

**Remarks**  
**Ambassador D. Brent Hardt**  
**Emancipation/TIP Reception**  
**September 21, 2012**  
**Chief of Mission Residence, Georgetown, Guyana**

Ministers of the Government of Guyana  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Saskia and I are delighted to welcome you to our residence this evening. We thank you for joining us to observe the 150th anniversary of the date on which President Abraham Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation to abolish chattel slavery in the United States. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged U.S. Embassies worldwide to mark this important human rights milestone, which was an end point to a painful chapter in our country's history and a starting point for our country's leadership of global efforts to put an end to the trafficking of human beings.

On September 22, 1862, during the height of America's Civil War, President Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, affirming that he would order the emancipation of all

slaves in any state of the Confederate States of America that did not return to Union control by January 1, 1863. The proclamation made abolition of slavery a central objective of the Civil War and ultimately one of its most enduring and powerful outcomes -- affirmed in our Constitution three years later through the 13th Amendment. The Civil War that achieved the long deferred promise of freedom from involuntary servitude and slavery remains, to this day, our nation's bloodiest conflict, resulting in roughly as many American deaths as in all other U.S. wars combined.

Because freedom is core aspiration of all democracies, all democratic nations face the challenge of ensuring that all their people enjoy liberty. Secretary Clinton reminds us that, unfortunately, slavery has not been completely eliminated, but exists in its modern guise of illicit trafficking of persons. The victims of modern day slavery -- human trafficking -- are citizens of our nations who are denied their liberties and their human dignity. And tonight, we commemorate the historic abolition of slavery by calling attention to the ongoing need to

deliver the promise of freedom to those suffering under the modern-day slavery of “trafficking in persons.”

To understand the historic roots of this challenge and its modern day scope, we are pleased to present this evening a video developed by the Department of State's Office to Prevent Trafficking in Persons and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. The film traces the history of involuntary servitude from the plantations of the antebellum south to the sweatshops and brothels, farms and fishing boats of today, where egregious forms of human exploitations continue.

Modern Day Slavery -- “trafficking in persons” -- captures a range of criminal actions by which one individual obtains or holds a person in compelled service -- essentially any form of enslavement, entrapment, and coercion that is used to victimize a fellow human being. This includes forced labor, sex trafficking, or any prostitution of a minor.

To meet the challenge posed by these criminal actions, countries around the world, including Guyana, have enacted laws and adopted international instruments to end slavery as a legal institution and to eliminate it as a criminal practice. The Universal Declaration of Human

Rights prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude. More recently, the United Nations' Palermo Protocol has made the abolition of modern-day slavery a part of international law and a policy-making priority.

Through these commitments, governments across the globe have signaled their unity in this struggle.

United States' TIP efforts have been built around the so-called “3P” paradigm of prevention, protection, and prosecution. The Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons employs diplomatic, economic, political, legal, and cultural tools to advance this paradigm worldwide. In 2009, Secretary of State Clinton launched a “fourth P” of partnership to advance global progress in preventing trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting perpetrators of modern day slavery.

In fact, the United States believes that partnership is the only way to successfully prevent and liberate trafficking victims. That is why our Embassy has been working with the Government of Guyana and civil society organizations here to develop coordinated strategies to address to trafficking in persons and assist trafficking victims. Earlier this year, we

arranged a digital video conference on Trafficking in Persons and held a productive exchange between leaders of the Guyana's TIP Task Force and our Ambassador for Combating Trafficking in Persons that helped align our perspectives and chart a path to closer cooperation. In February, the Government of Guyana and the Embassy collaborated to organize a comprehensive stakeholder meeting to address trafficking in persons awareness, investigation, and prosecution, that included workshops facilitated by the U.S. Department of Justice. And, just yesterday we held a TIP roundtable in Bartica in collaboration with the Regional Democratic Council of Region 7 to foster understanding of the scope of the problem in that region and to explore ways to strengthen efforts to combat TIP there. The 28 participants, including representatives from Help and Shelter, Red Thread, the Guyana Women Miners Association, the Bartica police, Toshaos, the Department of Education, the Guyana Red Cross, and the Hope foundation, came up with several thoughtful recommendations to boost anti-TIP efforts including the establishment of a Bartica safe house or shelter for trafficking victims, a locally hired child protection officer, temporary

guardianship mechanisms to support victims, decentralized response networks with access to discretionary funding, procedures to make the transportation industry an ally in preventing trafficking and more.

Embassy Officers encouraged Bartica stakeholders to continue meeting to strengthen the partnerships needed to combat the criminal networks that perpetuate TIP.

In fact, collaboration, sharing of information and openness to best practices are vital to the success of national and global efforts to combat TIP, as it is a phenomenon that respects no boundaries and requires a coordinated response. I should also point out that the media also plays a vital role in building public awareness of trafficking in persons by giving voice to the voiceless and in recognizing the bravery, initiative, and persistence of civil society partners to rescue victims from abusive conditions.

Despite the adoption of treaties and laws prohibiting slavery and all of the efforts made by governments and dedicated individuals worldwide, the sad fact is that many men, women and children continue to live in conditions of modern-day slavery, as we will see in the

compelling film tonight that will trace the life of modern slavery survivor and 2012 TIP Report Hero, Prum Vannak, who was held in forced labor for three years on a fishing boat.

U.S. history celebrates the heroes of the Underground Railroad -- a vast network of people who helped fugitive slaves escape from the South to the North and to Canada prior the abolition of slavery. This informally organized system, developed to assist runaway slaves towards the end of the 18th century, helped hundreds of courageous slaves move northward each year. The system grew so that by 1831 it was dubbed "The Underground Railroad," after the then emerging steam railroads. The system even used terms in railroading: the homes and businesses where fugitives would rest and eat were called "stations" and "depots" and were run by "stationmasters;" those who contributed money or goods were "stockholders;" and the "conductor" was responsible for moving fugitives from one station to the next. The abolitionist organizations provided food and lodging, and helped freed slaves settle into a community by providing letters of recommendation

and assisting with employment opportunities ---restoring human dignity and the hope of a brighter future.

Today, we need to bring this same spirit and commitment to bring an end to modern-day slavery. A century and a half after the promise of freedom was fought and won in the United States, freedom remains elusive for millions. We know that this struggle will not truly be won until all those who toil in modern slavery are freed. As President Obama observed: “in issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to the enduring cause of freedom. Then as now, we remain steadfast in our resolve to see that all men, women, and children have the opportunity to realize this greatest of gifts.” Thank you and enjoy the presentation.