

**The President.** That's good.

[A participant cited the Holocaust as another example of conflict and said that young people must be graphically shown that reconciliation is possible]

**The President.** What you said is really what I was thinking about because when I talk, when I go to Bosnia and I talk to those people, it's like their deal is the only deal in the world, their division. When I deal in the Middle East, and I talk to the Irish and I have to listen to it, every time I see the main players I deal with, I know I'm going to have to get History 101. [Laughter] It's like they've got a tape recorder, and I'm going to have to listen for 3 or 4 minutes before we can get down to business.

I don't say this in a critical way, but I think it's important for people to understand that everywhere in society, almost, there is like a battle of human nature that goes on, and there is a strong tendency to divide, whatever your world is, up between us and them. And you can't. People should never give up whatever their "us" is, you just want it be "us" and "we" instead of "us" and "them." So that's why I ask.

Thank you so much. Good luck to you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. at R.P. Maphanzela Primary School.

### **Interview With Johnathan Rodgers of the Discovery Channel in Johannesburg March 28, 1998**

#### **African Education Initiative**

**Mr. Rodgers.** Mr. President, I was in Uganda when you announced your African education initiative. It was very, very impressive. Is there a role for foundation and the private sector in helping us?

**The President.** Oh, absolutely. There's no way that just through Government aid from the United States and other countries we can do all this. And a lot of operations like the Discovery Channel can even more efficiently hook up these schools, give them the basics that they need, a television set, a satellite, the VCR's. Then eventually we'll be able to come in with the computers, and we'll be

able to have interactive access to the Internet and even interactive communication across national lines.

But we have to begin to put in place a technological infrastructure in these schools. And since we can now leapfrog a lot of the early investments that schools would have had to make 10 or 20 years ago, we can actually do it more cheaply. In other words, they won't have to have a thousand volumes in their library that they could never afford if we can do enough through educational television.

**Mr. Rodgers.** You also talked about the relationship, in this case, between one school, I believe it's in Silver Spring, Maryland, and a school in Uganda.

**The President.** That's right.

**Mr. Rodgers.** Are there other things American kids can do to help here in Africa in terms of education?

**The President.** Oh, yes. First of all, I think it's important to set up as many partnerships as possible. And if the children have access to the Internet in the African schools, if we can get that done, then they can actually communicate directly through the Internet.

But there are lots of other things we can do. If we have partnerships—children in American schools, for example, could have book drives and send books to children—a lot of children in African schools don't have access to any of the books that American kids take for granted. Then they could write back and forth and talk about the books they're reading. Or they could make sure they have a television and access to some of your "Discovery" tapes, and then they could write back and forth and talk about what they'd seen together. I think that this is the kind of thing that we want to promote more of.

**Mr. Rodgers.** Great. And the last question, Mr. President—I think a lot of Americans would be surprised that in many of the African countries boys are treated differently than girls. Do you see a change coming there?

**The President.** Yes, we're working hard to support that. But you see this in a lot of developing nations around the world, where boys and girls have a different role in traditional society and where girls have not traditionally been educated. Now, as they move

to a more modern society, young girls have the same aspirations: They want to develop their minds; they want to go out and live their lives. And we've worked very hard to support education for young girls.

One of the things I like best about the Ugandan educational initiative is that they want universal primary education for all their children. And they're going out and recognizing the schools where the enrollment and the graduation rates are just as high for girls as for boys.

That's a big priority. But it's a big change for Africa, but Africa is not alone in that. That's a worldwide issue we have to keep working on.

**Mr. Rodgers.** Thank you very much, sir.  
**The President.** Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 2:12 p.m. at the R.P. Maphanzela School. Johnathan Rodgers is president of Discovery Networks, U.S. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

### **Remarks at the Memorial to Hector Peterson in Soweto, South Africa**

*March 28, 1998*

Thank you very much. Premier Motshekga, Father, Foreign Minister Nzo, Ambassador Sonn, Ambassador Joseph, Mayor Mayathuma, Mayor Mogase. I'd like to especially thank Walter Sisulu and Mrs. Sisulu for being here and Helen Suzman and Dorothy Molefe. Thank you all so much for coming.

I thank the Soweto Heritage Trust for their work on this magnificent memorial. And I thank the people of Soweto for making Hillary and me feel welcome here.

This solemn place commemorates forever the death of one young boy, a death that shocked the world into a new recognition of the vast evil of apartheid. Today, as South Africa enjoys what our President Lincoln called "a new growth of freedom," we remember the historic events of this decade and we remember that none of them could have been possible without the bravery of the young men and women of the townships, who took to the streets in protest, many of whom were cut down in struggle, more of

whom were damaged by prison and torture. We remember generations divided by a system that denied them equality, justice, and the opportunity to make the most of what God gave them at birth.

Here in the heart of Soweto, on behalf of all the American people, we also honor those who led the fight over so many decades to end apartheid. Some of their names are now well known all around the world: Biko, Tambo, Hani, Suzman. Many others have names that most of us who are not South African have never heard and now will never know, black, white, colored South Africans who answered the call of conscience. But all of them together, by their unyielding refusal to accept injustice, summoned men and women around this country, and indeed around the world, to raise their voices and work until change came to South Africa, people who gave themselves for the greater good of their country men and women, people who, by their very example, made our world a better place to live. For this, all men and women of goodwill in every nation on this Earth should be profoundly grateful.

With the tree that Hillary and I just planted with the help of those wonderful young people, we remember all who fought, all who suffered, all who died. Let this tree, a symbol of new life, recall their sacrifices but also embody with every blooming the bright and hopeful new day they gave so much to bring to South Africa. And with every new day, let us be all the more grateful that they made it possible.

Thank you very much, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:57 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Premier Mathole Motshekga of Guateng Province; Father Mpahki, who gave the invocation; Minister of Foreign Affairs Alfred Nzo of South Africa; South African Ambassador to the U.S. Franklin Sonn; U.S. Ambassador to South Africa James A. Joseph; Mayors Nandi Mayathul-Khoza of Soweto and Isaac Mogase of Greater Johannesburg; retired head of the African National Congress Walter Sisulu and his wife, Albertina; and Helen Susman, former Member of Parliament. A tape was not available for verification of the contents of these remarks.