



PRESIDENT OF ICELAND

President William Jefferson Clinton
New York

*Barbaradeis
21st October 2004*

Dear General

It is indeed good news that you are regaining your health and will soon return with full force to the world stage. The scene has certainly been less exciting without you.

I have reflected extensively on our conversation during your and Hillary's visit to Iceland and I appreciate profoundly your willingness to cooperate with us on some of the projects we discussed. Hopefully we can also provide you with some ammunition in your endeavours and campaigns.

Regarding Africa and the Aids vaccine, the Icelandic company Actavis is well advanced in its testing and very keen to utilize its global resources to make a strong impact on the campaign against Aids. We are grateful for your offer to assist us in the selection of suitable African countries where the Icelandic contribution could be clearly monitored and the cooperation from the host governments and the health authorities would give us sufficient and productive control. I will keep you informed on the progress of the vaccine development in the coming months.

Furthermore, with respect to energy and global warming the report from the Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council on climatic change in the Northern regions will be out next month. I am sure it will provide new and startling evidence for an informed debate. I am also examining how our experience in utilizing geothermal energy can be of assistance to many African countries and how the lessons we have learned from cooperating with over thirty countries in this field can be utilized. Recently the hydrogen project was strengthened by a meeting of the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy, including the US, in



Iceland. All these issues have a strong bearing on the development of the 21st century; I think that our cooperation in this field could be very productive.

I also take this opportunity to reiterate my invitation to you to return to Iceland as my personal guest in the near future. The President's Guest House in Reykjavik is always available to you and members of your family. Furthermore, as I told you, the National Bank of Iceland is interested in having you give a public lecture to the Icelandic business and political communities and to reward you for that lecture with your usual fee. Maybe our staff can consult on the time appropriate for such a visit.

I had hoped that your health would be sufficiently improved to enable you to receive the Special Award from me at the American Scandinavian Foundation's Gala Dinner in New York on November 4th, an award dedicated to your outstanding contribution to the Millennium celebration of the American-Nordic heritage. We would indeed be both pleased and honoured if this would be possible.

It must have been a testing task for you to watch the Presidential campaign from the sidelines without being able to be directly involved - at least I am not sure whether I could have mastered such a discipline.

Both Dorrit and I are looking forward to be in New York for the exciting days in the beginning of November. Let us hope that the outcome will serve the American people and the world in the best possible way.

With good wishes
Ólafur Ragnar Grímur