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MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDSHIP CARAVAN LAUNCHES IN MARYLAND; MAYOR TO LEAD AMERICANS, ARABS & ARAB DIPLOMATS IN A MILESTONE WALK FOR FRIENDSHIP

**Parents, Teachers and Students Join
Colorful Procession of People, Camels and Arabian Horses**

WHAT: The Friendship Caravan launches with hundreds joining the Walk for Friendship promoting American/Arab understanding.

300 students and teachers at Gaithersburg Elementary School to offer rousing welcome and expressions of friendship. Public officials to offer statements of support.

WHO: Mayor Sidney Katz, City of Gaithersburg, MD
Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan
League of Arab States Ambassador Dr. Hussein Hassouna
Bahraini Ambassador Khalifa Bin Ali Al-Khalifa
Moroccan Ambassador Aziz Mekouar

WHERE: START / 8:40 am: Gaithersburg City Hall, 31 So. Summit Ave.
CEREMONY / 9:10 am: Gaithersburg Elementary School,
35 No. Summit Ave.

WHEN: Thursday, October 23, 2003, 8:30 - 9:45 am

ABOUT THE FRIENDSHIP CARAVAN

The Friendship Caravan is the first announced post-war program of its kind to renew and consolidate the relationship between Americans of all backgrounds and the people of the Arab world in positive ways that promote the themes of the fundamental goodness and shared commonalities in all people. Arabs visiting from Bahrain and other nations of the Middle East and North Africa will gather in Gaithersburg, MD and surrounding cities from October 21-26, for meetings with local citizens and events with a particular accent on music, hospitality, and outreach to children as the basis for nurturing inter-cultural understanding. The Friendship Caravan is an American 501c3 non-profit organization.