

aggression, prevent war, and mediate conflicts, but that we can work together to anticipate and respond to a new century with its new global imperatives. The human mind-our ingenuity, our dreaming, our restless quest to do better-created this moment. Now the human will-not of one individual, not of one nation or group of nations-but the collective will of truly united nations, must master this moment. We must bend it in the direction of life, not death; justice, not oppression; opportunity, not deprivation-a new security for the new world we now inhabit...

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**STATEMENTS BY MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
U.S. Secretary of State**

**Excerpts from Secretary of State Albright's remarks to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in New York, N.Y.
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...Neither numbers nor statistics, are adequate to

working toward an agreement that would ban or severely restrict the production of twelve of the world's most deadly and persistent toxins. And we are asking Congress to restore full funding for international family planning, which reduces environmental stress, while saving human lives.

And we are waging a worldwide diplomatic campaign to combat global climate change. This is the Administration's highest environmental priority. By now, the scientific consensus is clear that the earth is getting warmer. If we don't address the problem, the economic and ecological consequences will be enormous—drought in some areas, floods in others, rising sea levels, and spreading disease.

The United States has the world's largest economy. Our scientists have designed the best environmental technology. And our society is by far the largest emitter of the gases that cause global climate change. So we have both the capacity and the obligation to lead.

That is why the Administration has taken bold strides to control greenhouse gas emissions while also growing our economy—and why we are striving to shape an effective world response. The Kyoto Protocol was an essential first step. We are committed to completing its rules in a manner that will pave the way for U.S. ratification. Getting those rules right will help the environment while also promoting economic gains. We cannot solve this problem alone. Soon, fifty percent of global emissions will come from developing countries. And that is why we are seeking their meaningful participation...

As a diplomat, I have seen firsthand the tensions that competition for water can generate, and the suffering that mismanagement and shortages can cause.

...I have been to village after village, especially in Africa, where the term "water shortage" translates not into brown lawns and wilted flowers, as in our suburbs, but into whole communities of people prostrated by dehydration and weakened by disease.

Today, around the world, more than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water. More than two billion live in countries experiencing some kind of water stress. At least five million people die every year from water-related illness. That [is] more than the population of Maryland.

And pollution is the great thief of freshwater, de-

sion and action, developing countries and donors alike have learned that there are no short cuts to good population outcomes. Population policies must speak directly to the people with whom they are concerned.

...Most women in developing countries have a very long way to go before they can make their own decisions about fertility and family planning. Extreme poverty, illiteracy, and ill-health, compounded by a tradition of male superiority, limit their decision-making power.

...In an environment of inequality and active discrimination, women can make few choices of any kind about their lives, and their contribution to development is much more limited than it need be. Yet we have seen more change in this area in the last generation than in any comparable period. Over the last thirty years of the millennium, the female half of humanity began to make

