



2001

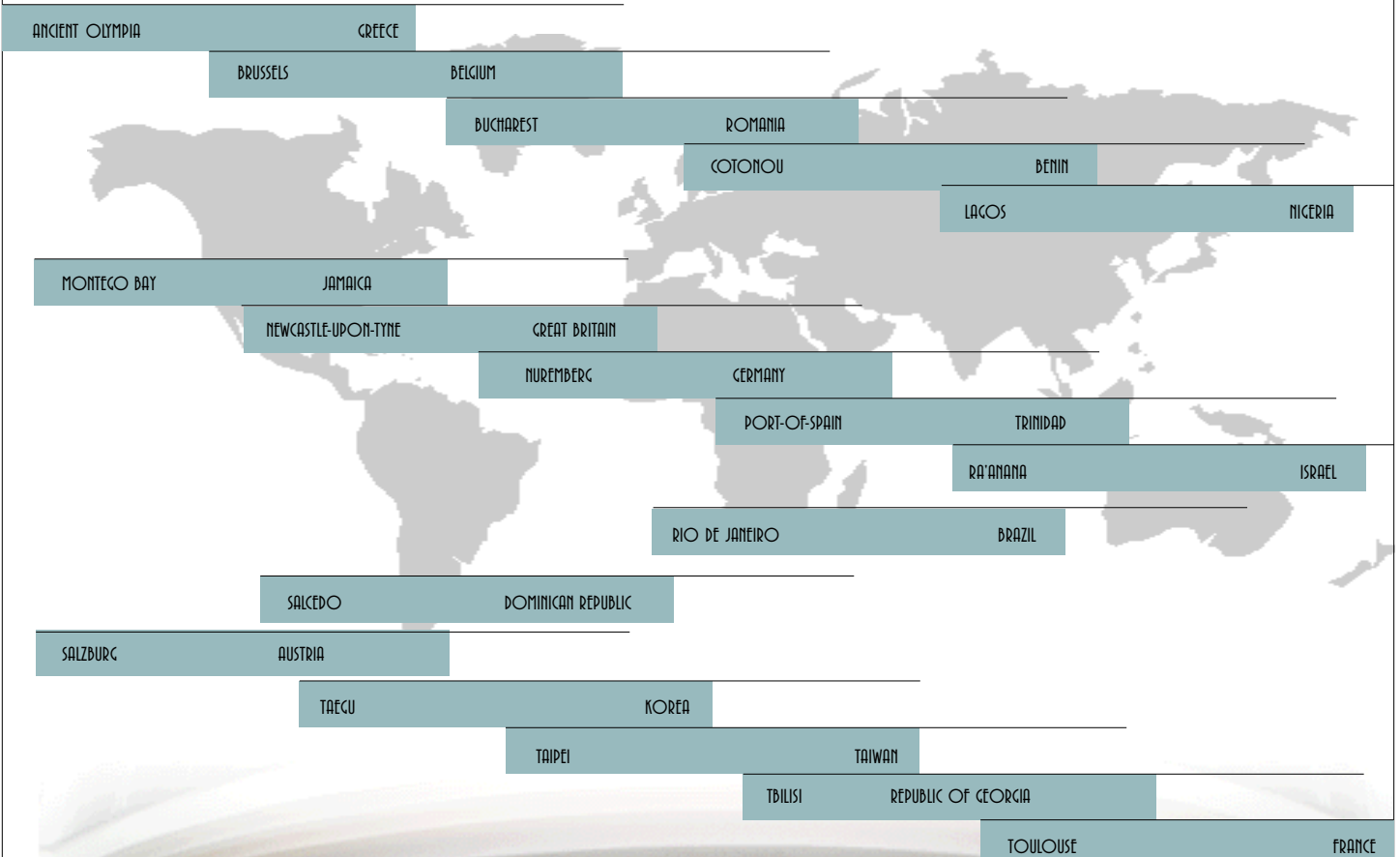
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A T L A N T A • S I S T E R • C I T I E S C O M M I S S I O N

2001

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To

The Honorable Shirley Franklin
Mayor, City of Atlanta

The Honorable Cathy Woolard
President, Atlanta City Council

FROM

Georgianne Thomas
Chair
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

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I am pleased to submit to you the 2001 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC).

In addition to the activities of the various committees, ASCC has met monthly to carry out its role and function in relation to Atlanta's Sister Cities program.

We were pleased to serve the City of Atlanta and its international community during 2001 and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Sister Cities program under your administration.

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INTRODUCTION 2001

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The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) was chartered by the City of Atlanta and codified in Atlanta City Ordinance No. 1979-71. The organization is managed by a Chair, elected by the Mayor of Atlanta. The appointee must be ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council. Georgianne Thomas served as Chair, and Vin Martin as Vice Chair, in 2001.

The full 'board' of the Commission comprises the Chair, four Mayoral appointees and two members appointed by the City Council. In addition, the chairpersons of each Sister City Committee, or their designee, serve on the Commission.

Appointed members include Ms. Cocoa Jordan Johnson, Dr. Hershel Challenor and Ms. Thomasene Blount Roberts.

Elections are held annually to select a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each elected officer serves a one-year term. Elected officials of the Commission are restricted to two consecutive terms in office.

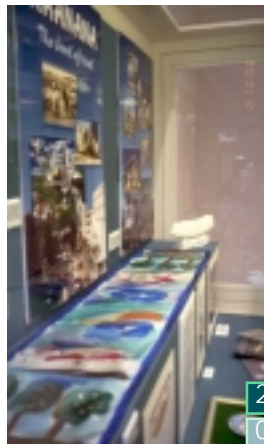
Officers and committee chairs include:

Secretary	Norma Kendal-Hamlett
Treasurer	Carlton Parker
New Cities	Dr. Augustine Esogbue
Commission Relations	Thomasene Roberts
PR	David Smith

Other standing committees of the Commission are Fund Raising, Nominating and Economic Development.

Staff

The Commission is supported by the staff of the International Affairs Division of the Mayor's Office. The staff participates in monthly or special meetings, helps shape the Commission's policy and acts as liaison with the Mayor. In 2001, Maria Pease played a vital role as coordinator for the Mayor's Office.



ASCC's display at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport.

Atlanta's Sister City relationship with Ra'anana, Israel was formally signed in Atlanta during the Sister Cities International Conference in July 2001. Other applications for sister city relationships were reviewed, including cities in Ethiopia and Japan.

ASCC maintains a web site with press releases, annual reports and information on each of the sister cities.

www.ci.atlanta.ga.us/sister/cities.htm

Name of City	Date of Affiliation	Chair/Representative
Ancient Olympia - Greece	1994	Mr. Lou Zakas
Brussels - Belgium	1983	Ms. Louise Suggs
Bucharest - Romania	1994	Mr. Nick Modares
Canberra - Australia	1999	Councilwoman Julia Emmons
Cotonou - Benin	1995	Mr. Nony Mbaezue
Lagos - Nigeria	1974	Dr. Augustine O. Esogbue
Montego Bay - Jamaica	1972	Mr. Vin Martin
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne - Great Britain	1977	Mr. David Smith
Nuremberg - Germany	1998	Ms. Terri Simmons
Port-of-Spain - Trinidad	1987	Ms. Norma Hamlett
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil	1972	Ms. Lisa Calhoun
Ra'anana - Israel	2000	Dr. Arnold Heller
Salcedo - Dominican Republic	1996	Mr. Victor Ramirez
Salzburg - Austria	1967	Ms. Nancy Love/Mr. Carlton Parker
Taegu - Korea	1981	Mr. Young Kang
Taipei - Taiwan	1974	Mr. David Yu
Tbilisi - Republic of Georgia	1988	Ms. Nancy Love
Toulouse - France	1974	Mrs. Carolyn Wills

This is the Year 2001 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, submitted according to its statutory requirements. The document also includes the voluntary addition of reports for the following sister city link organizations: Atlanta-Ancient City of Olympia; Atlanta-Bucharest; Atlanta-Cotonou; Lagos-Atlanta; Atlanta-Montego Bay; Atlanta-Newcastle; Atlanta-Nurmburg; Atlanta-Port-of-Spain; Atlanta-Ra'anana; Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro; Atlanta-Salcedo; and Atlanta-Toulouse Sister Cities Committees.

Reports were not received from the following: Atlanta-Brussels; Atlanta-Canberra; Atlanta-Salzburg; Atlanta-Daegu; Atlanta-Taipei and Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister Cities Committees.

S.C.I. CONFERENCE

Atlanta July 25 - 28, 2001

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Sister Cities International Conference – 2001

After three years of planning, the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission successfully hosted the Sister Cities International Conference in Atlanta in July. Taking place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the event attracted 650 municipal officials, civic leaders, exchange coordinators, dignitaries and youth from 39 states and 26 countries including Australia, Colombia, Congo, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Great Britain, Korea, Northern Ireland, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Tanzania and Uganda. The event marked the 45th anniversary of Sister Cities International, the United States international diplomacy networking organization, which coordinates links between 650 U.S. cities and 1,500 cities throughout the world.

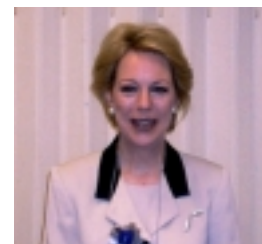


This event gave recognition to Atlanta as an international city and an opportunity to broadcast a positive message to the world through the entire network of sister cities. ASCC was responsible for raising funds and in-kind contributions for hosting key events including a Parade of Nations, opening reception and Mayor's reception. ASCC was also responsible for providing a volunteer force, transportation, and organizing press and global publicity arrangements.

Approximately \$100,000 in cash and kind was raised from organizations and individuals, including the UPS Foundation, Atlanta Visitors and Convention Bureau, Coca Cola, Delta Air Lines, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, and United Water. The City of Atlanta underwrote the entire event, providing major financial support, coordination and services through the Advisory Committee on International Relations and the Mayor's Office of International Affairs. Councilwoman Julia Emmons donated funds from her council administrative budget.



Titled 'Your Community's Passport to the World' the conference's keynote speakers included David Trimble, Nobel Peace Prize winner and former First Minister of Northern Ireland and Mary Jean Eisenhower (see photograph), CEO of People-to-People International and granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, founder of the U.S. sister city movement.



Parade of Nations

Event highlights included the 'Parade of Nations', which provided a colorful spectacle of music, costume and culture on the streets of downtown Atlanta. The parade featured the Douglass High School



Marching Band, the Athol Highlanders Pipe and Drum Band and an international flag corps carrying the flags of 30 nations.

Distinguished visitors, including mayors from several of Atlanta's Sister Cities, rode in convertible

cars while representatives of Atlanta's sister cities marched in the procession, wearing native dress and carrying their national flags and banners. Performers included a Taiwanese parade dragon and lion dancers and Romanian folk dancers.



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Atlanta July 25 - 28, 2001

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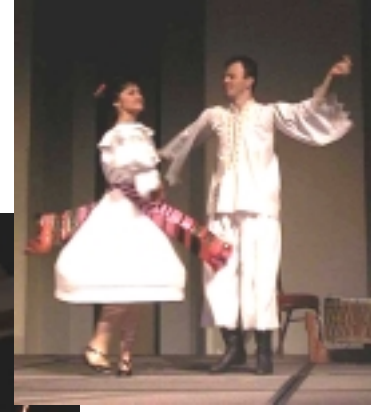
Opening Ceremony

The festivities continued into the Opening Ceremony at which the parade participants and performers processed into the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel where they were joined by other performers including Chinese ribbon dancers, native American hoop dancers, Romanian folkloric dancers, an African drum troupe and the Boroete Atlanta Carnival performers, representing Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Following the parade of flags into the hall, the audience was addressed by Mayor Bill Campbell, ASCC Chair Georgianne Thomas and Councilman Jim Maddox, and entertained by the cultural performers. Photographs on this page demonstrate the color and splendor of the festivities.



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Mayor's Reception

In honor of the Sister Cities International Conference, Mayor Bill Campbell and the City of Atlanta held a reception in the Atrium of City Hall for delegates and officials. The reception included an array of music, food and entertainment for the city's guests.

The centerpiece of the evening's events was the official twinning ceremony for Atlanta's newest sister city, Ra' anana, Israel, with a formal signing by Mayor Campbell and Mayor Zeev Bielski (see photographs below and opposite).



At the Mayor's reception, Georgianne Thomas and ASCC officers greet the visiting delegation from Salcedo, Dominican Republic.

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Other Highlights

The Sister Cities International Annual Awards ceremony recognized the Atlanta-Montego Bay Committee for their medical outreach missions to Jamaica. A group representing the Sister City Committee received a plaque from SCI. (See photographs below and Committee Reports section, page 10.)

In 1997, SCI recognized ASCC member, Arnold Heller and North Atlanta High School for its SuperExchange programs..

Prior to the award ceremony, Dr. Kenneth Walker, MD of Emory University School of Medicine gave a presentation that illustrated the extensive medical exchange program between Atlanta and Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.



More than 50 volunteers from the Atlanta international community assisted with registration, conference events and the Parade of Nations.

SCI delegates appreciated southern hospitality and friendly smiles throughout the conference.

A mural (right), designed by Atlanta artist Steve Allen (Lagos - Atlanta Sister City Committee) was produced especially for the occasion.



Councilman Jim Maddox welcomes guests on behalf of Advisory Committee on International Relations.



Athol Highlanders Pipe Band in the Parade of Nations.

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The New Cities Development Committee

The New Cities Development Committee developed the criteria for the selection of a new city. The outline, which is given below, was adopted by the Commission.

ASCC's Criteria for the Selection of a Sister City

The primary basis for a twinning relationship between Atlanta and its sister cities is a proof of compatibility with Atlanta and the existence of a mutuality of genuine interest in establishing and maintaining this relationship. Each interested city must convince the Commission that it meets a well established set of criteria which include, but not limited to:

- i) the existence of a core group of individuals both in Atlanta and the prospective city committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure a long term and successful relationship, and
- ii) the presence of existing strengths which will facilitate cultural, civic and educational, technical, economic and business exchanges on a continuous basis.

Each applicant city must satisfactorily go through a formal process established by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission and, upon its recommendation, be approved by both the Mayor and the Atlanta City Council. The process is then formalized by 'Sister City Agreement' signing ceremonies performed separately, both at the applicant city and the City of Atlanta.

The Committee processed the applications of several cities. Those found successful and recommended to Mayor Campbell by the Commission for acceptance included the city of Canberra, capital of Australia, the home of the 2001 Summer Olympics, and Ra' anana, a thriving high tech and well managed city in Israel. Both were also approved by City Council.

The required two signing ceremonies were completed for Ra' anana while those for Canberra are still in progress. The application of Addis Ababa was not approved. Expression of interest from several cities around the world was received. Fukuoka continued its expression of strong interest in twinning with Atlanta. It was decided by the Commission to put this through its formal process of selecting sister cities, especially now that SCI has promulgated new conditions on twinning. The Commission voted to slow down the consideration of new cities pending possible guidelines by the new administration of Mayor Shirley Franklin.

Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Committee

- ❖ The Atlanta Committee has worked very hard to assist Ancient Olympia in preparation for the 2004 Olympic Games to be held in Greece.
- ❖ To this end, Chairman Lou Zakas has met with his sister city counterpart in Ancient Olympia, Apotolas Apostolopoulos, as well as the leading political figures in the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, the American Ambassador to Greece, Tom Miller, and the former Ambassador, Nicholas Burns.
- ❖ In recognition of the Atlanta Sister Cities efforts for the Olympics, Lou Zakas received the Olympic flag at a gathering to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Australian games.



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Atlanta - Bucharest Sister City Committee

❖ The City of Atlanta joined with the Romanian World Council and Athenaeum - The Romanian-American Cultural Center, as they presented the Romanian Heritage and Unity Days Conference in March. The event marked the reunification of Bessarabia and Romania that occurred on March 27, 1918.

❖ Mayor Bill Campbell declared March 25, 2001 as Romanian Heritage and Identity Day.



❖ (Above) The Romanian World Council Conference visits the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta. The party includes Mircea Popescu, president of RWC, Smaranda Livescu, secretary, Bishop Petru of Barsarabia and Romanian and American community members and visitors from the Republic of Moldova.



❖ (Left) Romanian Ambassador, Sorin Ducaru, and Mrs. Ducaru, visiting Atlanta to celebrate Romanian Independence Day in December.

❖ The First International Festival of Folk Dance and Art for Peace took place at the Romanian

Cultural Center on November 17th. The event featured performances by the Romanian National Folk Dance ensemble. Other performers and visitors included The Mexican Ballet de Lupita, the 'Simply Southern Cloggers', The Eve Hao Dance Studio (Taiwanese), a visiting group of Latin teachers (South America and Spain), Chinese artists and an Indian cultural representative.



Atlanta - Cotonou Sister City Committee

❖ A four person delegation led by the Chief of the Circumscription of Cotonou visited Atlanta for meetings with the Atlanta-Cotonou Sister City Committee and city officials from September 15 through September 21.

❖ The members of the delegation included, Mr. Isidore Gnonlonfoun, Chief of the Circumscription of Cotonou; Mr. Germain D. Hounnaho, Principal Aide to the Chief of the Circumscription of Cotonou; Mr. Antoine André, President and original member of the Cotonou Committee, former diplomat and recently retired from the African Development Bank; and Mr. Emmanuel Tétégan, Member of the Cotonou Committee and Deputy Director General of Béton Appliqué, a construction company (also retired from the African Development Bank).

❖ The delegation met with representatives of the Office of the Mayor, Cultural Affairs Bureau, City Office of Transportation and Sanitation and Atlanta Visitors and Convention Bureau.

❖ The Chair of the Atlanta-Cotonou Committee, Mr. Nony Mbaezue, arranged a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Atlanta-Cotonou Sister Cities Committee, followed by a dinner in Underground Atlanta. A dinner on September 16th at the home of Herschelle Challenor, member of the Sister Cities Commission and an original member of the Atlanta-Cotonou Committee, enabled the delegation to meet with many members of the Atlanta Committee. Mr. Gnonlonfoun also hosted a dinner for eight members of the Committee on September 19th.

❖ Mr. Gnonlonfoun assured the Atlanta Committee that Cotonou attached great importance to this sister city relationship and looked forward to the strengthening of these ties. They were interested in cultural exchanges, technical assistance in the area of urban transportation and sanitation and housing construction.

One of the main project ideas surfaced during the visit was to send a delegation to the African-American Summit scheduled for November 2001 in Abuja, Nigeria. Unfortunately, the African-American Summit was cancelled.

❖ Periodic contact has been maintained with the delegation from Cotonou since their return. Now that the Atlanta-Cotonou Committee has been revitalized, a more active relationship exists between the two cities.

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Lagos-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee

❖ 2001 was a power packed year for the Lagos Atlanta Sister Cities Committee (LASCC). Highlights include a reorganized and rejuvenated committee that grew its membership both in terms of size and diversity of professional backgrounds, as well as the balance between citizens of American and Nigerian origins.

❖ The Committee, through its members, continued its tradition of community outreach programs, including various volunteer presentations to community groups to expose them to the cultural riches and heritage of Nigeria and Lagos as well as the facets of renascent Nigeria.

❖ A concerted effort was placed on the revitalization of the Lagos counterpart of the LASCC, resulting in the announcement by the Mayor of Lagos of the formation of a 16 member Atlanta-Lagos Committee and officers.

❖ There were several exchanges of visits by members of the Committee but notably, Mr. Alani Ogunlade and Prof. Esogbue to Nigeria, and the Honorable, Prince Luqmon Ajose, Chairman (Mayor) of the Lagos Island Local Government who visited Atlanta at the invitation of the Chair for a meeting with Mayor Bill Campbell.

❖ Another major success story was the award of visitors visas for a delegation from Lagos participating in the SCI Conference. This is against the backdrop of previous efforts to obtain travel visas for Lagos youths to attend international youth workshops in Atlanta, which had proven abortive. The award resulted in a strong contingent, led by Mayor Prince Luqmon Ajose, Chairman of the Lagos Island Local Government, who took part in the Parade of Nations and the activities of the sister cities conference.

❖ The Lagos Committee played a significant part in the activities of the SCI Conference including roles as volunteers, hosts and



hostesses. A work of art was donated to the ASCC and the conference by LASCC, through its member, Mr. Steve Allen - see page 6.

The Lagos-Atlanta delegation to the SCI Conference

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❖ The cornerstone of the year's activities was the brokering of a major partnership by LASCC between the U.S. Energy Partnership Program of the U.S. Energy Association, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Georgia Power Company and the Nigerian National Electric Power Authority (NEPA). This



was the result of several meetings, visits to Lagos and Abuja, culminating in the signing of a memorandum of agreement between Georgia Power and NEPA (see photograph above). The agreement amounts to a technology transfer from Georgia Power to NEPA.

❖ The objective is for Georgia Power to transfer experience to its Nigerian counterpart in market-based, environmentally sustainable energy production, energy transmission, energy distribution, and regulation.

❖ This history-making partnership signing ceremony, which was held at the Georgia World Congress Center, marks a two year technical assistance program between Georgia Power and NEPA.

❖ Another major activity involved the initiation of a partnership between the U.S. Nigeria Peace Corps Alumni Association in cooperation with a Women's Organization in Nigeria to promote and fund young women's education in Nigeria. The two U.S. based organizations have agreed to pursue a partnership in mounting joint programs to support education, and thus socioeconomic development, in Nigeria.



LASCC Chair, Prof. Esogbue is recognized for facilitating the Georgia Power-NEPA partnership.

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Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") was established in 1972 by formal declaration of the respective Mayors and City Councils of both cities. It is the second longest relationship that exists between Atlanta and its eighteen sister cities.

❖ Committee Structure - Both the Atlanta and Montego Bay branches utilize the same business structure and operate in a similar manner. The Committee is run by a Chairperson and has several subcommittees each of which is headed by a subcommittee chair. The subcommittees are as follows:

- Cultural Affairs
- Education
- Fund-raising
- Health and Human Services
- Technology Transfer
- Tourism

The Committee has 52 active members but draws upon wide community support to fund the many activities undertaken each year. Meetings are held once per month.

2001 Activities

❖ Education: Participated in Super Exchange V with North Atlanta High School. Hosted students and teacher from Montego Bay High School who participated in this exchange. Awarded two four-year scholarships to students attending Montego Bay High School.

❖ Cultural Affairs: The Chair accepted an invitation from the Mayor of Montego Bay to participate in its 21st annual celebration of Montego Bay City status. Along with the Chinese Ambassador to Jamaica, he officially represented the Committee in the opening of the refurbished Montego Bay Civic Center. The Committee was also a partial sponsor of a Jamaican play which was presented to the Atlanta community during the month of May, as part of the memorial weekend celebrations. In keeping with our tradition, we hosted a gospel brunch with live entertainment at Atlanta City Hall. Additionally, we inaugurated our first annual black tie Health Mission ball as a method of raising funds to support our educational and health-related activities.



Brunch entertainment at City Hall.

❖ Health and Human Services: We conducted our eighth annual medical mission to Montego Bay. A team of 45 physicians and nurses attended to approximately 3,400 patients during the 4 days of the clinic. The team also donated over \$105,000 of medicine and medical supplies to the patients. As part of our outreach effort, we adopted a Type 5 clinic in Montego Bay and have agreed to provide it with equipment and supplies to upgrade the quality of its service to the Montego Bay community.

❖ The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister City Committee was recognized at the Sister Cities International Annual Awards ceremony for their medical outreach missions (see also page 6). A group representing the Committee received a plaque from SCI.

❖ Sports: We undertook our first annual fund-raising golf charity tournament at Lake Lanier Island Golf Resort. The event was very successful and was supported by 75 participants, together with our sponsors and volunteers workers.



Atlanta - Montego Bay Annual Health Mission.



A member of the medical mission team is thanked by Jamaica's Minister of Health and the Sister Cities Committee Chairs.



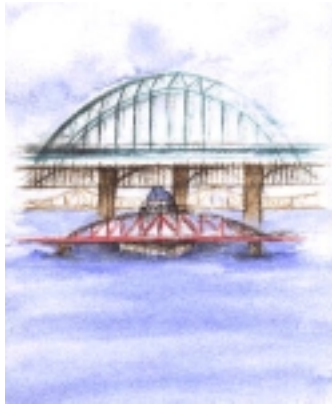
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Atlanta - Newcastle Sister City Committee

❖ As a result of initiatives that were led by academic- and investment-related institutions in Newcastle, an economic development office, representing the North of England, was opened in Atlanta in 1999.

❖ The Atlanta office was one of the first to combine interests of three regional economic development agencies, including Newcastle, in expanding economic interests with USA. These organizations have used the model established in Atlanta to merge their entire US representation, including offices in Chicago and Boston.



❖ The Atlanta office is actively engaged in identifying companies throughout a 7-state territory that would benefit from using Newcastle's resources in the field of information technology, in areas such as networks, telecommunications, financial services, back office systems and medical technology. The

post is occupied by an Atlanta native who had worked at one of the regional development agencies in England.

❖ The University of Northumbria in Newcastle (UNN) is responsible for the coordination of the European 'Centers Abroad' program of the State of Georgia educational system and has an extensive network of colleges that participate in exchanges for students and academic staff.

❖ Newcastle's support for the Sister Cities International Conference was much in evidence at the Mayor's reception at which Scottish and Newcastle Breweries sponsored refreshments with their famous Brown Ale.



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Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

❖ The Nuremberg Atlanta Sister City Committee has concluded an eventful series of business and cultural exchanges:

❖ Dr. Noel Erskine, Professor of Theology at Emory University, visited Nuremberg in January to speak about Martin Luther King.

❖ Teri Simmons, Chair of the Atlanta -Nuremberg Sister City Committee, participated in a seminar on Comparative Immigration Law, the United States and Germany, at the German American Institute in Nuremberg, with the Director of Germany's Department of Labor.

❖ Students of the Technical College for Photography and Media Design visited Atlanta in April and May to study social and socio-political issues in the United States. Exchange students from Atlanta also visited the Duerer-College in June.

❖ Atlanta Journalist, Maria Mallory, received the Hermann-Kesten Grant.

❖ In June, Nuremberg entertained an economic development delegation in conjunction with the German Consul General in Atlanta and other organizations interested in investing in Germany. Members of Nuremberg's Economic Development Office also visited companies and organizations in Atlanta to attract interest in investing in Nuremberg.

❖ The Nuremberg Office of International Relations also worked with the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center, to facilitate an exhibition exchange between Atlanta and Nuremberg.

❖ A delegation from Nuremberg attended the SCI Conference and participated with their Atlanta partners in the Parade of Nations.

❖ Roedl & Partner invested in the Atlanta accounting firm of Langford DeKock and has been promoting business exchange between the two cities. Roedl held an international convention in July attended by three business delegations from Atlanta. A delegation of students visited Atlanta, studying comparative business issues.

❖ Other exchanges conducted: - The Church of St. Egidien arranged an American Music festival in Nuremberg; Rabbi Alvin Sugarman of "The Temple" visited Nuremberg to promote human rights among nations; and The Martin-Luther-King Choir of Atlanta Ebenezer Baptist Church gave a concert and attended church services in Nuremberg.

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Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee

❖ January 1, 2001 - the Sister Cities of Atlanta and Port of Spain joined with other countries to launch to global initiatives "The First Steps - A Walk for the Future", a local/global walk for our common future, and the "First Global Sing Along" of special universally - themed songs. In Port of Spain, Mayor Councilor Murchinson Brown (photograph) launched The United Nations "International Decade of Peace and Non Violence Against Children of the World 2001- 2010" and the United Nations International Year of Volunteers, and led the first steps and sang along with the children. The Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City participated in SCI's young artists competition - theme Impression of the "Fruits of World Peace".



❖ February - The Chair of the cultural subcommittee, William 'Bill' Ransom, and members, were hosted for the Carnival season by the Chair of the Port of Spain Committee, Gia Gaspard Taylor, and Mayor Rahael. While in Trinidad and Tobago, the group videotaped and took pictures of the festivities.

❖ Through initiatives of the Sister Cities Committees of Atlanta and Port of Spain, with the help of the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Georgia, and the Atlanta Fire Services Department, St. Joseph Hospital of Atlanta donated approximately \$150,000 of medical supplies and equipment to Trinidad. The supplies were transported with the assistance of Southern Electric Company - Atlanta, and PowerGen - Port of Spain. They were presented to the fire services, prisons, health centers of Blanchisseuse and La Fillette, the North West Regional Health Authority and the City Public Health Division.

❖ APSSCC commenced a relationship with Caribbean Visions, a company that specializes in relationship management for companies targeting the Caribbean community.

❖ March - Participated in the 2nd Annual Caribbean Award Ceremonies hosted at Atlanta City Hall by Webba Promotions, which donated part of the event proceeds towards the SCI Conference.

❖ Students from four high schools in Trinidad participated in the International Business Education Program, Super Exchange V. The Chair of the Port of Spain Committee accompanied students who were hosted by parents and students of North Atlanta High School.

❖ May - Exhibition of Highlights of 2001 Carnival in Trinidad to four groups of international students and a private showing to an audience of 150 persons. Also participated in the Caribbean Folk Festival and displayed of pictures, art and craft from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at various activities.

❖ June - Participated in meetings with the Center for Trade and Technology with the view of establishing distance learning programs in Trinidad and building economic relationships with the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

❖ July - APSSCC actively participated in the SCI Conference. Our Public Relations Officer, Rose Grant, ensured the relationship was well represented in the Parade of Nations with the participation of Boroqueete Atlanta (Trinidadians residing in Atlanta) and the Atlanta Cub Scouts. FitzRoy James, member of our Cultural Committee, donated time and talent by making caricatures and giving them to participants at the International Conference.

❖ August - As the result of an initiative of the APSSCC, the Atlanta Fire Service Department sent training manuals and literature to the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services Department.

❖ In September - Fire Chief, Winston Minor, was carded to attend the Caribbean Summit of Fire Services held in Trinidad as a guest speaker and to continue training initiatives. However, due to the terrorist events of September he was unable to attend. The Fire Services Department in Trinidad & Tobago looks forward to continued training.

❖ Gia Gaspard Taylor, chair of the Port of Spain Sister City Committee and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services hosted a reception for the chair of the APSSCC during her visit to Trinidad.

❖ October - Dominic Fields, of the Port of Spain Committee, who participated in the Young Artist Competition, received a certificate of commendation from SCI. Also participated in the Caribbean Exposé held in the Atrium of City Hall, where we displayed, art craft, and Carnival costumes demonstrated by Boroqueete Atlanta, and music performed by MetroLanta Steel Orchestra.

❖ November - Hosted international students attending Metro-Atlanta colleges and universities for Thanksgiving.

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Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee



❖ The sister city relationship agreement with Ra' anana was formalized by Mayor Bill Campbell and Mayor Zeev Bielski in a ceremony taking place at Atlanta City Hall in July. The reception was attended by the 650 participants in the SCI conference, members of Atlanta Sister Cities Commission , representatives of Atlanta's Jewish community and other guests of the City of Atlanta.

❖ A first signing took place in Ra' anana, Israel, in May with Councilwoman Clea Winslow, representing Mayor Campbell, accompanied by a delegation of city officials.

❖ Tom Glaser, President of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Chapter, led a mission to Israel in February to promote economic development with high-tech companies in Atlanta. The mission included a visit to Ra'anana's City Hall and the city's leading technology enterprises.

❖ The Atlanta - Ra' anana Sister City Committee organized the Atlanta itinerary for Beit Noam, a Ra'anana-based organization that works to prevent family violence and abuse.

❖ The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Zaban park placed a Ra' anana information kiosk in its 'Main Street Corridor'.



A moment to celebrate - Mayor Campbell and members of Atlanta Sister Cities Commission at the City Hall signing reception. (See also page 5)

Atlanta - Rio Sister City Committee

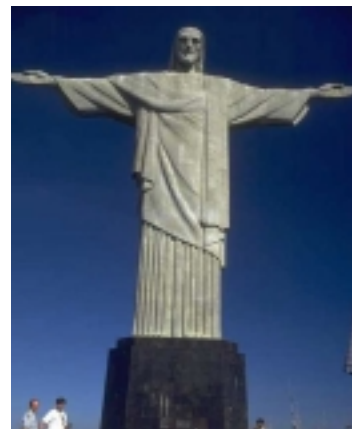
❖ 2001 was a year of transition for the Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro committee during which activities were limited.

❖ During the SCI Conference in Atlanta the committee chairperson, Lisa Calhoun, was the coordinator for all of the volunteer activities. Some of the committee members worked as volunteers during the conference assisting with registration and the parade.

❖ An Atlanta-based Brazilian band provided music for all the delegates that watched the parade and attended the opening ceremony.

❖ The committee also cosponsored a Caribbean social during the conference, along with other sister cities committees, providing conference delegates a night of Caribbean music and dancing.

❖ 2002 is expected to be a year of rebuilding for the committee, and for providing cultural education about Rio de Janeiro and Brazil.



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Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee

❖ In February, The Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee (ASSCC) commemorated the 157th Dominican Independence Day at the Atlanta City Hall Atrium. Atlanta Councilman Jim Maddox represented Mayor Bill Campbell at a special ceremony where he delivered a proclamation to the Atlanta Dominican community. The national anthems of the Dominican Republic and the United States of America were performed by young singer Maité, accompanied by Víctor Ramírez, Chairman of the ASSCC, and the President of the Dominican International Association of Georgia. Representatives of various organizations and consulates enjoyed Dominican coffee and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Clelia Montes de Oca, Director of Cultural Affairs of DIA and other members of the ASSCC. On Saturday night, a formal dinner and dance at was held at Casa Blanca Restaurant in Atlanta.

❖ In March, the ASSCC submitted the project, Parque Atlanta in Salcedo, Dominican Republic, for the 39th Annual Awards Program of Sister Cities International. The project was entered in the 'Innovation' category of the Municipal Cooperation target area. Board members of Williams-Russell and Johnson, Inc., Guerra-Barker Architects, Inc., the Dominican International Association, Inc. and the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee produced this presentation jointly.



At the SCI Conference, L-R: Elido Pérez, representing Dominican Republic Vice President; Claudia Cruz, Miss Dominican Republic 2001; Hon. Bill Campbell, Mayor of Atlanta; Hon. Ramón Corniel, Mayor of Salcedo, DR; and Víctor Ramirez, Chair, Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee. Photo: Mundo Hispanico.

❖ Parque Atlanta will feature a mural of Atlanta and the Phoenix, symbol of Atlanta's ascent. There will be a playground area and an amphitheater, semi-covered with a giant butterfly. The fabulous design of this project was developed by Guerra-Stoll Barker Architects, (GSBA), an Atlanta-based company.

❖ In April, three high school students of Salcedo attended the Super Exchange program in Atlanta where they joined a group of 43 students from several countries and toured the city. They were escorted from the Dominican Republic by Ms. Carmen Corniel, wife of Honorable Mayor Ramón Corniel of Salcedo. On April 27, Ms. Corniel received the samples of the paint that will be used for Parque Atlanta in a ceremony at Atlanta City Hall. Also present were the Honorable Vin Martin, Consul of Jamaica, Priscilla Leanert of GSB Architects, Eileen Paris-Poulos, Vice Chair of the ASSCC, Clelia Montes de Oca, board members of the ASSCC, visitor students and other guests.

❖ A delegation from the Dominican Republic participated in the Annual Sister Cities International Conference in Atlanta in July. Miss Dominican Republic, Claudia Cruz; the Honorable Mayor of Salcedo, Ramón Corniel; and Assistant to the Vice President of the Dominican Republic, Elido Pérez; and other special guests from the Dominican Republic participated at the colorful international parade in downtown Atlanta. The Dominican delegation was welcomed by Mayor of Atlanta, Honorable Bill Campbell.



At the SCI Conference, L-R: Elido Pérez, Claudia Cruz and Victor Ramirez. Photo: Mundo Hispanico.

2001 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Toulouse Sister City Committee has had an outstanding year of activities, projects, programs, and a trip to Toulouse for the group. The dues paid membership is over 80, continuing the strong membership that was doubled last year.

❖ The officers installed in April 2001 are: Carolyn Lee Wills, Chairman; Vice Chairmen Mark Long, Rose Cunningham, Jennifer Davis; Secretary Charlotte Sprawls; Treasurer Carlton Parker and Asst. Treasurer Carol Evans.

❖ The highlight of the year was the annual trip to Toulouse with 15 members in the group. They were hosted in homes of Toulouse-Atlanta Sister Cities members for 4 days. The new Mayor of Toulouse, Philippe Doust-Blazi, hosted a reception for the visitors and the local members in his office at Le Capitole, the palace-like city hall. Mayor Doust-Blazi and Carolyn addressed the gathering. The Atlanta group toured the Dordogne and Lot Valley areas after the Toulouse visit.

❖ The participants witnessed the devastation of the city caused by the major explosion on September 21. ATSCC has initiated a project to send a Phoenix sculpture to Toulouse as a symbol of rising from the ashes, as was Atlanta's experience. The first fund-raiser took place in February 2002.

❖ The main social occasion for the group during the last two years has been an Epiphany party celebrated in the French manner. This 12th day of Christmas / January 6th event features the traditional Kings Cake made with the French recipes, including a 'fève' (prize) that designates its finder as "king" of the party. The gift-swapping game each year has become a fun tradition with members bringing their least favorite Christmas gift to exchange.

❖ The annual meeting for the group in April was held at the Southern Center for International Studies with its head, Peter White, discussing US-Franco Relations and installing the officers.

❖ In April, members enjoyed a theater evening with Théâtre du Rêve, performing "A Forced Marriage" in French. The group enjoyed a discussion with the cast and director afterward.

❖ The committee hosted an annual reception / wine-tasting in April for Georgia State University graduate students going to Toulouse on an economics study program.



The Atlanta group at Toulouse City Hall.

❖ In June the group met at the Atlanta Center for Decorative Arts for a program on French antiques coordinated by Carol Klotz. The group toured the ADAC showrooms of French products.

❖ Toulouse pianist Phillipe LeJeune performed in Atlanta in July and will return in June 2002.

❖ The Toulouse group participated in the annual Bastille Day party in July, organized by the French Chamber of Commerce, Atlanta.

❖ "Who in the World Were the Cathars?" was the subject of the August meeting. Members Judy Fritz, Celeste Williams and Charlotte Sprawls presented the French history program.

❖ In October, Dr. Jay Lutz of Oglethorpe University talked about the history of Toulouse. Lucinda Bunnan shared with the group her collection of photography and folk art.

❖ In November there was a reunion of the 15 members who had enjoyed the Toulouse experience the previous month. They produced a French dinner and exchanged photos and memories from the trip.

❖ At the November meeting, Natasha Constable, attaché to the Atlanta French Consulate, talked about the French involvement with the aftermath of the September 11th attack. She also discussed comparisons between French and American cultures.

❖ The Toulouse group operates a web site, managed by Perry and Charlotte Sprawls. For updated information go to www.ci.atlanta.ga.us/sister/Toulouse.



2001

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