Breast Cancer Activists Deliver Petition, Concerns to Clintons

By Amy Goldstein

WASHINGTON

In the throng of breast cancer survivors and their supporters at the Ellipse here Monday, Fred Miccio stood alone, clutching a large photo-graph of a smiling woman with long brown hair.

The woman in the picture, Maria, his wife of 20 years, would have been 45 Monday. She died of breast cancer last month.

"I felt perhaps I could do some- thing," said the Syracuse, N.Y., util-

ity company dispatcher, who had gathered with others near the White House to ask President Clinton for more federal research funds to treat and eventually cure breast cancer.

"Someone has to speak out."

Miccio, a novice at activism, as were many at Monday's rally, was in the nation's capital to add his voice to the growing political coalition of a movement dedicated to pre-
venting, treating and curing a dis-
case that now affects one woman in nine. Women and their families, who once hid their struggle with breast cancer, offered the most tat-
gible proof to date that they have become an effective lobbying bloc.

Two years ago, when a small delegation of breast cancer activists tried to see President Bush at 16000 signatures seeking more research funds, they never knew whether their petition got beyond the White House security gate.

But Monday, leaders of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, a grass-roots group that didn't exist three years ago, had a personal audi-

ence with President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and gave them petitions containing 2-6- million signatures.

As the spread of the disease accelerates, such political activity has grown. Far more prevalent than the AIDS epidemic, from which the new activists are banning many of their strategies, breast cancer causes 46,000 deaths in the U.S. each year, and 182,000 new cases annually. During the meeting in the White House East Room, President Clinton said that Donna E. Bhulak, secretary of health and human services, would convene a meeting in December to begin drafting a "national action plan" for preventing, diagnosing, and treating breast cancer. He also signed a proclamation making Tues-

day National Mammography Day, encouraging the breast X-rays that often help detect the cancer early.

In response to lobbying pressure, federal subsidies for breast cancer research have increased from $30 million last year to about $400 mil-

lion today.

According to Vison, the National Institutes of Health has asked for $449 million for breast cancer research next year, but the coalition is seeking $675 million.

U.S. Warns Serbia That NATO Will Fight to Protect Sarajevo

By Daniel Williams

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To be placed on a mailing list to receive email about upcoming GSC meetings and events, send email to gsc-request@mit.edu.

GSC General Meeting this Wednesday, October 20 at 17:30 in the GSC office, 50-222. Free pizza!

Exiled Somali Intellectuals Hold Controversial Meeting

NAGOYA, JAPAN

The "Somali Intellectuals Forum," the group of wise men and women that the United Nations publicly has held a key to Somalia's future, convened its first public meeting here Monday on the crit-

ical issue of United Nations peacekeeping in Somalia. Although he was not able to attend the meetings, Secretary of State Warren Christopher is said to have endorsed the forum's work.

Unfortunately, warfare and violence prevent the people of Somalia from making the kind of progress that is hoped for.

As President Clinton announced that the U.S. would send troops to protect a U.N. mission in Somalia, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Richard C. Holbrooke, was in Somalia for the first time.

"We are committed to listening to the people of Somalia, and we are committed to finding a means of bringing peace to Somalia," Holbrooke said.

The question now is how to do that.

In a world where people are increasingly looking for leaders who will devote their lives to improving the lives of others, the Somali Intellectuals Forum is an inspiration.

"We are not coming here as politicians," said Ahmed Mahamud, a former Somalian intellectual who now lives in Nairobi. "We are coming here as human beings, and we are coming here to work for the peace of Somalia.

The forum's meeting in Tokyo was a significant step forward in the effort to find a way to end the civil war in Somalia.

The forum was established in January by a group of Somali intellectuals who had been exiled from their country after the fall of the government of President Mohammed Siad Barre.

The forum is a coalition of wise men and women who have dedicated their lives to the cause of the Somali people.

The forum's meeting was well attended, with about 100 people present.

The forum's goals are to promote peace, unity, and development in Somalia. The forum plans to hold regular meetings and to work with the government of Somalia to implement its policies.

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