinnati, OH.

Latin American Studies Program, Cornell University.

Criminal Justice Policy Foundation.
Drug Policy Foundation.

Fellowship of Reconciliation Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Foundation on Drug Policy and Human Rights.

Inter-American Dialogue.
North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA).

Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA.

International Labor Rights Fund.
Maryknoll Society.

Office of Social Concerns, Maryknoll Sisters.

NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

Open Society Institute.
Pax Christi U.S.A.

Peru Peace Network.
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet.

U.S. Catholic Conference.
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

The following individuals also signed on to the letter: Melina Selverston and Cynthia McClintock.

AFTERMATH OF THE MARC TRAIN CRASH; HONORING THE CREW AND THE JOB CORPS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, a few short weeks ago, many Americans were shocked by the loss of life in the Amtrak/Maryland Commuter Rail [MARC] railroad tragedy. Among those who died were eight outstanding young people who were turning their lives around: Dante Swain, 18, Baltimore; Michael Woodson, 26, Philadelphia; Diana Hanvichid, 17, Woodbridge, Virginia; Lakeisha Marshall, 17, Capitol Heights, Maryland; Carlos Byrd, 17, Baltimore; Claudius Kesssoon, 20, Landover, Maryland; Thomas Loatman, 23, Vienna, Virginia; and Karis Rudder, 17, Elmhurst, New York. Three fine MARC train crew members also died while heroically trying to save the passengers instead of themselves: Richard Orr, James Quillen, James Majors, all of Maryland.

The young people were enrolled in the Job Corps at the time of their deaths. They were participants in one of the oldest and most successful Federal programs that gives at-risk youth a chance to build positive lives for themselves. They were striving to create the kind of lives that the MARC train crew members had made for themselves—responsible, productive, and hard working. The ideals of the Job Corps represent the dreams of these young people and the lives of the MARC train crewmen.

The Job Corps was born in 1964, during the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson. It is one of that era's most productive and effective offspring. As the Nation's largest and most comprehensive residential job training and education program for at-risk youth, the Job Corps has provided more than 1.6 million disadvantaged youth with a pathway to prosperity and productivity. Some Job Corps graduates have become millionaires, Ph.D.s, judges, psychologists—even a World Heavyweight Boxing champion [George Foreman].

The Job Corps was established as a public-private partnership. Under a contract with the U.S. Department of Labor, private industry operates almost 80 percent of the Job Corps centers. The remaining centers are managed through contracts with such Government agencies as the Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

Job Corps students are young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are making a determined effort to achieve a productive, responsible life. Job Corps statistics show that their determination pays off: Seven out of ten

Job Corps students go on to full-time employment, enlistment in the military, or further education at the college level.

The return on the financial investment in the Job Corps brings impressive results. A 1983 study showed that the Job Corps yields a 46-percent return to society on every dollar invested in it. The average cost per Job Corps student is \$15,426 over a 7.5 month period—the average length of stay—This translates into \$67 per student per day. The cost-benefit ratio of the Job Corps is dramatic when you compare this expenditure to the yearly per student cost at a public university—\$17,246—or the average cost to incarcerate a juvenile for 1 year—\$38,000—or the cost per cadet for 1 year at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point—\$62,250—.

The young people who perished were students at the Harpers Ferry Job Corps site in West Virginia. It is one of 110 centers nationwide, including Puerto Rico, where approximately 60,000 young people are turning their lives around. A residential center, the Harpers Ferry Job Corps Center, provides basic education and the chance to earn a high school equivalency degree, training in life skills, as well as medical services and vocational counseling. The 210 students enrolled there are preparing to enter the construction trades, and business, clerical, and health occupations.

The loss of the admirable young Harpers Ferry Job Corps members and the brave MARC train crew cannot be replaced. However, we can celebrate their hopes, dreams, and successes through the Job Corps.

CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEENAGE PREGNANCY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to call to your attention a bipartisan effort to prevent teenage pregnancy. The National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy proposes to garner support from State and local governments, as well as the media to encourage activities that would "reduce teenage pregnancy by supporting values and stimulating actions that are consistent with a pregnancy free adolescence."

The ever-increasing number of teenage mothers poses economic and moral dilemmas for the Nation. Out-of-wedlock births to American teenagers rose 150 percent between 1970 and 1990. Of these pregnancies 82 percent were unintended. This rise in unintended pregnancies has the potential to negatively impact the economic future of the United States. It is therefore imperative that we work together to decrease the number of teenage pregnancies before they reach epidemic proportions.

As it stands, nearly half of teen mothers are on AFDC within 5 years of the birth of their first child. It has been estimated that 53 percent of AFDC benefits go to families that began as a result of a teenage pregnancy. The effect on the children born to these young girls is devastating. Eighty percent of these children live in poverty, as opposed to 8 percent of children born to women over the age of 20.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy proposes to use national and community based organizations—including religious organizations—to encourage concerted efforts to educate ourselves on teenage pregnancy. By involving State and local organizations, we ensure that each community develops a program that reflects its particular set of values.

The success of this initiative would not only lighten the burden on the Federal Government, but also allow for a brighter future for millions of our Nation's youth.

RICHARD C. LEE ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY MARCH 14, 1996

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker: On March 12, 1996 the Honorable Richard C. Lee celebrated his 80th birthday. Today he is being honored by Albertus Magnus College. It is with tremendous pleasure that I rise today to salute this incredible individual, who means so much to me and has contributed so much to the city of New Haven.

Dick's dedication to the city of New Haven is illustrated by a lifetime of public service. His career began as a reporter and later a wire editor for the New Haven Journal Courier. He later became editor of the Yale News Digest and director of the Yale University News Bureau. Dick then went on to a career as a public servant. After twice running and losing, he became New Haven's youngest mayor in 1953. He served for 6 years, longer than any mayor since.

There was an historic dimension to Dick Lee's administration. During his tenure as mayor, he was deeply involved with and dedicated to issues of urban renewal. He initiated an economic revitalization plan, marking a turning point in New Haven's history. He was particularly interested in the human side of urban redevelopment. He incorporated community outreach into the public school system, and added staff to the public schools to facilitate relationships between faculty members and students, and developed job training programs. He also served as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Dick's success in New Haven and solid reputation led to his becoming the principal adviser on urban affairs during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, where he led the way for similar programs throughout the country.

After retiring as mayor, Dick continued to serve his community by serving as executive director of the United Way of Greater New Haven from 1975 to 1980. Dick's later achievements include an appointment to the Committee on Judicial Review in 1976 and chairing the State Library Board from 1984 till 1986. In 1987 he was appointed to the Judicial Review Council. He later joined Union Trust as the chairman's representative in New Haven.

On a personal and political level, the DeLauro and Lee families have been close for years. I witnessed firsthand his knowledge, insight, and caring for the New Haven community. My mother, Luisa DeLauro, served on the Board of Aldermen under Dick's administra-

tion. I fondly remember Dick's relationship with my father, Ted DeLauro. They were great friends and worked together on numerous projects for the betterment of the New Haven community. Throughout my life, Dick has been both a mentor and a friend to me.

On September 13, 1987, Dick was inducted into the Knights of St. Gregory, a papal honor for "exemplary conduct as a citizen living up to his full measure of influence and creativity in the community." It is exactly this commitment to community that distinguishes the life of Richard Lee and it is with great pleasure that I commend him for a lifetime of achievement and service to our community. I join his wife Ellen, his children, Sally, David, and Tara, and his many friends and family members in wishing Dick's a very happy 80 birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, due to the untimely death of my father, Harlan Christensen, I was not present yesterday for four rollcall votes:

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall vote No. 56, "yea;" rollcall vote No. 57, "yea;" rollcall vote No. 58, "yea;" and rollcall vote No. 59, "yea."

TRIBUTE TO TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GLEN BROWDER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House to the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine and its 50 years of service to the State of Alabama and to the United States of America.

A 12-month observance of the school's founding in 1945 will culminate this weekend with a special celebration in Alabama on Sunday, March 17.

Tuskegee Institute, which was renamed Tuskegee University in 1984, is one of the outstanding educational institutions in the Third Congressional District of Alabama, which I have the privilege to represent.

Tuskegee's school of veterinary medicine was the first in the southeastern region of the United States that would give African-Americans an opportunity to obtain an education in veterinary medicine. In this capacity, the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine fulfilled an urgent health manpower need during the 1940's and 1950's by educating African-Americans who provided significant service to the rapidly growing livestock industry in the southeast.

Even after the legal desegregation of the United States in 1964, the school continued to serve as a national resource for training of minority veterinarians. It has the distinction of having educated over 72 percent of all African-American veterinarians educated in the