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COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

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Statement by Secretary Clinton

Senegal Independence Day

On behalf of President Obama and the American people, I congratulate the Senegalese people as they celebrate their fiftieth anniversary of independence on April 4. This is both a significant milestone and an opportunity to reflect on Senegal's vales and future direction. We have shared a historic friendship based on our shared values of mutual respect for human rights, the rule of law, political and social justice, transparency, and our commitment to investing in our people. Senegal has been in the forefront of establishing democracy and freedom and in the fight against terrorism in all its forms.

I commend the Government of Senegal for its contributions to a more secure and prosperous future through its participation in peacekeeping operations around the world, from Haiti to Kosovo to Sudan. The United States remains a steadfast partner of the people of Senegal in the struggle to ensure a better world for all of our children. We encourage the Government of Senegal to strive throughout its region to promote responsive civilian governance, including improved economic management principles, greater expansion of democracy, and a firm opposition to military interventionism.

I fondly recall my first trips in 1997-1998 to Senegal, where I saw firsthand that democracy, religious freedom, hope, sacrifice, and the drive for prosperity were cherished values of the Senegalese people. It is this desire for economic freedom, self-reliance, and access to opportunity that draws our people to each other. It was our belief in Senegal's commitment to promote these principles that was the basis for the Millennium Challenge compact signed last September. We intend to work with all Senegalese in this partnership to reinforce and strengthen Senegal's current and future efforts to eliminate corruption and to promote economic liberalization, poverty reduction, and accountable, transparent, and sustainable development. We share Senegal's pride in the extensive personal relationships our citizens have through Peace Corps programs and volunteers, Senegalese students in the United States, and the rich cultural and historical exchanges we have.

On this occasion, we celebrate Senegal's progress and its promise for a secure, prosperous, and democratic future. I offer the best wishes of the American people for a joyous and safe holiday, and I reaffirm the commitment of the United States to our enduring friendship.

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