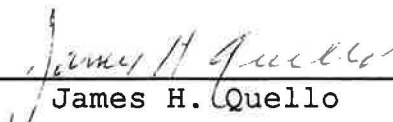


UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Andrew Fishel, Managing Director
FROM: Commissioner James H. Quello
SUBJ: Nomination for Gold Medal Award
DATE: August 18, 1992

It is with pleasure and pride that I nominate Dr. Brian Fontes for the prestigious FCC Gold Medal Award.

I can think of no one at the FCC more deserving of this honor from every standard of measurement -- communications expertise, professional performance and diligent longtime service from 1978 to 1992 to the FCC and to the office of the senior commissioner.



James H. Quello

Attachment

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Dr. Brian Fontes joined the FCC in 1978 and my staff in January 1985. I met Brian Fontes during the time I chaired the Temporary Commission on Alternative Financing for Public Telecommunication (TCAF), 1981-1983. He served on a detail and did an exceptional job as staff director. The TCAF report was used by Congress as the principal source for government funding and support for public broadcasting. In 1984, he was detailed to my office to assist in my confirmation hearings. As a result of changes to the law allowing Commissioners to have three staff members, Brian joined my staff in January 1985.

Brian is an exceptionally valuable member of my staff and provides me and the Commission with expert advice. Over the years, Brian has performed a wide range of duties in a superior manner. I would like to highlight a few. Most people at the Commission, on Capitol Hill and in the broadcast and land mobile industries recognize that Brian was instrumental in preventing reallocation of broadcast spectrum to land mobile services so that broadcast spectrum would be available for HDTV. He was instrumental in uncovering studies indicating the lack of need for additional land mobile services in the 800 MHz bands. Today, the Commission is moving forward with the development of HDTV.

Starting before Brian arrived in my office and certainly continuing while serving as my assistant, he was instrumental in designing the policies to allow for ITFS licensees to lease excess channel capacity to the developing MMDS industry. This has been a significant step in the development of both ITFS and MMDS.

Spectrum management and new technology are also Brian's strong suits. He was instrumental in forging the Commission's position on Mobile Satellite Services in preparation for the 1987 World Administrative Radio Conference on Mobile Communication. Brian was later named to the WARC delegation. In other spectrum matters, he has played pivotal roles in assuring competition in the air-ground telephone service, the implementation of digital technology and interoperability in the public safety services, the development of a national public safety plan, personal communication services, digital audio broadcasting, low-earth satellites and other spectrum management/new technology issues.

In addition to his 1987 WARC experience, Brian also has performed an exemplary job in representing the FCC and the U.S. government in bi-lateral negotiations in preparation for the 1992 WARC, and participation in the International Telecommunications Union's 1991 TELECOM in Geneva, Switzerland. The USIA has recruited Brian to participate in their international programs. Brian has participated in USIA programs in South Africa, Nigeria and Niger. According to U.S. Embassy officials, Brian has done an outstanding job in contributing to the development of privately owned broadcast services in these countries. In addition to his expert knowledge, his personal attributes make him a respected "good-will" ambassador. (See attached material.)

Brian is highly regarded as a hard worker, fair and just in dealing with his colleagues and the public, and as an individual with the highest integrity. He is a sought after speaker for industry conventions and other functions. He has done a superior job representing the FCC on a variety of topics from satellites to submarine cables, from rural services to spectrum demands of urban areas and much more.

On his own time and over the years, Brian has volunteered to assist emigrant Asian families in Northern Virginia, the visually impaired, and the homeless. He has served as Chair of the professional Advisory Board, for Michigan State University's Department of Telecommunication. He volunteers his time to local church and civic organizations.

From the standpoint of communications expertise, longtime exemplary performance, statesmanship and character, Dr. Brian Fontes is a superior candidate and deserving recipient of the Gold Medal Award.

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS #0547

USIA

FOR P/DP-XEMP, AF

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS SPEAKER FONTES

1. SUMMARY: FCC SPEAKER BRIAN FONTES FOUND A VERY RECEPTIVE AND EAGER AUDIENCE IN NIGERIA. HIS INFORMED, EASY-GOING MANNER WON HIM AND THE U.S. A HOST OF FRIENDS AND HELPED SET THE STAGE FOR THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT PRIVATIZATION OF THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN NIGERIA. END SUMMARY.

FONTES BEGAN HIS PROGRAM IN LAGOS WITH AN INFORMAL LUNCHEON AT THE PRO'S RESIDENCE. FOLLOWING A RESTFUL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND THAT INCLUDED AN EMBASSY BEACH PARTY, FONTES TRAVELLED BY GOV TO IBAOAN WHERE HIS PROGRAM BEGAN WITH A SESSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IBAOAN. SINCE THE UNIVERSITY REMAINS CLOSED, HE SPOKE TO FACULTY MEMBERS ON "THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE F.C.C." IN ADDITION TO A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE, FONTES ADDRESSED THE PUBLIC'S INPUT INTO FCC PROCEDURE AND THE DIVERSITY OF OPINION HEARD ON THE AIR IN THE U.S.

3. AT THE FEDERAL RADIO CORPORATION OF NIGERIA (FRON) FONTES ADDRESSED AN AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 30, INCLUDING THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, THE NEWS DIRECTOR, THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, THE HEAD OF ENGINEERING, ON-AIR PERSONALITIES AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS. SINCE THE MANAGING DIRECTOR HAS BEEN NAMED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP DESIGN AN FCC-TYPE BODY FOR NIGERIA, MANY OF THE QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS REFLECTED THAT INTEREST. OTHER QUESTIONS CONCERNED THE ROLE OF ADVERTISING IN THE U.S. MEDIA, LICENSING PROCEDURES, FREQUENCY ALLOCATION, THE COMPOSITION OF THE FCC, AND WHY THE U.S. CONCENTRATES ON AM/FM INSTEAD OF SHORTWAVE. AFTER HIS LECTURE, FONTES WAS INTERVIEWED FOR A HALF-HOUR WEEKLY SHOW, "FORUM".

4. ON THE SECOND DAY OF HIS VISIT TO THE IBAOAN AREA, FONTES TRAVELLED TO ABEOKUTA, CAPITAL OF OGUN STATE. HE MET WITH MORE THAN 20 STAFF MEMBERS OF OGTV, INCLUDING THREE DEPUTY MANAGERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT. THE AUDIENCE WANTED TO KNOW IF THE FCC CONTROLLED THE CONTENT OF PROGRAMS, WHETHER THE F.C.C. MANDATE COVERS VOA, AND WHAT ALLEGIANCE FCC COMMISSIONERS HAVE TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT APPOINTS THEM. LATER, AT OGUN STATE BROADCASTING CORPORATION, FONTES HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AN FM AND AN AM RADIO STATION. HE MET WITH 13 MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFF TO DISCUSS THE FCC.

5. ALTHOUGH THE CONFERENCE ON THE MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY THAT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR KADUNA WAS CANCELLED DUE TO CIVIL UNREST, FONTES TRAVELLED NORTH ANYWAY AND COMPLETED A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM. HE MET WITH THE CHIEF

ORGANIZER OF THE CANCELLED CONFERENCE AT A REPRESENTATIONAL LUNCH HOSTED BY THE BPAO, WHERE THEY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITIES AND PROBLEMS OF PRIVATIZING ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN A DEVELOPING DEMOCRACY. FONTES LEFT MATERIALS BEHIND FOR THE CONFERENCE.

6. FONTES ALSO MET WITH THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE NEW NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS, A GOVERNMENT OWNED CHAIN THAT PUBLISHES THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PAPERS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA. THE BOARD WAS INTERESTED IN EXPLORING HOW FREE THE AMERICAN MEDIA TRULY ARE, AND WHY THEY DO NOT CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT MORE. FONTES DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORTING OF EVENTS AND ANALYSIS, WHICH IS OFTEN CRITICAL. EXCERPTS OF HIS INTERVIEW WERE PUBLISHED IN THE JUNE 1 EDITION OF THE NEW NIGERIAN.

7. IN AN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL LECTURE TO OVER 100 APPRECIATIVE STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AT KADUNA POLYTECHNIC, FONTES OUTLINED THE HISTORY AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FCC IN THE U.S. HE REFUSED TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON HOW NIGERIA SHOULD REGULATE ITS MEDIA, THROWING THE RESPONSIBILITY BACK TO THE STUDENTS, SAYING THEY WERE THE FUTURE OF THE NIGERIAN MEDIA AND HAD TO DECIDE THE BEST PATH FOR THEMSELVES. THE USUALLY CYNICAL STUDENTS TOOK THIS TO HEART AND WERE WON OVER BY HIS APPROACH.

8. RETURNING TO LAGOS, FONTES MET WITH EMBASSY ECONOFF, AND DISCUSSED THE CURRENT AND FUTURE STATUS OF NIGERIA'S
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LAGOS 08547

USIA

FOR P/DP-KEMP, AF

E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS SPEAKER FONTES

COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS. THIS MEETING WAS FOLLOWED BY A LECTURE FOR 20 OF LAGOS' MOST PROMINENT MEDIA PROFESSIONALS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY, THE FEDERAL RADIO CORPORATION, RADIO NIGERIA, VOICE OF NIGERIA, RADIO LAGOS, THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AND MOST OF THE LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINES.

9. FONTES BEGAN BY EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS NOT AN EXPERT ON NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS, BUT ON THE AMERICAN SYSTEM AND PARTICULARLY THE FCC. HE SUCCINCTLY DESCRIBED THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MEDIA IN THE U.S., THE HISTORY OF THE FCC, AND ITS BASIC FUNCTION. HE WENT ON TO ADDRESS MORE GENERAL ISSUES OF THE U.S. MEDIA SCENE, INCLUDING POLITICAL ADVERTISING, THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE, OBSCENITY, MEDIA OWNERSHIP, ETC. HIS LECTURE GENERATED MORE THAN AN HOUR OF PROBING QUESTIONS AND COMMENTARY, WHICH FONTES HANDLED ADROITLY. HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY RADIO NIGERIA AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS PROGRAM. HIS LECTURE GENERATED A LARGE, POSITIVE ARTICLE IN THE INFLUENTIAL GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER ON JUNE 1.

10. BRIAN FONTES IS A POLISHED, KNOWLEDGEABLE, PERSONABLE SPEAKER WHO WAS A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH. HIS PROGRAM CAME AT AN EXTREMELY OPPORTUNE TIME FOR NIGERIA, AS IT IS POISED TO PRIVATIZE ITS ELECTRONIC MEDIA. FONTES' VISIT WILL HELP LAY A MORE SECURE FOUNDATION FOR THAT TRANSITION. POST HIGHLY RECOMMENDS FONTES AND LOOKS FORWARD TO HIS RETURN. OUR THANKS TO P/D FOR ANOTHER EXCELLENT PROGRAM.

11. FONTES WAS IN LAGOS FOR SIX DAYS AT THE QUEST QUARTERS, ONE DAY IN IBADAN AND TWO DAYS IN KADUNA. TOTAL PER DIEM EQUALS DOLS 981. IN ADDITION, HE SHOULD BE REIMBURSED DOLS 32 FOR A KADUNA/LAGOS AIR TICKET. AS A USG EMPLOYEE WE ASSUME HE DOES NOT RECEIVE HONORARIUM. O'BRIEN
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NIAMEY #5034

USIA

AGENCY FOR P/DP (KREUTZER); INFO AF (QUEEN)
LAGOS FOR PAO

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF VISIT BY U.S. SPEAKER BRIAN FONTES

SUMMARY: NIGERIENS WERE GIVEN PRACTICAL LESSONS ON PRESS FREEDOMS MAKING WEEK-LONG FONTES VISIT A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. AMBASSADOR, APAO, AND CSC OFFICIALS USED ONLY SUPERLATIVES IN DESCRIBING HIS WORK WITH THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF COMMUNICATION (CSC) AND HIS PRESENTATION AT THE NATIONAL JOURNALISM SCHOOL (NJTIC). FONTES WAS DEFINITELY THE RIGHT MAN, AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME. HIS EXPERTISE ON THE FCC AND HIS THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING PRESS FREEDOMS GREATLY ADVANCED POST'S GOALS ON DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. PAO HAD BARELY STEPPED OFF THE TARMAC WHEN SHE STARTED HEARING PRAISE FOR THE FINE JOB BRIAN FONTES HAD TURNED IN DURING HIS MAY 29 - JUNE 7 VISIT TO NIGER. AFTER READING A REPORT ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PAO AGREES THAT SUCH PRAISE IS WARRANTED. HE DID A PRODIGIOUS AMOUNT OF EXCELLENT WORK! MONDAY, JUNE 1, STARTED WITH BRIEFINGS BY THE ECONOMICS OFFICER, THE ACTING PAO, AND THE AMBASSADOR. HE SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY AT THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF COMMUNICATION (CSC) WHERE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF INTERPRETER SALIFOU BOKARY HE RECEIVED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CSC AND RECIPROCATED WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE FCC, ITS RELATION TO CONGRESS AND TO THE PRESIDENT. THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON PREVENTING POLITICAL CONTROL OF PROGRAM CONTENT AND (2) MEANS OF GIVING POLITICAL CANDIDATES ACCESS TO THE MEDIA. LATER IN THE AFTERNOON HE MET WITH MR. ANDRE ZODI, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATION, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION, AND PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS.

2. THE ENTIRE DAY ON TUESDAY, JUNE 2, WAS SPENT IN DISCUSSION WITH SIX MEMBERS OF THE CSC. THE SESSIONS LASTED FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 6:30 P.M. AND WERE VIDEOTAPED. TOPICS WERE WIDE-RANGING AND DISCUSSION INCLUDED THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF SETTING UP POLITICAL DEBATES AND FORMULATION OF RULES FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING. THE AFTERNOON WAS SPENT REVIEWING THE CSC'S PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS ON RULES GOVERNING COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS (ENCOMPASSING MANY OF THE U.S. RULES). THE MAIN ISSUE WAS "TRUTH IN ADVERTISING" AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RULES IN ESTABLISHING THE CREDIBILITY OF BROADCASTS. THERE WAS ALSO A LONG DISCUSSION ON RULES CONCERNING PERSONAL ATTACK AND RIGHT OF RESPONSE.

3. ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, FONTES WAS TAKEN BY THE CSC

PRESIDENT TO VISIT NIGER'S PRIMARY SATELLITE EARTH STATION -- BECOMING THE FIRST AMERICAN TO VISIT THE SITE WHICH IS OFF-LIMITS TO MOST FOREIGNERS AND EVEN NIGERIENS. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY BOTH THE SITE AND THE STAFF. LATER AT THE COUNTRY TEAM MEETING AT THE EMBASSY HE DISCUSSED HIS VISIT TO NIGER AND THE ROLE OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN SUPPORTING U.S. PROPOSALS AT THE RECENT WARC MEETING IN SPAIN. FONTES SPENT THE AFTERNOON AT TELE-SAHIL WHERE HE AND THE DIRECTOR OF TELEVISION DISCUSSED POLITICAL NEWS PROGRAMS AND THE SCHEDULING OF POLITICAL DEBATES.

4. ON THURSDAY, JUNE 4, IN THE COMPANY OF THE AMBASSADOR, FONTES PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION WHERE THEY DISCUSSED THE ROLE OF THE FREE PRESS IN A DEMOCRACY. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THURSDAY, AND PERHAPS OF THE VISIT, WAS A THREE-HOUR PRESENTATION ON "A FREE PRESS" IN A DEMOCRACY AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM (NJTIC). IN ADDITION TO ABOUT 50 STUDENTS, ALSO ON HAND WERE ANDRE ZODI (MIN. OF COMMUNICATION), THE DIRECTORS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION, AND SEVERAL JOURNALISTS. IN ESSENCE, FONTES ROLE PLAYED A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH STUDENTS WHICH KICKED OFF A LIVELY DISCUSSION. COVERAGE OF THE PRESENTATION WAS CARRIED ON THE NATIONAL TV AND RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS ON FRIDAY EVENING. IN THE AFTERNOON HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY "LE DEMOCRATE" NEWSPAPER, NIGER'S NEWEST INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. THE INTERVIEW APPEARED IN THE JUNE 8 ISSUE.

5. ON FRIDAY, IN WHAT WAS A SIGN OF THE ESTEEM IN WHICH THE CSC HELD FONTES, HE WAS ASKED TO PREPARE A DRAFT OF SUGGESTED RULES GOVERNING PERSONAL ATTACK, POLITICAL BT
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 NIAMEY 05034

USIA

AGENCY FOR P/DP (KREUTZER); INFO AF (QUEEN)
LAGOS FOR PAO

E. O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF VISIT BY U. S. SPEAKER BRIAN FONTES

EDITORIALS AND THE BROADCAST BY CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. HE CONTINUED THIS TASK AFTER A LUNCH WITH CSC MEMBERS AT LA RESERVE RESTAURANT. ON SATURDAY, FONTES WAS HONORED GUEST AT THE PAO RESIDENCE HOSTED BY APAO AND PAO'S HUSBAND.

6. ALL TOLD, BRIAN FONTES WAS AN EXCELLENT U. S. SPEAKER -- INTELLIGENT, HARDWORKING, IMAGINATIVE, AND FLEXIBLE. THE CSC, WHICH HAS BEEN OVERWHELMED BY ITS RESPONSABILITIES AND GROPING TO DEFINE ITS ROLE IS INDEBTED TO FONTES FOR HIS CLEAR AND COGENT ADVICE AND HIS CONCRETE ASSISTANCE IN DRAFTING VARIOUS RULES. POST IS ALSO INDEBTED TO FONTES FOR SO SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVING POST'S OBJECTIVES ON PRESS FREEDOMS.
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JAMES H. QUELLO

Great
please file already circulated
in the Department of Information and
Ambassador of the United States of America

Cape Town

March 5, 1991

Dr. Brian F. Fontes,
Special Adviser
Office of Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Brian:

I am writing to say thank you personally for the outstanding service you performed on behalf of the United States during your two weeks of consultations in South Africa.

As you know, the South African Government has been reviewing the status of broadcasting here with an eye toward fundamental reforms that will help guarantee free speech to all its citizens in the future. In your intensive meetings all across this country with government officials, independent broadcasters, reporters, academics and opposition figures, you were able to substantially elevate the nature of the debate about South Africa's electronic media future simply by explaining the principles and logic which govern the FCC's work. Although it is too early to know how South Africans will address this issue, I can say with confidence that you have made a substantive and positive policy impact.

On behalf of all of us in the Embassy, please accept my thanks for your visit -- and for the superb job you did. I hope you will be able to come again.

Sincerely,

*P.S. -- Christo Viljoen told State President
F.W. de Klerk in my presence
about the outstanding work you
did while here. We are most
indebted to you. Kind regards.*

Will

William Lacy Swing
Ambassador

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission