

Treasury Secretary to visit African nations

WASHINGTON (AP)— Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers will visit five African nations during a weeklong trip designed to highlight the Clinton administration's call for greater international support for the region.

Summers plans to meet with government and business leaders in Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, Mozambique and Egypt starting on Saturday.

In a speech Tuesday to a United Nations conference, Summers said the administration would be pushing to make assistance to poor nations a top priority for this year's Group of Eight economic summit in Okinawa in July. President Clinton will join leaders of Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and Russia at the annual gathering.

The administration wants to make such issues as fighting the AIDS virus in Africa and forgiving debt for the world's poorest nations top priorities for rich countries in an effort to combat critics who have charged that globalization has left millions of poor people behind.

In his speech to the United Nations Conference on Women and Development in New York, Summers said that problems in poor nations were being exacerbated by the HIV epidemic.

"Of the 16 million deaths

from AIDS to date, 14 million have been in Africa," Summers said. "Last year, the combined wars in Africa killed 200,000 people. AIDS killed 10 times that number. Yet it is estimated that 90 percent of the illness and death that HIV/AIDS will bring to Africa are still to come."

Summers said the United States would be pushing at the upcoming economic summit for greater international assistance to combat AIDS, provide debt relief for the world's 40 poorest countries and boost World Bank spending on education in poor nations, especially on projects to educate more women. At the same time, Summers noted that one of the reforms the United States is pushing is for the World Bank to target its loans to countries with a good track record on use of international assistance.

"We must more often decline to provide assistance to corrupt or uncommitted governments — in Africa or anywhere else — that lack the desire or the capacity to invest those resources for the good of all of their people," Summers said.

The African stops on Summers schedule include: Abuja, Nigeria, on June 11-12; Lagos on June 13; Dar es Salaam on June 14; Pretoria, June 15; Maputo, Mozambique, on June 16-17 and Cairo on June 18.

Former South Africa Air Force chief dies

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)— Lt. Gen. R. H. D. Rogers, a highly decorated airman who rose through the ranks to become the chief of staff of South Africa's air force, has died. He was 78.

Rogers, who died Sunday after a long battle with cancer, had also been a member of parliament for the opposition Democratic Party and their spokesman on military issues until his retirement from public life in 1994.

In 1940, Rogers dropped out of college, where he was studying medicine, to volunteer for the air force and fight in World War II.

He served as a tactical reconnaissance pilot in North Africa and later as a pilot in Sicily and Italy. He was once shot down, though he was not captured, and had a finger shot off in another battle, where he managed to fight off four German planes.

He received a host of military medals for his wartime service.

Rogers held various command posts before being appointed acting chief of the air force in 1974.

He was made official chief of staff in 1975 and retired from the military in 1979.

He survived by his wife of 32 years, Clare Bosch, and their adopted son, Robert.

Clinton: Internet can help fight poverty

BERLIN (AP)— President Clinton floated some ideas Saturday for how the Internet could be used to improve lives and fight poverty in the developing world, from downloading school books in poor villages to marketing native crafts in cyberspace.

"We should recognize what an enormous potential the Internet has for bridging economic, educational and social divides," Clinton said at the closing of a Berlin conference on retooling government for today's global information society. Clinton noted that Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien told the other leaders about how his government had connected remote Eskimo villages to the Internet.

"That has enormous health implications, enormous educational implications and, my guess is, enormous economic implications," Clinton said.

If schools in poor or remote spots had Internet-access, they'd also have the same access to knowledge as the rich world, he said.

"If you have a printer and a computer in a poor village, you don't have to be able to afford textbooks anymore," he said. "It's a far more efficient way for government to spread universal information."

Clinton also suggested "a systematic effort to use e-commerce" to market native arts and crafts from Latin America and Africa, which he said would "increase the income of poor people in villages dramatically."

He also described something he saw on his recent trip to India. A new mother was able to get quality up-to-date information on how to care for her baby by going into her village's health office and calling up a Web page.

"We're going to keep more babies alive because of the Internet," he said. "Those of us in the wealthier countries should be providing the money and the technical support for countries to do more of this," he said, "because it will move more people more quickly out of poverty I think than anything that's ever been out there, if you do it right."

United States to attend world racism conference

WASHINGTON (AP)— The United States will participate in a world conference on racism next year in South Africa, but some members of civil rights and social justice groups say the U.S. role in the event is far from being defined.

The United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance is scheduled for August or September 2001.

A planning conference was held in Geneva. Regional planning sessions are scheduled later in Brazil, Senegal, France and Switzerland.

"There are a lot of people, including people in the U.S. government and Congress, who wonder about these U.N. conferences and what it is that they do," said Ambassador Betty King, the U.S. representative on the U.N. Economic and Social Council in New York.

"The ultimate purpose is to have the entire world focused on the question of racism in all its forms across the world. There is value to that."

Only six months remain in President Clinton's presidency, yet White House

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— Roger Wareham

deputy chief of staff Maria Echaveste said at a White House briefing that administration officials thought the conference was a logical extension of the president's race initiatives.

She said the administration wants the conference to show that the United States is an active participant in global discussions about race.

But after the briefing, some representatives of groups that work on issues, such as racial profiling, youth violence, hate crimes, police brutality, anti-Semitism, torture and human rights, expressed frustration, saying the U.S. objectives at the conference are unclear.

"What is the purpose of the conference? The preplanning meetings? What is it to lead to? I haven't the slightest idea," said Brian Foss with the National Conference for the Community and Justice in Washington.

Morton Sklar, director of the World Organization Against Torture USA, said the members of the groups

Africa Cardinal Paul Zoungrana succumbs

VATICAN CITY (AP)— Cardinal Paul Zoungrana of Burkina Faso, for decades a leading voice of the Roman Catholic church in Africa, has died, the Vatican said Monday. He was 82.

Zoungrana, who retired five years ago as archbishop of Ouagadougou, died Sunday, the Vatican said, without giving further details. In a condolence message, Pope John Paul II praised the cardinal as a "zealous and faithful servant of the church" and as an "eminent son of Burkina Faso and Africa."

Zoungrana was made a bishop by Pope John XXIII in 1960 and a cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1965.

He spoke out frequently on the plight of Africa and the impoverished sub-Saharan region and said the church and the world must not neglect the suffering.

Cardinal Jozef Tomko will preside at a funeral service Saturday, the Vatican missionary news service Fides said.

have decided to meet in Washington to figure out how they can take a more active role in the conference planning. Roger Wareham, international secretary general of the International Association Against Torture in New York, chided the administration for failing to issue its long-awaited report on race.

And he complained that the briefing for the U.N. conference should have been held at least a year ago.

He said the United States initially opposed a world conference on racism, possibly because the U.S. government doesn't want to see the nation's racial problems discussed in a global forum.

"The U.S. is the beacon of human rights observers and we can dictate to the rest of the world," Wareham said. "Racism is an issue that puts the U.S. in the same category of other nations. It makes the U.S. vulnerable."

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

The Regional Transportation Commission of Clark County, Nevada

SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO TWO ADVISORY COMMITTEES

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) advises the Commission on issues related to mass transportation, street and highway construction, transportation demand management, air quality, and other issues as may arise.

OLDER AMERICANS/DISABILITIES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Older Americans/Disabilities Transportation Advisory Committee (OA/DTA) advises the Commission on local transportation issues of interest to seniors and persons with disabilities, including fixed route and paratransit bus services.

These unpaid appointments are to fill vacancies on the committees for the remainder of the present term, through June, 2001, after which reappointment to a new full term is possible. The committees meet once each month, at 5:30 p.m. on a Wednesday (for the CAC) and at 1:30 p.m. on a Tuesday (for the OA/DTA.) Appointment carries with it specific attendance requirements. *Persons interested in serving on one of these committees should request an application now from:*

Michael Born, Senior Planner
(702) 676-1716
e-mail: bornmm@co.clark.nv.us

Your completed application should reach the RTC

no later than Friday, June 23, 2000.

Jacob Snow, General Manager
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(702) 676-1500
TDD 676-1834

