

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Chinese MFA Briefing on UNSYG's Visit to Beijing (6 pages)	04/03/1996	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: Conversation with Cheryl Carolus, ANC Deputy Secretary-General (6 pages)	06/24/1996	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1995 - Dec 1996 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:

[03/03/1996 - 07/19/1996]

2012-0094-F
ke3957

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]

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHCAA2884 0631324-UUUU--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P R 031323Z MAR 96
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHCB/AMEMBASSY PRAIA PRIORITY 0222
INFO: RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 9628
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RUETIAA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR 1995, CAPE VERDE

TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 STATE 042884

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SENSITIVE NOFORN FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CV, PHUM
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR 1995, CAPE VERDE

1. NOFORN/SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - ENTIRE TEXT. CLASSIFIED BY AF/W:MARCIA NORMAN, REASON (1.5D).
2. THIS CABLE PROVIDES THE FINAL VERSION OF THE 1995 COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES THAT WILL BE DELIVERED TO CONGRESS ON MARCH 4, WITH PUBLIC RELEASE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S DAILY BRIEFING ON MARCH 5 AT 12:30PM.
3. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REPORTS REMAIN ADMINISTRATIVELY CONTROLLED (SENSITIVE BY UNCLASSIFIED - NOFORN) UNTIL THEY ARE OFFICIALLY RELEASED. ONLY THE PUBLIC VERSION BECOMES RELEASABLE WHILE ALL EARLIER DRAFTS REMAIN CONTROLLED.
4. THE COUNTRY REPORTS ARE EMBARGOED UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICIAL RELEASE DATE. PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE TEXT OF THIS REPORT IS CLOSELY HELD IN ADVANCE OF THAT DATE AND TIME.
5. CAPE VERDE:

CAPE VERDE IS A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN WHICH CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS ARE SEARED BETWEEN PRESIDENT ANTONIO MASCARENHAS MONTEIRO, AN INDEPENDENT, AND PRIME MINISTER CARLOS WAHNON DE CARVALHO VEIGA, AND HIS PARTY, THE

MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY (MPD). THE MPD DOMINATES THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN WHICH POLITICAL PARTIES ARE REPRESENTED.

THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS THE POLICE, WHICH HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER. THERE WERE NO REPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED BY SECURITY FORCES.

CAPE VERDE HAS A MARKET-BASED ECONOMY BUT LITTLE INDUSTRY AND FEW EXPLOITABLE NATURAL RESOURCES. THE COUNTRY HAS A LONG HISTORY OF ECONOMICALLY DRIVEN EMIGRATION, PRIMARILY TO WESTERN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, AND RECEIPTS FROM CAPE VERDEANS ABROAD REMAIN AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF NATIONAL INCOME. EVEN IN YEARS OF OPTIMUM RAINFALL, THE COUNTRY CAN PRODUCE FOOD FOR ONLY 25 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION, RESULTING IN HEAVY RELIANCE ON INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID.

THE GOVERNMENT GENERALLY RESPECTED THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS, AND THE LAW AND JUDICIARY PROVIDE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DEALING WITH INSTANCES OF INDIVIDUAL ABUSE. HOWEVER, SOCIETAL DISCRIMINATION AND IN PARTICULAR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN CONTINUED TO BE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THE MISTREATMENT OF CHILDREN REMAINED A SERIOUS PROBLEM, EXACERBATED BY A POOR ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH PLACED STRESS ON LARGE FAMILIES IN SECURING FOOD, WATER, AND OTHER NECESSITIES. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED LEGISLATION TO AMELIORATE THESE PROBLEMS, IT FAILED TO ADOPT, IMPLEMENT, AND ENFORCE POLICIES DESIGNED TO ADDRESS THE MOST CRITICAL CHALLENGES. THERE WERE INSTANCES OF MEDIA SELF-CENSORSHIP.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SECTION 1

RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING

FREEDOM FROM:

A. POLITICAL AND OTHER EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING

THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF POLITICAL OR OTHER EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS.

B. DISAPPEARANCE

THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED DISAPPEARANCES.

C.

TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS SUCH PRACTICES, AND THERE WERE NO REPORTS THAT OFFICIALS EMPLOYED THEM.

D. ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTION, OR EXILE

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THE LAW STIPULATES THAT AUTHORITIES BRING CHARGES BEFORE A JUDGE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARREST. POLICE MAY NOT MAKE ARRESTS WITHOUT A COURT ORDER UNLESS A PERSON IS CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF COMMITTING A FELONY. IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, AND WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF A COURT OFFICIAL, AUTHORITIES MAY DETAIN PERSONS WITHOUT CHARGE FOR UP TO 5 DAYS. THESE LAWS ARE OBSERVED IN PRACTICE.

THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAS 40 DAYS TO PREPARE FOR TRIAL IN STATE SECURITY CASES, AND MAY DETAIN PERSONS UNTIL TRIAL OR FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 1 YEAR. THERE IS A FUNCTIONING SYSTEM OF BAIL.

THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF SECURITY DETENTIONS OR FORCED EXILE.

E. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL. A JUDICIARY INDEPENDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH GENERALLY PROVIDES DUE PROCESS RIGHTS, BUT THERE ARE SERIOUS DELAYS OWING TO UNDERSTAFFING.

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS COMPOSED OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE REGIONAL COURTS. THERE ARE FIVE SUPREME COURT JUDGES, INCLUDING ONE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, ONE APPOINTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND THREE APPOINTED BY THE HIGH COUNCIL OF MAGISTRATES. JUDGES ARE INDEPENDENT AND MAY

NOT BELONG TO A POLITICAL PARTY.

DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED TO BE INNOCENT; HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUBLIC, NONJURY TRIAL; TO COUNSEL; TO PRESENT WITNESSES; AND TO APPEAL VERDICTS. FREE COUNSEL IS PROVIDED FOR THE INDIGENT. REGIONAL COURTS ADJUDICATE MINOR DISPUTES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL IN RURAL AREAS. THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND LABOR APPOINTS LOCAL JUDGES, WHO ARE USUALLY PROMINENT LOCAL CITIZENS. DEFENDANTS MAY APPEAL REGIONAL COURT DECISIONS TO THE SUPREME COURT.

THE RIGHT TO AN EXPEDITIOUS TRIAL IS CONSTRAINED BY A SERIOUSLY OVERBURDENED JUDICIAL SYSTEM. A BACKLOG OF CASES ROUTINELY LEADS TO TRIAL DELAYS OF 6 MONTHS.

THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

F. ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE WITH PRIVACY, FAMILY, HOME, OR

CORRESPONDENCE

THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS SUCH PRACTICES, AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES RESPECT THESE PROHIBITIONS IN PRACTICE.

SECTION 2 RESPECT FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES, INCLUDING:

A. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR FREEDOM TO EXPRESS IDEAS BY WORDS, IMAGES, OR ANY OTHER MEANS, AND FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WITHOUT CENSORSHIP. THE GOVERNMENT GENERALLY RESPECTED THESE FREEDOMS IN PRACTICE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE HAS INCREASED CRITICISM BY INDEPENDENT POLITICAL FIGURES OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STATE-CONTROLLED TELEVISION, RADIO, AND PRINT MEDIA FOR THEIR FAILURE TO EXERCISE VIGOROUSLY THEIR MONITORING ROLE IN A MULTIPARTY SYSTEM.

JOURNALISTS ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REVEAL THEIR SOURCES. HOWEVER, SELF-CENSORSHIP WITHIN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL TELEVISION AND RADIO NETWORKS AS WELL AS THE STATE-OWNED NEWSPAPER NOVO JORNAL, INFLUENCES MEDIA CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT. JOURNALISTS IN GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES HAVE ALSO BEEN DEMOTED OR DISMISSED ALLEGEDLY FOR EXCEEDING THE BOUNDS OF ACCEPTED CRITICISM. IN THE CASE OF OPPOSITION MEDIA, PARTICULARLY NEWSPAPERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE SOUGHT TO USE THE COUNTRY'S STRICT LIBEL LAWS TO ATTACK CRITICS FOR PERCEIVED

UNJUSTIFIED CRITICISM.

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS AND THEIR NEWSPAPERS WERE, HOWEVER, SUCCESSFUL IN THE COURTS IN DEFENDING THEIR ACTIONS. IN ONE CASE, A COURT REJECTED THE ACCUSATIONS OF AN INFLUENTIAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER AGAINST THE NEWSPAPER OF THE MAJOR OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY. IN A SECOND LEGAL PROCEEDING INVOLVING AN EX-DIRECTOR OF THE SAME NEWSPAPER, THE INDIVIDUAL WAS EXONERATED OF TWO CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS AND FOUND GUILTY OF ONE CHARGE. THE CASE IS UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 STATE 042884

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UNDER APPEAL. IN TWO OTHER CASES CHALLENGING DISMISSALS FROM EMPLOYMENT WITH STATE-OWNED MEDIA COMPANIES, JOURNALISTS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING COMPENSATION AGAINST THE NATIONAL RADIO NETWORK AND THE PREDECESSOR TO THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPER. FINALLY, THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS INSTITUTED LEGAL ACTION TO OVERTURN HIS DISMISSAL FROM HIS POSITION. SEVERAL IMPORTANT CASES ARE PENDING WHICH, UPON RESOLUTION, WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON PRESS

FREEDOM.

GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION IS NOT NEEDED TO ESTABLISH NEWSPAPERS, OTHER PRINTED PUBLICATIONS, OR ELECTRONIC MEDIA. INDEPENDENT MEDIA OUTLETS EXPERIENCED NO DIRECT PRESSURE IN THEIR DAILY OPERATIONS OR BUSINESS ACTIVITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CATHOLIC RADIO STATION SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION TO BROADCAST ITS PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE NEWSCAST. THE NATIONAL RADIO STATION BROADCASTS LIVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS AND WAS HARSHLY CRITICIZED FOR ANNOUNCING THAT IT WAS CONSIDERING REDUCING SUCH COVERAGE. INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA, ASIDE FROM THE EXAMPLES CITED ABOVE, STRONGLY AND CONSISTENTLY CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND OFFICIALS

B. FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION AND WITHOUT HARASSMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, CIVIC ACTION GROUPS, AND NUMEROUS OTHERS EXERCISED THIS RIGHT WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE OR OBJECTION. OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES ROUTINELY IGNORED THE LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT OFFICIALS BE ADVISED BEFORE THE HOLDING OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXPERIENCED NO RETALIATORY OR PUNITIVE MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

C. FREEDOM OF RELIGION

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. IT ALSO PROHIBITS THE STATE FROM IMPOSING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES. THE GOVERNMENT RESPECTS THESE RIGHTS IN PRACTICE.

D. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL, EMIGRATION, AND REPATRIATION

THE LAW PROVIDES CITIZENS WITH THE RIGHT TO TRAVEL AND ESTABLISH RESIDENCE WITHOUT GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS. THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR REPATRIATION, AND THE GOVERNMENT RESPECTS THIS IN PRACTICE.

SECTION 3 RESPECT FOR POLITICAL RIGHTS: THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO CHANGE THEIR GOVERNMENT

CITIZENS EXERCISED THIS RIGHT IN 1991, AFTER 15 YEARS OF ONE-PARTY RULE. AN OPPOSITION PARTY WON THE COUNTRY'S FIRST FREE LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND PEACEFULLY ASSUMED POWER. PROMULGATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION IN 1992 CONSOLIDATED THIS CHANGE.

THE CRITICAL SECOND ROUND OF MULTIPARTY ELECTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WAS HELD IN DECEMBER, RESULTING IN A RESOUNDING VICTORY FOR THE GOVERNING MPD PARTY OF PRIME MINISTER VEIGA. MUNICIPAL AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WERE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1996, RESPECTIVELY.

WITH ITS MARGIN IN VICTORY THE MPD COULD GOVERN VIRTUALLY WITHOUT THE NEED TO CONSULT THE TWO OPPOSITION PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE ASSEMBLY, SHOULD IT ELECT TO DO SO. OBSERVERS SAW THE ELECTION RESULTS AS A FURTHER REPUDIATION OF THE DISCREDITED ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT SET UP AFTER INDEPENDENCE FROM PORTUGAL IN 1975, WHICH HAD CLUNG TO POWER UNTIL THE FIRST FREE, FAIR ELECTIONS IN 1991.

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR SEPARATION OF POWERS. CABINET MINISTERS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT THEY ARE INDIVIDUALLY SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY CONFIRMATION. COLLECTIVELY, THEY MUST RETAIN THE SUPPORT OF A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. THE PRESIDENT MAY DISMISS THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC, WHICH IS COMPOSED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL, AND FOUR PRIVATE MEMBERS. REFERENDUMS MAY BE HELD UNDER SPECIFIED

CIRCUMSTANCES BUT MAY NOT CHALLENGE INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 STATE 042884

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RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OR THE RIGHT OF OPPOSITION PARTIES TO EXIST AND FUNCTION FREELY.

THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS IN LAW OR PRACTICE REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN OR MINORITIES TO VOTE OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. WOMEN COMPRISE 7.6 PERCENT OF THE DEPUTIES ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE TWO FEMALE MINISTERS IN THE CABINET OF THE PRIME MINISTER REPRESENT 13 PERCENT OF THE MINISTERIAL POSITIONS.

SECTION 4 GOVERNMENTAL ATTITUDE REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

THERE ARE TWO PRIVATE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS IN CAPE VERDE--THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE CAPE VERDEAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. NO MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS IN CAPE VERDE DURING THE YEAR.

SECTION 5 DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, SEX, RELIGION, DISABILITY, LANGUAGE, OR SOCIAL STATUS

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SEX, RELIGION, DISABILITY, LANGUAGE, OR SOCIAL STATUS. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EFFECTIVELY ENFORCE ALL ITS PROVISIONS, RESULTING IN ONGOING DISCRIMINATION, PARTICULARLY AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

WOMEN

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING WIFE BEATING, REMAINS COMMON, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS. VICTIMS RARELY REPORT CRIMES SUCH AS RAPE AND SPOUSAL ABUSE TO THE POLICE. NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ADDRESSED DIRECTLY THE ISSUE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

WOMEN CONTINUE TO FACE DISCRIMINATION IN SEVERAL WAYS. DESPITE CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITIONS AGAINST SEX DISCRIMINATION AND PROVISIONS FOR FULL EQUALITY, INCLUDING EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES. WOMEN EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING CERTAIN TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE OFTEN PAID LESS THAN MEN, THEY ARE MAKING MODEST INROADS IN THE PROFESSIONS.

THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN

INHERITANCE, FAMILY, AND CUSTODY MATTERS. HOWEVER, LARGELY BECAUSE OF ILLITERACY, MOST WOMEN ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS. WOMEN ARE OFTEN RELUCTANT TO SEEK REDRESS OF DOMESTIC DISPUTES IN THE COURTS. THE ORGANIZATION OF CAPE VERDEAN WOMEN ALLEGES DISPARATE TREATMENT IN INHERITANCE MATTERS DESPITE LAWS CALLING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS.

WOMEN COMPRISE 52.7 PERCENT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION, BUT ONLY 36.8 PERCENT OF THE EMPLOYED WORK FORCE. AMONG THOSE CONSIDERED UNEMPLOYED WITHIN THE LABOR POOL ACTIVELY SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT FIGURES INDICATE THAT WOMEN MAKE UP 54.7 PERCENT OF THOSE OUT OF COMPENSATED EMPLOYMENT. DESPITE THESE DIRE STATISTICS, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN ARE IMPROVING, AS EVIDENCED BY THE INCREASING PRESENCE OF WOMEN IN THE UPPER ECHELONS OF GOVERNMENT AND AMONG THE LEGAL AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONS.

WITH THE IMPETUS GAINED FROM THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS LAUNCHED NEW EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PLIGHT OF POOR AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED WOMEN, HOLDING SEVERAL SYMPOSIUMS AND CONFERENCES. THEY DEMANDED NEW LAWS PROTECTING WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ESTABLISHING EQUAL RIGHTS. IN MARCH A GROUP OF WOMEN INCORPORATED THE CAPE VERDEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY, WHOSE STATED GOALS WERE THE PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY, PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER AND CHILD, WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE (INCLUDING THE PREVENTION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES), AND THE PROMOTION OF FAMILY PLANNING. ACCORDING TO WOMEN'S GROUPS, LARGE, UNPLANNED FAMILIES REPRESENT THE MAIN CAUSE OF POVERTY AND LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN.

CHILDREN

CHILD ABUSE IS A CONTINUING PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH THE

GOVERNMENT MAY REMOVE CHILDREN FROM ABUSIVE PARENTS AND PLACE THEM IN ORPHANAGES, IT SELDOM TOOK SUCH ACTIONS.
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THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINED ITS EFFORT TO HIGHLIGHT THE COSTS TO SOCIETY OF SUCH MISTREATMENT AND TO PROMOTE THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF ABUSED MINORS. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED A MULTIPAGE EXPOSE ON THE PLIGHT OF ABANDONED CHILDREN LEFT TO ROAM THE STREETS, NOTING THAT SUCH SITUATIONS LEAD TO VIOLENT ABUSE OF CHILDREN, CRIME, AND PROSTITUTION. LOCAL EXPERTS, MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS

HAVE CALLED ON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE LARGER POPULATION TO REJECT AN INDIFFERENT ATTITUDE AND STRIVE TO REDUCE AND ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND, THE CAPE VERDEAN INSTITUTE FOR MINORS PUBLISHED THE BOOK "LEGAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN" AS A WORKING DOCUMENT FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHERS, SETTING OUT THE LAWS AND RIGHTS PERTAINING TO THE PROTECTION OF MINORS AND THE SOCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCING THOSE RIGHTS.

AS A RESULT OF THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC, THE GOVERNMENT FOCUSED MORE ATTENTION ON PREVENTIVE TREATMENT, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE HEALTH CARE OF CHILDREN. IT INSTITUTED A BROAD BASED IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN FOR YOUNG CHILDREN. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR THE OFFICIAL MEDIA BROADCAST AND DIFFUSED PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES IMPLORING MOTHERS TO SEEK PRENATAL CARE FOR THEIR BABIES.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MANDATE ACCESS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS OR SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED. IT DOES PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION (A COMBINATION WHEELCHAIR AND THREE-WHEEL MOTOR SCOOTER) FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS. PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT OR EDUCATION.

SECTION 6 WORKER RIGHTS

A. THE RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION

WORKERS ARE LEGALLY FREE TO FORM AND TO JOIN UNIONS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION OR RESTRICTION. THERE ARE TWO UMBRELLA UNION ASSOCIATIONS: THE COUNCIL OF FREE LABOR UNIONS, FORMED AFTER THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT AND COMPOSED OF 11 UNIONS WITH ABOUT 7,000 MEMBERS, AND THE

NATIONAL UNION OF CAPE VERDE WORKERS, FORMED BY THE FORMER RULING PARTY BUT OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY, COMPOSED OF 13 UNIONS WITH ABOUT 15,000 MEMBERS. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS, BUT BOTH SUFFER FROM A SHORTAGE OF FUNDS.

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES UNION MEMBERS WITH THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, AND THE GOVERNMENT RESPECTS THIS RIGHT. BY LAW, AN EMPLOYER MUST REINSTATE A WORKER FIRED UNJUSTLY.

UNIONS ARE FREE TO AFFILIATE INTERNATIONALLY AND HAVE TIES WITH AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS.

B. THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND OPERATE WITHOUT HINDRANCE AND TO SIGN COLLECTIVE WORK CONTRACTS. WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT IN THE SMALL PRIVATE SECTOR, AS WELL AS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, REACH AGREEMENT THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. AS THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST EMPLOYER, THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO PLAY THE DOMINANT ROLE BY SETTING WAGES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. IT DOES NOT FIX WAGES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, BUT SALARY LEVELS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR WAGE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

A 1991 LEGISLATIVE DECREE BANS ANTIUNION DISCRIMINATION BY EMPLOYERS, WITH FINES FOR OFFENDERS. THERE WERE NO REPORTED CASES OF SUCH DISCRIMINATION.

THERE ARE NO EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES.

C. PROHIBITION OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOR

FORCED LABOR IS FORBIDDEN BY LAW AND IS NOT PRACTICED.

D. MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

THE LEGAL MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT IS 14 YEARS. THE LAW PROHIBITS CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE 16 FROM WORKING AT NIGHT, MORE THAN 7 HOURS PER DAY, OR IN ESTABLISHMENTS WHERE
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TOXIC PRODUCTS ARE PRODUCED, BUT THE GOVERNMENT RARELY ENFORCES THE LAW. IN PRACTICE, THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND LABOR ENFORCES MINIMUM AGE LAWS WITH LIMITED SUCCESS, AND ONLY IN THE URBAN, FORMAL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

E. ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS OF WORK

THERE ARE NO ESTABLISHED MINIMUM WAGE RATES IN THE PRIVATE

SECTOR. LARGE URBAN PRIVATE EMPLOYERS LINK THEIR MINIMUM WAGES TO THOSE PAID TO CIVIL SERVANTS, WHICH FOR AN ENTRY LEVEL WORKER IS DOLLARS 180 (15,000 ESCUDOS) PER MONTH. THE MAJORITY OF JOBS PAY WAGES INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A WORKER AND FAMILY A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING; THEREFORE, MOST WORKERS ALSO RELY ON SECOND JOBS, EXTENDED FAMILY HELP, AND SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE.

THE MAXIMUM LEGAL WORKWEEK FOR ADULTS IS 44 HOURS. WHILE LARGE EMPLOYERS GENERALLY RESPECT THESE REGULATIONS, MANY DOMESTIC SERVANTS AND RURAL WORKERS WORK LONGER HOURS.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF LABOR CONDUCTS PERIODIC INSPECTIONS TO ENFORCE PROPER LABOR PRACTICES AND IMPOSES FINES ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISES WHICH ARE NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE LAW. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SYSTEMATICALLY ENFORCE LABOR LAWS AND MUCH OF THE LABOR FORCE DOES NOT ENJOY THEIR PROTECTION. THERE ARE FEW INDUSTRIES THAT EMPLOY HEAVY OR DANGEROUS EQUIPMENT, AND WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS ARE RARE.

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PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 061027Z MAR 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
OSRI: RUEHBJ
DTG: 061027Z MAR 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9880
INFO: RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 3942
RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 0225
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 8255
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 1300
ZEN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU
SUBJ: CHINA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

TEXT:
UNCLAS BEIJING 007198

PLEASE PASS TO G, IO, AND DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, PGOV, PHUM, PREL, SOCI, UNCSW, UNGA, CH
SUBJECT: CHINA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

REF: STATE 25754

1. SUMMARY: THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S ALL-CHINA WOMEN'S FEDERATION HAS ORGANIZED A WEEK OF SPECIAL EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. THE EVENTS WILL FOCUS ON IMPROVING THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE MORE THAN 400 MILLION WOMEN LIVING IN CHINA'S RURAL AREAS BY PROVIDING TECHNICAL TRAINING TO PROMOTE "SELF-RELIANCE" AND BY COMBATting ILLITERACY. DURING THE WEEK, THE FEDERATION WILL HONOR "MODEL" WOMEN FROM VARIOUS FIELDS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND PUBLICIZE THEIR STORIES. THE CELEBRATION WILL CULMINATE WITH AN INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION FOCUSING ON THE WORK DONE AT LAST YEAR'S FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REQUESTED REFTTEL, THIS MESSAGE OUTLINE'S CHINESE PLANS FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN'S DAY, FRIDAY, MARCH 8.

ESCAPING RURAL POVERTY

3. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S ALL-CHINA WOMEN'S FEDERATION (ACWF) HAS ORGANIZED A WEEK OF EVENTS (MARCH 4-8) FOCUSING ON RURAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. ACCORDING TO LI YUEYING,

DIVISION CHIEF OF THE ACWF INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, THE WEEK OF ACTIVITIES WILL CONCENTRATE ON RAISING AWARENESS OF CHINA'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1996-2001) TO HELP WOMEN ESCAPE RURAL POVERTY.

TEACHING RURAL WOMEN

3. LI SAID THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN INCLUDES A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH TO ADDRESSING RURAL PROBLEMS. THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IS TO TEACH RURAL WOMEN MARKETABLE SKILLS SO THEY CAN BECOME SELF-RELIANT. THE OTHER GOAL IS TO WIPE OUT ILLITERACY, WHICH LI SAID AFFLICTS 80 PERCENT OF WOMEN WHO LIVE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE TO VARYING DEGREES. LI SAID THAT THE ACWF ARRANGES FOR TEACHERS TO TRAVEL TO THE RURAL AREAS IN AN EFFORT TO HELP EDUCATE ILLITERATE AND SEMI-LITERATE WOMEN. SHE SAID THE FEDERATION HAS SET AN ANNUAL GOAL OF TEACHING THREE MILLION CHINESE WOMEN TO READ AND WRITE.

RETRAINING URBAN WOMEN

4. LI SAID THAT THE WEEK OF ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO INCLUDE RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE NEEDS OF URBAN WOMEN, ESPECIALLY TECHNICAL RETRAINING FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN LAID OFF FROM STATE ENTERPRISE JOBS. LI SAID THAT THE TRAINING WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF RECENT INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF FAILED ENTERPRISES. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE ALL-CHINA WOMEN'S FEDERATION ACHIEVED AN 85 PERCENT REEMPLOYMENT SUCCESS RATE FOR THOSE WOMEN TRAINED THROUGH ITS PROGRAMS LAST YEAR.

HONORING MODEL WOMEN

5. A WELL-KNOWN CHINESE WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE SAYS THAT GOVERNMENT EVENTS WILL INCLUDE SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS, FEMALE LAWYERS, WIVES OF SOLDIERS, AND 100 WOMEN WHO HAVE DONE EXEMPLARY WORK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. THE ACWF HAS PAID FOR THEIR TRAVEL TO BEIJING TO GIVE REPORTS ON THEIR SUCCESSES AND EVALUATIONS ON THE WORK TO BE DONE IN THE COMING YEAR. THEIR STORIES WILL BE PUBLICIZED NATION WIDE THROUGH THE CHINESE MEDIA. THE ADVOCATE SAID THAT THESE WOMEN ARE EXCELLENT MODELS BECAUSE THEY USED THEIR OWN INGENUITY TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN IN CHINA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS HAVE FOUND WAYS TO ESTABLISH SMALL BUSINESSES DESPITE DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING FUNDS. THE ADVOCATE ALSO SAID THE FEMALE LAWYERS WHO WILL BE HONORED WERE FOCUSING ON PROVIDING A LEGAL FRAMEWORK THAT PROTECTS WOMEN FROM ABUSE AND IMPOSES STIFFER PUNISHMENTS FOR THOSE WHO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN.

6. THE WEEK OF ACTIVITIES WILL CULMINATE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 8, WITH A RECEPTION AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE HOSTED BY THE ALL-CHINA WOMEN'S FEDERATION. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL GIVE PRESENTATIONS ON HOW CHINA WILL IMPLEMENT "THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION" AND THE "BEIJING DECLARATION" THAT WERE AGREED TO AT LAST YEAR'S FOURTH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN. THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS A
FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO IMPROVE THE STANDARDS OF LIVING FOR
RURAL WOMEN IN CHINA. EACH OF CHINA'S PROVINCES WILL
HOLD SIMILAR CELEBRATIONS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS JOINTLY
SPONSORING EVENTS WITH PROVINCIAL BUREAUS OF THE
ALL-CHINA WOMEN'S FEDERATION. SASSER

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#7198

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7198

TOR: 960306053513 M2115452

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SIT: KRISTOFF NSC SUETTINGER

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OSRI: RUCNDT
DTG: 072238Z MAR 96
ORIG: USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1557
INFO: RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN MEETING 3/11-22/96

TEXT:
UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 000788

WHITE HOUSE FOR THERESA LOAR, OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

E.O.12958: DECL:N/A
TAGS: AORC, UN, SOCI, PHUM, CSW, KWMN
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN MEETING 3/11-22/96

1. SUMMARY: THE UN DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (DAW) HELD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CSW MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 3/11-22. DISCUSSION REVEALED DIFFERING VIEWS ON FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP, WITH G-77 DELEGATES LEANING MORE TOWARDS GIVING THE COMMISSION CONTROL OF SYSTEM-WIDE FOLLOW-UP (ALONG THE LINES OF ECOSOC RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP). THE PLO INDICATED HER DELEGATION'S PREFERENCE TO TABLE A RESOLUTION ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN. THERE WILL BE NO SPEAKERS LIST IN ORDER TO KEEP GENERAL DEBATE TO A MINIMUM AND HAVE A LESS RIGID FORMAT. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMAT OF THE MEETING: ON ORDER TO KEEP "GENERAL DEBATE" TO A MINIMUM, AND IN ORDER TO HAVE A LESS RIGID FORMAT, THERE WILL BE NO SPEAKERS LIST. (NONETHELESS, MISSION HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SECRETARIAT TO DISCUSS AN APPROPRIATE TIME SLOT FOR AMBASSADOR ALBRIGHT WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE CSW DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE SESSION). THERE WILL BE THREE THEMES FOR DISCUSSION BY HIGH LEVEL PANELS TO ENGENDER MORE CONCENTRATED, INTERACTIVE DEBATE. THE THEMES ARE "WOMEN AND POVERTY" AND "WOMEN AND THE MEDIA" AND "CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE, INCLUDING SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN". PANELISTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED/NOTIFIED. THEY WILL PRESENT THEIR VIEWS AND THEN THE FLOOR WILL BE OPENED FOR COMMENTARY AND

QUESTIONING. THE RESULT OF THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS WILL BE PRESENTED AS (NEGOTIATED) "AGREED CONCLUSIONS". LIST OF PANELISTS HAS BEEN FAXED TO IO/ESA-SKOTOK.

3. NEGOTIATIONS ON THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON CEDAW WILL TAKE PLACE IN PARALLEL SESSIONS (WITH INTERPRETATION) FROM MARCH 11-21, 1996. INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS (WITH INTERPRETATION) FOR DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS/AGREED CONCLUSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SECOND WEEK. NEARLY ALL DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. THERE ARE 17 NUMBERED DOCUMENTS AND TWO CONFERENCE ROOM PAPERS (CRP), THE REPORT TO CEDAW AND THE SWMTP, RESPECTIVELY.

4. DISCUSSION: MOST DISCUSSION AMONG DELEGATIONS FOCUSED ON DETERMINING WHICH ISSUES MERITED DRAFT ECOSOC RESOLUTIONS VICE CSW RESOLUTIONS AND ON THE QUESTION OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "AGREED CONCLUSIONS" AND RESOLUTIONS.

5. CONCERNING AGREED CONCLUSIONS (WHICH WILL BE FOR THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON "CRITICAL AREAS"), IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT AGREED CONCLUSIONS HAVE THE MERIT OF ALLOWING DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW TO BE REPRESENTED, AND PROVIDE BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT TO POSITIONS. THE ISSUES OF MANDATE, FOLLOW-UP AND PROGRAM OF WORK ARE BETTER COVERED BY RESOLUTIONS.

6. DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (DAW) SECRETARIAT REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MATHIASSEN SUGGESTED THAT THE MANDATE, REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ITEMS BE DRAFTED AS ECOSOC RESOLUTIONS. THE PROGRAM OF WORK COULD REMAIN A CSW RESOLUTION.

7. COTE D'IVOIRE ASKED THAT DISCUSSION AT THE CSW NOT BE LIMITED TO THE ITEMS INDICATED IN THE GA RESOLUTION. SHE SUGGESTED THE COMMISSION REVIEW THE ENTIRE PFA TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CSW IS PRESENTLY ABLE TO FULFILL THE TASKS ASKED OF IT. SHE SUGGESTED THE CSW MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING THE CSW, STRUCTURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PFA AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, AND GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PFA WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES.

8. MEXICO RECOMMENDED THAT THE CSW BEAR IN MIND THE NEED TO COORDINATE ITS WORK PROGRAM WITH THAT OF THE COMMISSIONS AS WELL AS WITH THAT OF THE ECOSOC. SHE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE CSW EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF THE CSW'S COORDINATION OF ECOSOC'S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PFA AND THAT BOTH THE PFA'S "CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN" AS WELL AS THE "CROSS-SECTORAL" ISSUES BE FULLY ADDRESSED DURING THE MEETING.

9. ZAMBIA EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE MANDATE INCLUDE PROVISIONS ON HOW THE CSW SHOULD MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PFA WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM. THE CSW SHOULD ADDRESS, IN PARTICULAR, ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH UNIFEM, INSTRAW, AND THE DAW WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING A "DIRECT LINK" BETWEEN THOSE BODIES AND THE COMMISSION.

10. SWMTP AND MTP: MATHIASSEN SAID THAT SINCE BOTH THE SYSTEM-WIDE MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN ARE IN DRAFT FORM, THE CSW COULD INFLUENCE THE FINAL THRUST OF BOTH PLANS BY REVIEWING THE DOCUMENTS AND FORWARDING COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION. HE RECOMMENDED THE CSW'S IN-PUT BE PRESENTED AS A CSW RESOLUTION RATHER THAN AS AN ECOSOC RESOLUTION SO THAT THE PLANS' DRAFTERS

WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE THE PLANS ARE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM COORDINATION (CPC). IF THE CSW USES AND ECOSOC RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS THE PLANS, WE WILL MISS THE CPC REVIEW DATE.

11. CANADA RECOMMENDED THAT THE DETAILS OF THE PLANS BE HANDLED STRICTLY BY THE CSW. THE ECOSOC-DIRECTED RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS BROADER ISSUES AND BUILD ON THE 50TH UNGA RESOLUTION'S COMPONENTS. SHE STRESSED THAT IN TREATING THE PLANS, THE CSW NEEDED TO BUILD FLEXIBILITY INTO THE MULTIYEAR PLAN OF WORK TO BETTER COORDINATE DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER BODIES, INCLUDING THE ECOSOC.

12. THE NEW DAW DIRECTOR (ANGELA KING) WELCOMED COTE D'IVOIRE'S CALL FOR SYSTEMWIDE "GUIDELINES" FOR IMPLEMENTATION. SHE NOTED THAT MANY PARTS OF THE SYSTEM DID NOT REPORT TO THE ECOSOC AND THAT GUIDELINES ON "HOW TO MAINSTREAM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE" WOULD BE USEFUL TO THOSE NON-ECOSOC BODIES. OTHER DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THAT THE PFA PRESENTED THE ONLY GUIDELINES NEEDED (CANADA, AUSTRALIA). FINLAND HELPFULLY SUGGESTED THAT DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AGENCIES DELEGATIONS CAN ASK THE AGENCIES WHAT GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND WHAT METHODS ARE BEING USED IN EACH FORUM. COMMENT: THESE COMMENTS HIGHLIGHT AN IMPORTANT ISSUE: THE DEBATE OVER THE RELATIONSHIP -- AND LINES OF AUTHORITY -- FROM AN ECOSOC SUBSIDIARY BODY, LIKE THE COMMISSION, TO NON-ECOSOC ACTIVITIES (SUCH AS PEACEKEEPING, ETC.). END COMMENT.

13. THE DELEGATE OF THE BAHAMAS RECOMMENDED A DISCIPLINED FOCUS ON MAINTAINING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE PFA. SHE SAID IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR THE CSW TO SIGNAL WHAT ISSUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE COMMISSION'S VIEW WHEN REVIEWING THE SWMTP.

14. THE EU SUPPORTED EARLIER DISCUSSION REGARDING MINIMIZING GENERAL DEBATE AND STICKING TO THE AGENDA. THE DELEGATE STRESSED THAT DELEGATIONS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM TABLING RESOLUTIONS ON ISSUES THAT ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA. TO PROMOTE THE CSW'S "CATALYTIC" ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PFA, THE EU BELIEVES THAT THE CSW SHOULD STRENGTHEN ITS EFFORTS TO ASSIST GOVERNMENTS WITH IMPLEMENTATION (NO OTHER SPECIFICS PROVIDED).

15. AUSTRIA: THE CHAIR PROPOSED THAT DELEGATIONS CONSIDER HAVING THE CSW ASK FOR SUBMISSIONS OF 1996

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PFA.
(FYI: THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RECEIVES
NATIONAL REPORTS OF IMPLEMENTATION ON A YEARLY BASIS.
THE REPORTS ARE KEYED TO THE FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM OF WORK
ESTABLISHED IN 1992. END FYI)

16. THE SECRETARIAT COMMENTED THAT THE "FUNCTIONING OF
THE BUREAU" SHOULD PERHAPS ALSO BE THE SUBJECT OF A CSW
RESOLUTION.

17. THE PLO DELEGATE INDICATED HER DELEGATION'S
PREFERENCE FOR TABLING A RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION OF
PALESTINIAN WOMEN, ALTHOUGH THE REPORT ON THE SUBJECT
HAS STILL NOT YET BEEN ISSUED. ALBRIGHT
BT
#0788

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0788

TOR: 960307222856 M2119430

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PRT: LOAR

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PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

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LINE3: R 141528Z MAR 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

OSRI: RUEHBP

DTG: 141528Z MAR 96

ORIG: AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6962

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RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2630

RUEHJL/AMEMBASSY BANJUL 2374

RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 1821

RUEHBQ/AMEMBASSY BISSAU 0070

RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1445

RUEHOU/AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU 2135

SUBJ: MALI'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS
AND PLAN OF ACTION

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BAMAKO 001319

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/RA, G

PARIS FOR MORAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, SOCI, SCUL, PINR, ML

SUBJECT: MALI'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS
AND PLAN OF ACTION

1. SUMMARY. MALI OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED ITS NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN AT A MARCH 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CEREMONY IN BAMAKO. THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN WILL DEVOTE ITS 22 MILLION USD BUDGET TO THE BETTERMENT OF WOMEN IN SIX TARGET AREAS, INCLUDING EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND THE ECONOMY. THE PLAN OF ACTION, ALONG WITH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CEREMONIES IN BAMAKO AND SEGOU, DREW SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE. REPRESENTATIVES OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TO CONTEND WITH REACTION AGAINST THE BEIJING CONFERENCE BY RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES IN MALI. END SUMMARY.

ACTION PLAN FOR PROMOTION OF WOMEN

2. BASED UPON CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, MALI'S PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PROMOTION OF

WOMEN INTENDS TO REDUCE INEQUALITIES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN SIX TARGET AREAS: EDUCATION; HEALTH; LEGAL RIGHTS; THE ECONOMY; THE ENVIRONMENT, AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT STRUCTURES. THE PLAN'S ESTIMATED COSTS TOTAL 22 MILLION USD, OF WHICH THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO FINANCE SIX MILLION USD - WITH TWO-THIRDS COMING OUT OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET AND THE REMAINDER FROM REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY BUDGETS.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS DRAW HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE

3. BAMAKO'S MARCH 8 CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (AND LAUNCH THE ACTION PLAN) DREW HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ALI NOUHOUM DIALLO, FIRST LADY ADAM BA KONARE, AND MALI'S COMMISSIONER FOR THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN, MADAME DIAKITE FATOUMATA N'DIAYE. BESIDES REVIEWING CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN BEIJING AND LAUNCHING THE ACTION PLAN, THE CEREMONY DECORATED THREE MALIAN WOMEN WHO HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN MALI. DRAMATIC SKETCHES WITH THEMES SUCH AS EDUCATION, WOMEN'S HEALTH, AND LEGAL RIGHTS WERE ALSO PERFORMED.

PEACE CORPS CO-SPONSORS WOMEN'S PROGRAM

4. THE U.S. PEACE CORPS, WITH SEVERAL PRIVATE BUSINESSES, CO-SPONSORED AN EVENING OF DISCUSSION AND ENTERTAINMENT IN BAMAKO ON SATURDAY MARCH 9. PROCEEDS FROM RAFFLES - WHICH INCLUDED A ROUND-TRIP TICKET TO NEW YORK DONATED BY AIR AFRIQUE - AMOUNTED TO 2400 USD. THE PROCEEDS WILL FINANCE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED GIRLS. THE EVENING'S ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A MIX OF SPEAKERS ON WOMEN'S THEMES AND FEMALE PERFORMING ARTISTS. U.S. AMBASSADOR RAWSON ATTENDED THE CEREMONY. U.S. DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION CAROLEE HEILEMAN, WHO DELIVERED THE OPENING REMARKS, CALLED UPON WOMEN TO CONSOLIDATE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE AND SET NEW GOALS FOR THE FUTURE. APPROXIMATELY 230 PEOPLE WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

CITY OF SEGOU INAUGURATES U.S.-FUNDED WOMEN'S PROJECT

5. THE MAYOR OF SEGOU PRESIDED OVER HIS CITY'S WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS WHICH INCLUDED A DOWNTOWN RALLY AND INAUGURATION OF A U.S.-FUNDED WOMEN'S PROJECT. SPEAKING AT THE RALLY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SEGOU WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION STATED THAT 354 WOMEN IN SEGOU HAVE BENEFITED FROM OVER 32,000 USD MADE AVAILABLE BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST POOR WOMEN IN STARTING INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES. AS PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS, REGIONAL AUTHORITIES INAUGURATED THE USE OF RICE HUSKING MACHINES MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS 116 E FUND. PART OF THE

CAMPAIGN AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, THE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE PRACTITIONERS OF FEMALE EXCISION WITH AN ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD.

6. ACCORDING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES IN MALI LAUNCHED UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BAMAKO 001319

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/RA, G

PARIS FOR MORAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, SOCI, SCUL, PINR, ML

SUBJECT: MALI'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS AND PLAN OF ACTION

AN ATTACK IN JANUARY ON THE PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED IN BEIJING. LECTURING IN MOSQUES AND SCHOOLS, THEY CLAIMED THAT ISLAMIC WOMEN WERE BEING CORRUPTED BY IDEAS ESPOUSED BY WESTERN WOMEN. WOMEN'S GROUPS, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND NOT, HAVE RESPONDED BY DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF ADOPTING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WOMEN.

7. COMMENT. THE HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS CANNOT MASK THE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF MALIAN WOMEN LIVE. ILLITERACY, INADEQUATE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, AND EXTREME POVERTY ARE PERVERSIVE. NEVERTHELESS, LAST WEEK'S EVENTS AND THE NEWLY LAUNCHED ACTION PLAN INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THE PROBLEMS AND IS WILLING TO WORK TOWARDS IMPROVING WOMEN'S CONDITIONS, EVEN IN THE FACE OF STRONG RESISTANCE. END COMMENT.

RAWSON

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
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SSN: 1319
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TOR: 960314121441 M2130255
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RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0407
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 8853
SUBJ: SWEDISH FOREIGN AID: NEW FOCUS ON SEX EQUALITY,
FEWER GRANTS, AND MORE SOFT-CREDIT LOANS
TEXT:
UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 001415

PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAID, ECON, SOCI, PHUM, PREL, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH FOREIGN AID: NEW FOCUS ON SEX EQUALITY,
FEWER GRANTS, AND MORE SOFT-CREDIT LOANS

REF: STOCKHOLM 0585
1. SUMMARY: SWEDEN PLANS TO ADD NEW EMPHASIS ON SEX
----- EQUALITY TO CURRENT FOREIGN AID GOALS OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EQUALITY, DEMOCRACY, AND
ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
SWEDISH AID WILL USE FEWER GRANTS AND MORE SOFT LOANS
AND WILL GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO SWEDISH EXPORTS.
END SUMMARY

2. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS ADDED GENDER EQUALITY TO
ITS GOALS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. IN A BILL PRESENTED
TO THE PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 13, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS SAID "THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY IS AND WILL
REMAIN THE CENTRAL TASK IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO
ACHIEVE PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT." PIERRE
SCHORI, MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AID, STRESSED THAT "TWO
THIRDS OF THE 1.2 BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO LIVE
IN EXTREME POVERTY ARE WOMEN. WE, THEREFORE, NEED A
GENDER EQUALITY GOAL FOR SWEDEN'S DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION."
3. THE NEW GOAL WILL BE ADDED TO THE FIVE CURRENT
GOALS: INCREASED ECONOMIC GROWTH; ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
EQUALITY; ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE;

DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY; AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. THE PROPOSAL ON GENDER EQUALITY IS ALSO REGARDED AS A CONSISTENT FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING LAST FALL.

4. BO GORANSSON, DIRECTOR OF THE RECENTLY REORGANIZED SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SIDA), SAYS THERE WILL BE LESS AID MONEY GIVEN AS GIFTS BUT MORE MONEY AVAILABLE AS LOANS WITH TERMS VARYING FROM CASE TO CASE. THESE LOANS SHOULD PROVE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH LOCAL BUSINESS AND SWEDISH INDUSTRY SUPPLYING GOODS TO THE THIRD WORLD.

5. SIDA DIRECTOR GORANSSON ADDED THAT SIDA WILL FOCUS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AID-RECIPIENT COUNTRIES' DOMESTIC MARKETS; THIS SHOULD ENCOURAGE SWEDISH FIRMS TO DO BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRIES. THIS NEW DIRECTION FOLLOWS THE OECD RECOMMENDATION ON THE ABOLITION OF SOFT CREDITS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SIDA IS LOOKING AT AN EXPORT GUARANTEE SYSTEM IN WHICH SIDA WOULD ASSUME THE RISK NORMALLY TAKEN BY THE EXPORTER. SIDA HAS PROPOSED TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT THAT THERE BE NO AID CREDITS IN THE 1997 APPROPRIATION; INSTEAD, THERE WOULD BE AN INVESTMENT APPROPRIATION OF SEK 500 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT CREDITS. (US \$1.00 EQUALS ABOUT SEK 6.7 RECENTLY.) SIDA IS ALSO ASKING THAT IT BE ALLOWED TO USE AT ITS DISCRETION FOR EXPORT CREDITS THE BILATERAL AID FUNDS OF SEK 8.3 BILLION NOW ALLOCATED TO 22 COUNTRIES.

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1415

TOR: 960321105934 M2142217

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Chinese MFA Briefing on UNSYG's Visit to Beijing (6 pages)	04/03/1996	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1995 - Dec 1996 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:

[03/03/1996 - 07/19/1996]

2012-0094-F
ke3957

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]
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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.

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]

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHGVA2689 1081518-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 171518Z APR 96
LINE4: FM USMISSION GENEVA
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TO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5984
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2871
INFO: ////
SUBJ: U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: SPEECH ON ITEM 9,
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 002689

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, CH, UE
SUBJECT: U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: SPEECH ON ITEM 9,
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

1. THIS IS UNHRC CABLE NUMBER 94

2. THE FOLLOWING SPEECH WAS GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR
GERALDINE FERRARO, HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE UN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, ON ITEM 9: FURTHER PROMOTION
AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS: WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS, APRIL 10,
1996.

3. BEGIN TEXT.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
THERE'S A FRESH, CLEAN WIND BLOWING THROUGH THESE HALLS,
SWEEPING THE DUST OF INJUSTICE AND PREJUDICE BEFORE IT.
AT ITS HEART IS A CONCEPT SO OLD THAT FOR CENTURIES IT'S
BEEN OVERLOOKED, AND YET SO NEW THAT CONTROVERSY OFTEN
FOLLOWS IT. IT RESTS ON A PRINCIPLE AS PURE AS A CHILD'S
LAUGHTER, AS SOLID AS AN ALPINE PEAK, AS JUST AS ANY
HUMAN CAUSE CAN BE REVOLUTIONARY IN ITS REACH, AND POWERFUL IN ITS
POSSIBILITIES.

FIVE WORDS FORM THIS BRAVE NEW WIND -- FIVE SIMPLE, EASY
WORDS. BUT THEY ARE CHANGING THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT HALF
THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD. YES, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE HAVE
SPOKEN THESE WORDS AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND AT
THE BEIJING CONFERENCE. WE'VE WHISPERED THEM IN OUR
HOMES AND REPEATED THEM AT WORK. AND NOW WE'RE TELLING
THEM TO GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THOSE FIVE
WORDS ARE: WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

HOW EASY IT IS TO SPEAK THEM, HOW EXHILARATING TO FEEL THE COURSE OF HISTORY AS IT FLOWS THROUGH THEM. AND YET HOW DIFFICULT IT REMAINS TO PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE. FOR VIOLENCE STILL THREATENS WOMEN EVERYWHERE. IT'S A PLAGUE THAT RESPECTS NO BORDERS; NO COUNTRY OR SECTOR OF SOCIETY IS FREE FROM ITS CONTAMINATION.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS AN ATTACK ON THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS OF EVERYONE, MAN OR WOMAN. AND YET AT EVERY MOMENT OF THE DAY, WOMEN CONTINUE TO BE BEATEN AND ABUSED: BABY GIRLS ABANDONED BECAUSE THEIR FAMILIES WANT A BOY; YOUNG GIRLS MUTILATED IN THE NAME OF ANCIENT CUSTOM; TEENAGERS SOLD INTO SEXUAL SLAVERY; BRIDES SACRIFICED AT THE ALTAR OF GREED; WOMEN RAPED AS A POLICY OF WAR; MOTHERS STERILIZED AGAINST THEIR WILL; REFUGEE WOMEN FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION BECAUSE THEY NEED FOOD; AND WIDOWS BURNED SIMPLY BECAUSE THEIR HUSBANDS DIED BEFORE THEM.

AND YET ALL TOO OFTEN THE LAW THAT SHOULD PROTECT THESE WOMEN TURNS ITS FACE AWAY. WE CANNOT ACCEPT THIS ANY LONGER. WE HAVE TOLERATED IT FOR FAR TOO LONG, AS IF RAPE AND BEATINGS AND ABUSE WERE SOMEHOW A NATURAL ADJUNCT TO WOMANHOOD, A FACT TOO PAINFUL AND TOO COMMONPLACE TO BE SPOKEN OF IN PUBLIC.

THERE'S ANOTHER KIND OF VIOLENCE WHICH THREATENS WOMEN, TOO. IT'S CALLED THE VIOLENCE OF DEPRIVATION: DENYING WOMEN AND GIRLS THE FOOD, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE OR PROPERTY THEY NEED TO BECOME FULL AND PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, AS IF A WOMAN HAD LESS VALUE IN SOCIETY THAN HER BROTHER. THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE BASIC NUTRITION AND ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES CONDEMNS MILLIONS TO LIVES OF SICKNESS AND ENSURES THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL LACK THE VIGOR NEEDED TO BECOME HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS. ONE SIGN OF THIS IS THE GROWING INCIDENCE OF HIV/AIDS AMONG WOMEN. INDEED, WOMEN ARE THE FASTEST-GROWING POPULATION OF HIV/AIDS VICTIMS: SOME 3,000 A DAY BECOME INFECTED. WE CANNOT ACCEPT THIS KIND OF VIOLENCE EITHER, MR. CHAIRMAN. WE HAVE TOLERATED IT FOR FAR TOO LONG, AS IF THESE PRACTICES WERE SOMEHOW NATURAL WHEN YOU ARE POOR AND FEMALE.

THE POLITICS OF POWERLESSNESS STILL HOLDS MOST OF THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD IN AN ECONOMIC VICE. STATISTICS SHOW THAT WHILE WOMEN MAKE UP 50 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, THEY OWN ONLY 10 PERCENT OF ITS WEALTH AND ONE PERCENT OF ITS LAND. SUCH INEQUALITY IS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, FOR IT ENSURES THAT WOMEN HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE IN THE NATIONS WHERE THEY LIVE.

BUT TIMES CHANGE, MR. CHAIRMAN. AND NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, WOMEN FROM AROUND THE WORLD -- AND NOT JUST IN A FEW COUNTRIES, BUT IN EVERY COUNTRY -- ARE CHALLENGING THE LAWS AND CUSTOMS THAT HAVE MADE THEM SECOND CLASS. BY THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, IN GOVERNMENT AND

IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE, THEY ARE FORCING THE WORLD TO TAKE NOTICE OF THE CHANGE.

THE TIME FOR OUR SILENCE AND OUR SUBMISSION IS COMING TO AN END. A NEW DAY IS DAWNING FOR HALF THE PEOPLE OF THE
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 002689

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, CH, UE
SUBJECT: U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: SPEECH ON ITEM 9,
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

WORLD, AND INDEED FOR EVERYONE. WOMEN HAVE FOUND THE WORDS WHICH WERE WITHHELD FROM THEM. WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS. WE WILL SPEAK THIS SIMPLE TRUTH TO EVERY GOVERNMENT AND AT EVERY FORUM ACROSS THE GLOBE. AND MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT: THE VIOLENCE AND INEQUALITY WE FACE WILL END.

FOR SOMETHING HAPPENED AT THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. FORTY THOUSAND WOMEN AND MEN ASSEMBLED THERE. THEY CAME FROM EVERY REGION OF THE WORLD, REPRESENTING 189 GOVERNMENTS, THOUSANDS OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS -- AND SOMETIMES JUST THEMSELVES. AND THERE THEY TOOK A VOW: NO LONGER WILL WOMEN BE PRISONERS OF SILENCE.

BUT IT IS NOT JUST WITH WORDS THAT WE WILL FIGHT. THE BEIJING CONFERENCE PLATFORM OF ACTION GIVES US A SOLID FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BASE OUR FUTURE ACTIONS. IN IT THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD PLEDGED TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ALL ITS FORMS. THEY AGREED THAT GIRLS MUST BE PROTECTED AND VALUED EQUALLY WITH BOYS; THAT WOMEN MUST HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE AS WELL AS TO THE LEVERS OF CONOMIC AND POLITICAL POWER; THAT FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE SHARED; THAT WOMEN MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTROL THEIR OWN FERTILITY AND TO HAVE EQUALITY IN SEXUAL RELATIONS; AND FINALLY THAT THEY MUST BE FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS, FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS A PREREQUISITE TO OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, IT IS THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SEE THAT EVERY NATION WHICH AGREED TO THE PLATFORM ABIDES BY ITS PROVISIONS. WE SALUTE ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED, FOR IT IS THE STRONGEST POLICY STATEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS EVER MADE PROMOTING THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN.

BUT WE ARE NOT JUST LOOKING TO OTHER NATIONS TO IMPLEMENT

THE BEIJING PLATFORM. OUR GOVERNMENT TAKES ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUTTING IT INTO OPERATION VERY SERIOUSLY. FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER THE BEIJING CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT CLINTON ESTABLISHED AN INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN REQUIRING THAT EACH CABINET DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENT THE PLATFORM'S RECOMMENDATIONS. AS A RESULT, TO CITE JUST TWO EXAMPLES, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HAS LAUNCHED A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL EFFORT TO FIGHT DOMESTIC AND OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, COMBINING TOUGH NEW FEDERAL LAWS WITH ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND LOCALITIES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, VICTIM ASSISTANCE, PROSECUTIONS AND CRIME PREVENTION. AND IN OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS, THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID) HAS BEGUN NEW PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MICROENTERPRISES, BUILDING ON OUR PREVIOUS PROGRAMS TO HELP IMPOVERISHED WOMEN ENTER POLITICAL LIFE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAS HEARD FROM LITERALLY MILLIONS OF WOMEN WHO HAVE SIGNED PETITIONS DEMANDING THAT WOMEN'S RIGHTS BE ADDRESSED AS HUMAN RIGHTS. THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSE WAS TO CREATE A SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, WHO HAS BROKEN NEW GROUND THIS YEAR BY FOCUSING ON VIOLENCE WITHIN THE FAMILY AS A HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN. THE COMMISSION HAS ALSO DIRECTED ITS SPECIAL RAPPOREURS AND TREATY BODIES TO INTEGRATE WOMEN'S RIGHTS INTO THEIR WORK. AND IN OVER 30 RESOLUTIONS LAST YEAR, COMMISSION MEMBERS MADE CLEAR THAT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN ARE INDEED ESSENTIAL MATTERS OF CONCERN.

THERE WILL BE PEOPLE, MR. CHAIRMAN, WHO SEEK TO TURN US FROM OUR COURSE, FORCES WHICH TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE BEIJING CONFERENCE STAY WORDS, NOT DEEDS. BUT THOSE WHO THINK SO WILL FIND THEMSELVES ON THE WRONG SIDE OF HISTORY, CONDEMNED TO WATCH IT FLOW AWAY FROM THEM, FASTER AND FASTER EVERY DAY.

FOR THERE IS A COURSE TO HUMAN HISTORY, AND IT'S RUNNING ON OUR SIDE. WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS. WE LOOK FORWARD WITH GREAT EAGERNESS TO THE DAY WHEN THOSE FIVE SIMPLE, EASY WORDS WILL BECOME REALITY FOR EVERYONE. THANK YOU. END TEXT.

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 2689
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TOR: 960417123936 M2184422
<^TOR>960417124019 M2184423

DIST: SIT: LORIN MALLEY RAGAN SCHWARTZ
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHGVA2809 1140804-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 230804Z APR 96
LINE4: FM USMISSION GENEVA
OSRI: RUEHGV
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ORIG: USMISSION GENEVA
TO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6038
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3074
INFO: ////
SUBJ: U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: SPEECH ON ITEM 10,
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 GENEVA 002809

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, CH, UE
SUBJECT: U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: SPEECH ON ITEM 10,
QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD.

1. THIS IS UNHRC CABLE NUMBER 107.

2. AMBASSADOR GERALDINE FERRARO, HEAD OF THE US
DELEGATION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, GAVE THE
FOLLOWING SPEECH ON ITEM 10, QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE
WORLD, APRIL 18, 1996.

3. BEGIN TEXT.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

FORTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS WAS ADOPTED BY THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. SINCE
THEN IT HAS SERVED AS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL WHO VALUE
HUMAN RIGHTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE DECLARATION REMAINS
A "COMMON STANDARD OF ACHIEVEMENT" AGAINST WHICH EVERY
NATION'S PROGRESS CAN AND SHOULD BE MEASURED.

AS THE MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM IN THE WORLD,
THIS COMMISSION HAS THAT SAME MISSION: TO INSPIRE EVERY
NATION TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WHICH THEY HAVE
AGREED, AND TO EXPOSE VIOLATIONS WHEREVER THEY OCCUR.
OUR PURPOSE TODAY UNDER ITEM 10 IS TO MARK PROGRESS OVER
THE PAST YEAR AND ADDRESS THE EGREGIOUS VIOLATIONS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS THAT CONTINUE TO CONFRONT US.

THE UNITED STATES HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING
SELECTIVE IN ITS APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. I

WOULD INVITE THOSE WHO THINK SO TO READ THE COUNTRY REPORTS OUR GOVERNMENT RELEASED LAST MONTH. THEY COVER 194 NATIONS, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND THEY COMMENT ON EACH ONE IN DEPTH. WE HAVE ALSO SOMETIMES BEEN CRITICIZED FOR REPORTING ON OTHER COUNTRIES BUT NOT ADDRESSING OUR OWN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THAT, TOO, IS FALSE, AND I WOULD INVITE THOSE WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY TO READ OUR REPORT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE -- WHICH IS AVAILABLE AS A N DOCUMENT AND RUNS TO OVER 200 PAGES.

OUR PURPOSE AT THE COMMISSION, HOWEVER, IS TO CALL INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE MOST EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. AND THAT IS WHAT WE INTEND TO DO, FOR THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM SILENCE. IT ONLY PROTECTS THE VIOLATORS AND PERSECUTES THE VICTIMS. SILENCE ALSO KILLS, FOR IT DESTROYS THE PRECIOUS LINK BETWEEN THIS COMMISSION AND THOSE WHO LOOK TO US FOR HOPE AND INSPIRATION. WE MUST NOT ABANDON THEM, NOR LOSE SIGHT OF OUR PURPOSE IN SPEAKING UP ON THEIR BEHALF.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE SEEN NATIONS HELD CAPTIVE BY DESPOTIC GOVERNMENTS AND WONDERED IF THINGS WOULD EVER CHANGE, ONLY TO SEE THE WALLS COME DOWN AT LAST AND THE ONE-TIME PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BECOME LEADERS OF NEW, MORE DEMOCRATIC NATIONS? SO, TO THOSE WHO INSIST THAT THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS AT THIS COMMISSION, I SUGGEST THAT YOU ASK PRESIDENT MANDELA AND PRESIDENT HAVEL WHAT THEY THINK OF YOUR OUTRAGEOUS VIEW.

BUT IT TAKES TIME, MR. CHAIRMAN, SO MUCH TIME. SOMETIMES I FEAR THAT THERE ARE NATIONS HERE WHO MIGHT LOSE THE WILL TO FIGHT. THAT WOULD BE A MISTAKE OF THE HIGHEST ORDER. WE MUST NOT GIVE UP. HUMAN RIGHTS ARE TOO IMPORTANT. THEY GIVE LIFE AND HOPE TO MILLIONS. THEY CHANGE NATIONS FOR THE BETTER. AND NOBODY IN THIS DAY OF ULTRA-MODERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CAN KEEP NEWS OF THEM FROM GOING WHERE THEY'RE NEEDED. THAT'S WHY I'M CONFIDENT THAT ONE DAY EVEN THE CUBAN AND CHINESE PRISONS WILL OPEN THEIR DOORS AND THE MEN AND WOMEN CONFINED UNJUSTLY THERE WILL WALK FREE ONCE AGAIN.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE PAST YEAR, LIKE MOST OTHERS, HAS BEEN AN UNSETTLING MIX OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE WE CAN POINT TO THE DAYTON ACCORDS, WHICH HALTED THE BRUTAL VIOLENCE OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS AND OFFERS HOPE THAT THE FORMER WARRING PARTIES CAN BEGIN REBUILDING A STABLE, PROSPEROUS BOSNIA. AT THE SAME TIME, THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNALS ON BOSNIA AND RWANDA HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE HOLD IN A WAY THAT FEW BELIEVED WAS POSSIBLE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE TRIBUNALS IS A CRITICAL STEP TOWARD INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTABILITY. THIS CAN HELP HEAL WOUNDS AND LEAD TO RECONCILIATION, PREVENTING FUTURE WARS OF REVENGE AND RETRIBUTION.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PALESTINIANS HAVE HELD THEIR FIRST DEMOCRATIC ELECTION, WHILE JORDAN AND ISRAEL ARE PROVING THAT A WARM PEACE BETWEEN THE TWO IS POSSIBLE,

AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA GIVE HOPE THAT A JUST, LASTING AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE MAY COME TO THE REGION SOME DAY SOON. IN HAITI THERE WAS A NON-VIOLENT TRANSFER OF POWER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THAT NATION'S OFTEN TRAGIC HISTORY. IN ANGOLA AND NORTHERN IRELAND IMPORTANT STEPS TOWARD RECONCILIATION WERE TAKEN. AND
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 GENEVA 002809

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, CH, UE
SUBJECT: U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: SPEECH ON ITEM 10, QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD.

THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE DELIVERED THE MOST POWERFUL MESSAGE EVER THAT WOMEN'S RIGHTS MUST BE RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS THEY CLEARLY ARE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE LEDGER MUST ALSO NOTE THE SYSTEMATIC AND DELIBERATE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE WHICH CONTINUES TO RUIN MILLIONS OF LIVES, MAKING A MOCKERY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE WORK OF THIS COMMISSION.

IN CHINA, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS INTOLERANT OF DISSENT AND RESORTS TO ARBITRARY DETENTION, FORCED CONFESSIONS, TORTURE AND MISTREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. MANY CHINESE CITIZENS SEEKING PEACEFULLY TO EXPRESS THEIR POLITICAL, SOCIAL, OR RELIGIOUS VIEWS HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO SO-CALLED "RE-EDUCATION THROUGH LABOR." THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES CHINA'S RECENT EFFORTS TO UNDERTAKE LEGAL REFORMS WITH A VIEW TOWARD A GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE RULE OF LAW, BUT IMPLEMENTING THESE REFORMS TO BENEFIT THE CITIZEN IS ESSENTIAL IF THEY ARE TO MEAN ANYTHING.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE CANNOT REMAIN SILENT IN THE FACE OF CONTINUED RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THE PRESS, ASSEMBLY, ASSOCIATION, RELIGION, PRIVACY, MOVEMENT AND WORKER RIGHTS. NOR CAN WE IGNORE THE REPRESSION OF PEACEFUL DISSENT BY INTERNATIONALLY-KNOWN POLITICAL THINKERS SUCH AS WEI JINGSHENG, REN WANDING AND CHEN ZEMING OR THE INTERFERENCE IN THE SELECTION OF THE PANCHEN LAMA. I MUST SAY THAT I FIND IT ABSOLUTELY MIND-BOGGLING THAT A GOVERNMENT AS STRONG AS CHINA'S SEEMS AFRAID OF A SIX-YEAR OLD BOY. AND WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FREEDOM OF RELIGION, CHINESE AUTHORITIES MUST ALSO ALLOW ROMAN CATHOLICS AND TIBETAN BUDDHISTS TO EXPRESS

THEIR BELIEFS FULLY AND WITHOUT HINDRANCE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO MANIFEST ITS CONTEMPT FOR THE NORMS OF CIVILIZED BEHAVIOR, SHOOTING DOWN TWO UNARMED CIVILIAN PASSENGER PLANES OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND PERSECUTING HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND DISSIDENTS LIKE THE MEMBERS OF CONCILIO CUBANO. SUCH ACTIONS ARE DESPERATE ATTEMPTS TO PRESERVE A DECAYED AND DECADENT DICTATORSHIP. AT THE SAME TIME, CUBA CONTINUES TO DO ITS UTMOST TO DEFLECT THIS COMMISSION'S ATTENTION FROM ITS DISMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, CHURNING OUT DOZENS OF RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO TURN EVERY DISCUSSION OF THIS BODY INTO A NORTH-SOUTH FIGHT.

IN NIGERIA, THE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS HOLD ON POWER, THE ABACHA REGIME HAS ENACTED A SERIES OF HARSH DECREES, SEVERELY RESTRICTING BASIC FREEDOMS, WHILE JOURNALISTS ARE HARASSED AND CRITICS OF THE REGIME ARE DETAINED AND ARRESTED. THE EXECUTION OF PLAYWRIGHT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST KEN SARO-WIWA AND EIGHT OTHERS, AFTER A TRIAL WHICH VIOLATED BASIC RIGHTS OF DUE PROCESS THIS PAST NOVEMBER, WAS A PARTICULARLY BLATANT EXAMPLE. THROUGH SUCH ACTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS FOSTERED A CLIMATE IN WHICH NIGERIAN VOICES ARE SILENCED.

SADLY, MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AFTER ITS INVASION OF KUWAIT, THE IRAQI LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO PERSECUTE ITS OWN CITIZENS WITH VIRTUAL ABANDON. FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THE PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION DO NOT EXIST, WHILE MILITARY OPERATIONS CONTINUE TO TARGET THE POPULATIONS OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN IRAQ.

THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT REMAINS A MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSER, WITH VIOLATIONS RANGING FROM EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS AND SUMMARY EXECUTIONS TO THE WIDESPREAD USE OF TORTURE, ARBITRARY ARREST, A LACK OF FREE TRIALS AND THE REPRESSION OF THE FREEDOMS OF SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY, ASSOCIATION AND RELIGION. THE UNITED STATES ALSO REMAINS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY THE INTOLERANCE DIRECTED AT THE BAHAI'IS, CHRISTIANS, AND OTHER RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN IRAN, AND WE ARE TROBBLED THAT IT CONTINUES TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN, BOTH LEGALLY AND SOCIALLY.

IN SUDAN, THE PATTERN OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT UNFORTUNATELY CONTINUES UNABATED, WHILE THE INSURGENTS ALSO COMMIT SERIOUS ABUSES. MASSACRES, EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS, KIDNAPPINGS, FORCED LABOR, AND EVEN SLAVERY ARE FAR TOO COMMON, WHILE ATTACKS ON NON-SPONSORED RELIEF OPERATIONS FREQUENTLY PREVENT DESPERATELY-NEEDED ASSISTANCE FROM REACHING THOSE WHO MOST NEED IT. WE WELCOME THE STATEMENT THE SUDANESE MINISTER OF JUSTICE MADE AT THE COMMISSION APRIL 17 AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE SPECIAL APPOINTEE MAKING ANOTHER VISIT THERE VERY SOON.

IN ZAIRE, THE SECURITY FORCES CONTINUE TO INFLECT NUMEROUS ABUSES ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 GENEVA 002809

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, CH, UE
SUBJECT: U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: SPEECH ON ITEM 10,
QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD.

AND IN BURMA, THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO IMPOSE
MAJOR RESTRICTIONS ON THE BASIC RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS.
WHILE THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED THAT THE COUNTRY'S
FOREMOST PRO-DEMOCRACY LEADER, AUNG SAN SUU KYI, WAS
RELEASED FROM HOUSE ARREST LAST JULY, POLITICAL DIALOGUE
IS SHARPLY LIMITED, AND SEVERAL HUNDRED OTHER POLITICAL
PRISONERS REMAIN IN DETENTION. MEANWHILE, THE SECURITY
FORCES CONTINUE TO EXTRACT FORCED LABOR BRUTALLY FROM
ORDINARY BURMESE CITIZENS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, DURING THE PAST DECADE, REGIONAL, ETHNIC
AND SEPARATIST CONFLICT HAS BECOME ONE OF THE GREAT
THREATS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF CITIZENS. BOSNIA,
NAGORNO-KARABAKH, ABKHAZIA, CHECHNYA, LIBERIA, AND RWANDA
PROVIDE ENDLESS EXAMPLES OF TRAGIC HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.
THESE RANGE FROM LOSS OF HOME AND POSSESSIONS TO ETHNIC
CLEANSING AND GENOCIDE. SUCH ABUSES SERVE AS A CONSTANT
REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ENDING SUCH CONFLICTS BY
MEANS OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS AND ESTABLISH THE BASIS
FOR TOLERANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER CIVIL GOVERNMENT
AND RULE OF LAW. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE THE BEST MEANS TO
PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER NATIONS WHICH MERIT DISCUSSION HERE.
INDEED, IT SOMETIMES SEEMS THAT THE LIST OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ABUSERS WE DISCUSS GROWS LONGER EVERY YEAR. WHILE THIS
CAN BE DISCOURAGING, WE MUST MEASURE OUR FRUSTRATION
AGAINST THE COST OF DOING NOTHING. FOR THERE IS ALWAYS
THE SATISFACTION OF HEARING STATES LIKE SOUTH AFRICA, EL
SALVADOR AND CHILE TALK ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S POSITIVE
IMPACT ON THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. AND IT'S
GRATIFYING TO WATCH SRI LANKA AND GUATEMALA WORK WITH THE
COMMISSION AS THEY CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS
RECORDS.

WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THESE EXPERIENCES, MR. CHAIRMAN.
WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THIS COMMISSION, AND A LITTLE
GOOD FORTUNE, OTHER COUNTRIES CAN CHANGE AND TURN AWAY
FROM HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE. THEY TOO CAN LEARN THAT BY

EMBRACING HUMAN RIGHTS, THEY EMBRACE THEIR OWN PEOPLE,
AND UNLOCK THE CREATIVE POTENTIAL WHICH LIES WITHIN THEM.

WE AT THE COMMISSION HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DO WHAT WE CAN
TO HELP. OUR GOAL HERE IS NOT CONFRONTATION, BUT
DIALOGUE AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. BUT UNTIL
SUCH TIME AS GOVERNMENTS EVERYWHERE OBSERVE THE
COMMITMENTS TO WHICH THEY HAVE AGREED, WE MUST KEEP OUR
LIGHT SHINING BRIGHTLY ON THOSE WHO CONTINUE VIOLATING
HUMAN RIGHTS. FOR THOSE RIGHTS ARE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL
PEOPLE AND A STANDARD BY WHICH THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD
ARE MEASURED.

THANK YOU. END TEXT.
SPIEGEL
BT
#2809

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 2809
<^SSN>2809
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TOR: 960423060010 M2193356
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DIST:
SIT: CLARKER DAALDER EDDY LORIN MALLEY RAGAN SCHWARTZ SHEEHAN
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHLBA1540 1410741-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 200741Z MAY 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
OSRI: RUEHLB
DTG: 200741Z MAY 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0670
INFO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1986
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 3475
SUBJ: FORMATION OF LEBANESE NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR WOMENS ISSUES

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIRUT 001540

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PHUM, SNAR, LE

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF LEBANESE NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR WOMENS ISSUES

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE: SEE PARA 5.

2. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED MAY 17 LETTER FROM MONA HRAWI, PRESIDENT HRAWI'S WIFE, ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR WOMENS AFFAIRS. SHE INCLUDED A COPY OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION NO. 13 BY WHICH THE COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED. EMBASSY TRANSLATIONS OF LETTER (PARA 3) AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION (PARA 4) FOLLOW:

3. BEGIN TEXT OF MRS. HRAWI'S LETTER.

BEIRUT, MAY 13, 1996

O/REF: R.M.H. 693/96

HIS EXCELLENCY RICHARD JONES

BEST REGARDS,

WE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU ABOUT THE NATIONAL FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE ON LEBANESE WOMENS ISSUES, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CABINET DECREE NUMBER 13 AND INVOLVES WOMEN VOLUNTEERS FROM CIVIC GROUPS WHO ARE EXPERTS IN THE FIELDS OF LAW, POLITICAL SCIENCE, ECONOMICS, SOCIAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION.

THE COMMITTEE COMMENCED ITS WORK AS OF THE DATE OF

ITS ESTABLISHMENT, JANUARY 3, 1996, THE BASIS OF ITS WORK BEING THE NATIONAL DOCUMENT PREPARED ON THE OCCASION OF THE 1995 BEIJING FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, THE ARAB WORK PLAN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE YEAR 2005, AND THE WORK PLAN ISSUED BY THE BEIJING CONFERENCE.

-
IN LIGHT OF THESE DOCUMENTS, THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED A WORK PLAN WITH A THREE-YEAR TIMETABLE. IT WILL FOCUS ON COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES, WITH THE LEGALLY RECOGNIZED CIVIC GROUPS, AND WITH THE UN AGENCIES OPERATING IN LEBANON AS WELL AS THE ARAB AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

WE THEREFORE KINDLY REQUEST THAT YOU RELY ON THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ALL MATTERS WHICH ARE OF INTEREST TO WOMEN, AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

CHRONIC CARE CENTER
BA'ABDA-BRAZILIA NEAR ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL
TELEPHONE: 426840/1; FAX: 455103

WE DEPEND ON YOUR COOPERATION IN THE WORK THE COMMITTEE WILL UNDERTAKE AND FOR WHICH WE INVITE YOUR PARTICIPATION.

WITH SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION.

SIGNED

MONA ILIAS HRAWI
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LEBANESE WOMENS AFFAIRS

ATTACHED: DOCUMENTS.

END TEXT.

4. BEGIN TEXT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION NUMBER 13.

REPUBLIC OF LEBANON
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
THE SECRETARY GENERAL

DOCUMENT NUMBER 30
DECISION NUMBER 13

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD IN BEIRUT ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1996.

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE ON LEBANESE WOMENS' ISSUES.

DOCUMENTS: THE PROPOSALS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

-

COUNCIL DECISION:

THE COUNCIL LISTENED TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL
AFFAIRS SAID DURING THE MEETING AND, AFTER
DELIBERATING, DECIDED TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
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#1540

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BEIRUT 001540

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PHUM, SNAR, LE

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF LEBANESE NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR WOMENS ISSUES

THE NATIONAL FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE ON LEBANESE WOMENS
ISSUES AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST LADY MONA HRAWI, PRESIDENT
MRS. RANDA BIRRI, VICE PRESIDENT
LAWYER LAURIE MOUGHAYZEL, MEMBER
DR. FADIA KIWAN, MEMBER
LAWYER MONA KHALAF, MEMBER
MRS. AFIFI AL-SAYYED, MEMBER
MRS. WAFI AL-DAYQA HAMZA, MEMBER
MRS. HAYAT TALI' MUSFI, MEMBER

SIGNED

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HISHAM SHA'AR

BEIRUT, ON JANUARY 8, 1996

END TEXT

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE
DISSEMINATION OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE APPROPRIATE
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

JONES

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 1540
<^SSN>1540

TOR: 960520034635 M2232529
<^TOR>960520034635 M2232530

DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHCAA7627 1590159-UUUU--RHEHNSC.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: P R 070156Z JUN 96

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 070156Z JUN 96

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 8257

RUEHPA/AMEMBASSY PRAIA PRIORITY 0442

RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY 8801

RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 4356

RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 1913

RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 9262

RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 9277

RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY 3463

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 4602

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC 6957

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 0200

RUETIAA/DIRNSA FORT GEORGE G MEADE MD

INFO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0262

RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 9394

XMT USINT HAVANA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR FINAL DEMARCHE ON 1996 UN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION SESSION

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 07 STATE 117627

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-L, PREL, US

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FINAL DEMARCHE ON 1996 UN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION SESSION

REF: (A) GENEVA 3105 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 94426 (NOTAL), (C)
GENEVA 2970 (NOTAL), (D) NEW DELHI 4773 (NOTAL)

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE SEE PARAS 4, 9-19. M/P HAS
CLEARED THIS MESSAGE.

2. SUMMARY. IN ORDER TO BRING TO CLOSURE AND BUILD UPON
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE 1996 UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
(UNHRC), ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO DISCUSS WITH
HOST GOVERNMENTS OUR VIEWS ON THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 1996
UNHRC SESSION. AS DETAILED IN REF A, WE ACHIEVED A NUMBER
OF OUR HIGH PRIORITIES AT THE UNHRC, BUT WERE DISAPPOINTED

BY SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN RECEIVING HOST GOVERNMENT OBSERVATIONS AND VIEWS ON THE SESSION.

3. POSTS WHOSE GOVERNMENTS ARE LEAVING THE COMMISSION AT THE END OF 1996 -- MALAWI, CAMEROON, COTE D'IVOIRE, MAURITANIA, HUNGARY, AUSTRALIA, PERU AND VENEZUELA --

SHOULD TAKE THE OCCASION TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO THEIR COOPERATION WITH THE US ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN DURING THE PAST THREE COMMISSION SESSIONS. EMBASSIES PRETORIA, PRAIA, MAPUTO, KINSHASHA, PRAGUE, DUBLIN, MONTEVIDEO AND BUENOS AIRES SHOULD TAKE THIS OCCASION TO WELCOME THE ELECTION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS TO THE COMMISSION; EMBASSIES QUITO, TOKYO, BONN, ROME, VIENNA, JAKARTA, AND BEIJING SHOULD CONGRATULATE HOST GOVERNMENTS' ON THEIR RE-ELECTION TO THE COMMISSION. SEE TALKING POINTS BELOW PARAS 9-19. FRENCH AND SPANISH TRANSLATIONS OF TALKING POINTS WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

4. WE ATTACH HIGH PRIORITY TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND BELIEVE THAT WE SCORED A NUMBER OF SUCCESSES THAT ADVANCED HUMAN RIGHTS IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT WAYS AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 52ND SESSION. BOTH PRIOR TO AND DURING THE SESSION, ACTION ADDRESSEES WERE INSTRUCTED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS ON MATTERS OF HIGH PRIORITY AT THE COMMISSION (E.G. SUBCOMMISSION ELECTION, CUBA RESOLUTION, CHINA RESOLUTION/NO-ACTION MOTION). IN ORDER TO BRING OUR EFFORTS AT THE COMMISSION TO CLOSURE AND BUILD UPON OUR SUCCESSES, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO REVIEW WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS WHAT TRANSPIRED AT THE UNHRC. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO PRESENT A FINAL WRAP-UP DEMARCHE TO HOST GOVERNMENTS AND TO SEEK HOST GOVERNMENTS' VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE SESSION AS WELL. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, EMBASSIES SHOULD SEEK TO ENSURE THAT HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED THE COMMISSION ARE PRESENT WHEN THE DEMARCHE IS DELIVERED. PLEASE REPORT ANY HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSE.

5. AS REPORTED IN DETAIL IN REF A (NOTAL), THE US DELEGATION TO THE UNHRC, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF AMBASSADOR GERALDINE FERRARO, TOOK THE LEAD ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES IN GENEVA, AND TOOK AN ACTIVE ROLE IN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN ALL GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS, AND IN THE COMMISSION'S WORK ON COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS AND THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS. OUR DELEGATION SCORED NOTABLE SUCCESSES WITH US-INTRODUCED RESOLUTIONS ON THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, SUDAN, CUBA, THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS AND WORKER RIGHTS. A US EXPERT AND ALTERNATE WERE ELECTED TO THE SUBCOMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

6. OTHER POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR VIEW INCLUDED THE FURTHER INTEGRATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS INTO MANY THEMATIC

AND COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS, ACHIEVING FOR THE FIRST

TIME A CONSENSUS RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT,
AND REAFFIRMING THE MANDATE OF THE RAPPOREUR ON RACISM --
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#7627

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 07 STATE 117627

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-L, PREL, US
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FINAL DEMARCHE ON 1996 UN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION SESSION

INCLUDING REAFFIRMATION THAT IT SPECIFICALLY INCLUDES
ANTI-SEMITISM. WE WERE DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, BY THE
COMMISSION'S FAILURE TO BRING TO A VOTE A RESOLUTION ON
THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHINA AS WELL AS BY EFFORTS
BY CUBA, CHINA AND OTHERS TO DISRUPT THE WORK OF THE
COMMISSION.

7. THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENTS? TERMS ON THE COMMISSION
EXPIRE AT THE END OF 1996: MALAWI, CAMEROON, COTE
D'IVOIRE, MAURITANIA, HUNGARY, VENEZUELA, PERU AND
AUSTRALIA. AS REPORTED IN USUN 1496 (NOTAL), THE
FOLLOWING COUNTRIES WERE ELECTED AND IN EFFECT REPLACE
THOSE LISTED ABOVE: SOUTH AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE, CAPE VERDE,
ZAIRE, CZECH REPUBLIC, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY AND IRELAND.
(NOTE: IRELAND WAS PART OF THE WESTERN GROUP CONSENSUS
SLATE, AUSTRALIA DID NOT STAND FOR RE-ELECTION.) CURRENT
COMMISSION MEMBERS ECUADOR, CHINA, JAPAN, INDONESIA,
ITALY, GERMANY, AND AUSTRIA WERE RE-ELECTED TO ADDITIONAL
THREE YEAR TERMS. TALKING POINTS FOLLOW BELOW.

8. FOR BEIJING: YOU SHOULD USE YOUR BEST JUDGMENT IN
DECIDING WHETHER TO PRESENT THIS DEMARCHE.

9. BEGIN TALKING POINTS. PLEASE NOTE THAT TALKING POINTS
ARE FOR ALL POSTS EXCEPT FOR THOSE CONTAINED IN DOUBLE
PARENTHESES.

GENERAL

-- THE 52ND SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
RECENTLY CONCLUDED IN GENEVA (MARCH 18 TO APRIL 26).
THROUGHOUT THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE COMMISSION AND
DURING THE SESSION, WE APPRECIATED YOUR ATTENTION TO OUR
DEMARCHES ON ITEMS OF HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO OUR GOVERNMENT.

-- IN OVERALL TERMS, WE WERE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE COMMISSION SESSION. IN OUR VIEW THE COMMISSION IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BODY. ITS WORK THIS YEAR SERVED TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD.

-- WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH OUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE SESSION.

-- WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN YOUR VIEWS ON WHAT THE COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHED, ITS SHORTCOMINGS, AND ANY OTHER OBSERVATIONS THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHARE.

-- WE AGREE WITH THOSE WHO SAY THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION WOULD BE IMPROVED BY REFORMS, AND WE ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER.

-- THE COMMISSION ADOPTED CLOSE TO 100 RESOLUTIONS AT THE 52ND SESSION. IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE WORKLOAD, MANY OF THESE COULD BE BIENNIALIZED, ELIMINATED OR COMBINED WITH OTHER RESOLUTIONS AND WE WOULD ENCOURAGE EFFORTS BY SPONSORS TO DO SO.

-- IN FACT, COMMISSION REFORM BECAME AN OVERRIDING THEME FROM THE OUTSET. THE US WAS NOT ABLE, HOWEVER, TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED "RECLUSTERED" AGENDA FOR THE 1997 SESSION. ALTHOUGH WE COULD AGREE WITH MUCH OF THE WORK DONE ON THE AGENDA, WE OBJECT TO THE CONTINUATION OF A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

(FYI: "RECLUSTERING" REFERS TO THE GROUPING OF SUBJECTS UNDER LARGER HEADINGS. THE PRACTICE CAN LEAD TO A SHORTER AND MORE LOGICAL AGENDA; IT CAN ALSO AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF TIME AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS EACH SUBJECT. CURRENTLY, ALL COUNTRY RESOLUTIONS EXCEPT THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE ADDRESSED UNDER ONE AGENDA ITEM. PLACING THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES UNDER A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM GROSSLY DISTORTS THE AGENDA AND MAGNIFIES THE AMOUNT OF DEBATE DEVOTED TO IT. MOREOVER, THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS ALSO DEBATED UNDER THE ITEM ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE ITEM ON ALL COUNTRY SITUATIONS -- A SEPARATE ITEM IS BT
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-L, PREL, US
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THEREFOR COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY. END FYI)

-- SINGLING OUT ISRAEL IN THIS FASHION IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SELECTIVITY AND LACK OF OBJECTIVITY AND IMPARTIALITY THAT MANY COMMISSION MEMBERS DENOUNCE. ISRAEL SHOULD BE TREATED THE SAME AS EVERY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD AND CONSIDERED UNDER THE AGENDA ITEM ON "VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD."

-- THIS ISSUE WILL BE THE TOPIC OF INFORMAL INTER-SESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA. WE FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT THIS SUBJECT AND HOPE YOU WILL SUPPORT THE ELIMINATION OF THIS SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM.

((FOR BRASILIA: WE APPRECIATE THE GOOD WORK CHAIRMAN SABOIA DID IN CRAFTING A NEW PROPOSED AGENDA. WE LOOK

FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN INTER-SESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM. WE HOPE HE WILL SHARE OUR VIEW ON THE INEQUITY OF INCLUDING SUCH AN ITEM.))

-- WE WERE CONCERNED BY EFFORTS (ALSO LIKELY TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS) TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO MAKE AS MANY DECISIONS AS POSSIBLE BY CONSENSUS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THIS EFFORT, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS AN EFFORT BY SOME MEMBERS TO DILUTE THE COMMISSION'S ABILITY TO ADDRESS COUNTRY-SPECIFIC SITUATIONS.

-- WHILE WE FAVOR CONSENSUS WHEN IT CAN BE ACHIEVED AND WHEN IT REFLECTS GENUINE AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING -- AND WE NOTE THAT FOUR OF THE FIVE RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED BY THE US WERE CONSENSUS TEXTS -- THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT TO SEEK COMPROMISES MERELY FOR THE SAKE OF CONSENSUS.

10. US INITIATIVES

-- WE INTRODUCED RESOLUTIONS ON CUBA, THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, SUDAN, THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS AND WORKERS' RIGHTS. ALL OF THESE INITIATIVES WERE ADOPTED.

-- THE US RESOLUTION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CUBA WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 20 (US) TO 5 (CHINA, CUBA, INDIA, INDONESIA, AND ZIMBABWE) WITH 28 ABSTENTIONS.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION MUST BE FOCUSED ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CUBA. THE UNHRC SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR UNDERScoreD THE LACK OF PROGRESS THERE. CONTRARY TO CUBAN GOVERNMENT ASSERTIONS, THE CAUSES OF CUBA'S PROBLEMS DERIVE FROM THE POLICIES OF THE CASTRO REGIME, NOT FROM ANY ACTION TAKEN BY THE US OR OTHERS.

((FOR CANBERRA, VIENNA, SOFIA, OTTAWA, SANTIAGO,

COPENHAGEN, SANTO DOMINGO, QUITO, SAN SALVADOR, PARIS, BONN, BUDAPEST, ROME, TOKYO, ANTANANARIVO, THE HAGUE, MANAGUA, SEOUL LONDON: WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AND VALUED YOUR SUPPORT ON THIS RESOLUTION.))

-- TURNING TO SUDAN, WE WERE PLEASED THAT OUR RESOLUTION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. IN PARTICULAR, WE WELCOME THE GOVERNMENT OF

SUDAN'S WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR TO VISIT THE COUNTRY.

-- WE WERE EQUALLY PLEASED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION ON THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA ADOPTED WITHOUT A VOTE.

((FOR BONN AND OTTAWA: WE MUCH APPRECIATED YOUR DELEGATIONS' GOOD WORK, ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION ON THIS RESOLUTION.))

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UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 07 STATE 117627

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-L, PREL, US
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FINAL DEMARCHE ON 1996 UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SESSION

-- OUR RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS WAS ALSO ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR. THE US DELEGATION WORKED CLOSELY WITH BOTH ISRAEL AND THE PLO TO ARRIVE AT A CONSENSUS TEXT.

-- WHILE PLEASED WITH THE BROAD SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORT, WE REMAIN CONCERNED BY THE ADOPTION AGAIN OF SEVERAL UNBALANCED, REPETITIVE AND OUTDATED RESOLUTIONS WHICH REMAIN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ISRAEL. SEVERAL OF THESE DO NOT REFLECT THE CHANGED SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

-- ISRAEL IS THE ONLY COUNTRY SUBJECTED TO MULTIPLE RESOLUTIONS. MOREOVER, IT IS THE ONLY COUNTRY FOR WHICH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HAS AN OPEN-ENDED MANDATE (ALL OTHERS ARE FOR ONLY ONE YEAR). WE ALSO FIND IT ODD THAT COMMISSION MEMBERS WHO FREQUENTLY VOICE THEIR OPPOSITION TO COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS CONTINUALLY SUPPORT THESE MULTIPLE ANTI-ISRAELI TEXTS.

-- THE US ALSO TOOK THE LEAD AT THE COMMISSION IN INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION ON WORKER RIGHTS. AGAIN WE WERE PLEASED THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WORKER RIGHTS IS A LEGITIMATE ISSUE FOR THE UNHRC AND THAT COORDINATION BETWEEN THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER AND THE ILO SHOULD BE INCREASED.

11. COUNTRY SITUATIONS

-- AS YOU KNOW, THE COMMISSION REVIEWED THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND ADOPTED CONSENSUS RESOLUTIONS ON BURUNDI, NIGERIA, RWANDA, THE WESTERN SAHARA, ZAIRE, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, HAITI, BURMA, IRAN, AND IRAQ. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENTS WERE ISSUED ON EAST TIMOR, CHECHNYA, COLOMBIA, LIBERIA, AND AFGHANISTAN. UNDER THE ADVISORY SERVICES AGENDA ITEM, RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY

CONSENSUS ON CAMBODIA, SOMALIA, TOGO, AND GUATEMALA. RATHER THAN ADDRESSING EACH OF THESE IN FULL, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS.

-- THE COMMISSION FOCUSED ITS ATTENTION FOR A FULL HALF-DAY SESSION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS "SPECIAL MEETING" WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HIGHLIGHTING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THE CRITICAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE AS WELL AS THE ON-GOING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY EFFORTS UNDERWAY.

-- WE SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO HAVE THE COMMISSION ADOPT A RESOLUTION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NIGERIA. ULTIMATELY, A RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED WHICH DID NOT CALL FOR THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR NIGERIA. INSTEAD, THE RESOLUTION REQUESTS THAT SPECIAL MECHANISMS OF THE COMMISSION THAT ARE ALREADY IN PLACE (I.E. THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY OR ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS AND THE RAPPORTEUR ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY) SUBMIT A JOINT REPORT TO THE UNGA AND THE UNHRC. WE HOPE THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT COOPERATES WITH THE COMMISSION AND ITS MECHANISMS.

-- WE WERE PLEASED BY THE EFFORTS OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS THERE BY COOPERATING WITH THE COMMISSION IN THE DRAFTING OF A CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT WHICH CALLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER IN BOGOTA. THIS SORT OF POSITIVE COOPERATION COULD BE A MODEL FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS FACING COMMISSION ACTION.

((FOR BOGOTA: WE APPRECIATE THE GOC'S FORTHCOMING APPROACH ON THIS.))

12. NO-ACTION MOTION

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N,A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-L, PREL, US
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FINAL DEMARCHE ON 1996 UN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION SESSION

-- WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE COMMISSION VOTED TO TAKE
NO ACTION ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CHINA. THE VOTE ON
THE NO-ACTION MOTION WAS 27(CHINA) TO 20, WITH 6
ABSTENTIONS.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT SUBSTANTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES SHOULD
BE CONSIDERED ON THEIR MERITS AND NO COUNTRY'S HUMAN
RIGHTS PRACTICES SHOULD BE EXEMPTED ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS
FROM LEGITIMATE COMMISSION EXAMINATION.

((FOR LILONGWE, SAN SALVADOR, SANTO DOMINGO, MANAGUA,
QUITO, BUDAPEST, SOFIA, (STATE 94426): WE GREATLY
APPRECIATED THE PRINCIPLED POSITION TAKEN BY YOUR
GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER. YOUR OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATED
YOUR GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE UNIVERSALITY OF HUMAN
RIGHTS.))

((ADDITIONAL FOR SAN SALVADOR: WE ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS
OUR APPRECIATION FOR YOUR UNHRC DELEGATION'S WILLINGNESS
TO PUBLICLY SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE NO-ACTION MOTION DURING
THE DEBATE IN GENEVA. WHILE OTHERS SAT SILENTLY, YOUR
STATEMENT ON THE NO-ACTION MOTION REINFORCED YOUR STRONG
COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY, BUT
TO YOUR COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION AS WELL.))

((FOR BRASILIA AND SANTIAGO: YOUR OPPOSITION TO THE
NO-ACTION MOTION THIS YEAR SENT A STRONG SIGNAL TO THE
COMMISSION AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WE ARE
GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO REVIEW ITS
PREVIOUS POSITION AND FOR THE UNDERSTANDING SHOWN FOR OUR
CONCERNS ON THIS ISSUE.))

((FOR PRAGUE: EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE NOT ON THE 1996
COMMISSION, WE APPRECIATED THE SUPPORT AND INTEREST YOUR
GOVERNMENT TOOK IN THIS MATTER. IN PARTICULAR, WE
WELCOMED YOUR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE RESOLUTION.))

13. SUBCOMMISSION ELECTION

-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP ELECTED US EXPERT DAVID WEISSBRODT AND ALTERNATE GAY MCDUGAL TO THE SUBCOMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES. WE BELIEVE THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE IN MANY POSITIVE WAYS TO THE WORK OF THE SUBCOMMISSION.

((FOR ADDIS ABABA, CAIRO, ALGIERS, SEOUL, TOKYO, BOGOTA AND KIEV: WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR CANDIDATE'S ELECTION TO THE COMMISSION.))

14. THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

-- ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE UNHRC CENTERS ON COUNTRY SITUATIONS, MUCH OF ITS BEST WORK IS ON THEMATIC ISSUES.

-- THE COMMISSION'S CONTINUED ACTION THIS YEAR TO COMBAT TORTURE, ARBITRARY DETENTION, SUMMARY EXECUTION, RACISM, DISAPPEARANCES AND RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE LIES AT THE VERY HEART OF ITS IMPORTANCE AS AN INSTITUTION.

((FOR DUBLIN: WE WERE PLEASED TO WORK WITH YOUR DELEGATION IN GENEVA ON THE RESOLUTION DEALING WITH RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE. WE WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE.))

-- IN A NUMBER OF CASES, WE WERE CONCERNED BY EFFORTS BY SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO BACKTRACK FROM LANGUAGE ACCEPTED AT THE 1993 WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS CONTAINED IN THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION (VDPA). THE US WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE STRENUOUSLY EFFORTS BY SOME TO WEAKEN RESOLUTIONS OR DILUTE OR REWRITE THE MANDATES OF KEY SPECIAL
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#7627

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UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 07 STATE 117627

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-L, PREL, US
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RAPPORTEURS. NONETHELESS, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF POSITIVE

DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA DURING THE COMMISSION.

-- IN PARTICULAR, WE WERE PLEASED THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPTED FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER A CONSENSUS RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT. THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION BY CONSENSUS IS EVIDENCE OF THE ABILITY OF THE COMMISSION TO WORK TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF MODERATION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER PROGRESS ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE. NONETHELESS, WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT CONTINUE TO BE REGARDED AS AN INDIVIDUAL, NOT STATE OR COLLECTIVE, RIGHT.

((FOR BOGOTA: WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE LEADERSHIP, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WHICH MADE POSSIBLE THE FIRST-EVER UNHRC CONSENSUS ON THIS ISSUE.))

-- WE WERE ALSO PLEASED WITH THE FINAL OMNIBUS RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, WHICH WE WERE ABLE TO CO-SPONSOR.

-- THIS WAS THE FIRST COMMISSION SESSION SINCE THE 4TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN WAS HELD IN BEIJING. THE COMMISSION WAS ABLE TO EXTEND AND STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE COMMISSION'S WORK.

-- WE WERE PLEASED THAT WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONCERNS WERE INCORPORATED INTO A RECORD NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS.

((FOR SEOUL AND TOKYO: WE WERE PLEASED THAT A SOLUTION WAS FOUND TO THE "COMFORT WOMEN? ISSUE WHICH ADDRESSED THE NEEDS OF THESE VICTIMS AND DID NOT ATTACK THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR'S LEGAL CONCLUSIONS.))

15. NEED TO SUPPORT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

-- THE COMMISSION CONTINUES TO EXPAND THE MANDATES OF VARIOUS RAPPORTEURS AND WORKING GROUPS. THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS NEEDS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT THESE MANDATES.

-- WE URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER (FROM WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES OF THE UN).

-- SUPPORT FOR THESE PRIORITY ACTIVITIES OF THE UN, ESPECIALLY FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO DIRECT AND MANAGE THE RESOURCES OF THE CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WILL BE IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE THAT IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER IN JUNE.

16. FAREWELL TO THOSE LEAVING THE COMMISSION IN 1996

((FOR CANBERRA, BUDAPEST, AND LILONGWE: WE APPRECIATED

YOUR SUPPORT ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO US DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, AND VALUED THE COOPERATION YOUR DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA PROVIDED TO THE US DELEGATION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN IN OTHER FORA. WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER SEEKING ELECTION TO THE COMMISSION IN THE FUTURE. WE ALSO HOPE YOU WILL BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS AS OBSERVERS IN COMING COMMISSION SESSIONS.))

((FOR NOUAKCHOTT, LIMA, CARACAS, YAOUNDE AND ABIDJAN: WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH YOU IN OTHER MULTILATERAL FORA.))

17. RE-ELECTION TO THE COMMISSION

((FOR QUITO, TOKYO, JAKARTA, BEIJING, VIENNA, BONN AND
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ROME: WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR RE-ELECTION FOR ANOTHER THREE-YEAR TERM TO THE COMMISSION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AT THE COMMISSION.))

18. NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN 1997

((FOR PRETORIA, KINSHASHA, MAPUTO, PRAIA, DUBLIN, PRAGUE, MONTEVIDEO, AND BUENOS AIRES: WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ELECTION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.))

-- THE US ATTACHES HIGH PRIORITY TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND VALUES COOPERATION ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

((FOR PRETORIA, DUBLIN, PRAGUE AND BUENOS AIRES: WE HAVE ENJOYED WORKING WITH YOUR OBSERVER DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING

WITH YOU EVEN MORE CLOSELY IN 1997.))

19. FOR EU POSTS

-- WE APPRECIATE YOUR LEADERSHIP ON MANY ISSUES AND YOUR MANY POSITIVE INITIATIVES THIS YEAR. EU/US COORDINATION COULD STILL BE MUCH IMPROVED, HOWEVER. WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING WITH YOU SOON HOW WE MIGHT WORK TOGETHER MORE EFFECTIVELY.

END TALKING POINTS.

20. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD REPORT ANY HOST GOVERNMENT OBSERVATIONS ON THIS DEMARCHE AND ON THE COMMISSION SESSION IN GENERAL.

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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 132152Z JUN 96
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 132152Z JUN 96
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0000
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0000
SUBJ: UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN - 40TH SESSION WRAP-UP

TEXT:
UNCLAS STATE 122999

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KWMN AORC PHUM UN, CSW
SUBJECT: UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN - 40TH SESSION WRAP-UP

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PARAS 39 - 44.

(U) 1. SUMMARY: THE 40TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) TOOK PLACE, MARCH 11-22, IN NEW YORK. LINDA TARR-WHELAN, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CSW, LED THE U.S. DELEGATION. THE MAIN AGENDA ITEMS WERE: FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN; THE DRAFTING OF AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW); THE THREE PRIORITY THEMES--POVERTY, STEREOTYPING OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA, AND SHARING OF WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES; AND THE WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS. THE COMMISSION TOOK ACTION ON 16 RESOLUTIONS; 14 WERE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS; AND TWO WERE ADOPTED BY A VOTE. THE UNITED STATES INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION ON INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 27-2-11. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

(U) 2. THE 40TH CSW WAS A PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL SESSION. THE UNITED STATES WAS AGAIN A MEMBER OF THE CSW. (THE U.S. HAD LOST ITS SEAT DURING THE 1994 ECOSOC ELECTIONS AND THEREFORE WAS NOT A CSW MEMBER DURING CY 1995.) THE U.S. PLAYED A LEADERSHIP ROLE THROUGHOUT THE SESSION: THE U.S. CONTINUALLY TRIED TO MAKE THE

DISCUSSION ON THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CEDAW MORE PRODUCTIVE AND LEAD TO GREATER RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES; THE U.S. CHAIRED THE WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS; THE U.S. MEDIATED WHAT SEEMED TO BE AN IMPASSE BETWEEN THE G-77 AND THE EU ON THE ISSUE OF POVERTY AND WHETHER THE CSW'S DISCUSSIONS ON THIS TOPIC WOULD RESULT IN A "RESOLUTION" OR IN "AGREED CONCLUSIONS;" AND THE U.S. WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ENSURING THAT THE PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CSW BY BEIJING-ACCREDITED NGOS WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE PROCEDURES FOR THE OTHER FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS OF ECOSOC.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(U) 3. THE COMMISSION ELECTED THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS: SHARON BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (BAHAMAS) AS CHAIR; LJUDMILA BOSKOVA (BULGARIA), KARIN STOLTENBERG (NORWAY), AND RAFIKA KHOUBI (TUNISIA) AS VICE-CHAIRS; AND SWEETIA SANTIPITAKS (THAILAND) AS RAPPORTEUR. MS. BRENNEN-HAYLOCK WAS A PARTICULARLY GOOD CHAIR. SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE FORMER CSW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIRS BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPANDED BUREAU AND THAT THE EXPANDED BUREAU MEET INTER-SESSIONALLY. THE U.S. SUPPORTS BOTH OF THESE ACTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

(U) 4. THE 40TH (1996) SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN FOCUSED ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN. ONE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS HOW TO MAKE THE CSW MORE VIBRANT, INTERACTIVE, AND RELEVANT.

(U) 5. AS A STEP IN THIS DIRECTION, IN 1996, THE CSW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, CONVENED THREE PANELS OF EXPERTS (ON POVERTY, SHARING OF WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA). THE HOPE WAS THAT THE COMMENTS OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS WOULD SPARK A FREE FLOW OF IDEAS, QUESTIONS, AND SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES--WHAT'S WORKED AND WHAT HASN'T; THAT MEMBER STATES WOULD INCLUDE EXPERTS ON THEIR DELEGATIONS WHO COULD SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY ON THE ISSUES AND COULD IMPLEMENT CHANGES WHEN THEY GOT HOME; IN SHORT, THAT THE CSW WOULD INSPIRE AND INFORM DELEGATIONS ON PRACTICAL WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE BEIJING PLATFORM.

(U) 6. ALTHOUGH THE REVISED MEETING FORMAT LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR A MORE INTER-ACTIVE CSW, THE CSW STILL HAS A WAY TO GO IN ENCOURAGING A FREE FLOW OF IDEAS. FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER PANEL MEMBERS PRESENTED THEIR VIEWS, DELEGATES--RATHER THAN ENGAGING IN A DISCUSSION--READ PREPARED STATEMENTS. THE SECRETARIAT THEN DRAFTED A PAPER BASED ON THE DISCUSSION; AND DELEGATES NEGOTIATED "AGREED CONCLUSIONS" USING THE SECRETARIAT'S TEXT AS A STARTING POINT.

SOME OF THE OBSTACLES TO A MORE INTER-ACTIVE MEETING WERE:

- MOST MEMBER STATES DID NOT INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR DELEGATIONS WHO WERE EXPERTS ON POVERTY, THE MEDIA, OR SHARING OF WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES.
- TOO MUCH TIME WAS SPENT NEGOTIATING THE "AGREED CONCLUSIONS" RATHER THAN EXCHANGING IDEAS ON WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLATFORM.
- THE CSW AGENDA WAS TOO CROWDED. IN ADDITION TO THE THREE THEMES, THERE WERE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON CSW AND ECOSOC FOLLOW-UP; THERE WAS AN OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP (OEWG) TO DRAFT AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CEDAW; THERE WAS A WORKING GROUP ON THE CSW COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE; AND THERE WERE THE PERENNIAL RESOLUTIONS WHICH, EVEN THOUGH THEY ADDED LITTLE IN SUBSTANCE TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION, TOOK TIME TO NEGOTIATE.

FUTURE CSW MEETINGS SHOULD CONSIDER:

- ENCOURAGING MEMBER STATES TO INCLUDE EXPERTS ON THEIR DELEGATIONS WHO COULD SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY ON THE ISSUES AND COULD IMPLEMENT CHANGES WHEN THEY GOT HOME.
- SPENDING LESS TIME ON "AGREED CONCLUSIONS" AND MORE ON A FREE FLOW OF IDEAS, QUESTIONS, AND SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES--WHAT'S WORKED AND WHAT HASN'T.
- LIMITING THE NUMBER OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED (TWO OR THREE).

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE THREE THEMES:

-- POVERTY

(U) 7. ON THE DISCUSSION OF POVERTY, THE U.S. EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF NGOS IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES; THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE AND IMPLEMENTING SPECIAL GENDER PROGRAMS; AND THE IMPORTANCE OF APPOINTING GENDER-SENSITIVE REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE WORLD BANK. THE U.S. ALSO REPORTED ON ITS INITIATIVES IN THE AREAS OF MEASURING AND VALUING UNWAGED WORK, MICRO-ENTERPRISE, AND ENFORCING CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS.

(U) 8. THE CONSENSUS DOCUMENT THAT EMERGED FROM THE DISCUSSION ON POVERTY REAFFIRMS THAT THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS MUST BE MAINSTREAMED INTO ALL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AIMED AT THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY; URGES GOVERNMENTS TO FULFILL THEIR COMMITMENTS MADE IN BEIJING TO DEVELOP NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES THAT SHOULD FOCUS ON THE REDUCTION OF POVERTY; PROMOTES THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AT ALL LEVELS OF DECISION-MAKING; AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE SECRETARIATS OF THE UN SYSTEM INCORPORATE A COHERENT

METHOD OF INCLUDING BOTH MAINSTREAMING AND SPECIFIC GENDER PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN.

-- WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

(U) 9. ON THE ISSUE OF WOMEN AND THE MEDIA, THE U.S. MADE A STATEMENT NOTING THAT, AS A DIRECT RESULT OF PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP, OUR MAJOR TELEVISION PROGRAMMERS HAVE AGREED VOLUNTARILY TO IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM THAT WILL ADVISE THE PUBLIC ABOUT PROGRAM CONTENT. THE U.S. MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT/NOT SUPPORT MANDATORY CONTENT RESTRICTION IMPOSED BY GOVERNMENTS ON THE MEDIA.

(U) 10. DURING THE GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE "AGREED CONCLUSIONS," MANY DELEGATIONS PUSHED TO HAVE THE CSW CONCLUDE THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD MONITOR MEDIA CONTENT AND HOLD PROGRAMMERS RESPONSIBLE. THE U.S., JOINED BY SWEDEN AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, FOUGHT SUCCESSFULLY TO ENSURE THAT THE CSW'S CONCLUSIONS WERE CONSISTENT WITH FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. THOUGH THE COMPROMISE DOCUMENT REFLECTS THE DEEP DIVISION OF OPINION AMONG STATES ON THIS ISSUE, IT REMAINS TRUE TO THE POSITIVE AND ACCEPTABLE POSITIONS TAKEN IN BEIJING, AT THE FWCW.

-- SHARING OF WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

(U) 11. ON THE TOPIC OF SHARING OF WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, THE U.S. REPORTED ON THE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT AND THE "WORKING WOMEN COUNT HONOR ROLL"--AN INITIATIVE OF THE WOMEN'S BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WHEREBY EMPLOYERS PLEDGE TO TAKE ACTIONS THAT WILL MAKE THE WORKPLACE BETTER FOR WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(U) 12. WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE EU, U.S., AND CANADA, A POSITIVE CONSENSUS DOCUMENT EMERGED THAT OUTLINES MANY OF THE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES THAT MUST BE HONORED, AS WELL AS MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN, TO ENSURE THAT MEN AND WOMEN SHARE FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES.

-- ORGANIZATION AND METHOD OF WORK

(U) 13. -- THE CSW DECIDED TO REVISE ITS ORGANIZATION AND METHOD OF WORK TO INCLUDE: INVITING EXPERTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON SELECTED CSW AGENDA ITEMS; PERIODICALLY CONVENING MEETINGS OF THE CSW BUREAU OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED CSW MEMBER STATES; ENSURING THAT DOCUMENTATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALL OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO ENSURE ACTIVE AND WIDE PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSIONS; AND ALLOTING TIME FOR DIALOGUE WITH ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN SYSTEM AND CIVIL SOCIETY AND AMONG GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS--THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL NORMALLY BE REFLECTED IN CONCISE, ACTION-ORIENTED AGREED CONCLUSIONS THAT WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO ECOSOC.

(U) 14. -- THE CSW ALSO DECIDED IT SHOULD: STRENGTHEN ITS COOPERATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT BODIES OF THE UN

SYSTEM; MONITOR PROGRESS ON THE SYSTEM-WIDE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN; MAKE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO OTHER UN COMMISSIONS AND BODIES; AND ENCOURAGE THE VOLUNTARY PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL INFORMATION.

(U) 15. 'THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION, THE UNITED STATES EMPHASIZED THAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PLATFORM, AND THAT THE CSW SHOULD MONITOR GOVERNMENTS' PROGRESS. TO THIS END, THE U.S. PROPOSED THAT GOVERNMENTS RESPOND TO ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRES PREPARED BY THE UN SECRETARIAT FOCUSED ON SPECIFIC CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN. THE EU AND OTHER JUSCANZ MEMBERS DID NOT FAVOR THIS PROPOSAL. THE UNITED STATES ALSO SUPPORTED THE SECRETARIAT'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE CSW HAVE A CONTINUING ANNUAL AGENDA ITEM ON ENJOYMENT BY WOMEN OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. IN RESPONSE, THE G-77 PROPOSED THAT POVERTY APPEAR ANNUALLY ON THE CSW AGENDA. AS A COMPROMISE, BOTH WERE DROPPED AS ANNUAL AGENDA ITEMS.

-- MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

(U) 16. -- THE CSW RECOMMENDED TO ECOSOC THAT THE CSW SHOULD HAVE A CATALYTIC ROLE IN MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OF THE UN.

-- SYSTEM-WIDE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN (SWMTP)

(U) 17. -- THE UNITED STATES SUBMITTED WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SWMTP. THE U.S. NOTED THAT THE OVERALL FOCUS OF THE SWMTP IS INPUT-ORIENTED. IN ADDITION TO KNOWING WHAT THE UN SYSTEM IS ABLE TO PROVIDE, THE UN SHOULD FOCUS ON WHAT WILL BE PRODUCED--IN OTHER WORDS, THE SWMTP SHOULD FOCUS ON OUTPUTS AS WELL AS INPUTS. ANOTHER OF THE U.S. CONCERNS WAS THE NUMBER OF AGENCIES LISTED AFTER "ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN." THE U.S. NOTED IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DESIGNATE A LEAD AGENCY OR TO SPECIFY WHICH AGENCY IS GOING TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT. THE U.S. COMMENTS WERE INCORPORATED IN THE OVERALL CSW COMMENTS ON THE SWMTP, WHICH INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: THE SWMTP SHOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT FOR PROMOTING THE COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM; THE SWMTP SHOULD BE MORE THAN A COMPILATION OF WHAT THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN SYSTEM ARE DOING; AND THE UN SECRETARIAT AS A WHOLE--NOT JUST THOSE ENTITIES THAT HAVE A SPECIFIC MANDATE ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN--SHOULD UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION.

-- PARTICIPATION OF NGOS

(U) 18. -- THE CSW RECOMMENDED TO ECOSOC THAT, IN VIEW OF THE TRADITIONAL IMPORTANCE OF NGOS IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, NGOS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE CSW.

(U) 19. -- TO THIS END, THE CSW RECOMMENDED THAT ECOSOC

AND THE NGO COMMITTEE REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS OF NGOS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS, UNDER ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1296 (XLIV), AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE; AND, PRIOR TO THE 1997 SESSION OF THE CSW, ECOSOC SHOULD DECIDE ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THOSE NGOS, WHICH WERE ACCREDITED TO THE FWCW AND WHICH HAVE APPLIED FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS, IN CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP AND IN THE WORK OF THE CSW.

(U) 20. -- THE CSW REQUESTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF NGOS ACCREDITED TO THE FWCW TO THIS PROVISION.

RESOLUTIONS

(U) 21. AS PART OF A REVITALIZED CSW, MOST MEMBER STATES WERE HOPING THAT MANY OF THE PERENNIAL RESOLUTIONS WOULD FALL BY THE WAYSIDE, AND, IN THEIR STEAD, THE CSW WOULD ADOPT "AGREED CONCLUSIONS" ON THE PRIORITY THEMES (POVERTY, STEREOTYPING OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA, AND SHARING OF WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES). THE "AGREED CONCLUSIONS" WOULD BE BASED ON THE DIALOGUE WITH THE PANEL OF EXPERTS AND NEGOTIATIONS AMONG GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS.

(U) 22. HOWEVER, THIS WAS NOT TO BE THE CASE. FIRST, THE G-77 WAS NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF "AGREED CONCLUSIONS" AND INSISTED ON A "RESOLUTION" ON POVERTY. SECOND, MANY GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS INSISTED ON INTRODUCING RESOLUTIONS ON TOPICS DEAR TO THEM--EVEN THOUGH THOSE TOPICS WERE NOT ON THIS YEAR'S AGENDA AND EVEN THOUGH THE RESOLUTIONS DID NOT MOVE THE ISSUES FORWARD, E.G. THE G-77 (AT THE URGING OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION ON INSTRAW; THE PHILIPPINES ON MIGRANT WOMEN AND TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN; AZERBAIJAN ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN HOSTAGES; AND THE G-77 ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN.

(U) 23. BECAUSE OF THE G-77 RESOLUTION ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN (WHICH THE U.S. BELIEVES IS ONE-SIDED IN ITS CRITICISM OF ISRAEL), THE U.S. INTRODUCED A POSITIVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE RESOLUTION. WE TOLD THE G-77 WE WOULD REFRAIN FROM INTRODUCING OURS IF THEY WOULD NOT INTRODUCE THEIRS--TO NO AVAIL. IT WAS CLEAR THAT MOST DELEGATIONS HAVE GROWN TIRED OF THESE RESOLUTIONS. ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES CO-SPONSORED OURS--RUSSIA, NORWAY, ISRAEL, AND COSTA RICA--AND ALL OF THEM AT THE LAST MINUTE. NORWAY AND COSTA RICA AGREED TO CO-SPONSOR JUST MINUTES BEFORE THE VOTE, AND RUSSIA AVOIDED OUR REQUESTS TO CO-SPONSOR UNTIL THE DAY BEFORE.

(U) 24. AS SOON AS THE RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED, AUSTRALIA, FINLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS MADE STATEMENTS THAT THEY HAD REFRAINED FROM INTRODUCING RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN IN THE SECRETARIAT, CEDAW, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, RESPECTIVELY, IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESTRUCTURE THE CSW'S WORK PROGRAM.

(U) 25. IN TOTAL, THE COMMISSION ADOPTED 15

RESOLUTIONS. THE FOLLOWING 13 WERE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS:

- "RELEASE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN TAKEN HOSTAGE IN ARMED CONFLICTS AND IMPRISONED" (AZERBAIJAN);
- "MAINSTREAMING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN" (AUSTRALIA);
- "TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS" (PHILIPPINES);
- "INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN" (G-77);
- "VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS" (PHILIPPINES);
- "WOMEN AND THE MEDIA," CONCERNING WOMEN JOURNALISTS (G-77);
- "ELABORATION OF A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN" (CHAIR'S TEXT);
- "METHODS OF WORK FOR DEALING WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION ADOPTED BY THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN (FWCW)" (CHAIR'S TEXT);
- "FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN" (CHAIR'S TEXT);
- "POVERTY" (CHAIR'S TEXT);
- "COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SYSTEM-WIDE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, 1996-2001" (EU);
- "WOMEN AND THE MEDIA," (CHAIR'S TEXT ON STEREOTYPING OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA); AND
- "CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE, INCLUDING SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN" (CHAIR'S TEXT).

(U) 26. IN ADDITION TO THE RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES ON "INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS," THE U.S. CO-SPONSORED TWO RESOLUTIONS: AUSTRALIA'S TEXT ON "MAINSTREAMING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN" AND THE G-77 TEXT ON "WOMEN AND THE MEDIA," WHICH CONDEMNS THE MURDERS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN JOURNALISTS, PARTICULARLY IN ALGERIA.

(U) 27. THE TWO MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY A VOTE.

- LIBYA CALLED FOR A VOTE ON THE U.S. RESOLUTION "INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS," WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 27 TO 2 (LIBYA AND IRAN), WITH 11 ABSTENTIONS.

- THE U.S. CALLED FOR A VOTE ON THE G-77 RESOLUTION ENTITLED "PALESTINIAN WOMEN." IT WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 36 TO 1 (U.S.), WITH 7 ABSTENTIONS.

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON CEDAW

(U) 28. BEGINNING IN 1993, AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, UN MEMBER STATES AGREED THAT "THE CSW AND THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN SHOULD QUICKLY EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING THE RIGHT OF PETITION THROUGH THE PREPARATION OF AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN."

(U) 29. AT ITS 39TH (1995) SESSION, THE CSW DECIDED TO ESTABLISH AN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP (OEWG) AT ITS 40TH

SESSION WITH A VIEW TO ELABORATING A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION.

(U) 30. PRIOR TO THE 40TH SESSION, THE CEDAW COMMITTEE, AS THE INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISORY BODY FOR THE CEDAW, PREPARED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE OEWG A DRAFT OF POSSIBLE ELEMENTS FOR AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CEDAW. THE CEDAW COMMITTEE DOCUMENT REVEALED ITS PREFERENCE FOR A HIGHLY PROGRESSIVE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL WITH LOOSE STANDARDS FOR JUDGING THE (I) STANDING OF A PARTY TO FILE A PETITION, (II) ADMISSIBILITY OF A CLAIM, (III) RELEVANCE OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THIRD PARTIES AND (IV) OTHER AREAS AFFECTING THE SCOPE OR IMPORTANCE OF THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL. THE DRAFT ELEMENTS, ALONG WITH COMMENTS ON THEM SUBMITTED BY A NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES, WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE OEWG AT THE START OF THE 40TH SESSION OF THE CSW.

(U) 31. DURING THE 40TH SESSION OF THE CSW, OEWG BEGAN ITS WORK WITH GENERAL STATEMENTS FROM MEMBER STATES. ALL DELEGATIONS WHO SPOKE ANNOUNCED THEIR GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CEDAW. PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, A FAIR NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS QUESTIONED THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL. A SMALL NUMBER OF THESE DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM CHINA AND CERTAIN GROUP OF 77 COUNTRIES, APPEARED LIKELY TO OPPOSE ELABORATION OF AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO AVOID FURTHER INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS. OTHER DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM MANY WEOW COUNTRIES, QUESTIONED PRIVATELY THE NECESSITY AND OF AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CEDAW GIVEN EXISTING PETITIONING MECHANISMS UNDER OTHER U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES. THESE DELEGATIONS INDICATED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WERE UNLIKELY TO BLOCK THE ELABORATION OF AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL, HOWEVER, BUT WOULD SEEK TO MAKE IT FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. MOST WEOW DELEGATIONS ALSO ADMITTED SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF THE CEDAW COMMITTEE'S LIST OF DRAFT ELEMENTS. A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF STATES, MAINLY NETHERLANDS AND AUSTRIA, FAVORED THE CEDAW COMMITTEE'S DRAFT ELEMENTS, AS WELL AS A SIMILARLY EXPANSIVE DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL PREPARED AT A CONFERENCE OF NGO'S AND EXPERTS IN MAASTRICHT, NETHERLANDS DURING 1994.

(U) 32. THE METHOD OF WORK ADOPTED AND PURSUED BY THE OEWG DURING THE CSW REFLECTED THESE DIFFERENCES. THE OEWG AGREED TO DISCUSS -- WITHOUT ADOPTING, AMENDING OR REJECTING -- EACH OF THE DRAFT ELEMENTS TO AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL PREPARED BY THE CEDAW COMMITTEE. IN PURSUING THIS METHOD OF WORK THE DIVERGENT VIEWS HELD BY STATES WERE CONSTANTLY APPARENT, AS WERE THE RANGES OF EXPERIENCE AND PREPARATION AMONG DELEGATIONS. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE 40TH CSW, THE OEWG'S DISCUSSIONS PROVED FRANK AND INFORMATIVE, THOUGH THEY FAILED TO ADVANCE THE PROCESS OF ELABORATING A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL. TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK, THE U.S. DELEGATION, JOINED BY CANADA, U.K., NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN, SOUGHT TO ALTER THE METHOD OF WORK IN A MANNER THAT WOULD

LEAD TO GREATER RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION. THE GROUP SOUGHT TO HAVE THE OEWG PRODUCE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF VOLUNTEERS FROM INTERESTED DELEGATIONS, A NON-POLITICAL DOCUMENT THAT WOULD OUTLINE THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES UNDER DISCUSSION FOR EACH OF THE ELEMENTS TO AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL. THE GOAL OF THE GROUP WAS TO HAVE SUCH A DOCUMENT SERVE AS A BASIS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION. THE ATTEMPT REFLECTED IN LARGE MEASURE FRUSTRATION OVER THE WASTEFUL AND UNPRODUCTIVE USE OF THE OEWG'S TIME, RATHER THAN A DESIRE BY THESE STATES TO ACHIEVE A PARTICULAR SUBSTANTIVE OUTCOME.

(U) 33. INTERESTINGLY, A NUMBER OF EU COUNTRIES (FRANCE, ITALY AND SPAIN) AND CUBA OPPOSED THIS IDEA, SUGGESTING IT WAS "PREMATURE." AS A CONSEQUENCE, FORMAL AND UNSTRUCTURED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL CONTINUED THROUGH THE SECOND WEEK. EU OPPOSITION MAY HAVE STEMMED FROM DEEP AMBIVALENCE REGARDING THE DESIRABILITY OF AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL, DESPITE PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY.

(U) 34. AT THE END OF THE CSW, THE OEWG ADOPTED A DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CSW. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR THE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE CERTAIN REPORTS AND ASKS ECOSOC TO RENEW THE MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE 41ST SESSION OF THE CSW, SUBJECT TO EXISTING RESOURCES. THE WORKING GROUP SPENT ITS LAST TWO DAYS CONSIDERING THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT DESCRIBING THE VIEWS EXCHANGED DURING THE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP. AS A RESULT OF EFFORTS MADE BY CHINA, JAPAN AND OTHERS TO ENSURE THAT THE REPORT REFLECTS THE SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF DISAGREEMENT THAT EXISTED AMONG DELEGATIONS ABOUT THE SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL, THE REPORT IS UNLIKELY TO MOVE THE PROCESS OF ELABORATING THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL CLOSER TO CONCLUSION.

WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS

(U) 35. IN 1983, BY RESOLUTION 1983/27, ECOSOC REAFFIRMED THE CSW'S MANDATE TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL AND NON-CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ECOSOC AS TO WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN ON EMERGING TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN REVEALED BY SUCH COMMUNICATIONS. IT AUTHORIZED THE CSW TO ESTABLISH A FIVE-MEMBER WORKING GROUP, SELECTED FROM ITS OWN MEMBERSHIP WITH DUE REGARD TO GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION, TO MEET IN CLOSED MEETINGS DURING EACH CSW SESSION TO CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED, INCLUDING THE REPLIES OF GOVERNMENTS, WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING TO THE COMMISSION'S ATTENTION THOSE COMMUNICATIONS WHICH APPEAR TO REVEAL A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF RELIABLY ATTESTED INJUSTICE AND DISCRIMINATIVE PRACTICES AGAINST WOMEN. ('CONFIDENTIAL' COMMUNICATIONS ARE THOSE WHICH IDENTIFY A PARTICULAR COUNTRY OR REGION. 'NON-CONFIDENTIAL' COMMUNICATIONS DO NOT.)

(U) 36. THE WORKING GROUP AT THE 1996 SESSION WAS MADE

UP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ALGERIA, COSTA RICA, LEBANON, SLOVAKIA, AND THE UNITED STATES. THE UNITED STATES WAS ELECTED CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP. AS CHAIR, THE U.S. DRAFTED THE REPORT AND PRESENTED IT AT A CLOSED MEETING OF THE CSW, WHICH TOOK PLACE MARCH 21.

(U) 37. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, THE WORKING GROUP CONCLUDED THAT THE CURRENT PROCEDURE IS NOT SUFFICIENT OR EFFECTIVE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: (A) THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP DOES NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INPUT INTO THE WORK OF THE CSW; (B) THE CURRENT PROCEDURE IS NOT AN EFFICIENT MECHANISM FOR ASCERTAINING THE ACCURACY OF THE ALLEGATIONS, ASCERTAINING THE ACCURACY OF THE GOVERNMENT REPLIES, OR RESPONDING TO SITUATIONS WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THERE ARE WIDESPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN INVOLVING DISCRIMINATION; AND (C) THE CURRENT PROCEDURE DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR FURTHER SCRUTINY OF SUCH CLAIMS OR ONGOING MONITORING OF A PARTICULAR SITUATION. OVERALL, IT DOES NOT SEEM THAT THE PROCEDURE HAS HAD AN IMPACT ON ADVANCING THE SITUATION OF WOMEN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

(U) 38. IN A CLOSED MEETING OF THE CSW (OPEN ONLY TO CSW MEMBER STATES), THE WORKING GROUP PRESENTED ITS REPORT. REGARDING THE CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED DIRECTLY BY THE DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, THE REPORT NOTED SOME SPECIFIC TRENDS IN THE ALLEGED CASES OF DISCRIMINATION AND/OR VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN, NAMELY: VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OF MOVEMENT; AND DISCRIMINATION IN THE RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP.

(SBU) 39. THE REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT THE WORKING GROUP HAD ALSO CONSIDERED THE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOTED IN PARTICULAR THE ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN SITUATIONS OF WAR AND ARMED CONFLICT, SUCH AS THE SYSTEMATIC PRACTICE OF RAPE AND ABUSE AS A TACTIC OF WAR; RAPE, SEXUAL MOLESTATION AND TORTURE BY SECURITY AND ARMED FORCES; RAPE, TORTURE AND MURDER IN DETENTION. THE WORKING GROUP ALSO TOOK NOTE OF CASES OF FORCED ABORTION AND STERILIZATION; ILL-TREATMENT OF ORPHANS, ESPECIALLY FEMALE BABIES; AND RAPE AND ABUSE OF MIGRANT WOMEN WORKERS.

(SBU) 40. THE REPORT EMPHASIZED THAT THE CSW COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT AND, THEREFORE, NOT EFFECTIVE. IN THAT REGARD, THE WG RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE BE REVISED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE OF THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (UNHRC).

(SBU) 41. AFTER THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP WAS READ, CHINA OBJECTED TO THE MENTION OF "FORCED ABORTION AND STERILIZATION" AND "ILL-TREATMENT OF ORPHANS, ESPECIALLY FEMALE BABIES." CHINA ALSO OBJECTED TO MENTIONING THE COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE OF THE UNHRC.

EVEN THOUGH THE U.S. NOTED THAT THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP DOES NOT IDENTIFY COUNTRIES OR REGIONS WHERE THESE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ALLEGEDLY OCCUR, CHINA WANTED THE LANGUAGE CHANGED. CHINA ARGUED THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS WERE NOT PROVEN OR VERIFIED IN ANY WAY, THAT THEY HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND ACTED UPON BY THE UNHRC, AND THAT THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD CARRY OUT ITS WORK ACCORDING TO ITS MANDATE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE AS CONTAINED IN ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1983/27, I.E., THAT THE WORKING GROUP BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION "THOSE COMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING THE REPLIES OF GOVERNMENTS, WHICH APPEAR TO REVEAL A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF RELIABLY ATTESTED INJUSTICE AND DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AGAINST WOMEN." CHINA ARGUED THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS REVIEWED BY THE WORKING GROUP DID NOT MEET THOSE CRITERIA.

(SBU) 42. THE DISCUSSION CONTINUED, WITH LEBANON (A MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP) ASKING HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES WITHOUT FIRST INVESTIGATING WHETHER THE COMPLAINT WAS VALID; TUNISIA ARGUING (INCORRECTLY) THAT THE COMPLAINTS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST ONLY NON-WESTERN COUNTRIES; AND CHINA ARGUING AGAIN THAT THE REPORT SHOULD CONTAIN ONLY PROVEN FACTS--NOT ALLEGATIONS.

(SBU) 43. TUNISIA THEN ASKED WHETHER THE CSW HAD TO "ADOPT" THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP OR WHETHER IT COULD JUST "TAKE NOTE" OF IT AND NOT/NOT INCLUDE THE TEXT IN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CSW.

(SBU) 44. REALIZING THAT THE ACTION SUGGESTED BY TUNISIA WOULD FURTHER WEAKEN THE CSW COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE, THE U.S. AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP MET INFORMALLY WITH CHINA AND AGREED TO AMEND THE REPORT AS FOLLOWS:

(U) 45. -- "THE WORKING GROUP ALSO CONSIDERED THE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOTED THE ALLEGATIONS OF FORCED ABORTIONS AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN SITUATIONS OF WAR AND ARMED CONFLICT, SUCH AS THE SYSTEMATIC PRACTICE OF RAPE AND ABUSE AS A TACTIC OF WAR; RAPE, SEXUAL MOLESTATION AND TORTURE BY SECURITY AND ARMED FORCES; RAPE, TORTURE AND MURDER IN DETENTION. THE WORKING GROUP ALSO TOOK NOTE OF ALLEGED CASES OF DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF FEMALE BABIES AND RAPE AND ABUSE OF MIGRANT WOMEN WORKERS...

(U) 46. -- "THE WORKING GROUP EMPHASIZED THAT THE CSW COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT AND, THEREFORE, NOT EFFECTIVE. IN THAT REGARD, THE WG RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE BE FURTHER IMPROVED."

(U) 47. FRANCE ASKED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED SO THAT DELEGATIONS COULD DISCUSS THE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE. ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 21, THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED AS

AMENDED.

DAILY NGO BRIEFINGS

(U) 48. THE U.S. DELEGATION HELD DAILY BRIEFINGS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVGRNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO INFORM THEM ABOUT THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND ABOUT U.S. POLICIES, AS WELL AS TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS AND ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS. THE MEETINGS WERE WELL-ATTENDED BY NGOS REPRESENTING A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS AND INTERESTS. THE U.S. WAS THE ONLY DELEGATION TO HOLD SUCH FREQUENT BRIEFINGS. THE U.S. PROMISED TO SEND A NEWSLETTER AND TO INFORM NGOS OF THE PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING FOR ECOSOC CONSULTATIVE STATUS.

SILVIA BARALDINI

(U) 49. ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CSW, THE HEAD OF THE ITALIAN DELEGATION, SILVIA COSTA ASKED TO MEET WITH LINDA TARR-WHELAN REGARDING SILVIA BARALDINI, AN ITALIAN CITIZEN SERVING TIME IN A U.S. FEDERAL PRISON, WHO HAS REQUESTED A TRANSFER TO ITALY TO SERVE HER SENTENCE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS. MS. COSTA INFORMED MS. TARR-WHELAN ABOUT THE BARALDINI CASE BUT DID NOT REQUEST ANY SPECIFIC ACTION.

(U) 50. AFTER THE CSW HAD CONCLUDED, MS. COSTA SENT A FAX TO MS. TARR-WHELAN CONTAINING A CHRONOLOGY OF THE BARALDINI CASE. AGAIN, NO SPECIFIC ACTION WAS REQUESTED.

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2999

TOR: 960613180854 M2270514

DIST:

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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LUANDA

OSRI: RUEHLU

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ORIG: AMEMBASSY LUANDA

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RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 0260

RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 0010

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RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 0026

RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 1527

RUEHWD/AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK 1296

RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 1293

SUBJ: STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE SADC REGION-- ANGOLA

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LUANDA 001811

DEPT FOR AF PDAS BUSHNELL AND AF/S

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, KWMN, PHUM, SADC, AO

SUBJECT: STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE SADC REGION-- ANGOLA

REF: A) STATE 112270 AND PREVIOUS B) LUANDA 0738

1. SUMMARY: TWO DECADES OF CIVIL WAR HAVE WRECKED FAMILY SUPPORT STRUCTURES IN ANGOLA, SEVERELY UNDERMINING THE STATUS OF WOMEN. WHILE ANGOLAN LAW PROVIDES FOR THE FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT OF WOMEN, DISCRIMINATION AND POOR TREATMENT PERSISTS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS. THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, BUT DOUBTS REMAIN AS TO WHETHER LEGISLATION MODELED ON THE BEIJING FORUM WILL ENSURE CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STATUS OF WOMEN. POST WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS A CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVE THROUGH THE USE OF 116(E) FUNDING, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMS, REPRESENTATIONAL EVENTS AND SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ACTIVISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRA'S STATE SECRETARIAT FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND THE INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JURISTS, THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS

IN ANGOLAN LAW WHICH CAN BE CONSTRUED AS DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST WOMEN. GENDER EQUALITY WAS ENSHRINED IN ANGOLA'S 1975 POST-INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION AND REMAINS IN FORCE UNDER THE LAW. WOMEN HAVE FULL POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND THERE ARE THREE WOMEN MINISTERS: PETROLEUM, FISHERIES AND CULTURE (THIS REPRESENTS JUST 13 PERCENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS). WOMEN MAY THE RANK OF SUB-COMMISSIONER (MAJOR GENERAL) IN THE NATIONAL POLICE. WOMEN FIGURE PROMINENTLY THROUGHOUT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN LUANDA AND OTHER LARGER, EUROPEAN-INFLUENCED ANGOLAN CITIES. HOWEVER, ANGOLAN WOMEN LEADERS, JUST LIKE THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WANT TO SEE MORE WOMEN IN POSITIONS OF POWER AND AUTHORITY IN THE RULING MPLA, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. BY CONTRAST, IN RURAL AREAS SIGNIFICANT DIVERGENCES EXIST BETWEEN THE LEGAL PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICE. ACCORDING TO GENOVEVA POLICARPO, THE STATE SECRETARIAT FOR WOMEN'S DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, CUSTOMARY LAW WITH REGARD TO WOMEN'S STATUS REMAINS IN FORCE THROUGHOUT RURAL ANGOLA. UNDER THESE PRACTICES, SHE SAYS, WOMEN ARE BARRED FROM INHERITING PROPERTY AND ARE OFTEN COMPELLED BY THEIR HUSBANDS TO PERFORM STRENUOUS FARM LABOR. ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA, FEMALE ADULTERY HAS BEEN PUNISHED BY DEATH WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT MEN ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE MULTIPLE SEXUAL PARTNERS AFTER MARRIAGE.

4. IN THE FEW AREAS OF RURAL ANGOLA WITH FUNCTIONING COURTS OF LAW, WOMEN ARE GENERALLY DENIED ACCESS TO THE JUDICIAL PROCESS TO REDRESS GRIEVANCES AGAINST MEN. ALTHOUGH THE GRA PLANS A SEPTEMBER SEMINAR TO ADDRESS DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN CUSTOMARY PRACTICE AND THE LEGAL CODE, TRADITION GENERALLY WINS OVER LAW BY DEFAULT--THE ANGOLAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS EXTREMELY WEAK, AND TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES (AND NORMS) HAVE FILLED THE GAP LEFT BY THE ABSENCE OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE EXTENSION OF THE REACH OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY WILL BE AN IMPORTANT CHALLENGE TO THE GRA, WITH THE HELP OF THE USG AND THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE PEACE PROCESS.

5. BOTH POLICARPO AND WOMEN'S JURISTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT GRACA LOPES NOTE THAT TWO DECADES OF CIVIL WAR HAVE ALSO PLACED CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON THE STATUS OF URBAN WOMEN, PARTICULARLY IN THE OVERCROWDED LUANDA SHANTYTOWNS. LOPES REPORTS THAT RAPE AND SPOUSAL ABUSE ARE REACHING EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS AS MEN VENT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS OVER DETERIORATING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AT WOMEN. PROSTITUTION IS RAMPANT IN THE SHANTYTOWNS AND THE USE OF CHILD PROSTITUTES APPEARS WIDESPREAD AMONG UPPER-CLASS ANGOLANS AND SOME EXPATRIATES.

6. THE STATE SECRETARIAT FOR WOMEN HAS PREPARED A

PROPOSAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THEMES RAISED AT THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO STATE SECRETARY JOANA LINA, THE PROPOSAL IS "EXTREMELY FAITHFUL" TO THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN BEIJING. THE MEASURE IS AWAITING APPROVAL BY THE
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LUANDA 001811

DEPT FOR AF PDAS BUSHNELL AND AF/S

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, KWMN, PHUM, SADC, AO
SUBJECT: STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE SADC REGION-- ANGOLA

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHICH HAS NOT MET IN OVER SIX WEEKS AND WHOSE WORK MAY BE FURTHER SLOWED BY LAST WEEK'S PARTIAL CABINET SHAKEUP. WE ARE RAISING WITH SENIOR CABINET OFFICIALS THE NEED TO PUSH THIS AGENDA.

7. OUR EMBASSY TAKES AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S ISSUES IN ANGOLA. WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR AID MISSION EARLIER THIS YEAR AND OUR ACCESS FOR THE FIRST TIME TO DFA FUNDING, WE ARE WORKING WITH AID PROJECT DESIGN TEAMS TO ENSURE THAT PROMOTION OF WOMEN IS A CROSS-CUTTING TOP PRIORITY OF ALL OUR DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE, RURAL REHABILITATION, AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. SPECIFIC GRANTS UNDER THE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FUND AND THE SELF-HELP PROGRAM HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR ENHANCING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY. TWO OF OUR THREE GRANTEEES FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM TO PROMOTE CIVIL SOCIETY ARE WOMEN, AND WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A FULL PARITY POLICY FOR ALL FUTURE USIA IV AND SPEAKERS PROGRAMS. WE HAVE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED WOMEN'S ISSUES THROUGH OUR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY. AMBASSADOR AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS HAVE SPOKEN OUT AT HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCES ON THE CONTINUING PHYSICAL ABUSE OF WOMEN AND THEIR EXCLUSION FROM FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIFE OF ANGOLA. OUR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THIS AREA, HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY QUOTED BY LOCAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. WE HAVE SPONSORED REPRESENTATIONAL FUNCTIONS STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY, SUCH AS A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED ROUNDTABLE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT WHICH WOMEN FROM POLITICS, BUSINESS, MEDIA, AND OTHER SECTORS MET TO DISCUSS WOMEN'S ISSUES. STEINBERG
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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1995 - Dec 1996 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:

[03/03/1996 - 07/19/1996]

2012-0094-F
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RESTRICTION CODES

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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]

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA2517 1782044-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 262043Z JUN 96
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 262043Z JUN 96
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO: ////
SUBJ: REQUEST THAT UNHCR ADMINISTER BOSNIAN WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FUND

TEXT:

UNCLAS STATE 132517

GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREF BK

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT UNHCR ADMINISTER BOSNIAN WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FUND

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE. SEE PARA. 4.

2. PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL ANNOUNCE AT THE G-7 SUMMIT IN LYON ON JUNE 28-29 THAT THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE AN INITIAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$5 MILLION TO ESTABLISH THE BOSNIAN WOMEN'S INITIATIVE. THIS FUND WILL MAKE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO BOSNIAN WOMEN FOR ACTIVITIES THAT HELP THEM REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR. (THE INITIATIVE IS DESCRIBED IN FULL IN PARA. 6.) THE PRESIDENT WILL URGE MEMBERS OF THE G-7 TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE AND TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDING FOR IT. THIS PROGRAM IS ONE OF THREE INITIATIVES ON BOSNIA THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL MAKE PUBLIC AT THE SUMMIT.

3. THE U.S. WOULD LIKE UNHCR TO MANAGE THIS FUND USING INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS. PRM A/S OAKLEY RAISED THE MATTER WITH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER WALZER IN GENERAL TERMS DURING A MEETING IN WASHINGTON ON JUNE 7.

4. ACTION: MISSION SHOULD NOW SEEK UNHCR'S FORMAL AGREEMENT TO ADMINISTER THIS FUND. MISSION MAY SHARE THE CONCEPT PAPER IN PARA. 6 WITH UNHCR. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR, PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TERM "BOSNIA WOMEN'S INITIATIVE" REFERS ONLY TO THE PROGRAM OUTLINED BELOW, AND NOT TO A NUMBER OF RELATED EVENTS HIGHLIGHTING BOSNIAN WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ISSUES WHICH ARE PLANNED TO

TAKE PLACE IN BOSNIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PLEASE CABLE
REPLY NO LATER THAN JUNE 27.

5. DURING HIS DISCUSSION WITH A/S OAKLEY, WALZER NOTED THAT UNHCR WOULD NEED TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF BOSNIAN WOMEN IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAM EFFECTIVELY. A/S OAKLEY REPLIED THAT THE USG WOULD CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE FOR UNHCR TO USE MONEY FROM THIS FUND TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT. MISSION MAY CONFIRM THIS POSITION IF QUERIED BY UNHCR. IN ADDITION, MISSION MAY SUGGEST THAT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE JUNE 28-30 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN SARAJEVO MAY BE A USEFUL TOOL IN UNHCR'S ASSESSMENT. (FYI: REPRESENTATIVES OF MORE THAN 50 WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS BOSNIA WILL MEET AT A CONFERENCE ENTITLED "WOMEN TRANSFORM THEMSELVES AND SOCIETY". IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS, THEY WILL DEFINE SOME OF THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF WOMEN IN POST-WAR BOSNIA.)

6. BEGIN TEXT OF CONCEPT PAPER:

BACKGROUND:

A PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS BOSNIA DEMANDS THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF ITS WOMEN. MANY BOSNIAN WOMEN NOW FIND THEMSELVES SOLE PROVIDERS FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES, AS WELL AS ELDERLY RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS. DESPITE THE CHALLENGES, THESE WOMEN HAVE DISPLAYED STRENGTH, ENDURANCE, AND RESOURCEFULNESS -- QUALITIES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO REBUILD THEIR COUNTRY. AT ALL LEVELS AND IN ALL SECTORS BOSNIAN WOMEN NEED TO BE DECISION MAKERS. THEY REQUIRE THE RESOURCES AND TRAINING NECESSARY TO ALLOW THEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LONG-TERM RECONSTRUCTION AND DEMOCRATIZATION OF THEIR COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRY.

BY PROVIDING NEW PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON WOMEN'S REINTEGRATION INTO THE BOSNIAN ECONOMY, WE WILL ENABLE THEM TO PROMOTE PROSPERITY IN THEIR REGION. SUCH AN APPROACH WILL BENEFIT RETURNING REFUGEE AND DISPLACED WOMEN ESPECIALLY. WHEN WOMEN HAVE A CHANCE TO WORK AS FULL PARTNERS IN SOCIETY, THEIR FAMILIES FLOURISH. WHEN FAMILIES FLOURISH, COMMUNITIES AND NATIONS FLOURISH.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC POSITION INCREASES THEIR POLITICAL POWER. BOSNIAN WOMEN'S ENHANCED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION WILL HELP FOSTER STABILITY IN THE REGION.

APPROACH:

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES AT LYON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOSNIAN WOMEN'S INITIATIVE WITH AN INITIAL CONTRIBUTION BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OF \$5 MILLION. THE FUNDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES AND MIGRATION.

THE PRESIDENT ENCOURAGES ALL G-7 MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS FUND, IN FURTHERANCE OF COMMITMENTS MADE IN BEIJING AT THE UN'S FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN. UNHCR WILL

MANAGE THE FUND, WITH INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL NGO'S AS IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS. MECHANISMS WILL BE DEVELOPED TO ALLOW PRIVATE SOURCES TO SUPPLEMENT THE INITIATIVE.

ACTIVITIES:

EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE AREAS OF ACTIVITY INCLUDE:

-- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LOANS

- O LOANS ALLOCATED TOWARD WOMEN-OWNED AND WOMEN-RUN BUSINESSES, AS WELL AS BUSINESSES THAT EMPLOY LARGE NUMBERS OF WOMEN;
- O LOANS FOR INCOME-GENERATING PROJECTS THAT WOMEN CAN DO OUT OF THE HOME AND ARE SUSTAINABLE IN TODAY'S MARKETS.

-- SKILLS TRAINING

- O IN AREAS THAT WILL ENABLE WOMEN TO COMPETE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, SUCH AS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, MARKETING, AND ACCOUNTING;
- O FOR WOMEN RETURNING TO AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO NOW FIND THEMSELVES AS SOLE PROVIDERS FOR THEIR FAMILIES;
- O IN FIELDS VITAL TO REBUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE REGION, SUCH AS ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, PLUMBING, AND CONSTRUCTION.

-- ASSURING ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

- O TO PROVIDE COOPERATIVE DAY CARE FOR CHILDREN, ELDERLY, AND DISABLED FAMILY MEMBERS, ALLOWING WOMEN TO WORK OUTSIDE THEIR HOMES;
- O TO FURNISH LEGAL SERVICES;
- O TO HELP WOMEN GAIN ACCESS TO PROGRAMS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING IN WAR-TORN AREAS;
- O TO ALLOW YOUNG WOMEN TO RETURN TO THEIR UNIVERSITY STUDIES.

END TEXT.
TALBOTT
BT
#2517

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2517

TOR: 960626165047 M2289520

DIST:

SIT: BELL BOWKER CLARKER DAALDER EISENHOWER FEELEY JOSEPH MALLEY PETERS
RAGAN SAUNDERS SCHWARTZ SESTAK SIMON VERSHBOW WECHSLER
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA5345 1942129-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O R 122129Z JUL 96
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 122129Z JUL 96
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1567
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1006
SUBJ: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS
TEXT:
UNCLAS STATE 145345

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KWMN AORC PHUM
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS
REF: (A) 96 USUN NEW Y 1060

BELOW IS A REPORT PREPARED BY PRM IN RESPONSE TO UN/SYG NOTE DATED 2/29/96 THAT REQUESTED GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON VIOLENCE PERPETRATED AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS.

1. BEGIN TEXT: ALL WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES ENJOY LEGAL PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE MIGRANTS AND REGARDLESS OF THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS. ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN ARE SUBJECT TO THE CRIMINAL LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES. WHEN SUCH ACTS DO OCCUR, THEY ARE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION ON THE SAME BASIS AS ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ALL OTHER WOMEN.

2. THE ISSUE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS OF HIGH IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES. IN OCTOBER 1994 CONGRESS PASSED THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT, AS PART OF THE OMNIBUS CRIME LEGISLATION, WHICH PROVIDED FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES FOR THE GATHERING OF INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, THE PROSECUTION OF INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, EDUCATION AIMED AT ALTERING ATTITUDES ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, AND VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. IT ALSO PROVIDED FOR INTERVENTION PROGRAMS INCLUDING THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE.

3. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN ITS POLICIES ON MIGRANT WORKERS. THE UNITED STATES EXTENDS TO BOTH PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY WORKERS LEGALLY IN THE UNITED STATES MANY RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS. THE UNITED STATES OPPOSES ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION BUT IS COMMITTED TO PROTECTING THE HUMAN

RIGHTS OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS -- INCLUDING UNDOCUMENTED
MIGRANT WORKERS.

4. MANY WOMEN WHO ARE MIGRANT WORKERS ARE CURRENTLY
ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PROGRAMS OR ASSISTANCE. MANY OTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PROGRAMS, WHICH ARE SPONSORED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS, WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO WOMEN MIGRANT
WORKERS.

5. AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, IN BEIJING,
GOVERNMENTS AGREED THAT THE PROBLEM OF VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED. GOVERNMENTS AND
PRIVATE-SECTOR INSTITUTIONS AND LEADERS FROM AROUND THE
WORLD SHOULD UNDERTAKE INITIATIVES APPROPRIATE TO THEIR
ROLES TO REDUCE AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
INCLUDING ESTABLISHING NETWORKS OF SHELTERS AND
COUNSELIN SERVICES FOR VICTIMS. LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICIALS SHOULD ARREST AND PROSECUTE PERPETRATORS.
COUNSELING AND REHABILITATION SERVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED
TO PERPETRATORS. RELEVANT PROFESSIONALS IN ALL
DISCIPLINES, INCLUDING HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT, SHOULD RECEIVE TRAINING IN HOW TO
RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO INDICATIONS AND INCIDENTS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT.

6. U.S. LAW DISTINGUISHES AMONG IMMIGRANTS (PERSONS
LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE),
NON-IMMIGRANTS (PERSONS LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR A SPECIFIC
PURPOSE AND A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME, INCLUDING TEMPORARY
WORKERS), AND PERSONS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE U.S.
ILLEGALLY. ILLEGAL MIGRANTS ARE ENTITLED TO PROTECTION
OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS ARE
ENTITLED TO A RANGE OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS SIMILAR TO
THOSE ENJOYED BY CITIZENS, WITH THE IMPORTANT DISTINCTION
THAT THEY DO NOT PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE POLITICAL
PROCESS UNTIL THEY BECOME NATURALIZED CITIZENS. THESE
DISTINCTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND
THE SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, I.E. ALL ACTS
OF VIOLENCE ARE ILLEGAL AND SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT
REGARDLESS OF THE VICTIM'S IMMIGRATION STATUS. THE
RIGHTS OF LAWFULLY-ADMITTED TEMPORARY WORKERS ARE
DETERMINED BY THE LAW BUT INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM,
PROTECTION OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ADDITION, ALL
WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING UNDOCUMENTED
MIGRANTS, ARE COVERED BY THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT AND
OTHER U.S. LABOR LAWS. END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5345

TOR: 960712173426 M2313158

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAEZYUW RUEHDSA5217 2010640-EEEE--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY EEEEE ZZH
LINE3: R 190640Z JUL 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
OSRI: RUEHDS
DTG: 190640Z JUL 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7338
INFO: RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 5386
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 0128
RUEHDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI 1381
RUEIBS/AMEMBASSY ASMARA 4728
SUBJ: MINISTER OF EDUCATION OFFERS TO BE
HELPFUL

TEXT:
UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 01 OF 04 ADDIS ABABA 005217

QQQQ
SENSITIVE

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E AND DRL

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS PEACE CORPS

AID/W FOR AFR/EA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SOCI EAID, PINR, ET
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF EDUCATION OFFERS TO BE
HELPFUL

1. (U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PROTECT
ACCORDINGLY.

SUMMARY

2. (U) THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND AMBASSADOR
SHINN DISCUSSED USAID SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY
EDUCATION, INCLUDING UPCOMING PLACEMENT OF IFESH
VOLUNTEER TEACHERS, GIRLS EDUCATION, AND THE PEACE
CORPS PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY THE DIFFICULTIES
VOLUNTEERS ARE ENCOUNTERING AND THE STATUS OF THE
PEACE CORPS ETHIOPIA EDUCATION PROJECT PLAN. THE
MINISTER PROMISED TO WORK WITH PEACE CORPS TO MAKE

MORE PLACEMENTS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES AND INDICATED THAT SHE DIDN'T FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE PROJECT PLAN. SHE IS HAPPY TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY IN SUPPOQ

"I'M HAPPY WITH WHAT WE HAVE STARTED"

3. (U) ON JULY 17, AMBASSADOR SHINN PAID A COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, GENET ZEWDIE. AMBASSADOR SHINN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR LIS DOANE AND ACTING AID DIRECTOR WALTER NORTH. THE MINISTER WARMLY WELCOMED THE AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE SUPPORT HER MINISTRY IS GETTING FROM THE UNITED STATES THROUGH USAID AND THE PEACE CORPS.

USAID PROGRAM BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEMS OVERHAUL (BESO) - GOING WELL, NO MAJOR PROBLEMS

4. (U) THE AMBASSADOR ASKED THE MINISTER HOW USAID'S BESO PROGRAM WAS DOING. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THINGS WERE GOING WELL AND THAT THERE WERE "NO MAJOR PROBLEMS." THE AMBASSADOR ASKED IF THAT MEANT THAT THERE WERE MINOR PROBLEMS? THE MINISTER INDICATED THAT SHE DIDN'T MEAN TO INFER THAT SHE WAS AT ALL UNHAPPY WITH THE PROGRAM. IN A PROGRAM THAT OPERATES AT BOTH THE CENTER AND THE REGIONS, WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF ACTORS, IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE ISSUES THAT NEEDED TO BE WORKED OUT IN IMPLEMENTATION. THOSE KINDS OF ISSUES HAD SURFACED WITH BESO BUT THEY WERE BEING RESOLVED.

IS YOUR GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO GIRLS EDUCATION?
"ABSOLUTELY"

5. (U) THE AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED WHAT THE LEVEL OF FEMALE PARTICIPATION WAS IN ETHIOPIA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM. THE MINISTER REPORTED THAT FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WAS ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE AND IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ABOUT 32 TO 35 PER CENT. NOTE: ESTIMATES OF OVERALL PARTICIPATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE ABOUT ONE IN FIVE ELIGIBLE CHILDREN. END NOTE.

6. (U) THE MINISTER AND THE AMBASSADOR THEN DISCUSSED THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AND ITS AFTERMATH. HAD IT MADE A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE? HOW COMMITTED IS THE FDRE TO GIRLS EDUCATION AND WOMENS' ISSUES? THE MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MUCH OF THE IMPACT OF BEIJING WAS FROM ITS

INTANGIBLE ASPECTS SUCH AS NETWORKING AND SHARING EXPERIENCES. AT THE SAME TIME, SHE UNDERLINED HER GOVERNMENT'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING ALL OF ITS HUMAN RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY WOMEN. SHE NOTED THAT 30 PER CENT OF THE EPRDF FORCES HAD BEEN WOMEN AND THAT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE STRUGGLE HAD DONE MUCH TO BRING WOMENS ISSUES TO THE FORE.

UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 02 OF 04 ADDIS ABABA 005217

QQQQ
SENSITIVE

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E AND DRL

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS PEACE CORPS

AID/W FOR AFR/EA

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SOCI EAID, PINR, ET

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF EDUCATION OFFERS TO BE HELPFUL

WHO ELSE IN AFRICA IS COMMITTED?

7. (U) NOTING THE MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP IN THE FORUM OF AFRICAN WOMEN FOR EDUCATION (FAWE), THE AMBASSADOR ASKED THE MINISTER WHERE ELSE IN AFRICA THERE WAS A SIMILAR COMMITMENT. THE MINISTER IDENTIFIED UGANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, GHANA AND GUINEA AS OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH GAVE GIRLS EDUCATION A HIGH PRIORITY. HOWEVER, SHE WAS CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT WHILE, IN A CASE LIKE UGANDA, SHE APPRECIATED THE COMMITMENT, SHE MIGHT STILL HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT MEANS, SUCH AS QUOTAS.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION AND SELF HELP (IFESH) - "WE'RE EXPECTING AT LEAST 20 TEACHERS"

8. (U) THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED THANKS TO THE MINISTER FOR HER ASSISTANCE IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO WELCOME VOLUNTEER TEACHERS FROM THE REVEREND LEON SULLIVAN'S GROUP, IFESH. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT ABOUT A DOZEN VOLUNTEERS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN SEPTEMBER. THE MINISTER QUICKLY CHIMED IN TO SAY THAT SHE WAS HOPING AT LEAST TWENTY VOLUNTEERS WERE COMING TO HELP OUT IN TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTES. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT USAID WOULD CONFIRM WHAT NUMBER WAS ACTUALLY EXPECTED AND GET BACK TO THE MINISTER.

PEACE CORPS PLACEMENTS: "SMALL PLACES MIGHT BE
BETTER"

9. (U) THE DISCUSSION THEN MOVED TO PEACE CORPS ISSUES. IT OPENED WITH THE MINISTER APOLOGIZING FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND THE PEACE CORPS SWEARING IN CEREMONY PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER. SHE WILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

10. (U) THE AMBASSADOR BROACHED THE ISSUE OF ONGOING HARASSMENT OF VOLUNTEERS IN SOME COMMUNITIES. HE SHARED WITH THE MINISTER A LIST INDICATING SOME OF THE KINDS OF PROBLEMS WHICH VOLUNTEERS WERE ENCOUNTERING SUCH AS STONE THROWING, TAUNTING AND UNWANTED ADVANCES. HE ASKED THE MINISTER WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO REDUCE THESE KINDS OF PROBLEMS.

11. (U) THE MINISTER EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE REPORTS. SHE SEEMED WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ONE SITUATION WITH A FEMALE VOLUNTEER IN THE TOWN OF DESSIE. THE MINISTER IS FROM DESSIE AND DESCRIBED IT AS A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PLACE FOR WOMEN. SHE HERSELF FELT IT WAS UNWISE TO WALK ALONE IN DESSIE.

12. (U) THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR INDICATED THAT THESE KINDS OF PROBLEMS HAD NOT BEEN LIMITED TO DESSIE OR TO FEMALES. REGRETTABLY, IN SOME COMMUNITIES THERE WAS A PATTERN OF UNCHECKED ABUSE. LOCAL PEOPLE RARELY MOVED TO STOP UNTOWARD ACTS AND ATTEMPTS TO REPORT INCIDENTS TO LOCAL POLICE WERE SOMETIMES NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

13. (U) MS. DOANE SUGGESTED THAT PLACEMENTS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND OUTREACH WORK WITH SUPERVISORS AND COMMUNITIES MIGHT HELP TO ALLEVIATE THIS ISSUE. IN SOME CASES THE INCIDENTS ARE SO FREQUENT THAT IT IS ADVERSELY AFFECTING VOLUNTEER MORALE AND EFFECTIVENESS.

14. (U) THE MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT SOME OF THIS MAY BE DUE TO TRADITIONAL PATTERNS WHICH TEND TO DEVALUE COMPLAINTS FROM WOMEN, SOME TO A BREAKDOWN IN TRADITIONAL NORMS OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR IN URBAN AREAS AND SOME TO THE AFTER EFFECTS OF THE UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 03 OF 04 ADDIS ABABA 005217

QQQQ
SENSITIVE

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E AND DRL

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS PEACE CORPS

AID/W FOR AFR/EA

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SOCI EAID, PINR, ET

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF EDUCATION OFFERS TO BE
HELPFUL

DERG PERIOD. NONETHELESS, THE OCCURRENCES WERE
UNFORTUNATE AND SHE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO
WORK TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IF THAT MEANT MORE
PLACEMENTS IN SMALL TOWNS AND MORE COMMUNITY WORK,
THEN SHE WAS READY TO HELP TO DO THAT. THE
AMBASSADOR THANKED THE MINISTER FOR HER
ASSISTANCE.

PROJECT PLAN "NO PROBLEM"

15. (U) THE AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF
THE PROPOSED PEACE CORPS ETHIOPIA EDUCATION
PROJECT PLAN. THE MINISTER HAS NOT SIGNED IT. IS
THERE SOME PROBLEM WITH THE DOCUMENT? THE
MINISTER INDICATED THAT SHE DIDN'T THINK THERE
WERE ANY PROBLEMS WITH IT. MOREOVER, SINCE THINGS
WERE GOING SO WELL ALREADY, SHE DIDN'T REALIZE IT
WAS TIME SENSITIVE. SHE HAD ASKED HER STAFF TO
REVIEW IT AND IT IS NOW SITTING ON HER DESK. SHE
NEEDS SOME TIME TO LOOK AT IT BUT SHE DOESN'T
EXPECT ANY PROBLEMS.

MORE BOOKS FOR ETHIOPIA, GOOD NEWS FOR GIRLS TOO

16. (U) THE AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE PEACE
CORPS HAD RECEIVED A NEW BOOK DONATION OF 30 BOXES
FROM SIMON AND SCHUSTER FOR ETHIOPIA'S SCHOOLS.
HE ASKED THE MINISTER HOW SHE WANTED TO HANDLE THE
HANDING OVER OF THE BOOKS. SHE INDICATED A
WILLINGNESS TO BE INVOLVED IN A PUBLIC HANDING
OVER. THE PEACE CORPS WILL WORK OUT THE DETAILS.

17. (U) THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR SUPPLEMENTED
THIS GOOD NEWS BY REPORTING THAT SHE HAD JUST BEEN
INFORMED THAT PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON HAD NOTIFIED
HER THAT FUNDING HAD BEEN SECURED FOR A GIRLS
MENTORING PROGRAM. THE MINISTER WAS EXTREMELY
PLEASED TO HEAR THIS NEWS.

FROM GOOD NEWS TO BAD NEWS

18. (SBU) THE MEETING ENDED WITH A DISCUSSION OF
A RECENT PRESS REPORT ON THE PEACE CORPS BY

MEBRUK, A LOCAL VERNACULAR NEWSPAPER. THE AMBASSADOR SHARED AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE REPORT WITH THE MINISTER. THE REPORT ALLEGED THAT VOLUNTEERS WERE DISPLACING ETHIOPIAN TEACHERS, WERE UNEMPLOYABLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND WERE CIA AGENTS. THE MINISTER PROFESSED NOT TO HAVE HEARD OF THIS NEWSPAPER OR ARTICLE. SHE SUGGESTED THAT ALL OF "THIS KIND OF STUFF" EMANATED FROM DR. TAYE, THE HEAD OF THE ETHIOPIAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, CURRENTLY UNDER DETENTION AND CHARGED WITH SUPPORTING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. NOTE: IN FACT, LAST YEAR DR. TAYE DID INDEED WRITE A LETTER TO THE PRESS AND MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH WERE CRITICAL OF THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT HE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MEBRUK REPORT. END NOTE.

19. (SBU) THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT IT MADE NO SENSE TO DIRECTLY RESPOND TO THIS KIND OF REPORT. HE NOTED THAT THIS KIND OF IRRESPONSIBLE STORY WAS ONE OF THE PRICES ONE HAD TO ACCEPT WITH INCREASED PRESS FREEDOM. THE MINISTER CONCURRED WITH HIS VIEW, BUT SHE INDICATED SHE PLANNED TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY IN SUPPORT OF THE PEACE CORPS. INDEED, SHE REFERRED THE AMBASSADOR TO A RECENT INTERVIEW SHE GAVE TO EFOITA, A PRIVATE JOURNAL BELIEVED TO BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, IN WHICH SHE MADE SEVERAL POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT WHAT THE PEACE CORPS IS DOING IN ETHIOPIA.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 04 OF 04 ADDIS ABABA 005217

QQQQ
SENSITIVE

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E AND DRL

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS PEACE CORPS

AID/W FOR AFR/EA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SOCI EAID, PINR, ET
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HELPFUL

20. (U) GENET ZEWDIE GRADUATED FROM ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY AND EARNED A MASTERS DEGREE AT SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY IN MASSACHUSETTS IN BUSINESS EDUCATION. SHE IS A PARENT. SHE RECENTLY WAS REMARRIED. HER NEW HUSBAND, DR. KEBEDE TADESSE, IS A SENIOR ADVISOR IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE FOR THE

SOCIAL SECTORS.

COMMENT

21. (SBU) THE MINISTER IS ONE OF THE MORE DYNAMIC MINISTERS I HAVE MET. SHE IS CLEARLY VERY COMMITTED TO WOMEN'S ISSUES AND IS A FORCEFUL EXPONENT OF CHANGE. SHE IS POLITICALLY WELL CONNECTED THROUGH HER HUSBAND WHO IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN INSIDER. SHE SEEMS TO VALUE THE SUPPORT SHE IS GETTING FROM USAID AND THE PEACE CORPS. SHE IS OPEN AND EASY TO TALK WITH BUT I SUSPECT THAT SHE IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE PLATFORM OF THE EPRDF AND SHARES ITS THIN SKIN ABOUT CRITICISM. THIS WAS DRIVEN HOME BY A COMMENT SHE MADE IN REFERENCE TO THE OPPOSITION PRESS. SHE SAID "THE GUTTER PRESS IS DETERMINED TO DESTROY ANY KIND OF PROGRAM THIS GOVERNMENT DOES", A COMMENT MADE AFTER SHE HAD INDICATED SHE NEVER READ OPPOSITION PAPERS. THIS IS PRECISELY THE KIND OF ATTITUDE WHICH MAKES IT SO DIFFICULT TO GET MANY SENIOR GOVERNMENT PEOPLE TO OPEN THEIR MINISTRIES UP. IT'S AN ATTITUDE WE ARE WORKING TO COMBAT BUT PROGRESS IS LIKELY TO BE SLOW. END COMMENT.

22. (U) ASMARA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHINN

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