

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Women's Rights in Poland After Beijing (7 pages)	01/03/1997	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: Comments on "V1" Kenya Human Rights Report (9 pages)	01/22/1997	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: UNGA Resolution: Philippines Seeks Protection of Overseas Women Workers (4 pages)	03/19/1997	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [UN] (2 pages)	04/07/1997	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: Tunisian Minister of Women's Affairs Visits Department (4 pages)	04/18/1997	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: Freedom by Subterfuge: Kenyan Women Meet Under Cover (6 pages)	05/22/1997	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: US - Russia Bilaterals: Round Two (8 pages)	06/13/1997	P1/b(1)
008. cable	Re: [Human Rights Update] (7 pages)	07/31/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
 NSC Cables
 Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
 OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/03/1997 - 07/31/1997]

2012-0094-F
 ke3961

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]

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
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LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUCNDA0296 0292359-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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ORIG: USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8517
INFO: RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3562
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 0499
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2699
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0945
SUBJ: 51ST GA: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 000296

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ALL OECD CAPITALS

E.O.12958: N/A
TAGS: AORC, UNGA/C-3, PHUM, KWMN
SUBJECT: 51ST GA: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

1. SUMMARY: THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE GA ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN. A FIRST-TIME EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE RESOLUTIONS FAILED, BUT MAY BE REVISITED WITH GREATER SUCCESS NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY.

CONSOLIDATION/RATIONALIZATION EFFORTS FAIL

2. THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 51ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSED "ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN" AND "FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN" UNDER AGENDA ITEMS 103 AND 104 OCTOBER 25-30, 1996. CONSISTENT WITH EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE AND RATIONALIZE THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE EU PROPOSED THAT THE TWO ITEMS BE COMBINED. HOWEVER, THE G-77 INSISTED THAT THEY REMAIN SEPARATE, AT LEAST DURING THE 51ST UNGA. THE RESOLUTION ON "FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION" (CHAIR'S TEXT) WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT A VOTE ON NOVEMBER 13, 1996.

3. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THIRD COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN MASOOD KHAN (PAKISTAN), A SIMILAR EFFORT WAS MADE TO HAVE ONE OR TWO OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS, RATHER THAN SEVERAL SMALLER RESOLUTIONS UNDER AGENDA ITEM 103, BUT

THE G-77 OBJECTED TO THIS TOO, FEARING THE CONSOLIDATION WOULD LESSEN THE IMPACT OF RESOLUTIONS IMPORTANT TO THE GROUP. AS A RESULT, FIVE RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED WITHOUT A VOTE:

IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE SECRETARIAT (INTRODUCED BY CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND) ADOPTED NOVEMBER 18, 1996;

-- CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) (INTRODUCED BY NORWAY) ADOPTED NOVEMBER 20, 1996;

-- VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS (INTRODUCED BY THE PHILIPPINES) ADOPTED NOVEMBER 18, 1996, AND

-- TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS (INTRODUCED BY THE PHILIPPINES) ADOPTED NOVEMBER 15, 1996.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

4. THE "FOLLOW-UP TO BEIJING" RESOLUTION WAS DRAFTED BY ALL INTERESTED DELEGATIONS IN AN INFORMAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. IT BUILDS ON UNGA RESOLUTION 50/203, CALLING FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION, MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE, AND FULFILLING NATIONAL "COMMITMENTS" MADE AT THE BEIJING CONFERENCE. IT ALSO WELCOMES ECOSOC'S DECISION TO DEVOTE ITS 1997 COORDINATION SEGMENT TO MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE, AND WELCOMES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY, WHICH IS HEADED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL ADVISER ON GENDER ISSUES.

5. THE "WOMEN IN THE SECRETARIAT" RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGES THE GAINS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE (WOMEN HOLD 35% OF PROFESSIONAL LEVEL POSITIONS IN THE UN SECRETARIAT) AND URGES THE UN TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S GOAL OF 50/50 GENDER DISTRIBUTION BY THE YEAR 2000. THE U.S. COSPONSORED.

6. THE CEDAW RESOLUTION URGES STATES TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION AND LIMIT THE EXTENT OF RESERVATIONS TO IT. IT ALSO APPROVES THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MEETING TIME SO THAT THE CEDAW COMMITTEE CAN CONVENE TWO THREE-WEEK SESSIONS ANNUALLY. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 8 AUTHORIZES THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP (OEWG) ON THE ELABORATION OF A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CEDAW TO MEET FOR TEN WORKING DAYS IN PARALLEL WITH THE 41ST SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW), MARCH 10-21, 1997.

7. THE U.S. DISASSOCIATED FROM CONSENSUS ON THE RESOLUTION ON CEDAW BECAUSE OF A POTENTIAL PBI. THE SECRETARIAT ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT THE OEWG COULD NOT AT THAT TIME BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES, AND THAT THE CONFERENCE SERVICING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OEWG MEETINGS WERE ESTIMATED TO BE \$161,000. U.S. EOP REITERATED SUPPORT FOR THE ELABORATION OF A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL, AND EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE SECRETARIAT COULD NOT ACCOMMODATE THIS ACTIVITY WITHIN THE EXISTING PROGRAM BUDGET.

8. THE PHILIPPINES INTRODUCED RESOLUTIONS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS AND ON TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS. (FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE PHILIPPINES HAS TAKEN ALMOST EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTIONS ON THESE TOPICS--AT THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 000296

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ALL OECD CAPITALS

E.O.12958: N/A

TAGS: AORC, UNGA/C-3, PHUM, KWMN

SUBJECT: 51ST GA: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND OTHER FORA.)

9. THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE PHILIPPINES RESOLUTION ENDORSED THE EXPERT GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS, MOST OF WHICH WERE UNREALISTIC AND COSTLY. IT DESIGNATED THE ACC AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR COORDINATION OF INITIATIVES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS; AND IT REQUESTED GOVERNMENTS, NGOS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO UNDERTAKE STUDIES AND COLLECT DATA ON SUCH VIOLENCE, USING AS A GUIDE INDICATORS WHICH WERE INCLUDED AS ANNEXES TO THE DRAFT RESOLUTION.

10. THE FINAL TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS (REACHED AFTER PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES) TAKES NOTE OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING, INVITES MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE THEIR COMMENTS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE ISSUE OF THE INDICATORS; AND INVITES THE ACC WITHIN ITS MANDATE TO EXAMINE HOW TO IMPROVE COORDINATION WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS.

11. THE RESOLUTION ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN WAS EQUALLY PROBLEMATIC, AND ORIGINALLY CONTAINED COSTLY PROVISIONS SUCH AS URGING THE UN TO FORMULATE AND WIDELY DISSEMINATE A TRAINING MANUAL ON HOW TO TREAT VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING. IT ALSO SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH A MONITORING MECHANISM FOR THE CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF TRAFFIC IN PERSONS; AND INVITED GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH SHELTERS, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND JOB TRAINING FOR ALL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS.

12. AFTER INTENSIVE NEGOTIATION, THE FINAL TEXT INVITES MEMBER STATES, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UN, TO FORMULATE TRAINING MANUALS. IT ALSO URGES GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE AND PRACTICAL APPROACHES BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ASSIST WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF TRANSNATIONAL TRAFFICKING TO RETURN HOME AND BE REINTEGRATED IN THEIR HOME SOCIETIES.

SINGAPORE FLAP OVER TRAFFICKING

13. 96 USUN 3770 AND 96 STATE 221380 OUTLINE THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE UN EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS WHICH WAS CONVENED IN MANILA, MAY 27-31, 1996. BRIEFLY, SINGAPORE OBJECTED TO THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING IN THAT IT WAS "ONE-SIDED" AND FOCUSED ONLY ON "VIOLENCE AGAINST" WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS AND NOT ON THE "BENEFITS TO"

WOMEN WHO ARE MIGRANT WORKERS. IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, SINGAPORE CRITICIZED ANGELA KING, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, FOR CONVENING THE MEETING. THE U.S. STATEMENT TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE (96 USUN 4038) REAFFIRMED OUR CONFIDENCE IN MS. KING.

NGO OUTREACH

14. THE U.S. HOSTED A BRIEFING FOR NGO REPRESENTATIVES INTERESTED IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN. IN ADDITION TO SHARING WITH THEM U.S. POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES, WE BRIEFED THEM ON THE WORK OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN, AND WE SOLICITED THEIR INDIVIDUAL VIEWS.

COMMENT

15. WE WERE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S DELIBERATIONS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN. EVER SINCE THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN (SEPTEMBER 1995, BEIJING), DELEGATIONS HAVE VOWED TO REVITALIZE THE WORK OF THE CSW AND THE UNGA. BUT THIS SESSION -- PARTICULARLY THE INABILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CONSOLIDATING RESOLUTIONS, AND THE LONG-DRAWN OUT DISCUSSIONS ON THE PHILIPPINES RESOLUTIONS -- FELL INTO THE OLD PATTERN OF BUSINESS AS USUAL. END COMMENT.
GNEHM

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 0296
<^SSN>0296
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<^TOR>970129200640 M2594193
DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 270003Z FEB 97
LINE4: FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
OSRI: RUCNDT
DTG: 270003Z FEB 97
ORIG: USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9051
INFO: ////
SUBJ: UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN: U.S.
REPORT

TEXT:

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 000668

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESIDENT'S INTER-AGENCY
COUNCIL ON WOMEN

E.O.12958: N/A

TAGS: AORC, UN, CSW, KWMN

SUBJECT: UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN: U.S.
REPORT

1. THE BEIJING FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN CALLED
ON GOVERNMENTS TO PREPARE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS TO BE
SUBMITTED TO THE 1997 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

2. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON WILL BE DELIVERING THE U.S.
STATEMENT TO THE CSW; INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. NATIONAL
ACTION AGENDA FOR WOMEN SHOULD BE THE CENTERPIECE OF HIS
REMARKS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE U.S.
NATIONAL ACTION AGENDA MAY NOT BE READY FOR THE
MEETING.

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING
EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE AGENDA IS READY, AND
THAT THE U.S. IS ABLE TO DELIVER ON ITS BEIJING
COMMITMENT TO PRESENT AN ACTION PLAN TO THIS CSW.
RICHARDSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0668

TOR: 970226200827 M2635096

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE3: O R 121330Z MAR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ASMARA
OSRI: RUEIBS
DTG: 121330Z MAR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ASMARA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7157
INFO: RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
SUBJ: FLOTUS TASKERS, BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ASMARA 00836

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

FOR AF/AS GEORGE MOOSE AND DAS JUDITH JOHNSON FROM
AMBASSADOR JOHN F. HICKS, SR.

PLEASE PASS TO NSC SUSAN RICE
PLEASE ALSO PASS TO AF/EPS MARLENE URBINA DE BREEN,
AF/E JOSEPH CASSIDY, AF/RA ALICE DRESS AND AF/EX DEAN
WOODEN

E.O. 12958: NA
TAGS: OVIP (CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM), ER
SUBJECT: FLOTUS TASKERS, BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

REFS: A) ASMARA 674, B) ASMARA 750, C) ASMARA 551, D)
ASMARA 557, E) MARCH 12 FAX MESSAGE FROM MARLENE URBINA
DE BREEN AF/EPS

1. THE FAX MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM AF/EPS TODAY IS
DISTURBING. THE BRIEFING PAPER SUBMITTED TO THE NSC ON
ERITREA'S PARTICIPATION AT THE BEIJING CONFERENCE WAS
INACCURATE AND DID NOT INCLUDE THE INFORMATION WE
PROVIDED AF/E IN REFTEL A DTD 28 FEBRUARY. WE CAN WELL
UNDERSTAND WHY THE BRIEFING PAPER IS DEEMED INADEQUATE
BY THE NSC.

2. THE INFORMATION WE SENT TO THE DESK (REFTEL A)
ALONG WITH THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IS PROVIDED BELOW.
IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT OVER 30 PCT OF THOSE WHO
FOUGHT DURING THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE WERE WOMEN,
AND THESE WOMEN HAVE BEEN A POWERFUL FORCE IN PROMOTING
EQUALITY IN ERITREA.

3. NOTABLY, THE FIRST LADY WILL MEET THE PRESIDENT OF
THE NATIONAL UNION OF ERITREAN WOMEN, MS. ASKALU

MENKERIOS, WHO LED THE DELEGATION TO BEIJING AND IS ONE OF THE NATION'S LEADING ADVOCATES ON WOMEN'S ISSUES. THE ERITREAN PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE SINCE THE 1995 BEIJING CONFERENCE IN PROMOTING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY AND POLITICS OF ERITREA. THIS IS BEING DONE THROUGH MICRO ENTERPRISE PROGRAMS, TRAINING, LEGAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO LAND AND INHERITANCE, AND PROMOTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL SERVICE. ERITREAN WOMEN HAVE PARTICIPATED IN FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCES IN NAIROBI AND CONDUCT REGULAR EVENTS TO RAISE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF WOMEN.

4. MARCH 8 WAS WOMEN'S DAY IN ERITREA, AN IMPORTANT NATION-WIDE EVENT STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. USAID AND USIS AS WELL AS THE MISSION HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN PROMOTING PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN, SPONSORING SEMINARS AND EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS. I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT THE ERITREAN GOVERNMENT AND THE WOMEN HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO WOMEN'S ISSUES IN THE POST-BEIJING CONFERENCE PERIOD.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. FOLLOWING IS OUR EARLIER SUBMISSION SENT ON FEBRUARY 28 (REFTEL A) ON ERITREAN PARTICIPATION AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, BEIJING, 1995. AS REQUESTED, THOSE WHOM THE FIRST LADY WILL LIKELY MEET AT THE WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE ARE ASTERISKED (TOTAL OF FIVE WOMEN).

TWENTY-THREE PARTICIPANTS TRAVELED TO BEIJING IN 1995 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN. THE PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL UNION OF ERITREAN WOMEN (NUEW) AND THE NATIONAL UNION FOR ERITREAN YOUTH AND STUDENTS (NUEYS). THE FRAMEWORK FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IS OUTLINED IN A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ERITREA" PRODUCED BY THE ERITREAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ERITREA HAS A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF WOMEN IN ERITREA. THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT UNDER THE EPLF UNDERSCORES THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN TO THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. WOMEN FIGHTERS MADE UP 30 PCT OF THE EPLF FORCE, ACHIEVING EQUALITY IN THE FIELD WHICH HAS HELPED PROMOTE PRINCIPLES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR THE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION OF ERITREAN SOCIETY, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF GENDER EQUALITY. THE POLITICAL WILL AND COMMITMENT EXISTS IN ERITREA FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET ASIDE 30 PCT OF LOCAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SEATS FOR WOMEN IN THE LOCAL ELECTIONS NOW UNDERWAY, AND MANY WOMEN ARE ALSO CONTESTING SEATS FOR THE OTHER 70 PCT. ALSO, 30 PCT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS FOR WHICH ELECTIONS

ARE SCHEDULED NEXT YEAR ARE SET ASIDE FOR WOMEN. THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, WHICH WILL BE RATIFIED IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 ASMARA 00836

PROTECTS THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF WOMEN, GUARANTEEING THEM EQUALITY OF STATUS IN SOCIETY. NUEW AND BANA WOMEN SHAREHOLDING COMPANY ARE THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS. THEY PROVIDE TRAINING, CREDIT, COUNSELING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS OTHER SERVICES. MOST ISSUES THAT AFFECT AND ARE OF CONCERN TO WOMEN ARE STRONGLY ADVOCATED AND ADMINISTERED BY NUEW. BUT CHALLENGES REMAIN IN ADVANCING THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF WOMEN.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEIJING CONFERENCE DEVELOPED AN AGENDA WHICH INCLUDED THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY AND DECISION MAKING; ENHANCING WOMEN'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ERITREA; THE RECOGNITION AND MAINTENANCE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO LEGAL PROVISIONS, REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, THE PENAL CODE, ACCESS TO LAND AND THE LABOR LAW; ACCESS TO HEALTH AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES; THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEASURES TO DECREASE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ASSIST ABUSED WOMEN; AND FINALLY, THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL SERVICE.

SINCE BEIJING, THE NATIONAL UNION OF ERITREAN WOMEN HAS WORKED TO MAINTAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S ENTHUSIASM AND COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S ISSUES. A DELEGATION TRAVELED TO NAIROBI IN JANUARY 1996 "BEIJING AND BEYOND" TO DISCUSS ERITREA'S FUTURE PLANS AND ACTIVITIES DERIVED FROM THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION DEVELOPED IN BEIJING. USIS ASMARA HAS CONDUCTED FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMS FOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE BEIJING CONFERENCE. NUEW ALSO HAS SPONSORED SEVERAL SEMINARS AND GROUP TRAINING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION FROM THE CONFERENCE AND TO SENSITIZE LOCAL LEADERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO THE ISSUES FACING ERITREA AND WOMEN IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THEY HAVE ALSO HELD SEMINARS ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS IN THREE ZONES IN ERITREA. NUEW PARTICIPATED IN THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT, HELD IN ROME IN SEPTEMBER 1996 WHERE THEY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AT THE NGO FORUM TO IDENTIFY WAYS IN WHICH NGOS CAN INFLUENCE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING GENDER PARTNERSHIP IN ECONOMIC LIFE. IN OCTOBER 1996, REPRESENTATIVES FROM NUEW TRAVELED TO ISRAEL TO PARTICIPATE IN A ONE-WEEK LONG SEMINAR ENTITLED "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND GENDER." THIS PROVIDED ANOTHER FORUM TO EXAMINE GOVERNMENT POLICIES, AS WELL AS PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND NGOS WHICH BEAR ON GENDER PARITY AND PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LIGHT OF THE BEIJING CONFERENCE PLAN OF ACTION. THE RECENT LINKAGE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN AND NUEWS WITH USAID FUNDING FEATURES WOMEN'S LEGAL

RIGHTS AND POLITICAL ADVOCACY.

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ATTENDEES FROM ERITREA:

GOVERNMENT DELEGATION:

*MS. ASKALU MENKERIOS - HEAD OF DELEGATION, MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF PFDJ, PRESIDENT OF NUEW

MS. AMINA NURHUSHEN - MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL, MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF PFDJ AND HEAD OF ZONE THREE

MS. BELAINESH SEYOUM - HEAD OF REPORTERS OF ASMARA AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES M/INFORMATION

*MS. YESHI HAILE - HEAD OF PROGRAMMING AND MONITORING DIVISION OF M/EDUCATION

MS. DUKUSAN ABRAHA - HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION OF ADI-QUALA HOSPITAL

MS. SIWAINESH KIROS - ADMINISTRATOR OF SUB-ZONE OF ASMARA

MR. AMHA KIDANE - PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

MR. ARAYA DESTA - CONSUL IN ERITREAN EMBASSY, CHINA

NGOS DELEGATION:

*MS. ALGANESH KIDANE - SECRETARY GENERAL OF ERITREAN RED CROSS

MS. LETEKIDAN KAHSAY - MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NUEW AND HEAD OF SERAYE PROVINCE NUEW

MS. JUMA IBRAHIM - MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE NUEW, HEAD OF DANKALIA PROVINCE NUEW

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 ASMARA 00836

MS. ZAHRA JABIR - MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL, MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF PFDJ, MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CONSTITUTION

MS. AMNA HASIEN - MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CONSTITUTION

MS. SABA MEBRAHTU - CHAIRWOMAN OF THE ADHOC COMMITTEE OF WOMEN TRADERS, AND OWNER OF DRUG STORE

ACCREDITED NGOS DELEGATION:

MS. ALMAZ LIJAM - MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL, MEMBER OF
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF PFDJ AND MEMBER OF CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF NUEW

MR. SHENGEB MEHAYEDIN - PRESIDENT OF YOUTH ASSOCIATION,
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE OF PFDJ

MR. ABDELRAZAK MEHMED - HEAD OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE
YOUTH

MS. NURYA IDRIS - MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NUEW, HEAD OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT NUEW

*MS. SENAIT LIJAM - MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NUEW, HEAD OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND INFORMATION
NUEW

MS. KIDISTY HABTE - COORDINATOR FAMILY PLANNING

MS. ALMAZ MAALO - TREASURER OF THE BOARD, FAMILY
PLANNING

PRESS:

*MS WEINI GHEREZIHER - HEAD OF TIGRIGNA PROGRAM RADIO
BROADCASTING OF M/INFORMATION

HICKS

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

SSN: 0836
<^SSN>0836
<^SSN>0836

TOR: 970312083515 M2661538
<^TOR>970312083748 M2661543
<^TOR>970312083839 M2661546

DIST: SIT: BARKS-RUGGLES JORDAN MCCORMICK PRENDERGAST RICE
SIT: NSC
PRT: FIRSTLADY

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUCNDA0947 0771934-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 181934Z MAR 97
LINE4: FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
OSRI: RUCNDT
DTG: 181934Z MAR 97
ORIG: USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO: SECSTATE WASHDC 9489
INFO: ////
SUBJ: TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS

TEXT:
UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 000947

E.O.12958: N/A
TAGS: KWMN, SOCI, PHUM, PREF, ECON
SUBJECT: TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 4.
2. USUN RECEIVED A UN/SYG NOTE DATED 3/12/97 WITH REFERENCE TO UNGA RES. 51/66. SYG REQUESTS MEMBER STATES TO PROVIDE THEIR GOVERNMENT'S COMMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLATFORM OF ACTION OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, TO CRIMINALIZE TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ALL FORMS AND TO CONDEMN AND PENALIZE ALL THOSE OFFENDERS INVOLVED WHILE ENSURING THAT THE VICTIMS OF THESE PRACTICES ARE NOT PENALIZED. ALSO GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES WHO ARE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ARE TO INCLUDE INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS AS PART OF THEIR NATIONAL REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE GENERAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD RESPECTIVELY. THE UN/SYG WILL THEN SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RES . 51/66 TO THE 52ND UNGA IN 1997. THE UN/SYG REQUESTS GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE UN SECRETARIAT ANY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RES. 51/66 BY APRIL 30, 1997.
3. A COPY OF SYG NOTE HAS BEEN FAXED TO IO/ESA.
4. ACTION REQUESTED: COMMENTS FOR MISSION'S RESPONSE TO THE UN/SYG'S REQUEST.
RICHARDSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0947

TOR: 970318171534 M2671725

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. cable	Re: UNGA Resolution: Philippines Seeks Protection of Overseas Women Workers (4 pages)	03/19/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/03/1997 - 07/31/1997]

2012-0094-F
ke3961

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]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. cable	Re: [UN] (2 pages)	04/07/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/03/1997 - 07/31/1997]

2012-0094-F
ke3961

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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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 RUEHGVA2105 0981529-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 081529Z APR 97

LINE4: FM USMISSION GENEVA

OSRI: RUEHGV

DTG: 081529Z APR 97

ORIG: USMISSION GENEVA

TO: RUEHZJ/HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COLLECTIVE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8999
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3538

INFO: ////

SUBJ: 53RD SESSION OF THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:
SPEECH ON PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 GENEVA 002105

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, CH, UE

SUBJECT: 53RD SESSION OF THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:
SPEECH ON PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF
WOMEN.

1. THIS IS UNHRC NUMBER 45.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A SPEECH GIVEN BY NANCY RUBIN,
HEAD OF U.S. DELEGATION, APRIL 7, 1997; AGENDA ITEM 9.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

ONE DAY HISTORIANS MAY LOOK BACK UPON OUR ERA AND SEARCH FOR THE
PRECISE MOMENT WHEN THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN WERE ACCEPTED INTO
THE MAINSTREAM OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY. WILL
THEY FOCUS ON THE 1945 UN CHARTER, WHICH FOR THE FIRST TIME,
PROHIBITED DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF SEX? OR WILL THEY POINT
TO THE VIENNA CONFERENCE OF 1993, WHERE A HALF A MILLION WOMEN
ORGANIZED THEMSELVES TO SIGN PETITIONS AND CALL ON THE UNITED
NATIONS TO RECOGNIZE A SIMPLE FACT: THAT IT WAS LONG PAST TIME TO
PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

IT IS FASCINATING HOW HISTORY EBBS AND FLOWS, HOW LONG IT CAN
TAKE BEFORE THE LOGJAM OF INACTION IS BROKEN. THIS IS WHAT
HAPPENED IN VIENNA.

VIENNA WAS A VICTORY FOR VISIBILITY! WOMEN FROM THE NORTH,
SOUTH, EAST AND WEST JOINED TOGETHER AND FORMED A UNITED FRONT TO
MOVE WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS FORWARD. THEIR DETERMINATION AND
CREATIVITY IS REFLECTED CLEARLY IN PARAGRAPH 18 OF THE VIENNA
DECLARATION, WHICH STATES THAT "THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND
GIRL-CHILDREN ARE AN INALIENABLE, INTEGRAL AND INDIVISIBLE PART

OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS."

WITH THAT STATEMENT THE PROCESS OF INCORPORATING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS INTO EVERY ASPECT OF THE UN'S WORK BEGAN IN EARNEST. SOON EVEN THE SKEPTICS BEGAN TO NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE. OTHERS TRIED TO TURN THE CLOCK BACK, BUT THEY COULD NOT. NOR SHALL THEY IN THE FUTURE. ALL OF US ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSFORMING THE STANDARDS WE ESPOUSE INTO POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND ATTITUDES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

THE FIRST MAJOR SIGN THAT THE UN WAS SERIOUS ABOUT THE VIOLATION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS WAS WHEN THIS COMMISSION CALLED FOR AND LATER APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES. RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY'S APPOINTMENT HAS ADDED TO THIS COMMISSION'S IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN KNOWS NO COUNTRY OR REGION. BUT FOR TOO LONG IT WAS INVISIBLE. TOO MANY GOVERNMENTS EXPLAINED IT AS IF SUCH VIOLENCE WERE SANCTIONED BY CULTURE, HISTORY, TRADITION. BUT MR. CHAIRMAN, AS MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, AMERICA'S FIRST FEMALE SECRETARY OF STATE, SAID JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, IT'S NOT CULTURE! IT'S CRIMINAL! IT MUST BE PUNISHED! IT IS ESSENTIAL TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DOWRY DEATHS, FEMALE INFANTICIDE, AND OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

BUT PERHAPS THE HISTORIANS WILL FOCUS LESS ON VIENNA THAN THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN. IT IS THERE THAT FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON ENERGIZED THE WORLD'S WOMEN BY ASSERTING ONE SIMPLE TRUTH: "HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS."

THAT SUCH AN ASSERTION COULD STIR THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF WOMEN IN EVEN THE REMOTEST PARTS OF THIS PLANET WAS GALVANIZING. ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT SUCH AN ASSERTION COULD SEEM REVOLUTIONARY IS A SIGN OF HOW FAR WE STILL MUST GO.

THE BEIJING CONFERENCE BROUGHT TOGETHER 40,000 PEOPLE, REPRESENTING 189 GOVERNMENTS AND 2,000 NGOS. ITS GREAT ACHIEVEMENT WAS THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION: A SERIES OF PRACTICAL AND FAR-REACHING STEPS FOR GOVERNMENTS, NGOS, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND INDIVIDUAL WOMEN AND MEN TO ADVANCE THE STATUS OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGES THAT CAME FROM THE BEIJING CONFERENCE WAS EMPOWERMENT. EMPOWER WOMEN AND REAP THE BENEFITS. HEALTHY, EDUCATED WOMEN MAKE GOOD CHOICES, AND NOT JUST FOR THEMSELVES, BUT FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR NEIGHBORS. OUR EXPERIENCES WITH MICROENTERPRISE LENDING, FOR EXAMPLE, BEARS THIS OUT. IN CASE AFTER CASE, COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY, WOMEN HAVE PROVEN THE BENEFITS OF INVESTING -- EVEN THE SMALLEST SUMS OF MONEY.

AND SPEAKING OF INVESTMENT, THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENT ANY SOCIETY CAN MAKE IS IN THE EDUCATION OF ITS CHILDREN. YET FIGURES SHOW THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN 600 MILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS TODAY WHO ARE DENIED ACCESS TO A DECENT EDUCATION. WHEN WOMEN HAVE ACCESS TO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL POWER, THE NATIONS

THEY LIVE IN ARE MORE LIKELY TO PROSPER. THIS IS NO ACCIDENT. A SOCIETY WHICH VALUES ALL ITS CITIZENS, BENEFITS FROM ALL OF THEM. A SOCIETY WHICH NEGLECTS AND PERMITS ABUSE, LIMITS ITSELF AND ITS FUTURE POTENTIAL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD OF THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN MAINSTREAMING ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO WOMEN AND IN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 GENEVA 002105

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, CH, UE

SUBJECT: 53RD SESSION OF THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:
SPEECH ON PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF WOMEN.

ADVANCING THE RECOGNITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND DESIGNED A PLAN TO INTEGRATE WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS INTO US DOMESTIC POLICY. THE US PLAN OF ACTION SEEKS TO:

- PROVIDE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SECURITY;
- IMPROVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE;
- ADOPT MEASURES TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ENSURE PERSONAL SAFETY;
- PROMOTE FULL PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE;
- SECURE FAMILY-FRIENDLY POLICIES TO HELP PARENTS BALANCE THEIR FAMILY AND WORK RESPONSIBILITIES;
- ENSURE EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION UNDER THE LAW; AND MANY OTHER MEASURES AS WELL.

IN OUR US DEPARTMENT OF STATE THERE IS NOW A SENIOR COORDINATOR AND AN INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL TO ENSURE THE FULL INTEGRATION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES INTO OUR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. OUR ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS HAVE INCREASED THEIR DOCUMENTATION ON THE CONDITIONS WOMEN AND GIRLS FACE IN EVERY COUNTRY BY ADDRESSING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN. THESE INCLUDE THE DENIAL OF WOMEN'S EQUAL RIGHTS TO EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THE REFUSAL OF GOVERNMENTS TO INVESTIGATE OR PROSECUTE DOMESTIC ABUSE, AND THE PRACTICES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.

AND AT THE RECENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) MEETING IN NEW YORK, THE UNITED STATES WORKED WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS TO ENSURE THAT GENDER PERSPECTIVE IS INTEGRATED INTO THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES FOR THE EFFORTS THEY MADE AT THE CSW TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO ANOTHER KEY PLANK OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM: THE FULL AND EQUAL RIGHT OF WOMEN TO INHERIT LAND AND OTHER PROPERTIES. WE APPLAUD THEIR EFFORTS TO PUSH FOR AN END TO THIS ECONOMIC DISCRIMINATION.

THE UNITED STATES IS ALSO TAKING A STRONG LEADERSHIP POSITION BOTH AT HOME AND INTERNATIONALLY TO HALT THE TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND WE STRONGLY SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS AT THIS COMMISSION TO HELP PROTECT WOMEN FROM THIS ODIIOUS ABUSE. WE FURTHER WELCOME THE ATTENTION THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HAS BROUGHT TO THIS SUBJECT IN HER LATEST REPORTS.

SIMILARLY, WE HAVE BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE URGING THE CHIEF PROSECUTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA AND RWANDA TO PROSECUTE EFFECTIVELY RAPE AND GENDER-RELATED VIOLENCE AS WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. WE HOPE THAT THOSE STATES PARTICIPATING IN DRAFTING THE STATUTE FOR A PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE AD HOC TRIBUNALS AND THAT THEY INTEGRATE A GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO THE DESIGN OF THE COURT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FIRST HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ORGANIZING SEMINARS, TOGETHER WITH UNIFEM, AND TAKING ACTION TO IMPLEMENT INTEGRATION ON WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS. A DOCUMENT BEFORE THIS COMMISSION DESCRIBES HOW MUCH HAS BEEN DONE IN ONLY A FEW YEARS TO CHANGE THE WAY THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS, TREATY BODIES AND OTHER EXPERTS ADDRESS THEIR SUBJECT. THESE MEASURES HELP ENSURE THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS RECOGNIZE HOW WOMEN ARE AFFECTED AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, DURING A BREAK IN THE COMMISSION, THE UNITED STATES ORGANIZED A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS. AT THAT TIME WE IDENTIFIED EIGHT POINTS AS KEY CONCERNS OF OURS AT THIS SESSION OF THE COMMISSION. THEY ARE TO:

- RENEW THE MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND WORK TO ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN;
- INTEGRATE WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES SYSTEMATICALLY INTO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER'S WORK;
- ENCOURAGE UNHRC ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMS TO TRAIN JUDGES, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN IDENTIFYING GENDER-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS;
- SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNALS IN THEIR EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF RAPE CASES;
- ADVOCATE THE ADOPTION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO HALT THE TRAFFICKING OF GIRLS AND WOMEN;
- WORK WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO END FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN ALL ITS FORMS;
- PROMOTE THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THEIR COUNTRIES AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF A FULLY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY; AND
- SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION ADOPTED AT THE UN FORTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN.

MR. CHAIRMAN, WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE DELEGATIONS OF CANADA, THE PHILIPPINES, AND MANY OTHERS IN FOCUSING ATTENTION ON PREVENTING THE VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN BY USING THE INSTRUMENTS OF THE COMMISSION IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND BY PRESSING FOR COORDINATION ON THESE ISSUES THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 GENEVA 002105

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, CH, UE

SUBJECT: 53RD SESSION OF THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:
SPEECH ON PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF WOMEN.

AND FINALLY, WE HAVE LONG ENCOURAGED THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF TO

LIVE UP TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION BY ENCOURAGING THE ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN TO TREATY BODIES, OR AS SPECIAL RAPORTEURS, MEMBERS OF SPECIAL MISSIONS, OR REGULAR EMPLOYEES OF THE UN ITSELF.

THERE IS MUCH MORE TO BE DONE. BUT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS: NOW WE CAN SEE THE ABUSES AGAINST WOMEN, BECAUSE NGOS TELL US ABOUT THEM, OUR GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON THEM, AND THIS COMMISSION CONTINUES TO REMIND THE EXPERTS TO EXAMINE THEM.

WE HAVE SEEN IT IN OUR LIFETIMES, MR. CHAIRMAN. AN IDEA CAN CHANGE A COMMUNITY, AND A COMMUNITY CAN CHANGE A NATION. TOGETHER THEY CAN CHANGE THE WAY THE WORLD THINKS AND ACTS TOWARD WOMEN. AND SO I LOOK TOWARD THE NEW CENTURY WITH HOPE. BUT WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS MOMENT AND BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM WE HAVE HELPED CREATE. WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS. WE'VE HEARD IT AND WE'VE WORKED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN, HERE AT THE COMMISSION, BACK AT HOME AND EVERYWHERE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
THANK YOU.

GERSON

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

SSN: 2105
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TOR: 970408122515 M2703210
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DIST:
SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. cable	Re: Tunisian Minister of Women's Affairs Visits Department (4 pages)	04/18/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/03/1997 - 07/31/1997]

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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]
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- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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PREC: ROUTINE
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SUBJ: SUPPORT FOR VITAL VOICES CONFERENCE, JULY 9-11

TEXT:
UNCLAS STATE 085983

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, ELAB, AMGT, AU, KWMN
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR VITAL VOICES CONFERENCE, JULY 9-11

1. SUMMARY: A CONFERENCE, "VITAL VOICES: WOMEN IN DEMOCRACY,N WILL CONVENE WOMEN FROM THE GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SECTORS OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, TO BUILD NETWORKS WITH WOMEN LEADERS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION. THREE HUNDRED PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPLORE WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPING OPEN, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES. FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CONFERENCE AND IS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTENDING. THIS DEPARTMENT-SPONSORED CONFERENCE, WITH PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION, SERVES IMPORTANT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. EUR IS SEPARATELY SEEKING FORMAL AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. THE CONFERENCE WILL BE COORDINATED OUT OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN VIENNA IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH EUR AND G. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES ARE:
- - TO DEFINE THE COMMON CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN THE EMERGING DEMOCRACIES AND EXPLORE CONCRETE POLICY

INITIATIVES TO MEET THOSE CHALLENGES;
- - TO ENERGIZE AND EQUIP WOMEN LEADERS TO ASSERT THEIR INFLUENCE IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES;
- - TO ESTABLISH A WIDER EAST-WEST NETWORK OF WOMEN LEADERS IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY-BUILDING EFFORTS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE; AND
- - TO INCREASE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN TO A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

3. THREE TRACKS OF WORKSHOPS -- LAW AND LEADERSHIP, POLITICS AND PERSUASION, AND BUSINESS AND BEYOND -- WILL BE ACTION-ORIENTED, SUCH AS: DEVELOPING SKILLS IN STARTING BUSINESSES, WORKING WITH MEDIA, USING THE INTERNET, RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE, INVESTING IN A FREE MARKET, OR WRITING GRANT PROPOSALS. THE CONFERENCE WILL STIMULATE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE FOCUSED ON CONCRETE RESULTS FOR WOMEN IN THE EMERGING DEMOCRACIES. PRESENTATIONS BY HIGH LEVEL PUBLIC FIGURES WILL UNDERSCORE THE PRIORITY OF EMPOWERING WOMEN AS A FOREIGN POLICY GOAL.

4. FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON IS INTERESTED IN THE CONFERENCE AND IS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTENDING.

5. THE PROJECT, WHICH THE SECRETARY ENDORSES, WILL FURTHER THE GOAL OF THE U.S./EU TRANSATLANTIC AGENDA TO COOPERATE ON MORE "PEOPLE TO PEOPLE" VENTURES: THE CONCEPT WAS PRESENTED MAY 6TH AT THE U.S./EU "BUILDING BRIDGES" CONFERENCE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE "VITAL VOICES" CONFERENCE PUTS INTO ACTION MANY OF THE IDEAS THAT CAME OUT OF THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 1995.

6. THE "VITAL VOICES" STEERING COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA SWANEE HUNT, INCLUDES EU COMMISSIONER FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS EMMA BONINO; SENATE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC DR. JAROSLAVA MOSEROVA; SERBIAN OPPOSITION LEADER VESNA PESIC; EU COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS ANITA GRADIN; GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY MARIA RAUCH-KALLAT; SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE THERESA LOAR; AND OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM ANASTASIA POSADSKAYA-VANDERBECK.

7. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE "VITAL VOICES: WOMEN IN

DEMOCRACY" CONFERENCE CONTACT: SUSAN GRANM, CONFERENCE COORDINATOR, AMEMBASSY VIENNA, BOLTZMANNGASSE 16, A-1090 VIENNA, AUSTRIA. TEL: (43) 1-31339 2025, FAX: (43) 1-31339 2908 OR 2168.

TALBOTT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5983

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DIST:

SIT: NSC

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ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5700
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INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 7623
SUBJ: TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN: EU MINISTERS ADOPT GUIDELINES TO
COMBAT TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
TEXT:

////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 THE HAGUE 002076

DEPT FOR PRM/P; INL/ICJ; AND EUR/ERA
USDOJ FOR CRIMINAL DIVISION/CHILD EXPLOITATION SECTION

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TAGS: SMIG, PREF, KCRM, CVIS, EUN, NL
SUBJECT: TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN: EU MINISTERS ADOPT GUIDELINES TO
COMBAT TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 1747, (B) USEU BRUSSELS 3171 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY

1. AN EU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE APRIL 25-26 CONCLUDED WITH A "DECLARATION ON EUROPEAN GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION." HOSTED BY THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT, THE CONFERENCE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO SUPPORT THE FEMALE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, ESTIMATED AT HALF A MILLION IN EUROPE. BESIDES MEDICAL, LEGAL, AND SOCIAL SUPPORT MECHANISMS, THE DECLARATION CALLS FOR GRANTING TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS TO ALLOW WOMEN TO REMAIN LEGALLY IN EUROPE WHILE CHARGES ARE BEING BROUGHT AGAINST THE ALLEGED TRAFFICKERS. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AT THE CONFERENCE EMPHASIZED THE PIVOTAL ROLE THE TESTIMONY OF TRAFFICKED WOMEN PLAYS IN PROSECUTION AND THE NEED TO OFFER INDUCEMENTS FOR JUDICIAL COOPERATION. OTHERS, INCLUDING THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE, STRESSED THE NEED TO SUPPORT VICTIMS FOR MORAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS REASONS, APART FROM THEIR ROLE IN PROSECUTION. THE DECLARATION AGREED TO AT THE HAGUE IS NON-BINDING TO MEMBER

STATES. MANY OF THE PROVISIONS ARE ALREADY A PRACTICE IN THE NETHERLANDS. THE EU MEMBERS REMAINED BITTERLY DIVIDED OVER THE MERITS OF LEGALIZING OR COMBATTING PROSTITUTION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN. OTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, WERE SUPPORTED BY ALL. MANY OF THE EU "CANDIDATE STATES" OF EASTERN EUROPE -- WHICH ARE ALSO CONSIDERED THE PRIMARY SOURCE COUNTRIES FOR THE EUROPEAN SEX INDUSTRY -- SENT OBSERVERS TO THE CONFERENCE. USG OBSERVERS FROM DOJ AND STATE (PRM AND INL) ALSO ATTENDED AND DISCUSSED A JOINT U.S.-EU INITIATIVE TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN ON THE MARGINS OF THE CONFERENCE.

OVERVIEW - DEFINING THE PARAMETERS

2. THE NETHERLANDS PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION MOVED THE COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO COMBAT AND PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN ONE STEP FURTHER BY SPONSORING A MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS AND ADOPT A "CODE OF CONDUCT" FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOSTED BY NETHERLANDS MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AD MELKERT (WHO IS ALSO THE COORDINATING MINISTER OF EMANCIPATION POLICY), THE CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO SUPPORT THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING WHILE PURSUING VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT IT AND UNDERTAKING SPECIFIC MEASURES TO PREVENT IT. MANY OF THE DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE WERE FROM EUROPEAN MINISTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND WOMEN'S ISSUES.

3. U.S. OBSERVERS AT THE CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE WERE TOM BURROWS, CHILD EXPLOITATION AND OBSCENITY SECTION/USDOJ; MARC MEZNAR, PRM/P, DEPARTMENT OF STATE; AND CARLA MENARES-BURY, INL/ICJ, DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

4. IN HIS OPENING SPEECH, MELKERT TRACED THE GENESIS OF THE RECENT EU PREOCCUPATION WITH TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF WOMEN HELD IN 1995 IN BEIJING. IN THIS VEIN, DUTCH ORGANIZERS SOUGHT TO SEPARATE "TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN" FROM OTHER EU INITIATIVES RELATING TO "TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS" OR "TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN" TO WHICH VARIOUS DELEGATES AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIAN MARIA PAOLA COLOMBO SVEVO OF ITALY OBJECTED. (FYI: REPORTEDLY, MS.COLOMBO INSISTED ON BEING INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE. END FYI) THE IMPETUS GIVEN TO THE ISSUE BY EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER ANITA GRADIN AND THE EC/IOM CONFERENCE ON THE TOPIC A YEAR AGO IN VIENNA WAS ALSO MENTIONED.

5. THE DEFINITION OF WHO COULD BE CONSIDERED A VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING WAS BROADLY SKETCHED IN THE CONTEXT OF "EQUAL OPPORTUNITY" AND WAS NOT LIMITED TO JUST THOSE WHO ARE BROUGHT TO DESTINATION COUNTRIES TO WORK ILLICITLY AGAINST THEIR WILL OR WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR TRUE FATE.

6. DUTCH MINISTER OF JUSTICE WINNIE SORGDRAGER BEGAN HER ADDRESS WITH AN ANECDOTE OF A SLOVAK GIRL WHO WAS APPROACHED IN HER VILLAGE AND OFFERED EMPLOYMENT AS A PROSTITUTE IN THE NETHERLANDS. SHE AGREED TO GO WITH THE MAN TO AMSTERDAM WHERE SHE WORKED IN A BROTHEL FROM 7 P.M. TO 7 A.M., SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. THE TWO LIVED IN AN APARTMENT PAID FOR FROM HER PROFITS. THE ANECDOTE WAS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE BROAD DEFINITION WHICH HELPED

EXPLAIN THE FIGURE OF 500,000 FEMALE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN EUROPE. (FYI: THIS FIGURE, PROVIDED TO THE EU BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION, WAS PRIVATELY QUESTIONED BY EUROPOL COORDINATOR JURGEN STORBECK AND OTHERS. END FYI)

7. IN HER REMARKS, DUTCH NATIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR POEL VAN DER MOLEN-MAESEN SAID THAT IF ANY FOREIGN PROSTITUTE IS PAID LESS THAN A DUTCH PROSTITUTE, IS ENTITLED TO LESS OF THE PROFIT FROM HER WORK, OR HAS NO ACCESS TO HER PASSPORT, SHE IS CONSIDERED A UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 THE HAGUE 002076

DEPT FOR PRM/P; INL/ICJ; AND EUR/ERA
USDOJ FOR CRIMINAL DIVISION/CHILD EXPLOITATION SECTION

E.O.12958:N/A

TAGS: SMIG, PREF, KCRM, CVIS, EUN, NL
SUBJECT: TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN: EU MINISTERS ADOPT GUIDELINES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING.

INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

8. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, MINISTER MELKERT URGED MEMBER STATES TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO MEASURES AIMED AT PREVENTING, TRACKING DOWN AND PROSECUTING TRAFFICKERS, BUT AIDING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING. DELEGATES OF SEVERAL MEMBER STATES RE-ITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF PENALIZING THE TRAFFICKERS, NOT THE VICTIMS, AND OF WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNTERPARTS IN THE SOURCE COUNTRIES.

9. ITALIAN PANELIST MARIA GRAZIA GIAMMARINARO STATED THAT A SERIOUS COMMITMENT AGAINST TRAFFICKING REQUIRES A REVISION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION. GIAMMARINARO READILY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ITALIAN CRIMINAL CODE ON SLAVERY, CREATED IN A "DIFFERENT HISTORICAL SITUATION," IS NOT ADEQUATE TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE PROSECUTION AND PUNISHMENT OF TRAFFICKERS BECAUSE TRAFFICKING IS A FORM OF ORGANIZED CRIME. SHE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO CONSIDER AMENDING THE CRIMINAL CODE TO ADDRESS THE CRIME OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN.

10. ONE INTERESTING DUTCH GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE, DESCRIBED BY VAN DER MOLEN-MAESEN, WAS THE CREATION OF A VICE SQUAD COMPOSED OF POLICE AND ALIENS SERVICE OFFICERS. THE VICE SQUAD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING TRAFFICKING CASES AND REGULARLY VISITING LOCATIONS FREQUENTED BY PROSTITUTES IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS AND GENERATE TRUST. THESE OFFICERS ALSO DISTRIBUTE BROCHURES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES DESCRIBING HOW POLICE DEAL WITH TRAFFICKED WOMEN AS WELL AS A LIST OF CONTACT POINTS WITH PHONE NUMBERS IN CASE HELP IS NEEDED (COUNSELING IS AVAILABLE IN THE NATIVE LANGUAGE OF THE VICTIM). VAN DER MOLEN-MAESEN SAID THE REGULAR COMMUNITY OUTREACH OF THE VICE SQUAD ENCOURAGES TRAFFICKED WOMEN TO FILE A COMPLAINT.

11. COMMISSIONER GRADIN DESCRIBED SOME OF THE SUCCESSES OF THE EU CONFERENCE HELD LAST YEAR IN VIENNA REGARDING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION PURPOSES. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT

THE CONFERENCE SERVED AS A BASIS FOR THE "COMMISSION ACTION PLAN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION" WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO THE EU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LAST NOVEMBER. AS A RESULT, THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES RELATIVE TO INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION: EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE EUROPOL DRUG UNIT TO ALSO COVER TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS; CRIMINALIZE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS; SENSITIZE POLICE, CUSTOMS AND MIGRATION OFFICERS AND OTHERS TO THE PLIGHT OF TRAFFICKED WOMEN (STOP PROGRAM); TRAIN MIGRATION OFFICERS TO DETECT DOCUMENT FRAUD (SHERLOCK PROGRAM); AND TRAIN JUDGES (GROTIUS PROGRAM). GRADIN POINTED OUT THAT TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN REQUIRES A COORDINATED AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH AT THE NATIONAL, EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

12. EUROPOL DIRECTOR STORBECK DESCRIBED THE LACK OF ACCURATE DATA ON THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND THE SLOW INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES REGIONALLY AS IMPEDIMENTS TO CRACKING DOWN ON TRAFFICKERS. WITH ITS NEW MANDATE, EUROPOL WILL SEEK TO FACILITATE THE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, COLLECT DATA ON THE MODUS OPERANDI AND SMUGGLING TECHNIQUES OF TRAFFICKERS, IDENTIFY MAJOR TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS (LOCATION, FRONT COMPANIES, LEADERS, ETC) TO SPUR INVESTIGATIONS, AND COLLECT DATA ON SUCCESSFUL LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO REDUCE TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN.

SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

13. WHILE MOST OFFICIALS SPOKE OF SUPPORTING VICTIMS TO OBTAIN TESTIMONY AGAINST TRAFFICKERS, MANY ALSO EMPHASIZED THE MORAL OBLIGATION OF THE STATE TO PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF WOMEN. SOCIAL, MEDICAL, FINANCIAL, AND LEGAL SUPPORT WERE CITED AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE "CODE OF CONDUCT".

14. DUTCH NATIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR POEL VAN DER MOLEN-MAESEN LISTED SOME OF THE MEASURES ALREADY IN PLACE IN THE NETHERLANDS TO SUPPORT VICTIMS: A THREE MONTH PERIOD FOR THE VICTIM TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PRESS CHARGES, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, A TEMPORARY RESIDENT PERMIT DURING THE TRIAL, A BROCHURE DESCRIBING THE LEGAL PROCEDURES, THE RIGHT TO A FEMALE CASE OFFICER, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN PRESSING CHARGES TO OBTAIN TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE DAMAGES FROM THE TRAFFICKERS. VAN DER MOLEN-MAESEN ALSO SAID THAT DEPOSITIONS FROM THE VICTIM COULD BE TAKEN ANYWHERE (INCLUDING A SECRET LOCATION) AND THE VICTIM COULD REQUEST THAT THE SAME OFFICER HANDLE HER CASE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS.

15. ITALIAN PANELIST MARIA GRAZIA GIAMMARINARO (MINISTRY FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES) SAID THAT THE NEW IMMIGRATION BILL CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY PARLIAMENT WOULD AUTHORIZE: TEMPORARY

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DEPT FOR PRM/P; INL/ICJ; AND EUR/ERA
USDOJ FOR CRIMINAL DIVISION/CHILD EXPLOITATION SECTION

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TAGS: SMIG, PREF, KCRM, CVIS, EUN, NL

SUBJECT: TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN: EU MINISTERS ADOPT GUIDELINES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

ADAMANT THAT ERADICATING PROSTITUTION (THROUGH LAW AND THROUGH REDUCING THE MARKET FOR PROSTITUTES) WAS AN ESSENTIAL PREVENTIVE COMPONENT. FRANCE AND OTHERS INSISTED ON A REFERENCE TO THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AIMED AT COMBATTING THE TRAFFIC OF WOMEN (THE 1949 CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE TRAFFIC IN PERSONS AND OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE PROSTITUTION OF OTHERS) WHICH CALLED FOR A BAN ON PROSTITUTION.

25. THE DELEGATE OF SWEDEN ELOQUENTLY STATED THAT "SLAVERY CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT A BUYER" AND OPINED THAT PROSTITUTION SHOULD BE COMBATTED IN ORDER TO PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE. SHE SAID THAT PROSTITUTION DEGRADED WOMEN AND WAS AN EXPRESSION OF MALE DOMINATION OVER FEMALES. SPAIN WAS ANOTHER AGITATOR AGAINST THE DUTCH ORGANIZERS (BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN ITS ATTEMPT TO ENLIST PORTUGAL IN PUSHING THE ANTI-PROSTITUTION ANGLE). IN STATING SPAIN'S POSITION, THE DELEGATE JUSTIFIED ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO COMBAT PROSTITUTION (PER THE '49 CONVENTION) AND EXPRESSED THAT PROSTITUTION COULD NEVER BE CONSIDERED AN ESTABLISHED OR PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITY. THE DANISH DELEGATE ANNOUNCED THAT DENMARK WOULD INAUGURATE A NATIONAL INITIATIVE IN THE FALL TO COMBAT PROSTITUTION AND THE EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A CENTER TO MONITOR TRENDS AND ANOTHER FOR COUNSELLING PROSTITUTES).

26. THE IRISH DELEGATE CALLED FOR AN END TO ALL FORMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TO INCLUDE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. IRELAND RECENTLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO COUNTER CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND TRAFFICKING WITH UP TO A LIFE SENTENCE FOR CONVICTED CRIMINALS. SEX TOURISM IS ALSO CONSIDERED A CRIME IN IRELAND. THE GREEK DELEGATE BEGAN HER DISCOURSE WITH AN IMPASSIONED POEM TRACING THE TRAGIC VOYAGE OF A YOUNG GIRL INTO PROSTITUTION AND CALLED ON ALL COUNTRIES TO RENOUNCE PROSTITUTION AND THE "SLAVE TRAFFIC" THAT FED IT.

CONFERENCE COMPROMISES

27. THE MAJOR COMPROMISE, WHICH WAS ATTAINED LITERALLY AT THE LAST MOMENT, DID NOT INCLUDE COMBATTING PROSTITUTION AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE. IT DID SPECIFICALLY REFER TO THE 1949 CONVENTION (AND THE 1979 CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN) IN THE PREAMBLE OF THE DECLARATION AND REFERRED TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF SOME MEMBER STATES WHO WERE SIGNATORIES TO THESE CONVENTIONS.

28. THE ONLY OTHER MAJOR INTERNAL FLAP WAS INSTIGATED BY THE BRITISH (AND SUPPORTED BY THE FRENCH)-- NOT VOCALLY OR DRAMATICALLY, BUT QUIETLY AND RESOLUTELY. THE BRITISH OPPOSED THE TERM "CODE OF CONDUCT" BECAUSE IT IMPLIED OBLIGATION. DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM THE OPENING SPEECH THAT THE "CODE OF CONDUCT" WAS NON-BINDING, THE BRITISH WOULD NOT AGREE TO THE WORDING. DIPLOMATICALLY, THEY EXPLAINED THE PROBLEM AS ONE OF SEMANTICS (WHO SHOULD KNOW THE EXACT MEANING OF THE ENGLISH WORD "CODE" BETTER THAN THE BRITISH, THEY REASONED). AND SO, THE TITLE METAMORPHOSED FROM "CODE OF CONDUCT" TO "DECLARATION ON EUROPEAN GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE MEASURES".

29. THE OTHER CHANGE TO THE TITLE--TACKING ON "FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION"--REFLECTED A COMMON VIEW THAT EUROPEANS WERE NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN FOREIGN WOMEN WHO WERE BROUGHT TO EUROPE FOR EXPLOITATIVE MANUAL LABOR, SUCH AS DOMESTIC HOUSE WORK OR UNREGULATED FACTORY OR COTTAGE INDUSTRY WORK.

PROPOSED JOINT U.S.-EU INITIATIVE

30. ON THE MARGINS OF THE CONFERENCE, U.S. DELEGATES MET WITH INCOMING LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED JOINT INITIATIVE TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN MADE BY THE U.S. TO THE EU AT THE DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 14. HEAD OF JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS TASK FORCE ADRIAN FORTESCUE DIRECTED TUNG-LAI MARGUE (PRESIDENT OF THE STOP COMMITTEE) TO MEET WITH USDEL IN THE HAGUE AND COORDINATE THE JOINT INITIATIVE WITH THE INCOMING LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY. MARGUE (A LUXEMBOURG CITIZEN HIMSELF) HAD GOOD RAPPORT WITH LUXEMBOURG ADVISORS AT THE CONFERENCE, ISABELLE THOSS-KLEIN (MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS) AND CLAUDINE KONSBRUCK (MINISTRY OF JUSTICE), AND THE THREE WERE RECEPTIVE TO THE PROPOSAL.

31. HARMONY BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE PRESIDENCY, AND TAILORING THE INITIATIVE TO FIT WITHIN AN ESTABLISHED EU STRUCTURE (SUCH AS THE STOP PROGRAM) WILL HELP ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL AND STRESS-FREE INITIATIVE. THE THREE FELT THAT THE INITIATIVE COULD BE DEVELOPED UNDER STEERING GROUP ONE (REFTEL B).

32. PRELIMINARY COMMENTS INCLUDED TARGETING AN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY SUCH AS POLAND AND AIMING THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO BORDER PATROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS INSTEAD OF TO POTENTIAL VICTIMS. (EASTERN EUROPEAN WOMEN, UNLIKE SOUTH ASIAN ONES, ARE NOT OFTEN ENSNARED AS DESCRIBED IN THE U.S. PROPOSAL. UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 THE HAGUE 002076

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THEY TEND TO TRAVEL TO DESTINATION COUNTRIES ON THEIR OWN VOLITION. GROUPS OF SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN, HOWEVER, ARE TRAFFICKED AGAINST THEIR WILL THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE.) THE EUROPEANS PREFERRED TO ONLY ADDRESS WOMEN BEING TRAFFICKED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INSTEAD OF ALL TYPES OF ILLEGAL LABOR.

33. THE THREE ALSO EXPRESSED HESITATION OVER USING IOM AS A CHANNEL TO EXECUTE THE INITIATIVE, BECAUSE THEY FELT IOM HAD NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE ENOUGH TO THE DESIRES OF THE EU WHEN PLANNING FOR THE TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN CONFERENCE IN VIENNA. KONSBRUCK STATED THAT THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY WOULD COUNTER THE U.S. PROPOSAL JUNE 5 AT THE LINKED SEMINAR ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND WHICH SHE PLANS TO ATTEND. PRMOFF PUSHED FOR AN EARLIER RESPONSE SO THAT THE INITIATIVE COULD BE ANNOUNCED AS A DELIVERABLE AT THE 5/28

US-EU SUMMIT, BUT THE LUXEMBOURG SIDE SEEMED TO PREFER DEVELOPING THE INITIATIVE COMPLETELY DURING ITS OWN PRESIDENCY. KONSBRUCK ALSO AGREED THAT THE PANEL OF EXPERTS COULD MEET ON THE MARGINS OF THE CIREFI MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 24 IN BRUSSELS.

COMMENT

34. THE EUROPEANS APPEARED GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN. DESPITE THE DISAGREEMENTS OVER APPROACHES (WHETHER "WOMEN" IS A SUBSET OF "TRAFFICKING ISSUES" OR "TRAFFICKING" IS A SUBSET OF "WOMEN'S ISSUES") AND TACTICS (TO FIGHT PROSTITUTION OR LEGALIZE IT), THE MINISTERS WERE ABLE TO AGREE TO A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CONCRETE MEASURES TO PREVENT AND COMBAT THE PRACTICE. EUROPEAN CONCERN OVER TRAFFICKED WOMEN, HOWEVER, SEEMS LIMITED ONLY TO THOSE WHO WILL BE SEXUALLY EXPLOITED. YET BY LOOSELY DEFINING "TRAFFICKED" AND "EXPLOITED", THE GROUP IN QUESTION AMOUNTS TO THE HIGH FIGURE OF 500,000. SINCE LUXEMBOURG'S MINISTER OF WOMEN'S ISSUES MARIE JOSEE JACOBS PLEDGED AT THE CONFERENCE TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES DURING THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY, TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN WILL REMAIN FIRMLY ON THE EU'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL AGENDAS.

EMBASSY COMMENT

35. THIS CABLE WAS DRAFTED BY INL/ICJ MENARES AND PRM/P MEZNAR. DORNBUSH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 05

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DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. cable	Re: Freedom by Subterfuge: Kenyan Women Meet Under Cover (6 pages)	05/22/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/03/1997 - 07/31/1997]

2012-0094-F
ke3961

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]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. cable	Re: US - Russia Bilaterals: Round Two (8 pages)	06/13/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/03/1997 - 07/31/1997]

2012-0094-F
ke3961

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]
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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

OSRI: RUEHMN

DTG: 111850Z JUL 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0639

INFO: RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 5071

RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 4115

RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0473

RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0094

RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 0427

RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 1602

RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 3187

SUBJ: STATUS OF WOMEN IN URUGUAY

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MONTEVIDEO 001581

STATE FOR G, DRL, AND ARA

QUITO FOR AID/PAULINA CACERES

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, UY

SUBJECT: STATUS OF WOMEN IN URUGUAY

REF: 96 STATE 203286

SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING IN 1995, THE GOU PLEDGED TO FURTHER WOMEN'S ROLES IN URUGUAYAN SOCIETY. WHILE MUCH DISCUSSION HAS ENSUED, LITTLE CONCRETE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. STILL, THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN URUGUAY IS BETTER THAN IN MOST OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. FROM THE BEIJING PLATFORM OF ACTION, URUGUAY CURRENTLY FOCUSES ITS EFFORTS ON: PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY; DECISION MAKING; EDUCATION; HEALTH; POVERTY; MEANS OF COMMUNICATION; AND VIOLENCE. ALTHOUGH URUGUAY HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATIONS IN ALL THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS ARE IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH. DECENTRALIZED ORGANIZATIONS, LACK OF ADEQUATE FUNDING, INFREQUENT COOPERATION BETWEEN NGO'S AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND LIMITED DISPERSAL

OF INFORMATION ON GENDER TOPICS CONTRIBUTE TO THE
GENERAL CONFUSION AND INEFFICIENCY OF URUGUAYAN
ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S ISSUES. END SUMMARY

PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY

2. URUGUAYAN WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF
OF THE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION. SIXTY PERCENT
OF ADULT WOMEN ARE EMPLOYED, A RATE QUITE LARGE
COMPARED WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH WOMEN
ENTER THE ECONOMY WITH MORE FREQUENCY AND EASE THAN
EVER BEFORE, PRE-EXISTING PROBLEMS OF WAGE INEQUALITY
AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION REMAIN. ON AVERAGE, WOMEN
EARN APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS WHAT THEIR MALE
COUNTERPARTS MAKE. COMPARED WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES, THIS WAGE GAP IS AVERAGE (CHILEAN WOMEN MAKE
50 PERCENT OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS' SALARIES; PERUVIAN
WOMEN EARN APPROXIMATELY 62.9 PERCENT OF THEIR MALE
COUNTERPARTS' REMUNERATION). URUGUAY'S SALARY
DISPARITIES ARE MORE NOTEWORTHY, HOWEVER, BECAUSE
WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL LEVELS ARE GENERALLY HIGHER THAN
MEN'S, AND WOMEN WITH HIGHER EDUCATION BACKGROUNDS ARE
WELL REPRESENTED IN THE MALN UNION, PIT-CNT. IN
ADDITION, WHILE THERE ARE LARGE NUMBERS OF WOMEN IN THE
LABOR MARKET, THEIR HIEARRCHICAL DISTRIBUTION IS SKEWED
TOWARDS THE BOTTOM END OF THE SPECTRUM. MANY FEMALES
ARE MANAGERS, BUT VERY FEW ARE TOP EXECUTIVES.

3. IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS,
PRESIDENT SANGULNETTI RECENTLY PROMULGATED A DECREE TO
IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE A 1989 LAW ON GENDER EQUALITY OF
OPPORTUNITY AND TREATMENT. IN HIS STATEMENT
ACCOMPANYING THE DECREE, THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS
HOPE THAT THE DECREE WOULD HELP ELIMINATE ANY EXISTING
OBSTACLES TO WOMEN'S FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY.

DECISION-MAKING

4. MANY POLITICAL LEADERS, FROM PRESIDENT SANGULNETTI
ON DOWN, HAVE STATED A GENERAL DESIRE TO INCLUDE WOMEN
IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. THE GOU HAS INITIATED
AND SPONSORED MANY DIFFERENT INSTITUTES AND COMMISSIONS
TO ANALYZE WOMEN'S ROLES IN DECISION-MAKING, TO MAKE
FUTURE PROPOSALS, AND TO EVALUATE CURRENT POLITICAL
POLICIES. HOWEVER, THE STRUCTURE OF THE CURRENT
POLITICAL SYSTEM OFTEN IMPAIRS WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES TO
FILL HIGHER-RANKING POSITIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT.
WHILE WOMEN ARE WELL-REPRESENTED AT THE GRASS ROOTS
POLITICAL LEVEL, THERE ARE JUST TEN CONGRESSWOMEN OUT
OF A TOTAL OF 99 AND TWO FEMALE SENATORS OUT OF THIRTY.
ONE OF THE TWELVE CABINET MINISTERS IS A WOMAN. THESE
NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED A SMALL AMOUNT IN THE RECENT
PAST AND ARE WITHIN THE RANGE OF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES. CERTAIN PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THE LEFT-WING

FRENTE AMPLIO COALITION, HAVE SURPASSED OTHERS IN ENCOURAGING WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE WITHIN THEIR ORGANIZATIONS. BOTH FEMALE SENATORS AND FIVE OF THE TEN CONGRESSWOMEN ARE FROM THE FRENTE AMPLIO PARTY. THE SOCIALIST PARTY, WHICH IS PART OF THE FRENTE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 MONTEVIDEO 001581

STATE FOR G, DRL, AND ARA

QUITO FOR AID/PAULINA CACERES

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, UY

SUBJECT: STATUS OF WOMEN IN URUGUAY

AMPLIO, IS THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT PARTY WITH MINIMUM QUOTAS FOR FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS. IT IS A QUOTA OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION WITHIN THE PARTY; CURRENTLY, AT LEAST 36 PERCENT OF ALL PARTY OFFICIALS MUST BE FEMALE, BUT THIS FIGURE MAY VARY.

5. CURRENTLY, MOST URUGUAYAN POLITICAL LEADERS ARE OPPOSED TO ANY SORT OF LIMITATIONS TO, OR QUOTAS ON, FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS. HOWEVER, SINCE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS WERE APPROVED IN DECEMBER 1996, DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT SOME PERCENTAGE-BASED QUOTA WOULD LIMIT OR ENHANCE WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN CERTAIN POLITICAL REALMS CONTINUES. OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ARGENTINA, DO HAVE QUOTA LEGISLATION IN PLACE. RELATIVE TO THEIR PERCENTAGE OF THE URUGUAYAN ELECTORATE, WOMEN'S ABILITY TO GAIN EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPAIRED BY TRADITIONAL CULTURAL OBSTACLES, UNWRITTEN DISCRIMINATION, LOW PAY FOR POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN THE GOU IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS.

6. THE GOU HAS NOT WORKED CLOSELY WITH NGO'S TO ESTABLISH MORE PRACTICAL, PREVALENT POLICIES ON GENDER ISSUES. NOTABLY, THERE WAS NO NGO ON URUGUAY'S DELEGATION TO BEIJING; THE GOU HAS NOT RESPONDED TO MANY NGO'S REQUESTS THAT IT REPORT ON ITS PROGRESS IN THE FULFILLMENT OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM OF ACTION. MOREOVER, THE LOCAL NGO WHICH MONITORS URUGUAY'S PROGRESS SINCE THE CONFERENCE HAS INSUFFICIENT FUNDING TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE.

EDUCATION

7. URUGUAY HAS A HIGH LEVEL OF EDUCATION. IT IS AMONG THE BEST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO LITERACY (98.8 PERCENT) AND COMPLETION OF BASIC EDUCATION (92.9 PERCENT). EFFORTS TO MAKE CURRICULUMS MORE GENDER-SENSITIVE HAVE NOT YET BEEN SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED, BUT MANY EDUCATIONALLY-ORIENTED PROGRAMS

ABOUT GENDER ISSUES EXIST. NGO AND GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED CONFERENCES ABOUT WOMEN'S HEALTH AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HAVE BECOME MORE PREVALENT, WELL-ORGANIZED, AND WELL-ATTENDED.

8. THERE ARE MORE WOMEN THAN MEN ATTENDING UNIVERSITIES, AND THE AVERAGE FEMALE WORKER HAS MORE GENERAL EDUCATION THAN HER MALE COUNTERPARTS. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT REFLECTED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SALARIES; THE SMALLEST WAGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GENDERS APPEARS IN OFFICE STAFF POSITIONS. LACK OF TECHNICAL TRAINING DIMINISHES MANY FEMALES' ABILITY TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN CERTAIN JOBS.

HEALTH

9. MUCH OF THE GOU'S EFFORT TONARDS HEALTH CENTERS ON EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY ON SUCH ISSUES AS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, SEXUALITY, VOLUNTARY PREGNANCY, AND PRE-NATAL CARE. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH INITIATED TWO NEW PROGRAMS ON VOLUNTARY PREGNANCY IN SEVERAL CLINICS IN MONTEVIDEO AND WILL BE EXPANDING THEIR REACH IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. URUGUAY HAS THE SECOND LOWEST BIRTH RATE IN LATIN AMERICA (SECOND TO CUBA). MOREOVER, THE AMOUNT OF MONITORED PREGNANCIES IS CONSISTENTLY INCREASING.

POVERTY

10. BETWEEN 1980 AND 1990, 13 PERCENT OF THE URUGUAYAN POPULATION LIVED IN POVERTY, WHICH IS LOW BY LATIN AMERICAN STANDARDS. CURRENTLY, URUGUAY HAS 12 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT. DUE TO LACK OF LABOR EXPERIENCE, DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO MATERNITY AND THE LIKE, MORE THAN HALF OF THOSE UNEMPLOYED ARE WOMEN. THE GOU BELIEVES THAT EDUCATION IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. AT THE SAME TIME, NEW METHODS THAT WOULD ALLOW DIVORCED WOMEN ACCESS TO A SPECIAL LINE OF CREDIT UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 MONTEVIDEO 001581

STATE FOR G, DRL, AND ARA

QUITO FOR AID/PAULINA CACERES

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TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, UY
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FROM THE GOU-OWNED BANK OF THE REPUBLIC TO HELP THEM SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE IN THE EXPERIMENTAL PHASE.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

11. AMONG THE PRINCIPAL URUGUAYAN PUBLICATIONS, WOMEN AND THEIR CONCERNS, ARE MENTIONED SPORADICALLY. IN 1996, 561 ARTICLES ON WOMEN WERE PUBLISHED, AN AVERAGE OF 1.4 ARTICLES PER DAY. WITHIN THOSE ARTICLES, POLICY ISSUES, HEALTH, AND THE SOCIAL AND GENDER SITUATION WERE THE TOPICS MOST FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED. ACCORDING TO ONE ARTICLE, WHEN SURVEYED ABOUT THE STATUS OF WOMEN'S ISSUES AND THE CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MOST URUGUAYANS KNEW SOMETHING OF A GENERAL NATURE BUT NOT OF SPECIFIC LAWS OR DATA. THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO KNEW ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WERE WOMEN OF UPPER CLASSES OR LEFTIST POLITICAL VIEWS.

VIOLENCE

12. SERVICES FOR THE PREVENTION OF AND COPING WITH VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HAVE INCREASED IN THE RECENT PAST. AS A RESULT, MORE CRIMES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE BEING REPORTED. SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF REPORTED CRIMES ARE AGAINST WOMEN, AND THERE ARE MORE INSTANCES OF REPEATED VIOLENCE. THE QUANTITY OF SERVICES AND INFORMATION ON VIOLENCE HAVE MADE THE ISSUE MUCH MORE PREVALENT IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. CURRENTLY, THERE IS A PREVENTION PROGRAM BEING TESTED IN THREE ZONES OF MONTEVIDEO DEALING WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF SUCH CRIMES, INCLUDING EDUCATION, JUDICIAL, SELF-HELP, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTENTION.

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
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TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6850
INFO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 9732
SUBJ: STATEMENT GIVEN AT ECOSOC 1997 ON MAINSTREAMING
GENDER

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 004886

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: AORC, ECOSOC, KWMN, UN
SUBJECT: STATEMENT GIVEN AT ECOSOC 1997 ON MAINSTREAMING
GENDER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT GIVEN ON JULY 9, 1997,
AT THE 1997 SESSION OF ECOSOC, ON MAINSTREAMING THE
GENDER PERSPECTIVE

2. BEGIN TEXT:

1997 ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
STATEMENT BY SETH WINNICK DEPUTY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ON
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON MAINSTREAMING THE
GENDER PERSPECTIVE, JULY 9, 1997

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT:

I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF MAINSTREAMING
THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE EXCELLENT
DOCUMENTATION ON THIS AGENDA ITEM. AS WE HAVE WORKED
TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND
PLATFORM FOR ACTION, WE HAVE REALIZED THAT, AS A FIRST
STEP, WE NEED A GUIDEBOOK ON INTEGRATING THE GENDER
PERSPECTIVE INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF ALL POLICIES AND
PROGRAMS OF THE UN SYSTEM. THE SECRETARIAT'S PAPER
PROVIDES THAT FIRST STEP, WITH ITS CLEAR DEFINITION OF
MAINSTREAMING AND PRACTICAL STEPS REQUIRED TO MAINSTREAM.

THE UNITED STATES CONCURS IN THE SECRETARIAT'S ANALYSIS
THAT MAINSTREAMING REQUIRES:

- O COMMITMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL;
- O A CLEAR POLICY STATEMENT ACCOMPANIED BY INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES;
- O ACCOUNTABILITY OR INCENTIVE SYSTEMS TO REINFORCE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINSTREAMING;
- O A RECOGNITION THAT GENDER ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN AREAS THAT TRADITIONALLY HAVE BEEN VIEWED AS TECHNICAL OR GENDER-NEUTRAL;
- O STAFF CAPACITY FOR MAINSTREAMING; AND
- O GENDER UNITS THAT HAVE THE TECHNICAL CAPACITY TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND VIGOROUSLY PURSUE GENDER INTEGRATION.

CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE GENDER UNITS OR FOCAL POINTS DO NOT BECOME THE ONLY PLACE IN THE ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH GENDER. IF THIS HAPPENS, THE GENDER UNITS THEMSELVES WILL BECOME INSTRUMENTS OF MARGINALIZATION.

IN THE UNITED STATES, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TO MAINSTREAM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN AUGUST 1995, PRESIDENT CLINTON ESTABLISHED AN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN TO ENSURE U.S. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION. SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT CHAIRS THE COUNCIL, WITH FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON SERVING AS THE HONORARY CHAIR. SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DONNA SHALALA, THE COUNCIL'S FIRST CHAIR, CONTINUES TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN ITS WORK. THE COUNCIL INCLUDES HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES.

PROBABLY THE FUNDAMENTAL REASON FOR THE COUNCIL'S SUCCESS IS THIS HIGH LEVEL COMMITMENT. IT EFFECTIVELY SENDS THE MESSAGE TO ALL LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT IMPLEMENTING BEIJING IS IMPORTANT AND CANNOT BE IGNORED.

DURING ITS FIRST YEAR AND A HALF OF EXISTENCE, THE COUNCIL FOCUSED ON IMPLEMENTING CHANGES IN EACH INDIVIDUAL AGENCY OF THE US GOVERNMENT BY:

- O ANALYZING AGENCIES' CURRENT AND PROJECTED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO MEASURE THEM AGAINST THE GOALS OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION;
- O IDENTIFYING NEW INITIATIVES GOVERNMENT AGENCIES MIGHT TAKE TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS; AND
- O DEVELOPING LONGER-RANGE CHANGES IN THEIR PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE BEIJING GOALS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REGULAR WAY THEY CONDUCT BUSINESS.

RECENTLY THE COUNCIL HAS BEGUN TO ESTABLISH INTERAGENCY

WORKING GROUPS TO EFFECT CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. ALLOW ME TO CITE THREE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES:

GENDER AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

-- THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF U.S. AGENCIES IN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 004886

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AORC, ECOSOC, KWMN, UN

SUBJECT: STATEMENT GIVEN AT ECOSOC 1997 ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER

IMPLEMENTING AN AGENCY-WIDE GENDER PLAN OF ACTION, IS CHAIRING A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER HOW TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER ISSUES INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF ITS WORK. THE PURPOSE OF THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT THE POSITIVE CHANGES THAT ARE PUT INTO PLACE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO MAINSTREAMING, WILL BECOME PART OF THE INSTITUTION AND WILL NOT EASILY BE UN-DONE.

GENDER DISAGGREGATED DATA

-- THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS CHAIRING A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE ISSUE OF SEPARATING AND ANALYZING ALL DATA BY SEX. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S VIEW THAT GENDER ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN AREAS THAT TRADITIONALLY HAVE BEEN VIEWED AS TECHNICAL OR GENDER NEUTRAL. ALTHOUGH MANY U.S. AGENCIES DISAGGREGATE SOME DATA BY SEX, THERE IS NO UNIFORM OR GOVERNMENT-WIDE POLICY. THE WORKING GROUP IS ASSESSING THE CURRENT SITUATION AND EXPLORING LAWS OR REGULATIONS GOVERNING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS.

MENTORING

-- THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS HEADING A WORKING GROUP ON MENTORING -- TO ENSURE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE BECOME INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING BEIJING. THIS WORKING WILL ASCERTAIN WHAT TYPES OF MENTORING PROGRAMS VARIOUS AGENCIES ARE ENGAGED IN; WHAT IS REPLICABLE; WHAT NEW ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED; AND WHERE IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE TO PARTNER WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING MENTORING PROGRAMS.

THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN ANTICIPATES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL WORKING GROUPS THIS YEAR. BEFORE WE WENT TO BEIJING, WE WERE OFTEN REMINDED THAT PREPARING FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CONFERENCE ITSELF -- THAT REVIEWING AND APPRAISING THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND MAKING COMMITMENTS TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY BY THE YEAR 2000 HAD VALUE APART FROM THE CONFERENCE. IN THAT SAME VEIN, IMPLEMENTING THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION IS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE. ALTHOUGH "MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE" DOES NOT

HAVE A POETIC RING AND IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE THE HEADLINES, IT IS ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL AND DURABLE ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE. BY MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM, IN ALL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, WHETHER THEY ADDRESS POVERTY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, HEALTH, VIOLENCE, ARMED CONFLICT, THE ECONOMY, POWER AND DECISION-MAKING, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE ENVIRONMENT, OR CHILDREN, WE WILL ENSURE THAT EVERY POLICY AND PROGRAM IS DEVELOPED, DESIGNED, AND IMPLEMENTED IN A WAY THAT BENEFITS MEN AND WOMEN.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. END TEXT.

ARIETTI

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
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INFO: RUEATRS/DEPTTREAS WASHDC
SUBJ: ECOSOC SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1997

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 08 GENEVA 005056

DEPT PASS TO ECOSOC COLLECTIVE

SENSITIVE

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TAGS: AORC, ECOSOC, UN
SUBJECT: ECOSOC SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1997

REF: A) USUN 2028 B) GENEVA 4994, 4615, 4487, 4885,
4999, 4844, 5032

1. THIS IS ECOSOC CABLE NO. 28.

SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION

2. ECOSOC COMPLETED ITS FOUR WEEK SUBSTANTIVE SESSION JULY 25, THE FIRST SESSION UNDER THE REFORMED PROCEDURES OF GA 50/227. DELEGATIONS WERE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S TRACK II REFORM PROPOSALS WHICH PREEMPTED SEVERAL OF WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. USDEL SUCCEEDED IN ITS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE (REF A) OF ENSURING THAT DEBATE OF REFORM PROPOSALS NOT BEGIN PIECEMEAL IN ECOSOC AND THAT ECOSOC NOT ACT IN COMPETITION WITH THE SYG. WHILE THE EU WAS INITIALLY INCLINED TO DEFER OR CANCEL THOSE AGENDA ITEMS COVERED IN TRACK II, WEOG DELS SUPPORTED USG APPROACH OF IMPLEMENTING THE AGENDA WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE SYG WHILE ENSURING NO OUTCOMES WHICH WOULD CONTRADICT OR CONSTRAIN TRACK II.

3. THE FIRST PART OF THE SESSION INCLUDING THE HIGH LEVEL, OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION SEGMENTS WAS GENERALLY PRODUCTIVE. THE DIALOGUE WITH THE HEADS OF

FUNDS AND PROGRAMS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEFUSE SOME OF THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE AGENCIES AS TRACK II WENT INTO ITS FINAL DRAFTS. THE DEBATE ON AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT FEATURED AN EXCELLENT HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE. (GENEVA 4487) THE GENERAL SEGMENT WAS LESS USEFUL WITH DOCUMENTATION ARRIVING LATE AND THE HAPHAZARD APPROACH TO COORDINATION AND POLICY GUIDANCE TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES WHICH HAVE BEEN THE BANE OF ECOSOC. VICE PRESIDENT SOMAVIA (CHILE) BEGAN DEVELOPING A BROAD AGREEMENT ON IMPROVING ECOSOC COORDINATION OF CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP WHICH COULD BE A MODEL FOR STRENGTHENING ECOSOC'S COORDINATION FUNCTION.

4. TWO IMPORTANT INITIATIVES LAUNCHED BY USDEL HAD LIMITED SUCCESS. ATTEMPTS TO MODIFY THE RESOLUTION FROM COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CALLING FOR A WORLD CONFERENCE OF RACISM WERE STRONGLY RESISTED BY THE AFRICAN GROUP. IN EXTENSIVE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, THE AFRICANS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE USG VIEW FAVORING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUT INSISTED ON THE SYMBOLISM OF A CONFERENCE. A USDEL AMENDMENT RECOMMENDING GA CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL SESSION WAS DEFEATED IN A ROLL CALL VOTE THOUGH USDEL GARNERED 21 ABSTENTIONS FROM COUNTRIES BROADLY SUPPORTIVE OF HOLDING A SPECIAL SESSION RATHER THAN A WORLD CONFERENCE. USDEL ALSO TABLED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EXPANDING NGO ACCESS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE MEASURE WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY CANADA AND RECEIVED LIMITED ENDORSEMENTS FROM CHILE, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND MALAYSIA. THE EU OPPOSED ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS. G-77 HARDLINERS (INDIA, IRAN, CUBA, CHINA) EVENTUALLY RALLIED G-77 OPPOSITION TO CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE. A LAST MINUTE COMPROMISE DEFERRED THE RESOLUTION PENDING CONSIDERATION BY THE GA THIS FALL, IN THE ABSENCE OF WHICH ECOSOC WILL CONSIDER THE US DRAFT IN EARLY 1998. (TEXT OF USDEL'S CONCLUDING STATEMENT IS ATTACHED IN PARA 39 BELOW.) END SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - FOSTERING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

5. AFTER MORE THAN TWO WEEKS OF NEGOTIATIONS, CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS. THE MOST CONTENTIOUS AREAS PROVED TO BE "THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT," "DEMOCRATIZATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS," AND A REFERENCE TO SUBSIDIES IN THE INITIAL DRAFT. THE US, WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE EU AND RUSSIA, WAS ABLE TO AMEND REFERENCES TO THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, RESTORING AGREED LANGUAGE LINKING THE FIRST TO DEMOCRACY AND ARRIVING AT NEW AGREED LANGUAGE LINKING THE SECOND TO THE UN CHARTER AND INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE G

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77, CUBA, UGANDA, AND MEXICO SUBSEQUENTLY MADE EXPLANATIONS OF POSITION ON "DEMOCRATIZATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS." THE G-77 SAID THAT IT WAS ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT A) THE UN CHARTER IS NOT THE PARADIGM OF DEMOCRATIZATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND B) BOTH

THE UN CHARTER AND INTERNATIONAL LAW ARE EVOLVING. CUBA
ENDORSED THE G-77 EOP, ADDING THAT IT WISHED TO LEAVE ON
THE RECORD ITS GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT REGARDING THE
QUALIFICATION OF THE NOTION OF DEMOCRATIZATION IN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ITS BELIEF THAT DEMOCRACY
MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL LAWS. MEXICO SAID THAT
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DEMOCRACY IS A UNIVERSAL VIEW AND CANNOT BE LIMITED OR
QUALIFIED AS IT IS IN PARA 6 OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS.

6. THE EU, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE US, SUCCEEDED IN
DELETING REFERENCES TO SUBSIDIES, SUBSTITUTING LANGUAGE
WHICH, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE WTO, RECOGNIZES "THE
IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING AND INTENSIFYING INTERNATIONAL
DIALOGUE ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
IN PARTICULAR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AMONG THEM,
IN APPROPRIATE FORUMS." ARGENTINA MADE AN EOP ON THIS
ISSUE, NOTING THAT IT HAD LEFT A BITTER TASTE IN ITS
MOUTH. USDEL MADE AN EXPLANATION OF POSITION ON ODA
TARGETS. CANADA AND AUSTRALIA MADE EOPS NOTING THAT THE
STATEMENTS ON THE ROLE OF THE UN MADE DURING THE HIGH
LEVEL SEGMENT WERE NOT REFLECTED IN THE AGREED
CONCLUSIONS (GENEVA 4994 AND PREVIOUS).

AGENDA ITEM 3 - OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

7. IN THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE HEADS OF
PROGRAMS AND ECOSOC MEMBERS (GENEVA 4448) THERE WAS A
PRODUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH CLARIFIED AREAS OF
AGREEMENT AND ISSUES STILL TO BE RESOLVED--PRINCIPALLY
THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR SYSTEM. FORMAL DEBATE OF
FUNDING OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOLLOWED FAMILIAR LINES
WITH MOST SPEAKERS CALLING FOR INCREASED FUNDING.
WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS FOCUSED ON PROGRESS BY THE UN
SYSTEM IN IMPLEMENTING UNGA RESOLUTION 50/120,
PARTICULARLY CAPACITY BUILDING (WHICH THE SECRETARIAT
RECOMMENDS SHOULD BE A KEY ELEMENT OF NEXT YEAR'S
TRIENNIAL POLICY REVIEW), EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE
RESIDENT COORDINATOR SYSTEM, AND FIELD-LEVEL COORDINATION
(GENEVA 4615). REGARDING CORE VS NON-CORE RESOURCES,
THERE WAS WIDESPREAD LAMENTATION OVER THE STAGNATION IN
FUNDING AND THE TREND OF DONORS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE
INCREASINGLY THROUGH NON-CORE RESOURCES. A RESOLUTION
WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS WHICH FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR
PREDICTABLE AND INCREASED FUNDING FOR UN OPERATIONAL
ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT, THE IMPORTANCE OF CAPACITY-
BUILDING, AND THE UPCOMING TRIENNIAL POLICY REVIEW.
USDEL MADE AN EXPLANATION OF POSITION ON ODA TARGETS.

AGENDA ITEM 4 (A) - MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO ALL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE UN SYSTEM

8. A HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF EXPERTS FROM UNHCR, WFP, UNFPA, UNDP, AND ILO OPENED THE DISCUSSION ON THIS AGENDA ITEM. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE U.S., MADE STRONG STATEMENTS SUPPORTING MAINSTREAMING. ECOSOC ADOPTED AGREED CONCLUSIONS. (GENEVA 4999).

AGENDA ITEM 4(B) COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER UN BODIES RELATED TO FRESHWATER

9. DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1997/L.40 WAS ADOPTED AFTER SEVERAL ROUNDS OF INFORMALS. VICE PRESIDENT HENZE (GERMANY), FEELING PRESSED FOR TIME, PUSHED THE NEGOTIATIONS BRUSQUELY. RATHER NEGOTIATING TO CONSENSUS ON A FEW PARAGRAPHS, HENZE OPTED INSTEAD TO DELETE THEM. THE FINAL DRAFT RESOLUTION IS RELATIVELY WEAK, BUT USDEL WAS ABLE TO INSERT REFERENCE TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CSD'S ROLE IN ALL MATTERS CONCERNING FRESHWATER RESOURCES.

AGENDA ITEM 5 - INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL UN CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

10. ECOSOC VICE PRESIDENT SOMAVIA (CHILE) HOSTED AN INFORMAL BREAKFAST MEETING OF SOME 20 DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO TABLING RESOLUTIONS ON THIS ITEM. THE BREAKFAST REVEALED CONSIDERABLE CONSENSUS ON THE NEED FOR ECOSOC TO
TO
FOCUS ON ITS ROLE AS A COORDINATION BODY. MOST AGREED THAT THIS REQUIRED ONGOING FOLLOWUP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH THE REGIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS AND WITH THE ACC AND THE SECRETARIAT. THE THREE RESOLUTIONS AND ONE DRAFT DECISION UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM WERE ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. MANY DELEGATIONS SAID THAT THIS ISSUE IS ONE OF HIGH IMPORTANCE AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE ECOSOC PLAY A LARGER ROLE IN THE PROCESS. THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNTRY LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION WAS ALSO STRESSED. THE U.S. WAS SUCCESSFUL IN EMPHASIZING THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT, GENDER, ROLE OF THE ACC/RESIDENT COORDINATOR SYSTEM AND FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS IN THE MOST SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION, E/1997/L.57.

11. RESOLUTION E/1997/L.57 OUTLINES THE ROLE OF UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 08 GENEVA 005056

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ECOSOC/UN SYSTEM AND CALLS FOR ECOSOC TO LOOK AT THIS ISSUE ANNUALLY. E/1997/L.54 EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATION OF POVERTY ERADICATION INTO CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP. E/1997/L.42 CALLS FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONVENING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GA IN 1999 TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT. FINALLY, THE DRAFT DECISION, E/1997/L.55 CALLS FOR A 2-3 DAY MEETING OF ECOSOC IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 1998 ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION TO DISCUSS THIS AGENDA ITEM FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF THE REPORTS OF THE ACC TASK FORCES.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - COORDINATION, PROGRAM AND OTHER QUESTIONS

12. ITEM 6(B) - THE TOBACCO DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS INITIALLY WITHDRAWN BY THE CO-SPONSORS WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT DURING INFORMALS THAT DELEGATIONS QUESTIONED THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A TRUST FUND, AND DID NOT SUPPORT LANGUAGE TO THIS EFFECT. BANGLADESH WITHDREW THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, SAYING WITHOUT LANGUAGE ON A TRUST FUND THERE WOULD BE NO RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, DURING THE PLENARY ON JULY 25, TUNISIA PROPOSED DEFERRING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE RESUMED SESSION, A DECISION THE COUNCIL APPROVED.

13. ITEM 6(E) - USDEL COSPONSORED THE HIV/AIDS RESOLUTION, E/1997/L.46, WHICH WAS ADOPTED ON JULY 22 WITH ALL U.S. LANGUAGE INTACT. REFERENCES TO THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS ON DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS, AND THE NEED FOR A GENDER-BASED APPROACH TO TREATMENT, WERE ADDED TO THE ORIGINAL TEXT.

14. ITEM 6(G) - CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES: THE MAIN U.S. CONCERN REGARDING THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES WAS TO AVOID OVERLAP, PARTICULARLY IN 1998, OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN. (THE 1998 CSW WILL FOCUS ON WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, AND THE U.S. WANTED TO ENSURE THAT 1998 UNHRC TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK OF THE CSW.) THIS WAS ACHIEVED. IN 1998, THE CSW IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2-13; THE UNHRC FOR MARCH 16 - APRIL 24. THE 1999 CSW IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 1-12. THE 1999 UNHRC IS NOT YET SCHEDULED.

15. ITEM 6(G) CONT - ADDITIONALLY, THE SECRETARIAT MADE A STATEMENT ON THE 1998 CND (SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 11-20). THE FIRST THREE DAYS WILL BE RESERVED FOR THE CND, MEETING ON ITS OWN AS A FUNCTIONAL COMMISSION OF ECOSOC. MARCH 16-20 WILL BE RESERVED FOR CND ACTING AS THE PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE QUESTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS.

16. ITEM 6(I) - PROCLAMATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS: THE U.S. JOINED CONSENSUS IN ADOPTING FOUR RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL YEARS: "PROCLAMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOUNTAINS" (KYRGYZ REPUBLIC) WHICH CALLS FOR A REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON THIS PROPOSAL IN 1998; "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS: 2001" (JAPAN); "THE

YEAR 2000: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THANKSGIVING"
(ARGENTINA); AND "THE PROCLAMATION OF THE YEAR 2000 AS
THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE" (COTE
D'IVOIRE). THE U.S. CO-SPONSORED THE RESOLUTIONS ON
VOLUNTEERS AND THANKSGIVING.

17. ITEM 6(I) CONT - THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION INTRODUCED A
RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL
YEARS ORIGINATE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THAT THEY
BYPASS ECOSOC ALTOGETHER. RUSSIA'S RATIONALE WAS T
HAT
SOME REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL YEARS ALREADY ORIGINATE
IN THE GA; THERE IS NO REASON TO BURDEN BOTH ECOSOC AND
THE GA WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY; ECOSOC ADDS NO VALUE TO
THE DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS; AND ECOSOC SHOULD
FOCUS ON COORDINATION. BECAUSE THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS,
THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS DEFERRED TO A RESUMED SESSION OF
ECOSOC.

AGENDA ITEM 7(A) - REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS ETC. OF
SUBSIDIARY BODIES ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

18. LATE INTO THE SESSION, THE G-77 TABLED A
CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RENEWAL OF THE
MANDATE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING
(ISAR). PER INSTRUCTIONS (STATE 137925) AFTER EXTENSIVE
NEGOTIATIONS THE U.S. AND EU MANAGED TO GET THE G-77 TO
DEFER THE RESOLUTION IN EXCHANGE FOR A CHAIR'S STATEMENT
(USDEL FAX TO IO/ESA ON 25 JULY) THAT ACKNOWLEDGES THE
EXISTENCE OF ISAR AND THE EXPERT GROUP RESTRICTIVE
BUSINESS PRACTICES (RBP), IDENTIFIES THEIR MEETING AS ONE
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OF THE TEN EXPERT MEETINGS OF UNCTAD THAT CAN BE HELD
EACH YEAR, AND CALLS FOR A REVIEW OF THE BODIES. USDEL
BELIEVES THIS WAS A BETTER OPTION THAN VOTING ON THE G-77
RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THIS
ISSUE BE TAKEN UP IN UNCTAD BECAUSE WE VIEW THESE AS
UNCTAD AND NOT ECOSOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES. THE G-77 IS OF
THE OPPOSITE VIEW.

AGENDA ITEM 7(B) - REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS ETC. OF
SUBSIDIARY BODIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

19. NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CSD PROGRAM OF WORK WERE
UNEVENTFUL. HOWEVER, INFORMALS WERE NOT CONDUCIVE TO
DISCUSSION OF THE NORWEGIAN PROPOSED PARAGRAPH ON
FINANCE, OR THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE
REFLECTING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS IN TRADE AND

ENVIRONMENT. BOTH DELEGATIONS MADE INTERVENTIONS FOR THE RECORD ON THESE ISSUES, EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LACK OF CONSIDERATION THEY RECEIVED AT UNGASS AND ECOSOC. USDEL SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THESE STATEMENTS.

20. ITEM 7(B) CONT - WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE PROPOSED REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS WITHOUT COMMENT. WHEN EFFORTS TO POSTPONE ACTION ON THE REPORT, RESOLUTION AND DECISIONS ON THE COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT UNTIL THE RESUMED SESSION FAILED, THE USDEL WAS ABLE TO INSERT LANGUAGE INTO THE DECISIONS AND RESOLUTION STATING THAT THE ADOPTION OF THESE ITEMS IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE ONGOING REFORM DISCUSSIONS UNDER 50/227. (NOTE: THIS LANGUAGE IS SIMILAR TO THAT CONTAINED IN THE CHAPEAU TO THE RESOLUTION ON THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE COMMISSION ON NATURAL RESOURCES, ADOPTED IN 1996.) ABSENT GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON, USDEL WAS ABLE TO INSERT LANGUAGE INTO THE DRAFT DECISIONS AND RESOLUTION WHICH CLARIFIED THAT CERTAIN ACTIVITIES WERE TO BE FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS BUT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY OTHER CHANGES TO THE WORK PROGRAM.

21. ITEM 7(B) CONT - THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED A RESOLUTION TO CREATE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON FORESTS, BASED ON THE LANGUAGE INCLUDED IN THE UNGASS REPORT. DURING DISCUSSIONS, OTHER DELEGATIONS ATTEMPTED TO PUSH EXPENSES ONTO THE UN REGULAR BUDGET. USDEL RESTATED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT UNGASS THAT THE FORUM WOULD BE FUNDED BY EXTRA BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS, AND WAS SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING LANGUAGE WHICH MAKES EXPLICIT THAT THE SECRETARIAT IS TO BE FUNDED BY EXTRA BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS. IN ADDITION, USDEL OBTAINED LANGUAGE WHICH ALLOWS FOR EXTRA BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS, SECONDMENTS AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING OF OTHER FORUM COSTS. IN LAST MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS, USDEL ALSO WAS ABLE TO DEFER THE DECISION ON THE NUMBER, DURATION AND VENUE OF THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSIONS UNTIL AFTER THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION, ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND ALLOWING THE SECRETARIAT TIME TO WORK WITH "INTERESTED PARTIES" IN AN EFFORT TO COME UP WITH THE NEEDED FUNDS. BASED ON THIS CHANGE, THE PBI ON THIS RESOLUTION WAS WITHDRAWN. THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION WILL NOW MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE METHODS OF WORK, INCLUDING MEETINGS, FOR APPROVAL BY A FUTURE SESSION OF ECOSOC. FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION, THE U.S. DELEGATE GAVE AN EXPLANATION OF POSITION WHICH REITERATED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT UNGASS ON FINANCING.

AGENDA ITEM 7(C) - REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS, ETC. OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES ON SOCIAL QUESTIONS

22. ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: ECOSOC TOOK ACTION ON TWO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND THREE DRAFT DECISIONS REFERRED BY THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN. THE UNITED STATES CALLED FOR A VOTE ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED

"PALESTINIAN WOMEN." IT WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 44-1 (US)-0. USDEL GAVE AN EOV OPPOSING TARGETING SPECIFIC NATIONAL OR REGIONAL CONFLICTS AND ADDRESSING PERMANENT STATUS ISSUES.

23. ITEM 7(C) CONT - SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ECOSOC TOOK ACTION ON FIVE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND ONE DRAFT DECISION REFERRED FROM THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR YOUTH TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND, INCLUDING A WORLD CONFERENCE ON MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH" WAS AMENDED BY PORTUGAL TO REFLECT RECENT PREPARATORY MEETINGS. (NOTE: THIS IS NOT A UN WORLD CONFERENCE. IT IS A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY PORTUGAL IN COOPERATION WITH THE UN) THE U.S. JOINED CONSENSUS IN ADOPTING ALL THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING THE UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 08 GENEVA 005056

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PORTUGUESE AMENDMENT, AND THE DRAFT DECISION.

24. ITEM 7(C) CONT - BRAZIL INTRODUCED A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE "FIRST REGIONAL MEETING CONVENED BY ECLAC TO EVALUATE THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT." THE RESOLUTION WELCOMED THE CONVENING OF THE ECLAC MEETING AND INVITED OTHER REGIONS TO CONVENE SIMILAR EVALUATION MEETINGS. THE U.S. CO-SPONSORED AND JOINED CONSENSUS IN ADOPTING THIS RESOLUTION.

25. ITEM 7(C) CONT - CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE: ECOSOC TOOK ACTION ON 15 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND ONE DRAFT DECISION REFERRED FROM THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE. THE U.S. JOINED CONSENSUS IN ADOPTING THEM.

26. ITEM 7(C) CONT - NARCOTIC DRUGS: ECOSOC TOOK ACTION ON SIX DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND FIVE DRAFT DECISIONS REFERRED FROM THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. THE UNITED STATES JOINED CONSENSUS IN ADOPTING THEM, BUT MADE AN EOP ON UNDCP GOVERNANCE HIGHLIGHTING CONCERNS ABOUT THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL FOR A WORKING GROUP.

27. ITEM 7(C) CONT: GERMANY INTRODUCED A CONSENSUS RESOLUTION THAT INVITES NGOS THAT WERE ACCREDITED TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN OR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE CSW OR THE CSOD, PROVIDED THEY HAVE STARTED THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS. IT FURTHER INVITED NGOS THAT WERE ACCREDITED TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT TO ATTEND THE 31ST SESSION OF CPD, PROVIDED THEY HAVE APPLIED FOR

CONSULTATIVE STATUS.

AGENDA ITEM 7(D) - REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS ETC. OF
SUBSIDIARY BODIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

28. THE COUNCIL ADOPTED ALL THREE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND 52 DRAFT DECISIONS FORWARDED TO IT BY THE CHR WITHOUT CHANGE. DECISIONS THAT WERE BASED ON VOTED RESOLUTIONS AT THE CHR WERE VOTED AGAIN WITH SIMILAR RESULTS, EXCEPT FOR IRAQ AND NIGERIA, WHERE NO VOTE WAS CALLED. SUDAN, A MEMBER OF ECOSOC, CALLED FOR A VOTE ON THE DECISION REGARDING THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAT COUNTRY, BUT THE CHR DECISION WAS EASILY APPROVED. AS INSTRUCTED, USDEL MADE EXPLANATIONS OF POSITION ON THE FOLLOWING CHR DECISIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: ARBITRARY DETENTION, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT, CUBA, AND RACISM. ECOSOC DEFERRED CONSIDERATION OF FOUR DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, PENDING CLARIFICATION OF THEIR PROGRAM BUDGET IMPLICATIONS.

29. 7(D) CONT: A U.S. ATTEMPT TO AMEND THE RACISM RESOLUTION ON CONVENING A WORLD RACISM CONFERENCE TO REQUEST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO GIVE CONSIDERATION ALSO TO A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS DEFEATED 1 (U.S.) - 27 - 21. FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS ADVISED THE U.S. TO BROACH THIS SUBJECT AT THE GA, IN EITHER THE THIRD OR FIFTH COMMITTEE. AFRICAN DELEGATIONS TOLD US THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE LITTLE SUCCESS IN DERAILING A WORLD CONFERENCE.

30. 7(D) CONT: U.S. DEPUTY REP WINNICK MADE A STRONG STATEMENT CHALLENGING THE PLO'S STATEMENT AT THE MARCH CHR ACCUSING ISRAEL OF INFECTING 300 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN WITH THE HIV VIRUS, THE "NEW BLOOD LIBEL", AS IT WAS DESCRIBED BY THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR. USDEL CIRCULATED A LETTER TO THE SAME EFFECT AS A DOCUMENT OF THE COUNCIL (GENEVA 4844).

AGENDA ITEM 8 - SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND
DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

31. U/SYG AKASHI INTRODUCED THE SYG'S STRESSING THAT THE GOAL OF IMPROVED COORDINATION IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE WAS TO HAVE A MORE TIMELY RESPONSE TO HELP DISPLACED AND WAR-AFFECTED PERSONS, NOT TO ADD A BUREAUCRATIC LAYER. IO DAS KIMBLE'S STATEMENT LAID OUT SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FOCUS AND STRUCTURE OF THE NEW OFFICE OF THE EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATION, WHICH WILL REPLACE AKASHI'S DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS. (GENEVA 4960)

AGENDA ITEM 9 - IMPLEMENTATION OF DECLARATION ON GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES:

32. ECOSOC ADOPTED THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AFTER USDEL

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CALLED FOR A VOTE AND ABSTAINED (28-0-18 (U.S.)). USDEL DELIVERED AN EOV NOTING THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS UNNECESSARY AND THE REFERENCE TO THE DECLARATION WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR ECOSOC.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - REGIONAL COOPERATION

33. ECOSOC BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF THIS AGENDA ITEM WITH A PANEL DISCUSSION BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF ALL FIVE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, FOLLOWED BY GENERAL DEBATE (GENEVA 4885). A RESOLUTION ENTITLED "REGIONAL COOPERATION" WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. ECOSOC ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS ALL THE RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO IT BY THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS. CUBA INITIALLY INDICATED IT WOULD OBJECT TO A RESOLUTION REFERRED FROM ECLAC BECAUSE IT REFERRED TO THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS. HOWEVER, WHEN ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE ECLAC REPORT, CUBA WAS NOT IN THE ROOM. THE CUBAN DELEGATE SUBSEQUENTLY STATED HE WOULD HAVE RESERVED ON THE RESOLUTION HAD HE BEEN PRESENT AND IN CONCLUDING REMARKS RESERVED ON THE ECLAC SECTION OF THE BIENNIUM BUDGET AS REPORTED OUT OF THE CPC FOR THE SAME REASON.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - PALESTINIAN SOVEREIGNTY

34. ECOSOC ADOPTED A HIGHLY POLITICIZED RESOLUTION ON "SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES" 43-1(U.S.)-2 (AUSTRALIA, ROMANIA). EU DELS SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING THE PLO TO MAKE SEVERAL CHANGES IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT. USDEL DELIVERED AN EOV CRITICIZING UN INTERFERENCE IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

AGENDA ITEM 12 - IMPLEMENTATION OF 50/227

35. DEBATE WAS IN TWO AREAS: REVIEW OF THE MANDATES OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND THE SYG'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPLEMENTING 50/227. REGARDING THE FIRST ECOSOC HELD FOUR INFORMAL MEETINGS ON THE FOUR FRIENDS (COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), THE COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (CDP), COMMITTEE FOR NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CNRSEED), AND COMMITTEE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES (CNR) DURING JULY 8 - 15, 1997. WHILE THE G-77 TABLED ITS POSITION ON ALL BODIES AT THE OUTSET, USDEL INSISTED ON A FULL REVIEW BEFORE BEGINNING DISCUSSION OR NEGOTIATION OF A DECISION. THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPLEMENTING 50/227 CONTAINED IN E/1997/68 WERE TAKEN UP LATE IN THE AGENDA. ECOSOC MET ONCE BRIEFLY TO DISCUSS

THE ISSUE AND THE G-77 SAID IT WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE RECOMMENDATIONS DUE TO THE LACK OF TIME. USDEL PRESSED THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO NOT ONLY DISCUSS BUT ENDORSE MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE PERTAINING TO FUNDING OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH WE BELIEVED REQUIRED FURTHER CONSIDERATION. THE CHAIR DECIDED TO DEFER FURTHER DISCUSSION TO THE RESUMED SESSION.

AGENDA ITEM 13 - NGOS

36. ECOSOC APPROVED THE REPORT AND DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE NGO COMMITTEE (GENEVA 5032). USDEL DISASSOCIATED FROM APPROVAL OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS FOR FIVE CUBAN NGOS. CONFERENCE OF NGOS (CONGO) REP TOLD ECOSOC THAT FOLLOWING ACCREDITATION OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, CONGO WOULD ONLY ADMIT NGO'S WHICH ARE ACCREDITED AND WHICH SUPPORT THE AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE.

AGENDA ITEM 14 - NEW AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR GENERATING FUNDS

37. NO RESOLUTION WAS PUT FORWARD ON THIS ITEM. THE SYG'S REPORT RULED OUT INTERNATIONAL TAXES AS NOT BEING A FEASIBLE WAY TO GENERATE FUNDS. THE REPORT PUT FORWARD SEVERAL IDEAS UNDER THE TWO GENERAL HEADINGS OF PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS AND NATIONAL FEES OR CHARGES. USDEL AGREED WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PREMISES OF THE REPORT THAT INTERNATIONAL TAXES WERE NOT WITHIN THE UN'S JURISDICTION TO IMPOSE AND THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD BE THE SOURCE FOR FURTHER FUNDING. THE G-77, SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL OF THE OTHER SPEAKERS (MOST OF WHOM WERE G-77 MEMBERS), UNDERLINED THAT FUNDS GENERATED BY THESE NEW METHODS SHOULD NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THEY ALSO CALLED ON COUNTRIES TO FULFILL THEIR "OBLIGATION" TO PROVIDE 0.7% OF THEIR GDP FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATE URGED CAUTION IN USING FUNDS FROM SALES OF IMF GOLD, SINCE THIS COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON GOLD-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. NORWAY AND AN NGO REPRESENTING YOUTH AND WOMEN CALLED FOR UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 08 GENEVA 005056

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SUBJECT: ECOSOC SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1997

INTERNATIONAL TAXATION ON AIRLINE TICKETS, AVIATION FUEL, ETC.

RESUMED SESSION

38. THE TIMING/AGENDA OF THE RESUMED ECOSOC SESSION WAS

ALSO DISCUSSED. THE CHAIR SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING BE HELD IN EARLY SEPTEMBER BEFORE THE GA. THE SUGGESTION MET WITH RESISTANCE FROM MANY DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE G-77 AND CANADA ON BEHALF OF JUSCANZ. THE CHAIR DECIDED HE WOULD CONSULT IF THE GA COULD BE DELAY THE START OF THE SECOND AND THIRD COMMITTEE MEETINGS UNTIL AFTER THE RESUMED SESSION. THIS WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL DELS. IN THE EVENT THE SECOND AND THIRD COMMITTEE MEETINGS CANNOT BE DELAYED, THE RESUMED ECOSOC SESSION WILL LIKELY BE IN DECEMBER AFTER THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONCLUDE. THE ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE COUNCIL ARE AS FOLLOWS: THEMES FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL AND COORDINATION SEGMENTS, FOUR DRAFT DECISIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, IMPLEMENTATION OF 50/227 (RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN E/1997/68), BUREAU OF CSD, REVIEW OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES (50/227), DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1997/L.32 (INTERNATIONAL YEARS), INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS, AND ELECTIONS

CLOSING STATEMENT

39. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE CLOSING STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY US ECOSOC REP WINNICK ON JULY 25. BEGIN TEXT:

THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT

FIRST LET ME STATE OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF AMBASSADOR GALUSKA SINCE HIS ARRIVAL AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND REITERATE OUR BEST WISHES FOR HIS SPEEDY RECOVERY. SECOND, ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST THANKS AND RESPECT TO AMBASSADOR CHOWDHURY FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY JOB HE HAS DONE OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, ACTING FREQUENTLY AS A ONE PERSON BUREAU. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK AMBASSADOR SOMAVIA, ESPECIALLY REGARDING HIS EFFORTS ON COORDINATED FOLLOW UP TO THE CONFERENCES WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE CENTRAL TO ECOSOC'S FUTURE. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU, THE SECRETARIAT AND THE INTERPRETERS AND SUPPORT STAFF HERE IN GENEVA.

IF WE ARE TO APPRAISE THE 1997 ECOSOC, I THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT WE HAVE MADE A GOOD START AT REVITALIZATION, BUT THAT WE STILL HAVE A CONSIDERABLE WAY TO GO. WE BELIEVE THAT THE HIGH-LEVEL, OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND COORDINATION SEGMENTS OF OUR DEBATE THIS YEAR WERE EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL. DOCUMENTATION FOR THESE

CONFIDE

SEGMENTS WAS OF HIGH QUALITY AND WAS AVAILABLE, FOR THE MOST PART, IN A TIMELY FASHION. INDEED, THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PAPER ON AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT, PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE IMF, UNCTAD AND THE IBRD, WAS OF THE BEST WE HAVE SEEN IN RECENT YEARS AND TESTIFIES TO THE POTENTIAL FOR INTERAGENCY

COOPERATION. THE OPENING DIALOGUE WITH THE HEADS OF THE FUNDS AND PROGRAMS, ON THE EVE OF CONCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S TRACK II PROPOSALS, PROVIDED A PRODUCTIVE AND VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR ECOSOC TO EXERCISE ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTION AND ENSURE A MEASURE OF COORDINATION. IN THE COORDINATION SEGMENT ITSELF WE BELIEVE THAT VALUABLE WORK WAS DONE ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING, NOT IN THE LEAST BECAUSE EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION WAS ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION.

WE WERE LESS CONTENT WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT. INDEED INSTEAD OF CONCISE AGREED CONCLUSIONS, PUT FORWARD AS A MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE, WE FOUND OURSELVES EMBROILED IN A FOUR WEEK NEGOTIATION WHICH REPLAYED ALL THE WELL KNOWN ARGUMENTS AND POSITIONS, ADDED NOTHING EITHER IN TERMS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESS OR IN TERMS OF GUIDANCE TO THE UN SYSTEM, AND WILL BE QUICKLY FORGOTTEN. WE MUST DO BETTER. IF THIS SEGMENT IS TO ATTRACT SERIOUS HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION AND HAVE SOME IMPACT, WE MUST AGREE TO NEGOTIATE CONCLUSIONS IN ADVANCE. ATTEMPTS TO DO SO THIS YEAR WERE UNSUCCESSFUL, DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF THE PRESIDENT.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS YEAR'S GENERAL SEGMENT SHOWED AGAIN THAT MORE WORK IS NECESSARY IF ECOSOC IS TO PERFORM A UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 08 GENEVA 005056

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USEFUL FUNCTION. MANY OF THE PAPERS FOR THE GENERAL SEGMENT WERE NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE DEBATE OF THE ITEM. WE ARE EXPECTED, IN TWO SHORT WEEKS, TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNANCE TO AN EXTRAORDINARY RANGE OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES. CLEARLY NONE OF US IS EXPERT IN ALL OF THESE FIELDS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE COUNCIL TO ACT SUBSTANTIVELY UNLESS REPORTS ARE RECEIVED IN A TIMELY FASHION AND CAN BE REVIEWED BY EXPERTS IN CAPITALS.

FAULT FOR THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE GENERAL SEGMENT ALSO LIES WITH MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING MY OWN. MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE ALL TOO ACCUSTOMED TO TREATING ECOSOC AS A JUNIOR VERSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH IT IS NOT, RATHER THAN AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF THE UN AND A COORDINATION BODY, WHICH IT IS. IF ECOSOC IS TO SUCCEED, WE MUST ALL LEARN HOW TO ACT AS MEMBERS OF A BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A VAST AND DIVERSE SET OF SUBSIDIARIES, AND MUST LEARN TO PUT ASIDE OUR GA LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS. WE MUST LEARN TO NEGOTIATE LESS OFTEN TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR DELIBERATION. MR. PRESIDENT, THIS WILL BE HARD WORK. WE ARE ALL TOO

COMFORTABLE WITH NEGOTIATING FROM OUR STANDARD POSITIONS ON A STOCK SET OF ISSUES. IT IS TIME TO WORK HARDER, WORK SMARTER AND WORK MORE PRODUCTIVELY SO THAT THE TWO THIRDS OF UN ACTIVITIES WHICH FALL WITHIN OUR PURVIEW ARE BETTER COORDINATED AND MORE EFFICIENT AND MAXIMIZE THEIR POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE.

IN THIS REGARD MY DELEGATION PLACES CONSIDERABLE HOPE IN THE WORK WHICH WE HAVE BEGUN THIS YEAR UNDER AGENDA ITEM 5 REGARDING THE COORDINATED FOLLOW UP TO CONFERENCES. WE BELIEVE THAT ECOSOC MUST FIND A MEANS TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, NOT JUST FOR ONE MONTH IN THE SUMMER. REGULAR, OPEN BUREAU MEETINGS ARE ONE POSSIBILITY. WE ALSO NEED TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SEGMENT, WHICH WAS AN OPPORTUNITY WASTED THIS YEAR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT SPRING'S SPECIAL SESSION ON THE ACC TASK FORCE REPORTS. IN ADDITION TO CHANGING OUR OWN WORK HABITS, WE WILL NEED CONSTANT SUPPORT OF A REINFORCED AND FOCUSED ECOSOC SECRETARIAT.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE HOPE THAT IN THE COMING YEAR ECOSOC CAN BEGIN TO FULFILL THE CRUCIAL ROLE GIVEN IT BY THE CHARTER AND WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO WORK TOWARDS THIS END. THANK YOU. END TEXT
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