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Kenya Research project by Robert M. Press [see: Press, Robert M. (2006) *Peaceful Resistance: Advancing Human Rights and Civil Liberties*. Aldershot, U. K.: Ashgate.

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Q= questions by Robert M. Press; A = responses of the interviewee

[Bracketed materials are comments inserted into the transcription by the interviewer as it was being made.]

Interview with “House International Relations Committee Staffer” May 21, 2002.

[Interviewee requested that the name be withheld]

[International: Hempstone made a difference as non-career diplomat]

A. It seems to me that the fact that Hempstone was Smith Hempstone and not a career diplomat had a profound impact on how the U.S. responded to democratic strivings and human rights abuses at that point in time. It would be interesting to talk to some of the career diplomats, and they were probably covering their faces because here was Mr. Moi, someone the U.S. considered a friend. And he considered the U.S. his friend and supporter. And here you had this U.S. ambassador who in a certain sense was a bull in a China shop. He was a conservative, but what he saw appalled him. And he became a figure on whom the democratic forces, the human rights advocates, could then rely. And I would argue that if it had been a career diplomat, it wouldn't have gone like that. Because you have to understand that this was at a time, particularly the early part of that time, you probably wouldn't find U.S. academic or a U.S. policy maker who would have been an advocate for multi-party democracy. Because they accepted the one party model.

The point I make often with people is that multi-party democracy is not something that the West or the donors brought to Africa. It was with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the breakup of the Socialist Bloc and the weakening of some of the governance...we had national sovereignty conferences and things. So I would argue that the U.S. didn't have any problem with the single party states. There were single party states that were their friends and single party states who weren't. But that was based on whether these folks were lined up with the U.S. or the Socialist Bloc.

Q So after the Cold War, did things change...much?

A I think what happened was the U.S. had to face the reality. You now had a situation where people said that we are going to form political parties; that we're going to break the monopoly of these ruling parties in many parts of Africa. And when elections begin to take place in most instances the old fellows got swept away. So this was not a gift from the donors by any stretch of the imagination and that point needs to be emphasized, I would argue.