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THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1986

## New Image for Carter Tied to Library Opening

By WILLIAM E. SCHMIDT  
Special to The New York Times

ATLANTA, Sept. 20 — On a wooded hillside overlooking downtown Atlanta, workers are putting the final touches on the Carter Presidential Center, the nation's eighth library complex dedicated to a former President.

Built with \$25 million in private donations, it will house 27 million documents from Jimmy Carter's term as President, and a 15,000-square-foot museum in which Mr. Carter, his image appearing on a television screen, will offer prerecorded responses to a computerized list of questions chosen by visitors. The topics range from what life was like in the White House to why he did not bomb Teheran in the Iranian hostage crisis.

But when President Reagan joins Mr. Carter at the dedication ceremonies here Oct. 1, it will also mark what Mr. Carter's aides describe as an important step in the emerging public role the former President has sought to shape for himself in the six years since his devastating electoral defeat.

From offices inside the complex's semicircle of four low cylindrical buildings, Mr. Carter and a retinue of scholars from nearby Emory University will use the center as a forum to advance a broad, nonpartisan agenda of public policy concerns, such as human rights, hunger and international diplomacy, that Mr. Carter championed as President.

### Role as Teaching Center

Of the eight Presidential library and museum complexes, Mr. Carter's is perhaps the most personally ambitious. It will include, for example, a center that Mr. Carter hopes will someday be used for debating and resolving international and domestic disputes.

"We wanted to make something different of our library, our museum," Mr. Carter said in an interview. "We wanted it to be a teaching center rather than a monument to me."

The completion of the center also marks an important step in what some aides have called the rehabilitative process that has taken place in the years since Mr. Carter's defeat by Mr. Reagan, and the harsh criticism that followed his handling of the Iranian hostage crisis, among other things.

In a section of the museum dealing with the hostage crisis, for example, an

audio-visual display challenges visitors to decide what they would do, if they were President, to respond to a terrorist crisis.

On a console are four buttons: attack with military forces, negotiate, apply sanctions or try all options. The visitor pushes a button and then a videotape of Mr. Carter appears on a television screen to discuss, for example, how using military force would hurt the interests of the United States.

### Dispute Over Parkway

While work on the 30-acre landscaped complex itself will be completed in time for the opening, which is also Mr. Carter's 62d birthday, a 2.4-mile, four-lane parkway leading to the center remains unfinished, and is the object of continuing local controversy.

Amid legal challenges, work on the roadway was stopped last year, although Mr. Carter and his lawyers are hopeful construction will resume soon. "Our operations here would be severely damaged if the roadway is not built," Mr. Carter said, adding that traffic drawn to the center would overload local streets.

According to Mr. Carter's aides, the center, set on the crest of Copenhill, where General William T. Sherman stood to watch the battle of Atlanta, is expected to draw as many as 600,000 visitors a year. If the projections are accurate, that is twice the existing records for attendance at the Kennedy, Johnson and Ford libraries.

The complex, about two miles east of downtown Atlanta, consists of four low, round buildings built in a semicircle, linked by walkways and surrounding a 2.5-acre lake and Japanese garden.

In addition to the museum and library, the center will include the offices of the Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation and Global 2000, an organization headed by Mr. Carter that is concerned with world hunger and health problems.

George G. Schira, the executive director of the Carter Center, says that the completion of the facility will provide "the focus for Mr. Carter's continuing agenda, for the issues and values that informed him before he was President, and continue to inform him."

In an interview, Mr. Carter described the center as "a living thing,



Jimmy Carter standing by a video monitor at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta.

not only because Rosalynn and I will be here as long as we are able to work, but because the programs that we have are ongoing, dealing with hunger in Africa and child survival on a worldwide basis, on the deep meaning and importance of human rights, on the resolution of disputes through diplomacy and negotiation."

In the years since he left the White House, Mr. Carter has written two books and organized, along with President Ford, major scholarly conferences at Emory University on both the Middle East and arms control. He is planning another conference in November on the future of democracies in the Western Hemisphere.

Mr. Carter personally raised much of the \$25 million to build the complex, including about \$7 million in contributions from overseas donors. Mr. Schira said the public policy work of the cen-

ter also will rely on private contributions.

But the cost of maintaining the library and museum itself will be borne by the Federal Government. According to the National Archives in Washington, the Government will spend about \$1.1 million on the Carter library in its first year of operations.

Over all, the operational cost to the Federal Government of all Presidential libraries will be about \$13 million next year, according to Dr. James O'Neill, of the National Archives.

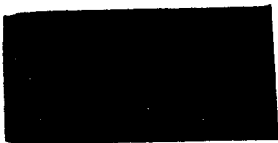
Work on the first Presidential library began in 1940 in Hyde Park, N.Y., when a local historian began raising money for a building to house President Franklin D. Roosevelt's papers. Since then, libraries have been built and dedicated to Presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Ford. Efforts are also under way to

raise money for libraries for President Reagan and former President Richard M. Nixon.

For visitors, the centerpiece of the Carter Center will be the museum, which includes an exact replica of the Oval Office and seeks to set the story of the Carter Administration within the larger context of the 38 Presidents who preceded him.

There are exhibits devoted to the major issues of his Presidency, such as his mediation of the Camp David Middle East peace agreement, the Panama Canal treaties and the second strategic arms accord with the Soviet Union, as well as the Iranian crisis.

The public areas also include a glass display case containing his old Naval uniform, and an entire room set aside to Mr. Carter's 1976 campaign for the Presidency, in which he came from nowhere to capture the Democratic Presidential nomination.



ABILENE, TEXAS  
REFLECTOR-CHRONICLE

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## ( More Foreign Researchers To Ike Library )

Approximately 40 percent of the researchers coming to the Eisenhower Library here today are from outside the United states, according to Dr. John Wickman, director of the Eisenhower Center.

"This large increase in foreign researchers is in part due to the fact that within the past couple of years we have opened some 300,000 papers and other material on foreign relations during the Eisenhower era," he said in a talk to the Rotary Club Friday noon.

Wickman disclosed that plans already are beginning to take shape for a year-long Eisenhower Centennial starting in 1990.

The Library and Museum collections are continuing to grow, he explained, but some 200,000 of the well over 20 million copies of papers are still classified. "Strange as it may sound the CIA, State Department and Army are among the easiest to work with insofar as declassification of documents are concerned," he said. The CIA even sent a team of experts to Abilene to go over material, with authority to declassify much of it as no longer secret material.

Wickman said the average stay of researchers in Abilene is about three or four days, although many stay for longer periods and one "lived" here for six months.

