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and undermines economic growth. Ninety percent of all malaria cases arise on the continent of Africa, but with increasing globalization we are all at risk. We now fund in the United States half the research on malaria, but we want to do more. This year we've committed $16 million more to help African nations fight infectious diseases, including malaria, with an additional million dollars to the West African Malaria Center in Mali.

We also want to support good nutrition. There are troubling signs that without concerted efforts, Africa could face a major food and nutrition crisis in the coming years because of natural causes and social unrest. Children cannot learn if they are hungry. So we have proposed a food security initiative for Africa to ensure that more African families can eat good meals and more African farmers can make good incomes. Over the next 10 years, we want to stay with you and work at this. In the next 2 years, we propose to spend over $60 million in Uganda, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, and Ethiopia to increase food production, enhance marketing, expand agricultural trade and investment.

I've learned a lot, since I've been here, about Ugandan bananas, Ugandan coffee. I will be an expert in all these matters when I go home.

I want you to understand again what I said at the beginning. We want to do these things in education, in health care, and agriculture and nutrition because they will help you, because we want to see the light that is in these children's eyes forever, and in the eyes of all other children.

But make no mistake about it. The biggest mistake America ever made with Africa over the long run was neglect and lack of understanding that we share a common future on this planet of ours that is getting smaller and smaller and smaller. We do these things, yes, because we want to help the children. But we do it because we know it will help our children. For we must face the challenges and seize the opportunities of the 21st century together. The next century, in a new millennium, will be the brightest chapter in all of human history if, but only if, it is right for all of our children.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, and his wife, Janet; Vice President Wandira Specioza Kazibwe; Prime Minister Kintu Musoke; Speaker of the House James Wapakabulo; and Minister of Education and Sports Amanya Mushega. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks in a Meeting With Village Business Owners and an Exchange With Reporters in Wanyange, Uganda

March 24, 1998

The President. You know, one thing I did not say in my remarks I think I should point out here, just because of the press here, in explaining this to people—all these people who get these loans, they don't have balance sheets, most of them. They don't have an asset and liability sheet for which they could get a normal commercial loan. What they have is proven skills and a good reputation for being responsible.

The repayment rate in this FINCA program and throughout all these programs across the world is 98 percent—98 percent of these loans are paid back on time. And that's why I say we do $2 million—I wish we were doing $100 million. I mean, I can't think of anything else where we have invested money that has a 98 percent success rate. It's a stunning thing, just because of this fine woman and people like her all around the world. It's an amazing thing.

Good for you.

We want to see your baby.

Hillary Clinton. Will you bring your baby down?

Janet Museveni. How old is he?

Betty Namugosa. Two days.

The President. My boy, Bill. Oh, he's beautiful. Look at all this hair. I was completely bald until I was 2.

Your fourth child? Thank you for doing this. Why did you name this child after me?

Ms. Namugosa. I was expecting two things this month, the baby and the visit of the President. And I got both.

The President. Look how beautiful he is. He just woke up. The smartest person here.

President's Visit to Africa

Q. Mr. Clinton, what else has impressed you today?

The President. About this stop? Well, the income that—these are people that start out borrowing $50 in American money. They pay it back; they get another loan; they pay it back; they get another loan. It's like they're making all these markets—or entrepreneurs—you can turn a country around doing this if you have enough. But it really proves that people should not be written off just because they happen to be born and grow up in a poor area. It proves that there are people of intelligence and energy and character everywhere in the world. All they need is a chance. And insofar as we give them a chance, we strengthen nations, and we strengthen our future. And in our case, the American people are better off. It's a fabulous thing.

And I got a little boy out of it. [*Laughter*] He's beautiful. Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 6 p.m. at the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA). In his remarks, he referred to shopkeeper Betty Namugosa and her son, Bill Clinton, who was named in honor of the President. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Foundation for International Community Assistance Women's Village in Wanyange

March 24, 1998

Thank you very much. I will try to say this right: *Khodeyo* [How are you]? [*Applause*] Thank you. I must say it is a great honor for me to be around a group of women who say they are willing to give jobs to men. Thank you very much. [*Laughter*]

It is a great honor for me to be here with the President and Mrs. Museveni. My wife and I like these loan programs very much. And Florence, we thank you for the fine job you did being the leader of this program today. I want to thank Milli Mukyala and Robinah Balidawa; thank you very much for being an example to women, not only throughout Uganda and, indeed, Africa but throughout the world. The United States is proud to support FINCA in these efforts. FINCA now has set up 3,400 banking groups, like the two of which you're a part, in Africa, in Latin America, in the former Soviet Union.

The United States, just in the last 2 years, has increased its support for such programs through our AID program, and now we are making over 2 million loans every year to people just like you—over 2 million. What that means is that women in villages like this all across the world are going to be able to meet the needs of their children, as Milli so eloquently describes, are going to be able to build the economies of their villages. It will make their nations stronger, and they will make the world a better place. So the song you sang today is a song for children everywhere. It's a song for women everywhere. It's a song for the future of the world everywhere. We will continue to support these programs as long as I am President.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to my wife, who introduced me to these programs now over 12 years ago. Twelve years ago she came to me and told me about what was happening in a far away country in Asia—Bangladesh. And she said this could be done everywhere. And you have shown through your media and ours—today you have shown the whole world what can be done in villages everywhere. So you have done a great service not only to yourselves and your own children but for women just like you all across the globe. And we thank you very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:07 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, and his wife, Janet; Florence