

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: US - Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, Hanoi, March 7, 1997 (16 pages)	03/21/1997	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [UNHRC China Resolution] (3 pages)	12/15/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Beijing and Microcredit])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[03/21/1997 - 12/15/1997]

2012-0094-F
ke3960

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHCAA5366 0851632-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH ZEX

LINE3: R 261627Z MAR 97

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG: 261627Z MAR 97

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA 0000
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA 0000

INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0000
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0000
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0000

SUBJ: SUCCESSFUL AFRICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM CONFERENCE ON THE
EMPOWERMENT OF AFRICAN WOMEN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (PART 2)

TEXT:
UNCLAS STATE 055366

LONDON FOR YOUNG; PARIS FOR MORAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM KWMN PREF SOCI

SUBJECT: SUCCESSFUL AFRICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM CONFERENCE ON THE
EMPOWERMENT OF AFRICAN WOMEN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (PART 2)

REF: (A) 97 STATE 22444

DAKAR ALSO FOR PRAIA

1. ON JANUARY 27-29, 1997, THE AFRICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM (ALF) HOSTED ITS NINTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: THE CHALLENGES OF POLITICS, BUSINESS, DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP." AT THE CONCLUSION OF ITS DELIBERATIONS, THE CONFERENCE AGREED ON A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS, PERTAINING TO ACTION AND PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL, THE REGIONAL, THE SUB-REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS EXTRACTED FROM A FINAL DOCUMENT WHICH IS TO BE PUBLISHED SOON BY THE ALF.

INTERNATIONAL

2. AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, ALF CALLED FOR A SERIES OF MEASURES TO DISSEMINATE THE BEIJING PLAN OF ACTION, TO REINFORCE AND INTENSIFY THE ROLE PLAYED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROMOTING AGREEMENTS THROUGH CONCRETE PROJECTS AND TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

SPECIFICALLY, IT CALLED FOR:

- AN ABBREVIATED, AUTHORITATIVE VERSION OF THE BEIJING PLAN OF ACTION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT FOR FURTHER USE BY MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;
- THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (ENGAGED IN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS) TO EARMARK PROGRESSIVELY PORTIONS OF THEIR PROJECTS BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN;
- AN INCREASE ON THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS FINANCED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AIMED AT BUILDING CAPACITY OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION AS WELL AS PEACE BUILDING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

3. IN ADDITION, ALF PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT CIVIL SOCIETY MUST PLAY A KEY ROLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AFRICA. THE CONFERENCE FINAL REPORT GOES ON TO SAY THAT LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NGO'S WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS PROCESS ESPECIALLY WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING POVERTY AND GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION. TO UNDERPIN THESE ACTIVITIES, UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMS AND FUNDS AND OTHER MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS MUST MOVE BEYOND THE CURRENTLY PREVAILING SUB-CONTRACTING ARRANGEMENTS OF SOME OF THEIR PROJECT AND PROGRAM COMPONENTS TO NGO'S. THEY MUST BEGIN TO SET ASIDE SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES FOR FUNDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO BE INTERMEDIATED BY NGO'S AND TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO SUCH ENDEAVORS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY INVOLVE PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY. IN THE SAME VEIN, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF AFRICAN CONSULTANTS MUST BE RETAINED AND WOMEN MUST BE ACCORDED PRIORITY.

REGIONAL

4. AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL FOR AFRICA, THE CONFERENCE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- AFRICAN NATIONS SHOULD BE RANKED, BASED ON A PROGRESSIVELY REFINED SET OF INDICATORS, TO REFLECT THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENT WITH REGARDS TO WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERES, IN PARTICULAR WITH RESPECT TO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN GENERAL;
- GIVEN THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLAN OF ACTION, A MESSAGE OF CONCERN WAS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE NEXT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (TRIPOLI, FEBRUARY 1997) FROM THE ALF, DEPLORING THE ABSENCE OF TANGIBLE PROGRESS AND THE APPARENT LACK OF COMMITMENT AND

WILL;

- AS WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS, THE COMPOSITION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (CURRENTLY WITH ONLY TWO WOMEN AMONG ITS MEMBERS) MUST BE IMPROVED TO PROVIDE FOR A BETTER PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN. TO THAT EFFECT, AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE URGED TO NOMINATE QUALIFIED WOMEN AND TO PROPOSE TO THE OAU THAT THEY BE APPOINTED TO THE THREE UPCOMING VACANCIES;
- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEANINGFUL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON POTENTIAL INTRA- AND INTER-STATE CONFLICTS, DRAWING ALSO ON INPUTS FROM WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS;
- DRAWING ON THE RESULTS OF COMPETENT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND INSTITUTIONS, TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON ALL ARMS TRADES INVOLVING AFRICAN COUNTRIES SO AS TO ALLOW PUBLIC SCRUTINY WITH A VIEW OF CURBING UNNECESSARY PURCHASES;
- THE PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF LANDMINES ON AFRICAN SOIL SHOULD BE BANNED AND AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE CONCLUDED TO THAT EFFECT;
- TO REDUCE MILITARY EXPENDITURES AS A WHOLE AND TO INTRODUCE CERTAIN MEASURES WHEREBY OFFICIAL
@ DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE CUT OR FROZEN FOR COUNTRIES EXCEEDING AGREED BENCHMARK LEVELS;

SUB-REGIONAL

5. FOR THE SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL, IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE ALF IDENTIFY AND CONNECT ORGANIZATIONS AS FOCAL POINTS, FORMING ONE NETWORK TO ADVANCE THE ACCESS OF WOMEN TO CRITICAL POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ACCESS TO VARIOUS SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN AFRICA.

6. ALSO, AT THE CONFERENCE THE ALF AGREED THAT THE ROLE OF SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS ECOWAS, IN PEACEMAKING AND PEACEKEEPING SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND THAT THEY ALSO SHOULD DRAW ON THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN WOMENS ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUCH EFFORTS.

NATIONAL

7. AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, AMONG THE MEASURES AGREED ARE:

- THE BEIJING PLAN OF ACTION AND ITS PROPOSED ABBREVIATED VERSION SHOULD BE TRANSLATED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE INTO VARIOUS LANGUAGES, IN

PARTICULAR AFRICAN LANGUAGES, SO AS TO DEEPEN THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ITS PROVISIONS AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVELS AND ABOUT THE AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY ALL AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS;

- TO PROVIDE A REGULAR MECHANISM OF FEEDBACK BETWEEN ALL PARLIAMENTARIANS AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES SO AS TO MAKE THEM ACCOUNTABLE FOR ACTION OR INACTION IN ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF WOMEN;
- GIVEN THAT THE NEXT MILLENNIUM WILL BE DRIVEN BY ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, THE ALF PARTICIPANTS LAMENTED THE PRESENT HIGH RATES OF ILLITERACY, FORTY YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. THEY URGED GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER THIS AS A FIRST LINE OF BATTLE IN THE PREPARATION OF FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AFRICANS AND TO COPE WITH THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT CENTURY;
- GOVERNMENT POLICIES NEED TO BE BROADENED WITH A VIEW TO MAINSTREAMING GENDER/WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, TO GIVE FULL RECOGNITION TO THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND TO HIGHLIGHT FEMALE ROLE MODELS IN ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY;

8. TO ACCELERATE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND TO PROMOTE SOLIDARITY AND MUTUALLY REINFORCING CONCERNS, REGULAR EXCHANGES OF EXPERIENCE AND PEER TRAINING WOULD BE INVALUABLE. TO THAT END, THE CONFERENCE AGREED THAT CROSS-FERTILIZATION OF EXISTING NETWORKS OF WOMEN LEADERS SHOULD BE FACILITATED BY ALF INCLUDING: WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS; WOMEN IN SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE; WOMEN IN MANAGERIAL AND EXECUTIVE POSITIONS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR; WOMEN IN ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS; WOMEN IN NGO AND CBO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS; AND WOMEN IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. SUCH FORA COULD LEAD TO COMMON AGENDAS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE PROMOTION OF GENDER/WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND THE NECESSARY CHANGE IN ATTITUDES OF SOCIETIES AS A WHOLE.

9. WITH REGARD TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, THE ALF PARTICIPANTS UNDERLINED THE NEED TO SENSITIZE AFRICAN WOMEN TO SOURCES OF INFORMATION PERTAINING TO BUSINESS ACTIVITIES. IT WAS STRESSED THAT WOMEN ALSO MUST BE EDUCATED, THROUGH CAPACITY-BUILDING, ON HOW TO MAKE A TRANSITION FROM THE INFORMAL TO FORMAL SECTOR. GREATER PARTICIPATION OF BUSINESSWOMEN IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS SHOULD BE FACILITATED ON ISSUES RELATED TO TRADE, INVESTMENT AND FINANCE, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN INTRA-AFRICA TRADE AND TRADE MISSIONS. ULTIMATELY, AFRICAN BUSINESSWOMEN SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO THINK BIG WHEN IT COMES TO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT SO AS TO BE ABLE TO CAPTURE A BIGGER SLICE OF THE MARKETS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES. THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE AFRICA PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FACILITY WERE PRESSED TO PLAY A MORE ASSERTIVE ROLE IN ENABLING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT. FOR THEIR PART, GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PROVIDE

INCENTIVES FOR WOMEN TO HAVE ACCESS TO CREDIT.

10. THE MEETING ALSO CALLED FOR DONOR GOVERNMENTS TO PLEDGE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND FUNDS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE DIRECT FUNDING OF NGO GRASSROOTS MICROCREDIT AND FINANCE INITIATIVES, WITH THE APPROPRIATE INDICATORS TO MEASURE ACTUAL IMPACT.

11. IT ALSO WAS SUGGESTED THAT A FORUM BE CREATED FOR YOUNG AFRICANS TO FACILITATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AMONG THEMSELVES. SUCH A FORUM ALSO COULD SERVE AS A MEANS OF INFORMATION GATHERING FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AND THUS MAY HELP PREPARE THE SUCCESSOR GENERATION OF AFRICANS FOR THE CHALLENGES OF LEADERSHIP IN THE NEXT MILLENNIUM. THE MEETING ALSO RECOMMENDED THE NEED FOR CONCERTED EFFORTS, AT BOTH SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS, TO CREATE A SERIES OF YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG AFRICANS.

12. THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE AFRICA LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR HAVING CONVENED THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE WHICH PROVIDED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE AND MUTUAL ENRICHMENT.

13. ASMARA AND BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5366

TOR: 970326124936 M2684816

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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