

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 23, 1992

Dear Melissa:

Thank you for your letter and for your service as Ambassador to Zaire.

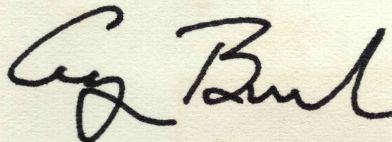
I am proud of every member of my team, and I appreciate the important role that you played as my representative to the Government and people of Zaire during a time of global transition. You helped to promote American interests, as well as American ideals of political and economic freedom -- ideals that have offered hope and inspiration to millions of people on every continent.

The United States Diplomatic Corps has been greatly tested in meeting the challenges and opportunities posed by the end of the Cold War and the emergence of new international security relations. You and your fellow diplomats can be justly proud of your wise and prudent stewardship in helping to usher in a new era for the community of nations. From forging a successful international coalition in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm to fostering market economies and increased respect for human rights around the globe, you and your colleagues have been in the vanguard of our Nation's crucial, leading role in world events.

I am grateful for the dedication that you displayed throughout your tenure. You can take great satisfaction in knowing that your achievements will continue to benefit our country and the American people.

Barbara joins me in sending best wishes for every future happiness.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Melissa F. Wells  
American Ambassador  
Kinshasa