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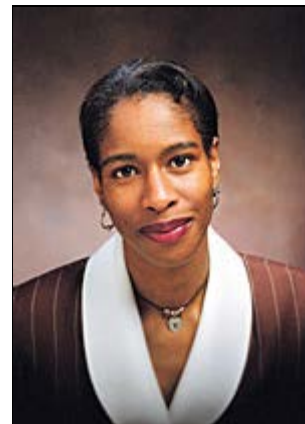
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Foreign Correspondent to Address AAEA Luncheon

(Feb. 10, 2004) Ann Maria Simmons, a *Los Angeles Times* reporter who has covered Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, will be guest speaker at noon, Thursday, during an African American Employees Association luncheon.

Simmon's talk is one of a series of events the AAEA has scheduled to celebrate Black History Month. The luncheon will be held in the 3rd floor Board Overflow Room at MTA Headquarters. All employees are invited to attend the luncheon.



Ann Maria Simmons

Beginning her newspaper career in London in 1986, Simmons went on to work for *The Miami Herald* and as a foreign correspondent for *Time* magazine for seven years.

In the early 1990s, she worked in the Moscow bureau covering such historic events as the aborted coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the takeover of the Russian Parliament by diehard communists.

Diplomatic correspondent

Following her Moscow assignment, Simmons was posted to *Time's* Washington bureau as a diplomatic correspondent reporting on the Middle East peace initiatives. Later, she covered the intervention of U.S. forces into Haiti in 1994. In December 1995, she was embedded with the U.S. Army during operations in Bosnia.

Joining the LA *Times* after seven years with *Time*, Simmons served as Nairobi bureau chief from 1997 to 2000 covering economic issues, civil conflicts, wars and the people of the African continent.

As Johannesburg bureau chief, she supervised coverage of the southern African nations and reported on land ownership disputes in Zimbabwe and the HIV/Aids controversy in South Africa.

Her current assignments in Los Angeles include issues relating to immigrant communities in Southern California, immigration policy and the impact of anti-terrorism legislation on legal and illegal immigrants.