

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



August 7th – August 14th, 2009

This special edition of *Global Food for Thought* will focus exclusively on the coverage of agricultural development issues during Secretary Hillary Clinton's trip to Africa.

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News Coverage (August 7 – August 14, 2009)

NEWS COVERAGE

Friday, August 14, 2009

[Clinton Ends Africa Tour, Will Return With Tasks](#)

August 14, 14:12 GMT: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wrapped up an 11-day tour of Africa today in which she sought to inspire countries to fight corruption. Before flying back to Washington, Clinton met with Prime Minister Jose Maria Neves of Cape Verde, an island nation and tourism destination off the western coast of Africa that U.S. officials describe as an African success story. She arrived in Cape Verde late yesterday from Liberia. BLOOMBERG

[Clinton: US sent 'tough love' message to Africa](#)

August 14, 13:45 GMT: Winding up an 11-day African tour, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday she's optimistic about its future and voiced no regrets about "tough love" messages she gave to government leaders there. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[In Cape Verde, Clinton Lauds the 'Promise of Africa' on Final Tour Stop](#)

August 14, 13:23 GMT: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton wrapped up her seven-nation tour of Africa on Friday with a brief stop in this palm-dotted island nation, which the U.S. government has hailed as an African success story. Clinton stayed overnight in Cape Verde and met with Prime Minister José Maria Pereira Neves on Friday morning before returning to Washington. WASHINGTON POST

[Developing Countries a Divided House at Climate Talks?](#)

August 14, 11:46 GMT: Developed and developing countries have been at loggerheads for quite sometime on the issue of reducing carbon emissions. The developing countries urge the developed countries to heed to the recommendations of the International Panel on Climate Change and cut their carbon emissions by at least 25

percent by 2020. The developed countries on the other hand want the developing countries to make small but significant contributions in reducing the global production of carbon emissions. REUTERS

[Presidents past and present shadow Clinton's tour](#)

August 14, 11:24 GMT: They followed her every step of the way. From Kenya to Cape Verde, the personalities and policies of the last three American presidents - Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama - dogged Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton through an 11-day tour of Africa. At times during the grueling, seven-nation journey Clinton abandoned her legendary steeliness. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton uses her own, Obama's celebrity in Africa](#)

August 14, 09:58 GMT: He wasn't there but Hillary Clinton leaned heavily on President Barack Obama's heritage on her seven-nation Africa trip that ends on Friday in Cape Verde. "The president considers himself a son of Africa," she said in Liberia's legislature on Thursday, a phrase she repeated at nearly every stop in an 11-day trip aimed at improving relations with key players on the continent. REUTERS

[ANALYSIS-Zimbabwe strikes test unity government](#)

August 14, 07:43 GMT: The threat of spreading strikes in Zimbabwe could undermine a six-month-old unity government that has brought rare hope, but has failed to win vital funding from donors who demand faster political and economic reform. A pay strike by doctors this week is the first major sign of local discontent with the government formed in February between President Robert Mugabe and old rival Morgan Tsvangirai. Now teachers say they are getting ready to strike too. REUTERS

[Clinton Supports President of Liberia](#)

August 14: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton landed in Liberia in the driving rain Thursday morning and sent a strong message of support to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who has recently come under scrutiny for her role in the country's conflict-ridden past. Mrs. Johnson Sirleaf, a Harvard-trained economist, instantly became a symbol of women's empowerment and a departure from war in this long-suffering nation in 2005, when she became Africa's first woman to be elected head of state. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

[In Africa, Clinton Balances Criticism, Praise](#)

August 14: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, midway through her swing across Africa, on Monday met with Angola's President José Eduardo dos Santos, who has ruled the oil-rich country for the past three decades, and whose government has been accused of cronyism and corruption by watchdog groups, and his military accused of human-rights violations. In public remarks to Angola's foreign minister, Mrs. Clinton said, "We have our work cut out for us, Mr. Minister." But she hailed the government's move toward transparency as a "positive step." WALL STREET JOURNAL

[Clinton Winds Up African Trip in Cape Verde](#)

August 14: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has arrived in the archipelago of Cape Verde, the final destination of her seven-nation journey across Africa. She meets Friday with the Portuguese-speaking nation's prime minister, Jose Maria Neves. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton Dismisses Flap, Calls Africa Trip 'Great'](#)

August 14: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday that she has had an "absolutely wonderful trip" through Africa, despite a flap over her angry retort to a student's question about her husband's political opinions. WASHINGTON POST

Thursday, August 13, 2009

[Clinton shows US support in Liberia visit](#)

August 13, 13:13 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday offered high-profile support for Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first democratically elected female leader. Torrential rain met Clinton as she arrived in the capital Monrovia, where hundreds of drenched people lined

the streets to welcome her, waving American and Liberian flags and holding banners, some of which proclaimed that she was a "woman of substance for Liberia." ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton set for visit to Liberia](#)

August 13, 12:24 GMT: US Secretary State Hillary Clinton has arrived in Monrovia on the latest stage of her seven-nation African tour. During her visit, Mrs Clinton will hold talks with Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and address parliament. The BBC's West Africa correspondent, John James, says expectations are high as the United States is seen by many in Liberia as an old friend. BBC NEWS

[Clinton visits Liberia to bolster president](#)

August 13, 11:27 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Liberia on Thursday, anxious to show support for Africa's only woman president. Clinton wanted to go to Liberia -- the sixth nation on an 11-day tour of Africa -- to demonstrate U.S. backing for "democratic progress" in the colony founded in the 19th century by freed former American slaves, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson said before the trip. REUTERS

[ANALYSIS-Clinton's Africa trip breaks little new ground](#)

August 13, 08:09 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's wraps up her Africa trip on Friday, urging nations such as Nigeria and Kenya to tackle graft but showing no big policy shifts by the Obama administration towards the continent. For the most part, experts said the 11-day, seven-nation trip was a goodwill and listening tour, following up after U.S. President Barack Obama's one-stop Africa trip to Ghana in July. REUTERS

[Clinton rebukes Nigeria on public standards](#)

August 13: Hillary Clinton delivered a withering assessment of Nigerian governance yesterday but pledged to share information with authorities investigating corruption by US companies in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest oil producer. Nigeria's decade of civilian rule has been marred by corruption and electoral violence but some analysts had expected the US secretary of state to keep any criticism for private meetings with the rulers of the country that supplies about one in every 12 barrels of crude that the US imports. FINANCIAL TIMES

[Two Sides of Nigeria Addressed by Clinton](#)

August 13: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton sent a message of tough love to Nigeria on Wednesday, praising the country's strong military and showing public appreciation for its huge oil industry, but also harshly criticizing the government for being corrupt. Mrs. Clinton thanked Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and typically its biggest oil producer, for its help in resolving wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone and for providing peacekeepers to Sudan. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

[Hillary Clinton, in Liberia, targets good government](#)

August 13: Until a few years ago, Liberia was not the sort of place a US secretary of State would generally visit. Riven by a brutal civil war from the late 1990s until 2003, that killed nearly 250,000 and maimed countless others, Liberia was the poster child of senseless conflicts. But protected by a United Nations protection force, and led by a woman president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, since 2006 elections, Liberia has begun a healing process that makes it a cause for celebration, if not exactly a model for resolving other African conflicts. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

[Clinton Urges Overhaul of Nigeria Elections](#)

August 13: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton condemned Nigeria's electoral process and high levels of corruption, while pledging U.S. assistance in efforts to bring peace to the volatile and oil-rich Delta region. During a town-hall meeting in the capital city on Wednesday marked by clapping and hooting, Mrs. Clinton urged Nigeria to fix its "flawed electoral system." The meeting, which was by invitation, included democracy activists, several state governors and business leaders, including the country directors of U.S. oil companies Chevron Corp. and Exxon Mobil Corp. WALL STREET JOURNAL

[Secretary Clinton to Meet with Liberian President Sirleaf](#)

August 13: U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton is scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in the capital, Monrovia Thursday. Clinton's Liberia visit forms part of a seven-nation Africa trip intended to designate Africa as a key part of President Barack Obama's agenda. Ahead of her arrival, Liberians have been calling on their government to use Secretary Clinton's visit to seek a sharp increase in American investment. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Amnesty a Welcome Respite for Niger Delta Region, Says Analyst](#)

August 13: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wrapped up a busy day of diplomacy in Nigeria Wednesday, meeting with President Umaru Yar'Adua and Foreign Minister Ojo Maduekwe. Nigeria is the fifth of seven countries the US official is visiting on her 11-day tour of Africa. Clinton has been pressing for improved bilateral ties and for good governance, including continuing democratization and a tough stance against corruption. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton to Affirm US Support for Liberian President](#)

August 13: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is in Liberia to show support for President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's only female head of state. Clinton arrived in a pouring rain Thursday but was greeted by hundreds of Liberians who waved flags and held banners saluting the top U.S. diplomat. Clinton immediately went into talks with Mrs. Sirleaf. Later, she will address Liberia's national assembly. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton Says US Supports Sirleaf](#)

August 13: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has given a big boost of support to embattled Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf whose Truth and Reconciliation Commission has recommended that she be barred from holding further public office. Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission says President Sirleaf should be barred from future political office because of her support in the early 1990s for then-rebel leader Charles Taylor. VOICE OF AMERICA

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

[Nigeria Rebels Doubt U.S. Will Support Yar'Adua in Delta](#)

August 12, 16:49 GMT: The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, the main armed group in Nigeria's oil region, said it doubts the U.S. will provide military help to defeat the insurgency that is hurting the country's oil exports. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is visiting Nigeria, said President Umaru Yar'Adua's government asked for help to restore security in the region. The U.S. is exploring what military assistance it can provide, she said after a meeting with Nigeria's Foreign Minister Ojo Maduekwe in Abuja today. BLOOMBERG

[Kenya moves to fight hunger](#)

August 12, 15:07 GMT: The Government has put in place emergency measures to save Kenyans from starvation even as it placed two million people on its feeding programme. The multi-billion shilling measures will see the military being used to distribute relief supplies, purchase of livestock from farmers in drought hit areas, provision of free crop seedlings and irrigation among others. DAILY NATION

[Clinton nudges Nigeria on graft, offers help](#)

August 12, 14:33 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton encouraged Nigeria on Wednesday to take a firmer line on corruption and offered U.S. help to implement badly needed electoral reforms in Africa's biggest energy producer. Mismanagement and graft over decades have imperiled Nigeria's development, deterred investment, undermined democracy and deepened conflicts such as the insurgency in the southern Niger Delta and bouts of religious violence in the north. REUTERS

[Clinton Pledges Help for Niger Delta: Minister Optimistic](#)

August 12, 13:08 GMT: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pledged U.S. support for Nigeria's efforts to combat militants who have slashed oil production in the Niger Delta, while the country's foreign minister predicted peace would be restored to the region by year's end. BLOOMBERG

[Clinton presses Nigeria on graft](#)

August 12, 12:46 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday urged oil-rich Nigeria to embrace broad political reform and ease tensions that have led to sectarian violence and disrupted energy production in the Niger Delta. In the Nigerian capital of Abuja on the fifth stop in a seven-nation tour Africa, Clinton said that action on those fronts was needed to protect the country's status as the continent's largest oil producer and largest recipient of direct U.S. investment. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton pledges support to end Congo conflict](#)

August 12, 09:04 GMT: American Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met Congolese President Joseph Kabila Tuesday in Goma, the lakeside city that has become of the icon of war, rape and disease that has plagued the central African country. Clinton spent Tuesday in Goma, the war-torn provincial capital buffeted by volcanoes and gaseous lakes where a multitude of militia groups and Congo's own army have feasted on women, small villages, and the bevy of minerals that lie beneath them. DAILY NATION

[Clinton rails at crimes against women and children in Congo](#)

August 12, 05:09 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said yesterday more must be done to protect civilians from violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where the army is fighting a string of conflicts. Clinton spoke in the eastern Congolese city of Goma, capital of North Kivu province, which aid groups say is the most dangerous place on earth for women and children, where she urged President Joseph Kabila to crack down on violence against women. BUSINESS DAY

[Clinton wants to end feud in Congo](#)

August 12, 04:46 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday to press its leadership to work to prevent mining profits from funding militia in the east of the country. Clinton, who will fly from the capital, Kinshasa, to eastern Congo today to visit United Nations peacekeepers and meet rape victims, said in Angola she would be "exploring ways to end this conflict". BUSINESS DAY

[Clinton to meet Nigerian leaders](#)

August 12, 02:36 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has arrived in Nigeria on the fifth leg of her seven-nation tour of Africa. During her 36-hour visit, Mrs Clinton will meet her Nigerian counterpart, Ojo Maduekwe, and later hold talks with President Umaru Yar'Adua. BBC NEWS

[Clinton to Balance Oil Need. Anti-Graft Demands in Nigeria Stop](#)

August 12, 01:33 GMT: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continues her African journey in Nigeria today where she will seek to improve ties with the largest U.S. oil supplier on the continent while offering to help it tackle corruption. Clinton arrived in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, late yesterday from the Democratic Republic of Congo, where she urged that government to prevent militias from exploiting mineral wealth to fund their warfare. BLOOMBERG

[It's Africa's turn to lecture West on climate change](#)

August 12: Prime Minister Raila Odinga recently wondered why the world's superpower, which just a few decades ago gleefully nurtured the continent's dictators in its push to topple Communism, would want to forget so soon and start lecturing the continent's leaders on the ethos of good governance. But behind closed doors, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her team are said to have told Kenyan leaders to reform the country's institutions or risk losing American support. BUSINESS DAILY

[Kenyan scientists to support sub-Saharan African farmers](#)

August 12: A group of veteran and upcoming women scientists in Kenya under AWARD (African Women in Agricultural Research and Department) programme have urged African leaders and US policy makers to put women at the centre of efforts to address hunger and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. During the recent visit by US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton and Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack to research facilities outside Nairobi, the group argued that only if women can exert more influence over priorities, policies and programmes will sub-Saharan Africa be able to ward off future food crises and cope effectively with frequent drought and other impacts of climate change. DAILY MONITOR

[Clinton Presents Plan to Fight Sexual Violence in Congo](#)

August 12: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton came face to face with the consequences of the brutality in eastern Congo on Tuesday afternoon when she met a Congolese woman who had been gang-raped while she was eight months pregnant. The fetus died, Mrs. Clinton said, the woman was gravely injured and since there was no hospital nearby, villagers stuffed the woman's wound with grass to keep her from bleeding to death. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

[Clinton to take fight against rape to east Congo](#)

August 12: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the use of women as "weapons of war" in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo must stop and that Kinshasa should do more to stamp out rape. Clinton planned to meet President Joseph Kabila and U.N. peacekeepers on Tuesday in the eastern Congolese city of Goma, capital of North Kivu province which aid groups say is the most dangerous place on earth for women and children. THE STANDARD

[Clinton, Congo President Discuss Security in Country's Eastern Kivu Region](#)

August 12: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Congolese President Joseph Kabila say they are both committed to improving security in Congo's troubled Kivu regions. Secretary Clinton announced \$17 million in new U.S. assistance to help victims of sexual violence in Congo. Secretary Clinton told President Kabila that Washington wants a new era of partnership with the Democratic Republic of Congo. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton to Meet Nigeria President Yar'Adua](#)

August 12: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is scheduled to hold discussions with Nigeria's President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua Wednesday. Secretary Clinton arrived in Nigeria yesterday as part of her seven-nation-Africa visit. Political analysts believe Secretary Clinton will push hard for the government to address Nigeria's endemic corruption and expedite electoral reforms. They also expect her to seek an update on the status of a 60-day amnesty period in the restive Niger Delta. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton to Discuss Governance, Corruption in Nigeria](#)

August 12: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is in Nigeria where she will meet with President Umaru Yar'Adua Wednesday on the fifth stop of her Africa trip. Clinton is expected to discuss good governance and corruption in Nigeria. Secretary of State Clinton meets separately with President Yar'Adua and several former Nigerian heads of state in what her Africa deputy calls the most important country in Sub-Saharan Africa. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Nigeria: Amnesty Offer for Militants is Boosting Oil Output](#)

August 12: Nigeria says its oil production is on the rise following the government's offer of amnesty to militants in the oil-rich Niger Delta. Foreign Minister Ojo Maduekwe made the statement Wednesday at a joint news conference in Abuja with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Maduekwe gave no figures but said that "the mere perception that peace is coming back" has boosted oil output in recent weeks. VOICE OF AMERICA

[In Nigeria, Sharia Fails to Deliver](#)

August 12: As military rule ended in Nigeria a decade ago, an Islamic legal system was swept into place on a wave of popular support in the country's desperately poor and mostly Muslim northern states. It has turned out in a way few expected... How the battles over sharia play out could have effects beyond Nigeria, a nation pivotal to West Africa's stability and viewed by the United States as key to stopping the spread of religious extremism in Africa. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to discuss the issue with Nigerian leaders on a visit to the country this week. WASHINGTON POST

[Clinton Courts Good Will in Nigeria](#)

August 12: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton continued her message of good government and stronger relations with Africa while visiting Nigeria on Wednesday, taking a noticeably softer tone with this continental heavyweight and crucial oil supplier to the United States. On the fifth stop of her seven-nation Africa tour, Mrs. Clinton thanked Nigeria, the continent's most populous country, for its help in resolving wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone and for providing peacekeepers to Sudan. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

[ANALYSIS-West Africa's tainted polls raise stability fears](#)

August 11, 19:01 GMT: string of questionable elections in West Africa this year have been backward steps for democracy that may incite further power grabs on an unstable continent, even though most of the polls went off peacefully. A poll in Mauritania that legitimised a military coup and one in Congo Republic which gave a long-serving president a new term in office were both denounced by the opposition as rigged. REUTERS

[Clinton seen taking tough line on graft in Nigeria](#)

August 11, 16:46 GMT: The fight against corruption and electoral reform are expected to be high on the agenda when U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton meets Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua on Wednesday. Clinton arrives in Africa's most populous nation and its biggest energy producer on Tuesday as part of a seven-nation, 11-day trip to the continent, a month after U.S. President Barack Obama visited nearby Ghana. REUTERS

[Clinton concerned about deaths, rape in east Congo](#)

August 11, 15:25 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Tuesday more must be done to protect civilians from violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where the army is fighting a string of conflicts. Clinton spoke in the eastern Congolese city of Goma, capital of North Kivu province which aid groups say is the most dangerous place on earth for women and children, where she urged President Joseph Kabila to crack down on violence against women. REUTERS

[Clinton to take fight against rape to east Congo](#)

August 11, 14:48 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the use of women as "weapons of war" in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo must stop and that Kinshasa should do more to stamp out rape. Clinton planned to meet President Joseph Kabila and U.N. peacekeepers on Tuesday in the eastern Congolese city of Goma, capital of North Kivu province which aid groups say is the most dangerous place on earth for women and children. THE STANDARD

[Clinton demands end to sexual violence in Congo](#)

August 11, 14:45 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton toured an African refugee camp Tuesday crowded with victims of violence and malnutrition, pledging \$17 million in American aid to help stem the tide of rampant sexual abuse that has staggered war-ravaged eastern Congo. Clinton's voice cracked with emotion as she described an epidemic of rapes that has convulsed the Congo over 10 years of internecine conflict. "We say to the world that those who attack civilian populations using systematic rape are guilty of crimes against humanity," she said. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton Asks Congo to Stop Militias' Link to Mining](#)

August 11, 14:24 GMT: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the U.S. would send legal and financial experts to help the Democratic Republic of Congo manage its finances and take action to ensure mineral resources aren't funding warring militias. BLOOMBERG

[Clinton concerned about deaths, rape in east Congo](#)

August 11, 12:55 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Tuesday more must be done to protect civilians from violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where the army is fighting a string of conflicts. Clinton spoke in the eastern Congolese city of Goma, capital of North Kivu province which aid groups say is the most dangerous place on earth for women and children, where she planned to meet President Joseph Kabila and U.N. peacekeepers. REUTERS

[FACTBOX-Five risks to watch in Africa](#)

August 11, 12:14 GMT: Africa might have emerged as a more mainstream investment destination in the past decade, but it remains the world's poorest continent and one where politics, violence and weather can still

dominate markets. Below are some risks factors to watch for the continent and its largest economies.
REUTERS

[Clinton wants to end feud in Congo](#)

August 11, 10:46 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday to press its leadership to work to prevent mining profits from funding militia in the east of the country. Clinton, who will fly from the capital, Kinshasa, to eastern Congo today to visit United Nations peacekeepers and meet rape victims, said in Angola she would be "exploring ways to end this conflict".
BUSINESS DAY

[Clinton set to meet Congo leader](#)

August 11, 10:32 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is expected to tackle the issue of mass rape in war-torn DR Congo when she meets President Joseph Kabila later. Mrs Clinton, on a seven-nation African tour, has focused on women's issues and violence against women during her time in the Democratic Republic of Congo. BBC NEWS

[Oil is no gift for Africa's poor](#)

August 11, 07:47 GMT: Nigeria and Angola are Africa's top two oil producers, yet most of their people live in wretched poverty, often in shanties dwarfed by fire-belching derricks. Corruption has long kept oil revenues from making life better for ordinary people in the two countries, and the growing anger, which swells the ranks of militant groups, creates instability that threatens the world's fuel supply. This week it is drawing the attention of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton as she travels across the continent. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton Addresses War Crimes in Congo](#)

August 11, 07:29 GMT: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stopped in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday, making a two-day visit to highlight sexual violence, a weapon wielded in the long-running conflict by rebel groups as well as the Congolese army. The conflict has raged for about 15 years in this vast nation. It began when Tutsi forces pursued Hutu perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide over the Congolese border, but has since devolved into clashes among several armed groups over the valuable minerals in the region. WALL STREET JOURNAL

[Clinton appeal on Congo conflict](#)

August 11, 00:06 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has urged students in the Democratic Republic of Congo to speak out against the country's deadly civil conflict. On the latest leg of her seven-nation African tour, she said students could write a new chapter in history. Violence flared in the country's mineral-rich east last year, raising fears of a return to civil war. BBC NEWS

[Narrow product scope limits AGOA benefits for SMEs](#)

August 11: Cumbersome trade regulations and a narrow product scope have emerged among the main stumbling blocks to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) seeking access into the American market. One of those factors —limited product scope—was evident at the exhibition area of the 8th American Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Conference held in Nairobi last week. Curio dealers displaying similar wares, mainly handicrafts and apparel, dominated the exhibition. BUSINESS DAILY

[Clinton Presses Congo on Minerals](#)

August 11: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Congo on Monday to push the Congolese government and the United Nations to end the longstanding bloodshed here, taking special aim at the illicit mineral trade that helps fuel the conflict. "I am particularly concerned about the exploitation of natural resources," she said, referring to Congo's vast reserves of diamonds, gold, copper, tin and other minerals. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

[Clinton to Meet with Victims of Sexual Violence](#)

August 11: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton travels to Congo's eastern Kivu region, Tuesday, to meet with victims of sexual violence. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says continuing sexual and gender-based violence in Kivu is "truly one of mankind's greatest atrocities." VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton Pushes Congo on Atrocities Against Women](#)

August 11: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is demanding an end to the widespread rapes and attacks on women in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Clinton spoke to reporters Tuesday after meeting with Congolese President Joseph Kabila in Goma, the capital of Congo's volatile North Kivu province. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Advocacy Group Urges Clinton to Address Suffering in Eastern Congo](#)

August 11: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is visiting the DRC as part of her seven-nation tour of Africa, which is designed to promote democracy and development and strengthen US ties to the continent. Clinton met Tuesday with President Joseph Kabila in the eastern city of Goma, the capital of the volatile North Kivu province. VOICE OF AMERICA

Monday, August 10, 2009

[Travel Diary: Partnership Supports Agricultural Development in Angola](#)

August 10, 14:20 GMT: Yesterday, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chevron Corporation and the Cooperative League of the United States of America (CLUSA) yesterday to assist Angola in diversifying its economy by revitalizing small and medium scale commercial farming, and promoting agricultural development that is environmentally friendly, socially just and economically sustainable. DIPNOTE (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIAL BLOG)

[Clinton to tackle Congo conflict](#)

August 10, 13:49 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where she will speak out on the country's deadly civil conflict. Mrs Clinton is expected to call for an end to rights abuses, including mass rapes reportedly carried out by rebels and government troops. Violence flared in the country's mineral-rich east last year, raising fears of a return to civil war. BBC NEWS

[Zimbabwe's Mugabe: West should 'leave us alone'](#)

August 10, 13:35 GMT: President Robert Mugabe said Monday that if the West can't support Zimbabwe's struggling coalition government, it should "leave us alone." Mugabe spoke at the funeral of 85-year-old Vice President Joseph Msika, who served alongside Mugabe for two decades and died last week after suffering from heart disease for many years. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and other top officials in the five-month-old coalition government joined Mugabe and some 20,000 other mourners at Harare's Heroes Acre cemetery. Mugabe was the only one to speak. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton visits Congo on Africa tour](#)

August 10, 12:44 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton promoted democracy in the war-devastated country of Congo on Monday and drew attention to an epidemic of sexual assaults in its violence-torn east. While in the Congolese capital, Clinton will visit a hospital founded by former NBA star Dikembe Mutumbo, a native of Congo, and will hold a town hall meeting. On Tuesday, she plans to go to Goma where she will meet victims of horrific rapes and other sexual crimes committed by the military and rebel groups, many of which are fighting over the region's vast mineral wealth. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton urges fair Angola polls](#)

August 10, 10:08 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has urged Angola to hold credible elections and address the country's past poor human rights record. Mrs Clinton was speaking after talks with senior Angolan officials in Luanda - the third stop of her African tour. Presidential polls in Angola were due to be held this year, but delays mean they are likely to be held in 2010. BBC NEWS

[Challenges abound as Africa seeks to penetrate global markets](#)

August 10: The expiry of the trade protection that has ushered in stiff competition from low-cost producers in Asia and US-originated trade barriers are the two major reasons Kenyan textile exports to the world's largest economy are low. BUSINESS DAILY

[Hillary Clinton aims to revive US influence in Angola](#)

August 10: Hillary Clinton's visit to Angola on Sunday and Monday shows that the cold war is well and truly over, but that its techniques are alive and well. Once a battleground between Soviet-armed and Cuban-trained government forces and an American-armed rebel force, Angola has belatedly become the center of a different kind of rivalry between the US and China – over Angola's oil resources. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

[Clinton Urges Reforms, Strong Ties With Angola](#)

August 10: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hopes to strengthen ties between the U.S. and Angola, a major oil producer that has become China's largest trading partner in Africa. She arrived Sunday in Angola, the third country on her seven-nation tour of the continent. Angola rivals Nigeria as a top oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa, and is a major exporter of petroleum products to the U.S. The concern for the U.S. is that Angola could direct more of its resources to China, which has offered the country billions in loans and applies no political preconditions to its trading partners. WALL STREET JOURNAL

[Clinton Meets Angolan President, Signs AIDS Funding Agreement](#)

August 10: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos Monday, a day after urging Angola to go ahead with long-awaited presidential elections. The two met in the Angolan capital, Luanda, shortly after Clinton signed an agreement to increase U.S. funding to fight AIDS in Angola by \$10 million. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton Travels to DRC](#)

August 10: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is scheduled to meet Democratic of Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila in the capital, Kinshasa Monday. Clinton is also scheduled to visit Goma, the capital of North Kivu State, where she will meet with victims of sexual violence. Abuse against women has soared since Kinshasa launched an offensive against rebels in January. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Clinton Building Ties With Angola](#)

August 10: Hillary Rodham Clinton made the first visit to Angola by a U.S. secretary of state in seven years, trying Sunday to strengthen relations with a growing oil producer that is being aggressively courted by China. WASHINGTON POST

Sunday, August 9, 2009

[Clinton Meets Angolans as Minister Calls \\$70 Oil 'Not Bad'](#)

August 9, 23:10 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged Angola to expand efforts to increase transparency in reporting petroleum revenue as the country's oil minister expressed satisfaction with the current price of about \$70 a barrel. Clinton, aiming to improve U.S. relations with Africa's leading oil-producing nation, stayed overnight in Angola's capital city of Luanda, becoming the first secretary of state to do so. She called on Angola's leaders to fight corruption and hold a timely presidential election. BLOOMBERG

[Travel Diary: Secretary Clinton Engages Nairobi Press](#)

August 9, 19:07 GMT: While in Nairobi, Kenya, Secretary Clinton participated in interviews with local reporters, including Seanice Kacungira of Capital FM, Bill Odidi of Metro FM and Fatuma Sanbur of IQRA FM. Their conversations covered a range of topics. In her interview with Bill Odidi of Metro FM, Secretary Clinton underscored the Obama administration's commitment to Africa. DIPNOTE (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIAL BLOG)

[Pay the bomb blast victims](#)

August 9, 15:48 GMT: As the 11th anniversary of the Nairobi Bomb Blast came, the victims must have breathed a sigh of relief; the occasion was coinciding with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit. Could this be the last stab at compensation? DAILY NATION

[Travel Diary: Humanitarian Mine Action Promotes Post-Conflict Recovery in Angola](#)

August 9, 15:48 GMT: When Secretary Clinton arrives in Angola as part of her 11-day trip to seven African nations, she will find a nation working to emerge from nearly 40 years of conflict. Angola's wars have left

behind a deadly legacy: abandoned landmines and unexploded munitions. Today, more than 2 million Angolans living in nearly 2,000 villages throughout the country face daily risks from abandoned landmines and unexploded munitions, according to the latest edition of *To Walk the Earth in Safety*, an annual report from the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement. DIPNOTE (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIAL BLOG)

[Clinton Asks Angola to Fight Corruption, Hold Presidential Vote](#)

August 9, 14:57 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pressed Angola to investigate human rights abuses, fight corruption and hold free, fair and "timely" presidential elections. Angola's prosperity depends on "good governance and strong democratic institutions," Clinton said after meeting with Angolan Foreign Minister Assuncao Afonso dos Anjos in Luanda, Angola's capital. BLOOMBERG

[US misguided in moving to arm Somalia, say analysts](#)

August 9, 14:27 GMT: Some analysts are warning that the Obama administration is taking the wrong approach in moving to increase US military support for the nascent Somalia's government. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Nairobi on Thursday following a meeting with TFG leader Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed that she and President Obama "want to expand and extend our support". DAILY NATION

[Analysis: Eritrea confounds US in Somalia](#)

August 9, 11:39 GMT: As it boosts aid to Somalia's weak interim government to fight an al-Qaida-linked Islamist militia, the Obama administration is grasping for ways to cut off what it says is one of the militant group's main supply lines: the tiny Red Sea state of Eritrea. The enigmatic and authoritarian nation has emerged as a principle player in the conflict in lawless Somalia, where the enfeebled government is struggling for survival against the extremist al-Shabab faction. ASSOCIATED PRESS

[Clinton presses Angola to fight corruption](#)

August 9, 08:15 GMT: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pressed Angola on Sunday to do more to fight corruption during a two-day visit to the oil-producing country aimed at bolstering ties between the two nations. Angola rivals Nigeria as Africa's biggest oil producer but about two-thirds of the population live on less than \$2 a day. It ranks 158th on Transparency International's 180-nation corruption list. REUTERS

[There is more to AGOA than US generosity](#)

August 9: Amid the clamorous lectures on governance and corruption, there is a genuine sense the US administration of President Barack Obama wants a re-energised trade embrace with African countries. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pointed out in her address to the AGOA meeting in Nairobi on Wednesday, the trade figures are embarrassingly lopsided against Africa. DAILY MONITOR

[Clinton Praises Angola, but Urges More Reform](#)

August 9: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton gave a gentle nudge to Angola on Sunday, urging this up-and-coming nation, a major oil producer that has drawn close to China, to push harder to democratize. Hillary Rodham Clinton in Africa Mrs. Clinton said she was "encouraged by the steps the Angolan government has taken," like the peaceful parliamentary election last year. But she said the country needs to go further, holding presidential elections and investigating human rights abuses, sooner than later. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

[Clinton Calls for Elections in Angola](#)

August 9: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is in Angola where she is urging the government in Luanda to fight corruption and hold presidential elections. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says economic growth in Angola depends on good governance and strong democratic institutions. VOICE OF AMERICA

[Remarks at Witnessing of Signing of Chevron USAID Memorandum of Understanding](#)

August 9: "With the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding, we are making a down payment on the future, the revitalization of small and medium holder farming in Angola. This \$6 million investment will help raise the income of Angolans, turn back hunger, and drive sustainable development. It will bolster Angola's

efforts to rebuild a once vital agricultural sector destroyed by war, which again can be a source of broad-based prosperity." U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Saturday, August 8, 2009

[Travel Diary: Women Are Drivers of Positive Change](#)

August 8, 20:43 GMT: When I first visited the Victoria Mxenge co-operative in Cape Town in 1997, I met homeless women working to transform an empty patch of land into a new community. They pooled their savings and microloans, bought shovels, poured concrete and built new homes for themselves and their children. In 1997, there were just 18 homes. I returned a year later and saw 104. Yesterday I found a village of thousands of homes where once there had been only dust and despair. The determination and entrepreneurial spirit of the women of Victoria Mxenge underscore a basic truth: empowering women is key to global progress and prosperity. DIPNOTE (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIAL BLOG)

[Clinton helps South Africa bloom](#)

August 8, 17:35 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has helped clear rubble and plant flowers as she visited two housing schemes near Cape Town, South Africa. The most senior diplomat in the US also danced as she was welcomed with music at the Victoria Mxenge Housing project, which she first visited 12 years ago. BBC NEWS

[Clinton meets South Africa's Zuma](#)

August 8, 17:16 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has held talks with South African President Jacob Zuma in Durban. After the meeting, both talked of strengthening ties between the US and Africa's largest economy. Mr Zuma, who took office in May, said the new administrations were taking their relationship to "a higher level". BBC NEWS

[Secrets of Clinton's private meetings](#)

August 8, 13:52 GMT: The US Government will name and shame key perpetrators of Kenya's post-election violence and individuals involved in corruption. It will also ban them from visiting the country, the Sunday Nation has learnt. The declaration is part of an agreement reached between Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during various private meetings with Kenya Government leaders and MPs during her three-day visit to the country. DAILY NATION

[Kenya seeks to widen its export share to the US](#)

August 8, 13:12 GMT: A proposal to set up an export development fund is one of the strategies the Kenya government is exploring as it seeks ways of boosting the country's exports to the US market. The proposed fund, which will support the development and promotion of the country's export sector, comes in the wake of the just-concluded African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) forum in Nairobi. During the meeting, which was expected to take stock of and chart the way forward for the trade agreement between AGOA-eligible sub-Saharan African countries and the United States, there was consensus that most African countries are yet to reap the full benefits of the deal. DAILY NATION

[Lessons from Hillary Clinton's visit to Kenya](#)

August 8, 12:43 GMT: Mrs Hillary Clinton paid her much-anticipated visit to Kenya and left. US President Barack Obama had already signalled his unwillingness to visit his fatherland so we knew that his secretary of state was the next best thing. Now, I often wonder about these visits and whether they serve any purpose other than spelling out America's agenda for Africa, giving veiled warnings to Kenya to play the game or else, and engaging in much diplomatic-speak and double-talk. DAILY NATION

[US went overboard in ensuring security for Hillary Clinton](#)

August 8, 12:30 GMT: It is depressing to listen to the handiwork of President Kibaki's speech writers. Who are they? It was painful to compare what they had written to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's lively and engaging address at the AGOA conference. "It is incumbent on us . . .", "We envisage that in future . . .", thus

went the laborious Presidential sentences. The plodding and boring delivery by the President himself did not help matters at all. DAILY NATION

[U.S. South Africa work to improve ties](#)

August 8, 10:50 GMT: The United States and South Africa, whose relations were soured by clashes over HIV/AIDS and Pretoria's unhappiness with U.S. foreign policy under former President George Bush, pledged on Saturday to improve ties. Both sides hope the election of President Barack Obama, whose father was Kenyan, and South Africa's Jacob Zuma, who replaced Thabo Mbeki, will lead to better relations. REUTERS

[Kenya expels Eritrean after Clinton trip -paper](#)

August 8, 8:02 GMT: Kenya expelled an Eritrean diplomat for security reasons a day after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton accused Asmara of destabilising the region by supporting Somali rebels, Kenyan media said on Saturday. Speaking in the Kenyan capital on Thursday, Clinton warned that the United States would take action against Eritrea if it did not stop backing hardline insurgents in Somalia including the al Shabaab group. REUTERS

[The world's true top diplomat](#)

August 8: One of the fans of this column, Jimmy Rujumba asked me to follow up my critique of Obama's famous Accra speech, with a comment on the role of the US versus that of the UN. No better time to comment on that than now when US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is on a seven-nation tour of Africa over 11 days. DAILY MONITOR

[Clinton and South African Discuss Somalia](#)

August 8: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Saturday that the United States was ready "to put meat on the bone" in its relations with South Africa after discussing regional issues, like the instability in Sudan and the war in Somalia, with Jacob Zuma, South Africa's new president. The talks were part of a broader American effort to revive the friendship between the United States and South Africa, which was particularly strong when Mrs. Clinton's husband was president, but had grown frosty in recent years. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

[U.S. Asks South Africa to Help Ease Zimbabwe Crisis](#)

August 8: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged South Africa, the biggest economy on the world's poorest continent, to take on a bigger role in resolving the political situation in Zimbabwe. In a seven-nation trip across Africa, Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to meet Saturday with South Africa's newly elected president, Jacob Zuma. Her visit is an attempt to bolster a bilateral relationship that has been strained over disagreements with the former government's HIV/AIDS policy and its reluctance to intervene more firmly in regional crises such as in neighboring Zimbabwe. WALL STREET JOURNAL

[South African President Zuma, US Secretary of State Clinton Meet in Durban](#)

August 8: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the U.S. and South Africa plan to enhance their cooperation bi-laterally and beyond. Mrs. Clinton was speaking following a meeting with South African President Jacob Zuma. Secretary Clinton, speaking following a brief meeting with President Zuma in Durban, said she and South Africa's international relations and cooperation minister have been instructed by the leaders of their two countries, to work at building stronger ties. VOICE OF AMERICA

Friday, August 7, 2009

[Mandela meeting inspires Clinton](#)

August 7, 16:43 GMT: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said she felt inspired by her meeting with former South African President Nelson Mandela. The meeting at his home in Johannesburg came on the second leg of her tour of Africa. Mrs Clinton hailed Mr Mandela for the personal discipline he showed when he fought South Africa's apartheid system. BBC NEWS

[Clinton had very inspiring words](#)

August 7, 14:01 GMT: Hillary Clinton's visit to Kenya seems to have generated a lot of enthusiasm in the country. I attended her public talk at Taifa Hall, University of Nairobi, where she argued that a local tribunal is in the best interest of Kenya as a path to democracy. Mrs Clinton's talk was lively and engaging, but I expected her to go beyond political gimmicking and critically, boldly and seriously tackle Africa's external challenges such as market access, fair trade, global justice on climate and financial compensation for crimes against Africans in colonial era. She lectured Africa on paths to success; to me the United States was projecting its foreign policy from Nairobi to radiate to other parts of Africa. DAILY NATION

In AGOA, US gave nets but Africa has still failed to fish

August 7: The eighth Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) forum yesterday ended in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on African countries to diversify the products they sell to the American market if they are to take advantage of the initiative. DAILY MONITOR

Clinton Seeks South African Support on Zimbabwe

August 7: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton sought to rebuild American relations with South Africa on Friday after years of frustration over the nation's approach to issues like AIDS and the crisis in Zimbabwe. Hillary Rodham Clinton in Africa Promising to "broaden and deepen" American ties to South Africa, the continent's economic and political powerhouse, she said the two countries would "work together to build a global architecture of cooperation." INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

Clinton's stop in South Africa is a fence-mending occasion

August 7: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in South Africa Friday as part of a seven-nation tour of the continent, intimated that Washington and Pretoria are seeing things more eye to eye than has been the case in recent years. Under previous administrations in both countries, conflicts had arisen over how to address the spread of HIV in South Africa and how to pressure Robert Mugabe, dictatorial leader of neighboring Zimbabwe, into resolving that nation's political crisis. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Washington & Pretoria to Cooperate Seeking Reform in Zimbabwe - Clinton

August 7: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday that Washington and Pretoria will work more closely together to push for reform in Zimbabwe and full implementation of the Global Political Agreement for power-sharing in that country. VOICE OF AMERICA

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