

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Neziha Zarrouk Heads Newly created Ministry of Women and Family Affairs (5 pages)	12/17/1999	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: AMB Raphael Meets with Minister of Women's and Family Affairs (4 pages)	07/31/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([Beijing and Microcredit])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[04/15/1999 - 08/22/2000]

2012-0094-F

ke3964

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHGVA2745 1050510-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 150510Z APR 99
LINE4: FM USMISSION GENEVA
OSRI: RUEHGV
DTG: 150510Z APR 99
ORIG: USMISSION GENEVA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4046
RUEHZJ/HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COLLECTIVE
INFO: ////
SUBJ: CHR-55: SPEECH ON ITEM 12, INTEGRATION OF THE
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 GENEVA 002745

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHCR-1, AORC
SUBJECT: CHR-55: SPEECH ON ITEM 12, INTEGRATION OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

1. THIS IS USDEL CHR CABLE NUMBER 50.
2. FOLLOWING SPEECH ON ITEM 12, INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE, WAS DELIVERED BY MS. FELICE GAER, AN U.S. PUBLIC MEMBER, AT THE U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON APRIL 13, 1999.
3. BEGIN TEXT.

MADAM CHAIR:

JUST OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO, UNDER THE SKILLED LEADERSHIP OF ITS FIRST CHAIR, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, THIS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ADOPTED THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHANGED THE WAY GOVERNMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO TREAT THEIR CITIZENS. IN THE HALF CENTURY SINCE THEN, ONLY THREE OTHER WOMEN HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO CHAIR THIS BODY. SO IT IS WITH PARTICULAR PLEASURE THAT I RISE TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION TODAY, WITH YOU AS CHAIR, FOR THE COMMISSION'S FIRST SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON THE NEW AGENDA ITEM ON THE INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE.

AS WE BEGIN THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS, WE HAVE THE URGENT TASK OF INTEGRATING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN INTO ALL THAT WE DO HERE.

IT TOOK FIVE DECADES TO MOVE WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS FROM THE U.N. CHARTER TO THE BEIJING WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN. NEXT YEAR WE WILL CONVENE A BEIJING-PLUS-FIVE CONFERENCE. OUR

TASK AS NATIONS IS VERY CLEAR: WE MUST MAKE OUR GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY EXPAND AND ADAPT; WE MUST SHIFT FROM NEGLECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO MAINSTREAMING THEM. WE MUST MOBILIZE THE WILL TO STOP THE ABUSES FACING WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ESTABLISH INSTRUMENTS OF ACCOUNTABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC REMEDIES.

THIS AGENDA ITEM OFFERS US A CHOICE, MADAM CHAIR: WE CAN EXAMINE WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS, EXPRESS CONCERN, AND THEN MOVE ON TO OTHER ISSUES, OR WE CAN USE OUR TIME TO LOOK SERIOUSLY AND THOROUGHLY AT THE WAY THE UN SYSTEM ADDRESSES THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN, RAISING THOSE CONCERNS ELSEWHERE ON OUR AGENDA, WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

MANY OF THE SPECIAL RAPPOORTEURS HAVE APPROACHED THEIR TASKS WITH NEW PERSPECTIVE AND NEW VIGOR: THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN ARE BEGINNING TO PERVADE OUR COMMISSION'S AGENDA.

FOR EXAMPLE, THIS YEAR THE SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY AND ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS DREW ATTENTION TO "HONOR KILLINGS" WHERE MALE RELATIVES KILL WOMEN FOR ALLEGED ADULTERY OR BECAUSE THEY SEEK DIVORCE. THE SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR CORRECTLY STATES THAT SUCH KILLINGS CANNOT BE EXPLAINED IN THE CONTEXT OF TRADITION OR CULTURE. "HONOR KILLINGS" ARE MURDER. ABUSES AGAINST WOMEN HAVE BEEN OFTEN JUSTIFIED AS PRIVATE MATTERS AND ASCRIBED TO CULTURE OR RELIGION, BUT AS THE RAPPOORTEUR HAS VIVIDLY SHOWN, THESE ARE CRIMINAL ACTS, OUTSIDE THE RULE OF LAW, DUE PROCESS, AND INDIVIDUAL PROTECTIONS. AS SUCH, THEY ARE THE LEGITIMATE CONCERN OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY.

WE DEPLORE THE REPORTS OF THE RECENT DEATH THREAT AGAINST MRS. ASMA JAHANGIR, THE SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR. WE URGE ALL GOVERNMENTS TO CONDEMN SUCH THREATS AND ENSURE HER SAFETY.

THE SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR ON EDUCATION ALSO BROUGHT A GENDER-PERSPECTIVE INTO HER STUDY THIS YEAR. SIMILARLY, WE WELCOME THE COMMENTS BY THE SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN TO SEEK, RECEIVE AND IMPART INFORMATION, AND THE LINK BETWEEN FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION AND THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. THESE ARE BUT A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT GENDER INTEGRATION REALLY MEANS: BREAKING THE SILENCE, ENSURING THE VISIBILITY OF ABUSES AGAINST WOMEN, AND PRESSING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY.

THE SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR ON RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE HAS PROPOSED UNDERTAKING "A SERIES OF STUDIES ON DISCRIMINATION" REGARDING WOMEN. AND SEVERAL COUNTRY SPECIFIC SPECIAL RAPPOORTEURS HAVE DEMONSTRATED CONCERN ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN IN COUNTRIES LIKE IRAN, NIGERIA, THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA AND ELSEWHERE.

THIS YEAR, THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON IRAN CONCLUDED THAT DESPITE WELL-MEANING DECLARATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR ACHIEVED LITTLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITION OF IRANIAN WOMEN. THE SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR ON NIGERIA CRITICIZED THE SLOW PACE IN ERADICATING HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES, SUCH AS

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION OR EARLY MARRIAGES. THE SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA ADDRESSED GENDER CONCERNS IN HIS DISCUSSION OF CROATIA, BUT NOT IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN HIS MANDATE.

CONSIDER AFGHANISTAN, MADAM CHAIR. PUBLICLY BEATING WOMEN
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 GENEVA 002745

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, UNHCR-1, AORC

SUBJECT: CHR-55: SPEECH ON ITEM 12, INTEGRATION OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

FOR FAILING TO WEAR A BURQA OR FOR NOT BEING ACCOMPANIED BY A CLOSE MALE RELATIVE, OR SEVERELY RESTRICTING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO MEDICAL SERVICES IS NOT A MANIFESTATION OF LOCAL CULTURE, BUT CRIMINAL ABUSE. TO HINDER WOMEN FROM WORKING OR GIRLS FROM GOING TO SCHOOL DEPRIVES THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES OF THEIR DAILY BREAD AND ROBS HALF THE NATION OF ITS FUTURE. THE SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE CONCLUDED THAT THE TALIBAN HAS INTRODUCED "WHAT IS IN POINT OF FACT A SYSTEM OF APARTHEID" WITH RESPECT TO WOMEN. THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN MONITORING THE TALIBAN'S CRUEL MISTREATMENT OF WOMEN FOR SOME TIME. ITS RESOLUTION LAST YEAR EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO END WIDESPREAD VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN AND THE URGENCY OF ENSURING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN NUMEROUS SPHERES, INCLUDING THE ECONOMY. IT ALSO CALLED ON THE AFGHAN PARTIES TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF WOMEN TO WORK, TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION, TO SECURITY, AND TO "THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH."

BY CONTRAST, MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS THAT ARE WELL WORTH NOTING. COTE D'IVOIRE AND TOGO PASSED STATUTES BANNING THE PRACTICE OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION. THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT PASSED A LAW IN 1998 MAKING SPOUSAL ABUSE ILLEGAL. UGANDA AND MALAWI HAVE GRANTED WOMEN PROPERTY AND INHERITANCE RIGHTS, AND THE WOMEN OF NIGERIA HAVE WON A LONG, HARD LEGAL BATTLE THAT GIVES WIDOWS THE RIGHT TO INHERIT PROPERTY. THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SET A PRECEDENT FOR PROSECUTING THE AIDING AND ABETTING OF RAPE AS A WAR CRIME.

DESPITE THESE ADVANCES, NUMEROUS CHALLENGES REMAIN. IN 1998, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT REMAINED ENDEMIC. WOMEN IN SAUDI ARABIA CONTINUE TO FACE INSTITUTIONALIZED DISCRIMINATION AFFECTING THEIR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND ASSOCIATION AND THEIR RIGHT TO EQUALITY IN EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION. IN ALGERIA, MILITANTS CONTINUED TO TARGET WOMEN FOR RAPE, KIDNAPPING AND FORCED PROSTITUTION. IN CHINA, COERCION IN FAMILY PLANNING PRACTICES INCLUDING INSTANCES OF FORCED ABORTION AND STERILIZATION CONTINUED. THROUGHOUT SOUTH ASIA, DOWRY RELATED VIOLENCE, INCLUDING THE PRACTICE OF DOUSING WOMEN WITH GASOLINE AND SETTING THEM AFLAME, REMAINS A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

FOR ITS OWN PART, THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO

ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS, WORKING AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

MADAM CHAIR, THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD OF ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL INITIATIVES PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS. THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, PROGRESS DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON PROTECTING WOMEN'S FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT ALSO ON ENSURING THAT WOMEN EVERYWHERE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN EVERY SPHERE OF NATIONAL LIFE. FOR IT IS CLEAR THAT NO COUNTRY WILL SUCCEED IN THE NEXT CENTURY IF HALF ITS CITIZENS ARE EXCLUDED.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND NGOS TO EDUCATE WOMEN ABOUT THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN THEIR COUNTRY'S SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC LIFE. WE SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO ERADICATE FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, AND STRENGTHEN NATIONAL LEGISLATION. SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS ARE HELPING WOMEN PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN NATIONAL POLITICAL LIFE, TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS, PROMOTING GENDER EQUITY LAWS AND ESTABLISHING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS. ELSEWHERE, WE HAVE HELPED WOMEN FORM THEIR OWN LABOR UNIONS AND DEVELOP THE CAPACITY TO RUN FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE.

STILL, THERE ARE FEW PROGRAMS AS IMPORTANT TO WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AS ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION. WE HAVE WORKED TO FURTHER THIS THROUGH OUR SUPPORT FOR MICROCREDIT PROGRAMS, AND EDUCATION. FOR IT IS CLEAR THAT WOMEN WITH AT LEAST PRIMARY EDUCATION ARE HEALTHIER, HAVE FEWER AND HEALTHIER CHILDREN AND TEND TO EARN MORE MONEY FOR THEIR FAMILIES THAN THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ATTENDED SCHOOL. NOT SURPRISINGLY, EDUCATED WOMEN MAKE BETTER FARMERS, WORKERS AND MANAGERS. THEY ARE MORE ACTIVE IN BUSINESS AND POLITICS AND GENERALLY CONTRIBUTE MORE TO NATIONAL LIFE.

YET IN MANY PLACES, GIRLS ARE STILL LESS LIKELY TO ATTEND SCHOOL THAN BOYS OR ATTEND FOR AS MANY YEARS.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER ISSUES FACING WOMEN WHICH ARE OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES. ONE THE MOST WIDESPREAD AND PERNICIOUS CONCERNS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE HOME. IT IS ONLY RECENTLY, OF COURSE, THAT THIS ALL-TOO-COMMON VIOLATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONALLY AS A FORM OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE. BUT IT IS TRULY A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM, AND NO COUNTRY - INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES -- IS IMMUNE FROM IT.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 GENEVA 002745

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, UNHCR-1, AORC

SUBJECT: CHR-55: SPEECH ON ITEM 12, INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND

FEDERAL LEVEL. ALL IN ALL, WE HAVE QUADRUPLED OUR FUNDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AND ESTABLISHED A NATIONWIDE 24-HOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE TO COMPLEMENT THE MANY SUCH HOTLINES CREATED LOCALLY. INDEED, THIS YEAR, U.S. IS DEVOTING MORE THAN \$283 MILLION TO COMBAT GENDER-BASED CRIME.

THE U.S. IS ALSO TAKING STEPS TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, A FORM OF MODERN-DAY SLAVERY WHICH AFFECTS A MILLION WOMEN AND CHILDREN EVERY YEAR. VICTIMS ARE LURED INTO TRAFFICKING NETWORKS THROUGH FALSE PROMISES OF GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS AT HIGH PAY AS DOMESTIC WORKERS, NANNIES, WAITRESSES, SALES CLERKS OR MODELS. TRAFFICKING VICTIMS SUFFER EXTREME PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ABUSE, INCLUDING RAPE, TORTURE, STARVATION, IMPRISONMENT, DEATH THREATS AND PHYSICAL BRUTALITY. TO COMBAT THIS SCOURGE, THE U.S. HAD DEVELOPED A THREE-PRONG STRATEGY CONDUCTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER COUNTRIES BASED ON PREVENTION, PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTION AND ENFORCEMENT AGAINST TRAFFICKERS.

MADAM CHAIR, THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN SOME STATE AND FEDERAL PRISONS IN THE UNITED STATES. WHILE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO EVALUATE THE REPORT FULLY, IT IS REVIEWING IT CAREFULLY AND WILL RESPOND IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

U.S. LAWS PROHIBIT SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN PRISONS AND PROVIDE FOR THE PROSECUTION OF THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN SUCH CONDUCT. UNDER THE 1980 CIVIL RIGHTS FOR INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT (CRIPA), THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATES CONDITIONS IN JAILS, PRISONS, AND JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES IN THE EVENT THAT INDIVIDUALS ARE SYSTEMATICALLY DEPRIVED OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. IN ADDITION, NUMEROUS U.S. COURT RULINGS AND STATE LAWS HAVE MANDATED THAT DECENT STANDARDS OF TREATMENT BE MAINTAINED.

SOME OF THE EXAMPLES CITED IN THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT ARE DRAWN DIRECTLY FROM CASES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD ALREADY INVESTIGATED AND IN SOME CASES PROSECUTED, OR IN WHICH EITHER U.S. OR STATE OFFICIALS HAD ALREADY CORRECTED THE PROBLEMS. TO THIS EFFECT, THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION HAS INCREASED ITS INVESTIGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN PRISONS, AND WE HAVE TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS TO PREVENT IT, INCLUDING DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS, TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND COMPLAINTS MECHANISMS. WE NOTE THAT THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HERSELF CITES SEVERAL MODEL PROGRAMS FOR PREVENTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN PRISONS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE STATES OF GEORGIA AND MINNESOTA AND THE TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS.

IN KEEPING WITH OUR RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSALITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OUR OPENNESS AS A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, THE UNITED STATES HAS PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

THE UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR SYSTEM AND THE SUPPORT THAT HAS MAINTAINED IT. WE PARTICULARLY URGED THE CREATION OF THE SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. WE WELCOME OUTSIDE INVESTIGATIONS -- WHETHER BY UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPOREURS OR BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS -- AND WE URGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO THE SAME. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD URGE THE SPECIAL RAPPOREURS TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON COUNTRIES WHERE THE SITUATION IS THE MOST DIRE AND THE ABUSES THE MOST SEVERE.

MADAM CHAIR, THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO CHAMPION THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD -- AND AT HOME. OUR CITIZENS INSIST ON THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF EVERY CITIZEN'S RIGHTS. U.S. POLICY EMPHASIZES HELPING WOMEN OVERCOME THE MANY BARRIERS THAT CONFRONT THEM AT HOME AND ABROAD. WHILE WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES SOMETIMES OCCUR IN THE UNITED STATES, OURS IS AN OPEN SYSTEM IN WHICH PROBLEMS THAT OCCUR ARE READILY EXPOSED. OURS IS A NATION OF LAWS, AND OUR PEOPLE, OUR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, OUR LEGAL SYSTEM, AND OUR GOVERNMENT ARE VIGILANT. WHEN VIOLATIONS OCCUR, WE HAVE THE MECHANISMS AND PROTECTIONS IN PLACE TO PROSECUTE.

BUT MORE THAN THAT, WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO THE KEY ROLE THAT WOMEN PLAY IN SOCIETY'S ADVANCEMENT AND THE NECESSITY OF PROTECTING THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS. THE FACT THAT IT HAS TAKEN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY UNTIL THIS DECADE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS IS AN INDICATION OF HOW MUCH WORK REMAINS FOR US TO DO. BUT WITH THAT RECOGNITION COMES RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT, TOO.

IN COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY, WOMEN ARE MAKING INCREDIBLE STRIDES, BATTERING DOWN BARRIERS THAT HAVE STOOD FOR UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 GENEVA 002745

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, UNHCR-1, AORC

SUBJECT: CHR-55: SPEECH ON ITEM 12, INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

CENTURIES AND LEAVING A NEW RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT THAT CANNOT BE DENIED. BUT IN FAR TOO MANY PLACES, OLD PREJUDICES REMAIN AND VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BLATANTLY IGNORED. WE CANNOT BE TRUE TO OURSELVES OR THE PRINCIPLES THAT THIS COMMISSION STANDS FOR IF THIS CONTINUES. THE TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH IS NOW.

WOMEN MAKE UP MORE THAN HALF THE PLANET, MADAM CHAIR. WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS. THAT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR MANDATE, OUR AGENDA, AND MUST BE PART OF ALL OUR HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS, BOTH IN FIELD OPERATIONS AND IN CONFERENCE ROOMS LIKE THIS. IF WE ARE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT MILLENNIUM, WE MUST NOT ONLY ENGAGE ALL THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON THIS PLANET, WE MUST PAY ATTENTION TO THEIR PLIGHT, AND WE MUST EMPOWER THEM BY GUARANTEEING, PROTECTING, AND DEFENDING THEIR RIGHTS.

THANK YOU. END TEXT.

MOOSE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 04
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 04
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SSN: 2745
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TOR: 990415011535 M3801496
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<^TOR>990415011753 M3801506
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DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHLP4489 2581059-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 151059Z SEP 99

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

OSRI: RUEHLP

DTG: 151059Z SEP 99

ORIG: AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1489

INFO: RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 0522

RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 7118

RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 1137

RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5248

RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1261

RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 4158

RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 2793

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0595

RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ2/POLAD//

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1505

SUBJ: WOMEN 2000: BEIJING&5 - 5 YEAR REVIEW OF USG ACTIONS IN
BOLIVIA

TEXT:

UNCLAS LA PAZ 004489

FOR WHA/AND, S/PICW SOTO-HARMON, IO/ESA KOTOK, DRL/IL, DRL/BA
PASS TO USAID FOR LAC/AA
DEPT. ALSO PLEASE PASS TO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FOR ILAB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, EAID, ELAB, SOCI, UN, UNGA, AORC, BL

SUBJECT: WOMEN 2000: BEIJING&5 - 5 YEAR REVIEW OF USG ACTIONS IN
BOLIVIA

REFS: A) STATE 155105; B) LA PAZ 004294; C) LA PAZ 04154

SUMMARY

1. USG ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF BOLIVIAN WOMEN INCLUDE FOLLOW-ON
ACTIVITIES TO THE 1998 "VITAL VOICES" CONFERENCE, ENHANCED
ATTENTION TO GENDER IN MISSION PROGRAM PLAN ACTIVITIES, ONGOING
USAID MICROCREDIT/MICROENTERPRISE, HEALTH, DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE,
AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS, USIS INTERNATIONAL VISITOR (IV)
PROGRAMS AND OTHER EXCHANGES. WOMEN -- ESPECIALLY INDIGENOUS
WOMEN -- ARE HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED IN BOLIVIA; POST IS
COMMITTED TO PROMOTING GENDER EQUITY AND NOTES THIS CALLS FOR A
SUSTAINED AND VERY LONG-TERM EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

"VITAL VOICES" FOLLOWUP

2. BOLIVIA PARTICIPATED IN THE OCTOBER 1998 "VITAL VOICES OF THE AMERICAS" CONFERENCE IN MONTEVIDEO WITH A DELEGATION OF 11 LED BY U.S.-CITIZEN GINGER QUIROGA, WIFE OF THE GOB VICE PRESIDENT. AS PART OF FOLLOW-ON TO THE VITAL VOICES INITIATIVE, BOLIVIA WILL HOST THREE POLITICAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR 120 WOMEN LEADERS IN SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1999, WITH PARTICIPATION OF A PARAGUAYAN DELEGATION AS WELL. A COORDINATION WORKSHOP TO TRAIN TRAINERS WAS HELD AUGUST 12-13. VITAL VOICES REPRESENTATIVES, BOLIVIAN CONGRESSWOMEN, AND THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION SIGNED A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING TO SUPPORT THE WORKSHOP INITIATIVE, WITH THE AMBASSADOR SIGNING AS WITNESS.

3. IN ADDITION, AS ANOTHER PART OF MISSION FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO VITAL VOICES, THE MISSION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB), PLANS TO SUPPORT A "NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENCOUNTER." THIS NATIONAL WORKSHOP WOULD BRING TOGETHER WOMEN FROM THROUGHOUT BOLIVIA TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS IN THE THREE FOCUS AREAS OF VITAL VOICES: WOMEN AND LAW, WOMEN AND POLITICS, AND WOMEN AND ECONOMICS. THE WORKSHOP WOULD ALSO SEEK TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO INCREASE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THESE THREE SECTORS. THIS WORKSHOP IS ALSO TO SERVE AS BOLIVIA'S PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE JULY 2000 BEIJING PLUS FIVE MEETING. IN ORDER TO SERVE THIS PURPOSE, THE USG/IDB HAVE DEVELOPED A PLAN TO CONTRACT TWO BOLIVIAN WOMEN EXPERTS TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY AND COST OF HOLDING THE WORKSHOP. CONTRACTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS ARE DUE THIS OCTOBER.

ENHANCED MPP FOCUS ON GENDER ISSUES

4. AT POST MIDYEAR REVIEW OF THE 1998 MISSION PROGRAM PLAN (MPP), IT WAS DECIDED TO GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO GENDER ISSUES THROUGHOUT MISSION ACTIVITIES IN BOLIVIA. THIS INCREASED FOCUS HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE NEW 1999 MPP.

USAID PROGRAMS

5. USAID HAS PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING TO MICROCREDIT PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF MICROENTERPRISES THROUGH ITS "ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE." THIS HAS BENEFITED A LARGE NUMBER OF BOLIVIAN WOMEN OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS (NOTE: ACCORDING TO LABOR MINISTRY STATISTICS, 64 PERCENT OF MICROENTERPRISES CURRENTLY BELONG TO WOMEN). FOR EXAMPLE, USAID-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS PROVIDED ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES TO 150,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN 1997; THE GOAL IS TO INCREASE THIS TO 325,000 HOUSEHOLDS BY 2002.

6. OTHER USAID-SPONSORED PROGRAMS BENEFITING WOMEN INCLUDE ITS "HEALTH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE," WHOSE PROGRAMS, BEGUN IN 1991, WILL HAVE REACHED SEVERAL MILLION WOMEN BY 2002. SUCCESS STORIES HAVE INCLUDED THE "PROCOSI REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH ADVOCACY INITIATIVE," THE "PSI SOCIAL MARKETING PROJECT AND JOHNS UNIVERSITY/POPULATION COMMUNICATION SERVICES CONTRACEPTIVE PROMOTION INITIATIVE," AND THE "STD/HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROJECT'S ORGANIZATION OF CSWS INITIATIVE." OTHER SUCCESSFUL USAID PROJECTS INCLUDE THE "DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROJECT" (IN WHICH OVER 2000 OF 6000 PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN WOMEN, AND WHICH IS REVITALIZING THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS), "BOLIVIA

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE PROGRAM" (IN WHICH 4516 OF 8340 TRAINEES FROM 1993 TO 1998 WERE WOMEN), "ANDEAN PEACE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" AND "BOLIVIAN PEACE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" (UNDER WHICH 350 OF 800 TRAINEES BETWEEN 1987 AND 1998 WERE WOMEN).

USIS PROGRAMS

7. THE NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF WOMEN SENT AS USIS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS HAS RISEN STEADILY OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, FROM FOUR IN 1995, ACCOUNTING FOR 33 PERCENT OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, TO SEVEN IN 1999, REPRESENTING 58 PERCENT OF PARTICIPANTS. WHAT IS MORE, OF THE FIFTEEN CANDIDATES SO FAR APPROVED AS CANDIDATES AND ALTERNATES FOR FY 2000 IVP GRANTS, ELEVEN, OR 73 PERCENT ARE WOMEN. IN ADDITION, MISSION HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF SEVERAL PROGRAMS FOCUSING SPECIFICALLY ON WOMEN'S ISSUES. ONE SUCH WAS A 1994 IV PROGRAM ON "SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE U.S," FOCUSING ON CHILDREN AND GENDER, TO WHICH WE SENT THREE BOLIVIAN WOMEN, INCLUDING TWO INDIGENOUS, OF WHICH ONE WAS THE COUNTRY'S "SECOND LADY" OR WIFE OF THE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT. A SECOND EXAMPLE WAS AN IVP ON "WOMEN IN POLITICS AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM" IN WASHINGTON, TO WHICH WE ALSO SENT A BOLIVIAN WOMAN PARTICIPANT. IN ADDITION, IT IS PLANNED TO SEND A BOLIVIAN WOMAN TO AN AUGUST 2000 IV PROGRAM ON "WOMEN IN POLITICS IN THE U.S."

8. OTHER VITAL VOICES FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES COORDINATED BY USAID AND USIS INCLUDE A USIA-FINANCED EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO SEND SIX BOLIVIAN WOMEN LEADERS TO THE URBAN MORGAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF LAW THIS OCTOBER, AND TO BRING FIVE U.S. SPECIALISTS TO BOLIVIA THEREAFTER TO MET WITH GOB AND NGO LEADERS. THE FOCUS OF THESE EXCHANGES WILL BE SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

DIRECT ACTION

9. ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE, WHEN THE AMBASSADOR DISCOVERED LAST YEAR, ON BEING INVITED THERE, THAT LA PAZ'S ELITE UNION CLUB EXCLUDED BOLIVIAN WOMEN, SHE ISSUED AN ORDER ENJOINING ALL MISSION AMCIT EMPLOYEES FROM FREQUENTING THAT CLUB, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT CHANGED ITS POLICY TO ADMIT ALL WOMEN, BOLIVIAN OR OTHERWISE.

POINTS OF CONTACT

10. POST DESIGNATED WOMEN 2000:BEIJING&5 COORDINATOR IS USAID DEMOCRACY PROJECT COORDINATOR JOSE GARZON. TEL: 591-2-785758; FAX: 591-2-786731. E-MAIL ADDRESS: JGARZON#USAID.GOV. HE WILL BE ASSISTED BY FELLOW DEMOCRACY TEAM MEMBERS SONIA ARANIBAR AND ROXANA CARDONA, WHO MAY BE REACHED AT THE SAME NUMBERS.

11. LABOR ATTACHE/POLITICAL OFFICER KEN AUDROUE COVERS GENDER EQUALITY ISSUES OTHER THAN BEIJING&5 FOR THE MISSION AND CAN BE REACHED AT TEL: 591-2-430251; FAX: 591-2-433710; E-MAIL: AUDROUEK#STATE.GOV.

COMMENT

12. IT HAS OFTEN BEEN OBSERVED "THE FACE OF POVERTY IN BOLIVIA

IS FEMALE AND INDIGENOUS." POST HAS BEEN DOING ITS UTMOST --
ESPECIALLY IN THE PAST YEAR -- TO USE ITS LIMITED RESOURCES TO
PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED
THAT BOLIVIA IS A POOR AND TRADITION-BOUND COUNTRY, WITH MANY
SOCIAL, ETHNIC, AND CULTURAL PROBLEMS. THESE WILL TAKE SUSTAINED
LONG-TERM EFFORTS TO OVERCOME.
HRINAK

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4489

TOR: 990915073345 M4049506

DIST:

SIT: ARMSTRONG AVERY BABBITT BUSBY FELDMAN GUARNIERI NAPLAN ORFINI
SCHWARTZ SHANNON STROMSETH VACCARO VALENZUELA
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 151919Z SEP 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
OSRI: RUEHPE
DTG: 151919Z SEP 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0547
INFO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0146
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0146
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA
SUBJ: WOMEN 2000: BEIJING&5/USG COMMITMENT IN PERU

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 006006

DEPT FOR S/PICW SOTO-HARMON, WHA/PPC EWEIGOLD, IO/ESA KOTOK

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, SOCI, UN, UNGA, AORC

SUBJECT: WOMEN 2000: BEIJING&5/USG COMMITMENT IN PERU

REF: STATE 155105

INTRODUCTION

1. DURING THE FIVE YEARS FOLLOWING THE 1995 BEIJING WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT IN THE OVERALL STATUS OF WOMEN IN PERU. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS POSITIVE TREND, CREATING A SEPARATE MINISTRY DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN IN PERUVIAN SOCIETY (PROMUDEH) AND ENCOURAGING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. EMBASSY LIMA HAS ACTIVELY PROMOTED USG POLICIES IN THIS AREA, THROUGH OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR NEW LEGISLATION AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF WOMEN. THROUGH USAID WE HAVE DIRECTLY SUPPORTED WOMEN'S PROGRAMS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE THAT INCREASE THEIR INTEGRATION INTO PERU'S FREE MARKET ECONOMY, REDUCE THEIR POVERTY AND ILLITERACY LEVELS, AND PROMOTE THEIR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. GIRLS' EDUCATION HAS RECEIVED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS. THROUGH SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAMS (IV'S), USIS HELPED BROADEN PERUVIAN WOMEN'S HORIZONS, EXPOSING THEM TO NEW CONCEPTS ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN MODERN SOCIETY. THE CAUSE OF ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN PERUVIAN SOCIETY CUTS ACROSS THE ENTIRE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, ENHANCED BY THE ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION MEMBERS.

2. AS REQUESTED REFTTEL, WE HAVE LISTED BELOW MISSION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT USG POLICIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN. FOR THE SAKE OF BREVITY, MANY OF THE SMALLER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT BEEN HIGHLIGHTED, THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL TO THE OVERALL PROMOTION OF WOMEN.

IMPACT OF POVERTY

3. ONE OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES PERU HAS FACED DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAS BEEN THE REDUCTION OF POVERTY, A PROBLEM THAT HAD BEEN EXACERBATED BY TERRORIST VIOLENCE. EMBASSY LIMA HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE INTRODUCTION OF MACROECONOMIC POLICIES DESIGNED TO PROVIDE PERU THE STABILITY NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL. IN ADDITION, USAID HAS FINANCED AND SPONSORED A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS DIRECTED AT THE MICROECONOMIC LEVEL, INCLUDING SEVERAL SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TO WOMEN WHICH FULFILL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM (BP)--"INCREASED INCOMES FOR THE POOR."

--THROUGH ITS IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, USAID PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ACCESS TO MICROCREDIT TO MORE THAN 43,000 POOR WOMEN, LEADING TO THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF THE "POOR MAJORITY" IN THE POOREST GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF PERU.

-- BY PROVIDING MARKET ACCESS FOR THOSE PRODUCTS WITH WHICH WOMEN ARE PRIMARILY INVOLVED (E.G., HANDICRAFTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS) ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT FOR 16,000 WOMEN WAS GENERATED.

-- IN FY 1996 ALONE, TWENTY-NINE PROJECTS TOTALLING \$200,000 WERE FINANCED, INCLUDING: INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES TO HELP LOW-INCOME WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS; PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER; DAYCARE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM TERRORIST VIOLENCE; TRAINING AND PRODUCTION PROGRAMS TO WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, AND; CONSTRUCTION OF A RURAL WOMEN'S TRAINING CENTER.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

4. BOTH USAID AND USIS HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN PROVIDING FEMALES ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE TO THEM. THROUGH ITS SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES, USIS PROVIDES PERUVIANS, INCLUDING A GREAT NUMBER OF WOMEN, EXPOSURE TO SCIENTIFIC, ACADEMIC, JUDICIAL, AND OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST. IN ADDITION, USIS' INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DOZENS OF PERUVIAN WOMEN TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AND EXPLORE ISSUES RANGING FROM GENDER, DEMOCRACY, JOURNALISM, HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMINING, AND OTHERS NOT TYPICALLY AVAILABLE TO WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA. USAID PROGRAMS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAVE INCLUDED:

-- SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL NETWORK FOR GIRL'S EDUCATION IN PERU WHICH ALSO COUNTS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU, NGO'S, UNIVERSITIES, AND PRIVATE DONORS.

-- THROUGH VILLAGE-BANKING ACTIVITIES, USAID PROGRAMS HAVE ASSISTED WOMEN TO OVERCOME EDUCATIONAL BARRIERS WHICH LIMIT THEIR ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MICRO-LOANS FOR SUBSISTENCE LEVEL ACTIVITIES.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 LIMA 006006

DEPT FOR S/PICW SOTO-HARMON, WHA/PPC EWEIGOLD, IO/ESA KOTOK

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, SOCI, UN, UNGA, AORC

SUBJECT: WOMEN 2000: BEIJING&5/USG COMMITMENT IN PERU

-- SPECIAL EMPHASIS HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO TRAINING WOMEN IN MANAGERIAL AND FINANCIAL SKILLS THAT WILL IMPROVE THEIR ABILITY TO ACCESS FORMAL CREDIT.

-- OTHER PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA PROVIDED TRAINING IN FOOD ASSISTANCE, NUTRITION AND HEALTH FOR NEARLY 90,000 MOTHERS OF MALNOURISHED CHILDREN.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

5. A POVERTY AND EDUCATION-RELATED PROBLEM FOR MANY PERUVIANS HAS BEEN ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE. NOT SURPRISINGLY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAVE BEEN HARD HIT BY THIS SITUATION. DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS USAID HAS ASSISTED THE GOP, NGOS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS IN DEVELOPING PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE EXTENSION OF HEALTH CARE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IN PARTICULAR THOSE IN THE OUTLYING AND REMOTE AREAS OF PERU.

-- THE FIRST PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION OF CERVICAL CANCER, A MAJOR CAUSE OF DEATH FOR WOMEN IN PERU, WAS THE RESULT OF USAID ASSISTANCE.

-- OTHER PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN GEARED TO INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY MALES IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, CHILDBEARING AND CHILD REARING.

-- ANOTHER MISSION SPONSORED AND FUNDED PROGRAM, REPROSALUD (REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH), INITIATED SHORTLY AFTER THE BEIJING CONFERENCE, HAS FOCUSED ON WOMEN'S HEALTH NEEDS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES. TO DATE, AN ESTIMATED 18,000 WOMEN HAVE DIRECTLY BENEFITTED FROM THIS PROGRAM.

-- IN DECEMBER 1998, WITH USAID ASSISTANCE, PERU'S HEALTH MINISTRY COMPLETED CERTIFICATION OF 70 HEALTH ESTABLISHMENTS ("QUALITY MODEL HEALTH CENTERS") DESIGNED TO EXPAND THE CUSTOM OF PREVENTIVE ACTION FOR MATERNAL AND PERINATAL HEALTH CARE.

VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AND WOMEN

6. NOT UNLIKE MANY WESTERN SOCIETIES, PERUVIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS

ARE OFTEN THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. IN PERU, USAID HAS WORKED WITH THE HUMAN RIGHT'S OMBUDSMAN, PROMUDEH, AND SEVERAL NGO'S TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE SUBJECT AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS.

-- DURING THE 1997-1998 LEGISLATIVE TERM, USAID SPONSORED PUBLIC DEBATES ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THAT SOUGHT TO IMPROVE UPON EXISTING LEGISLATION.

-- USAID ALSO FUNDED A SURVEY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN 1999 WHICH IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE RELEVANT INFORMATION ON A WIDESPREAD PROBLEM IN PERU.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

8. WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO COUNT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GOP IN INCREASING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES. PRESIDENT FUJIMORI, SINCE HIS ELECTION IN 1990, HAS SPOKEN IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, NAMING SEVERAL CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS TO KEY POSITIONS. PERU CURRENTLY COUNTS WITH A FEMALE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS AND A FEMALE MINISTER (PROMUDEH), A FEMALE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE, AND A NUMBER OF WOMEN IN OTHER KEY GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. SUCH PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL ARENA HAS HELPED OUR OWN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE APPROVAL OF NEW LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO FURTHER INCREASE WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

-- CLOSE WORK AMONG USAID EXPERTS IN WOMEN'S ISSUES AND DEMOCRACY, MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON WOMEN, OFFICIALS OF PROMUDEH, REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED NGOS, AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN RESULTED IN NEW LEGISLATION IN 1998 THAT SET A MAXIMUM OF 75% REPRESENTATION FROM ANY SEX ON THE LISTS FOR ELECTIONS TO MUNICIPAL AND CONGRESSIONAL SEATS. THIS "QUOTA" LAW MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR WOMEN TO DEMAND INCLUSION IN THE LISTS OF CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN LAST OCTOBER'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

-- PROMUJER (AN ASSOCIATION OF NGOS PROMOTING WOMEN'S ISSUES CREATED IN JUNE OF 1998 AND LARGELY FUNDED BY USAID) INITIATED A SERIES OF PROGRAMS THAT WOULD BUILD UPON THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR INCREASED POLITICAL REPRESENTATION. PRIOR TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS PROMUJER ORGANIZED TRAINING FOR FEMALE CANDIDATES (POLITICALLY NEUTRAL) IN THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO WIN AN ELECTION. THESE PROGRAMS, WHICH RESULTED IN A GREATER NUMBER OF WOMEN IN UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 LIMA 006006

DEPT FOR S/PICW SOTO-HARMON, WHA/PPC EWEIGOLD, IO/ESA KOTOK

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, SOCI, UN, UNGA, AORC

SUBJECT: WOMEN 2000: BEIJING&5/USG COMMITMENT IN PERU

MUNICIPAL OFFICE, WILL BE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT 1999 AND 2000 WITH AN EYE TOWARDS THE APRIL 2000 NATIONAL ELECTIONS WHEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE QUOTA LAW WILL BE APPLIED TO CONGRESSIONAL

CANDIDACIES.

-- TRAINING PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY IPEDEHP (THE PERUVIAN INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE) AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY PROMUJER HAVE ASSISTED GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS THAT PROMOTE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

-- BOTH USAID AND USIS PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF PERUVIAN WOMEN IN THE MONTEVIDEO VITAL VOICES CONFERENCE HELD IN OCTOBER, 1998. DEPUTY POLCOUNS COORDINATED PARTICIPATION BY THIS GROUP OF WOMEN FROM A VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND HAS FOLLOWED UP WITH THE INDIVIDUALS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES. USIS HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PARTICIPATION BY FOUR U.S. SPEAKERS IN A NOVEMBER 1999 CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY A PERUVIAN VITAL VOICES PARTICIPANT, WHICH WILL DEAL WITH GENDER ISSUES IN THE NEW MILLENIUM.

MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

9. IN SUPPORT OF ITS FIRST STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE "BROADER CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES," USAID HAS HELPED STRENGTHEN THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN. THE WOMAN'S COUNSEL, ANOTHER PARTICIPANT IN MONTEVIDEO'S VITAL VOICES CONFERENCE, HAS BECOME A KEY ELEMENT OF THE OMBUDSMAN'S EFFORTS TO DEFEND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERUVIANS. SHE IS OFTEN AN EXPERT SPEAKER CALLED UPON BY CONGRESS TO TESTIFY REGARDING THOSE ISSUES WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECT WOMEN. THROUGH HER OFFICE, SHE HAS CONDUCTED SEVERAL STUDIES ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR FEMALE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE. US MISSION OFFICIALS REGULARLY PARTICIPATE IN AND PUBLICLY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY INSTITUTIONS WHOSE ROLE IS TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S ISSUES.

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

10. TAKING TO HEART THE 1995 BEIJING PRECEPT THAT "WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS", OUR MISSION HAS FOCUSED SPECIAL ATTENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS. OUR ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT, WHICH CONTAINS A SECTION DEVOTED TO WOMEN'S ISSUES, CAPTURES THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE SITUATION OF PERUVIAN WOMEN IN THEIR SOCIETY. IN ADDITION, USAID HAS FOCUSED A LARGE PART OF THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILDING AN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL PERMIT PERUVIAN WOMEN TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS MORE ADEQUATELY.

-- SINCE 1996, WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM USAID, THE OFFICE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN HAS IMPLEMENTED A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE SOCIAL AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.

-- FROM 1996 TO 1998 THE LEGAL CLINICS IN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAVE PROVIDED LEGAL SUPPORT TO 80,000 PEOPLE, OF WHOM 60% WERE WOMEN DEMANDING PROTECTION OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND THOSE

OF THEIR CHILDREN.

-- OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE DISSEMINATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED THROUGH THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY IPEDEHP. MORE THAN 1,000 COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED AS HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTERS. OF THESE AT LEAST 50% ARE WOMEN.

CONCLUSION

11. EMBASSY LIMA LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM AND SUPPORT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN PERUVIAN SOCIETY. DEPUTY POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND VITAL VOICES COORDINATOR COLOMBIA A. BARROSSE HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS POINT OF CONTACT IN THE EMBASSY FOR FUTURE COMMUNICATION/ACTION REQUESTS ON WOMEN 2000: BEIJING&5. TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (51) (1) 434-3000, FAX NUMBER IS (51) (1) 434-3462.

HAMILTON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 6006

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TOR: 990915152203 M4050492

<^TOR>990915152322 M4050493

<^TOR>990915152337 M4050494

DIST:

SIT: BABBITT BUSBY FELDMAN GUARNIERI HUSO KEITH LIEBERTHAL NAPLAN OSIUS
PRITCHARD SCHWARTZ STROMSETH VACCARO
SIT: NSC

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NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([Beijing and Microcredit])
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FOLDER TITLE:

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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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Cable

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OSRI: RUEHPB
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0799
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0009
SUBJ: WOMEN 2000-PARTICIPATION BY PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
SOLOMON ISLANDS AND VANUATU
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT MORESBY 0287

DEPARTMENT FOR IO AND S/PICW

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, SDOCI, UNGA, CSW, UN, PP, BP, NH
SUBJECT: WOMEN 2000-PARTICIPATION BY PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
SOLOMON ISLANDS AND VANUATU

REF: STATE 34370

1. AMBASSADOR PRESENTED DEMARCHE TO DEPARTMENTS
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENTS HANDLING
WOMEN'S AFFAIRS IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES. RESPONSES
ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW. PLEASE SEE ACTION REQUEST IN
PARA 2.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

2. PNG DELEGATION TO THE 23RD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
UNGA, JUNE 5-9

HON. ANDREW KUMBAKOR, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
JOSEPH SUKWIANOMB, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HOME
AFFAIRS

MS. LEONIE RAKANANGU, ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
WOMEN'S DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

NGO PARTICIPANTS:

MRS. SUSAN SETAE, PRESIDENT, PNG NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
WOMEN

MRS. NAHAU ROONEY, VICE PRESIDENT (ISLANDS REGION),
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

MS. AU ARUAI, PRESIDENT OF PNG WOMEN IN POLITICS
ASSOCIATION

THE DELEGATION PLANS TO ADD A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE
IF THEY CAN FIND THE MONEY FOR THE TICKET AND PER

DIEM.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WILL PARTICIPATE
IN THE RECONVENED PREPCOM MEETING OF COMMISSION ON
THE STATUS OF WOMEN:

JOSEPH KLAPAT, DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF
HOME AFFAIRS
SAMSON CHICKI, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES, DEPARTMENT
OF HOME AFFAIRS
MS. MARYLINE KAJOI, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
PLANNER, DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
MS. YASAP POPOITAI, DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING
AND IMPLEMENTATION
MS. MARY TOLIMAN, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DR. ANNE WAIKO, LECTURER IN GENDER STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA (NGO REPRESENTATIVE)

ACTION REQUEST: THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS HAS
INQUIRED WHETHER THERE ARE ANY INTERNATIONAL
SOURCES TO FUND DEVELOPING COUNTRY NGO/YOUTH
DELEGATES TO THIS MEETING. PLEASE LET US KNOW FOR
THEIR INFORMATION.

3. THE PNG DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS APPEARS TO
SHARE THE USG'S POSITION ON THE PURPOSE AND OUTCOME
OF THE SPECIAL SESSION. THEY ARE JOINING OTHER SOUTH
PACIFIC COUNTRIES UNDER ESCAP TO PRODUCE A JOINT
PAPER SETTING OUT THE REGION'S PRIORITIES FOR AN
OUTCOME AT WOMEN 2000. THEY HAVE NOT MUCH
PROGRESS TO REPORT SINCE BEIJING AND THEIR REPORT IS
NOT YET READY. THEY ARE PLEASED THAT THE CURRENT
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ACT, NEW SINCE BEIJING,
REQUIRES THAT AT LEAST TWO WOMEN BE APPOINTED TO
EACH LOCAL LEVEL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL. LEGISLATION
HAS BEEN PREPARED ON THE SUBJECTS OF VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD WHICH
THEY HOPE WILL BE UNDER DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT BY
THE TIME THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION MEETS.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

4. DELEGATION:
HON. HILDA KARI, MINISTER, DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH,
WOMEN AND SPORTS
ETHEL SIGIMANU, DIRECTOR FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

NO KNOWN PLANS FOR NGO'S OR YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES.
FUNDING IS A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR NGO'S IN SOLOMON
ISLANDS

5. THE MINISTER HAS TAKEN OVER THE PORTFOLIO ONLY
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PORT MORESBY 0287

DEPARTMENT FOR IO AND S/PICW

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, SDOCI, UNGA, CSW, UN, PP, BP, NH

SUBJECT: WOMEN 2000-PARTICIPATION BY PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
SOLOMON ISLANDS AND VANUATU

REF: STATE 34370

RECENTLY. TO DATE THE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED A
POLICY STATEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES INTRODUCTION OF
LEGISLATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, BUT HAS NO
ACTION PLKARTMENT, AN NGO (PROBABLY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF WOMEN PRESIDENT), A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE AND
SOMEONE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

7. THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS HAS NO MINISTER
AND IS BEING ADMINISTERED UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE
PRIME MINISTER. INSPITE OF ITS ORPHANED STATUS,
HOWEVER, THE WOMEN'S DIVISION APPEARS TO HAVE A
CLEARER CONCEPT OF ITS AGENDA THAN ITS
COUNTERPARTS IN THE OTHER TWO COUNTRIES.

8. WOMEN'S DIVISION DIRECTOR ROSSALYN TAR TOLD THE
AMBASSADOR ON MAY 12 THAT AFTER BEIJING THE
GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU IDENTIFIED HEALTH,
EDUCATION, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, AND ELIMINATION
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AS ITS PRIORITY AREAS OF
CONCENTRATION. IT HAS MADE MODEST BUT SOLID
PROGRESS IN ALL AREAS:

A. HEALTH:

-- OPENED THE VANUATU FAMILY HEALTH ASSOCIATION
WHICH PROVIDES ADVICE ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH,
BREAST CANCER SCREENING, FAMILY PLANNING AND TRAINS
VILLAGE HEALTH WORKERS TO SCREEN FOR ENDEMIC
DISEASE.

-- WORKING ON PROGRAM TO REDUCE TEENAGE
PREGNANCIES. NEED BETTER OVERALL NATIONAL HEALTH
CARE WHERE HEALTH CARE STAFF, NUMBERS OF HOSPITAL
BEDS AND MEDICINES ARE ALL INSUFFICIENT.

B. EDUCATION/ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

-- THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN HAS A RURAL
OUTREACH PROGRAM THAT TEACHES DECISION MAKING
AND DOMESTIC SKILLS

-- VANUATU WOMEN IN POLITICS, AN ASSOCIATION TO ASSIST
PERSONS INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE
WAS FORMED PRIOR TO THE LAST ELECTION

-- TRAINING COURSES IN NON-TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS -
THE FIRST GRADUATE HAS OPENED A REPAIR SHOP IN HER
HOME VILLAGE. WOMEN ARE BEING TAUGHT TO REPAIR
FISHING NETS AND SELL FISH IN RURAL AREAS.

-- MICROCREDIT SCHEME FUNDED BY UNDP WAS LAUNCHED
IN 1997. CURRENTLY HAS 435 PARTICIPANTS WITH A 100
PERCENT REPAYMENT RATE. WANT TO EXPAND PROJECT
INTO A BANK, NEED CAPITAL.

-- IMPROVING LITERACY OF WOMEN IS STILL A MAJOR
PROBLEM.

C. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

-- WITH HELP OF AUSAID ESTABLISHED VANUATU WOMEN'S

CENTER WHICH PROVIDES ADVICE AND REFUGE TO ABUSED
WOMEN.

-- GOVERNMENT HAS A DRAFT "FAMILY PROTECTION BILL"
WHICH IS READY TO GO TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR
REVIEW.

KARAER

TOR: 05/03/00 18:49:53

DIST: SIT: BABBITT NSC FELDMAN HUSO KEITH LIEBERTHAL MCADEN MCLEAN NAPLAN
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PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHMOA5028 2101236-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7486
INFO: ////
SUBJ: VITAL VOICES AND BEIJING&5 FOLLOW-UP:
VISIT OF FLOTUS CHIEF OF STAFF VERVEER AND COUNCIL
ON WOMEN DIRECTOR LOAR TO MOSCOW, RUSSIA
TEXT: UNCLAS MOSCOW 015028

STATE PASS TO USAID

PASS TO G - THERESA LOAR, INL - CARLA MENARES-BURY,
S/NIS - NERISSA COOK

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, KWMN, EAID, PREL, RS

SUBJECT: VITAL VOICES AND BEIJING&5 FOLLOW-UP:
VISIT OF FLOTUS CHIEF OF STAFF VERVEER AND COUNCIL
ON WOMEN DIRECTOR LOAR TO MOSCOW, RUSSIA

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DURING A JUNE 15-17 VISIT TO MOSCOW, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE FIRST LADY MELANNE VERVEER AND DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN (S/PICW) THERESA LOAR BRIEFED NGO'S, BUSINESSWOMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ACTIVE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES IN RUSSIA ON U.S. FOLLOW-UP TO THE NOVEMBER 1999 "VITAL" VOICES CONFERENCE IN REYKJAVIK AND THE JUNE 2000 BEIJING PLUS 5 CONFERENCE. RUSSIAN PARTICIPANTS STRESSED THE NEED FOR LOCAL ACTION AND INVESTMENT TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF WOMEN, AS WELL AS INCREASED NETWORKING BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS. FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE DUMA LYUBOV SLISKA IDENTIFIED INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS AS A PRIORITY, AND INVITED FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TO SARATOV, WHERE THE GOVERNOR REPORTEDLY IS SUPPORTING THE ELECTION OF FEMALE CANDIDATES IN UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY

2. (SBU) DURING JUNE 15-17 VISIT TO MOSCOW, FLOTUS COS VERVEER AND S/PICW DIRECTOR LOAR BRIEFED NGO'S, BUSINESSWOMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ACTIVE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES IN RUSSIA ON U.S. FOLLOW-UP TO THE

REYKJAVIK "VITAL" VOICES CONFERENCE AND BEIJING PLUS
5. AT A JUNE 14 ROUNDTABLE FOR NGO'S WORKING TO
COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING,
PARTICIPANTS HIGHLIGHTED THE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER
AND EFFECTIVENESS OF RUSSIAN NGO'S AND CRISIS
CENTERS, AND STRESSED THAT A CONTINUED INTER-
DISCIPLINARY APPROACH AND INTENSIVE NETWORKING
BETWEEN NGO'S ARE ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUED PROGRESS.
PARTICIPANTS ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF
DIRECT INVESTMENT IN LOCAL, GRASS-ROOTS INITIATIVES.
IN A SEPARATE MEETING ON JUNE 15, "OPEN SOCIETY"
(SOROS) FUND DIRECTOR YEKATERINA GENIYEVA ALSO
HIGHLIGHTED MICROCREDIT AND NGO SUPPORT IN SMALL
TOWNS AS CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS.

2. (SBU) ON JUNE 16, THE DCM HOSTED A BREAKFAST FOR
14 RUSSIAN BUSINESSWOMEN, MANY OF WHOM HAD
PARTICIPATED IN THE NOVEMBER 1999 "VITAL VOICES"
CONFERENCE IN REYKJAVIK AND THE OCTOBER 1999 WOMEN'S
BUSINESS NETWORK GLOBAL SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON.
PARTICIPANTS DESCRIBED OBSTACLES TO COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENT, SUCH AS LACK OF AFFORDABLE CREDIT, AND
HEAVY TAXATION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.
DEPUTY LABOR MINISTER GALINA KARELOVA WAS ALSO
PRESENT, AND RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT
ACTION. SHE ENCOURAGED PARTICIPANTS TO JOIN WITH
OTHER RUSSIAN BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS TO IDENTIFY
SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND PRESS FOR CHANGE.
PARTICIPANTS AGREED ON THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A
NETWORK AMONG FEMALE BUSINESS OWNERS.

3. (SBU) ON JUNE 16, LOAR AND VERVEER ALSO MET WITH
FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRWOMAN OF THE DUMA LYUBOV SLISKA.
(NOTE: SLISKA IS EXPECTED TO BE HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL
IN HER NEW ROLE AS COORDINATOR OF LEGISLATIVE WORK
OF THE DUMA. ALTHOUGH BY HER OWN ADMISSION VERY NEW
TO WOMEN'S ISSUES, SLISKA NEVERTHELESS ACTIVELY
SOUGHT THIS MEETING. END NOTE) DUMA DEPUTY
YEKATERINA LAKHOVA, A LONG-TIME AND PROMINENT
ADVOCATE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, WAS ALSO PRESENT.
LAKHOVA EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR SLISKA'S
OFFER OF "PARTNERSHIP" ON WOMEN'S ISSUES, IN
CONTRAST TO THE SCANT SUPPORT WOMEN'S RIGHTS
ADVOCATES RECEIVED FROM THE LAST TWO DUMAS.

4. (SBU) SLISKA IDENTIFIED INCREASED PARTICIPATION
OF WOMEN IN POLITICS AS THE KEY TO IMPROVING THE
OVERALL CONDITION OF WOMEN IN RUSSIA. SLISKA
REPORTED THAT SHE AND LAKHOVA HAD JUST RETURNED FROM
A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH GOVERNOR DMITRIY AYATSKOV
OF SARATOV, IN WHICH THEY DISCUSSED REGIONAL
INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF WOMEN. (NOTE:
SLISKA, WHOSE DISTRICT IS SARATOV, FORMERLY WORKED
FOR AYATSKOV. END NOTE). AYATSKOV REPORTEDLY
AGREED TO CREATE A COMMITTEE BEFORE THE GOVERNOR TO
SUPPORT FEMALE CANDIDATES IN UPCOMING MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS IN SARATOV, AND TO USE SARATOV'S EXISTING
INTERPARLIAMENTARY TIES THROUGHOUT THE CIS TO

PROMOTE CONSULTATION BETWEEN FEMALE ELECTED OFFICIALS. SLISKA ALSO PLUGGED SARATOV AS A POTENTIAL RECIPIENT OF NGO SUPPORT AND MICROCREDIT: SLISKA NOTED THAT THE REGIONAL UNIVERSITY BOASTS ONE OF RUSSIA'S FEW GENDER STUDIES PROGRAMS, THAT AYATSKOV HAD RECENTLY GIVEN A NEW BUILDING TO A REGIONAL HEALTH PLANNING CENTER FOR WOMEN, AND THAT THE REGIONAL PARLIAMENT IS CONSIDERING A DRAFT LAW ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN. SLISKA ALSO EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TO VISIT SARATOV IN THE NEAR FUTURE. COLLINS

TOR: 07/28/00 09:06:23

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Clinton Presidential Records
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7861
INFO: RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE
RUEHVV/ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: STATUS OF YEMENI WOMEN
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 SANAA 003775

NEA/ARP, DRL, S/PICW, IGAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, KDEM, KPRP, KISL, PGOV, PHUM, SCUL, SOCI, ELAB,
YM

SUBJECT: STATUS OF YEMENI WOMEN

REF: A. (A) SANAA 3652
B. (B) SANAA 3541
C. (C) 99 SANAA 4386
D. (D) 95 SANAA 4697

1. THIS IS A COMPANION CABLE TO THOSE ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE (SEPTELS), AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (REF B). IT PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN YEMEN AND INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITY RELATING TO IT, AND FOLLOWS UP ON REF D'S STATUS REPORT OF FIVE YEARS AGO.

SUMMARY

2. ONCE AS REMOVED FROM ACADEMIC ATTENTION AS THEY WERE FROM THE PUBLIC EYE, YEMENI WOMEN AND THEIR STATUS IN SOCIETY HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY WELL-DOCUMENTED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. ALTHOUGH LEVELS OF EDUCATION ARE IMPROVING AS GIRLS' ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL APPROACHES 80 PERCENT IN THE LARGER CITIES, RURAL AREAS LAG BEHIND. VERY FEW WOMEN ARE ACTIVE IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR, DESPITE A LACK OF LEGAL BARRIERS. HEALTH CARE IS LIMITED, FOCUSING ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, AND DIVORCE PRACTICES HIGHLY DISCRIMINATORY. EACH OF THESE PROBLEMS IS EXACERBATED BY A LACK OF ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION OUTSIDE OF THE MALE FAMILY CIRCLE. WHILE THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS RUN BY AND AIMED AT HELPING YEMENI WOMEN HAS GREATLY INCREASED, AN UNFORTUNATE

RESULT IS THAT COORDINATING THEM HAS BECOME A MAJOR PROBLEM.
END SUMMARY.

ON PAPER

3. YEMEN IS SIGNATORY TO THE BEIJING PLATFORM OF ACTION AND THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW), THOUGH THE ROYG HAS NOT YET SUBMITTED REQUIRED REPORTS TO THE CEDAW MONITORING COMMITTEE. MOST DOCUMENTATION DEALING WITH WOMEN IN YEMEN IS INCLUDED IN OXFAM'S JUST-COMPLETED SITUATION ANALYSIS. COMING ON THE HEELS OF A 1998 ROYG AND RADDA BARNEN-FUNDED STATUS REPORT ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN THAT FOCUSES ON HEALTH EDUCATION, THE ANALYSIS IS A SIGNIFICANT ADDITION TO THE SPARSE LITERATURE ON YEMENI WOMEN. OXFAM'S OTHER MAJOR PROJECT IS THE COMPILATION OF A DATABASE LISTING GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN YEMEN.

4. THE MAIN (SEMI)GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTION DEALING WITH WOMEN'S ISSUES IS THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE (NWC; SEPTTEL). THE NWC'S NON-GOVERNMENTAL COUNTERPART IS THE YEMENI WOMEN'S UNION (REF B), FORMED AFTER YEMEN'S UNIFICATION FROM THE SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING WOMEN IN NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN. TODAY THE ADEN BRANCH IS BY FAR THE MOST ACTIVE, SUPPORTED LARGELY BY OUTSIDE DONORS RATHER THAN THROUGH THE UNION'S EXECUTIVE OFFICE. MOST ROYG MINISTRIES ALSO HAVE WOMEN'S AFFAIRS DIVISIONS. THEY AND THE ACTIVE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE DISCUSSED BELOW ACCORDING TO THEIR AREA OF ACTIVITY.

EDUCATION

5. EDUCATION OF GIRLS IS A LOW PRIORITY AND NOT ENCOURAGED IN TRIBAL AREAS, SO THEY ARE OFTEN KEPT HOME TO HELP THE MOTHER WITH CHILDCARE, HOUSEWORK, AND FARMWORK (PARTICULARLY AS GOATHERDS AND WATER CARRIERS). EVEN THOSE WHO START OUT ATTENDING SCHOOL ARE ALMOST INVARIABLY WITHDRAWN UPON EARLY MARRIAGES AND CHILDBIRTH, LEADING TO ATTRITION RATES OF OVER 60 PERCENT IN SOME AREAS. FAMILIES ARE OFTEN HESITANT TO ENROLL GIRLS IN COEDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS OR SCHOOLS WITH MALE TEACHERS. SANAA AND TAIZ EACH HAVE ONE TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN, AND ADEN'S INSTITUTE ENROLLS BOTH SEXES. NONETHELESS, WOMEN CONSTITUTE LESS THAN TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TEACHING FORCE, AND ONLY TWENTY PERCENT OF THESE TEACH IN RURAL AREAS, SO THERE ARE FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS TO STUDY UNDER THEM. DUE TO THESE FACTORS, THE ILLITERACY RATE AMONG WOMEN IS 75-80 PERCENT. FEMALE ENROLLMENT AT ADEN UNIVERSITY SURPASSES ONE-THIRD AT 38 PERCENT, BUT IT DOES NOT EXCEED 20 PERCENT AT ANY OTHER INSTITUTION.

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

6. THERE ARE NO LEGAL BARRIERS TO A WOMAN OWNING AND OPERATING A BUSINESS. MOREOVER, THE GENERAL LABOR LAW OF 1995 MAKES VERY GENEROUS PROVISIONS FOR WORKING WOMEN IN THE EVENT OF PREGNANCY OR THE DEATH OF A HUSBAND. IT ALSO UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 SANAA 003775

NEA/ARP, DRL, S/PICW, IGAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, KDEM, KPRP, KISL, PGOV, PHUM, SCUL, SOCI, ELAB, YM

SUBJECT: STATUS OF YEMENI WOMEN

PROHIBITS WOMEN FROM WORKING AT NIGHT OR TAKING JOBS THAT ARE DANGEROUS HEALTH-WISE OR SOCIALLY (IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT JOBS ARE "SOCIALLY DANGEROUS). UNFORTUNATELY, NONE OF THE ABOVE LAWS APPLY TO AGRICULTURAL LABOR, WHICH COMPRISES THE BULK OF WOMEN'S WORKLOAD IN RURAL AREAS, WHERE 70 PERCENT OF YEMENIS LIVE. IN ADDITION TO THEIR HOUSEWORK AND CHILDCARE RESPONSIBILITIES, RURAL WOMEN ARE TYPICALLY ALLOTTED RAIN-FED LAND (VICE IRRIGATED), AN ADDITIONAL CHALLENGE. INDEPENDENT OWNERSHIP OF LAND IS RARE AMONG THEM, DUE TO IGNORANCE AND MANIPULATION OF INHERITANCE LAWS. WOMEN ARE ENTITLED TO ONLY HALF THE SHARE OF MEN, AND THEIR INHERITANCES USUALLY REMAIN UNDER THE CONTROL OF ANOTHER MALE RELATIVE, SO THAT THEY OFTEN RECEIVE NOTHING AT ALL. (NOTE: HOWEVER, INDEPENDENT OWNERSHIP IS ALSO RARE AMONG MEN, AS LAND USUALLY BELONGS COLLECTIVELY TO A FAMILY).

7. DESPITE THE LACK OF LEGAL BARRIERS, VERY FEW BUSINESSES ARE OWNED BY WOMEN. NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE (NWC) CHAIRWOMAN RASHIDA HAMDANI, A SUCCESSFUL FARMER AND FORMER BUSINESSWOMAN AS WELL AS RANKING ROYG OFFICIAL, TOLD INTERN ON JULY 5 THAT THE RARITY OF FEMALE BUSINESS OWNERSHIP IS A CHANGE; IN THE PAST SMALL SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS, ESPECIALLY IN VILLAGES AND SMALL TOWNS, WERE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OWNED AND OPERATED BY WOMEN. THE WAVE OF MALE RETURNEES FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN NEED OF WORK, PREDATING BUT INTENSIFYING AFTER THE GULF WAR, MAY HAVE PRECIPITATED THE DECLINE. FOR THE FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS THAT MAKE UP 25 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION, ACCORDING TO THE ROYG'S INTERIM POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPER, THE CHANGE IS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE. SUCH HOUSEHOLDS HAVE A 20 PERCENT GREATER CHANCE OF FALLING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. THE PAPER AND THE ROYG ACKNOWLEDGE "THE NEED TO PROVIDE WOMEN WITH CHOICES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT FOCUS ON THEIR ROLE," PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS.

8. ACCORDING TO HAMDANI, YEMENIS GENERALLY DO NOT USE COMMERCIAL BANKS BECAUSE THEY CHARGE HIGH INTEREST RATES AND (FOR WOMEN) ARE TOO "PUBLIC" (REF A). MANY SMALL LOANS ARE MADE THROUGH THE DONOR-SUPPORTED YEMENI SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, AN ACTIVE MICRO-ENTERPRISE PROGRAM THAT TARGETS RURAL AREAS AND WOMEN. THE WORLD BANK LAUNCHED A NEW MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAM IN MAJOR CITIES THREE MONTHS AGO. THE SOCIAL ASSOCIATION FOR PRODUCTIVE FAMILIES, CREATED IN JULY 1997, PROVIDES JOB PLACEMENT TO WOMEN GRADUATING FROM VOCATIONAL TRAINING PRODUCTIVE FAMILIES CENTERS. IT IS ACTIVE IN THE

SANAA AND HAJJA GOVERNORATES. ALONG WITH THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, IT ALSO PROVIDES NEEDLEWORK TRAINING AND HELPS WOMEN MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS. THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IS AN NGO ORIGINALLY IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS. THE YEMENI COUNCIL FOR MOTHERHOOD AND CHILDHOOD, CREATED IN JANUARY 2000, HAS THE DUAL GOALS OF COORDINATING NGO ACTIVITY AND PROVIDING MICROCREDIT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO WOMEN. THE FACT THAT INTERN'S INTERLOCUTORS HAD NEVER HEARD OF IT SUGGESTS THAT REGARDING ITS FIRST GOAL, AT LEAST, THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

9. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION CONTAINS A RURAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE THAT THE DUTCH EMBASSY HAS CALLED A MODEL FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVISM FOR WOMEN IN YEMEN. IN 1997, THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING ESTABLISHED A GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR WORKING WOMEN.

ITS NEW DIRECTOR, NWC MEMBER AND FORMER UNIFEM REPRESENTATIVE SAMRA AL-SHAIBANI, STATED IN JUNE 2000 THAT THE DIRECTORATE IS STILL "GETTING STARTED" BUT AIMS AT ESTABLISHING SEPARATE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS. AN EIGHT-YEAR WORLD BANK PROGRAM FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN IS ALSO DUE TO START "SOON." FINALLY, THE UNDP HAS INTEGRATED PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN INTO ITS POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAM, AND THE WFP HAS A WOMEN'S ISSUES SPECIALIST IN PLACE WHO FOCUSES ON TARGETING WOMEN FOR FOOD AID.

MOTHERHOOD AND HEALTH CARE

10. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN BOTH EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY IS OFTEN CURTAILED BY EARLY MARRIAGE AND CHILDBIRTH. SOCIAL PRESSURES CONSPIRE TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO HAVE BABIES EARLY AND OFTEN. THE BIRTH OF THE FIRST CHILD, PARTICULARLY A MALE CHILD, CONFIRMS THE FATHER'S VIRILITY AND PROTECTS THE MOTHER FROM DIVORCE, EARNING HER RESPECT WITHIN THE FAMILY (NOTE: AFTER THE AGE OF ONE, MALE CHILDREN HAVE A 12% GREATER CHANCE OF SURVIVING THAN FEMALE CHILDREN, INDICATING THE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT THEY RECEIVE). THE TOTAL FERTILITY RATE IS 6.5 CHILDREN PER WOMAN (3.5 PERCENT TOTAL GROWTH RATE). SUCH LARGE FAMILIES PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE MOTHER, AS WELL AS LABOR. INTERN HAS OBSERVED THAT EDUCATED SANAANI MEN FEEL THE NEED TO JUSTIFY THEMSELVES EVEN TO AMERICANS FOR HAVING AS FEW AS THREE CHILDREN.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 SANAA 003775

NEA/ARP, DRL, S/PICW, IGAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, KDEM, KPRP, KISL, PGOV, PHUM, SCUL, SOCI, ELAB, YM

SUBJECT: STATUS OF YEMENI WOMEN

11. UNFORTUNATELY, CHILDBIRTH IS ALSO THE LARGEST HEALTH THREAT FACING WOMEN. ONE OUT OF EVERY HUNDRED DELIVERIES

RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF THE MOTHER, WHILE ONE OUT OF EIGHT WOMEN DIE FROM PREGNANCY-RELATED CAUSES. MOST WOMEN GIVE BIRTH AT HOME, AND BOTH PRE- AND POSTNATAL CARE ARE VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT -- WOMEN WHO GIVE BIRTH IN HOSPITALS ARE TYPICALLY DISCHARGED TWO HOURS AFTER DELIVERY. FAMILY PLANNING IS VERY LIMITED, WITH ONLY IUDS AND PILLS IN USE, AND COUNSELING IS NONEXISTENT. UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE SOM PUDASAINI NOTED THAT WHILE 22 PERCENT OF WOMEN USE SOME FORM OF BIRTH CONTROL, ONLY 11 OR 12 PERCENT USE MODERN METHODS. THIS NUMBER IS INCREASING BY 1.5 TO 2 PERCENT YEARLY, BUT THEIR USE IS INHIBITED BY THE NEED FOR WOMEN TO OBTAIN THEIR HUSBAND'S PERMISSION. WOMEN AVOID TUBAL LIGATIONS FOR FEAR OF THEIR HUSBANDS MARRYING AGAIN, WHILE VASECTOMIES ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO MEN. WITH RESPECT TO ABORTIONS, PUDASAINI STATED THAT THEY ARE A SENSITIVE TOPIC IN YEMEN, ONE THAT IS NOT TALKED ABOUT THOUGH IT IS CERTAIN THAT SOME HAPPEN (NOTE: INTERN KNOWS OF AT LEAST ONE WOMAN SENT TO PRISON FOR PERFORMING THEM).

12. SUCH LITTLE HEALTHCARE AS DOES EXIST FOR WOMEN DEALS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH THEIR REPRODUCTIVE ROLE, SO THAT ALL OTHER AILMENTS TYPICALLY GO UNDIAGNOSED AND UNTREATED. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS NO FACILITY IN THE COUNTRY FOR PERFORMING MAMMOGRAMS. MODERN, NON-TRADITIONAL HEALTHCARE OF ANY KIND IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO THIRTY PERCENT OF YEMENI WOMEN. THE OVERCROWDED, UNSANITARY, AND UNDERSTAFFED STATUS OF WHAT IS AVAILABLE (INCLUDING THE FOUR SANAA HOSPITALS) CONTRIBUTES TO THE POPULAR DISTRUST OF MODERN MEDICINE.

13. BOTH THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) AND THE WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION INTEGRATE LITERACY PROGRAMS WITH THEIR HEALTH EDUCATION EFFORTS. (NOTE: BECAUSE OF THE ILLITERACY ISSUE HEALTH EDUCATION SPOTS ALSO AIR ON TELEVISION AND LOCAL RADIO. HOWEVER, THEIR EFFICACY IS HAMPERED BY THE LACK OF ELECTRICITY IN RURAL AREAS AND PROBLEMS OF LANGUAGE INTELLIGIBILITY, SINCE PROGRAMS ARE EITHER IN CLASSICAL ARABIC OR THE SANAANI DIALECT). WITH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND INSURANCE, UNFPA OPERATES A NETWORK OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH/LITERACY CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNORATES. THE CENTERS' STRATEGY FOCUSES ON DELAYING MARRIAGE AND ENCOURAGING CHILD SPACING (INCREASING THE INTERVAL TO TWO YEARS ALONE WOULD CAUSE A 30 PERCENT DROP IN MATERNAL MORTALITY). ALONG WITH THE DUTCH AND THIS EMBASSY, UNFPA ALSO SUPPORTS A COMMUNITY MIDWIFERY PROGRAM (REF C). THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH INCLUDES AN ACTIVE WOMEN'S DIVISION, THOUGH AGAIN THE FOCUS IS ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.

DIVORCE

14. LEGAL STIPULATIONS REGARDING MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE ARE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT, AND REF D CONTAINS A LENGTHY DESCRIPTION OF SOCIAL CUSTOMS REGARDING MARRIAGE, BUT NEITHER DISCUSSES SOCIAL PRACTICES PERTAINING TO DIVORCE. UNLIKE MEN, WOMEN ARE FORCED TO PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION AND GO TO COURT TO OBTAIN ONE. THE EXPENSE OF HIRING A LAWYER IS A POWERFUL DETERRENT, AS IS THE NECESSITY

FOR RURAL WOMEN TO TRAVEL TO A CITY TO PRESENT THEIR CASE. A WOMAN SEEKING DIVORCE MUST ALSO REPAY THE MAHR (A PORTION OF HER DOWRY), WHICH CREATES AN ADDITIONAL HARDSHIP. AS IT IS USUALLY IN THE HANDS OF HER FAMILY, THEIR REFUSAL TO DO SO CAN EFFECTIVELY PREVENT A DIVORCE, AS CAN A REFUSAL TO ACCEPT HER BACK IN THE HOME, SINCE THE WIFE USUALLY HAS NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE.

15. JUDICIAL INVOLVEMENT GUARANTEES THAT THE PROCESS IS MUCH LONGER FOR A WOMAN THAN FOR A MAN, WITH SOME CASES LASTING FOUR OR FIVE YEARS. HUSBANDS OFTEN DELIBERATELY EXACERBATE THE SITUATION AND INCONVENIENCE THEIR WIVES BY FAILING TO APPEAR IN COURT OR ANSWER COURT SUMMONS. A RECENT REPORT IN THE LOCAL PRESS EVIDENCES THE DESPAIR THIS CAN INDUCE -- A WOMAN IN THE REMOTE TRIBAL AREA OF MARIB WHOSE HUSBAND DENIED HER A DIVORCE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AFTER HER COURT PETITION FOR ONE LANGUISHED FOR TWO YEARS. IF SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING A DIVORCE, HOWEVER, A WOMAN'S CHANCES FOR REMARRIAGE ARE GOOD -- SHE IS NOT CONSIDERED DISGRACED OR "SPOILED GOODS," THOUGH AS A NON-VIRGIN SHE COMMANDS A SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER DOWRY.

COMMENT

16. THE PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTATION COMES UP AGAIN AND AGAIN IN RELATION TO WOMEN'S CONCERNS. HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, LEGAL AID; ALL ARE DENIED TO WOMEN AND GIRLS FOR WHOM SUCH FACILITIES ARE BEYOND EASY WALKING DISTANCE (NATURALLY NEARLY ALL), OR WITHOUT FATHERS, UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 SANAA 003775

NEA/ARP, DRL, S/PICW, IGAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN, KDEM, KPRP, KISL, PGOV, PHUM, SCUL, SOCI, ELAB, YM

SUBJECT: STATUS OF YEMENI WOMEN

BROTHERS, OR HUSBANDS WILLING TO SHUTTLE THEM BACK AND FORTH. WOMEN STRUGGLE WITH THE CULTURALLY-MANDATED LACK OF MOBILITY THAT PREVENTS THEM FROM MAKING CONTACT WITH AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR FEW AVAILABLE RIGHTS, RESOURCES AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT MECHANISMS. (NOTE: THERE IS NO LEGAL OR EVEN CULTURAL BAN ON WOMEN DRIVING IN YEMEN, AS THERE IS IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND IT IS NOT UNCOMMON TO SEE WOMEN DRIVING IN THE MAJOR CITIES OR EVEN ON MIXED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. BUT ACCESS TO VEHICLES OR ANY TRANSPORTATION IS EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT IN RURAL AREAS WHERE MOST YEMENIS LIVE).

17. DONOR AND ACTIVIST ORGANIZATIONS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT THAT IS FREQUENTLY FOREGONE. NGOS TEND TO VIEW OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AS COMPETITORS FOR FUNDING AND ARE THUS RELUCTANT TO SHARE INFORMATION OR COORDINATE ACTIVITIES, RESULTING IN A FRAGMENTED AND TERRITORIALIZED ACTIVIST ARENA. FORTUNATELY, THE RECENT REPOSITIONING OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE AS COORDINATOR AND CLEARINGHOUSE FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES CAN ONLY

HELP, AS WILL DISTRIBUTION OF OXFAM'S NGO AND DONOR DATABASE.

BODINE

TOR: 08/22/00 04:42:26

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY BOLAN NSC CAMP FELDMAN MALLEY MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN
POLLACK POPAL RIEDEL SCHWARTZ SMITHP WILCOX