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Folder Title:
U.N. 4th World Conference on Women (Sept. 4-5 '95) [Folder 2]: [3]

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THE FOLLOWING IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST LADY'S TRIP TO GUAM, CHINA AND MONGOLIA SEPTEMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 8, 1995

The following is a tentative list of activities for the First Lady's trip to Guam, China and Mongolia. The schedule is tentative, subject to change and is not for publication or broadcast.

TAMUNING, GUAM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1995

- o Reception hosted by Governor Gutierrez at the Hyatt Regency Guam. (Depart for China)

BEIJING, CHINA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995

- o Panel discussion on Women and Health Security.
- o Address to the UN 4th World Conference on Women.
- o Reception/Discussion hosted by Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1995

- o Address the NGO forum in Huairou, China.
- o Attend UN 4th World Conference on Women for Ambassador Albright's address.
- o Panel discussion on Women's economic empowerment.

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

- o Attend a discussion with nomadic families.
- o Lunch with the President of Mongolia.
- o Discussion with Mongolian women.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1995

- o Visit center for street children.
- o Protocol meeting with Prime Minister of Mongolia.

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**THE FOLLOWING IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
FOR THE
FIRST LADY'S TRIP TO
CHINA AND MONGOLIA
SEPTEMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 8, 1995**

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST.

THE ON-SITE PRESS CONTACTS ARE:

**GUAM - Hilton, Tumon Bay
- AGANA - Megan Moloney**

**China - China World Hotel
- Beijing - Roshann Parris - Room 1304
- Huairou - Karen Finney - Room 1302
Paula Thomasson - Room 1303**

**Mongolia - Government Guest House
Ulaanbaatar - Kara McGuire**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1995
HONOLULU, HAWAII**

3:00 PM -- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton departs Honolulu, Hawaii for Guam.

FLIGHT INFORMATION: The flight time to Guam is 7 hours and 40 minutes.

6:40 PM - Arrive in Agana, Guam

TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: THE FIRST LADY'S ARRIVAL IN GUAM IS OPEN TO PRESS COVERAGE. MEMBERS OF THE TRAVELING PRESS POOL SHOULD EXIT THE PLANE THROUGH THE REAR DOOR. PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOULD POSITION THEMSELVES UNDER THE WING FOR THE PHOTO OF THE FIRST LADY DE-BOARDING THE PLANE.

IT'S THAT TIME: GUAM IS 14 HOURS AHEAD OF EASTERN STANDARD TIME.

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON'S
SCHEDULE FOR CHINA AND MONGOLIA
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1995 AGANA, GUAM

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will attend a reception hosted by the Governor of Guam, Carl T.C. Gutierrez, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. Joining the First Lady at the reception will be Madeline Albright, United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Attending the reception will be members of the Territorial Legislature, local officials, business and community leaders and members of the diplomatic community.

ARRIVAL AT A.B. WON PAT GUAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

DATE: Monday, September 4, 1995
TIME: 6:45 PM
LOCATION:

Tamuning, Guam

LOCAL/INTERNATIONAL PRESS: The First Lady's arrival at Gualh International Airport is open to press coverage. Press wishing to cover the event should arrive at xxxx by 6:00 pm. No pre-credential is required. Press will be required to present standard press identification and photo ID to gain access to the press area.

TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: Following the arrival xxxx vans will provide transportation to the reception site.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FIRST LADY WILL NOT MAKE REMARKS UPON ARRIVAL. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR REPORTERS COVERING THE FIRST LADY'S ARRIVAL TO ALSO COVER THE RECEPTION AT THE HYATT.

RECEPTION HOSTED BY GOVERNOR GUTIERREZ:

DATE: Monday, September 4, 1995
TIME: 7:15 PM
LOCATION: Grand Ballroom
Hyatt Regency Guam
1155 Bale San Vitores Road
Tumon Bay, Guam

LOCAL/INTERNATIONAL PRESS: The reception is open to press coverage. No pre-credentialing is required. Press wishing to cover the event will be required to present standard press identification and a photo ID to gain access to the ballroom. The ballroom will be available for set up at 5:00 PM. All equipment must be pre-positioned by 6:15 PM.

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TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: THERE WILL BE WORK SPACE AVAILABLE FOR FILING FOLLOWING THE FIRST LADY'S REMARKS. THE FILING AREA WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH IDD PHONES.

8:15 PM - TRAVELING PRESS POOL WILL DEPART THE HOTEL TO THE AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE TO BEIJING, CHINA.

8:45 PM - THE FIRST LADY DEPARTS GUAM FOR BEIJING, CHINA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995 BEIJING, CHINA

1:10 AM - THE FIRST LADY ARRIVES IN BEIJING, CHINA

TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: THE FIRST LADY'S ARRIVAL IN BEIJING, CHINA IS OPEN TO PRESS COVERAGE. MEMBERS OF THE TRAVELING PRESS POOL SHOULD EXIT THE PLANE THROUGH THE REAR DOOR. PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOULD POSITION THEMSELVES UNDER THE WING FOR THE PHOTO OF THE FIRST LADY DE-BOARDING THE PLANE.

LOCAL/INTERNATIONAL PRESS: The First Lady's arrival at Beijing Capitol Airport is open to press coverage. Press wishing to cover the event should arrive by 12:30 AM. Press will be required to present standard press identification and photo ID to gain access to the press area.

IT'S THAT TIME: **CHINA IS TWELVE HOURS A HEAD OF EASTERN STANDARD TIME.**

RON: CHINA WORLD HOTEL - ALL MEMBERS OF THE TRAVELING PRESS POOL HAVE BEEN PRE-REGISTERED. YOUR ROOM KEYS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON THE BUS FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL.

TECHNICAL NOTE - CHINA WORLD HOTEL: AT&T, SPRINT AND MCI CALLING CARDS CAN BE USED TO CALL DIRECT TO THE UNITED STATES. RJ 11 PHONE JACKS WORK IN HOTEL ROOMS. THE ELECTRICAL CURRENT IN THE HOTEL IS 220V, THERE IS A 110/220V PLUG IN ALL BATHROOMS. ROOM SERVICE IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS. THE HOTEL'S BUSINESS CENTER IS OPEN FROM 6:00AM - 11:00PM.

WHITE HOUSE CONTROL ROOM: 10th FLOOR, ROOM 1008. IT WILL BE OPERATIONAL 24 HOURS A DAY. YOU SHOULD CHANGE MONEY BEFORE YOU DEPART THE HOTEL ON TUESDAY EITHER IN THE CONTROL ROOM OR HOTEL LOBBY.

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9:00 AM - Members of the traveling press pool should assemble in the hotel lobby for departure to the UN credentialing center. The credentialing process should take approximately 45 minutes. From the credentialing center we will go directly to the First Lady's first event.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995 BEIJING, CHINA

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will participate in the World Health Organization's panel discussion on Women and Health Security, address a special session of the United Nations' 4th World Conference on Women, attend a reception hosted by Boutros-Ghali Secretary General of the United Nations and attend a reception for the American delegation attending the World Conference on Women at the residence of the American Ambassador.

COLLOQUIUM ON WOMEN AND HEALTH SECURITY:

DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 1995
TIME: 11:15 AM
LOCATION: Room 2
Security and Exchange Building
Beijing, China

PRESS NOTE: The event is open to press coverage. The room is lit for TV, there will be an audio mult in the rear of the room, the camera throw is 60 feet.

TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: Following the discussion the First Lady will hold at the Continental Grand Hotel until her address to the conference.

There is **unreserved** press filing space in the conference center. We will have bag lunches available. At 2:15 PM the press pool will reassemble and move to Hall 1 for the First Lady's speech.

ADDRESS TO THE UN 4TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:

DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 1995
TIME: 2:45 PM
LOCATION: Hall 1
Beijing International Convention Center
Beijing, China

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TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: Seats and video/still camera positions will be available for members of the traveling pool in the balcony of the hall. The camera throw to the podium is approximately 120 feet. Following the speech there will time for press pool members to file. Again there is no reserved filing space available at the conference site.

RECEPTION HOSTED BY BOUTROS-GHALI:

DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 1995
TIME: 4:30 PM
LOCATION: TBA

TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: Coverage of the reception/discussion is limited to the first five minutes. At the conclusion of the allotted time for coverage, the press pool will be able to file from the unreserved work space at the conference center or return to the China World Hotel. Press pool members remaining at the conference site will need to arrange for their own transportation back to the hotel.

There is no press coverage of the reception at the American Ambassador's residence for the United States Delegation to the conference.

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7:00 AM - Members of the traveling press pool should assemble in the hotel lobby for departure to Huairou, China. The travel pool is encouraged to wear light weight clothing, comfortable shoes and bring a hat - it's going to be hot. It will take approximately one hour to drive to Huairou.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1995 BEIJING/HUAIROU, CHINA

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will address the Non-Government Organizations' Forum in Huairou, China, and then return to Beijing to attend the United Nation's 4th World Conference on Women for Madeline Albright's, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, remarks at the Conference. Following Ambassador Albright's remarks, the First lady will attend a reception for the American Embassy staff and participate in a panel discussion on Women's Economic Empowerment.

ADDRESS TO NGO FORUM:

DATE: Wednesday, September 6, 1995
TIME: 9:00 AM
LOCATION: Kuumba Stage/Parasol Area
Huairou, China

PRESS NOTE: The event is open to press coverage. The camera throw from the main camera platform is 45 feet. Members of the press should plan to arrive between 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM. Reporters must present NGO conference credentials to be admitted to the parasol area.

TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: Possible tour of NGO village and OTR.

12:45 PM - Depart Huairou for Beijing.
2:00 PM - Arrive Beijing Conference Center

TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: There will be a limited amount of filing time available upon arriving at the Conference site prior to Ambassador Albright remarks at the conference. The First Lady will be seated with the United States delegation in the rear of the conference hall for Ambassador Albright's remarks and has no role in the session.

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AMBASSADOR ALBRIGHT'S ADDRESS TO THE CONFERENCE:

DATE: Wednesday, September 7, 1995
TIME: 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Hall 1
Beijing International Convention Center
Beijing, China

TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: Seats and video/still camera positions will be available for members of the traveling pool in the balcony of the hall. The camera throw to the podium is approximately 120 feet. Following the speech there will be time for press pool members to file. Again there is no reserved filing space available at the conference site.

Following Ambassador Albright's remarks, the First Lady will depart the Convention Center for a reception with the American Embassy staff at the residence of the American Ambassador. There is no press coverage of the reception.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

DATE: Wednesday, September 6
TIME: 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Main Conference Site
Room TBA
Beijing, China

PRESS NOTE: The discussion is open to press coverage.

8:00 PM - Traveling press pool departs the convention center for the China World Hotel in the First Lady's motorcade. Pool members wishing to remain at the convention site will need to arrange for their transportation back to the hotel.

**BAGGAGE CALL IS AT MIDNIGHT - PLACE BAG OUTSIDE YOUR
ROOM DOOR.**

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995
BEIJING, CHINA

5:45 AM -- Members of the traveling press pool should assemble in the hotel lobby for departure to Mongolia. The Flight from Beijing to Ulaanbaatar is 2 hours.

7:00 AM -- Depart Beijing, China for Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995 ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

IT'S THAT TIME: MONGOLIA IS 13 HOURS AHEAD OF EASTERN
STANDARD TIME.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will visit with nomadic families, attend a lunch hosted by the President of Mongolia and participate in a discussion with Mongolian women.

ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA:

DATE: Thursday, September 7, 1995
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

PRESS NOTE: The First Lady's arrival is open to press coverage. Press wishing to cover the First Lady's arrival should arrive at xxxx by 9:00 am.

TRAVELING PRESS POOL NOTE: THE FIRST LADY'S ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA IS OPEN TO PRESS COVERAGE. MEMBERS OF THE TRAVELING PRESS POOL SHOULD EXIT THE PLANE THROUGH THE REAR DOOR. PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOULD POSITION THEMSELVES UNDER THE WING FOR THE PHOTO OF THE FIRST LADY DE-BOARDING THE PLANE.

DISCUSSION WITH NOMADIC FAMILIES:

DATE: Thursday, September 7, 1995
TIME: 11:15
LOCATION: TBA

TRAVELING PRESS POOL: The discussion will take place in a Ger, a tent, thus space will be extremely limited. Press pool members will be asked to rotate.

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LUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT OF MONGOLIA:

DATE: Thursday, September 7, 1995
TIME: 12:35 PM
LOCATION: TBA

TRAVELING PRESS POOL: The lunch with the President of Mongolia will take place in a Ger. There will be a brief photo opportunity at the beginning of the lunch. Members of the traveling pool will be included in the luncheon.

DISCUSSION WITH MONGOLIAN WOMEN:

DATE: Thursday, September 7, 1995
TIME: 4:00 PM
LOCATION: School for Gifted Children
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

PRESS NOTE: The discussion is open to press coverage.

RON: GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1995 ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will visit the Center for Street Children and make a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Mongolia. Following the courtesy call, the First Lady will depart Mongolia for the United States.

CENTER FOR STREET CHILDREN:

DATE: Friday, September 8, 1995
TIME: 9:45 AM
LOCATION: Center for Street Children
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

PRESS NOTE: The First Lady's visit to center is open to press coverage.

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COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER:

DATE: Friday, September 8, 1995
TIME: 10:30 AM
LOCATION: TBA
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

PRESS NOTE: There will be a brief photo opportunity at
the beginning of the courtesy call.

LET'S GO HOME!

12 NOON - Departure from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for Misawa Air
Base, Japan. Flight time is 4 hours and 50 minutes.

4:50 PM - Wheels down at Misawa Air Base, Japan

6:20 PM - Wheels up from Misawa Air Base for Elmendorf Air Force
Base in Alaska. The Flight time is 6 hours and 35 minutes.

7:55 AM - Wheels down Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.

9:25 AM - Wheels up from Elmendorf Air Force Base for Andrews Air
Force Base. The Flight time is 6 hours and 40 minutes.

8:40 PM - Wheels down at Andrews Air Force Base.

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(prepared for delivery)

REMARKS OF
AMBASSADOR MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
CONCERNING THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
CENTER FOR NATIONAL POLICY BREAKFAST
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 2, 1995

Good morning. I am pleased to be here. I may be prejudiced, but I think the Center for National Policy is a great organization, and I appreciate its willingness to sponsor this timely event.

The Fourth World Conference on Women will convene in China in 33 days and, let there be no doubt, the United States will be there.

We will be there because this conference is a rare opportunity to chart further gains in the status and rights of more than half the people on earth.

As leader of the American delegation, I am confident that U.S. goals will have strong support. These include--

- o promoting and protecting the human rights of women and ending violence against women;

- o expanding the participation of women in political and economic decisionmaking;

- o assuring equal access for women to education and health care throughout their lives;

- o strengthening families through efforts to balance the work and family responsibilities of both women and men; and

- o recognizing the increased role of nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) in building strong communities--at the local, national and international levels.

The conference in Beijing will be the fourth in a series begun 20 years ago in Mexico City. These gatherings have spurred legal, social and political reforms that have enhanced the lives of women and girls around the globe. Our goal now is to build on past gains and to hasten the removal of continuing obstacles to the full and equal participation of women in society.

As someone whose family was driven from its home twice when I was a child, first by Hitler, then by Stalin, I believe it is the responsibility of every free person to do what he or she can to advance the freedom of others. And I intend to see that the U.S. delegation to the Women's Conference serves as an unabashed advocate for freedom and human rights.

Unfortunately, today, in countries around the world, appalling abuses are being committed against women. These include coerced abortions and sterilizations, children sold into prostitution, ritual mutilations, dowry murders and official indifference to violence.

The Clinton Administration will use the conference in Beijing to underline the truth that violence against women is no one's prerogative; it is not a cultural choice; it is not an inevitable consequence of biology--it is a crime that we all have a responsibility to condemn, prevent, punish and stop.

Now, there are those who say that we should withdraw from the Women's Conference because of the human rights policies of the host country. Those suggestions are well-motivated, but they miss the main point. American withdrawal would not stop the conference or cause it to be moved; it would lead, instead, to a conference in which 130 million American women would be unrepresented and in which American influence and leadership would not be felt.

It just does not make sense, in the name of human rights, to boycott a conference that has, as a primary purpose, the promotion of human rights.

The way to help women, in China and elsewhere, is not to abandon the field to others, but rather to attend this conference, to debate head-on the differences of philosophy and ideology that exist, to lay out before the world the abuses we want to halt and the obstacles to progress we want to remove, and to gain commitments to change from the societies most in need of change. That is what leadership and a commitment to free and open discussion are all about.

With respect to Harry Wu, our position is clear. He should be released immediately and unharmed. His case is a top priority for the United States. I can understand why some would want to tie conference participation to Mr. Wu's release, but that assumes falsely that our attendance would be some sort of favor to Beijing. We have no cause to believe that our approach to the conference will have any impact on China's decisions concerning Mr. Wu.

We do have reason, however, to hope that the conference will have a positive effect on the status of women in China.

Conference preparations already have contributed to a heightened awareness within China of women's issues. There is public discussion of previously taboo subjects, including violence against women. Chinese returning from the preparatory meetings have described their heightened sensitivity to the treatment of women in the media and to the economic exploitation of women. It matters a great deal that more than 5,000 Chinese women will participate in the NGO forum and will take their impressions back to their communities.

Given the nature of China's human rights record, I do not mean to exaggerate the impact of this one conference. But as a former board member of the National Endowment for Democracy, I know that one of the best ways to promote democratic thinking is to expose people to new ideas on matters that relate directly to their own lives.

Exposure to such thinking matters to us not only in China, but around the world, because countries in which women have a fair share of power tend to be more stable, democratic, prosperous and just than those in which women are marginalized and repressed.

The Women's Conference will contribute to a freer and more equitable world. As its recommendations are implemented, it will also strengthen families around the world. We know from our own experience that when families are strong, children are cared for, socially constructive values are taught and an environment is created in which civility and law may thrive.

So we want momentum to build around the idea that women and men should share fairly in the responsibilities of family life; we want to see girls valued to the same degree as boys; we want parents and prospective parents to be able to make informed judgments as they plan their families; and we want to see domestic violence curtailed and condemned.

Each of these is a central element of the Conference draft Platform for Action. And effective action on each will help families and communities everywhere.

Despite recent gains, women remain an undervalued and underdeveloped human resource. This is not to say that women have trouble finding work; in many societies--especially in rural, agriculturally-based areas--they do the vast majority of the work; but they don't own the land, they are not taught to read, they can't obtain personal or business loans and they are denied equal access to the levers of political decisionmaking.

It is no accident that most of those in the world who are abjectly poor are women, often caring for children without the help of the children's father; many trapped from an early age in a web of abuse, discrimination, ignorance and powerlessness from which only a few are able to escape.

We cannot be indifferent. It is reported that, in Angola, one-third of all homicides are perpetrated against women, usually by their spouse.

In Thailand, child prostitution is growing because clients believe older prostitutes are more likely to be infected by HIV.

In Senegal, females receive less than one-third the schooling received by males.

In Sierra Leone, women perform much of the subsistence farming and all of the child rearing and have little opportunity for education.

And almost everywhere, women are restricted by discriminatory attitudes and social and economic structures that are unjust.

The Women's Conference will not solve these problems overnight, but it will call attention to them and promote remedial action. Women the world over are prepared to be full partners in sustainable development, but they need access to education and health care; they need access to credit; and they need equality under the law. Releasing the productive capacity of women is one key to breaking the cycle of poverty; and that will contribute, in turn, to higher standards of living for all nations.

Since the first Women's Conference 20 years ago, opportunities for women have expanded throughout the world. It is no longer a question of whether women from all countries will have a strong voice in controlling their destinies, but only when and how that goal will be achieved.

But building inclusive societies is still a work in progress. The United States has been working on it for two centuries. For more than half our nation's history, until 75 years ago this month, American women could not even vote. Many traditional or authoritarian societies still have a very long way to go. The Fourth Women's Conference will offer guidelines and promote commitments for every state to move forward, whatever current practices and policies may be.

In preparing for this conference, I was reminded of an old Chinese poem in which a father says to his young daughter:

We keep a dog to watch the house;
A pig is useful, too;
We keep a cat to catch a mouse;
But what can we do
With a girl like you?

For me, the Women's Conference will be a success if it brings us even a little closer to the day when girls all over the world will be able to look ahead with confidence that their lives will be valued, their individuality respected, their rights protected and their futures determined by their own abilities and character.

In such a world, the lives of all of us--men and women, boys and girls--will be enriched.

And it is to make progress towards such a world that the United States will be participating actively, forcefully and proudly in Beijing.

Thank you very much. Now, I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have.

(prepared for delivery)

REMARKS OF
AMBASSADOR MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
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We will be there because this conference is a rare opportunity to chart further gains in the status and rights of more than half the people on earth.

As leader of the American delegation, I am confident that U.S. goals will have strong support. These include--

- o promoting and protecting the human rights of women and ending violence against women;

- o expanding the participation of women in political and economic decisionmaking;

- o assuring equal access for women to education and health care throughout their lives;

- o strengthening families through efforts to balance the work and family responsibilities of both women and men; and

- o recognizing the increased role of nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) in building strong communities--at the local, national and international levels.

The conference in Beijing will be the fourth in a series begun 20 years ago in Mexico City. These gatherings have spurred legal, social and political reforms that have enhanced the lives of women and girls around the globe. Our goal now is to build on past gains and to hasten the removal of continuing obstacles to the full and equal participation of women in society.

As someone whose family was driven from its home twice when I was a child, first by Hitler, then by Stalin, I believe it is the responsibility of every free person to do what he or she can to advance the freedom of others. And I intend to see that the U.S. delegation to the Women's Conference serves as an unabashed advocate for freedom and human rights.

Unfortunately, today, in countries around the world, appalling abuses are being committed against women. These include coerced abortions and sterilizations, children sold into prostitution, ritual mutilations, dowry murders and official indifference to violence.

The Clinton Administration will use the conference in Beijing to underline the truth that violence against women is no one's prerogative; it is not a cultural choice; it is not an inevitable consequence of biology--it is a crime that we all have a responsibility to condemn, prevent, punish and stop.

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The Women's Conference will contribute to a freer and more equitable world. As its recommendations are implemented, it will also strengthen families around the world. We know from our own experience that when families are strong, children are cared for, socially constructive values are taught and an environment is created in which civility and law may thrive.

So we want momentum to build around the idea that women and men should share fairly in the responsibilities of family life; we want to see girls valued to the same degree as boys; we want parents and prospective parents to be able to make informed judgments as they plan their families; and we want to see domestic violence curtailed and condemned.

Each of these is a central element of the Conference draft Platform for Action. And effective action on each will help families and communities everywhere.

Despite recent gains, women remain an undervalued and underdeveloped human resource. This is not to say that women have trouble finding work; in many societies--especially in rural, agriculturally-based areas--they do the vast majority of the work; but they don't own the land, they are not taught to read, they can't obtain personal or business loans and they are denied equal access to the levers of political decisionmaking.

It is no accident that most of those in the world who are abjectly poor are women, often caring for children without the help of the children's father; many trapped from an early age in a web of abuse, discrimination, ignorance and powerlessness from which only a few are able to escape.

We cannot be indifferent. It is reported that, in Angola, one-third of all homicides are perpetrated against women, usually by their spouse.

In Thailand, child prostitution is growing because clients believe older prostitutes are more likely to be infected by HIV.

In Senegal, females receive less than one-third the schooling received by males.

In Sierra Leone, women perform much of the subsistence farming and all of the child rearing and have little opportunity for education.

And almost everywhere, women are restricted by discriminatory attitudes and social and economic structures that are unjust.

The Women's Conference will not solve these problems overnight, but it will call attention to them and promote remedial action. Women the world over are prepared to be full partners in sustainable development, but they need access to education and health care; they need access to credit; and they need equality under the law. Releasing the productive capacity of women is one key to breaking the cycle of poverty; and that will contribute, in turn, to higher standards of living for all nations.

Since the first Women's Conference 20 years ago, opportunities for women have expanded throughout the world. It is no longer a question of whether women from all countries will have a strong voice in controlling their destinies, but only when and how that goal will be achieved.

But building inclusive societies is still a work in progress. The United States has been working on it for two centuries. For more than half our nation's history, until 75 years ago this month, American women could not even vote. Many traditional or authoritarian societies still have a very long way to go. The Fourth Women's Conference will offer guidelines and promote commitments for every state to move forward, whatever current practices and policies may be.

In preparing for this conference, I was reminded of an old Chinese poem in which a father says to his young daughter:

We keep a dog to watch the house;
A pig is useful, too;
We keep a cat to catch a mouse;
But what can we do
With a girl like you?

For me, the Women's Conference will be a success if it brings us even a little closer to the day when girls all over the world will be able to look ahead with confidence that their lives will be valued, their individuality respected, their rights protected and their futures determined by their own abilities and character.

In such a world, the lives of all of us--men and women, boys and girls--will be enriched.

And it is to make progress towards such a world that the United States will be participating actively, forcefully and proudly in Beijing.

Thank you very much. Now, I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 26, 1995

REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
AT THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLORADO
Denver, Colorado

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you all very much. Thank you for that warm welcome and thank you for filling this hall on behalf of yourselves and other women throughout Colorado and the United States who will be inspired and helped because there was a conference today that talked about the issues confronting women in our society. I'm pleased to be here with my friend, your governor. I appreciate greatly the introduction that your friend, the ambassador, gave me. And I want to thank all who are associated with this extraordinary foundation that is, I believe, the only statewide women's foundation in the entire country. And for that Colorado should be very proud and you should applaud yourselves. (Applause.)

I started my visit today by going to Mi Casa, an organization that the Foundation has helped in the past. One dedicated to providing women with the tools they need to become self-sufficient, self-respecting. To build a future for themselves, their families, and their communities. I was, as I often am, struck by the courage of the women I met. The women who were running the project, who every day come to work inspired by the belief that they can help others make a difference. And the women who came. Women currently on welfare who see a better future for themselves and their children, but need help and support in order to realize that. Women who are on the verge of starting their own businesses or who already have. And proudly tell you what they have accomplished and admit that they still have a long way to go.

Success stories that are being shared because women who have been successful as many in this hall are, have found time to come share their experience. I had heard about Mi Casa for a long time, but I had never had the opportunity to visit before. And I thought it was only fitting to visit a project that reflected what this Foundation and this Conference is all about before I came to speak with you this afternoon.

This summit, as it is being called, has great potential. Not only to equip individual women with the tools they need, but

to inspire all of us to reach out and provide opportunities for those who might themselves not even think to ask. I looked at the program and I've looked at what's ahead for you this afternoon. And I think there is an extraordinary opportunity for women this afternoon to participate by sharing their experiences, by asking what they can do, by asking for help.

That was one of the ideas that came out this morning. How often women are willing to say to one another if they are given the chance, I need help. How can you help me? I think in a very down-to-earth way that's what this summit is about. And I look forward to reading the report of the summit and am pleased that it will be shared with decision makers here in Denver and in Washington.

There are few issues more important than economic security. And if you are able to provide economic security for women, you are more likely to insure that families and communities will also be economically secure. That is something we have learned now all over the world. During my visit to South Asia, I saw programs that brought women together, like Mi Casa, gave them the belief they were able to do for themselves, gave them the confidence and the opportunity to go out and earn income for themselves and their families, and watched as those women brought their entire families economically along with them.

I met a women in a small dusty village in Bangladesh, who was a member of a borrowing group called the Grameen Bank, which lends money to the poorest of the poor in that poor country. The loans are maybe 10, 25, 50 dollars. But each of those loans represents a statement, a value, as to how that women who receives that loan thinks of herself and what she can do for her family. And one women whom I met said to me, she had gotten her first loan and she had bought a milk cow. She got her second loan and she bought her second milk cow. And she got her third loan and she bought a rickshaw for her husband so he too could be independent and no longer work for someone else.

It may look from so far away that those tiny steps are not related to what happens here in Denver or Colorado. But on a different scale that is what I saw at Mi Casa and that is what this foundation is doing and that is what this summit is about. It may be a milk cow in Bangladesh and it may be a computer to do desk top publishing in Denver. But each is a means to enable a women to pursue her own hopes and dreams.

Our economy is strong. Our economy is creating jobs. We have seen good, positive growth and change. And yet, despite what has occurred that we can be pleased about, we know that

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there are many men and women in America today who are working very hard and not feeling and not actually seeing the results of that hard work in increased income and a higher standard of living for themselves and their families. That is one of our biggest problems right now. How do we make sure that the energy, the entrepreneurialism, the excitement that you find in groups of women like the ones here can be replicated and spread throughout our society. How do we make sure that all women who are willing to work, willing to take responsibility, will be able to share in the results of that kind of hard work?

We began looking for answers as the foundation here has about what is happening in women's lives by commissioning a study through the labor department called Working Women Count. It was a survey of two hundred and fifty thousand working women who were asked questions about their income and what was happening at their work places and how they were trying to create a life that included home responsibilities and those outside the home. We learned as all of us in this room know firsthand about the challenges facing women who are attempting to create a better opportunity for themselves and gain a measure of economic security.

I have met with hundreds and hundreds of the women like those I met with at Mi Casa and those I met with around the country to talk about what economic security means to them. I'll never forget talking with a young woman in Santa Fe, a divorced mother of five children who has received no child support. Who did not want to be on welfare, but who could not find a traditional job that would enable her to pay for all of the services that she needed for her children. So she sought a position in an area she'd always dreamed of working. She wanted to be a fire fighter. It was a long struggle and she became one of only two women on the fire department's roster. But even with her salary there, she found it difficult to support her children, provide health insurance for them and do what is necessary to keep a family together. So she took another, full-time job. So there she was, working two full-time jobs, finding it difficult to keep her children going and wondering what else she was expected to do.

Wherever I go, I find the same concerns. I hear about the needs women have. The needs to be respected on their jobs. To be able to feel that they are taking good care of their children if they leave them in child care. The need for flexible schedules. The need for capital to start those small businesses they dream about. Women are striving for economic security but too often the tools they need are not readily available. What I hope will come out of your summit is a realistic depiction of

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both the opportunities and the challenges confronting women. What does it mean for us as a society that approximately sixty percent of women with children under six are in the workforce today. But a recently completed study about available child care deplored the conditions available in many child care centers.

What does it mean at ninety-nine percent of women in the United States will work for pay at some point in their lives. But that time may come at a different point during the life cycle. Some women may work in their twenties, and not in their thirties or forties. Some may not work until their children are grown and gone and want to enter the work force in their forties or fifties, only to be met by disbelief and discrimination because of their age.

How do we make the work world understand the full capacity and potential of women? It is not just young women who have a lot to contribute and should be given the opportunity. Women at all ages of our lives should be respected for what we can bring as well to the world of work. (Applause.) That means we have to be more respectful of the choices women make. I don't know about you, but I personally am very tired of seeing women pitted one against the other. (Applause.) Seeing women who make the choice to be full-time mothers pitted against women who have a full-time career and either do not marry or do not have children. And being pitted against women who are attempting to compose a life that consists of both family and children and work. We ought to stop pointing fingers at one another and hold out helping hands so that every responsible choice a women makes can be supported. (Applause.)

We have to be honest and realistic about the obstacles women face when they make certain choices. It is not easy in many homes in our country for a family with two working parents to make the choice that one of those parents, usually the mother, will take time off from work in order to care for young children. Given the pressures for material possessions. Given some of the social pressures that exist, that is not an easy choice. We should do more to support women and men who wish to make that choice. And we should do more to provide support through governmental regulations and business policy to support leave programs and flex time so that women do not have to make a very difficult choice between their children and their work responsibilities.

Before I came up here, I was handed a note from a women who said, I am writing this note to let you know of something very special that your husband, namely my husband, did for me. Two months ago my husband died of congestive heart failure after a

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prolonged period of several years of illness. Because your husband signed into law the Family Medical Leave Act I was able to transport my husband to doctor appointments and hospital visits and to keep my job and bring comfort to my husband at the end of his life. We should do more to enable women to be good mothers, good wives, and good caretakers if those are the responsible choices they make. (Applause.) And both business and government should be partners in that effort.

We also should do more in the work place so that women are given the opportunities they earn. One of the single biggest responses we received in the Working Women Count survey was to hear from women who knew they were still not being paid at the same level as men doing the same kind of work. They were not being given the opportunities for promotion and advancement. We should once and for all begin to treat people in the work place on the basis of what they can contribute to the business, not on what gender or what race they happen to be. But that is going to take some real effort on the part of all of us, beyond affirmative action. We should start practicing affirmative thinking and see people as individuals and treat them in accordance how they behave and how they perform on the job.

And then we come to that very difficult area of how to support all of these efforts and maintain the kind of economic security that families deserve to have. We've done a lot in this country to make sure that older people have economic security at the end of their work lives. Social security and medicare and part of a contract that enables older people, particularly older women, since women, on average, live longer than men, to have some measure of economic security.

I want to stress how important that is. Because in all of the talk about Medicare and Social Security it is easy to forget we are talking about real people. The median annual income for women sixty-five and over in our country is \$8,500. Now stop and think about that. The average median income. As you walk down the street, as you leave today and you see women who are over sixty-five, think to yourself, they are likely living on around \$8,500 a year.

I mention that because it's not only a question of their economic security. It is also one that affects their children and their grand-children. This intergenerational compact that we have entered into have enabled many families to achieve a level of economic security with the knowledge that their parents and grandparents would be given the basic needs required towards the end of their lives.

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We have to view things like health care as an investment in people that enables them to achieve economic security. As a part of what we mean when we talk about economic security. This is the kind of challenge that we are debating now in our country and there are many good ideas about how to provide the tools that women and men and girls and boys need. But I think much of what has to happen must begin inside each of us. As we assume responsibility for ourselves. It must then expand outward into the families that we are a part of. In the places where we do work. In the communities that we live in and help to lead. We should honestly discuss every one of the challenges confronting women as they attempt to achieve economic security. Not in an ideological way because I don't think there are right or left or conservative or liberal answers for a lot of the challenges we confront. I believe what is out there waiting for us to discover are down-to-earth, common-sense, pragmatic solutions to the problems people face every single day. As they work to keep body and soul together. To give their families, and particularly their children, better opportunities. As they work to achieve their own god-given potential.

All through this country many businesses, many not for profits, many families and communities have begun to solve a lot of the problems that are discussed at this summit. We need to replicate programs like Mi Casa. We need to look at businesses that have been creative in providing flex time and emergency child care. Not just to treat them like their an aberration but to figure out how we can band together to replicate what they have provided which enables more people to take advantage of the opportunities that are out there. For them to achieve economic security.

This is a movement that is happening throughout the world. Because we know that if we can only invest more in women, we will not only lift up families, we will lift up communities and even countries. I've seen it firsthand. I know that it is an issue that if we pursue, we can move the agenda forward. Part of the reason that I am excited about the upcoming Women's Conference sponsored by the United Nations is because one of its primary emphases will be on economic security.

We can come from our country and share the success stories, like the Mi Casa resource center which did receive support from this Foundation, which has reserved support from our federal Small Business Administration, has received support from the state of Colorado. It is one of the many training and counseling centers that are beginning to make a real impact on the economies of their communities. And we can learn from others around the world who are making the same steps to invest in women.

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This upcoming conference in Beijing is an important opportunity to focus attention on women. It is the chance we have to come together as you have in this summit. And to share ideas, to share our successes, to share failures, to learn what works and what does not. It is important therefore in my opinion that the United States play a very big leadership role in shaping the agenda of this conference to focus on the bread and butter issues. The issues that people get up the morning worrying about and go to bed still concerned over.

Those who would argue we should boycott the Women's Conference because the host country has a poor record on human rights may be well motivated but as Madeline Albright, the chair of our delegation has suggested, they miss the point. Human rights cannot be separated from women's rights. Women's rights to economic opportunity, to fair treatment, to political participation, should be part of the human rights agenda. Women do most of the work in the world. They have the responsibility for raising our children in the world. They are the backbone of the vast majority of families and communities. Anything we can do to provide greater economic opportunity for women is a good investment and the United States should do all that it can to make sure that barriers to women's participation are broken down and that training and credit and political involvement and health care and education are available to all women.

I hope that this summit's report will be part of what is considered in Beijing. Certainly many of the issues that are on the agenda for this summit are exactly what should be looked at and discussed there. And out of it should come what you are going to produce: a report in the words of many of the participants about what is actually going on in the lives of women today. Not an abstract discussion or an academic treatise. But what does it mean to try to start a new business. What does it mean as a woman at Mi Casa said today, when your dream for a new business dies in the parking lot of a bank. What does it mean if you are a young girl who's dreaming big dreams about your own future but get no encouragement from anyone close to you? What does it mean that you have health care needs that you cannot get met because in our country you have no insurance or in another country there is no doctor or hospital to access? What does it mean if you have the right to vote, as we do here, and are able to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of our suffrage, but so many women are too busy to exercise their vote? Too busy to become involved in the basic right of citizenship. Whereas women in other parts of the world are still denied suffrage or are so prevented from exercising it, that it's grant is a farce. What does it mean for all of us to know that

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economic security is not within reach for millions for our fellow women in America and billions of other women around our globe?

These are questions that don't belong just in the reports from summits, or just in the platforms from UN conferences. These are questions that each of us should be asking ourselves -- talking about with our friends -- discussing in our work places, our churches, everywhere we gather. Because as the Governor said, economic security is not an end in itself. We all know more people than we can count that have more economic security than you or I will see in a lifetime, but don't have a lot of what else makes life worth living. Yet it is absolutely fair to say that poverty and stress in the face of economic challenge render the lives of millions of women difficult, if not impossible.

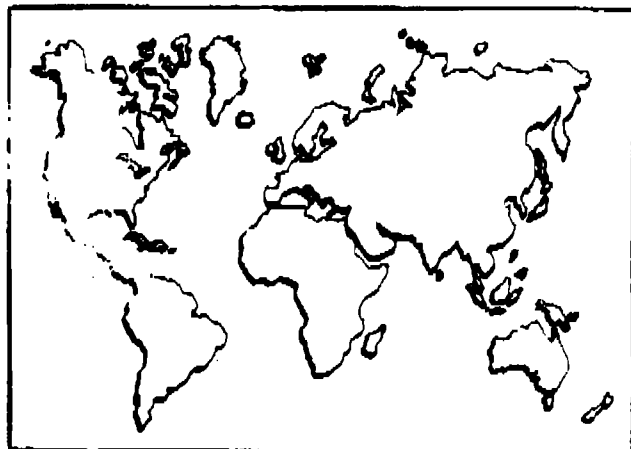
So yes, let's work as hard as each of us knows to do what we can to make it possible for every women in every family to have enough economic security. That she's able to feel good about her future and the future she can hold out to her children. Because it is from that point then, when people at that level of security, that they can begin worrying about quality of life in their communities. When they can begin reaching out more to help each other. And then those of us who are economic secure, let's stop and ask ourselves what more can we do to make it possible for more people to feel that they have the choices that we have taken for granted.

So although the foundation is hosting this summit on economic security, I see its agenda as going far beyond what is being discussed today. I see it as a statement about the potential and promise of women everywhere. And I see it as a challenge to each of us. That we go forth from this day determined to do what we can for ourselves. To take responsibility. To quit, as a friend of mine said, wringing our hands over our problems so that we can roll up our sleeves and get to work. And I also see it as part of a great effort to make, that they we provide those opportunities necessary for every women willing to seize them. So that all of us can move towards economic security as a way of moving toward a juster, more hopeful society for ourselves and our children.

Thank you all very much.

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TO: ATTN: LISA CAPUTO

WHITE HOUSE

FROM: MEDIA REACTION OFFICE

FAX: 456-7805

SUBJECT: BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

COMMENTS: _____

PATRICIA McARDLE, CHIEF, FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION OFFICE
OFFICE: (202) 619-5507, (202) 619-6511 FAX: (202) 619-6515

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION EARLY REPORT

USIA

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OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND MEDIA REACTION

Patricia McArdle, Branch Chief, Media Reaction (R/MR), Tele. (202) 619-6511

Wednesday, August 30, 1995

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA: 'FINALLY, THE WEST ACTS!'

The overwhelming majority of European electronic media heartily endorsed NATO's massive air strikes in retaliation for the Bosnian Serb mortar attack on Sarajevo Monday. Noting President Clinton's support of the Western Allies' action, observers--some with delight and others embittered by Europe's perceived failure to end the carnage in the Balkans on its own--agreed with Paris's RTL radio that "this shows that the Americans are leading the game even in Europe." BBC-TV in London also said the NATO raids, although a "gamble" for Washington, enable Mr. Clinton to "take the initiative back in some respects" from the Republicans in Congress and that the operation restored the much battered "credibility" of both NATO and the UN. Some wondered how the Serbs would react and whether the raids would harm the U.S. peace initiative. Others, including German national ARD-TV, judged that "the U.S. may still manage to turn around 'the wheel' in Bosnia."

Due to the strike's timing, most dailies lagged behind in commentary, although a few, reporting that strikes had been decided upon, hoped they would be powerful enough to send the Serbs to the negotiating table. Other analysts stuck to their criticism of the U.S. peace plan as unfair to the Bosnian Muslims because it reportedly rewards the Serbs' aggression in the former Yugoslavia.

BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: NGO FORUM OPENS

The opening today of the international women's NGO forum in Huairou, China, was viewed by many foreign commentators as a likely thorn in the side for Chinese authorities, who may have to deal with those activists at the conference that "will take issue with China's human rights abuse and nuclear testing." Some commentators remained incredulous that Beijing had been chosen as a site for the main UN women's conference in the first place, with Rome's centrist Il Messaggero referring to it as "one of the most inappropriate places to host the most important meeting in women's history." A commentator on regional radio station Sueddeutscher Rundfunk of Baden-Baden urged German politicians to "stop making vacuous speeches about national and cultural differences in order to avoid offending the Chinese." Muslim writers in Indonesia and Bangladesh hoped that the conference would "expose women's problems which have been traditionally ignored" but which, according to the government-run Bangladesh Times, have "nothing to do with Islam." In Catholic countries, columnists focused on the heated debate over the guidelines for governments to establish family planning and reproductive rights. Buenos Aires' left-of-center Pagina 12 predicted that "the Vatican will now be an ally of Muslim countries and of some other isolated countries, such as Malta, Guatemala or Argentina, defending a religious definition that may curb some rights claimed by secular women, such as legalizing abortion, access to contraceptives, more budget to fight AIDs or the defense of the concept of 'gender.'"

EDITORS: Mildred Sola Neely and Pat McArdle

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FORMER YUGOSLAVIA: 'FINALLY, THE WEST ACTS'**Britain "Clinton Gave Full Backing To Air Strikes"**

All broadcast news reports monitored this morning were dominated by the news of massive NATO air strikes. On BBC TV's Breakfast News, reporter Joe Paley said, "Confirming that the attack was under way, President Clinton gave it his full backing.... NATO planes have struck the Bosnian Serbs before, but these raids were far more extensive and there was support from the ground, too.... The military action has greatly heartened the Bosnian prime minister."

"Strikes Allow Clinton To Regain Initiative"

BBC TV Washington correspondent Bill Turnbull was asked if the air strikes would boost President Clinton. He answered, "At least it enables him to take the initiative back in some respects, with the support of Republicans.... There has also been a lot of public pressure...for something to be done by the United States, for some kind of leadership to be taken, and this allows President Clinton to score some points on that regard."

Asked if the Americans were worried about the Russian response to the air strikes, Turnbull added, "The main concern really is what the reaction from the Serbs is going to be, and whether there is any life left in the peace process. They are caught in something of a cleft stick in that the Bosnian government was saying that they would no longer take part unless some action was taken. On the other hand, we have yet to see how the Serbs are going to feel after 18 hours of consistent artillery and aerial bombing...."

"This very operation is a brilliant illustration, from the American point of view, of the sort of thing that is going to happen, and happen time and again, if the Bosnian Serbs do not comply.... I think privately, President Clinton would admit that it is a gamble, it is a 50-50 ball and it is anybody's guess as to which way it is going to bounce over the next couple of days."

"One Massacre Too Many"

Last night's conservative tabloid London Evening Standard concluded in an editorial, "A peace plan, like the one proposed by the United States...ought to live up to some basic principles. One is that it should not reward the unlawful use of force. And to partition Bosnia half in half between the Bosnian Serbs and the Bosnian government, giving the Serbs the right to confederate with Serbia proper, really does reward aggression.... The withdrawal of British troops from their dangerous position in Gorazde means that we have unprecedented freedom of action against the Serbs and no real argument left against lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnian government. It is time for real, not token, air strikes. This was one massacre too many."

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France

"Finally, The West Acts!"

French journalists hailed the "most important" action by NATO with headlines such as mass-appeal France-Soir's "Finally, The West Acts!"

"Credibility Restored To NATO And UN"

Benoit Laporte commented on Europe One Radio, "President Izetbegovic must be satisfied this morning, because he's been listened to. He has no reason anymore to boycott the peace negotiations. Also, NATO and the UN have restored their military and political credibility. After months of backtracking and wavering, Sarajevo will be a safe haven anew. This operation acts both to deter and to punish. It is a warning to the Serbs not to attack safe havens. On the diplomatic level, this operation is a gamble--a gamble that the Serbs are more sensitive to the stick than to the carrot.... The determination that the West is showing now will hopefully prompt the Serbs to return to the negotiating table."

"U.S. Leading The Game"

On RTL radio, Marc Ullmann stressed, "One recognizes (in NATO strikes) the American way of doing things.... The Americans hate half-measures and improvisation. Either they do nothing, or they go all out.... This shows that the Americans are leading the game even in Europe."

Germany

"U.S. May Still Manage To Turn Things Around"

Last night, national ARD-TV held, "This time, the announced UN and NATO reprisals must be so clear that the Bosnian Serbs will neither risk a new bloodbath nor an insincere approval of the U.S. peace plan. Something has to be done to start negotiations since the time for promising talks has never been as favorable as today. Milosevic, who pulls the strings from Belgrade, is increasingly getting control over his Bosnian puppets and is now pressing for an increase in pace to achieve peace, of course by keeping his own interests in mind. Together with the war and sanction-weary Serbian president and Russia...the United States may still manage to turn around 'the wheel' in Bosnia. The leadership role that the United States is now throwing onto the scales weighs more than the small-minded criticism of the U.S. 'peace plan.' Only with the assistance of the United States can the concept of 'detering and negotiating' prove successful."

"Turnabout In Western Policy Has Happened"

Centrist Flensburger Tageblatt concluded, "The turnabout in Western policy toward the Balkans has happened.... For the first time, the aggressors...do not get off scot-free. This is a new language. But a political perspective must be added to the moral legitimization of this answer to the massacre. The new U.S. peace initiative can be successful only if the mediators preserve credibility and authority."

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Russia "Talking Peace And Delivering Blows Won't Work"

Reformist Segodnya front-paged Pavel Fengenbauer's comment: "The West's capitals believe they can hold peace talks and deliver punitive blows at once.... But striking the Serbs would hardly compel the Muslims to compromise. The war in ex-Yugoslavia has proven to all sides that international guarantees are not worth the paper they are written on, and that if anything counts there, force does. For Serbs, Croats and Bosnians, any peace talks...are just a lull before 'decisive' battles."

Italy "Negotiate And Shoot"

Financial Il Sole-24 Ore pointed out, "Yesterday the Pale parliament announced it is ready for a 'right and lasting peace' based on the American proposals. A very nice, principled statement, following the massacre of civilians in Sarajevo.... Why? Because, in this war, they go to negotiations while still shooting, showing that they are ready to negotiate and kill with the same commitment. Karadzic is aware that the...so-called Bosnian Republic is doomed."

Belgium "U.S. Made It Possible"

Foreign editor Axel Buyse in independent Catholic De Standaard held, "Slowly and gradually, a joint Balkans policy--worthy of that name--is emerging in the West; it will be an eternal blot on Europe's escutcheon that this became possible only after the Americans started to interfere in the issue."

"Pirate In The Balkans"

Conservative Catholic Het Belang van Limburg said in a lengthy article about Richard Holbrooke, "Holbrooke strongly believes that the United States must play its leading role in the world again. The new American peace plan clearly bears his stamp. The man does not allow himself to be directed by sentiment but by the prospects of results.... Holbrooke sometimes uses harsh language: When the Serbs kept hundreds of Blue Helmets hostage he allegedly demanded--to his interlocutors' astonishment--that the Serbs had 48 hours to liberate the soldiers. If not, they would be bombed by NATO aircraft."

"He reportedly added: 'And send them a video of the bombings in Iraq'(to remind them of what happened there). Not for nothing does the assistant secretary of state have the nickname of 'the pirate.'"

Sweden "Reasonable That NATO Should Respond"

Yesterday, Social Democratic tabloid Aftonbladet judged, "It is reasonable that NATO's air forces give a clear response and launch an attack against Bosnian Serb positions after the cruel artillery attack on Monday."

EARLY REPORT

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Egypt "U.S. Initiative No Different From Europe's"

Mohamed Eissa Al-Sharkawi wrote for pro-government Al-Ahram today, "The U.S. initiative is not different from the European plan, as it aims at dividing Bosnia on an ethnic basis. The American initiative was fraught with vagueness about...Gorazde.... Does relinquishing Gorazde mean an attempt to force Bosnia to accept the status quo, and thus facilitating an American Initiative to divide the rest of Bosnia? Would this not indicate that the initiative is a maneuver to impel Bosnia to surrender and limit itself to a 'pocket' in Sarajevo?"

BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: NGO FORUM OPENS

Japan "China Keeps Close Tabs On NGO Forum"

Top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri's Beijing correspondent Sugiyama noted today, "The Chinese government is trying to use the Women's Conference and the NGO Forum as opportunities to boost its prestige in the international community, but has become wary of any political activities by NGO activists which might lead to foreign interference in the domestic affairs of China. The Chinese authorities worry that NGO activists will take issue with China's human rights abuse and nuclear testing."

Australia "Advancing Feminism In Beijing"

According to the national, conservative Australian, "Although its major document, the platform for action, may end up being heavily qualified, and will not be binding on member states, the conference should add to moral imperatives for individual nations to heed women and girls' need when crafting public policy.... The major areas of contention are likely to be human rights and reproductive rights--not least because the host nation, China, has a far from unblemished record in implementing its one-child policy. In a welcome yet little-reported move, members of the official and unofficial Australian delegations have successfully urged a domestic commitment approach at the Beijing summit. Under this approach each participating nation will be urged to announce two or three tangible commitments to its own women. Though simple, this could prove vital in keeping the conference relevant and focused, not just for the thousands of delegates, but--more importantly--for the millions they represent."

Indonesia "Women"

Muslim intellectual Republika declared, "It is unreasonable to burden the conference with high expectations.... However, we hope that the forum will expose women's problems which have been traditionally ignored."

Philippines "Beijing Opera"

Columnist Nelson Navarro said in the independent Standard, "It can be argued that the years-long preparations and intramurals leading to the event easily measure up to the byzantine horrors of the old opera classics...."

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"China's playing host to women seemed totally incongruous with what many feminists call its 'anti-women' position (female infanticide is widely practiced there), not to mention an awful human rights record dramatized by the Tiananmen massacre of 1989...

"As the world's emerging superpower, China expects nothing less than respectful acquiescence, if not outright deference from foreign guests. Even major Western powers like the United States and Europe are not expected to push any discussion beyond the point of polite disagreement."

Germany "Go To Beijing And Get Involved"

Christine Wagemann commented yesterday on regional radio station Sueddeutscher Rundfunk of Baden-Baden, "China's so-called 'open door' policy seems to end within sight of the government building. This makes it all the more important to go to Beijing, to go and get involved. The more that stay away in protest, the better for the regime. But its dictatorial attitudes, its inhuman activities must be loudly condemned. Our politicians must stop making vacuous speeches about national and cultural differences in order to avoid offending the Chinese. So go! Do not let yourself be fobbed off by the government's attempts to present a slick facade."

"Communist Rulers Are Nervous"

Left-of-center Neue Westfaelische held, "The Communist rulers are nervous. They are afraid of protests from the tens of thousands of women who are due to open the NGO summit in Huairou today. China is already showing some signs (albeit diplomatic ones) of backing down. It has released Harry Wu and permitted the NGOs to stage moderate demonstrations. But international women's power will not be prevented from condemning the human rights situation in China. Precisely the NGO women, who demand human and therefore also women's rights more honestly and directly than diplomatic, male-dominated UN conferences, will leave their mark in China. The NGOs are gaining in importance, and this is the great opportunity for the women's conference."

Italy "A Nervous Euphoria"

Rome's centrist Il Messaggero observed, "A nervous euphoria. This is how we can define the atmosphere in Beijing, one of the most inappropriate places to host the most important meeting in women's history.... The need shared by China and the United States to put an end to their cold war will undoubtedly influence the conference. The American position on the very vast preparatory document, which was very close to that of the 'feminists,' might have become much softer in the last few days. It is very likely that the two great countries will do their best to find broad compromises on the many controversial points of the document."

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Bangladesh

"Beijing Conference And Women's Issues"

The government-run Bangladesh Times commented, "Women comprise an underclass all over the world in the sense that they trail men in enjoying political power, powerful or influential jobs, wealth, etc. They are physically abused even in highly developed countries such as the United States, where the biggest number of rapes of women occur. In democratic India, female babies are killed on a large scale and women are burnt to death with their deceased husbands to observe ancient religious rites. The persecution of women is a worldwide problem and as the above cases show, it has nothing to do with Islam."

Argentina

"A Step Backward Or Forward?"

Yesterday's left-of-center Pagina 12 carried another full page story on the Beijing conference, stating that "What is at stake in the Chinese capital are the guidelines on which the governments will establish family planning, reproductive rights, health and development policies.... Many analysts feel that Beijing may mean a step forward and another step backward in women's human rights issues, depending on the strength of those countries aligned in confronting positions.... The Vatican will now be an ally of Muslim countries and of some other isolated countries, such as Malta, Guatemala or Argentina, defending a religious definition that may curb some rights claimed by secular women, such as legalizing abortion, access to contraceptives, more budget to fight aids or the defense of the concept of 'gender'."

Chile

"The Debate About Beijing"

Yesterday's government-owned but editorially independent La Nacion commented, "In some ways, the debate about the Fourth Women's Conference has illuminated Chilean society's delay in honestly debating questions which, for some time, other countries have been analyzing and attempting to resolve. Whatever happens, it is a step forward that our society has shown itself more disposed to a rigorous analysis of the situation of women and that this has caused different sectors to take a stand on the issue.... It will be very positive, if, as a result of these discussions, Chile develops a conscience about the need to deal with the problems that dramatically affect women."

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**FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION
DAILY DIGEST****USIA**

U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY, WASHINGTON, DC 20547

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND MEDIA REACTION

Patricia McArdle, Branch Chief, Media Reaction (R/MR), Tele. (202) 619-6511

Tuesday, August 29, 1995

U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS: ON THE MEND?

News of a Sino-U.S. summit this October between President Clinton and President Jiang Zemin brought sighs of relief in the foreign press that U.S.-Chinese relations, after having reached their lowest point, were now on the mend. But while most welcomed the recent gestures that paved the way for the summit--Beijing's release of Chinese-American dissident Harry Wu and First Lady Hillary Clinton's decision to attend the UN women's conference--most judged that the normalization of Sino-U.S. relations still depends on resolving the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. Observers noted Beijing's firmness on its One-China policy and suggested that Beijing would watch closely for any signs of U.S. overtures toward Taiwan. Hong Kong's PRC-owned Wen Wei Po declared that between now and next March when Taiwan holds elections, "China will still be judging the United States by its deeds, not just by its words." Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff received high marks for his talks with Chinese officials, with commentators applauding him for laying the groundwork for the summit and for providing "the more deliberate side of American diplomacy" that was required over the past few weeks.

Both China and the U.S. were perceived to be hostage to "domestic compulsions" in their attempt to improve bilateral relations. Writers said that Mr. Jiang would not want to be seen repeating the mistakes of Gorbachev's perestroika. Mr. Clinton, on the other hand, was portrayed as striking a balance between acknowledging the reality of China's lucrative market, and taking a tough enough stand on Beijing's human rights and trade practices in the eyes of American voters.

Commenting on the upcoming UN Women's Conference, a majority of analysts approved of the decision to send Mrs. Clinton to Beijing. Writers in the Philippines and in Australia argued that "being there and making her country's concerns clearly heard" would be more effective than a boycott. Milan's leading financial Il Sole 24-Ore said that as a follow-up to the Tarnoff visit, "it will be up to Hillary Clinton to take a further step forward" to improve bilateral relations. There were also, however, a few critics. Hong Kong's independent Eastern Express wondered how the Beijing authorities "will react to being lectured by the wife of the U.S. president...over their birth control policy." Other analysts doubted that Mrs. Clinton's presence at the conference would make a difference and were also displeased with Harry Wu for having made more difficult a "critical but honest discussion with China." A less pervasive, but persistent theme was the need for the conference to shift the focus away from China's behavior and toward the UN meeting's purpose--improving the plight of women worldwide. Pundits from Britain, India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Nigeria called on the conference to address the needs of women from a global--as opposed to an exclusively Western--perspective.

This survey is based on 49 reports from 23 countries, August 26-29.

EDITORS: Gail Hamer Burke and Pat McArdle

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CHINA: "Qian Qichen Meets U.S. Under Secretary of State"

The important news page of official Communist Party People's Daily, the English-language China Daily, the international page of the official Shanghai Communist Party Liberation Daily, and the official Shanghai municipal Wenhui Daily carried the following report (8/28): "While meeting U.S. Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff August 27th, China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said that the basis of Sino-U.S. relations is the three joint communiques. He said that granting permission to Lee Teng-hui to visit the United States had serious consequences to bear on bilateral relations, greatly hurt the feelings of the Chinese people and increased tension between both sides of the Taiwan Straits. Qian observed that China attaches importance to Sino-U.S. relations and hopes that both sides increase mutual trust and ensure that similar incidents (such as the Lee Teng-hui visit) will never occur again."

"A Milestone In The World Women's Movement"

People's Daily observed (8/27), "The Fourth World Conference on Women will undoubtedly reveal the achievements of the past decade of the global women's movement, provide an opportunity for people to understand women's issues more accurately and thoroughly, and spread the call for 'equality, development and peace with action' throughout the world. The three previous world women's conferences are all the symbols of the continuous development of the global women's movement."

"Convening the Fourth Conference has mobilized the initiative of the masses of women and effectively promoted the women's movement. Women's progress is an important symbol of mankind's progress. Women's intervention can promote development. We believe the Fourth World Conference On Women must further encourage the international community to pay serious attention to and resolve women's issues, promote development of the women's movement and make a contribution to the progress of the world's women."

JAPAN: "China Continues To Pose A Threat To U.S."

Top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri commented (8/29), "Although Sino-U.S. relations were strained over Taiwan President Lee's visit to the United States in June, they are expected to turn for the better. Beijing officials remain basically tough on the Taiwan issue. Under the present circumstances, there is a strong possibility that the views and opinions which hold China to be a great threat will resurface inside and outside of the Clinton administration. Voices have been heard in the U.S. Congress calling for the containment of hard-line Chinese moves, while former CIA official Vogel has said China, with its huge markets, continues to take a tough stance not only with the United States but also with Japan and Europe."

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"Taiwan Still Overshadows Sino-U.S. Relations"

Top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri's Beijing correspondent Oe wrote (8/28), "Although Under Secretary of State Tarnoff's visit to Beijing has paved the way for improving U.S.-China relations, both Tarnoff and senior Chinese officials failed to close the gap over Taiwan, the most critical problem which has strained their bilateral ties. Odds are very high that Beijing will continue putting further pressure on Washington not to allow Taiwan President Lee to visit the United States again. Under these circumstances, both sides are expected to continue intense negotiations to narrow differences over the Taiwan issue until Secretary of State Christopher and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian meet in New York in late September."

HONG KONG: "Harry And Hillary"

The leading independent English-language South China Morning Post stated (8/28), "The speed of the decision to let Mrs. Clinton visit Beijing indicates that the White House still lacks an overall China policy and plays events day by day, with all the uncertainty that this creates...."

"This weekend's visit to Beijing by U.S. Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff showed, by contrast, the more deliberate side of American diplomacy. It is through such approaches that Sino-U.S. relations will be repaired and the ground prepared for a summit between Presidents Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin."

"Swapping a trip into China by Hillary Rodham Clinton for one out of China for Harry Wu has the important effect of achieving freedom for the activist. But Mrs. Clinton's grandstanding opportunism should be seen for what it is in terms of Sino-U.S. relations--an irrelevance."

"Skill Needed To Keep Detente"

The Independent English-language Eastern Express maintained (8/28), "How the Beijing authorities will react to being lectured by the wife of the U.S. president and another of its leading female politicians over their birth control policy is something we shall just have to wait and see."

"Since the October summit has already been agreed upon, it may be that they have decided to steel themselves for some U.S. criticism on what they consider a domestic issue, allowing no derailing of their real goal, which is to ensure that Washington acknowledges the one-China policy on Taiwan, and that there is no backing for the Taiwan bid for UN membership."

"Sino-U.S. Talks At High-Levels Continue"

PRC-owned Wen Wei Po declared (8/28), "Between today and next March [Taiwan's elections], China will still be judging the United States by its deeds, not just by its words. Should the United States and Lee Teng-hui flirt with each other in terms of diplomacy, Sino-U.S. relations will have a relapse."

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"However, whether Sino-U.S. relations can truly return to normal still depends on the development of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. It is believed that this cannot be immediately resolved even after the Sino-U.S. summit is held. Nevertheless, [Presidents] Jiang Zemin and Bill Clinton can make use of the opportunity to express their mutual goodwill. And this will, more or less, have some positive effect on the two sides' reputation on the international front."

AUSTRALIA: "Summit Between Irresistible Force, Immovable Object"

Melbourne's liberal Age stressed in an editorial (8/29), "At last: Some positive signs in the increasingly ominous Sino-U.S. stand-off. The release by China of the American human rights activist Harry Wu and the confirmation that Hillary Clinton would lead the U.S. delegation to Beijing for the United Nations World Conference on Women have been followed by the announcement that the nations' presidents, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Jiang Zemin, may meet in October.... The irresistible force and the immovable object obviously have a great deal in common, which is why it is so pleasing that they are at last arranging a summit to discuss these issues rather than worrying the world with gratuitous belligerence."

"Talking To China"

Melbourne's liberal Age commented (8/28), "For Mrs. Clinton to snub China by staying away from the conference would not be the most effective way of protesting against China's lack of respect for human rights. Being there and making her country's concerns clearly heard is."

MALAYSIA: "Tarnoff's Talks Should Go Smoother"

Government-influenced Chinese-language Sin Chew Jit Poh commented (8/26), "With the Harry Wu element set aside, it is believed Under Secretary Tarnoff's talks in Beijing will be smoother. With bilateral relations improved, Washington may invite President Jiang Zemin for an official visit. Even if Jiang is not invited to Washington, it will be arranged that he will have a meeting soon with Clinton. The Informal APEC summit meeting at Osaka in November is an appropriate venue."

"Ray Of Hope For China-U.S. relations"

Government-influenced Chinese-language Nanyang Siang Pau commented (8/26), "The expulsion of convicted human rights activist Harry Wu prior to the arrival of Under Secretary Tarnoff in Shanghai shows Beijing's intention to ease the highest-pitch tension in the 16 years of China-U.S. relations. China has taken the first step of the conciliatory move. The United States must take the next step."

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PHILIPPINES: "The Wu-ing Of China"

The opposition Philippine Daily Inquirer opined (8/28), "Ever since she went on an unprecedented tour through South Asia which focused on women's concerns, it was obvious Mrs. Clinton was looking toward playing a prominent role in what is believed to be the largest global gathering on women. But Republican politicians, eager as always to seize on an issue to embarrass the Democrat president, used Wu's continued detention to pressure the U.S. First Lady not to go to Beijing, where she will surely lend the prestige of her office to the women's agenda. Wu's expulsion just let the wind out of their sails."

SOUTH KOREA: "No Benefit From Further Confrontation"

Moderate Hankook Ilbo observed (8/29), "With a U.S.-China summit becoming a real possibility, the two countries' relationship is being put back on track. The summit will serve the interests of both parties. Jiang Zemin will seize a critical opportunity to prove himself worthy of succeeding Deng Xiaoping. The United States will have a chance to keep China from drifting away. While it certainly is a good starting point for mending the relationship, the summit does not guarantee smooth sailing in the countries' long-term relations."

THAILAND: "World Women's Conference In Beijing"

A commentator in the top-circulation, English-language Bangkok Post's Thai language sister publication Siam Post remarked (8/29), "The real superstar at the Beijing Women's Conference will certainly be Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton. China is fully aware that without her presence the conference would not be as colorful."

"Wu's Detention Would Have Been Detrimental To China"

The lead editorial in independent English-language Nation observed (8/26), "With the current uncertainties in the Chinese leadership, and the post-Deng Xiaoping era looming over the country, it is very difficult to predict Beijing's foreign policy. But despite the periodic explosions of hardline anti-Western xenophobic rhetoric, very often when push comes to shove, the Communist Party is able to recognize its real interests."

EUROPE**BRITAIN: "No Sex Please, We're The New Concept Of The Gentle Gender"**

Writing in the conservative Daily Telegraph (8/29), regular columnist and deputy editor of the conservative weekly Spectator Anne Applebaum, who is attending the conference, took issue with several aspects of the advance discussion document issued by the UN: "No wonder so many Third World governments, especially in Islamic countries, have objected to (the advanced discussion document)."

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"For far from representing the views of the world's women, this document represents the views only of a narrow sect of Western women.

"If we have to have a UN conference on women...why not focus on women political prisoners or stick to condemning female circumcision, instead of discussing a piece of paper that pretends that women are not a separate sex?... An international forum is not a bad place to talk about human rights abuses, since the perpetrators tend to find such conversation very embarrassing.... Perhaps among the 40,000 women, each one socially constructed upon slightly different lines, there will be one or two who will want to discuss the particular plight of certain biological women--Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma, for example, or the Chinese women who are forced to have abortions after bearing one child. If they do, the conference will not have been a complete waste of time."

FRANCE: "Mission in Beijing"

Guillaume Matthieu wrote in Le Journal du Dimanche (8/27), "The absence of the First Lady would have been a setback for the Chinese. Her presence, whatever statements she will make, is a reason for satisfaction. They think that it will put an end to the period of tension which started in June with...Lee Teng-hui's private visit to the United States.... A summit meeting between...Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin is no longer excluded--it will perhaps take place in New York in October."

GERMANY: "The Women Are Coming"

Brigitte Kols argued in an editorial in left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau (8/29): "Beijing is a highly difficult conference site, but it is not the wrong one. If women there do not have any illusions, they will not continuously offer trials of courage to the greedy media, since they are aware of the fact that they will not change the situation in the country. But what would a boycott have changed?... Curiosity and dialogue will find their own ways: There are female dissidents in China who are opposed to political repression or to the devastations that are the consequence of the building of dams. These women are now dependent on our encouragement."

"Women's Summit Needs Mrs. Clinton's Commitment"

Renate Buetow commented on national ARD TV (8/25), "Now that the UN has chosen Beijing as the location for the conference and it is too late for a boycott in any case, the message now can only be: 'Everyone with a skirt must attend!' This also applies to Hillary Clinton. The women's summit does not only need her commitment, but also a bit of glamor."

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"The Case Of Wu"

Left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau remarked (8/26), "Harry Wu is free and at home. A source of 'irritation' between China and the United States has been eliminated. This is good news, but it is virtually the only good thing about the affair. The flagrant violation of all manner of rights which some American politicians tried to convince the American people had been perpetrated by China simply did not take place.... Since Wu became a U.S. citizen, Beijing has regarded him as a traitor. The Chinese authorities do not release anyone from ethnic and cultural membership of Chinese civilization, even if they change their nationality. This is one troubling aspect of the matter. Harry Wu always knew this. In four visits, he knowingly violated many of China's laws. The provocation and risk were calculated each time: His new homeland would...get him out of jail if he were sentenced. This deliberate relativization of legal questions makes the commitment he supposedly has to the rule of law in China highly questionable.

"Wu's questionable methods reflect on him and his achievements. But what is worse: All those who seek a critical but honest discussion with China (for instance during the Women's Conference) will now find things harder. Wu has caused mistrust, as if there were not enough of that in China already."

"Body Language"

Centrist Stuttgarter Zeitung said (8/26), "We can certainly assume that the United States will respond with a gesture of good will and honor China with the presence of the president's wife. Bill Clinton seems to have no choice but to fulfill his wife's wishes and grant the Chinese leadership a gain in prestige. He will be criticized for this: While the Wu case has ended happily, thousands of political prisoners remain in detention.

"China's violations of human rights are outrageous. It is, however, more than doubtful whether Hillary Clinton...can really achieve anything by attending the Beijing conference."

ITALY: "Clinton Zemin Summit To Thaw Relations"

New York correspondent Marco Valsania in leading financial Il Sole 24-Ore (8/29): "Following Assistant Secretary Tarnoff's visit to China and before the possible summit between the two presidents, it will be up to Hillary Clinton to take a further step forward: The American First Lady has confirmed she will go to the UN Conference on Women.... But the difficult balance of White House policy on China has been criticized in the United States: The Republican-led Congress has not hesitated to embarrass Clinton and has denounced regression in Beijing and said it is selling arms to countries considered risks. And if Clinton has rejected any connection between trade relations and human rights, there are still economic tensions due to the growing U.S. trade deficit with China. But both capitals are committed to mending the tear."

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BELGIUM: "Reinforcing China's Negative Image"

Robert Falony observed in socialist La Wallonie (8/29), "The problems encountered by many NGOs to be represented in Beijing are not only due to administrative obstacles. The old men who lead China do not like protestors, free minds, nonconformists and nosy people. By wanting the advantages of the conference without its drawbacks--from the Chinese viewpoint--the Chinese government is reinforcing its very negative world image. China is perhaps no longer the mind-boggling anthill of the '60s and the '70s. But the concentration camp system has survived, with its industrial forced labor camps and prisons. That is what Sino-American dissenter Harry Wu was talking about."

"Skepticism Prevails"

In conservative Catholic La Libre Belgique (8/28) Chief Editor Jean-Paul Duchateau wrote that "one wonders how the Beijing authorities will manage the presence of 50,000 delegates--essentially women--coming from all over the world, sometimes with the clear intention of raising the issue of human rights in a country where they are definitely not enforced. In this respect, we have been pleasantly surprised that Chinese authorities have granted a visa to the correspondent of La Libre Belgique who will cover the conference on the spot--he had not been allowed to go to China since 1989. (But), one wonders about the usefulness of such a world conference and about the meaning of the resolutions that will perhaps be adopted.... Skepticism prevails about the Beijing conference itself."

CANADA: "Chinese Puzzle"

The liberal Ottawa Citizen held (8/28), "The Fourth World Conference on Women is rapidly becoming the First World Conference on the Behavior of China. And that's a shame.... It probably was a mistake to hold the conference in Beijing; almost certainly that's what China's aging male leaders now think of the impending arrival of an estimated 40,000 foreign women.... What, so far, has grabbed the world's attention? American Harry Wu's spying charge and subsequent expulsion. China's decision to move the non-governmental meeting well out of Beijing.... Unquestionably, these incidents draw attention to China's negative attitude toward democracy, human rights, and civil society. And undoubtedly, they are vital issues on which the international community should not relent."

THE NETHERLANDS: "Women And Peking"

Centrist Het Parool held (8/26) on its inside page editorial, "The Republicans are putting pressure on Hillary Rodham Clinton not to go to Peking because of the conviction of Chinese-American activist Harry Wu. This calls for the remark that she is not travelling to Peking to please Chinese officials, but to attend an international conference on a subject that she cares about....

"What is important is to once again make public that women have unequal health care...education, and political and economic power. The fact that this finding will not lead to immediate improvement is painfully evident. However, this is no reason to reject this type of manifestation of human powerlessness as being irrelevant and to just keep quiet."

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NORWAY: "China And The Women"

Social Democratic Arbeiderbladet declared (8/25), "No one should have great expectations of how effective protests voiced during the conference will be, or how many Chinese such protests can reach. However, the conference in itself--and not the least the 5,000 Chinese women who will participate--may make it more difficult for Chinese authorities to let women and human rights issues remain taboo.... It is almost 50 years since the Chinese Communist Party 'liberated' the people. It turned out to be a partial liberation for half of the people--and hardly any for the other half."

SWEDEN: "The Art Of Handling China"

Stockholm's conservative Svenska Dagbladet editorialized (8/26), "It is more difficult than ever for the United States to handle the big and potentially powerful (China).... When China not only terrorizes its own citizens, but is also launching missiles over waters close to Taiwan, moving forward its positions, unclear under international law, in the Spratly islands region and worrying its neighbors by repeated nuclear tests, the country definitely is on the wrong track. China is already a powerful economic engine in the Asian region and may become, by all means, even more powerful--but not through classical Communist expansion."

MIDDLE EAST**EGYPT: "Both Sides Of A Single Western Coin"**

Ahmed El-Seyoufi, a contributor to opposition Al-Shaab (8/29), wrote: "The Beijing Women's Conference is the other face of the International Conference on Population and Development.... They are both sides of a single Western coin.... The West is only concerned about licensing abortion, breaking marriage, sexual freedom....and sexual relations of all kinds.... This strange document was formulated in harmony with Western culture and ideology.... It is a consecration of moral, social, religious and cultural failure."

"Enemies Of Women's Equality"

Commenting in pro-government Al-Ahram (8/28), Dr. Saad Eldin Ibrahim stressed his support for the Beijing women's conference: "Those who attack the Beijing women's conference's document are either enemies of women and equality...or they have problems with the Egyptian government, taking advantage of the conference--as they did during the International Conference on Population and Development--to blackmail it."

SAUDI ARABIA: "The Extremists Of The UN"

Ali Ibrahim commented in influential, internationally-circulated Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (8/27), "Some international conferences which are sponsored by the UN have begun to reflect extremist and unrealistic ideas regarding the respect of cultural differences and the variety in many regions of the world, and reflect academics' or experts' points of view, divorced from reality."

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"No one, especially in developing nations, can object to the necessity to exert a greater effort in those societies to increase the percentage of educated women and do away with the bias in work opportunities and remunerations--a problem shared by industrialized nations. At the Beijing conference, the subject that has been addressed most concerns certain freedoms that exist in Western societies and which will not conform to the cultural and religious heritage of other peoples. That should not be the venue for discussion, and the attempt to impose the idea of one society onto others is unacceptable and negates international cultural diversity, especially if it concerns human issues that are difficult to custom-design or mold; it is like those who try to invent an international totalitarian system; and also it is not acceptable to try and link (Western society's standards regarding women) to international economics."

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA: Chinese Checkers"

The independent Pioneer opined (8/29), "It is difficult to see how far and how quickly Sino-American relations will improve as a direct consequence of the gesture of appeasement that has been preferred by the Chinese, that is, the expulsion of Harry Wu.... The substantial issues still remain unresolved, and they range from an exchange of ambassadors, human rights, the nuclear question, Chinese missile sales to third countries, and naval militarism, to mention just a few. In this game of bluff and bluster, both the United States and China, are partially hostage to domestic compulsions.... Clinton, for his part, has to fashion a China policy, largely conforming to the compulsions of a politically competitive Congress. Harry Wu notwithstanding, these factors can only add to the problems and not to the solution."

"Bazaar or Prison?"

In the words of the independent Indian Express (8/29), "It was a bizarre display of oriental benevolence with a dash of dragon fire.... Thanks to (Harry Wu's) high profile deportation, Mrs. Hillary Clinton can now attend the Beijing conference on women with a clear conscience. But despite this exercise in embarrassment control, a Sino-American detente will continue to be elusive as long as mutually shared suspicion persists in Washington and Beijing.... Cracks are spreading in Sino-American ties, recently based solely on market dynamics....

"In foreign affairs, President Clinton is the perpetual muddle man. His campaign rhetoric on the 'Beijing tyrant' now looks like a joke, for he has always wanted to do business with China, but the question that confuses him is: which China--the bazaar or prison? Set against him, China's rulers are so enigmatically firm. The chained dissident is a living repudiation of what the non-Chinese call human rights. But the market is open for 'see-nothing' foreigners."

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"Acting Out His Passion"

The independent Statesman (8/29) held, "If it had not been for the coming international women's conference and China's desire to mend fences with the rest of the world for the occasion. (Wu) would not have been so lucky.... It seems to be U.S. foreign policy, accepted at both ends of the political divide, that U.S. business interests take precedence over everything else. Hence also the effort to get rid of Saddam Hussain with a massive build-up of military forces to carry conviction whereas in Bosnia it is being left to the Croats to rescue the American image--no doubt President Tudjman has got himself an attractive deal in return."

"Love Me Gender"

An editorial page article by columnist Swati Bhattacharjee in the left-of-center Telegraph (8/24), "It is strange that public and media interest in the fourth world conference on women to be held in Beijing is dominated by marginal issues.... Undue emphasis is also given to the site of the conference, the rifts between governments and non-governmental organizations and the political fallout of China's being the host nation.... Another, recent victim of this trend was the Cairo conference on population, which was christened the 'abortion summit.' Unless the significance of the Beijing conference is made clear, Beijing has every probability of ending up with a similar tag--maybe the 'gay summit.'"

"China's Spy Farce"

An editorial in the independent Hindustan Times held (8/28), "By awarding a rather extraordinary conviction on the alleged spy, Harry Wu, China has shown its unpreparedness to join what it calls Cold War-II against the United States....

"China also felt called upon not to create conditions on the eve of the arrival of...Peter Tarnoff...that might sharpen Sino-American differences over the human rights issue. Even a moderate success may persuade...Tarnoff to advise that the First Lady's visit would not violate the Clinton administration's policy on human rights....

"Clearly, China does not want to take on the United States at this stage because a politico-military response would severely reduce its economic growth suspending, for decades, its ability to stand up to a superpower challenge. A Cold War II may even fatally maul China's own ambition to be counted as a matching superpower."

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AFRICA

NIGERIA: "Beijing: Framing An Afrocentric Agenda"

Under the headline above, the partly government-owned Daily Times (8/29) commented, "Our women representatives must grasp the substance and leave the shadows in order to lead the myopic groups actively focussed on sexuality because they can't see other real problems.... Our women must study the world and human tendencies and manipulations and act intelligently and not as mere followers which is the state the less developed countries of the world are relegated to. They should realize that when it comes to ideals and culture, we are not beggars, we are rich."

"Serious Task For Nigerian Women"

In the opinion of the strongly pro-democracy, independent A.M. News (8/29), "The Nigerian woman faces a serious task of going to Beijing and presenting a meaningful agenda worthy of moving the suppressed gender positively forward and coming back to lobby the Nigerian government to adopt their policy, to create an enabling environment for the growth, progress and contribution of women to the overall policies of the nation."

"While getting seriously set for the herculean task ahead of them in China, Nigerian women should be thinking beyond the conference--how to convince the Nigerian government to implement what is adopted at the global forum so that it would not be another white elephant project like the unsuccessful ones held in U.S.A., Mexico and Kenya in the past."

"Aim At A Strong Bond Of Unity Between The Sexes"

The independent, pro-government Third Eye of Ibadan commented (8/28), "It should be stated from the outset that the conference should not be seen by the women as a jamboree.... The conference should serve as an opportunity for them to articulate the problems of women the way they are."

"We acknowledge the well known fact that women all over the world are victims of certain cultural practices and attitudes. They are discriminated against in certain spheres of life. In extreme cases, they are viewed as sub-human species of mankind. While we submit that situations such as these have become anachronistic in the changing world, we urge the women of the world to carry on their torch of agitation with decorum. Efforts geared toward a better treatment, however salutary, must aim not at segregating the world, but at forging a strong bond of unity between the sexes."

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA: "Only Symptoms Of The Illness"

An op-ed page column by international analyst Oscar Raul Cardoso, in leading Clarín (8/28) wrote concerning the release of Harry Wu and the first lady's participation in the Beijing conference, "Wu--up to today, a stranger to the Americans, and even Hillary--are playing minor roles in a major staging with an end which has not been written yet.... They are both symptoms...."

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"The illness is the threat to strategic unbalance in Asia, and U.S. policy toward China, which is rapidly changing impelled by the appetite of multinational corporations and not as a result of the wisdom of statesmen, if there is any. This explains why--in sensitive issues such as human rights, proliferation or security in the region--in some cases there are cudgel-blows from the West for China aimed at flies, and others, not even a blink for rhinoceros, like the bloodshed in Tiananmen Square in 1989."

BRAZIL: "Jogging And Trampling Course Of Relations"

Center-right O Estado de Sao Paulo opined (8/28), "Despite the current detente, nothing indicates the end of the jogging and trampling course of relations between the United States and China....

"Among the major problems are the Chinese trade practices, which are not very compatible with Western liberal parameters, the denunciations of human rights violations of dissidents and prisoners, the exports of missiles to unreliable nations, and the relations with Taiwan....

"Clinton has already given up the idea of linking the human rights issue to the concession of most favored nation status, that China currently enjoys. All pressures in this area were received with indifference in Beijing, and Washington has taken into consideration China's weight before giving up....

"The Chinese regime...does not permit that economic advances are followed by political progress. Beijing watched Gorbachev's **perestroika** with extreme interest and is not willing to repeat what it considers the mistakes of that experience.... In the Chinese equation, democracy means deterioration.

"The relations between the United States and China depend on the U.S. capability to ponder these limits and on the Chinese will to keep up appearances in regards to human rights."

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USIA/R/MR

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Jackson Hole, Wyoming)

For Immediate Release

August 24, 1995

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY ON
EXPULSION OF HARRY WU FROM CHINA**

The President was informed this morning that the Government of the People's Republic of China has expelled Harry Wu from the country, putting him aboard an Air China flight to San Francisco. Wu was convicted on August 24 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. The President welcomes the Chinese Government's decision and is pleased that Mr. Wu will be reunited with his family and friends later today. This action removes an obstacle to improving relations between the United States and China.

#

Harry Wu Release -- Press Guidance

Q: What can you tell us about the Chinese expulsion of Harry Wu?

A: China announced late Thursday evening, Beijing time, that Wu was being expelled from China, and had been put aboard an Air China flight to San Francisco.

-- That flight, which we believe is Air China flight # 1985, is due in San Francisco at about 6:20 p.m. Pacific Standard time this evening. (About 9:20 p.m. EST)

-- The President welcomed the Chinese action, and the fact that Wu will be reunited with his family and friends after more than two months in prison.

Q: Did the U.S. work a deal with China for Wu's release?

A: No. We have taken the position consistently since Wu's arrest that he should be released for the sake of avoiding further damage to overall U.S.-China relations. But we made no specific linkages.

-- That is why we view this action in a positive light.

-- As the President said, this removes an obstacle to improvement of relations. It does not resolve all problems.

Q: Will the First Lady now go to Beijing for the Women's Conference?

A: As we have said before, no decision has been made yet about the First Lady's participation in the Women's Conference. There are several factors under consideration.

Q: But wasn't this in fact the main one?

A: It was a factor, but not the only one.

Q: What are the others?

A: I don't want to get into a great deal of detail, but they include logistics, scheduling, security and all the other concerns that need to be addressed when the First Lady travels.

Q: When will a decision on the conference be made?

A: I have nothing further for you on that.

Q: Why did the Chinese release Wu?

A: That's a question for the Chinese Government. We hope it was a means of signalling an interest in improving overall relations.

Q: Did the Chinese government inform the U.S. that Wu would be expelled?

A: Not in so many words. We were told that the Chinese judicial system would have to take its course, and that expulsion was an available option. But we were never given a guarantee, nor were we informed of timing.

Q: What's your opinion of the Chinese system of justice, based on the Wu experience.

A: I'm not going to get into that kind of discussion.

-- After some initial miscues, the Chinese adhered carefully to the bilateral consular agreement that gave U.S. consular officials access to Wu in prison and observer status at his trial and sentencing.

Q: Do you think Wu will go back to China?

A: We don't know the conditions of his expulsion or the future applicability of his sentence, so it would be inappropriate to discuss that at this time.

CHINA - TAIWAN

U.S. Air Force Officers Expelled From China

- Q: What can you tell us about the two Air Force officers caught spying in China?
- China has expelled Colonel Joseph W. Chan and Captain Dwayne H. Florenzie, both assigned to the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, and both have returned safely to Hong Kong. They are currently undergoing debriefing. Both are in good condition and were not mistreated in any way.
- The two officers were traveling in China on valid diplomatic passports. When they failed to contact their families and office as expected, we initiated inquiries into their whereabouts with Chinese authorities. The Chinese informed us through our embassy that the two men had been detained and that they were to be released in 24 hours.
- As far as we know, they were on authorized travel consistent with their status under the Vienna Convention.
- We hope this will have no repercussions on U.S. - China relations.
- Secretary Christopher did not raise this in his discussions with the Chinese Foreign Minister because he knew it was being addressed through other channels.
- Q: Were the officers engaged in spying, as the Chinese allege?
- A: We don't comment on that kind of issue.
- Q: Where were they caught? What were they doing there? What were their orders?
- A: Refer these questions to DoD press spokesman.
- Q: Was this an effort to sabotage meetings between Christopher and the Chinese Foreign Minister?
- A: We have no idea. The meetings were held, and both sides have said they were satisfied with the results.
- Q: Will the U.S. retaliate by expelling a Chinese attaché?
- A: I have nothing for you on that question.

Q: Will there be an apology?

A: No comment at this time.

We are still evaluating the facts of this case and debriefing the officers.

Harry Wu

Q: What are you doing to secure Wu's release?

A: We remain very concerned about the Harry Wu case and continue to work to persuade the Chinese government to release him immediately.

We have made clear in repeated demarches and other communications with the Chinese government that this is a high-priority issue in U.S.-China relations. Its repercussions go beyond the legal case itself. Our chargé raised the case again this week with a senior Foreign Ministry official.

We are also working with other countries to reinforce the point that the Wu case is of great importance for U.S.-China relations.

We continue to request more frequent consular access.

Q: Is it true that you have sought greater access and it has been denied?

A: We have sought additional access to Mr. Wu, in addition to the once-per-month authorized under the U.S.-China bilateral consular agreement. Those requests have not been approved. We were informed last week that we will be permitted another consular visit shortly, although the date has not yet been set.

First Lady Participation in Fourth World Conference on Women

Q: Will the First Lady be going to Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women?

A: No decision has been made yet on whether or not she will participate in the conference.

Q: Why not?

A: There are scheduling considerations involved, as well as more complicated logistics, security and other factors that must be taken into account.

Q: Has she been invited?

A: Of course. The First Lady is the honorary co-chair of the U.S. official delegation. She has also been invited personally by UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali to attend.

Q: What about the Chinese Government?

A: We have no reason to believe the Chinese Government would object to the First Lady's participation in the conference.

Q: Are you waiting for Harry Wu to be released before deciding?

A: The decision on the First Lady's participation in the conference is not contingent on any one consideration.

Q: Is the U.S. satisfied with preparations made by China for the conference?

A: There have been a number of problems with credentials, visas, hotel accommodations, and the site for the NGO Forum. Not all of them have been resolved to everyone's satisfaction. But these problems will not prevent the U.S. delegation from participating in the event.

Q: Are you expecting trouble at the conference? A security problem?

A: No.

Q: Is Congressional opposition a factor in the decision?

A: Congressional efforts to prevent the U.S. delegation from participating in the conference, principally because it is being held in China, are inappropriate and unnecessary.

This is a United Nations-sponsored event, and the issues that will be addressed at the conference are extremely important for women in this country, and around the world.

China was selected as the host country for the conference. All host officials and delegates have a responsibility to see to it that the conference is a success.

We do not wish disagreements between the U.S. and Chinese governments to overshadow the conference.

Q: When will the final decision be made?

A: I have nothing on that at present.

CHINA - TAIWAN

CHRISTOPHER MEETING WITH CHINA'S FOREIGN MINISTERPoints

- Secretary Christopher and China's Foreign Minister just completed a productive and useful round of talks in Brunei on the overall state of U.S.-China relations.
 - They discussed the underlying principles of the relationship and agreed that good bilateral relations are in the interests of both countries.
 - They discussed outstanding problems and agreed on a series of further discussions and steps that can be taken to regain the momentum in the bilateral relationship.
 - Undersecretary Tarnoff will be meeting soon with his counterpart in the Chinese Foreign Ministry to discuss the substantive issues in greater detail.
 - The Secretary will be meeting again with the Foreign Minister next month to evaluate progress and discuss further steps that might be taken.
 - The overall tone of the meeting was encouraging. With goodwill and hard work on both sides, the U.S. and China will be able to overcome current difficulties and restore a good working relationship.
- Q: Can you comment on the meeting between Secretary Christopher and the Chinese Foreign Minister?
- A: That meeting proceeded as scheduled in Brunei, where both men are attending a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Secretary and China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen (CHYEN CHEE CHUN) held a productive and useful meeting, at which they discussed the underlying principles of the relationship and its importance to both sides, as well as some of the problems that are affecting the relationship.

Secretary Christopher characterized the meeting as positive in tone, a step forward in regaining the momentum the relationship was developing earlier this year.

As expected, the question of Taiwan was discussed at length.

Q: Did Secretary Christopher pass a letter from President Clinton inviting Chinese President Jiang Zemin to visit Washington for a meeting?

A: Secretary Christopher did convey a letter from President Clinton to President Jiang.

I'm not prepared to discuss the contents of that letter.

The Secretary and the Foreign Minister discussed a variety of topics, including high-level visits. These were discussed in general, not in specific terms.

Q: How did the Secretary respond to China's demands that the U.S. apologize for inviting Lee Teng-hui to the U.S. and promise not to let it happen again?

A: The Secretary reviewed the background of the decision and reiterated established U.S. policy.

The decision to permit Lee to make a private visit to Cornell was an appropriate courtesy, fully consistent with American values and opinion.

The decision was not aimed at China, nor did it constitute a change in our approach to either China or Taiwan.

We will deal with requests for private visits by Taiwan leaders on a case-by-case basis, based on our judgment of what is in the U.S. interest.

We expect visits to be completely private and rare.

With the invitation to Lee to visit Anchorage in September having been declined, there is no request for a high-level visit pending at the moment.

Q: Was the Harry Wu situation covered? Is his release a condition for a Jiang visit?

A: The Harry Wu case was discussed, but not in the context of high-level bilateral meetings. The Chinese reiterated their position that this is a domestic legal issue. (See also below)

[Background: The Secretary told the press aboard the plane that it is difficult to envisage circumstances under which President Jiang would be able to meet with President Clinton for a summit in the United States if Harry Wu has not been released.]

Q: Can you confirm the Secretary's position that a Jiang Zemin visit would be "impossible" without Wu being released? Is that a condition?

A: The Secretary was making an observation on the political situation here in Washington with regard to Mr. Wu's situation. Many in Congress have pressed for punitive action against China in reaction to the Wu case.

While we acknowledge China's right to implement its laws as it sees fit, we believe this case has a resonance in this country that can only damage bilateral relations as long as Mr. Wu continues to be jailed.

Q: What is your response to Harry Wu's "confession?"

A: Thus far, all we have is a commercial video shown in Hong Kong and a Chinese news release. We cannot at this point assess the significance of these to the status of legal proceedings against Mr. Wu. We are continuing our inquiries with the Chinese government.

The film cannot be considered a confession. The producers of the video appear to have strung together tape from Mr. Wu's original BBC documentary, interviews with Chinese officials, voice-over commentary, and shots of Mr. Wu under interrogation.

Given the way the film was edited, some of the statements of Mr. Wu may have been taken out of context or misconstrued.

In any case, we consider this "trial by media" to be highly irregular and unhelpful.

Q: Was the confession coerced?

A: We cannot determine that on the basis of what we have seen. We will continue to seek more frequent consular access to Wu so that we can assess whether he is being treated properly.

Without doubt, he is undergoing extensive interrogation as the Chinese government investigates his case.

But the film does not indicate mistreatment, nor did Mr. Wu complain of any when he spoke with our consul general earlier this month.

Q: Is Wu cooperating with the Chinese Government to gain an early release?

A: It is not useful to speculate about this at any length. Our information is still incomplete.

Q: Why did the Chinese release the confession, and why now?

A: Those are questions to raise with the Chinese Government.

Q: What are you doing to secure Wu's release?

A: We remain very concerned about the Harry Wu case and continue to work to persuade the Chinese government to release him immediately.

We have made clear in repeated demarches and other communications with the Chinese government that this is a high-priority issue in U.S.-China relations. Its repercussions go beyond the legal case itself. Our chargé raised the case again this week with a senior Foreign Ministry official.

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IF ASKED ONLY

Q: Can you comment on rumors that other Americans have been detained in China on espionage charges?

A: We understand that two military officers assigned to the Consulate General in Hong Kong have been traveling in China. We are trying to ascertain their whereabouts.

Q: What were they doing?

A: I have no further information on that.

Q: Has the Administration decided not to sanction the Chinese for missile sales to Pakistan and Iran?

A: As the Secretary said, we take this issue seriously, and are monitoring China's activities closely.

We have not made a determination that China has engaged in transactions that would require sanctions under U.S. law.

Missile sanctions were, of course, imposed against certain Chinese and Pakistani entities in August 1993, but these sanctions were lifted against the Chinese entities last fall after Beijing agreed, among other things, to reaffirm its commitment to the MTCR guidelines and not to export ground-to-ground MTCR-class missiles.

We will continue to implement the missile sanctions law fully and effectively.

EAP PRESS GUIDANCE
July 8, 1995

CHINA -- ARREST OF HARRY WU

Q: Can you confirm press reports that human rights activist Harry Wu has been arrested by Chinese authorities and charged with espionage? What is your reaction?

A: -- THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JULY 8 INFORMED OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN BEIJING, ARTURO MACIAS, THAT HARRY WU HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND IS BEING HELD IN WUHAN, CHINA, PENDING JUDICIAL PROCESS.

-- MR. WU HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF THREE CRIMES: REPEATEDLY ENTERING CHINA UNDER FALSE NAMES, STEALING CHINESE STATE SECRETS, AND DISSEMINATING THOSE SECRETS TO INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE CHINA.

-- MR. MACIAS WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT WE WOULD BE ALLOWED CONSULAR ACCESS TO MR. WU. OUR EMBASSY IS SENDING CONSUL GENERAL MACIAS TO WUHAN THIS WEEKEND WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT A VISIT CAN TAKE PLACE AS EARLY AS MONDAY, JULY 10.

-- WE VERY MUCH REGRET THE DETENTION OF MR. WU AND THE ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST HIM. WE WILL TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO ENSURE THAT MR. WU'S RIGHTS UNDER THE U.S.-CHINA CONSULAR CONVENTION ARE PROTECTED.

-- WE WILL BE COMMENTING FURTHER ONCE WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO VISIT WITH MR. WU ~~AND TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION FURTHER.~~

*deleted at
NSC
regime
(Win
a)*

State Department Talking Points
on UN Conference on Women in Development

This conference is about women and girls, not about China

The conference is convening in China because it is Asia's turn to host such a conference. When the UN decision was made in 1992 to hold a meeting, China was the only country in the region to offer to host it. At that time the previous administration decided to join consensus with other countries at the UN to agree to accept China's offer to host the conference.

US participation in the conference will insure that American women and men have a voice in an international forum on issues affecting the lives of women.

At the conference and the associated NGO forum, approximately 45,000 people from around the world will be openly discussing a variety of issues.

Aside from the importance to the world's women, this conference cannot help but have reverberations within China.

US participation in the conference promotes a platform for our interests in such important issues as democracy and human rights.