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001. reports	bios (6 pages)	c 10/1997	P1/b(1)
002a. resume	Tamara Chuvakova (partial) (1 page)	nd	P6/b(6)
002b. resume	Zhamilya Nugmanova (partial) (1 page)	nd	P6/b(6)
003. list	Association of Young Leaders (partial) (1 page)	11/06/1997	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
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FOLDER TITLE:

The Trip of the First Lady to Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine,
November 9-18, 1997 (David) [Binder] [2]

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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FACT SHEET - KAZAKHSTAN

U.S.-Kazakhstan Relations

The United States became the first country to recognize the Republic of Kazakhstan on December 25, 1991. In January 1992, the United States opened its embassy in Kazakhstan's capital, Almaty. Since then, the United States and Kazakhstan have developed close political, security, economic and commercial relations. The U.S. ambassador to Kazakhstan is A. Elizabeth Jones, who assumed the post in October 1995. Cooperation in support of the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction has formed the cornerstone of U.S.-Kazakhstani relations since Kazakhstan's independence. In 1994, the U.S. transported 600 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium from Kazakhstan to safe storage in the U.S. The United States is providing over 170 million dollars in assistance to Kazakhstan under the cooperative threat reduction "Nunn-Lugar" program.

U.S.-Kazakhstani security relations have also grown closer since Kazakhstan's independence. In 1996, the U.S. government provided six coastal patrol boats to Kazakhstan to enhance the country's ability to strengthen its export control activities on the Caspian Sea coastline. The U.S. has also provided assistance and support for the Central Asian peacekeeping battalion (see Military Issues, below).

As of October 1997, the U.S. has provided over USD 250 million in technical assistance under the Freedom Support Act to support economic reform and the development of a democratic society in Kazakhstan. U.S. companies have invested more than USD 1.5 billion in the development of Kazakhstan's economy, primarily in the oil, gas, and power generation sectors. U.S. foreign direct investment (FDI) in Kazakhstan accounts for Approximately 45 percent of all FDI into the country.

Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev made his first official visit to Washington, D.C. in May 1992. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Vice President Albert Gore visited Kazakhstan on separate trips in 1993. Since 1994, the U.S.-Kazakhstan Joint Commission has met annually. The Joint Commission is co-chaired by President Nazarbayev and Vice President Gore, and addresses the full scope of U.S.-Kazakhstani relations in its meetings.

The government of Kazakhstan officially marked the transfer of the country's capital from Almaty to Akmola with an opening ceremony in Akmola on October 24, 1997.

Humanitarian assistance

Since 1992, the United States has provided over USD 130 million in humanitarian aid to Kazakhstan. In 1996, the United States donated surplus snow removal equipment, electrical generators for children's hospitals, food, clothing, and medicine and medical supplies to the government and the private sector. In addition, the United States, principally through USAID technical assistance programs, works closely with the government and the NGO community on public health issues, including vaccination programs, family planning, pre- and post-natal health and nutrition projects, And programs to combat infectious respiratory and diarrheal diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also have an active program in Kazakhstan, working with the Ministry of Health to fight hepatitis, cholera, and diphtheria, and to control the rising tuberculosis rate.

Economic Assistance

Assistance to support the transition to a market economy USAID technical assistance and training programs have been central to the U.S. government's efforts to assist Kazakhstan's economic transition. In 1996 and 1997, the United States assisted in the preparation of Kazakhstan's application to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), and helped the government to create and regulate a stock market. It has provided consulting and training programs for tax system reform, adoption of international accounting standards, private sector development, health sector reform, banking, and telecommunications. With U.S. government support, the Central Asian-American Fund provided over USD 18 million in loans and support for small and medium sized private enterprises in Kazakhstan. The Peace Corps is active in Kazakhstan. As of October 1997, there were 84 volunteers working in almost every region of the country, primarily in English teaching, environmental, and small business development programs.

Assistance to support the transition to democracy

The U.S. supports the development of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in Kazakhstan. Dozens of grants have been provided by USAID-funded organizations to promote NGO development, including a number of NGO's that are promoting

independent media and legal reform. As of the end of FY 1996, more than 300 local NGO's had participated in USAID-funded training. In addition to this work, the Embassy's Democracy Commission managed by USIA awards grants annually to local applicants for democracy-building programs. The U.S. government also supports anti-crime, anti-corruption, and counter-narcotics efforts in Kazakhstan. The State Department's Office of International Criminal Justice coordinates programs among thirteen federal agencies, including the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), And the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), to provide training and technical assistance programs to the Kazakhstani government.

Bilateral Economic Relations

The United States seeks to promote economic reforms in Kazakhstan by encouraging trade and investment by U.S. companies. A trade agreement between the U.S. and Kazakhstan, which came into effect in February 1993, provides for reciprocal Most-Favored-Nation Treatment and creates opportunities for U.S. and Kazakhstani business. The agreement facilitates trade by allowing the free operation of commercial representatives in each country, and offers strong protection of intellectual property rights (although enforcement continues to be a problem). A Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which was signed in May 1992 and entered into force in January 1994, provides legal protection and assurances for U.S. investors, including treatment at least as favorable as that given to domestic enterprises -- guarantees of unrestricted transfer, non-performance requirements, and full access to binding arbitration in case of disputes With the host government. In October 1993, Kazakhstan signed a treaty with the U.S. on the avoidance of double taxation. This treaty went into force as of January 1996.

Kazakhstan is subject to Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions. However, in 1997, as in years past, Kazakhstan has been granted a waiver and enjoys Most Favored Nation (MFN) status with the United States. The Clinton administration will review Kazakhstan's Jackson-Vanik compliance in the fall of 1997 as a first step toward removing Jackson-Vanik restrictions and giving Kazakhstan unconditional MFN status with the U.S.

Military Issues

Since independence, Kazakhstan has accepted all the relevant arms control obligations of the former Soviet Union. On May

23, 1992, the United States signed the Lisbon Protocol to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with the nuclear successor states of the former USSR -- Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine -- committing all four to reductions in strategic nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan ratified the Start Agreement on July 2, 1992. In December 1993, Kazakhstan ratified the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state. In April 1995, Kazakhstan returned the last nuclear Warhead on its territory to Russia.

On December 13, 1993, the U.S. and Kazakhstan signed an umbrella agreement that provides the legal framework for the provision of Cooperative Threat Reduction (Nunn-Lugar) funds for the safe and secure dismantlement (SSD) of nuclear weapons. The U.S. committed \$104 million to assist Kazakhstan in eliminating START-limited systems and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) infrastructure, including silo launchers, heavy bombers, and liquid rocket fuel storage. The U.S. also committed \$35 million to enhance the security, control, accounting and centralization of nuclear weapons and fissile materials. An additional \$33 million was spent to encourage military reductions and reforms through defense conversion projects, to provide support for projects for former Kazakhstani weapons scientists through the International Science and Technology Center and to fund defense and military contacts.

On June 5, 1992, Kazakhstan and seven other NIS countries signed the conventional armed forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which establishes limits on categories of tanks, artillery, armored combat vehicles, combat aircraft, and combat helicopters and provides for the destruction of weaponry in excess of these limits. On July 2, 1992, Kazakhstan ratified the CFE agreement. In May 1997, Kazakhstan ratified the CFE Flank Agreement.

Kazakhstan opposes proliferation of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons or related technologies. It maintains a defensive military force of about 60,000. The military is committed to reform and improving the quality of life of its soldiers. Kazakhstan has an all-conscript army, but would like to move toward a volunteer army. Kazakhstan is an active member of NATO's Partnership for Peace. In 1996, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Kyrgyz republic established a Central Asian Peacekeeping Battalion (Centrasbat). In September 1997, Centrasbat hosted a military exercise in the spirit of the Partnership for Peace in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Troops from The United States, Russia, Turkey, Latvia, Georgia, and Centrasbat participated.

Political Conditions

Kazakhstan declared its independence from the former Soviet Union on December 16, 1991. In the December 1991 presidential elections, President Nursultan Nazarbayev ran unopposed and received 98% of the vote.

The 1995 constitution concentrates power in the presidency. President Nazarbayev is the dominant Political figure. The constitution, adopted by a referendum marred by irregularities, permits the president to legislate by decree and dominate the legislature and judiciary; it cannot be changed or amended without the president's consent. Presidential elections originally scheduled for 1996 did not take place, as president Nazarbayev's term in office was extended to 2000 in a separate 1995 referendum, also marred by irregularities.

Kazakhstan's bicameral parliament was elected in December 1995. Under the Constitution, the Parliament's powers are limited. It cannot initiate changes in the Constitution or exercise oversight of the executive branch. While the president has broad powers to dissolve the parliament, parliament can remove the president only with the consent of the Constitutional Council, which is largely controlled by the president. However, members of parliament do have the right to introduce legislation. During parliament's first full session, nineteen bills were drafted by deputies for consideration.

There are many small political parties. Most parties are weak, and with the exception of the Communist Party and some of the ethnic-based political movements, have little influence outside of the capital. Most opposition party members decided not to participate in the December 1995 elections and are therefore not represented in the parliament.

The judiciary is under the control of the president and the executive branch. The judicial system is being restructured to bring it into line with the Constitution. The lack of an independent judiciary makes it difficult to root out corruption.

The government generally respects the human rights of its citizens, including the basic rights of freedom of religion, speech, and assembly. The Constitution provides for peaceful assembly and association, but there are significant

restrictions. Prior approval of local authorities is required to hold a demonstration. Organizations that conduct public meetings must register with the government. Organizers of unsanctioned demonstrations have been arrested and fined or imprisoned, and members of independent trade unions have been harassed.

Independent media is tolerated, although the media practices self-censorship and the government maintains control of most printing facilities.

Kazakhstan's population of about 16 million consists of 45 percent Kazakhs and 35 percent ethnic Slavs, with many other ethnic groups represented. The government discriminates in favor of ethnic Kazakhs in government employment, where ethnic Kazakhs predominate, as well as in education, housing, and other areas. Most of the population speaks Russian; only about half of ethnic Kazakhs speak Kazakh fluently. According to the constitution, the Kazakh language is the State language; the Russian language is officially used on a basis equal with that of the Kazakh language in organizations and bodies of local self-administration.

Foreign relations

Kazakhstan has good relations with all of its neighbors. It joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in December 1991. Kazakhstan is a strong proponent of dialogue and cooperation among CIS states. It supports regional and international efforts to resolve peacefully the conflicts in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan joined the organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in January 1992 and the United Nations and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in March 1992. It is also an active participant in NATO's Partnership for Peace. Kazakhstan is committed to observing international legal obligations and human rights commitments under the OSCE.

Kazakhstan is also developing ties to its Asian neighbors. In 1992, Kazakhstan announced the establishment of a Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to promote regional stability. The organization is still in its infancy.

Economic Outlook

Kazakhstan is completing the initial phase of its transition to a free market economy. Inflation in 1997 was less than two percent per month, a substantial improvement over earlier years. The National Bank of Kazakhstan allows the national currency, the tenge, to float. The tenge is fully convertible with the U.S. dollar.

The transition costs to a market economy have been high. One of the problems hobbling Kazakhstan's economic recovery is the debt burden between enterprises, estimated at well over one billion dollars. The arrearages problem is particularly acute in the energy sector, with many private and commercial customers unable to pay for supplies.

Another difficulty for the government is paying pensions for retirees. As of June 1997, government pension arrearages amounted to approximately USD 500 million; annual government pension payments total slightly more than \$1 billion. In April 1997, President Nazarbayev ordered his government to begin paying all pensions on time as of July 1, 1997 and to pay all pension arrears by December 31, 1997. The government, with assistance from USAID, is drafting legislation to replace the government pension program with a private pension system. Kazakhstan expects to begin phasing in the private pension program on January 1, 1998.

While official unemployment figures are low, hidden unemployment is estimated at 30 percent. The steep decline in production that plagued Kazakhstan since independence bottomed out in 1996, when GDP showed its first modest increase. GDP is expected to grow by two percent in 1997.

Natural resource sectors dominate the Kazakhstani economy. Kazakhstan has proven reserves of 15.5 billion barrels of oil and estimated reserves of three to six trillion cubic meters of natural gas. Oil production increased during 1996, reaching its 1993 level of 23.5 million tons per year. Production in 1997 is expected to increase to 27 million tons. Natural gas production also increased in 1996, to 6.4 billion cubic meters, climbing more than eight percent over 1995 levels.

Privatization continued at a rapid pace in 1997. Although the government of Kazakhstan remains an equity partner in a wide variety of businesses, state-held shares in hundreds of enterprises have been reduced or eliminated. As of June 1997, the bulk of the petroleum sector was privatized. Rapid privatization has also occurred in Kazakhstan's electric power sector. More than half of Kazakhstan's

generating plants were sold to private investors between early 1996 and June of 1997.

Kazakhstan has run a trade deficit since 1992. In 1996, the current account deficit amounted to USD 845 million (roughly four percent of GDP) and the trade deficit was USD 397 million. In the near term the trade balance will likely remain negative, because Kazakhstan's ambitious investment program will require substantial capital goods, and demand for imported consumer goods will likely increase. As of the first quarter of 1997, net international reserves of the National Bank of Kazakhstan were slightly above one billion dollars, sufficient for three months worth of imports. Kazakhstan has been successful in attracting foreign direct investment, which amounted to USD 863 million in 1996.

Kazakhstan's geographical position - landlocked in the center of Eurasia -- makes it dependent on its neighbors' transport links to get its goods to world markets. Kazakhstan's railroad system links it to Europe via Russia, to the Persian Gulf via Iran, and to the Pacific Rim via China. In May 1994, Kazakhstan signed an agreement with China, Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic to upgrade a road network over the Karakoram Mountain Range to Pakistan. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is financing the improvement of the port at Aktau, on the Caspian Sea. Regular air flights connect Kazakhstan with Europe and some Asian countries. In 1996, four major European carriers -- Lufthansa, KLM, Austrian Airlines and Turkish Airlines -- had non-stop flights to Almaty, and by June 1997 Kazakhstan had signed flight agreements with Malaysia and Singapore, although flights had not yet begun. Kazakhstan's government-run railroads are in very weak financial condition. The three state railroad companies merged in January 1997.

Kazakhstan has a developed road network connecting all its major cities. However, lack of funds since 1991 has left most routes poorly maintained. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank are jointly funding a USD 284 million highway rehabilitation project connecting Almaty with the future capital city of Akmola.

Environmental Issues

Kazakhstan has suffered disproportionately among former Soviet republics from the shrinking of the Aral Sea and from serving as the testing ground for the Soviet Union's nuclear programs. Kazakhstan has identified two major ecological

disaster zones -- the Aral Sea and the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing facility -- and is actively pursuing compensation and rehabilitation for victims living in these areas. Kazakhstan wants to work with the international community on environmental issues and has participated in conferences on regional environmental problems, including those concerning the Aral Sea. The USD 22 million U.S.-led initiative for the region is helping alleviate the environmental effects of desiccation of the Aral Sea basin, provide potable water for area residents, and facilitate regional cooperation through multilateral water-sharing and resource management projects. The Kazakhstani parliament became more vocal in 1997 about the necessity for environmental clean-up in its disaster zones and in the area around the Baykonur Space-Launch facility.

KAZAKHSTAN: MAIN ISSUES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS

U.S. ties with Kazakhstan have broadened and deepened since the early, post-independence focus on non-proliferation. Kazakhstan became a non-nuclear weapons state in 1995, but other issues of vital U.S. interest - access to energy resources, a stable investment climate, economic reform and democratic development - flesh out a maturing relationship.

Energy issues. The core U.S. strategic interest in Kazakhstan now is the development and delivery to world markets of Kazakhstani oil and gas. Kazakhstan has world-class oil reserves and its Tengiz oil field alone is one of the top ten in the world. The U.S. and Kazakhstan agree on the need to develop multiple pipeline routes to get Kazakhstani oil and gas to market. Multiple routes lessens both dependency on a given neighbor and interruption of the flow of energy because of natural disaster or political exigency. The U.S. supports routes that are commercially viable and which do not profit Iran. Kazakhstan takes a more expedient view and we seek to discourage Kazakhstan from including Iran in its export and pipeline planning.

U.S. investment. Promoting Kazakhstan's stability and independence are critical to U.S. and Western access to its energy resources. The Kazakhstanis, in turn, recognize that greater foreign investment and access to Western technology will be key to developing the resources that fuel economic and social growth, and promote political stability. This symbiosis has resulted in tremendous U.S. investment (an estimated \$1 billion) and Kazakhstani officials like to note that some 40% of foreign investment in their country is American. The Kazakhstani government views this investment as evidence of a long term U.S. commitment to it and an important counterbalance to what it terms a "tough neighborhood" that includes Russia, China, and Iran.

Reform imperative. The U.S. has stressed that greater increases in foreign investment will require more transparency in privatization, control over pervasive corruption and further economic reform, all areas in which the U.S. provides technical assistance. Kazakhstan is on the right track but will require implementation of concrete measures in such areas as improved customs processing, transparency in the tendering process, streamlined registration of businesses, and correcting distorted VAT and customs duties.

Non-proliferation. Although Kazakhstan is no longer a nuclear weapons state, non-proliferation issues remain as a major focus of the relationship. In 1997, the U.S. fulfilled its obligations

to Kazakhstan for the 1995 transfer of 600 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium to the United States. Under the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat program, we have provided assistance to Kazakhstan in the form of export control programs, material protection control and accounting (MPC&A), support at Kazakhstani nuclear facilities, and assistance for the destruction and dismantlement of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) facilities.

Democratization and human rights. Human rights are generally respected, abuses limited, and citizens enjoy basic freedoms of religion and speech. In the main, the government respects freedom of the press; there are several small opposition parties, and the media frequently disseminate critical views. The president is the dominant political force, however, and parliament and the judiciary remain weak. The police sometimes harass opposition figures. U.S. assistance is focused on legal reform and on encouraging the legislature to assert its prerogatives. The American Embassy recently sponsored the first nationwide televised debates for Senate candidates in Almaty. The U.S. will be urging that the upcoming 1999 parliamentary elections, and 2000 presidential elections be free and fair. Ethnic Slavs and other minorities are concerned about state-sanctioned preferences in favor of ethnic Kazakhs. President Nazarbayev has emphasized that all nationalities are entitled to equal treatment under the law.

Defense cooperation. The military-to-military relationship is in good shape. The U.S. worked this September with Kazakhstan and its Central Asian partners (Uzbekistan and Krygyzstan) to complete a successful peacekeeping exercise in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. This activity, held "in the spirit" of NATO's Partnership for Peace, reflects Kazakhstan's desire to integrate itself more closely with Western security structures.

KAZAKHSTAN - POLITICAL AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Increasingly strong presidency. Kazakhstan is politically stable, but with political power concentrated heavily in the presidency. President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who was the head of the Communist Party in Kazakhstan prior to independence, has been the nation's only leader since the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991. He strengthened his political grip in 1995 when he dissolved the parliament and stage-managed two Soviet-style referenda, both marred by serious irregularities. The first approved a new constitution that increased the power of the presidency at the expense of the legislature. The second extended his term in office until the year 2000.

Weak Parliament. Other political institutions in Kazakhstan are weak and unfocused. The parliament is not a serious player and has taken only a few tentative steps to insert itself into debate on issues of national import. In 1996, for example, it twice challenged government efforts to raise the retirement age, but ultimately backed off in the face of Nazarbayev's threat to dissolve parliament. The parliament has also debated the propriety of signing new leases with Russia for use of military test ranges on Kazakhstani territory. The deputies are responding to real public concerns over the catastrophic environmental damages caused by testing in the past. Last session, parliamentary deputies initiated nineteen pieces of legislation; however, parliament is primarily a reactive body. To be a truly effective counterweight, the deputies need to take the initiative, for example, through introduction of more legislation and the holding of public hearings.

Weak judiciary. The judicial system is, if anything, even weaker. Judges are appointed by the executive branch, beholden to it, woefully underpaid, and susceptible to corruption. There is no tradition of judicial independence.

Splintered opposition. A nascent Almaty-based political opposition is disorganized, undermined by rivalries and, when its leaders are not co-opted by the government, subject to harassment. The largest organized movement is the Communist party, but its support is limited almost exclusively to pensioners. The opposition has a number of significant pocketbook issues on which to score the government. Economic dislocations are real: in some localities wages have not been paid for months and pension arrearages are a nationwide problem. But the demonstrations the opposition has been able to muster have been relatively small. Leaders of democratic opposition groups are widely seen as members of the "intelligentsia" not attuned to working class concerns.

Social indicators. Kazakhstan's social indicators, while declining, compare favorably with the rest of Central Asia. In 1996, life expectancy was 66 years, adult literacy was 98 percent, and the infant mortality rate was 40/1000. Kazakhstan's population has declined by almost 1 million since independence because of increasing mortality, falling birth rates, and emigration by ethnic Russians who perceive diminishing economic opportunities. The social tension between ethnic Russians, who now see themselves as on the outs, and ethnic Kazakhs, now perceived as on the ascendancy in terms of influence and access to political power, is an increasingly sensitive issue.

Declining social spending. The decay of Kazakhstan's social infrastructure has worsened considerably since 1991, as the government drastically reduced spending on education and health care. The government recognizes that deteriorating social conditions must be addressed; hence its haste to develop the energy resources that will provide badly needed revenues.

Future prospects. Because government revenues are unlikely to grow significantly before the turn of the century, when new pipelines come on line, living standards are likely to continue to decline in the near term. Revenues from an ambitious privatization program, now nearly completed, can meet only a small percentage of needs and will be whittled away further by pervasive corruption. What social services there are will increasingly be provided by private entities, but principally to those who can afford to pay for them. The key for the government will be how it copes with any social unrest generated by income inequalities. In the long term, buoyed by increased oil and gas revenues, a more dynamic private sector, and a commitment by the government to address social concerns, Kazakhstan could make real progress toward a democratic, free-market society.

KAZAKHSTAN: ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL OVERVIEW

Dramatic economic decline. Kazakhstan's economy, largely dependent upon extraction and export of its vast energy resource, as well as agricultural production, was severely battered in the years immediately following the breakup of the Soviet Union. Trade dislocations caused by the breakup resulted in a decline in GDP and industrial output of 54 and 52 percent, respectively, between 1990 and 1996. The hardest hit sectors of the economy were in machine building, chemicals, construction, light industry, and agriculture. As output fell, state revenues shrank dramatically, forcing the government to drastically cut expenditures, including wages and pensions to state workers. By early 1997, these arrears equaled nearly 4 percent of GDP.

Bottoming out? Kazakhstan's early willingness to move ahead rapidly with macro-economic reform, especially in tax and commercial law, may finally be paying off. The government has maintained reasonably tight control over credit growth and deficit spending, resulting in a lowering of monthly inflation from 23 percent in 1994 to just over 1 percent in 1997. Kazakhstan's currency, the tenge, has been relatively stable. In 1996, the economy for the first time recorded modest growth.

New Prime Minister's uncertain commitment to reform. Much of this success can be attributed to the policies of former Prime Minister Kazahegeldin, who resigned from office on October 10, ostensibly for health reasons. President Nazarbayev named Mulan Balgimbayev, who was the head of the state oil company as the new PM, promising that economic policies would stay the course. It is too early to judge.

Privatization. Although the government maintained a steady commitment to macro-economic stabilization policies, its implementation of measures to promote private sector growth have not been as successful. While small firms are almost entirely in private hands, privatization has moved forward only fitfully for large-scale enterprises. A shift in 1994 away from "instant" privatization to hiring foreign advisors to restructure enterprises and prepare them for privatization has been moderately successful, with several large enterprises (mostly in the energy sector) having been sold to foreign investors. However, efforts by some ministries to keep some medium-size and larger firms (and their revenue flows) in government hands have undermined the process and underscored the pervasive corruption that plagues Kazakhstan. The government claims to have "corrected" this problem and asserts privatization will be completed by the end of 1998. Again, the October change in government may undermine the commitment to privatization.

Foreign investment. Kazakhstan has tried to create an attractive business climate for foreign investors, passing laws that in principle guarantee fair treatment and foster a more Western-style business environment. As a result, Kazakhstan received some \$3.5 billion in foreign investment -- mostly in the all important oil and gas sector -- by the end of 1996. Nevertheless, in practice Kazakhstan's inadequate legal infrastructure, frequent tax changes, and cumbersome, often corrupt bureaucracy pose serious obstacles to foreign investors.

U.S. investment. U.S. investment in Kazakhstan amounts to roughly 40 percent of total foreign investment, or \$1.4 billion. There are more than 85 U.S. companies resident in Kazakhstan. Most of these are in the oil and gas, power generation, legal, and accounting businesses. The principal U.S. policy goal in this area is to ensure that U.S. companies have equal access and that awards are made in an open and transparent manner.

WTO membership. Kazakhstan has observer status in, and is seeking to join, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the U.S. has been providing technical assistance on its application. Kazakhstan is on track for membership in 1998, although the USTR has indicated that Kazakhstan must accelerate changes in trade practices and implementing legislation if it is to meet that ambitious goal.

KAZAKHSTAN - HUMAN RIGHTS

Mixed record. Kazakhstan falls somewhere in the middle ground in Central Asia in the promotion and protection of human rights. It trails neighboring Krygyzstan in actual practice, for example, on the holding of free and fair elections. It is certainly ahead of the game when compared with Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan on the issue of press freedom.

Strong presidency. The Constitution of Kazakhstan concentrates power in the presidency; President Nursultan Nazarbayev is the dominant political figure. The President, while not a democrat, can neither be described as an absolute autocrat. He comes out of a system where dissent was unknown and is clearly not entirely comfortable with the practices of a modern democracy. He is realistic enough to tolerate, however, the trappings of democracy, as well as some of its give and take, in order to attract Western investment and political acceptance. The Constitution, adopted by a 1995 referendum marred by irregularities, permits the president to legislate by decree and dominate the legislature and judiciary; it cannot be changed or amended without the president's consent.

Weak parliament and judiciary. Presidential elections originally scheduled for 1996 did not take place, as President Nazarbayev's term in office was extended to 2000 in a separate 1995 referendum, also marred by irregularities. The 1995 Constitution limited parliament's powers, although members of parliament have exercised their right to introduce legislation. The judiciary remains under the control of the president and the executive branch and its lack of independence has made it difficult to root out pervasive government corruption. Judges reportedly can be bought and may even solicit bribes for favorable rulings. However, the October 13 appointment of new Justice Minister Bayurzhan Mukhamedmetov could improve the situation. Mukhamedmetov is well-respected and committed to fighting corruption. He also wants to restructure the Kazakhstani judiciary on the U.S. model.

Basic human rights. Government respect for the basic human rights of its citizens is uneven. Citizens enjoy in theory -- and more often than not in practice -- basic rights of freedom of religion, speech and assembly. Kazakhstan is in the process of reforming its legal system and legislators have adopted a new criminal code. Human rights observers nevertheless assert that the legal system remains riddled by corruption. Law enforcement officials often exploit minor infractions of the law to arrest and detain government opponents. Members of the security forces

often beat or otherwise abuse detainees; arrests can be arbitrary; and prolonged detention without charge is a problem.

Right to privacy. The government sporadically infringes on citizens' rights to privacy. Kazakhstani authorities are suspected of tapping phones and monitoring the correspondence of some members of the political opposition.

Media self-censorship. While the government generally tolerates independent media, the media practices self-censorship, particularly when reporting on Nazarbayev. Freedom of assembly is sometimes restricted; organizations must apply for official permits prior to staging a demonstration (most are granted) and some organizers of unsanctioned demonstrations have been arrested and fined or imprisoned. Freedom of association, while generally respected, is sometimes hindered by complicated registration requirements for organizations and political parties.

Discrimination against women and minorities. The government discriminates in favor of ethnic Kazakhs and against women, the disabled and ethnic minorities. The government has tried to limit the influence of independent trade unions, both directly and through its support for state-sponsored unions, and independent trade unions have been harassed.

KAZAKHSTAN - ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Ethnic diversity. Kazakhstan's population of about 16 million consists of approximately 45 percent ethnic Kazakhs, 35 percent ethnic Slavs (principally Russians), as well as numerically significant German and Asian minorities. In May 1997, for what appears to be political reasons, the government announced that ethnic Kazakhs accounted for 51 percent of the population; most observers agree that this is not yet the case.

Exodus of non-Kazakhs. The government's announcement may have heightened the anxiety felt by Kazakhstan's non-Kazakh peoples -- and particularly ethnic Russians -- who perceive continuing governmental preferences for ethnic Kazakhs. Indeed, in the first year of independence, the government's "Kazakhification" program almost certainly accelerated an exodus of ethnic Russians, although lack of opportunity as Kazakhstan's economy collapsed served as the principal impetus for emigration. Recognizing that the "brain drain" of well-educated ethnic Slavs was detrimental to at least its short term interest, the government has backed away from "Kazakhification" and President Nazarbayev has publicly emphasized that all nationalities are welcome in Kazakhstan.

Continued ethnic discrimination. While ethnic Russian outflow has slowed, it has not stopped. The government continues to discriminate in favor of ethnic Kazakhs in government employment, as well as in education, housing, and other areas. Many observers interpret Nazarbayev's decision to move the capital to Akmolá as a means to more closely anchor northern Kazakhstan, with its majority ethnic Russian population hugging the border with Russia, to Kazakhstan.

Language issue. The government has also accepted a significantly watered down law on languages that was intended to strengthen the use of Kazakh as the official state language. In fact, the new law slightly strengthened the status of Russian, recognizing it as equal with Kazakh in "organizations and bodies of local self-administration." Because of budgetary constraints, the government has also put off plans to require teaching in elementary and secondary schools in the Kazakh language only. However, the fact is that barely half of ethnic Kazakhs speak Kazakh fluently. For the immediate future, Russian will continue as Kazakhstan's lingua franca.

Ethnic tension not paramount issue. In short, tension between ethnic Russians and Kazakhs is real, but by no means approaches in importance day-to-day pocketbook concerns, including pessimism about the economy, a perception of widespread corruption, and across the ethnic board dissatisfaction with government. In a

1996 public survey conducted by the respected International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), current ethnic relations between Kazakhs, Russians, and other minorities were judged to be fairly relaxed, with no expectation of dramatic change.

Religious practice. Perhaps more so than its Central Asian neighbors, Kazakhstan accepted official Soviet atheistic doctrine; religious practice does not have deep roots in Kazakhstan. The government takes a tolerant view of religious observances and fully respects the right of its citizens to worship freely without government interference. The Constitution does require that the appointment by foreign religion centers of the heads of religious associations be conducted "in consultation" with the government, but in practice the government does not interfere in appointments.

Religious diversity. Islam is the faith accepted by the majority of those ethnic Kazakhs who worship regularly, but religious denominations of all kinds are active in Kazakhstan. Evangelical Protestants have alleged some low-level government harassment, generated by complaints from Russian Orthodox and Muslim Kazakhstanis who resent their activities. Some Jehovah's Witnesses have also claimed persecution because of their refusal to enter the Kazakhstani military, but the government backed away from arrests after protests by international human rights groups. Kazakhstan's small Jewish community has experienced no difficulty working with government officials, although there have been sporadic instances of anti-semitism.

KAZAKHSTAN: EDUCATION SYSTEM AND ISSUES

High literacy. Kazakhstan has a highly educated population and a literacy rate of 97 percent as a result of the strongly centralized system of education put in place by the former Soviet Union. Strong in natural sciences and mathematics, the curriculum is weak in the subjects now necessary for the education of a new generation facing market reforms and a move toward democracy.

Soviet structure. Formerly, academicians and teachers were highly respected by society and were well compensated for their work. Education was divided into three main groups--pre-school/day care; middle school (that included elementary through high school) and higher education (that included everything from technical schools through advanced graduate work). Schools were well funded and, although totally centralized, well organized and well-attended.

System deteriorating. Today, while the structures remain the same, education is not adequately funded by the government. Salaries for teachers and professors are seldom paid, the physical plant of the schools is deteriorating, and the government is spending little to no money for materials, books, or curriculum development. Parents are expected to pay for books and materials even in public elementary and secondary schools, and teachers do not have access to even the most basic supplies, such as chalk, copy-machines and teaching materials.

Low government spending. The average salary of a secondary school teacher is \$60.00 per month, but in most schools salaries have not been paid in months or have been paid in bartered goods, like potatoes or glassware. The proposed 1998 budget includes a 21 percent increase in spending for education, but the percentage of the budget spent on education remains at about 6 percent. The majority of teachers who continue to stay in public schools are of retirement age or are pensioners who have returned to work. Innovation and new curricula are basically unheard of given resource and incentive problems.

Universities. There are 61 state universities with a total of 255,000 students, and 26 private universities with approximately 12,500 students. State universities may now charge tuition in order to support themselves. The new Minister of Education openly supports private education. In his former capacity as a deputy prime minister, he encouraged reforms that allowed for the registration of private institutions. This decree put private institutions on the same footing as public institutions, and gave

them legal protection from arbitrary closure or other punitive measures by the Ministry of Education.

Financial crunch. Since payment of university salaries are also behind schedule, teachers at universities must take other measures to support themselves. University teachers have become "nomads," moving from university to university to teach courses on an hourly basis. They also work part-time in private businesses to help make ends meet. Teachers overburdened with teaching hours or with outside employment have a negative impact on the quality of education. Corruption regarding testing and grades has become almost routine, as teachers accept payment from students or parents to ensure passing or even good grades.

Continuing decline? According to key leaders in the field of education, without a commitment of real funds from the government, the quality of education in Kazakhstan will, continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate. Over the long term, experts fear a decrease in the literacy rate and a prolonged crisis in the education sector.

KAZAKHSTAN: WOMEN'S ISSUES

Demographics of women. Kazakhstan has a population of nearly 16.7 million, of which 8.8 million are female. In 1995, 4.5 million Kazakhstani women were between 15 and 49 years of age; this figure is expected to rise to 5.1 million by 2015. Life expectancy for women is 70.4 years and the fertility rate is 2.5 births per woman. The literacy rate for Kazakhstani women in 1990 was 96 percent, compared with 97.5 percent for the general population. Women have unrestricted access to higher education.

Political participation. There are no legal restrictions on the participation of women in politics. The Constitution bars discrimination on the basis of sex, but the persistence of traditional attitudes means that few women hold high office or play active parts in political life. There is one female federal minister (of 14), but no female provincial governors (Akims). In the parliament, of 47 senate members, five are women; of 67 lower house members, nine are women. Kazakhstan's UN permanent representative, Akmaral Arystanbekova, is a woman.

Employment issues. Employment of women is growing and in January 1996, women made up 48 percent of workers. The majority of Kazakhstani women work in the education, health care, and business sectors. Since independence, more women have moved into business. In 1995, 30 percent of those involved in small businesses were women. There is no legal discrimination against women, but women are seriously underrepresented in high-level positions in state enterprises and over-represented in low paying and some menial jobs. Women seem to be more susceptible to labor market changes than men. In 1995, more than 60 percent of the 95,700 workers who reported to the government that they had lost their jobs were women, many with higher or specialized secondary education and more than ten years work experience. Working women are also responsible for running the household and child care. Wider availability of contraceptives has given women more choice in seeking professional careers.

Domestic violence. According to human rights groups, there is considerable domestic violence against women. A local NGO, the Feminist League, estimates that hundreds of thousands of Kazakhstani women are the victims of spousal abuse. Police are often reluctant to intervene, considering it to be the family's business, unless they believe the abuse is life-threatening. The maximum sentence for wife beating is three years, but few such cases are prosecuted. The government has not specifically addressed the problem. Law enforcement authorities reported 1,905 cases of rape in 1996. The punishment for rape can range from four to fifteen years. Most cases of rape go unreported. There is very little coverage of rape in the press.

Women's rights. There is some activity in the non-governmental sector to address women's rights. The Almaty Women's Information Center, for example, conducts seminars on women's rights, provides legal consultations for women, publishes and informational bulletin, and conducts national and international conferences on women.

Fourth World Conference on Women. Ms. Roza Kenzhetaeva, head of the Social-Political Department of the Administration of the President, led the Kazakhstan delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women. Ms. Sara Nazarbaeva, President of the Republic's "Bobek" Foundation, and wife of the President, was the honorary head of delegation. At the Conference, Kazakhstan did not announce any actions it planned to take to implement the Beijing Platform for Action.

KAZAKHSTAN: POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING

Ethnic mix. Kazakhstan has a population of 16.7 million and a diverse ethnic make-up -- about 45 percent of the population are ethnic Kazakhs (originally Turkic nomads), 35 percent are ethnic Slavs (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, others), and about 20 percent are of other ethnic origins.

Age breakdown. In Kazakhstan's population as a whole, children and teenagers comprise 33 percent; working-age people 55 percent; and people older than working age 12 percent. In 1990, the average Kazakhstani life expectancy was 66.8 years. According to the UN, Kazakhstan's population is getting older; the aged portion of the population has increased by four percent since 1990, while there have been small decreases in the other population groups. More than 44 percent of the population is rural.

Labor force. Kazakhstan's labor force is estimated to be more than nine million; only one percent of the population is officially registered as unemployed. However, hidden unemployment is estimated to be more than ten percent.

Population decline. Over the past few years, Kazakhstan's population has declined due to a drop in the birth rate, an increase in mortality figures, and emigration. Fertility in Kazakhstan has declined over the past five years from a rate of 2.9 births per woman in the late 1980's to one of 2.5 births per woman in 1995.

Strategy to grow the population. Recently, the government's strategic planning agency drafted a strategy to increase the population. International donors have expressed concern that the strategy appears to be a throwback to centralized state planning. Policies under consideration range from tax incentives for having large families, to tax penalties for choosing not to have children, to prohibition of abortion. The government does not appear to have considered that increases in population growth would also have budgetary and other resource implications for all other sectors.

Birth control. Knowledge of contraceptive methods is virtually universal among Kazakhstani women. According to the 1995 Kazakhstan demographic and health survey, 59 percent of women of reproductive age are using contraceptives. As was the case during the Soviet period, abortion remains a primary birth control tool. Kazakhstani women are estimated to have had an average of two abortions in their lifetimes.

Some success. Demographic and health data show a link between the use of contraception and a decrease in the abortion rate. Over the last five years, the use of the pill and the intrauterine device increased by 32 percent; the abortion rate dropped by 15 percent. This data is clear and convincing evidence that contraceptive use has been a substitute for abortion. The U.S. can take much credit for this success through the work of the USAID reproductive health services expansion program for Central Asia.

KAZAKHSTAN: CHILDREN'S ISSUES

Deteriorating conditions. Thirty percent of Kazakhstan's population is under the age of 15. Like all segments of the population, children have been affected by the economic hardship Kazakhstan has experienced in the transition to a market-oriented economy. Almost half of all kindergartens and day nurseries in Kazakhstan were closed between 1991 and 1995. In addition, orphanages have had difficulty maintaining adequate living conditions and meeting basic nutritional requirements. Children's health care has also suffered in the transition period -- sixty-nine percent of children under the age of three suffer from anemia, and respiratory and diarrheal diseases remain major killers of young children. Infant mortality in Kazakhstan is about 40 per 1000 births, a high figure.

Aral Sea disaster. Children in the Aral Sea ecological disaster zone have suffered disproportionately in the transition period. Although infant mortality in the zone has decreased in recent years, it remains higher than the national average. The United States government acted quickly in 1994 to help implement Vice President Gore's \$22 million Aral Sea initiative. The initiative's goal was to bring potable water to the people of the Aral Sea region. This program has changed focus from local engineering projects to multilateral efforts to address water sharing and resource management issues. Since 1992, over \$130 million in humanitarian assistance has been provided to Kazakhstan, much of which went to children's hospitals or institutions working with children.

Vaccination rates. With the help of U.S. technical assistance programs, childhood vaccination has become more common: 72 percent of children are routinely inoculated against measles, 98 percent have begun a DPT series, and 100 percent are inoculated against polio.

Disabled children. Local non-governmental organizations have been strengthened to provide services to children with physical and mental disabilities (including the 16 percent of children with stunted growth and the 3 percent of emaciated children). Last year one of these organizations was instrumental in having legislation introduced specifically to assist persons with disabilities.

Adoption. At present, there are no clear laws governing the adoption of Kazakhstani orphans by foreigners and each locality sets its own procedures. Approximately 25 adoptions by U.S. citizens took place over past year. Kazakhstan is not a party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child

Abduction. Hence, cases of children abducted to or from Kazakhstan must be handled in the family courts of the country to which they have been taken. The State Department is not aware of any child abduction cases pending in Kazakhstan.

Child labor. Abuse of child labor is generally not a problem, although child labor is routinely used in agricultural areas, especially during the harvest season. Children under the age of 16 may work only with the permission of the local administration and the trade union in the enterprise in which the child would work. Such permission is rarely granted.

KAZAKHSTAN - HEALTH ISSUES

Deteriorating health conditions. Kazakhstan's Soviet-era health care system has deteriorated drastically since independence in 1991, leading to a dramatic decline in the health of the population. Life expectancy has steadily fallen, and now stands at 59.3 years for men and 70.4 years for women. The rates of infant mortality (40 per 1,000 births) and maternal mortality (77 per 100,000 live births) remain very high, although there are signs that they are beginning to drop. Kazakhstan has one of the world's highest reported incidence rates for tuberculosis (70 cases per 100,000 persons).

Declining government spending. Annual health care spending has plummeted since independence to less than ten dollars per capita as Kazakhstan has begun the difficult transition to a market economy. This funding shortfall has led to a dearth of basic medicines, supplies and equipment throughout the country. Although the government guarantees universal health care free of charge to all citizens, in fact an informal fee-for-service system has arisen, with patients responsible for providing the medication and supplies for their treatment.

Smoking and alcohol. Lifestyle behaviors such as heavy smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and a high fat diet have also contributed to the decline in life expectancy. The government would like to improve public education but is constrained by a lack of funds.

Environmental health issues. Certain segments of the population are also endangered by environmental pollution (primarily around the Aral Sea in central Kazakhstan) and the long-term effects of radiation exposure from Soviet-era nuclear testing programs (near Semipalatinsk, in northern Kazakhstan). In the Aral Sea region, U.S. and international assistance is focused on providing access to potable water for the local population. In Semipalatinsk, U.S. humanitarian assistance has provided medical equipment and expertise to help treat the high rates of cancer, leukemia and birth defects caused by radiation exposure.

Tuberculosis. Kazakhstan's tuberculosis incidence rate is among the highest in the world, and over ten times the rate in the U.S. The problem is particularly acute in prisons, where government officials estimate as many as one-third of all prisoners suffer from tuberculosis.

Reform efforts. With assistance from the U.S. and other donors, Kazakhstan has begun to take inexpensive steps to reform its health care system to provide broad access to affordable care.

These include decentralizing health care management to the local level, introducing compulsory health insurance, streamlining infrastructure by closing hospitals that are no longer viable, introducing privatization of selected health care facilities, and privatizing the pharmaceutical sector.

KAZAKHSTAN: ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The USG has provided Kazakhstan approximately \$518 million in humanitarian, technical, and investment promotion assistance since FY 92. Kazakhstan is by far the largest recipient of USG assistance in Central Asia. The USG budgeted \$43 million for programs in Kazakhstan in FY 97. This high level of funding reflects strong cooperation between the USG and Government of Kazakhstan (GOK) in pursuit of market economic restructuring, democratic reform, and elimination of nuclear weapons. The USG has contributed an additional \$16.6 million to the UNHCR and International Organization of Migration's 1997 Joint Appeal for CIS Migration Conference follow-up for programs in Kazakhstan, as well as Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

USAID assistance. USAID is leading an economic restructuring program that reflects the GOK's commitment to economic reform. USAID has nearly completed its programs on short-term stabilization measures to rein in government spending and inflation and on support for privatization of small and medium-sized enterprises. During FY 98, USAID will redirect its efforts toward the development of financial markets and a commercial legal infrastructure.

Treasury assistance. The Department of the Treasury has also provided the GOK a resident advisor on government debt during the past two-and-a-half years. The Treasury advisor has focused on core questions of security market development, including drafting an external debt law and issuing a successful Eurobond.

Central Asian Enterprise Fund. The Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund is also supporting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in Kazakhstan, (as it is in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan), through its equity investments and micro-lending services. The USG has budgeted \$16 million for fund activities in Kazakhstan since FY 92. The Fund has invested \$13.37 of these funds in food processing, manufacturing, printing, transportation, and other service businesses.

Democratic Reform. The USG has budgeted approximately \$13 million for democracy building programs in Kazakhstan. Much of this effort has focused on developing non-governmental organizations, including legal and business societies, as a way to lay the basic foundation of a civil society. Our programs have also sought to strengthen the Kazakhstani Parliament as an independent political institution, and assisted that body's legal reform efforts. Another key focus of USG assistance has been support for independent television stations across Kazakhstan.

Health. USAID support for the Reproductive Health Services Expansion Program in Kazakhstan seeks to reduce the rates of maternal mortality and abortions through the use of modern contraception. USAID also funds a hospital partnership between

Almaty and Tucson. The partnership has established an innovative baccalaureate program in nursing in over a dozen colleges in Kazakhstan, as well as a toxicology center at a hospital in Almaty. USAID is also introducing a health care reform program that seeks to improve the efficiency and quality of health services by emphasizing cost effective primary care over more costly hospital-based systems.

Environment and Energy. The USG has provided over \$26.5 million since FY 92 for projects based in Kazakhstan that aim to reduce regional economic and political tensions generated by transboundary environmental and energy issues. USAID has completed potable water and water management projects in the Aral Sea disaster zone, and is now encouraging regional cooperation through water sharing agreements among all five Central Asian republics which share the Aral Sea Basin. USAID is also working with the GOK to establish a legal and regulatory framework for Kazakhstan's oil and gas industries. These projects aim to attract investment to the oil and gas sector and to promote cleaner burning energy systems such as natural gas and hydroelectricity.

Security Issues. Kazakhstan has received over \$173 million since FY 92 under the Defense Department's Cooperative Threat Reduction (or Nunn-Lugar) Program. Specific projects in Kazakhstan have included dismantlement of missile silos, closure of nuclear testing tunnels, elimination of biological weapons (BW) production infrastructure, retraining of BW scientists, and provision of six patrol boats to the Kazakhstani Navy for export control operations on the Caspian Sea.

Humanitarian Assistance. Although humanitarian assistance is no longer a major focus of assistance programs in Kazakhstan, the USG did deliver \$28 million in medical equipment, medicines, and various other commodities donated by the U.S. Department of Defense and private voluntary organizations in FY 97.

Training and Exchanges. USIA runs a full range of programs in Kazakhstan including the Fulbright Program, the Bradley High School Exchange, the Muskie Graduate Program, and the International Visitors Program. USAID also supports farmer-to-farmer programs that bring volunteers from the U.S. to Kazakhstan to advise Kyrgyzstani farmers' on access to credit, enterprise start-up, business planning, and product distribution/marketing. In addition Kazakhstani managers and scientists participate in the U.S. Department of Commerce's Special American Business Internship Training Program, which provides for 3-6 month internships with private U.S. companies.

KAZAKHSTAN: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Kazakhstan shares the same array of environmental problems faced by other former Soviet bloc countries: nuclear waste, unsustainable agriculture and the aftermath of uncontrolled industrialization. In addition, Kazakhstan contains portions of the Aral Sea and borders on the Caspian Sea.

Soviet nuclear waste. Significant segments of the Soviet nuclear weapons complex were located in Kazakhstan and pockets of severe contamination are widespread. While the U.S. has been providing technical assistance on nuclear clean-up, the issue is really one of money, and neither the U.S. or Europe has been able to provide adequate financial support for such a massive clean-up effort.

Agricultural practices. While industrial waste and toxic pollution are of immediate concern, the biggest long-term threat to the environment in Kazakhstan is agricultural practices that degrade soils and disrupt watersheds. Such practices are largely responsible for the demise of the Aral Sea as a viable ecosystem. In particular, great damage has been done through irrigation of lands that are not suited for intense cultivation. Unfortunately, the immediate cash flow from such practices continues to override development of sustainable practices.

Environment and economic development. The natural resources of Kazakhstan, in particular oil and gas, but also its fisheries, present the earliest opportunity for economic development. Not surprisingly, the development of these resources involve environmental risks, in particular in and around the Caspian Sea. While it is possible to conduct such development in an environmentally sustainable manner, it will require more attention than it was given in the past. The collapse of the Caspian Sea sturgeon fisheries is a classic example of depletion of a regional resource through the inability of the nations sharing the resource to regulate their own usage.

USG activities. The U.S., under the leadership of Vice President Gore, conducts a joint commission with Kazakhstan which, among other things, has worked on these environmental issues. However, resources have been limited.

KAZAKHSTAN: OVERVIEW OF U.S. MISSION

Staff. The U.S. mission in Almaty includes 64 U.S. government employees and about 250 local nationals. The Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce; the U.S. Agency for International Development; the U.S. Information Agency; and the Peace Corps (approximately 100 volunteers) are represented at post. The USAID regional office manages assistance programs in all five Central Asian states.

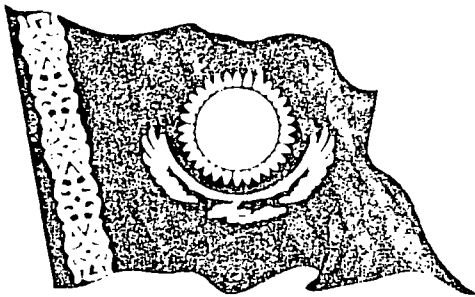
Goals. The mission is structured to pursue four key goals:

- Promote U.S. participation in the commercial development of Kazakhstan's petroleum resources;
- Enhance Kazakhstan's ties to Western security structures and commitment to non-proliferation;
- Encourage market reforms that create a favorable trade and investment climate and reduce corruption;
- Promote the development of democratic institutions and encourage respect for human rights and rule of law.

Activities. The mission provides support and advocacy for more than 85 U.S. companies resident in Kazakhstan. Embassy Almaty works to support increased military-to-military ties and regional security cooperation. It provides technical assistance to help Kazakhstan make the transition to a market economy. Peace Corps volunteers teach English and business management skills throughout Kazakhstan. All agencies work together to encourage political reform and the development of a civil society governed by the rule of law.

Key Embassy Officers

Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones
Deputy Chief of Mission Jon Purnell
USAID Director Patricia Buckles
Public Affairs Officer Michelle Logsdon
Defense Attache Col. Ralph Bruner
Political/Economic Section Chief Lee Litzenberger
Senior Commercial Officer Michael Lally
EMO Nora Logsdon
Regional Security Officer George Nutwell III



Kazakhstan

President Nursultan Nazarbayev (since 1990)



Year of Independence: 1991
Population: approximately 17 million

Cabinet of Ministers

Prime Minister
First Deputy Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Agriculture
Minister of Defense
Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources
Minister (Economics)
Minister of Education, Culture, and Health
Minister of Energy, Industry, and Trade
Minister of Finance
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Information and Public Accord
Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister of Justice
Minister of Labor and Social Security
Minister of Science and President of
the Academy of Sciences
Minister of Transport and Communications
Minister and Commission Chief on Akmola Move

Nurlan Balgimbayev
Akhmetzhan Yesimov
Aleksandr Pavlov
Serik Akhimbekov
Lt. Gen. Mukhtar Altynbayev
Serikbek Daukeyev
Yerzhan Utembayev
Krimbek Kysherbayev
Asigat Zhabagin
Aleksandr Pavlov
Kasymzhomart Tokayev
Altynbek Sarsenbayev
Lt. Gen. Kairbek Suleymenov
Bayurzhan Mukhamedzhanov
Natalya Korzhova

Vladimir Shkolnik
Yerkin Kaliyev
Farid Galimov

Key Kazakhstani Officials

Presidential Aide
Chairman, State Committee on Investment
Chairman, Kazakhoil National Oil and
Gas Company
Vice President, Kazakhoil
Chairman, Presidential Agency for
Strategic Planning and Reform
Chairman, Central Bank
Chairman, National Commission on Securities
Chairman, National Security Committee (KNB)
Secretary, Security Council
Chairman, State Committee for
Investigations (GSK)
Ambassador to the United States
UN Permanent Representative

Parliament

Chairman, Majlis (lower house)
Chairman, Senate (upper house)

Nurtay Abykayev
Akhmetzhan Yesimov

Baltabek Kuandykov
Timur Kulibayev

Yerzhan Utembayev
Uraz Zhandosov
Aben Bektasov
Maj. Gen. Alnur Musayev
Beksoltan Sarsekov

Zharmakhan Tuyakbayev
Bolot Nurgaliyev
Akmaral Arystanbekova

Umirbek Baygeldiyev
Marat Ospanov

KAZAKHSTAN

Population: 16.9 million

Ethnic Divisions:

- Kazakhs (46%)
- Russian (34%)

Date of Independence: 16 December 1991

Status of Constitution: Enacted 5 September 1995

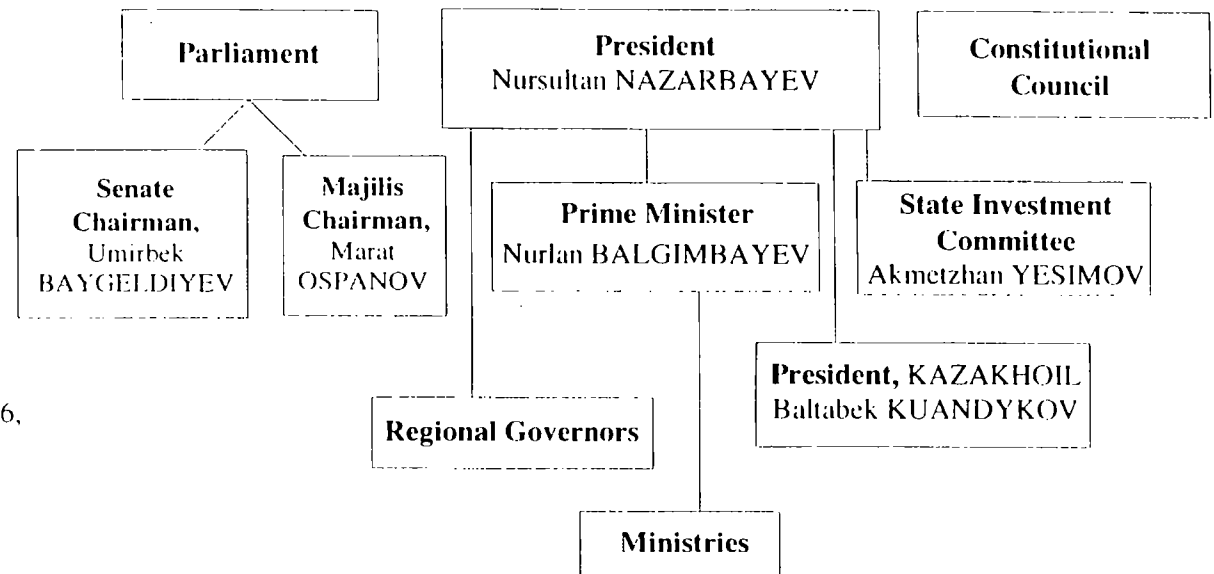
Status of Political Reforms:

- Most political power in Kazakhstan is bestowed upon the President. He appoints regional governors (called Hakims), ministers, and the legislature; can call for new parliamentary elections; and has a relatively free hand on foreign policy. The judiciary also remains under the control of the President.
- Although the opposition parties are weak, since Fall of 1996, they have been able to hold a number of successful demonstrations against the government's wage and pension arrears.
- Nazarbayev has banned ethnically-based political parties to try to forestall separatist movements in the predominantly ethnic Russian northern regions.
- While personal freedoms and human rights are generally respected in Kazakhstan, there remains substantial self-censorship in the media and opposition figures have been harassed.

Composition of Legislature:

- The Majilis and the Senate are the two houses of the Parliament. Most of the 42 members of the Senate are elected by the local parliaments, with seven Presidential appointees. The Majilis has 67 members that are directly elected by the people.
- Although the legislature has the right to introduce legislation, it cannot initiate changes in the Constitution or exercise oversight of the executive branch.
- Despite its limited powers, the legislature has taken a more independent stand in the last year on environmental issues and managed to lower the minimum retirement age in the new pension law.

GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE



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FOLDER TITLE:

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November 9-18, 1997 (David) [Binder] [2]

2012-0869-S
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First Ladies Speak Out on Women's Health

COMMONHEALTH asked First Ladies in the NIS and CEE to talk about women's health in their nations and their work in health promotion for families. The First Ladies of Kazakhstan and Latvia submitted written answers to a set of questions. Future issues of COMMONHEALTH will include interviews with other First Ladies.



Sara Nazarbaeva, First Lady of Kazakhstan.

SARA NAZARBAEVA, FIRST LADY OF KAZAKSTAN

What are the most important health issues facing women in your nation?

Kazakhstan is moving toward a market economy. It is well known that everything that is new suffers "growing pains." In such times, life is especially difficult for women. They are working in factories on equal footing with men. They also must take care of their families and children. There is no time to think about one's health, although there are many problems, such as the extremely high level of abortions, and an increase in breast

and reproductive system cancers. Unfortunately, there is a growth of sexually transmitted disease as well. In several rural regions there are practically no healthy women; many of them suffer from anemia. This is because of unfavorable ecological conditions left as an inheritance from the past. (See articles on Semipalatinsk, p. 25-29 of this issue.)

How are you using your role as First Lady to advocate women's health issues?

We have established the charity foundation Bobek (Baby) for the children of Kazakhstan, and I serve as its president. Its work is directed toward the children, and hence toward the families and the moms of these families. It is very important for women to know how to support their own and their children's health and how to provide good nutrition for their families.

Our foundation is closely collaborating with the Republican Center of Mothers' and Children's Health Care, whose primary mission is the care of pregnant women and those with gynecological dis-

eases. We have several joint projects, which, when fulfilled, will improve the situation.

If you could alleviate one health challenge confronting women in your country, what would you choose?

Currently, our foundation pays a great deal of attention to the education and upbringing of children and teenagers. They are our future, our hope. The future of the country depends much upon how we manage to teach our children to preserve their health while they are young.

I would like to start more consistent and systematic work with teenagers, with young girls and younger children. It is very important to make them enthusiastic about good health, which is so important for a life full of value. I want to show them the dangers of smoking, alcoholism and drug addiction. It is necessary to explain to the young people in an attractive way the rules of private hygiene and safe sex (if it is not possible to avoid it before marriage).

I hope for the collaboration in this field with AIHA, which has experience in publicizing of healthy lifestyles among the population.

Kazakhstan has an enormous amount of territory and a low density of population. That is why the inhabitants of distant rural regions do not have any modern information about healthy lifestyles and about their responsibility to preserve their own health and that of their children. In these conditions, it is very important to organize with the help of mass media a wide-scale public education program.

AINA ULMANE, FIRST LADY OF LATVIA

What are the most important health issues facing women in your nation?

Women's health and health problems

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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WE'VE HEARD THAT...

The perfunctory diplomatic dinner got a bit of a lift Monday night when Veep Al Gore persuaded Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, his wife, Sara, and daughter, Dariga, to sing a few Kazakh folk songs. Nazarbayev, who had earlier in the day given President Clinton legal documents committing his nation to nonnuclear status, joked that "if I gave up 1,100 warheads today, this is nothing." He then sang two folk songs with his family, and Dariga sang one alone. The audience applauded wildly.

To Rep. Martin Hoke's comments about a Washington producer's "beega" continue to plague him back home. The Cleveland Plain Dealer, which has not tactically kept the story alive for a couple of weeks, now names a secretary at an Ohio law firm who claims that last year Hoke pinched her in the thigh and called her a "a sexy little thing." Hoke unequivocally denies it ever happened.

"Blue Chips" -- the new Nick Nolte basketball flick -- almost didn't make it to the big screen. The original negative of the flick was being processed when it was drenched in mud and water during last month's massive earthquake in California. Director William Friedkin considered shelving the film but instead had the film reproduction folks at Technicolor clean it frame by frame. It opens here Friday.

One of the 120 winning bids in an auction of old Concorde seats came from Alexandria's Ben Rich, an American Airlines pilot who forked over \$250 and who has put the chairs in his living room. British Airways, which is in the midst of updating the supersonic jet, put the old chairs up for bid recently and donated the proceeds to charity.

Robin Williams, in Paris to promote "Mrs. Doubtfire," rented 22 (that's right, 22) videos to be delivered to his hotel one recent weekend. Most were

MAPS

Kazakhstan



EVENTS IN ALMATY

KAZAKHSTAN - ALMATY SCENESETTER

Early history. Almaty stands on the site of the Silk Road oasis of Almatu that was besieged by the Mongols and destroyed in the 13th century. The Russians built the frontier post of Verney on the site in 1854 and settled Cossacks (Slavs from western Russia and Ukraine) and Siberian peasants around the fort. By 1877, Verney's population was 12,000. The town was flattened by earthquakes in 1887 and 1911. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the city was a place of exile for many dissidents in the Russian empire, including Leon Trotsky.

Soviet history. The city was renamed Alma-Ata ("father of apples") in 1921 and became the capital of Soviet Kazakhstan in 1928. The city was connected to Siberia in 1930 by the Turkestan-Siberia railroad. Alma-Ata grew quickly during World War II when factories were relocated there from the Nazi-threatened western USSR; many Slavs joined in the exodus and came to Kazakhstan to work in Alma-Ata's factories. Entire communities of ethnic Koreans in the Far East and ethnic Germans in the Soviet Volga German republic were forcibly resettled to Kazakhstan during the war due to Stalin's paranoia that they would sabotage the Soviet war effort. Most remained in Kazakhstan after the war. Ethnic Kazakhs (the Turkic nomads who inhabited the territory of Kazakhstan) submitted quietly to Soviet rule, in spite of the deaths of millions of people during years of famine caused by Stalin's forced collectivization of the Kazakhs in the 1930's.

Riots in 1986. In 1986, thousands in Alma-Ata protested Moscow's replacement of an ethnic Kazakh by an ethnic Russian as the head of Kazakhstan's Communist Party. Riots ensued and police killed several students and injured hundreds. In 1989, Alma-Ata was the center of a successful campaign to stop Soviet nuclear testing at the Semipalatinsk test range in northern Kazakhstan. The city was renamed Almaty after independence in 1991.

Move to new capital. In 1994, President Nazarbayev decided to move the country's capital to the northern city of Akmola, the former Soviet provincial city of Tselinograd and center of Khrushchev's ill-fated virgin lands program that was intended to turn Kazakhstan's northern steppes into the breadbasket of the USSR. The official opening of Akmola as Kazakhstan's capital, originally scheduled for late-October, has been rescheduled for early December. Almaty is expected to remain Kazakhstan's commercial and cultural capital. In reality, much of the government will continue to function in Almaty until the necessary infrastructure can be constructed in Akmola.

City's setting. Almaty is a pleasant city, with wide tree-lined streets, large parks and lots of green space. Almaty does suffer from smog from coal-fired heating plants and automobile traffic, sometimes obscuring the view of the spectacular Tien Shen ("heavenly") mountains that rise majestically along the city's southern fringe. Most of the city's architecture is low-rise, due to the danger of earthquakes.

City's population. Almaty's population of 1.3 million reflects the country's diverse ethnic make-up -- about 45 percent are Kazakhs, 35 percent are Slavs, and 20 percent are of other ethnic origins. The overwhelming majority of Almaty's citizens speak Russian as their first language, although Kazakh is increasingly heard on the streets of the city. Very few people speak English. All professions are represented in Almaty, but the majority of the population works in government, service industries, businesses, or education.

Foreign population. Almaty's new Western businesses and growing expatriate community give the city the feel of a boom town. There are more than 3,500 U.S. citizens resident in Kazakhstan; of whom over 2,400 live in Almaty. More than 80 U.S. firms have resident offices in Almaty. Most American businesses in Almaty are involved in the oil and gas or the minerals sector, but an increasing number of service industries (banks, accounting firms, and law firms) and retail businesses are opening.

KAZAKHSTAN - ARRIVAL STATEMENT

- I am so pleased to begin my visit to Central Asia here in Kazakhstan, a multi-ethnic nation of vast spaces and vast promise for the future.
- Kazakhstan is in the midst of remaking itself, its people set firmly on the road to economic and democratic reform, and to reestablishing strong ties to the world at large.
- On reflection, this is certainly not surprising. Almaty was an important oasis on the old Silk Road, and the trade of goods and ideas is intrinsic to Kazakhstani culture.
- Like Kazakhstanis, Americans love the challenge and excitement of intellectual and commercial exchange. We are working together to help Kazakhstan manage its tremendous energy resources, develop a free market economy, and cultivate democratic institutions.
- Our two nations share as well the common goals of peace and prosperity for Central Asia, a region coming into its own as we move together into the next century.
- Over the next two days, I look forward to meeting not only with President and Mrs. Nazarabyev, but also with a variety of individuals and organizations representing the broad spectrum of Kazakhstani culture.
- This is an exciting time for Kazakhstan and I happy to be able to share in the experience and in helping to build strong, friendly ties between the people of the United States and Kazakhstan.

KAZAKHSTAN - DEPARTURE STATEMENT

- My visit to Kazakhstan has been all I had hoped it would be. I had so many opportunities to meet and talk with Kazakhstanis from all walks of life, all working selflessly to build their nation.
- I want to thank President and Mrs. Nazarbayev for their generous hospitality and the warmth of their greeting, a kindness of spirit I felt in each Kazakhstani I was fortunate to meet.
- My thanks go out as well to the fine team at the American Embassy. Ambassador Jones and her colleagues made us feel at home and worked very hard to ensure that this was a productive and pleasurable visit.
- It was my special pleasure to address the LIANA-sponsored Central Asian Conference on "Women in Politics." It is truly gratifying to see Kazakhstan's women playing an integral, leading role in Kazakhstan's political and economic life.
- I was also very happy to meet the representatives of the Kazakhstani Association of Youth Leaders. To see Kazakhstan's young people and future leaders so caught up in striving to make Kazakhstan a better place certainly bodes well for the future.
- My visit has made it all the more clear that Kazakhstanis share with Americans a positive sense of what can be accomplished with hard work and dedication to principles of equality and fair play.
- Kazakhstan has tremendous natural resources that will serve as an important foundation for the nation's future prosperity.
- But I leave here convinced that it is the Kazakhstani people who are its most important resource. The American people look forward to continue working together with our Kazakhstani friends in their efforts to build a strong, prosperous, and democratic Kazakhstan.
- Thank you again for the wonderful visit.

Personalities Likely To Meet The First Lady, By Site:

Site: Women in Politics Conference

Personalities: Saule Kenesbayeva, Director, LIANA women's association.

Site: State Museum of Kazakhstan

Personalities: Yermek Zhangeldin, museum director.

Site: Women's Wellness Center

Personalities: (a) Zhamilya Nugmanova, Regional Director, American International Health Alliance (Central Asia), (b) Tamara Chuvakova, Chief Neonatologist, Ministry of Health.

Site: Kazakhstan Association of Youth Leaders

Personalities: (a) Natalya Bakhmutova, Executive Director, Kazakhstan Association of Youth Leaders, (b) Yelena Vinogradova, Coordinator for Civic Education, Kazakhstan Association of Youth Leaders, (c) Alia Telemtayeva, President, Kazakhstan Association of Youth Leaders

Site: GOK-hosted reception

Personalities: (a) President and Mrs. Nursultan Nazarbayev. (b) prime minister Nurlan Balgimbayev, (c) Foreign Minister and Mrs. Kasimzhomart Tokayev, (d) Chairman of the State Committee for Investments Akhmetzhan Yesimov, (e) Yerzhan Utembayev, Director, Agency for Strategic Planning, (f) Defense Minister Serik Altynbayev, (g) Economy Minister Umirzak Shukeyev, (h) Omirbek Baigeldy, Chairman of the Senate, (i) Marat Ospanov, Chairman of the Majilis (lower house of Parliament).

Site: Luncheon at Ambassador's Residence

Personalities: (a) Valentina Sivryukova, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Protection, (b) Zinaida Fedotova, Senator, (c) Raisa Sher, Member of Parliament, (d) Liyazat Ishmukhamedova, President, Association of Single Mothers, (e) Maisiya Kaipozarova, Director, United Nations Gender Center, (f) Irina Katseyeva-Chernolovskaya, independent journalist, (g) Saule Abdigapparova, President, Association for Youth Assistance, (h) Olga Bakhareva, President, Almaty

Special Olympics Federation, (i) Raushan Sarsembayeva, President, Association of Businesswomen of Kazakhstan, (j) Svetlana Sinitskaya, President, Association of Women Journalists of Kazakhstan.

EVENT PAPER: WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER

Scenesetter

The Women's Wellness Center is one of thirteen such centers being established in the New Independent States through U.S.-funded medical partnerships. The Almaty Women's Wellness Center is based on a model created by the American International Health Alliance's women's health task force and the Almaty-Tucson, Arizona hospital partnership.

Your visit marks the official opening following major renovations this summer made possible by USAID and medical personnel from Tucson.

Your motorcade will drive through the gates to the hospital grounds. This is a narrow roadway. The motorcade will proceed to the entrance of the Center. You will walk from your vehicle up approximately 10 stairs to the entrance. There are two doors, one single, one double, separated by a very small foyer. You will enter the reception/waiting room where the ribbon-cutting will take place. The corridor from that point leads directly to the education room, which is the last room on the right. There you will have an opportunity to meet with participants in a class on pre-natal care.

Background

The goal of the Women's Wellness Center is to provide comprehensive health care to women of all ages. This includes clinical prevention services, screening, and counseling. A key component of these centers is raising women's awareness of the important link between health and such behavioral risk factors as the use of tobacco and alcohol and poor nutrition.

*open doors to
better health for
all the # of
Kaz.*

Building upon four years of work in maternal and child health, the center began offering services in the summer of 1997 in the areas of sexually transmitted disease prevention and screening, breast and cervical cancer screening, family planning, and education/counseling services for women in all stages of the reproductive health cycle, from puberty through menopause. Unlike traditional family planning oriented centers, the Almaty Women's Wellness Center focuses on the whole woman; the center is not restricted to serving only the reproductive health needs of women, but includes general health services as well.

The center is designed as an adaptation of a Western women's services and education clinic and comprised of eight well-lit rooms: a registration and waiting area, two examination rooms, a procedure room, an operating room, an office for the director, a

separate office for nurses and midwives, and a health promotion/education room.

The Almaty Health Administration is responsible for all operating costs of the Center. In its initial year, the Center is expected to see approximately 100 clients per week.

Participants

Your official host will be Dr. Tamara Kurmangalievna Chumakova, director of the Center. Others likely to be present include Dr. Zhamilya Nugmanova, Central Asia Regional Director for the American International Health Alliance, and other Kazakhstanis who have played leading roles in health reform.

November 11 - Almaty, Kazakstan

Event: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Almaty Women's Wellness Center

- Talking points on this AIHA event will be provided by Jim Smith of AIHA.

- Should the First Lady wish to include remarks encompassing total USG humanitarian assistance through Operation Provide Hope, the following are suggested remarks:

o This Wellness Center, as part of the USAID funded partnership program, is a symbol of a total U.S. commitment to the people of Kazakstan that has been able to deliver over \$315 million in humanitarian assistance since 1992. NOTE: This is assistance from all sources including Department of State, Department of Defense Excess Property, USAID, and USDA.

o Since 1992, Operation Provide Hope, a continuing USG (Department of State/Department of Defense) transportation program funded through the Freedom Support Act, has worked with over 400 U.S. private volunteer organizations to deliver humanitarian commodity to the people of the Newly Independent State (NIS) during a critical period of change and transition. To date this program has delivered over \$142 million to the people of Kazakstan, assistance given from the heart from Americans throughout the United States. We estimate that through the end of this calendar year this Operation Provide Hope will have delivered over \$2 billion in humanitarian assistance to the twelve countries of the NIS.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002a. resume	Tamara Chuvakova (partial) (1 page)	nd	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13007

FOLDER TITLE:

The Trip of the First Lady to Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine.
November 9-18, 1997 (David) [Binder] [2]

2012-0869-S
kc955

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

[002a]

2 Greeters at Women's Wellness Center

NAME:

Tamara Kurmangalievna Chuvakova

DOB:

P6/(b)(6)

PRESENT POSITION:

Tamara Kurmangalievna Chuvakova is the head of the Women's Wellness Center and is also involved with other donors to help improve women's health in Kazakhstan. She does not speak English.

EDUCATION:

In 1962 graduated from Kazakh State Medical Institute, paediatric faculty with qualification of doctor-pediatricist (Diploma P 707615)

In 1969 by the decision of Almaty State Medical Institute council was awarded by academic degree of candidate of medical sciences

(ММД 02112901 МОНГОЛ)

In 1971 by the decision of attestation Commission at Ministry of Secondary and High Education of the USSR was given academic degree of senior worker (MNE 631482, Moscow). In 1988 by the decision of high Attestation Commission under the Border of Ministers of the USSR was given academic degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences (MD 005324, Moscow). In 1989 by the decision of State Committee of the USSR on people's education was given academic status of professor on chair of neonatology (PR 003868)

POST GRADUATE TRAINING:

In 1981 and 1985, one month each year-studying at neonatology chair of Central Institute of doctors training of Order of Lenin (CIDTOL) on CSI "Up-to-date questions of physiology and pathology of new-born period" for teachers (Moscow). Education in the USA (have certificates confirming successful completion of trainings):

- from 09.05. till 10.02.1993 " Lactation Management" San Diego, state California

- from 08.17. till 10.14.1994 "Maternal and child Health", Farmington, state Connecticut
- from 10.28 till 11.18.1995 " Methods of neonatologists" training in questions of organization of child-birth and childhood" Tucson, Arizona state
- from 02.12 till 02.14 1996 "Hospitals smile to a child"- UNICEF seminar and WHO, Sankr-Petersburg

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

At present is the chief of neonatology course, the chief-neonatologist of Ministry of Health of RK and coordinator of the Republican Program "Protection, promotion and supportion, breast-feeding". The teaching appointments is 35 years.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (other areas of interest)

Family planning and women's health.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002b. resume	Zhamilya Nugmanova (partial) (1 page)	nd	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13007

FOLDER TITLE:

The Trip of the First Lady to Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine,
November 9-18, 1997 (David) [Binder] [2]

2012-0869-S

kc955

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

[0026]

NAME: Zhamilya Nugmanova, MD, Ph.D.
ADDRESS: [REDACTED] P6/(b)(6)
480100, Almaty, Kazakhstan
PHONE: [REDACTED] P6/(b)(6)
(3272) 501370 (office)
FAX: (3272) 50 13 71
E-MAIL: Zhamilya@glas.apc.org
DOB: [REDACTED] P6/(b)(6)
MARITAL STATUS: Married, two children

PRESENT POSITION:

Zhamilya Nugmanova coordinates all the medical partnership programs in Central Asia. She is very active and involved in health care issue in Kazakhstan.

EDUCATION:

M.D., 1972, Almaty Medical Institute
Teacher of English, 1976, Almaty Institute of Foreign Languages
Candidate of Medical Sciences, 1975, Research Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology and Infectious Disease, Almaty
Specialization in Immunology and Allergology, Research Institute of Immunology, 1972, 1975, 1980, Moscow, Russia
Doctor of Medical Sciences, Ph.D. in Immunology and Allergology, 1988, Kiev Medical Institute, Kiev, Ukraine
Specialization in Internal Medicine, 1989, Almaty Institute of Continuing Education
UNICEF Workshop on Qualitative Methods of Data Collection, 1990, Braslov, Romania
Specialization in Physical Therapy, 1991, Canadian College of Natural Healing, Ottawa, Canada
WHO Workshops on Food and Health Data, on Nutrition Policy-Making, 1990, 1991, 1993, Almaty, Moscow
Specialization in Health Administration, 1995, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Sept. 1995-Present
AIHA Regional-Director for Central Asia

Oct. 1994-Sept. 1995

Deputy Secretary General on Science. National Academy of Sciences
of Kazakhstan

March 1989-Oct. 1994

Head, Department of Immunology and Food Allergy, Research
Institute of Nutrition, Almaty

Oct. 1979-March 1989

Senior Researcher, Research Institute of Epidemiology,
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, MOH, Almaty

Jan. 1977-Oct. 1979

Academic Secretary, Research Institute of Epidemiology,
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Almaty

Sept. 1975-Jan. 1977

Junior Researcher, Research Institute of Epidemiology,
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Almaty

Sept. 1972-Sept. 1975

Post-Graduate Student, Research Institute of Epidemiology,
Microbiology and Infectious Disease, Almaty

LANGUAGES:

Kazakh Native

Russian Perfectly

English Fluent

Experience with WordPerfect, Word, Windows, Excel

ALMATY, KAZAKSTAN

EVENT: Ribbon Cutting and Visit to USAID Funded Women's Wellness Center with First Lady of Kazakhstan

DATE OF EVENT: November 11, 1997
TIME of EVENT: 12:00 pm-12:45 PM
DURATION: 45 minutes
LOCATION: Perinatal Center
11 Zhubanova
Almaty, Kazakstan 480084
Tel: (3272) 23 82 28
Fax: (3272) 24 15 60

CENTER DIRECTOR: Dr. Tamara Chuvakova

AIHA CONTACTS: Washington DC: James P Smith, AIHA Executive Dir.
Tel: (202) 789-1136 Fax: (202) 789-1277
Almaty: Zhamilya Nugmanova, AIHA Regional Dir.
Tel: (0117-3272)501-370; (0117-3272)335-240
Fax: (0117-3272)501-371; (0117-3275)811-446

BACKGROUND: ALMATY WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER

Under a cooperative agreement with USAID to develop and support partnerships between health care institutions in the US and their counterparts in the NIS, AIHA and the Almaty-Tucson partnership have developed a model comprehensive women's wellness center that is scheduled for official opening on November 11, 1997.

The Almaty Women's Wellness Center is based on a common model created by a women's health care task force drawn from twelve AIHA sponsored partnerships. The model has been adapted and implemented by the Almaty-Tucson Hospital Partnership. As in the case of its sister women's health centers in the NIS, the Almaty Center is a "joint venture" made possible by significant local contributions. As its contribution to this partnership effort, Almaty City Health Administration has provided space for the Center at the Almaty Perinatal Center and undertaken significant renovations roughly equal in value to the US contribution (Tucson and USAID/AIHA) in equipment and supplies of approximately \$100,000. The Center is designed as an adaptation of an ambulatory western women's center and comprised of seven well-lighted rooms; a registration and waiting area, two exam rooms, a procedure room, an office for the director, a separate office for nurses and midwives, and a health education

classroom. In keeping with the partnership program's commitment to sustainable change, the Almaty City Health Administration is responsible for all operating costs of the Center. In its initial year, the Center is expected to see approximately 80 patients per week for services and a larger number through its educational program.

Building upon four years of partnership activity in maternal and child health, the Center began offering services in the Summer of 1997 in the area of sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and screening, breast and cervical cancer screening, family planning, and education and counseling services for women in all stages of the reproductive health cycle, from puberty through menopause. Unlike traditional family planning oriented programs and centers, the Almaty Women's Wellness Center focuses on the whole woman; the Center is not restricted to serving only the reproductive health needs of women, but includes general health services; screening and education and health promotion activities in areas ranging from prenatal care to menopause. The Center staff has been trained to treat each patient with respect and provide access to information to allow for self-care and informed decision-making. As such, the Women's Wellness Center serves as a new model for healthcare delivery which reduces duplication and fragmentation of health services in order to provide better health care and easier access to services for a population group which has often been ignored or underserved.

The staff of the Center has been trained in modern primary care screening and services, contraceptive technology, health education and promotion, center management and a "customer" service approach to healthcare. This has been accomplished through partnership exchanges in 1996 and 1997, a series of AIHA workshops for the twelve centers that make up this initiative, and through other USAID training efforts. In fact, the Center represents an important effort to integrate a variety of programs that have been introduced by US and other donor country and international community supported NGOs and programs. The Center's "uniqueness" lies in the integration and packaging of these services in a manner which addresses the needs of women comprehensively and efficiently and which can be replicated by health officials in Kazakhstan and in other NIS countries on a broad scale.

In early 1997, a team of women's health clinicians from Tucson worked with Center staff in Almaty. In April, four staff members traveled to Tucson for three-weeks of intensive training in overall program management and team building as well as specific services related to STI prevention, screening and treatment, contraceptive management and counseling and gynecological procedures. The staff returned to Almaty to begin seeing patients and implemented a prenatal education program and post-delivery contraception consultations. Donated contraceptives distributed through USAID have widened the method options the

center is able to offer its patients. At the completion of renovation activities in early summer, the Center began to receive needed supplies and equipment related to both service delivery and education programs. These included significant donations from the Tucson partners as well as new equipment purchased under AIHA's cooperative agreement with USAID. Transportation of both donated and purchased supplies and equipment has been provided through the US State Department's Office of the Coordinator for NIS Assistance.

In September a team of lab technicians from Tucson installed new lab equipment and instructed technicians in the use of the equipment and reagents. The improved laboratory will allow staff to process additional screening tests within their own facility and reduce time between testing and receipt of lab reports and diagnosis. In late October, the final shipment of equipment and supplies purchased with USAID funds was transported by the Office of the Coordinator and arrived at the Center. These include a new exam table and medical instruments as well as patient education and related multi-media equipment. The total value of the Tucson partners donations of equipment and supplies has been approximately \$50,000. An additional \$50,000 in equipment and supplies has been purchased by AIHA/USAID.

EVENT SUMMARY:

The visit to the Almaty Women's Wellness Center will include a brief VIP tour of the center (see detailed schedule and proposed list of participants), followed by a brief visit in the education room with patients of the Center who have participated in a range of educational classes. Upon completion of the tour, the First Lady will exit the Center for the ribbon cutting and initiation of the Center's opening ceremonies that will continue after the First Ladies' departure. At this point, the First Lady will have an opportunity to not only make a few remarks about the Center and its opening but also elaborate on other USG and USAID health and women related projects before departing. These would presumably include Project Provide Hope assistance as well as USAID programs including ABT health reform, other AIHA partnership activities in Almaty and Semipalatinsk, etc.

ALMATY, KAZAKSTAN – TUCSON, ARIZONA PARTNERSHIP

The primary partners in Almaty are the Institute for Pediatrics and Children's Surgery and the Almaty City Emergency Hospital. The US partners include eight hospitals in Tucson, with Tucson Medical Center serving as the coalition organizing partner. This partnership builds upon an existing Sister City relationship between Almaty and Tucson.

In addition to the Women's Health and Wellness Center visited by the First Lady, general areas of partnership focus include toxicology, perinatology, infection control, nursing education and emergency medical services.

Infection Control: Training programs in infection control have been carried out throughout the Republic, training approximately 300 nurses and leading to the creation of a new position of Head Nurse for Infection Control at all 11 Almaty hospitals. The Tucson partners have also been asked to assist in implementing an Oblast wide pilot study, utilizing a CDC based surveillance reporting system. When this project is complete, the partners hope to participate in republic-wide revision of infection control laws and regulations.

Nursing Reform: Working in collaboration with the partners, the Almaty Medical College has developed and implemented a revised and expanded four year nursing curriculum that provides expanded clinical practice and administrative/managerial training. The curriculum is currently in use by nine medical colleges through Kazakhstan.

EMS Center: Almaty has been designated as one of eight AIHA-sponsored EMS Training Center sites in the NIS. Over thirty-five 80-hour courses have been conducted since the Almaty center opened on October 1, 1994, with over 1000 ambulance team members trained thus far (including physicians, nurses and feldshers), as well as 225 medical students and 30 rescue team personnel.

Model Perinatal Center: The partners have established a Model Perinatal Center to demonstrate clinical and educational services to improve pregnancy outcomes. The Center performs an average of 22 deliveries per day in a family-centered delivery unit. has implemented "rooming in" for babies with their mothers and reduced lengths of stay for both vaginal and cesarean deliveries.

Toxicology Information Center: Partners have established a Toxicology Information Center which physicians from across Kazakhstan can contact in case of emergency 24-hours a day to receive qualified consultation on first aid for poisoning and drug overdose.

OTHER AIHA ACTIVITIES: In addition to the Tucson-Almaty partnership, AIHA also supports another partnership in Kazakhstan between the Methodist Health System and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and hospitals in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. Programs include cancer screening and registry, nursing, emergency medical care, women's health, management, pathology and continuing education.

SUMMARY PROGRAM DATA

Total Partnership Exchange Days: 3,591 days
Value of In-Kind Partner Contributions: \$2.3 million

EVENT PAPER - MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AND MRS. NAZARBAYEV

Scenesetter

Your meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev and his wife, Sara Nazarbayeva, will serve as your official welcome to Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev himself will be meeting President Clinton in Washington on November 18 in connection with the annual session of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Joint Commission, chaired by Nazarbayev and Vice President Gore. Nazarbayev will also visit Houston, San Francisco and New York.

Your meeting will take place in a room adjacent to President Nazarbayev's office, in the presidency building. You will be met outside the entrance to the building by one of the Kazakhstani protocol officers and a presidential security officer, who will escort you up a marble staircase to elevators that will take you to the meeting room.

Alternatively, you may be met personally by President and Mrs. Nazarbayev and given a guided tour of the presidency's museum and meeting rooms prior to your actual meeting. You should expect to be invited to make a few remarks to waiting press after the meeting in a large reception area near the meeting room; President and Mrs. Nazarbayev are unlikely to join you for the press event. The meeting and the press event will be conducted in Russian and will be interpreted sequentially.

Background

The presidency is a modern glass and white marble edifice that occupies an impressive site overlooking Republic Square. The Tien Shen mountains provide a stunning backdrop. The building was originally designed during the Soviet era as a Lenin museum, but President Nazarbayev transformed it into a presidential office building after independence in 1991. The building houses a museum and several ornate meeting rooms, and is the workplace for the president's personal staff and key advisors.

Brenda

TALKING POINTS FOR FLOTUS COURTESY CALL
ON PRESIDENT AND MRS. NAZARBAYEV

-- IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE IN KAZAKHSTAN AND MEET WITH YOU TODAY. THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME, AS KAZAKHSTAN RESHAPES ITS SOCIETY TO ENSURE DEMOCRACY AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS.

-- IN MY MEETINGS TODAY, I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM OF THE PEOPLE OF KAZAKHSTAN. IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW, AND A FREE MARKET ECONOMY.

-- THE U.S. IS PLEASED TO BE HELPING KAZAKHSTAN, THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DIRECT COMMERCIAL INVESTMENTS, TO MAKE THIS TRANSITION. IN PARTICULAR, WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS THAT WILL BUILD A STRONG AND INDEPENDENT KAZAKHSTAN.

-- ALTHOUGH OUR COUNTRIES ARE FAR APART ON THE MAP, OUR SHARED DEMOCRATIC VALUES HAVE BROUGHT US CLOSE TOGETHER IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD. AS A RESULT OF OUR COOPERATION, THE U.S. HAS COME TO REGARD KAZAKHSTAN AS A RELIABLE PARTNER AND A CLOSE FRIEND IN THE REGION.

-- PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT THEY ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU NEXT WEEK DURING THE U.S.-KAZAKHSTAN JOINT COMMISSION. YOUR VISIT WILL STRENGTHEN THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

-- THE PRESIDENT AND I ARE ALSO PLEASED THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU BOTH TO WASHINGTON SO SOON, AND SHOW YOU THE SAME WARM HOSPITALITY THAT YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF KAZAKHSTAN HAVE EXTENDED TO ME.

KAZAKHSTAN: TALKING POINTS: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
NAZARBAYEV

- It is a pleasure for me to be here in Kazakhstan and to meet with you today. This is an exciting time, as Kazakhstan reshapes its society to ensure freedom and prosperity for all its citizens.
- In my meetings this morning, I have been impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of the people of Kazakhstan. Clear that they are committed to democracy and a market economy that offers opportunity to all.
- The U.S. is pleased to be helping Kazakhstan, through technical assistance and direct commercial investments to make this transition.
- Although our countries are very far apart on the map, our common interests have brought us closer together in the six years since independence. As a result of our cooperation, the U.S. has come to regard Kazakhstan as a reliable partner and a close friend in the region.
- We welcome your recognition that political and economic reforms are essential to build a strong and independent Kazakhstan.
- President Clinton and Vice President Gore asked me to tell you that they are looking forward to meeting you next week during the U.S.-Kazakhstan Joint Commission. Your visit will strengthen the partnership between our countries.
- The President and I are also pleased that we will be able to welcome you both to Washington so soon, and show you the same warm hospitality that you and the people of Kazakhstan have extended to me.

EVENT PAPER: CENTRAL MUSEUM VISIT

Scenesetter

Your trip to the Central Museum will be your primary exposure to Kazakhstani culture. You will be met outside the museum by museum director Yermek Zhangel'din and escorted through the main doorway into the central foyer to view an exhibition of Kazakhstani music and dance by performers in native costume. You will be presented with flowers at that time by one of the performers, usually a young girl (five minutes).

Your tour will start inside a ceremonial yurt (nomadic tent) in the main foyer, where a guide will describe Kazakhstani traditions and life on the steppe in English (three minutes). You will then exit the yurt and proceed to hall number two, which houses the museum's main collection of Kazakhstani cultural artifacts (30 minutes). After the tour, you will be asked to sign the guest registry in the main foyer. You may be presented with gifts here (traditional robes, rugs, or books).

Background

The Central Museum is located directly across from the presidential palace. It is the main cultural and historical showcase for Kazakhstan. In October, the museum submitted an application to participate in an international partnership program with the University of Pennsylvania. The program allows participants to collaborate on exhibition planning and collection management, and provides for exchanges of curators and other museum personnel. The program is supported by the American Association of Museums.

KAZAKHSTAN: TALKING POINTS: CENTRAL MUSEUM

- Preserving the cultural heritage of a nation is a challenging and crucial task, especially in such rapidly changing times.
- The people of Kazakhstan suffered greatly in the past century, but despite persecution, collectivization and repression, your culture has been kept alive in all of its richness and diversity.
- I hope that this museum's relationships with American institutions continues to grow, so that the rich cultural heritage of Kazakhstan can be shared with my country and the rest of the world.

Discussion w/ Kazakhstan Youth Leaders

EVENT PAPER: STUDENT LEADERS ROUNDTABLE

Scenesetter

You will meet approximately twenty local student leaders from the Kazakhstan Association of Youth Leaders (KAYL) for a roundtable discussion at a local school. The roundtable would give you the opportunity to interact with young people as they confront an issue of concern, discuss its ramifications, and plan an activity to get students involved in addressing the problem. The roundtable discussion will be in Russian with translation. The setting will be a casual circle of chairs in a school meeting room. The student leaders will begin with introductions and then ask you to make a few remarks. A general discussion will follow.

The event will take place at Almaty school number 55 -- two of the school's classrooms serve as KAYL's headquarters. The school is an attractive older building constructed in the 1950's near the Almaty city center and has been recently renovated. It is both a primary and secondary school with all classes conducted in Russian.

Background

KAYL is based on a California leadership training model for students and follows the motto "Youth Teaching Youth". The group concentrates on leadership training and civic education. Natalya Bakmytova and Elena Vinogradova, both teachers by profession, are the group's adult leaders. KAYL's student president is 17-year old Alia Telemtayeva and its student leaders range from 15-22 years of age.

KAYL has proposed discussion of either human rights or the environment. Each year before the December 10 anniversary of the passage of the UN declaration of Human Rights, KAYL members discuss human rights in Kazakhstan and the world, and plan a related activity. You could lead off with some thoughts about the universal nature of human rights and would hear how Kazakhstani students view the subject.

Environment is an issue of particular relevance given the legacy of Soviet nuclear testing on Kazakhstani territory.

The students would discuss their concerns and plan a related activity. You would be invited to lead off the discussion with a few remarks on the global nature of environmental protection. (In April, KAYL and USUS co-sponsored an Earth Day clean-up of a popular Almaty picnic spot on the banks of the little Almaty river.) This discussion could be expanded to

include Kazakhstanis and Peace Corps volunteers involved in the global program.

Youth Leaders Opening Remarks for Mrs. Clinton

-- Thank you for allowing me to join your meeting today.

-- Youth leadership organizations like yours make a real difference. They teach young people to be confident, articulate leaders with ideas about how to improve our world -- both locally and globally.

-- American youth leaders are interested in many of the same issues that you are -- human rights, the environment, education, and children's rights -- to name just a few.

-- In our American tradition, it is important to do more than just talk about issues. You need to join together with others who are concerned about an issue, come up with a strategy, and get out there and make a difference.

-- I suspect that you share this philosophy -- or you would not be here today.

-- I understand that in addition to leadership training, building a civil society is a top priority for your group -- and a priority for many Kazakhstanis.

-- In my view, the first step toward building a civil society is to participate. Get involved in a project. Reach out to the community. Clean a nearby stream. Visit a hospital. Meet with your local officials to discuss an area of concern.

-- I'd like to hear what your thoughts are -- about your organization, about issues of concern for Kazakhstani young people, about your hopes for the future. Because you are the future.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. list	Association of Young Leaders (partial) (1 page)	11/06/1997	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13007

FOLDER TITLE:

The Trip of the First Lady to Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine,
November 9-18, 1997 (David) [Binder] [2]

2012-0869-S
kc955

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LEADERS
youth public organization

11.06.97 No.2

36 Auezova Str., Almaty, Kazakhstan,
Phone: 7(3272)420468
e-mail:nat@leader.almaty.kz

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING
AT THE ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LEADERS**

1. Bakhmutova, Natalia Ivanovna
2. Vinogradova, Yelena Sergeyevna
3. Telemtayeva, Aliya
4. Zhaksembayeva, Nadyezhda
5. Kan, Victor
6. Bakhmutoy, Olyeg
7. Gaynutdinov, Maxim
8. Oleynik, Yulya
9. Skakov, Nariman
10. Marchenko, Lyena
11. Rakhmankulova, Yulya
12. Pogodayeva, Natasha
13. Mashbayev, Serik
14. Pak, Lyena
15. Bondaryev, Ivan
16. Pindus, Yulya
17. Kravtsov, Alexey
18. Paysov, Yuriy Petrovich
19. Kosophidi, Dasha
20. Khoroshyev, Anton
21. Mitin, Alexey
22. Musiyenko, Ira
23. Abdygaparova, Bakhyt
24. Ivanov, Andrey
25. Dundukova, Larisa
26. Kosova, Inna Ivanovna
27. Kazachkov, Misha
28. Kartashova, Nadyezhda Ivanovna
29. Motovilova, Olga Yakovlyevna
30. Pichugov, Yuriy Vasilyevich
31. Primbetova, Yelyena Georgiyevna

P6/(b)(6)

Discussion

Audience

KAZAKHSTAN: TALKING POINTS: STUDENT ROUNDTABLE

- I envy all of you your position right now. You are moving into adulthood at a time when you can each individually work to shape the future of your country and influence the dramatic changes taking place around you-in a way that few people in history have had the opportunity to do.
- As you have learned, those who wait until they are older to act will not solve the problems of the future. It is those who take advantage of their youth and energy to tackle the problems they see now who will lead this country and this region toward a better future.
- The fact that the KAYL is based on a project that took place in California illustrates the extent to which the walls between you and your peers in the U.S. have been torn down.
- With dedicated young people taking responsibility for their own futures on all around the globe, I am confident that when power passes from my generation's leaders to yours, the transition will be smooth and the future bright.

EVENT PAPER - U.S. COMMUNITY MEET AND GREET

Scenesetter

You will be given an opportunity to meet with the official Embassy community and express your appreciation for the work performed on behalf of the U.S. government. Foreign Service nationals, USAID contractors and private American business people (plus their families) will also be invited.

You will be escorted by the Ambassador from Furmanova Street, passing through the Embassy front entrance and lobby, then exiting into the Embassy courtyard. A podium will be installed under the courtyard canopy. You will be introduced to the assembled community by the Ambassador and then deliver some prepared remarks. Following your remarks, you will be escorted by the Ambassador to greet the community members who will be lining the sidewalks and parking lot of the courtyard. Photographs may be taken as you are speaking and as you pass through the audience.

At the conclusion you will be escorted by the Ambassador back through the main lobby to the front entrance.

Background

The U.S. Embassy opened in February 1992 and moved to its present site in October of that year. The chancery was built at the beginning of the century as a merchant's residence and later became a medical museum. The two-story building and its adjoining annex are located at 99/97a Furmanova Street in central Almaty. The main chancery building now houses the offices of the Ambassador, political/economic section, the defense attache office, the information programs center, and the regional security office; the annex houses the consular section, administrative section, the regional medical office, the foreign agricultural service, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The U.S. Information Agency, the Peace Corps, and the Foreign Commercial Service are located at other sites in downtown Almaty.

Participants

The Ambassador, U.S. mission employees (both American and Kazakhstani), USAID contractors, and the American business community. Family members are also invited

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HEADLINE: COLLEGE GRAD OPTS FOR PEACE CORPS AFTER SURVEYING THE JOB MARKET

BYLINE: IAN MILLER

BODY:

When Ian Miller surveyed the job market after he graduated from college last year, the Irwin resident decided it would be wise to get away. Rather than kick back on an extended vacation in a tropical paradise, he enthusiastically accepted a difficult challenge.

Miller joined the Peace Corps and will leave later this month on his first assignment - to live and work in Kazakhstan, an impoverished central Asian nation that previously was part of the former Soviet Union.

In a message to readers, Miller looks ahead to his overseas adventure.

Last April, with my graduation from Penn State pending and the life in the real world drawing near, I decided to apply to the Peace Corps. I was surprised at the very tedious and competitive process, in which one of four are accepted. I submitted an in-depth application, essays, resumes, transcripts, and various references. My name went from Penn State to New York to Washington, D.C. I was questioned and prodded by doctors and dentists, fingerprinted by police, and asked to provide a list of any illegal activities in which I had taken part. My application was scrutinized by interviewers, recruiters, doctors, lawyers, and security specialists.

Finally, almost a year after this process began, I received a letter stating I had been selected, out of a very competitive pool, to live and work for little more than room and board, in an impoverished Third World country. Perhaps I'm crazy, but I accepted the invitation with much enthusiasm.

I will be leaving May 29 for Kazakhstan, a part of the former Soviet Union, and a country I'm not sure I'd heard of before. It is located in Central Asia, and is bordered by Siberian Russia to the north and China to the east. For the most part, it is in the middle of nowhere.

To my surprise, Kazakhstan is a huge country, and has a great supply of natural resources and industrial potential. Unfortunately, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, many of the transportation and supply channels have been cut off, leaving the country and its citizens in economic hardship. The people have an average income of only \$ 1,600 per year. Poverty in warm weather is difficult enough, but when the winter temperatures often dip down to 40 degrees below zero, the aches of being poor become even harder to bear. To make matters worse, there are often weeks where residents are without electricity, heat, or hot water. It is not shocking then, that there is a high rate of alcoholism. The honest ones say they drink to forget about their problems, while others are

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, May 18, 1997

more sheepish and say they drink to stay warm, or even to 'protect themselves from the radiation.' The country is plagued with the environmental problems of nuclear waste and contaminated rivers.

I realized when I joined the Peace Corps the work would be extremely difficult. There is much work to do, and much adversity blocking the way to progress: poor conditions, lack of supplies, and apathy are barriers, to name a few. But the chance to make a difference and the opportunity to help are the main reasons I have accepted the invitation.

To aid the people of Kazakhstan in establishing themselves on the world market, I have been asked to teach English, recognized as the international business language. I will help instructors in learning modern teaching methods, and will attempt to establish nationwide networks to better allow teachers to share their ideas and limited resources.

But possibly more than anything, I will be looked upon as an ambassador from the west. For many, I will be the first American they have ever seen. As such, I will have to discuss our politics, culture, and the diversity of the American people; our virtues and as our vices. I also will have to persuade the Kazaks to understand that Michael Jackson is not the zenith of American music.

In similar fashion, I will have the great fortune to observe and absorb a very foreign culture and land. I will sample the food, such as roasted sheep's head or, the national dish, horse stew and dumplings (yum). I will learn their languages, dance to their music, attend their festivals, and, hopefully even have the opportunity to ride a camel.

This cultural exchange, exploring the similarities and differences between us is what excites me most. I look forward to seeing the puzzled faces when I tell them that the skin color of Americans range from black to white to yellow or red, or that women are looked at in status equal that of men (legally, at least), or that homosexuals are no longer looked upon by many as sick and perverted creatures.

The next two years of my life will be spent in Kazakhstan not to force 'superior American views' upon others, but to communicate and share ideas, and, most importantly, to learn. There will be many problems and disagreements. But because we all enjoy the benefits and burdens of being human, I believe any differences will be lost when we are able to find a common ground. This sounds very idealistic, I realize, but I think that with patience and compassion, ideals can become reality.

And now, as the day of my departure draws near, the many emotions swirling in my head are heightened. I am excited and anxious of the adventure that lies in front of me, not to mention a little bit scared. I'm happy at having been given this opportunity. I am sad about leaving my family and friends behind, and lonely that I must face this adventure on my own. However, I'm ready for it, and can't wait to dive in and explore.

LOAD-DATE: May 24, 1997

EVENT PAPER: GOK-HOSTED RECEPTION

Scenesetter

At the conclusion of your official schedule, the government of Kazakhstan will host a reception in your honor. This will be a valuable opportunity to meet a broad spectrum of Kazakhstani political and social leaders. Some of the guests are likely to accompany President Nazarbayev on his trip to Washington November 15-18 for the U.S.-Kazakhstan Joint Commission meeting.

The government has not yet chosen a site for the reception. There are a number of suitable sites that are often used for official receptions, including the Ankara hotel (a Turkish-owned five-star hotel in the city center); the House of Receptions (Dom Priyomov), the reception hall for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; or Friendship House (Dom Druzhbi), a reception and conference hall situated next to the Dostyk hotel in the city center. The reception will last 60-90 minutes.

Guests

The reception will likely be attended by most of the senior members of the government, including President and Mrs. Nursultan Nazarbayev; newly named Prime Minister Nurlan Balgimbayev; Foreign Minister and Mrs. Kasimzhomart Tokayev; Chairman of the State Committee for Investments Akhmetzhan Yesimov; Yerzhan Utembayev, the Director of the Agency for Strategic Planning; Defense Minister Serik Altynbayev; Economy Minister Umirzak Shukeyev; Omirbek Baigeldie, the Chairman of the Senate; and Marat Ospanov, the Chairman of the Parliament.

KAZAKHSTAN: TALKING POINTS: GOVERNMENT RECEPTION

- I have had a very short time to appreciate a small portion of your wonderful country, and I think it is important to tell all of you how fascinating and enriching this trip has been.
- I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of Kazakhstan's past, present and future:
 - Through my visit to the Central Museum I gained a better understanding of the rich heritage that has carried this country through many generations and many trials.
 - At the reception held in my honor, I had the opportunity to interact with several women leaders who are very capably bringing the needs of women to the fore as this country finds its path through these years of change.
 - Finally, at my meeting with the KAYL, I was granted a brief glimpse into Kazakhstan's future, which, if the young people I met with this week continue their work, will be very bright indeed.
- Thank you for your warm hospitality and for sharing with me the diversity of your peoples and culture. My country too is one of great human diversity. In that, we find strength.
- TOAST: "Kazakhstan's greatest wealth is not its resources, but its people. It is by coming together as one nation that the people of Kazakhstan will achieve the vast potential that will enrich all your children's lives.