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Collection/Office of Origin:	Frieden, Lex, Collection
Series:	Printed Materials
Subseries:	Miscellaneous

OA/ID Number:	52166
Folder ID Number:	52166-007

Folder Title:

9-17-02 [Chinese National Human Genome Center, National Council on Disability - 2002]

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国家人类基因组北方研究中心

CHINESE NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME CENTER, BEIJING

Dear Professor Freiden,

How are you doing! I am writing you this letter in Beijing and let Charlie bring it to you. Unfortunately I cannot meet you in Houston this time. I hope everything will be just fine for their visit.

In the past few years, you had been a great help for our exchange programs and I hope this will continue in the coming years. Furthermore I believe we can cooperate in wider and deeper areas in rehabilitation and research. Recently, I just joined Chinese National Human Genome Center. Now I am in charge of its Business Development Department.

The Chinese National Human Genome Center, Beijing (CHGB) is one of the national-level genome research center approved by China Ministry of Science & Technology. As a reputable research institute, CHGB integrates advanced research activities, clinical investigations, population genetics and bio-informatics projects in Beijing and Northern China. Following the trend of international human genome research, CHGB creates a series of technological platforms and provides technical service to facilitate related laboratory and clinical research in China. Meanwhile it plays a successful role in global collaborations.

In the past few years, more than 30 genomic and proteomics projects have been studied successful in CHGB. For example, in the field of congenital disabilities, we have studied *Analysis of Transverse Facial Cleft Susceptibility Genes in China Families* and *Cloning of Gene Related to Genetic Deafness*. In the field of mental disorders, we have studied *Analysis of Autism Susceptibility Genes in China Families* and *Genetic Resource Collection and Susceptible Gene study of Schizophrenia*. In the field of malice disease treatment and rehabilitation, we have studies *Relation between Chinese Single Nucleotide Polymorphism and Stroke* etc.

We both know that TIRR is one of America's best hospitals in the medical rehabilitation of adults and children who have experienced a catastrophic injury or illness. TIRR is the head of rehabilitation in U.S. with excellent research abilities, and is open to global collaborations. Therefore CHGB expects to cooperate with TIRR in some specific research areas such as congenital disabilities, mental diseases and malice diseases. You are the outstanding faculty in TIRR and reputable leader of handicapped associations in the United States and over the world. I will really

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CHINESE NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME CENTER, BEIJING

appreciate that you could find us the best cooperation opportunities to facilitate clinical trial and drug development processes. These collaborations will finally lead us to fight against those fatal diseases that make people suffer from congenital disabilities.

Our strengths are following:

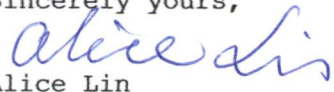
1. Since China has diversiform genetic species, we can gather and further analyze DNA samples, which both sides are mutually interested in.
2. We also have the source of collecting various pathologic tissues to assist pathology study. Besides, we can also extract RNA and DNA from those tissues for further molecular biological research to develop new drugs.
3. Our experience of participating in International Human Genome Project improved our ability of sequencing DNA after sampling. Our price of sampling and sequencing DNA is also highly competitive.
4. CHGB is to discovery genetic/biological disease marker for diagnosis and risk prediction; to identify functional genes with medical interest; to find potential drug-target genes that could be applied for drug screening on chemical compounds and Chinese herbs.

We would like to see our counterparts to have the strengths in the following aspects:

1. Doing genetic study and needing DNA samples from diverse source.
2. Needing large-scale DNA sequencing services.
3. Making drug development research and doing clinical trial.
4. Party with funding for biopharmaceutical research.

I think some research faculties; physicians, biopharmaceutical companies, and biomedical venture capital companies will be interested in this proposal. They can contact me at: alicelinyue@yahoo.com or visit our web page at: www.chgb.org.cn. Would you please submit it to those parties, or we may directly work together on some of those projects. I will be really happy to work with you again soon.

Sincerely yours,


Alice Lin

 WebMail - Paper on the needs of younger disabled**Date Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2002 9:32 AM**From:** "Robert B. Friedland" <rbf4@georgetown.edu>[Add to Address Book](#)**To:** lfrieden**Subject:** Paper on the needs of younger disabled**Status** ☐ Urgent ☐ New

Received: from demeter.corp.bcm.tmc.edu (demeter.corp.bcm.tmc.edu [128.249.2.46])
 by canola.corp.bcm.tmc.edu (8.8.8/8.8.8) with SMTP id JAA07342
 for <lfrieden@bcm.tmc.edu>; Tue, 25 Jun 2002 09:32:15 -0500 (CDT)
 Received: from georgetown.edu ([141.161.1.110])
 by demeter.corp.bcm.tmc.edu (NAVGW 2.5.1.19) with SMTP id M200206250924071000
 for <lfrieden@bcm.tmc.edu>; Tue, 25 Jun 2002 09:24:07 -0500
 Received: from mailhost.georgetown.edu (mailhost.georgetown.edu [141.161.1.103]
 by georgetown.edu (8.12.2/8.12.2) with ESMTTP id g5PEWEmb020974
 for <lfrieden@bcm.tmc.edu>; Tue, 25 Jun 2002 10:32:14 -0400 (EDT)
 Received: from georgetown.edu ([141.161.131.77])
 (user=rbf4 mech=PLAIN bits=0)
 by mailhost.georgetown.edu (8.12.2/8.12.2) with ESMTTP id g5PEW9jq007838
 (version=TLSv1/SSLv3 cipher=RC4-MD5 bits=128 verify=NOT);
 Tue, 25 Jun 2002 10:32:13 -0400 (EDT)
 Message-ID: <3D187EE6.FB8193C8@georgetown.edu>
 Date: Tue, 25 Jun 2002 10:32:07 -0400
 From: "Robert B. Friedland" <rbf4@georgetown.edu>
 Organization: Georgetown University
 X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.76 [en] (Win98; U)
 X-Accept-Language: en,pdf
 MIME-Version: 1.0
 To: lfrieden@bcm.tmc.edu
 Subject: Paper on the needs of younger disabled
 Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
 Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
 Content-Length: 1118

Lex:

Sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you. I was a bit confused by the way in which we set these papers up in the RWJF grant.

We are free to commission papers or provide grants to individuals, much like a honorarium, for up to \$15,000 a paper -- this amount can be divided up among co-authors. You simply send us a letter outlining the scope of work, we can send you back a letter saying go ahead, and then you and your colleagues each invoice us (under their own SSN) for their respective share of the honorarium.

If you need the money to go through your University then we will need to establish a subcontract. It is probably a formality, but first we will need prior approval from RWJF. Under the subcontract you will need to provide a

scope of work and a detailed budget.

Please let me know how you would prefer to handle this. It is not a problem to get a subcontract, but it will take more time and of course will involve the contracting offices of our respective Universities.

Robert
202-687-0881

P.S. Sorry I was not able to attend the Academy LTC meeting in Chantilly VA last week.



Secure mode active.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY**

An independent federal agency working with the President and Congress to increase the inclusion, independence, and empowerment of all Americans with disabilities.

Facsimile TransmissionDate: 9-3-02To: Audrey McCremonLex GuiderHughy WalkerKate WaltersFrom: EthelSubject: Table of Contents - Policies & Procedures ManualMessage: Attached is the Table of Contents for the Policies & Procedures Manual for your review.Number of pages including cover sheet: 14

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(3)

1. INTRODUCTION

	SECTION	PAGE
Purpose	1.01	
System Overview	1.02	
Organization Chart	1.03	
Management Responsibility and Internal Control		
General	1.11	
Stewardship	1.12	
Management Accountability	1.13	
Management Controls	1.14	
Establishing Management Controls	1.15	
Standards	1.16	
Specific Management Control Standards	1.17	
Assessing and Improving Management Controls	1.18	

2. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

	SECTION	PAGE
Organization Structure		
Council Membership	2.01	
Member's Length of Term	2.02	
Chairperson on the Council	2.03	
Vice Chairperson on the Council	2.04	
Voluntary Resignation of Member	2.05	
Duties of the National Council	2.06	
Staff of the National Council	2.07	
Administrative Powers of the National Council	2.08	
Authorization of Appropriations	2.09	
Meetings		
Regularly Scheduled meetings	2.10	
Special Meetings	2.11	
Quorum	2.12	
Procedural Matters	2.13	
Open Meetings	2.14	
Council Committees	2.15	
Executive Committee	2.21	
Finance Committee	2.22	
Ad Hoc Committees	2.26	

(S)

	SECTION	PAGE
Council Staff		
Hiring Authority	2.31	
Description of Staff Positions	2.32	
NCD Staff	2.41	

①

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

	SECTION	PAGE
Certifying Officer		
Introduction	3.01	
Basic Responsibilities	3.02	
Limited Relief From Responsibility	3.03	
Pecuniary Liability	3.04	
Designation Procedures	3.05	
Termination Procedures	3.06	
 Responsible Officials		
Financial Officer	3.11	
Procurement and Contracting Official	3.12	
Executive Official, Administrative Official	3.13	
Program Official	3.14	
Responsibility for Violations of Delegated Authority	3.15	

⑦

4. SYSTEM PROCEDURES AND OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

	SECTION	PAGE
System Procedures		
Establishing Funding Authority	4.01	
Flow of Documents		
Apportionments	4.10	
Warrants	4.11	
Allotments, Limitations and Operating Plans	4.12	
Commitments	4.13	
Obligations	4.14	
De-obligation of Prior Year Funds	4.15	
Specific Management Control Standards	4.16	
Assessing and Improving Management controls	4.17	
Operating Requirements		
System Access	4.21	
System Operating Procedures	4.22	



5. ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

	SECTION	PAGE
Transaction Authorizations	5.01	
Flow of Transactions	5.02	
Recording Transactions	5.03	
Reconciliations	5.04	
Management Reports	5.05	
Operational Policies and Procedures		
Acquisition/Procurement Policy		
Acquisition Supplies, Equipment and Services	5.06	
Policy	5.07	
Definitions	5.08	
Competition Requirement/Policy	5.09	
Procurement Policies and Procedures	5.10	
Procurement for Certain Items of \$2,500 or less	5.11	
Procurement Authority for Supplies or Services of more than \$2,500.	5.12	
Security and Acquisition Information	5.13	
Contract Extensions	5.14	
Contract Changes and Termination	5.15	
Rules and Responsibility of Procurement Personnel	5.16	
Highlights of Federal Travel Regulations	5.17	
Authority to Travel	5.18	
Transportation	5.19	

DRAFT

Rental Cars	5.20
Class of Travel	5.21
Rail Accommodation	5.22
Tickets	5.23
Accountability	5.24
Frequent Flyer Policy	5.25
National Council Policy	5.26
Exchanged Tickets	5.28
Payment of Liquidated Damages	5.29
Compensation Payment	5.30
Travel by Privately-owned Vehicle	5.31
Transportation	5.32
Excess Baggage and Porter's fee	5.33
Telephone	5.34
Lodging, Meals and Incidentals	5.35
Travel without overnight Lodging	5.36
Procedure for reimbursement	5.37
Equipment	5.38
Credit Card – Guidelines & Policies	5.39
Asset Capitalization	5.40
Asset Acquisitions and Disposals	5.41
Inventory of NCD Furniture and Equipment	5.42
Records retention	5.43

10

NCD Budget Cycle

5.44

DRAFT

58

(11)

6. REIMBURSEMENT BETWEEN FEDERAL AGENCIES

	SECTION	PAGE
Purchase	6.01	
Payment Method	6.02	
Advance payment requests	6.03	
Monthly Reports	6.04	

(14)

7. GIFTS AND DONATIONS FUND USE POLICY

	SECTION	PAGE
Policy	7.01	
Awards and Recognition policy	7.02	

DRAFT

(12)

8. APPENDIX

	SECTION	PAGE
Chart of Accounts	8.01	
Reports	8.02	
Forms	8.03	
Definitions	8.04	
Authorities and References	8.05	
Abbreviations and Acronyms	8.06	
Cooperative Agreements	8.07	
Interagency Agreement	8.08	

8.03 FORMS

Form #	Description
TFS form 2958	Delegation of Authority
SF-210	Designation of Certifying Officer
SF-132	Appointment Schedules
SF-142	Reappointment Schedules
SF-182	Request, Authorization, Agreement and Certification of Training
SF-1080	Voucher for Transmission Between Appropriations/or Funds
SF-224	Statement of Transactions
SF-1081	Voucher and Schedule of Withdrawals and Credits
SF-6654	Un-disbursed Appropriation Trial Balance
SF-6653	Un-disbursed Appropriation Account Ledger
SF-133	Report of Budget Execution

<u>Attached Forms</u>	Description
(A) GSA 87	Official TDY Travel Authorization
(B)	NCD Travel Expense Sheet
(C)	NCD Travel Daily Control Sheet
(D) SF 1012	Travel Voucher
(E) SF 1164	Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business
(F) SF 1012	Schedule of Expenses and Amounts Claimed
(G)	Member Salary Expense Claim Form

(H)

NCD Funds Request Form

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Memo to: Jeff Rosen, Joan Durocher, Lex Frieden
From: Joelle Balfe
Date: August 26, 2002
Subject: International Watch strategy for FY 2003

Introduction

Over the past year, International Watch has developed into an effective and highly visible program for NCD. The number and stature of attendees at NCD meetings on international issues, combined with the production of high quality analytical and educational materials, are testament to the viability of the initiative.

International Watch finds itself currently at a crossroads. This is due in large part to the unforeseen events that led to the launching of a treaty process at the United Nations to develop a disability focused human rights instrument. The fast rate of developments and in this area challenged the capacity of NCD's international staff to simply keep pace with the process. A by-product of this capacity issue was that initiatives in the area of foreign assistance were virtually abandoned after the first session on February 11, 2002 in what was envisioned to be a series of Roundtable Discussions with key development institutions and organizations. A frustrating lack of interest and cooperation among these institutions, and a leadership vacuum in this area within the International Watch Committee, were also a factors the decision to focus almost exclusively on the international convention during the past six months. Ultimately, we have had very good results from work we have done in 2002. However, operating in a largely reactive mode has prevented us from undertaking the planning process necessary to identify long-term goals and strategies in either program area.

In October, 2002, International Watch's charter will be due for renewal. Concurrent with this renewal, NCD should release a one-year plan of action for International Watch. The document resulting from the April 6-7, 2000 planning meeting "*Setting an International Policy Agenda*" is a good basis for such a plan, as many of the objectives are still valid. However, the 2000 paper is extremely ambitious in the number of goals it set. A more focused and realistic "agenda" must be developed with careful consideration of staff resources and budget. A good format might be a "Statement of Findings and Intent", which provides:

- An explanation/background of what has been accomplished thus far
- a list of principles and premises that define vision and drive decision-making of IW
- an assessment of current capacity
- a concrete action plan with goals and strategies.

This should not be longer than five pages. Staff can prepare a document with the first three elements drafted. The draft will be completed in consultation with the IW committee. After the goals and activities have been filled in, this document will serve not only as the strategic plan for IW but also as the much-needed descriptive piece commonly requested by people we approach for collaboration and others interested in IW. We do not have anything now that really serves that purpose. Instead, we either send them a concept paper about a specific project or direct people to the website, which has a lot of useful information but does not paint a clear and succinct picture of what IW is doing.

Below is an honest assessment of the challenges and strengths of NCD's international program:

Strengths

1. Excellent relationships with key disability leaders and NGOs involved in international disability issues.

NCD's success is largely attributable to the exceptional collaboration it has had with Landmine Survivors Network (LSN), the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD), Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) and the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR). In addition, personal leadership and initiative from Jerry Mindes, Eric Rosenthal, Janet Lord and Susan Sygall were critical to the work that was accomplished.

2. Recognition as a leader on international disability issues

The work we have done has earned us a reputation for leadership and expertise in this area. It is widely recognized that the development of a civil society campaign for the convention was made possible by educational groundwork laid by NCD through its meetings and publications on the subject. Though our success has been more limited on the foreign assistance front, NCD is still seen as having a key leadership role to play in this area.

3. Management Support

International Work has been recognized as an important priority by Council members and the Policy Director. Staff working in this area feel supported and are encouraged to be ambitious in developing the international program.

Challenges

1. Lack of Administrative Support

The absence of administrative support available to the international program is the largest obstacle to effectiveness. The rule prohibiting contractors from requesting help directly from administrative staff creates an impossible

situation. However, regardless of this problem, the current administrative staff is not qualified to manage the support needed by International Watch. The minimum support needs include independent management of conference call schedule and logistics, maintaining updated contact lists and other tasks related to committee membership management, scheduling meetings with government agency personnel, sending international mail, responding to requests for information and basic internet research. Support in developing minutes and action item summaries from IW conference calls and other meetings would also be extremely valuable. Currently, staff has not had time to prepare reports from the April 8 Summit or the June 12 Forum. International Watch conference call minutes are often prepared several weeks after the event. Depending on the activities chosen for the coming year – frequency of IW calls, number of external meetings planned, amount of research etc., additional support will be necessary.

Recommendation: Based on the plan we develop for IW, recruit an intern from a local law or international relations program, or, if that does not prove possible, consider contracting a qualified administrative assistant on a part-time basis to support the work of IW.

2. Lack of participation by majority of International Watch members

Aside from 3 or 4 individuals, consistent engagement in IW activities is very low. While participation in monthly conference calls is often good, follow-through and a willingness to be part of project teams or take initiative on activities is poor. Many regular participants in conference calls are observers and not actual members of IW, and many of these people are more interested than the actual members. We need to identify our goals for participation. Are we looking for advice or assistance? Is NCD trying to interest more people in the disability community in international issues, or simply draw on existing experience and expertise to guide us in our chosen activities?

Recommendation: Revision of IW membership - retaining individuals with a proven interest and commitment to the work of the committee, adding new members who have time and expertise to contribute and eliminating members who have not shown an interest in participating.

3. Attitudes of other government agencies toward NCD and International Watch

The attitudes we have encountered within the government toward IW (and, to some degree, NCD) are generally suspicious, competitive, apathetic or dismissive.

Recommendation: Plan carefully for constructive and impactful participation in any interagency consultation that may result from the International

Convention process. Alternatively, consider convening an interagency meeting to explain the goals of IW and identify cooperative contact points within NIDDR, USAID, State Department, White House, etc.

Future Directions

Committee Structure

A major question is whether to maintain the system of two working groups or merge the work of IW back into one group. There are several arguments for both options.

Keeping these groups separate allows IW members to participate only in calls covering their area of interest and provides for a more defined focus on each area of work. With this system, each one-hour conference call is dedicated wholly to its subject. Covering both subjects would be difficult on a one hour call and longer calls are tiring, often causing people to drop off early.

On the other hand, the development of an international convention will have an impact on development funding for disability and should be viewed even at this early stage as a powerful tool to encourage development institutions to examine the way they view disability in their funding strategies. Furthermore, as we develop a congressional and State Department strategy in both areas, an integrated approach seems to make sense.

The best option ultimately may be to have each working group convene in alternating months, and have both groups convene together each third month.

Recommendation: Convene the International Watch Group as a whole for at least the first two meetings so that the group can come to consensus on planning issues, identify activities that will combine both working groups' efforts, and determine the best schedule for the future. The first meeting should take place in September.

Committee Membership

Revise the membership .The following people should be:

Retained:	Jerry Mindes, Eric Rosenthal, Susan Sygall, Tina Singleton, Jean Parker, Will Smith, Bruce Curtis, Judy Heumann, Rosangela Berman-Bieler, Judy Brewer
Released:	Don Galloway, Bob Metts, Lucy Wong Hernandez, David Collins, Deidre Davis, Lawrence Paradis, Kim Samuel-Johnson
???:	Nora Groce, Pat Wright
Added:	Arlene Kanter, Janet Lord, Judy Chamberlin, Holly Burkhalter, Marca Bristo, John Echohawk, Alan Reich,

International Convention

The educational project undertaken by NCD came a natural conclusion with the convening of the June 12 Grassroots Forum. While the disability community has looked to NCD to provide direction on this topic, it seems now that strong leadership is emerging from within civil society and that the role of NCD will change. NCD should continue to work closely with LSN, USICD and other members of the US Campaign to develop effective strategies for promoting the convention domestically. NCD is particularly valuable in the area of developing educational materials and it should continue to view this as a priority. Currently, NCD is beginning work on an analytical document that breaks down the complicated subject of how an international convention could impact US disability legislation – and, perhaps more importantly, debunking the myth that a convention ratified by the US actually could have the effect of weakening the ADA. It is critical that the disability community develop an understanding of this topic and NCD has been asked to address it in an academic, yet accessible, paper. Another suggestion has been made for NCD to undertake a number of thematic studies (education, health care, etc.) that examine the protections provided under current human rights law and how these protections might be informed by US policies on the same issues. As substantive development gets underway, such papers can become very valuable tools for those involved in developing, advising and commenting on draft provisions. PhD and law students in the Disability and Law seminar at Syracuse University, under the direction of Arlene Kanter, may be interested in undertaking these thematic studies.

Beyond the continued development of educational materials, NCD must decide what role it will take in terms of its relationship with the State Department and the White House on this subject. A congressional outreach strategy will also be important. Clearly, Lex will need to inform us about his goals in these areas. For the moment, the following questions are before us regarding how NCD might positively influence the US government position on the convention.

1. If the State Department undertakes an “interagency consultation” as it has said it will, what should be NCD’s role in this consultation?
2. Is there any chance that NCD might be included on the US delegation to the Ad Hoc Committee? Is this even desirable or would it create a political conflict, negatively affecting our ability to advocate strongly for what we believe the treaty should contain?
3. Should NCD seek an advisory role to the United Nations in New York to assist in the development of an accessibility plan for Ad Hoc Committee meetings, electronic communications and/or general meeting facilities. Should this be done in collaboration with State Department?
4. White House strategy?

5. What should NCD's role be once the US Campaign heats up and begins exerting pressure on the government? Can or should we try to establish NCD as a broker or mediator between government and civil society to help find common ground on both political and substantive issues related to the convention?
6. Should NCD undertake an "education" initiative for members of congress? If so, should be the focus be:
 - to promote understanding of the importance of a convention internationally
 - to convince members that an international convention can reinforce the key principles of the ADA
 - to persuade the US to take a leadership role in this treaty process, given the general view internationally of our accomplishments in disability legislation
 - to demonstrate how looking at disability in a human rights framework can have an impact domestically in such areas as social and cultural attitudes, media depictions of people with disabilities and legal decisions
 - to get the US to take a backseat in this process – e.g. do no harm, since it is not likely to sign this treaty anyway

We have had terrible luck thus far trying to get cooperation or even any communication from the State Department on anything convention-related. NIDDER was chosen over NCD as the agency contact on the convention issue. When Jennifer Sheehey was in the President's Domestic Policy office she showed good interest and support, but her departure from that office signaled the end of that cooperation. Bill Goold, from Senator Harkin's office, is our only Hill contact on the convention and that relationship has yielded very little action. Clearly, a more sophisticated strategy needs to be developed and key relationships established (esp. Republican) so that we have access to the people and information we need. Continuing to reach out to the same people using the same methods will, most likely, continue to prove ineffective.

Recommendations:

1. *Develop white paper on the relation between international human rights law and US domestic disability policy – the potential impact of a convention on the ADA and other legislation*
2. *Pursue the development of a series of thematic studies, in conjunction with Syracuse University, that examine human rights protections provided under current human rights law and how these protections might be informed by US policies on the same issues in the context of developing an international convention.*
3. *Contact the State Department with an offer to assist in convening the first interagency consultation on the international convention.*

4. *Convene a joint briefing of the congressional Disability Caucus and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus to educate members of these groups about the convention process and the potential value of an international human rights legal instrument on disability. This should be done in collaboration with NGOs involved in the US Campaign Development Group.*
5. *Contact the United Nations with an offer to hold a one-day training/seminar on accessibility, using the recently developed GSA guidelines and materials. (Tomas Lagerwall has indicated an interest in collaborating on UN accessibility issues.)*

Foreign Assistance

Resurrecting the Roundtable Series does not seem like the best use of resources in this area. The return on the investment of time and energy was very low. As evidence, we have not received any queries regarding when the next session would be. Currently, we do not have a lot of information about what is happening in the community on development issues. Information gathering will be critically important as we seek to identify how best to increase our impact on disability inclusion in foreign assistance.

What we learned this year:

- USAID is not the place to start in promoting disability inclusion in foreign assistance programs. There is too much resistance within and the whole thing is too big to penetrate through personal contacts. Perhaps more accurately, *people* within USAID are not the place to start. If there is to be any change, it will not come from staff level efforts. It will have to be the result of a directive from above, through Congress or from the Administration.
- IW does not have the staff resources to plan and execute large meetings.
- There is a fair amount of interest in this topic among IW members and even some development NGOs, but it is not easy to get collaboration – a lot of encouraging talk and good ideas, but not much action.
- The Peace Corps is a lost cause for now.
- The World Bank is beginning to get serious about disability.
- The “Percy Plus” initiative does not seem to be gaining ground.

Options:

- Develop a strategy for pushing an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act. A comprehensive research project (3-4 months) evaluating the current situation within USAID and other government-funded programs would have to be undertaken in order to lay the groundwork for this. (See IW Minutes from July 19, 2001)

- Consider developing a proposal for extending the New Freedom Initiative to a foreign policy program – mission accessibility, student, professional or other exchange programs, something inside USAID.
- Ask Judy Heumann how NCD can be of assistance in her efforts to integrate disability at the World Bank. She's not available to meet until after October.
- Target a specific program area within USAID for disability integration.
- Develop paper establishing the link between disability integration and the State Departments major objectives (security, democracy and economic stability).
- Meet with Jerry Mindes and Eric Rosenthal to discuss their ideas for the foreign assistance working group. Call Susan Sygall as well.
- Find out what, if anything, Pat Wright has been doing on the Percy Plus initiative. Be prepared for concern from that front if IW decides to take action in this area.

Recommendations:

1. *Pursue amendment to the Foreign Assistance act to require disability inclusion as a feature of all overseas programming ("Percy Plus"). This will require:*
 - *Commissioning a research paper outlining the history, need, precedent, potential impact and suggested language for such an amendment.*
 - *Outreach to members of Congress. This topic should be included in the briefing with the Disability Caucus and Human Rights Caucus mentioned in the recommendations regarding the international convention.*
2. *Follow-up with William Smith regarding the Post-Conflict sector group to determine the goals of this group and how it intends to proceed.*

Immediate Tasks:

1. Conference call with Lex (and whomever else he wishes to participate) and NCD international staff to ascertain his vision and direction
2. Schedule an IW conference call. The first should probably be a general call that includes everyone, as opposed to separate working group calls.
3. Update IW list to ensure all contacts are correct and current.

MEMORANDUM

TO: United States Department of State

FROM: Marca Bristo
Chair
National Council on Disability

DATE: March 21, 2002

RE: NCD's advisory role to the U.S. Department of State on issues impacting individuals with disabilities

Advocating equality is a U.S. foreign policy tradition. In the course of its more than two centuries, the United States has justified its overseas actions as a way to extend the freedoms enjoyed at home. Thus, it is right, proper, and consistent for the actions and activities of U.S. foreign policy agencies and their programs to reflect this country's consensus that people with disabilities are fully equal and should be allowed to make their maximum possible contribution to society. Disability policy fits naturally with foreign policy.

The Department of State has among its stated objectives the promotion of sustainable democracies abroad. Central to any democratic system is respect for the human rights of all people. However, throughout the world universally accepted human rights are systematically ignored in relation to people with disabilities. It is critical that the Department of State consult with the National Council on Disability (NCD) to use its considerable expertise and disability network in developing policy positions on this and all other issues impacting people with disabilities. It is consistent with our domestic policy, namely, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; consistent with the history of the NCD; consistent with NCD's mandate and mission; and consistent with the policy of inclusion that the United States has fostered by enacting the ADA and other civil rights laws. NCD's leadership in the Federal government is absolutely crucial to bringing disability inclusion to all areas of national policy, including foreign policy. Human rights issues are increasingly on the forefront of foreign policy and the human rights of persons with disabilities naturally have a nexus with that.

The National Council on Disability has a mandate to advise the Department of State on all issues impacting people with disabilities:

"The National Council shall—review and evaluate on a continuing basis – policies, programs, practices, and procedures concerning individuals with disabilities conducted or assisted by Federal departments and agencies...all statutes and regulations pertaining to Federal programs which assist such individuals with disabilities; in order to assess the

effectiveness of such policies, programs, practices, procedures, statutes, and regulations in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities;...assess the extent to which such policies, programs, practices, and procedures facilitate or impede the promotion of policies set forth...make recommendations to the President, the Congress, the Secretary, the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and other officials of Federal agencies or other Federal entities, respecting ways to better promote the policies set forth in section 400(a)(2). *Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Section 400.*

Clearly, our policy advisory role is not limited to domestic advice. Congress envisioned an international leadership role for NCD and has specifically asked NCD for its international advice, most recently at NCD's FY 2001 appropriations hearings. Congressman Porter's questions to Vice-chairperson Kate Pew Wolters included questions regarding the status of persons with disabilities worldwide, asking Wolters whether [Congress] was going in the right direction in terms of results for people with disabilities – **worldwide**. See Testimony of Kate Pew Wolters, Vice Chairperson, and Ethel D. Briggs, Executive Director, Thursday, April 6, 2000, National Council on Disability.

NCD has played an internationally recognized leadership role on all issues impacting people with disabilities and is the appropriate agency with the requisite experience to advise the Department of State on issues within its jurisdiction. We are the only agency that can articulate U.S. national policies with respect to people with disabilities with any degree of comprehensiveness and the only one that can speak to the importance of U.S. disability advances and achievements for people with disabilities in other countries. In fact, in 1995, **NCD was designated by the Department of State as the contact point within the U.S. government for disabilities issues.** Please see attached letter to Mr. Bengt Lindqvist, Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on Disability. While many government agencies deal with issues and programs affecting people with disabilities, NCD is the only federal agency charged with addressing, analyzing, and making recommendations on issues of public policy that affect people with disabilities regardless of age, disability type, perceived employment potential, economic need, specific functional ability, or any other individual circumstance, **including status as a citizen of this country.**

NCD played a pivotal role in the development of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (Standard Rules), intended to achieve full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. In 1993, the United Nation's General Assembly adopted the Standard Rules and when the UN appointed Bengt Lindqvist as Special Rapporteur to monitor the implementation of the Standard Rules, NCD supported Mr. Lindqvist's role by providing two grants of \$25,000 each to assist him in the task.

NCD was also asked by the Organization of American States (OAS), specifically Panama, to advise OAS over a 3 year period on a convention on the rights of people with

disabilities. The OAS General Assembly met in Panama on June 7, 1996, and approved without change the OAS Working Group on Disabilities' draft resolution entitled "Panama Commitment to Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere." The document called for future legal commitments for the protection of people with disabilities and according to the Department of State, "...it expresses hemispheric good intentions and political will...".

NCD's Chair was the first United States delegate to the United Nations specifically seated to include people with disabilities. The first official international delegate with a disability was the chair of NCD, Marca Bristo, to the World Summit on Social Development. In 1996, Marca Bristo was a U.S. Delegate to Habitat II, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Istanbul, Turkey. NCD has met with representatives from the governments of Argentina, Great Britain, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Finland, New Zealand, Australia, and Germany. NCD has met with the United States Council on International Rehabilitation, the International Labor Organization, and the European Disability Forum and has attended numerous international conferences including USIA/Mobility International USA, the Inter-American Convention on Disabilities, the International Conference on Accessibility, the Global Workshop on Children with Disabilities, the International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities, the International Summit on Employment, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the Third Paralympic Conference, and the U.N. World Summit for Social Development.

In 2000, NCD established a Federal advisory committee known as "International Watch" (IW) to share information on international disability issues and to advise NCD regarding policy proposals and advocacy for foreign policy that is consistent with the values and goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act. International Watch has informed NCD of disability issues and policy developments proposed by world governments and international organizations, reviewed and provided comments on NCD's priorities and projects as they relate to foreign policy objectives and activities affecting people with disabilities world-wide, and enhanced NCD's knowledge about how people with disabilities are affected by the implementation of federal legislation having international impacts such as the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Foreign Assistance Act. IW has formed working groups to focus on developing recommended strategies for addressing specific foreign policy issues affecting people with disabilities and advises NCD on strategies for pursuing foreign policy changes consistent with the values and goals of the ADA.

Through International Watch, NCD has responded to a call from disability rights groups to promote an International Convention on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As a result, a White Paper is in development that analyzes how the support and participation of American policymakers and organizations representing people with disabilities in the drafting of an international treaty specifically addressing the rights of people with disabilities, will serve people with disabilities around the globe. NCD, through International Watch, has been a consciousness-raising force within the disability community in the early stages of development of the International Convention process.

International Watch enables NCD to speak with considerable expertise on all issues affecting the rights of persons with disabilities abroad.

NCD is also the facilitator of a Roundtable series that includes USAID, InterAction, the Department of State, and the World Bank as well as several disability rights organizations. The Roundtable series is intended to identify and address issues that NCD believes will be helpful to constructive engagement of the State Department and USAID on disability inclusion in their foreign assistance programs. The purpose of the Roundtable series on Disability and Foreign Assistance is to engage stakeholders in meaningful and informative discussions regarding the economic, legal, social and human rights aspects of disability inclusion in development programs.

By utilizing the unparalleled expertise of the National Council on Disability, the U.S. Department of State and U.S. diplomatic efforts will be in line with the overriding policy objective of the rest of the Federal government that commands full and equal participation by people with disabilities.