

South Vietnam Trip 2/24/77

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Ham
J

4/24

TO: PRESIDENT CARTER
FROM: HAMILTON JORDAN
RE: MISSION TO SOUTH VIETNAM

As requested, here are the names of persons who might go to represent our country on the mission to South Vietnam:

-Coretta King

-Bunny Mitchell

-Marian Wright Edelman

-Eleanor Holmes Norton

-Grace Olivares (An outstanding Hispanic woman who Joe Aragon and I will recommend to you for consideration for several key positions in the Administration - her resume is attached)

-Delores Tucker

-Mary Ann Krupsak

-Ella Grasso

From what I know about their mission, I would recommend that you not send a woman who presently holds political office as you can expect them to orient their own views and public statements to their constituencies upon return.

I believe that you will want to utilize both Norton and Olivares in your Administration and for that reason I would argue against their being sent on this particular mission.

Symbolically, Coretta King would be the most visible and well-known person you could select. Her statements upon her return would be unpredictable and possibly counter-productive. My hunch is that she would relate the findings and activities of the group to her husband's opposition to the war.

You want someone that represents a point of view in this country who is also practical and responsible. Marian Wright Edelman has national stature and reputation and is well respected by all who know her and have worked with her.

Bunny does not have a national reputation but does have
statue because she works for you. Also, as you have recently
expressed, we have a need politically to project her more.
The argument against her is that she is a staff person
who works for and reports to you.

As you know, a disproportionate number of the men who
went to Vietnam were poor and black. Is it possible for
Edelman to be a member of the official delegation and
Bunny to go a part of the traveling party?

That would be my recommendation - or increase the size
of the party by one member.

GRACIELA (GRACE) OLIVAREZ

COMMENTS:

Father Theodore Hesburgh, President, Notre Dame University: Suggested independently that Grace would, in his opinion, make an excellent Ambassadors to Mexico. He characterized her administrative abilities as excellent. "She is the highest level administrator in the state," and opined that her understanding of the culture, the language, the politics and the economics of Mexico made her an excellent choice for the diplomatic post.

Howard Simons, Managing Editor of the Washington Post: "I have enough faith in her to have entrusted my daughter to her care while she lived in New Mexico." Simons described her as bright, imaginative, strong and deeply committed to personal views. "She feels things strongly, something we need more of in this country. Grace is a devout Catholic and has never run away from her religion. She would do well in both a domestic or an overseas assignment."

Dean Ylvisaker, Harvard Graduate School of Education: He has "deep affection and admiration" for Grace. He described her as "first rate", "very forthright". He had hoped she'd end up in the Cabinet. "Grace has matured enormously since 1962. In those days she was less secure in herself and in order to compensate she pushed herself to the breaking point. She had tremendous drive and was a great performer. Since then she has matured and become much more philosophical. She is still forthright in her views but she knows the difference between commitment and rhetoric." (Ylvisaker introduced Grace to Father Hesburgh.)

John D. Rockefeller, III: Worked closely with her on the Commission on Population Growth and the Future. He has had almost no contact with her in the last 4-5 years. He spoke well of Grace. "She was a plus. She was articulate, forthright, constructive, respected. If there was anything at all to fault it would be that she felt things very strongly. Her "pro-life" views were not, in his mind a problem.

GRACIELA (GRACE) OLIVAREZ

COMMENTS: (cont.)

Governor Jerry Apodaca, New Mexico: Indicated that he would be very sorry to have Grace leave state government. He added, however, that she would be a great asset to the Administration should she join it. Apodaca described Grace as a superb administrator who had provided a great service to the State of New Mexico.

John Gardner, Common Cause: John met her when she was asked to join the National Board of Directors of Common Cause. She served on the Board from 1971-74. Gardner described her as "highly intelligent", "fair", "a problem solver who handles her role as a woman and member of a minority group exceedingly well." Gardner said he is very fond of Grace and remarked that she was a "sterling kind of character."

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 22, 1977

TO: HAMILTON JORDAN

FROM: JOE ARAGON *ja*

SUBJECT: CHRIS BROWN ON GRACE OLIVAREZ

I just spoke to Chris who had the following to say about Grace:

She is strong, forthright, has been in administrative roles for several years. She fits the model of a career administrator. Her forte lies in dealing with people and problem solving, would make an excellent diplomat.

GRACIELA (GRACE) OLIVAREZ

Experience: (cont.)

1966 - 1967	Arizona State Office of Economic Opportunity
1962 - 1966	Staff Specialist for the Choate Foundation, Phoenix, Arizona
1952 - 1962	Women's Program Director, Radio Station KIFN, Phoenix, Arizona

Other Activities:

Consultant to the National Commission on Rural Poverty

Lecturer on culture of Mexican-Americans in the Southwest at UCLA and Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, California

Member, New Mexico Border Commission

Member, Governor's Energy Impact Task Force