

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Indigenous, Women to March on Thursday (2 pages)	10/12/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([Beijing Women's Conference])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[06/05/2000 - 12/26/2000]

2012-0094-F

kc3966

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: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA6650 1572333-UUUU--RHEHNSC.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O P 052328Z JUN 00

LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC

OSRI: RUEHC

DTG:

ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

RUEHKO/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 0883

RUEHKO/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 3832

RUEHNNH/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 0484

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 8355

RUEHKO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO IMMEDIATE 9026

RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU IMMEDIATE 1302

RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE 3459

RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE 9529

RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE 0744

RUEHJA/AMCONSUL SURABAYA IMMEDIATE 1792

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6747

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 6116

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5421

RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 1339

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 2010

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 4532

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2046

RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 1739

RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0349

RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 1749

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 4922

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY 0613

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 3324

RHHMHAH/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI PRIORITY

RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY

RUEAIIA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KOR//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS// PRIORITY

RUAGAMS/CHJUSMAG SEOUL KOR PRIORITY

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY 2914

RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY 2147

RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 8243

SUBJ: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA AND OASD/SOLIC/SOP

USCINCPAC FOR FPA TWINING

UNVIE FOR FITZPATRICK

TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA AND OASD/SOLIC/SOP
USCINCPAC FOR FPA TWINING
UNVIE FOR FITZPATRICK
USEU FOR RUTH

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2. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON 6/5/2000,
AND ACTING SPOKESMAN PHILIP REEKER USED THEM AT THE REGULAR
PRESS BRIEFING ON THAT DAY.

3. SOLOMON ISLANDS -- DEMOCRACY UNDER SIEGE

Q: HAS THERE BEEN A COUP IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS?

A: -- OUR EMBASSY IN PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
WHICH ALSO COVERS THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, HAS REPORTED THAT THE
MALAITA EAGLE FORCE, AN ETHNIC MILITANT GROUP, MAY BE
ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OVER THE SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT IN THE
CAPITAL, HONIARA, ON THE ISLAND OF GUADALCANAL. (EMBASSY
CLOSED SEVERAL YEARS AGO.)

-- THE MALAITA EAGLE FORCE HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, OVERRUN TWO POLICE STATIONS IN
THE CAPITAL, AND DETAINED GOVERNOR GENERAL JOHN INI LAPLI AND
PRIME MINISTER BARTHOLOMEW ULUFA'ALU, DEMANDING THE PRIME
MINISTER'S RESIGNATION. INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TELEPHONE
LINES HAVE BEEN CUT AND THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS CLOSED.
THESE ACTIONS BEGAN DURING THE EVENING OF JUNE 4, EASTERN
STANDARD TIME.

Q: IS THERE A THREAT TO AMERICAN CITIZENS?

A: -- THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF BLOODSHED OR THAT ANY
AMERICAN CITIZEN HAS BEEN HARMED.

-- THERE ARE CURRENTLY 66 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND FOUR
STAFF IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS. MOST ARE NOT IN THE CAPITAL.
THERE ARE NEARLY 100 AMERICAN CITIZENS LIVING IN HONIARA,
INCLUDING PEACE CORPS.

-- THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AT PRESENT THAT TENSIONS IN HONIARA AND GUADALCANAL EXTEND TO OTHER PROVINCES IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

-- AT PRESENT THERE IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN FORCE FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDS ADVISING U.S. CITIZENS TO DEFER TRAVEL TO GUADALCANAL ISLAND.

Q: WHAT DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INTEND TO DO ABOUT THIS SITUATION?

A: -- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STRONGLY OPPOSES THE OVERTHROW OF DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENTS BY FORCE.

-- WE CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ANY PERSON BEING HELD HOSTAGE AND THE RESUMPTION OF NORMAL CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

-- WE ARE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

-- NO BILATERAL AID.

CONTEXT: THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR HANDLING OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOLOMON ISLANDS. THE U.S. NOMINEE FOR AMBASSADOR TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS IS AWAITING A FINAL SENATE VOTE ON HER NOMINATION. THE U.S. HAS NO DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENT ON THE GROUND IN THE SOLOMONS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A CONSULAR AGENT AND THE PEACE CORPS HAS BOTH VOLUNTEERS AND AN OFFICE THERE. THE CONSULAR AGENT IS CURRENTLY AWAY FROM HONIARA ON PERSONAL BUSINESS, BUT PLANS TO RETURN. ETHNIC CONFLICT HAS BEEN ONGOING FOR ABOUT EIGHTEEN MONTHS IN AND AROUND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS' CAPITAL, HONIARA, ON THE ISLAND OF GUADALCANAL. ARMED MILITANTS NATIVE TO GUADALCANAL (THE ISATAMBU FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THE GUADALCANAL REVOLUTIONARY ARMY) CLASHED WITH SETTLERS FROM NEIGHBORING MALAITA ISLAND (ABOUT SIXTY MILES AWAY) FORCING UPWARDS OF 25,000 MALAITANS FROM THEIR HOMES. MOST HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HOME ISLAND. IN JUNE 1999 THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS INVITED THE COMMONWEALTH TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE. SITIVENI RABUKA, THE COMMONWEALTH'S REPRESENTATIVE AND FIJI'S FORMER PRIME MINISTER, SUBSEQUENTLY LED THE VARIOUS PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO AGREE ON THE BROAD OUTLINES OF A PEACE ACCORD. FIJI AND TO A LESSER EXTENT VANUATU HAVE ALSO PROVIDED A MULTINATIONAL POLICE ASSISTANCE GROUP TO HELP KEEP THE PEACE. HOWEVER, THESE EFFORTS APPEAR TO HAVE FLOUNDERED IN THE FACE OF ENTRENCHED ANTAGONISMS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF GUADALCANAL AND MALAITA, THE EMERGENCE OF ORGANIZED MALAITAN MILITANTS IN HONIARA (THE MALAITA EAGLE FORCE), FRACTIONALIZATION OF THE POLICE, THE THEFT OF

HIGH-POWERED POLICE WEAPONS AND THE INABILITY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE DISPLACED MALAITANS.

4. INDONESIA: EARTHQUAKE IN BENGKULU

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE EARTHQUAKE? ANY AMERICANS INJURED/KILLED/EVACUATED? ANY U.S. ASSISTANCE?

A: -- AT 11:28 PM LOCAL TIME JUNE 4, AN EARTHQUAKE STRUCK OFF THE WEST COAST OF THE INDONESIAN ISLAND OF SUMATRA. IT WAS MEASURED AT 7.9 ON THE RICHTER SCALE WITH AN EPICENTER UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

APPROXIMATELY 100 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY OF BENGKULU, AND WAS FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL POWERFUL AFTERSHOCKS. THE LATEST INFORMATION ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS IS THAT AT LEAST 58 PEOPLE IN BENGKULU ARE CONFIRMED DEAD, AND THAT LOCAL HOSPITALS ARE OVERWHELMED WITH HUNDREDS OF INJURED.

-- THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS SUCCESSFULLY CONTACTED ALL REGISTERED AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE AFFECTED AREA, AND THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY AMERICANS HAVING BEEN INJURED OR KILLED.

-- THE REGIONAL ADVISER OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) WILL ATTEMPT TO VISIT THE AFFECTED AREA ON JUNE 6. THE U.S. EMBASSY AND OFDA ARE CLOSELY MONITORING THE SITUATION.

CONTEXT: THE EARTHQUAKE ON SUMATRA OCCURRED ABOUT 640 KM FROM THE CAPITAL, JAKARTA. EMBASSY OPERATIONS ARE UNAFFECTED. THERE ARE FEW AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE AREA (15 REGISTERED RESIDENTS, AND FEW TOURISTS). THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION ON THE PROVISION OF ANY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

5. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON 6/5/2000. ACTING SPOKESMAN REEKER USED THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION AND DREW FROM THE ANSWER TO THE SECOND QUESTION AT THE PRESS BRIEFING ON THAT DAY. POSTS MAY DRAW FROM THE REMAINDER ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

6. CHINA-IRAN-SYRIA MISSILE COOPERATION

Q: ANY COMMENTS ON REPORTS THAT CHINA IS ASSISTING IRAN AND SYRIA IN DEVELOPING OR ACQUIRING BALLISTIC MISSILES?

A: -- AS WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE, THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG-STANDING CONCERNS ABOUT CHINESE FIRMS SELLING MISSILE-RELATED TECHNOLOGY TO IRAN.

-- WE HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE THESE CONCERNS KNOWN TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

-- WE ALSO TAKE SERIOUSLY REPORTS THAT SYRIA MAY BE SEEKING FROM CHINA MATERIALS FOR ITS MISSILE PROGRAM.

-- WE DO NOT COMMENT ON ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE MATTERS, BUT WE TAKE ALL SUCH REPORTS SERIOUSLY AND INVESTIGATE THEM THOROUGHLY.

-- WE HAVE RAISED OUR CONCERNS ABOUT SUCH REPORTS WITH CHINA IN THE PAST, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

Q: HAVE WE WARNED ISRAEL ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES?

A: -- IRAN'S AND SYRIA'S PURSUIT OF BALLISTIC MISSILE CAPABILITIES IS WELL-DOCUMENTED, AS ARE OUR CONCERNS ABOUT CHINESE ENTITIES' MISSILE-RELATED EXPORT ACTIVITIES.

Q: ARE THESE TRANSFERS SANCTIONABLE UNDER U.S. LAW?

A: -- WE FULLY AND FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF U.S. LAW AND WOULD TAKE ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED BY THOSE LAWS WERE WE TO DETERMINE THAT ENTITIES HAD ENGAGED IN UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES.

-- HOWEVER, THE ISSUE OF SANCTIONABILITY WOULD DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF ANY TRANSFER.

-- SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE BASED ON INTELLIGENCE, AND WE DO NO COMMENT ON INTELLIGENCE MATTERS.

(IF ASKED ABOUT CHINA'S MTCR COMMITMENTS.)

Q: WHAT ABOUT CHINA'S MTCR COMMITMENTS?

A: -- IN OCTOBER 1994, CHINA PLEDGED NOT TO EXPORT MTCR-CLASS GROUND-TO-GROUND MISSILES.

-- WE HAVE NO REASON TO CONCLUDE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA HAS ACTED IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH THIS 1994 COMMITMENT.

-- IN 1998, CHINA ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD ACTIVELY STUDY MEMBERSHIP IN THE MTCR.

-- AS WE HAVE DISCUSSED MANY TIMES BEFORE, HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG-STANDING CONCERNS ABOUT CHINESE ENTITIES' EXPORTS OF MISSILE COMPONENTS AND TECHNOLOGY TO PROGRAMS OF CONCERN.

-- WE HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE THESE CONCERNS CLEAR TO THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

-- ENGAGING CHINA ON NONPROLIFERATION HAS BEEN A TOP PRIORITY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION FOR SEVERAL YEARS. OVER TIME, THESE EFFORTS HAVE LED CHINA TO EXPAND ITS INTERNATIONAL NONPROLIFERATION COMMITMENTS AND TIGHTEN UP THEIR ENFORCEMENT. IN PARTICULAR, CHINA HAS MADE MAJOR PROGRESS IN THE IMPOSITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CONTROLS ON NUCLEAR-RELATED TECHNOLOGIES.

-- WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH CHINA TO BRING ITS POLICIES AND PRACTICES BETTER IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL NORMS.

CONTEXT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT A DPA REPORTER PLANS TO RAISE QUESTIONS AT TODAY'S BRIEFING ABOUT CHINESE ASSISTANCE TO MISSILE PROGRAMS IN IRAN AND SYRIA. WE CANNOT COMMENT ON THE DETAILS OF ANY SUCH COOPERATION AS THIS WOULD BE BASED ON INTELLIGENCE. WE SHOULD STRESS THAT WE INVESTIGATE THESE MATTERS THOROUGHLY AND HAVE REPEATEDLY RAISED OUR NONPROLIFERATION CONCERNS WITH CHINA AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS.

7. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCES WERE PREPARED ON 6/5/2000 AND WERE NOT USED AT THE PRESS BRIEFING ON THAT DAY. POSTS MAY DRAW FROM THEM ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

8. INDONESIA -- "CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA"

Q: WHAT DO WE KNOW/THINK ABOUT THE "CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA" HELD IN PAPUA--FORMERLY IRIAN JAYA--FROM JUNE 1-4?

A: -- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE "CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA" MET IN JAYAPURA FROM JUNE 1-4 TO DISCUSS THE GRIEVANCES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PAPUAN PEOPLE VIS-A-VIS INDONESIA.

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

-- AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONGRESS, THE DELEGATES CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RECOGNIZE PAPUA (FORMERLY IRIAN JAYA) AS A SOVEREIGN STATE.

-- THE UNITED STATES REJECTS THIS REQUEST.

-- AS WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY, THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF INDONESIA. WE URGE ALL PARTIES TO FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON A POLITICAL SOLUTION THAT ADDRESSES LEGITIMATE PAPUAN GRIEVANCES AND ASPIRATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A STABLE, DEMOCRATIC, AND UNITED INDONESIA.

(IF ASKED)

Q: WHY DID THE U.S. EMBASSY SEND AN OBSERVER TO THE CONGRESS?

A: -- THE U.S. SENT AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO OBSERVE THE WEST PAPUA CONGRESS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE U.S. AND OTHER EMBASSIES

TO SEND OBSERVERS TO SUCH EVENTS WHEN INVITED. THE CONGRESS WAS FUNDED IN PART BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA AND ATTENDED BY INDONESIAN OFFICIALS.

CONTEXT: THE "CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA," HELD IN PAPUA FROM JUNE 1-4, PROVIDED A FORUM FOR THE PAPUAN PEOPLE TO VOICE ASPIRATIONS FOR CONTROL OVER THEIR DESTINY AND AIR DEEPLY FELT GRIEVANCES REGARDING INDONESIAN RULE. IT WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO REVIEW FORMALLY THE HISTORICAL PROCESS BY WHICH THE PROVINCE WAS INTEGRATED INTO INDONESIA. THE 3,000 DELEGATES CONCLUDED THE CONFERENCE WITH A STATEMENT QUESTIONING THE LEGITIMACY OF THAT PROCESS AND CALLING ON THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO RECOGNIZE WEST PAPUA AS A SOVEREIGN STATE. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA HAS REACTED STRONGLY AND FORMALLY REQUESTED THE UNITED STATES TO REAFFIRM OUR SUPPORT FOR INDONESIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

9. FIJI -- THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

Q: CAN YOU PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN FIJI?

A: -- WE REMAIN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN FIJI, WHICH REMAINS UNSETTLED AND UNCERTAIN.

-- THE HOSTAGE SITUATION CONTINUES UNRESOLVED, DESPITE EARLIER REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT AN AGREEMENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN REACHED BETWEEN FIJI'S MILITARY AND THE HOSTAGE-TAKERS.

-- THE ARMED GROUP SPEIGHT LEADS CONTINUES TO HOLD A NUMBER OF HOSTAGES, INCLUDING PM CHAUDHRY, IN THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING.

-- WE REPEAT OUR CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL PERSONS BEING HELD HOSTAGE AND A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

-- THE UNITED STATES IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE OVERTHROW OF DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENTS BY FORCE.

-- WE ISSUED A REVISED AND UPDATED TRAVEL WARNING FOR FIJI JUNE 2. THIS WARNING URGES U.S. CITIZENS TO DEFER
UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL TO FIJI BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY AND INSTABILITY. WE ARE ALSO ADVISING THAT U.S. CITIZENS AVOID ALL TRAVEL TO SUVA, WHERE SIGNIFICANT VIOLENCE HAS ALREADY OCCURRED, AND SUGGESTING THAT AMERICANS IN SUVA CONSIDER RELOCATING TO AREAS OUTSIDE SUVA OR OUTSIDE FIJI ALTOGETHER.

-- WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY AMERICANS BEING INJURED. THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT NADI REMAINS OPEN, AND AMERICANS ARE

ABLE TO DEPART. HOWEVER, INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TO AND FROM NAUSORI AIRPORT NEAR SUVA IS BEING DIVERTED TO NADI OR CANCELED. MOST EMBASSY DEPENDENTS HAVE NOW LEFT FIJI.

-- WE REITERATE OUR CALL FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Q: WHOM DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BELIEVE IS IN CHARGE IN FIJI?

A: -- PRIME MINISTER CHAUDHRY AND MOST OF HIS CABINET ARE STILL BEING HELD HOSTAGE, AND BOTH THE HOSTAGE TAKERS AND THE MILITARY HAVE ASSERTED THEY ARE IN POWER. UNFORTUNATELY, AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IS TAKING PLACE, BUT THE SITUATION REMAINS IN FLUX AND THE OUTCOME UNCLEAR.

-- WE CONTINUE TO REITERATE OUR CALL FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, AND ARE CONSIDERING OUR RESPONSE TO THE UNFOLDING EVENTS.

Q: WHAT STEPS HAS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN FIJI TAKEN DURING THIS CRISIS?

A: -- AMBASSADOR OSMAN SIDDIQUE HAS MET WITH A NUMBER OF PROMINENT PERSONS, INCLUDING RATU MARA, WHO WAS PRESIDENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CRISIS; THE SECRETARY OF THE GREAT COUNCIL OF CHIEFS, FORMER PRIME MINISTER RABUKA; AS WELL AS THE HEAD OF FIJI'S ARMED FORCES, COMMANDER FRANK BAINIMARAMA.

-- HE HAS URGED BOTH OF THEM TO ASSIST IN SECURING THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL PERSONS BEING HELD HOSTAGE AND FIJI'S RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE HAS NOT MET OR SPOKEN WITH GEORGE SPEIGHT OR THE OTHER HOSTAGE-TAKERS.

Q: WHAT KIND OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO FIJI COULD BE AFFECTED IF SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED?

A: -- U.S. LAW PROVIDES THAT NO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE MAY GO TO ANY COUNTRY WHOSE DULY ELECTED HEAD OF GOVERNMENT IS DEPOSED BY MILITARY COUP OR DECREE.

-- OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR FIJI COULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS PROVISION OF U.S. LAW.

-- U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR FIJI COME THROUGH TWO PROGRAMS, THE ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITIES (EIPC) PROGRAM, AND THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRAINING AND EDUCATION (IMET) PROGRAM.

IF ASKED

-- UNSPENT PEACEKEEPING (EIPC) FUNDS FOR FY-99 TOTAL UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

\$500,000, AND FOR FY-00 \$350,000. UNSPENT MILITARY TRAINING (IMET) FUNDS TOTAL \$11,000 FOR FY-00. IN ADDITION, THE STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS HAVE REQUESTED AN ADDITIONAL \$160,000 IN MILITARY TRAINING (IMET) FUNDING FOR FY-01, WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS.

CONTEXT: ON MAY 18 A SMALL GROUP OF ARMED GUNMEN LED BY GEORGE SPEIGHT TOOK FIJIAN PM CHAUDHRY AND OTHER CABINET MEMBERS HOSTAGE IN PARLIAMENT. SOME HOSTAGES HAVE BEEN RELEASED, BUT MANY OTHERS REMAIN CAPTIVE. COMMODORE FRANK BAINIMARAMA HAS ASSUMED POWER THROUGH UNCONSTITUTIONAL MEANS, AFTER FORCING PRESIDENT MARA TO RESIGN.

10. CAMBODIA - POSSIBLE REMAINS OF AMCIT KHMER ROUGE VICTIM

Q: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE DISCOVERY OF A MASS GRAVE OF KR VICTIMS THAT COULD INCLUDE AN AMERICAN?

A: -- ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, US FORENSIC EXPERTS - AN ANTHROPOLOGIST AND A DENTAL SPECIALIST - HAVE EXAMINED THE ALMOST ONE DOZEN INCOMPLETE SKELTONS DUG UP BY A PHNOM PENH RESIDENT 100 YARDS FROM THE TUOL SLENG PRISON SITE.

-- THE DISCOVERY GAVE HOPE THAT REMAINS MIGHT BE DISCOVERED AND IDENTIFIED OF ONE OF THE AMCIT VICTIMS OF THE KR, REPORTEDLY KILLED AND BURIED NEAR THE PRISON ONLY DAYS BEFORE THE KR WERE FORCED FROM PHNOM PENH BY VIETNAMESE FORCES.

-- NONE OF THE REMAINS DISCOVERED THUS FAR HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BELONGING TO A CAUCASIAN. ALL THE REMAINS ARE BELIEVED TO BELONG TO ASIAN VICTIMS OF THE PRISON, WHERE AN ESTIMATED 14,000 PEOPLE WERE IMPRISONED DURING THE LATE 1970'S AND ULTIMATLEY KILLED BY THEIR KHMER ROUGE CAPTORS.

11. JAPAN: DEPLETED URANIUM SHELLS

Q: A U.S. COMMANDER AT KADENA AIR BASE SAID MAY 24 THAT DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) SHELLS ARE BEING KEPT AT ONE OF 580 FACILITIES AT THE KADENA ARMORY. IS THAT TRUE? IN 1997, DOD SPOKESMAN BACON INDICATED THAT DU STOCKS HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM OKINAWA. DOES THIS MEAN USFJ AGAIN STORES DU BULLETS IN OKINAWA?

A: -- AS WE SAID IN 1997, ALL MARINE CORPS DEPLETED URANIUM MUNITIONS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM ALL MARINE CORPS BASES IN JAPAN.

-- AS A MATTER OF POLICY, FOR REASONS OF SAFETY AND OPERATIONAL SECURITY, WE DO NOT DISCUSS DETAILS OF OUR CAPABILITIES OR THE LOCATION OF PARTICULAR TYPES OF AMMUNITION.

Q: WHY HAVE DEPLETED URANIUM CASINGS BEEN FOUND AT A SCRAP DEALER IN OKINAWA?

A: -- DEPLETED URANIUM CASINGS, LIKE OTHER AMMUNITION CASINGS, ARE SCRAP METAL THAT HAS RESIDUAL VALUE.

-- THE DEFENSE REUTILIZATION AND MARKETING OFFICE, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING SUCH ITEMS IS WORKING TO DETERMINE UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

THE ORIGIN OF THESE PARTICULAR CASINGS.

Q: DO THE CASINGS POSE ANY HEALTH RISK?

A: -- NO, THERE IS NO DANGER OR HEALTH RISK FROM THESE CASINGS. THEY ARE SIMPLY SCRAP METAL.

Q: DOES DU POSE ANY HEALTH RISK?

A: -- THERE IS NO HEALTH RISK FROM DU UNLESS IT IS SWALLOWED. THE TOXICITY OF DEPLETED URANIUM IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF LEAD OR OTHER HEAVY METALS.

CONTEXT: A U.S. COMMANDER AT KADENA AIR BASE SAID MAY 24 THAT DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) SHELLS ARE STORED AT KADENA. SUBSEQUENTLY, DU CASINGS WERE DISCOVERED AT A SECOND-HAND SHOP IN OKINAWA. BOTH EVENTS WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN THE JAPANESE PRESS, WHICH NOTED THAT THE DU DISCOVERIES CONTRADICT A DOD STATEMENT IN 1997 THAT DU STOCKS HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM OKINAWA. THAT STATEMENT AND THE KADENA COMMANDER'S DISCLOSURE ABROGATE OUR POLICY OF NOT DISCLOSING OR COMMENTING ON THE LOCATION OR TYPE OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS WE USE. WE NEED TO WALK THE PRESS BACK TO THAT ORIGINAL POLICY. MEANWHILE, U.S. FORCES-JAPAN IS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN THE ORIGIN OF THE DU CASINGS FOUND IN OKINAWA.

12. UNGA SPECIAL SESSION: BEIJING 5

Q: COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON WOMEN? AT WHAT LEVEL WILL THE US BE REPRESENTED? WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES SUPPORTED BY THE U.S.?

A: -- A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL MARK THE FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING. THIS MEETING IS PART OF THE UN'S 25 YEAR EFFORT IN ADVANCING THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

-- SECRETARY ALBRIGHT WILL BE THE HEAD OF DELEGATION. SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DONNA SHALALA AND US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, RICHARD HOLBROOKE WILL BE CO-CHAIRS.

-- CONGRESSWOMEN MALONEY, CROWLEY AND LOWEY, NGOS AND A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE WILL ALSO BE ON OUR DELEGATION.

-- WE WANT BEIJING 5 TO REAFFIRM THE COMMITMENTS MADE AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE

ACHIEVEMENTS MADE WORLDWIDE AS A RESULT OF THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

-- THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL COME TOGETHER TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION, AND WILL IDENTIFY FURTHER INITIATIVES THAT NEED TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO ADVANCE THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

-- A SHORT DECLARATION THAT RENEWS WORLDWIDE COMMITMENT TO THE PLATFORM AND KEEPS THE FOCUS ON FUTURE ACTION WILL BE ADOPTED.

-- WHEN PREPARATIONS FOR BEIJING 5 COMMENCED AT THE UN, UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

MEMBER STATES AGREED THAT THE ORIGINAL PLATFORM FOR ACTION WOULD NOT BE REWRITTEN. THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW WILL CONCENTRATE ON AN OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL AND ON FURTHER INITIATIVES WHICH CAN BE UNDERTAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENTS MADE IN BEIJING IN 1995.

(IF ASKED)

Q: WHAT ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE U.S. IS PUSHING A LIBERAL, LEFT-WING AGENDA ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND SEXUAL FREEDOM?

A: -- WE ARE NOT RE-OPENING BEIJING. THESE ISSUES WERE SETTLED FIVE YEARS AGO.

-- THE UNITED STATES IS NOT PROMOTING SEXUAL FREEDOM, ONLY GOOD HEALTH PRACTICES AGAINST HIV/AIDS.

13. IRAN: MISSILE TEST

Q: IS IRAN PLANNING TO TEST THE SHAHAB-3 MISSILE IN THE COMING MONTHS?

A: -- IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT IRAN IS ACTIVELY PURSUING DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHAHAB-3 MEDIUM RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE, WHICH IT FLIGHT TESTED IN JULY 1998.

-- IRAN HAS THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT ANOTHER SUCH FLIGHT TEST AT ANY TIME.

-- BEYOND THAT, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ABOUT WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE DETAILS OF IRANIAN MISSILE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

-- AS WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, THE U.S. VIEWS IRAN'S AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS TO FURTHER DEVELOP ITS BALLISTIC MISSILE CAPABILITIES AS A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE REGION AND TO OUR NONPROLIFERATION INTERESTS. AND WE HAVE ENGAGED FOR MANY YEARS IN VERY EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO STOP THE PROLIFERATION OF

MISSILE TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT TO IRAN.

-- WE CONTINUE TO PLACE A HIGH PRIORITY ON THIS IMPORTANT MISSILE NONPROLIFERATION ISSUE AND TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES TO STOP THE FLOW OF SENSITIVE MISSILE ITEMS TO IRAN.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SHAHAB-3'S CAPABILITIES?

A: -- THE SHAHAB-3 IS A NO-DONG TYPE MEDIUM-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE, INDICATING THAT IT WAS LARGELY DERIVED FROM NORTH KOREAN TECHNOLOGY. THE NO DONG HAS A RANGE IN EXCESS OF 1000 KM.

-- ALTHOUGH STILL IN DEVELOPMENT, ONCE THE SHAHAB-3 IS MADE OPERATIONAL, IRAN WILL BE ABLE TO USE THIS MISSILE TO STRIKE MORE DISTANT TARGETS. THESE WOULD INCLUDE ISRAEL, AS WELL AS PORTIONS OF RUSSIA, TURKEY, AND SAUDI ARABIA.

Q: WILL IT CARRY A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION WARHEAD?

A: -- IT IS WELL-KNOWN THAT IRAN HAS AN ACTIVE WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROGRAM.

UNCLAS SECTION 10 OF 10 STATE 106650

MOSCOW FOR ANDERTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, XE, US, KPAO

SUBJECT: JUNE 5 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGION

-- IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ABOUT WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE DETAILS OF IRANIAN MISSILE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

CONTEXT: DURING A JUNE 2 INTERVIEW CNN, U.S. GENERAL ZINNI SAID THAT IRAN IS EXPECTED TO TEST THE SHAHAB-3 MISSILE IN THE COMING MONTHS. ZINNI NOTED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT IS WORRISOME BECAUSE IRAN ALSO IS PURSUING A WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROGRAM. IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE 1300KM SHAHAB-3 HAS BEEN WELL DOCUMENTED, AND IRAN PREVIOUSLY TESTED THIS MISSILE IN JULY 1998. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD NOT COMMENT ABOUT THE DETAILS OF IRAN'S MISSILE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, AS ANY SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE BASED ON INTELLIGENCE.

LIEBERMAN

TOR: 06/05/00 22:19:40

DIST: SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHPEA3647 1741340-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 221340Z JUN 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
OSRI: RUEHPE
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO: SECSTATE WASHDC 5006
INFO: ////
SUBJ: EVALUATION OF DVC ON ""WOMEN 2000: INITIATIVES IN
THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE"
TEXT: UNCLAS LIMA 003647

DEPT. FOR IIP/T/DHR(EBAIRD),WHA/PD OHILTON, MTHOMPSON-JONES

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, OIIP

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF DVC ON ""WOMEN 2000: INITIATIVES IN
THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE"

REF: LIMA 02013

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY: PAS LIMA HOSTED A DVC ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH US PANELIST BONNIE CAMPBELL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. LIMA PANELISTS WERE MINISTER LUISA MARIA CUCULIZA OF THE MINISTRY OF PROMOTION OF WOMEN AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT; GINA YAEZ, COORDINATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS AT NGO MOVIMIENTO MANUELA RAMOS; ROCIO VILLANUEVA, PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE; AND GENERAL ENRIQUE YEPEZ, CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION NATIONAL DIRECTOR, PERUVIAN NATIONAL POLICE.

2. DATE: JUNE 21, FY00, Q3.

3. OBJECTIVES: SHOW U.S. COMMITMENT AND INITIATIVES IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; DISCUSS U.S. GOVERNMENT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN AND THEIR PROGRESS SINCE THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

4. MPP GOAL AND AUDIENCE REACHED: DEMOCRACY. SUBTHEME: HUMAN RIGHTS. AUDIENCE OF 80 INCLUDED PERUVIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE VITAL VOICES DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE, MUNICIPAL LEADERS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM PERU'S MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, FROM THE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE, FROM WOMEN'S NGOS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS, AND JOURNALISTS FROM EXPRESO, EL PERUANO, LA REPUBLICA, ANDINA NEWS AGENCY, CPN RADIO AND TV CHANNEL 2.

5. RESULT/IMPACT: EXCELLENT. THIS TIMELY AND SUPREMELY

PRACTICAL PROGRAM WAS THE OBJECT OF EXTRAORDINARY PRAISE FROM PANELISTS AND AUDIENCE-MEMBERS, AND SPURRED AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND AT TIMES IMPASSIONED DISCUSSION AFTER THE DVC'S CONCLUSION. THE ISSUE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS MUCH IN THE NEWS HERE, AND DR. CAMPBELL'S CLEAR-MINDED AND POINTED COMMENTARY ON U.S. RESPONSES TO THE PROBLEM PROVIDED A CALL TO ARMS FOR MORE VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO CONFRONT THE ISSUE IN PERU. DR. CAMPBELL'S ANSWERS TO THE PANELISTS' QUESTIONS WERE DIRECT AND TO THE POINT, AND HER CALM AND REASONED METHOD OF PRESENTATION STRESSED PRACTICAL ACTION INSTEAD OF EMPTY RHETORIC. REPRESENTATIVES OF NGOS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES NOTED THE UTILITY OF HER REMARKS AND FOUND MUCH TO PUT TO USE TO CONFRONT THE PROBLEM OF FAMILY VIOLENCE IN PERU, WHETHER THROUGH A CHANGE OF POLICE METHODS, JUDICIAL REFORM, OR EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES. THE PROGRAM COULD EASILY HAVE GONE ON FOR TWICE ITS DURATION WITH NO DIMINUTION OF INTEREST; WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE DR. CAMPBELL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH OUR CONTACTS.

6. NON-USG SOURCES OF IN-COUNTRY FUNDING/IN KIND SUPPORT AND AMOUNT: N/A

7. QUALITY OF U.S. SUPPORT AND AGENCY OFFICE: MANY THANKS TO ESTELLE BAIRD FOR HER PATIENCE AND TENACITY IN FINDING A SUITABLE DATE FOR POST.

HAMILTON

TOR: 06/22/00 10:07:32

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY NSC FELDMAN HAMMER HOLLIS MCLEAN MERLETTI NAPLAN ORFINI PATTEN SCHWARTZ SMITHP VALENZUELA WALLACE WILCOX

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHCAA1415 1931805-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 111800Z JUL 00
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG:
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0000
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0000
SUBJ: WOMEN 2000: BEIJING&5 -- WRAP-UP
TEXT: UNCLAS STATE 131415

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, UNGA
SUBJECT: WOMEN 2000: BEIJING&5 -- WRAP-UP

REF: STATE 34370

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

SUMMARY

1. (U) THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENED A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUNE 5-9, 2000, TO CONDUCT A FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION ADOPTED AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN. THIS EVENT WAS KNOWN AS BEIJING 5. DESPITE AN EXTREMELY FLAWED PROCESS, THE DOCUMENT ADOPTED CONTAINS GOOD LANGUAGE ON ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF HONOR CRIMES AND TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS), WOMEN'S ROLE IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE-BUILDING, THE ROLE OF MEN IN PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY, THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADVANCING THE STATUS OF WOMEN, GENDER MAINSTREAMING, AND WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS.

2. (SBU) THE EVENT WAS ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING TO LIGHT THE NON-VIABILITY OF THE G-77 IN MATTERS RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN. (AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY HARD-LINE ISLAMIC STATES, MODERATE MEMBERS OF THE G-77 DECIDED TO NEGOTIATE ON THEIR OWN, FORMING NEW ALLIANCES WITH THE WEST.)

THE FLAWED PROCESS

3. (SBU) BEIJING 5 SEEMED ILL-FATED FROM THE START, WITH THREE CHAIRS IN LESS THAN A YEAR AND A HALF, AN UN-INSPIRING UN SECRETARIAT-DRAFTED DOCUMENT WHICH SERVED AS THE BASIS OF

OUR NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE G-77'S REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.

--THE CHAIR

4. (SBU) AS THE UN BEGAN PREPARING FOR BEIJING 5, MEMBER STATES DECIDED THAT A MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN GROUP SHOULD CHAIR THE EVENT. THE GROUP DESIGNATED IRMA ENGELBRECHT FROM SOUTH AFRICA AS CHAIR. WHEN MS. ENGELBRECHT WAS TRANSFERRED BACK TO PRETORIA IN MID-1999, SHE RESIGNED AS CHAIR NOTING IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO KEEP ON TOP OF THE PROCESS HALF A WORLD AWAY. THE AFRICAN GROUP THEN NAMED ROSELYN ASUMWA ODERA FROM KENYA, WHO SERVED AS CHAIR UNTIL MARCH 2000, WHEN THE KENYAN MISSION MYSTERIOUSLY SAID SHE WAS GOING TO BE TRANSFERRED TO OTTAWA IN APRIL. (NOTE: MS. ODERA WAS NOT TRANSFERRED; SHE REMAINED IN NEW YORK, ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY NOT WITH THE KENYAN MISSION.) THE GROUP THEN NAMED CHRISTINE KAPALATA FROM TANZANIA, WHO SERVED AS THE FINAL CHAIR.

5. (SBU) UNLIKE OTHER 5 EVENTS, THE CHAIRS OF BEIJING 5 WERE NOT HIGH LEVEL AND DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE THE INTEREST OR BACKING OF THEIR MISSIONS. IN CONTRAST, ICPD 5 (THE FIVE YEAR REVIEW OF THE 1994 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT HELD IN JUNE 1999) WAS CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR ANWARUL CHOWDHURY, BANGLADESH'S MUCH-RESPECTED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN; AND THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL SUMMIT (WSSD 5) WAS CHAIRED BY CHILE'S DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AMBASSADOR CRISTIAN MAQUIEIRA, WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT.

--THE DOCUMENT

6. (U) BEIJING 5 PRODUCED THREE DOCUMENTS: (1) THE DECLARATION, WHICH WAS ADOPTED IN MARCH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (FOLLOWING MONTHS OF DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS); (2) THE "REVIEW AND APPRAISAL," A NON-NEGOTIATED REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT HIGHLIGHTS ACHIEVEMENTS IN AND OBSTACLES TO ADVANCING THE STATUS OF WOMEN; AND (3) A NEGOTIATED "OUTCOME" DOCUMENT, WHICH WAS FINALLY ADOPTED AT THE END OF BEIJING 5.

7. (SBU) IN JANUARY, THE UN DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (DAW), THE SECRETARIAT FOR BEIJING 5, PRODUCED A RATHER UN-INSPIRING DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT TO SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. BECAUSE THE DRAFT DOCUMENT DID NOT MEET MEMBER STATES' EXPECTATIONS, THE SECRETARIAT WAS ASKED TO REVISE IT.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE SECRETARIAT'S REVISED VERSION PRESENTED AT THE MARCH PREPCOM (AND THE SUBJECT OF TWO-WEEKS OF LACKLUSTER NEGOTIATIONS) WAS NOT MUCH BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL. AS A RESULT, THE UN CONVENED SEVERAL INFORMAL SESSIONS IN APRIL WHERE INTERESTED MEMBER STATES RE-ORGANIZED AND STREAMLINED THE DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT. NOTING HUGE GAPS IN THE DAW DRAFT ON ISSUES SUCH AS WOMEN'S HEALTH AND TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS, THE U.S., WORKING THROUGH AN INFORMAL NEGOTIATING GROUP KNOWN AS JUSCANZ (SEE BELOW), PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT--MANY OF WHICH WERE INCORPORATED IN THE STREAMLINED TEXT AND SURVIVED THE FINAL NEGOTIATIONS, DESPITE BEST EFFORTS BY SOME

DELEGATIONS NOT TO MOVE AN INCH BEYOND AGREED (I.E., FIVE-YEAR OLD) BEIJING LANGUAGE.

8. (SBU) ON APRIL 20 (LESS THAN TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE START OF BEIJING 5), THE UN CONVENED A FORMAL MEETING WHERE MEMBER STATES AGREED THAT THE RE-ORGANIZED, STREAMLINED DOCUMENT WOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. DESPITE THAT AGREEMENT, THE G-77 CONTINUED TO PROVIDE INPUT KEYED TO THE SECRETARIAT'S EARLIER TEXT. THIS, ALONG WITH THE FACT THAT THE G-77 DISTRIBUTED SUGGESTED TEXT ONLY MINUTES BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN, FRUSTRATED THE PROCESS IMMENSELY.

9. (SBU) ANOTHER FRUSTRATION WAS THAT THERE WAS NO FIRM DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSED TEXT CHANGES. AT THE MEETING ON APRIL 20, THE CHAIR SAID THAT ANY NEW LANGUAGE SUBMITTED AFTER APRIL 30 "WOULD BE IRRELEVANT." APRIL 30 CAME AND WENT WITHOUT THE G-77 TEXT. A NEW (UN-ENFORCED DEADLINE WAS SET FOR EARLY MAY. THE FINAL DEADLINE WAS MAY 20--TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE START OF BEIJING 5. NEVERTHELESS, WE CONTINUED NEGOTIATING AT INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MAY, MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS.

10. (SBU) WHEN THE FINAL PUSH CAME, BEGINNING MAY 24, WE HAD AN ENORMOUS TASK IN FRONT OF US. WE HAD NOT EVEN DISCUSSED ABOUT 75 PERCENT OF THE DOCUMENT (ALMOST 200 PARAGRAPHS), AND THE OTHER 25 PERCENT WAS LARGELY IN BRACKETS. (BRACKETED TEXT INDICATES LANGUAGE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BUT NOT AGREED TO.) IN CONTRAST TO OTHER 5 EVENTS, DELEGATES TO ICPD 5 HAD ALREADY HAD THREE COMPLETE READINGS OF THAT DOCUMENT BEFORE THEY ARRIVED IN NEW YORK FOR FINAL NEGOTIATIONS; AND WSSD 5 HAD HAD FOUR READINGS BEFORE IT MET IN GENEVA, WITH ONLY 40 PARAGRAPHS REMAINING IN BRACKETS.

11. (SBU) IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE TASK IN FRONT OF US, WE NEGOTIATED -- OFTEN IN THREE OR FOUR SIMULTANEOUS NEGOTIATING SESSIONS, INCLUDING THE SO-CALLED CONTACT GROUP (CHAIRIED BY GERMANY) WHERE ALL THE DIFFICULT ISSUES WERE SENT -- UNTIL 1:00 A.M. MOST EVENINGS, AND ON THE LAST FOUR DAYS UNTIL 4:00 OR 5:00 A.M. THIS SCHEDULE SERIOUSLY PRECLUDED ANY THOUGHTFUL REFLECTION ON WHAT WE HAD ADOPTED AND WHETHER OR NOT THE TEXT WAS BALANCED.

--THE G-77

12. (SBU) FROM ALL APPEARANCES, IT SEEMS THAT THE G-77 DECIDED IT COULD FOCUS ON ONLY ONE 5 EVENT AT A TIME, AND THAT EVENT WAS GOING TO BE WSSD 5, WHICH WOULD ADDRESS PRIMARILY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES (RATHER THAN PRIMARILY HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN WHICH WERE THE FOCUS OF BEIJING 5). ANOTHER WAY OF VIEWING THE SITUATION IS THAT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN WAS SO OVERWHELMINGLY TRANSFORMING THAT THE HARD-LINERS DID NOT WANT TO GO AN INCH FURTHER IN ADVANCING THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

G-77 BREAK UP

13. (SBU) BY MID-MAY IT FINALLY BECAME CLEAR TO MODERATE

MEMBERS OF THE G-77 THAT THE G-77 COULD NOT REACH A COMMON POSITION ON MANY ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN, SO THEY BROKE AWAY AND FORMED SMALLER GROUPS WHOSE POSITIONS WERE MORE IN LINE WITH THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. GROUPS WERE FORMED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES; SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES (CALLED SLAC) CONSISTING OF BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CHILE, PERU, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, VENEZUELA, AND GUATEMALA; AND THE CARIBBEAN STATES. MODERATE ASIAN AND PACIFIC STATES SPOKE AS INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND MADE HELPFUL INTERVENTIONS.

14. (SBU) IN ADDITION TO THE G-77 BREAK-AWAY STATES, TURKEY, CENTRAL EUROPEAN (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF POLAND) AND EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES GENERALLY SUPPORTED POSITIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE U.S. AND THE EU.

15. (SBU) SEVERAL COORDINATING MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH THE EU, JUSCANZ, SLAC, SOUTHERN AFRICANS, THE CARIBBEANS, AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED STATES. THESE MEETINGS PROVED EXTREMELY VALUABLE IN SOLIDIFYING OUR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS AND IN COORDINATING A STRATEGY TO OVERCOME THE HARD-LINE ISLAMIC STATES. THESE ALLIANCES ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WERE ONLY A HANDFUL OF HARD-LINE STATES WHO WERE OPPOSED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN--IN OTHER WORDS, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF UN STATES (ABOUT 180) WANTED TO MAKE PROGRESS. WE HOPE THESE ALLIANCES CONTINUE IN OTHER UN FORA.

G-77 HARD-LINERS

16. (SBU) THE G-77 HARD-LINERS CONTINUED TO BE OBSTRUCTIVE. THEY CONSISTED OF EGYPT, ALGERIA, IRAN, LIBYA, SUDAN, PAKISTAN, SYRIA, IRAQ AND CUBA (THE LATTER TWO FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE ISSUE OF SANCTIONS). CHINA WAS ALSO UNHELPFUL--ESPECIALLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. THE HOLY SEE AND NICARAGUA SHARED THE HARD-LINERS VIEWS ON MANY ISSUES, ESPECIALLY ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.

17. (SBU) THE HARD-LINERS OBJECTED TO REFERENCES TO INTERNATIONAL NGOS AND TO ANY KIND OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AMONG NGOS. THEY OBJECTED TO LANGUAGE ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY AGENTS OF THE STATE. THEY OBJECTED TO REFERENCES ABOUT LACK OF POLITICAL WILL (SAYING THEY HAD POLITICAL WILL--ALL THEY NEEDED WAS MONEY). THEY EVEN OBJECTED TO A FACTUAL STATEMENT ON THE GENDER WAGE GAP (SAYING THERE WAS NO WAGE GAP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN THEIR COUNTRIES). THANKS TO THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE MODERATE STATES (INCLUDING THE U.S.) THE FINAL DOCUMENT INCLUDED GOOD LANGUAGE ON THESE ISSUES.

18. (SBU) WE WERE NOT, HOWEVER, SUCCESSFUL IN OVERCOMING THE HARD-LINERS OBJECTIONS TO LANGUAGE ABOUT SEXUAL ORIENTATION, INCLUDING LANGUAGE CALLING FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WHO ARE LESBIANS. (COMMENT: AS IN BEIJING, THE USDEL IN ITS INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT REAFFIRMED THE USG POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION. END COMMENT.)

19. (SBU) AS THEY HAVE AT PREVIOUS UN MEETINGS, THE

HARD-LINERS ALSO OBJECTED TO LANGUAGE REGARDING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS. (COMMENT: SEVERAL OF THE HARD-LINERS REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE FLEXIBILITY THEY WERE SHOWING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. SUCH FLEXIBILITY OFTEN CONSISTED OF NOT EVEN AGREEING TO ORIGINAL BEIJING LANGUAGE, LET ALONE DISPLAYING A WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE SOMETHING MORE FORWARD-LOOKING. IN THE END, MANY PROGRESSIVE DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE U.S., FOUND IT DISINGENUOUS THAT THOSE FEW DELEGATIONS, WHO HAD AND WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE RESERVATIONS ON CERTAIN LANGUAGE, WERE ALLOWED TO HIJACK THE NEGOTIATIONS AND PREVENT MUCH PROGRESS.

IN THE END, THE USDEL, IN ITS INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT, EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE LACK OF LANGUAGE THAT WOULD HAVE MOVED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FORWARD ON ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, AND AFFIRMED THAT ITS EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE MUCH MORE FORWARD-LOOKING LANGUAGE ADOPTED AT ICPD 5. END COMMENT.)

USG SUBSTANTIVE OBJECTIVES PARTIALLY ACHIEVED

20. (U) DESPITE THE EXTREMELY FLAWED PROCESS, BEIJING 5 MANAGED TO AGREE TO GOOD LANGUAGE ON ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF HONOR CRIMES), TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS, WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT AND THEIR ROLE IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE-BUILDING, THE ROLE OF MEN IN PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY, THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADVANCING THE STATUS OF WOMEN, GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND CAPACITY BUILDING, AND WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS.

21. (U) THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE ON EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION. IT ENCOURAGES GOVERNMENTS TO REVIEW LEGISLATION WITH A VIEW TO STRIVING TO REMOVE DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS BY THE YEAR 2005. IT STATES THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TREAT ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE PUNISHABLE BY LAW, INCLUDING MARITAL RAPE AND "SO-CALLED HONOR CRIMES." THE LANGUAGE ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS IS TOTALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE USG'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING STRATEGY CONSISTING OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION OF THE VICTIMS, AND PUNISHMENT OF THE PERPETRATORS.

22. (U) THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT ENCOURAGES GOVERNMENTS AND THE UN SYSTEM TO ADDRESS IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER THE ROOT CAUSES OF ARMED CONFLICT AND ITS DIFFERENTIAL IMPACT ON WOMEN AND MEN. IT ENCOURAGES THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AT ALL LEVELS OF DECISION-MAKING, INCLUDING AS SPECIAL ENVOYS AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

23. (U) ON THE ISSUE OF CIVIL SOCIETY, THE DOCUMENT RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTION AND COMPLEMENTARY ROLE OF NGOS, THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR AUTONOMY, AND THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS WITH NGOS--PARTICULARLY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS--TO IMPLEMENT THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION.

24. (U) AND ON THE ISSUE OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND CAPACITY BUILDING, THE DOCUMENT EMPHASIZES THAT A DEVELOPMENT AGENDA MUST HAVE GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AS

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES, AND THAT ALL ECONOMIC POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION SHOULD ADOPT A GENDER PERSPECTIVE.

25. (U) ON WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS, THERE IS STRONG LANGUAGE THAT SPEAKS TO THE ISSUE OF POWER IMBALANCES IN SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN, THE NEED TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WOULD ALLOW WOMEN TO NEGOTIATE SAFE SEX (AN ESPECIALLY CRITICAL ISSUE IN THE ERA OF RAMPANT HIV/AIDS INFECTION, ESPECIALLY AMONG WOMEN LIVING IN POVERTY), AND CALL FOR WOMEN-CONTROLLED BARRIERS, SUCH AS FEMALE CONDOMS, TO PREVENT HIV INFECTION.

26. (U) AND, MOST IMPORTANT THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT AND THE DECLARATION RENEW THE COMMITMENT TO THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION ADOPTED AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN.

27. (U) THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT DOES, HOWEVER, CONTAIN SOME DISAPPOINTMENTS. THE LANGUAGE ON GLOBALIZATION IS NOT WELL-BALANCED--EMPHASIZING PRIMARILY ITS NEGATIVE EFFECTS. THE U.S. INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT ADDRESSES THIS AND OTHER ISSUES.

JUSCANZ

28. (SBU) JUSCANZ, AN INFORMAL GROUP GENERALLY COMPOSED OF THE NON-EU MEMBERS OF THE OECD, HAS THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: JAPAN, U.S., CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, LIECHTENSTEIN, SWITZERLAND, ICELAND, AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. WE SHARE COMMON VIEWS ON MOST ISSUES, MAKING JUSCANZ A VERY USEFUL COORDINATING AND INFORMATION-SHARING MECHANISM. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THIS GROUP.

29. (SBU) FOR BEIJING 5, JUSCANZ NEGOTIATED AS A SINGLE ENTITY, WITH THE UNITED STATES AS SPOKESPERSON FOR JUSCANZ IN TWO OF THE FORMAL NEGOTIATING GROUPS. AS THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDED, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT NEGOTIATING AS JUSCANZ HAS ITS DRAWBACKS. FIRST, ALTHOUGH WE ARE LIKE-MINDED ON MANY ISSUES, THERE ARE SOME ISSUES THE U.S. FEELS MORE STRONGLY ABOUT THAN DO OTHERS. SECOND, WHEN THE U.S. SPEAKS ONLY FOR ITSELF, IT HAS MORE FLEXIBILITY TO OPEN UP WITH A STRONG POSITION FROM WHICH TO NEGOTIATE. OTHER JUSCANZ MEMBERS ARE OFTEN RELUCTANT TO OPEN UP WITH A STRONG POSITION, FEARING THEY WILL APPEAR UNFRIENDLY AND UNCOMPROMISING. THIRD, ON THOSE ISSUES WHERE OUR VIEWS DIFFER FROM OTHER JUSCANZ MEMBERS AND WE TAKE THE FLOOR TO SPEAK AS THE UNITED STATES, IT EMPHASIZES THAT THE U.S. IS ALONE ON THESE ISSUES--THAT OTHER JUSCANZ MEMBERS DO NOT SUPPORT OUR POSITION. THIS WEAKENS OUR NEGOTIATING ABILITY.

30. (SBU) WE RECOMMEND THAT THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN JUSCANZ AS A COORDINATING AND INFORMATION-SHARING MECHANISM, BUT THAT WE NOT USE JUSCANZ AS A NEGOTIATING ENTITY.

FUTURE 5 EVENTS

31. (SBU) WHILE SOME GOOD LANGUAGE CAME OUT OF BEIJING 5, WE BELIEVE THE USG SHOULD SERIOUSLY ASSESS THE VALUE OF 5 AND 10 EVENTS, ESPECIALLY IF WE HAVE TO SPEND MOST OF THE TIME TRYING TO PROTECT THE GAINS WE MADE AT THE ORIGINAL WORLD CONFERENCES. IN THE CASE OF BEIJING 5, IT WAS FLAWED FROM THE START, WITH A HANDFUL OF GOVERNMENTS COMMITTED TO SABOTAGING ANYTHING REMOTELY RESEMBLING PROGRESS, A SECRETARIAT UNABLE TO PROVIDE A GOOD DRAFT DOCUMENT UPON WHICH TO BEGIN OUR NEGOTIATIONS, AND A WEAK BUREAU.

32. (SBU) THE DECLARATION ADOPTED IN MARCH AGREES TO "BRING TOGETHER ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE YEAR 2005 TO ASSESS PROGRESS AND CONSIDER NEW INITIATIVES, AS APPROPRIATE." HOWEVER, EVEN NGOS WHO NORMALLY ADVOCATE FOR MORE UN MEETINGS, WORLD CONFERENCES, AND FIVE-YEAR REVIEWS ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO GO THROUGH ANOTHER MEETING LIKE THIS ONE, FEARING THEY HAVE MORE TO LOSE THAN TO GAIN.

HIGH LEVEL U.S. DELEGATION

33. (U) THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED IN BEIJING 5 AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT CHAIRED THE U.S. DELEGATION. HHS SECRETARY DONNA SHALALA AND AMBASSADOR RICHARD HOLBROOKE SERVED AS CO-CHAIRS. AMBASSADOR BETTY KING, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO ECOSOC, AND AMBASSADOR LINDA TARR-WHELAN, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, WERE DEPUTY CHAIRS. THERESA LOAR, DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN, SERVED AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. DELEGATION. IN ADDITION, THREE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SERVED AS CONGRESSIONAL ADVISERS--JOSEPH CROWLEY, BARBARA LEE, AND CAROLYN MALONEY.

PARALLEL EVENTS

34. (U) SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE BEIJING 5 TOOK PLACE, APPROXIMATELY 40 NGOS AND FOUNDATIONS FORMED A BEIJING 5 HOST COMMITTEE. THE HOST COMMITTEE WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE UN NGO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

35. (U) ADDITIONALLY, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MADE A SITE AVAILABLE TO NGOS WHO WERE IN NEW YORK FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION. THE U.S. CUSTOMS HOUSE, WHICH HAS MEETING ROOMS AND AN AUDITORIUM THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE 350 PEOPLE, WAS USED FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN. UN TELEVISED PROCEEDINGS WERE ALSO PIPED INTO THE CUSTOMS HOUSE.

36. (U) ACCORDINGLY, IN ADDITION TO THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION, BEIJING 5 INCLUDED SEVERAL SUBSTANTIVE, HIGH LEVEL EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE CUSTOMS HOUSE AND AT OTHER LOCATIONS IN NEW YORK AND SURROUNDING AREAS SPONSORED PRIMARILY BY NGOS. FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON SPOKE AT AN EVENT HOSTED BY THE UN DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN. HHS SECRETARY SHALALA SPOKE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AT AN EVENT AT HUNTER COLLEGE. TREASURY SECRETARY SUMMERS AND AMBASSADOR LINDA TARR-WHELAN SPOKE AT AN EVENT ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT. AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE SPOKE ON "WOMEN CROSSING

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE INTO THE FUTURE." THERESA LOAR ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF THE "POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION" AT AN EVENT SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN; "GLOBAL TRENDS IN WOMEN'S ACCESS AND LEADERSHIP" ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS AND THE UNITED NATIONS; AND "WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT--MAKING A DIFFERENCE" SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES, WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. AND, VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN LED A DISCUSSION ON THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL. THE USG ALSO HELD DAILY BRIEFINGS FOR NGOS, WHICH WERE FILLED TO CAPACITY.

CONCLUSION

37. (U) THE PROCESS IN NEW YORK DOES NOT REFLECT THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN WORLDWIDE ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN.

GOVERNMENTS EVERYWHERE KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR FAILING TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN. THEY ALSO KNOW THAT WOMEN ARE THE KEY TO PROGRESS--THAT SOCIAL INVESTMENTS IN WOMEN--IN THEIR HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY--YIELD THE HIGHEST RETURN TO SOCIETY. EDUCATED WOMEN CONTRIBUTE MORE TO THEIR FAMILY'S WELL-BEING AND ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE BETTER EDUCATED AND HEALTHIER CHILDREN. THE UN'S FIVE-YEAR REVIEW DID NOT ADEQUATELY CAPTURE THIS REALITY.

LARSON

TOR: 07/11/00 15:02:00

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY NSC FELDMAN HUSO KEITH LIEBERTHAL MCADEN MCLEAN
NAPLAN OSIUS PATTEN PRITCHARD SCHWARTZ SMITHH SMITHP WILCOX

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PREC: ROUTINE
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG:
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
INFO: ////
SUBJ: SPEECH DELIVERED BY SECRETARY ALBRIGHT FOR
BEIJING &5
TEXT: UNCLAS STATE 137306

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, SOCI, KDEM, KOCI
SUBJECT: SPEECH DELIVERED BY SECRETARY ALBRIGHT FOR
BEIJING &5

REF:

1. ON JUNE 8, 2000 DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT DELIVERED THE US STATEMENT TO THE OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN THE PLENARY SESSION. THE SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS THAT THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION HAS CARRIED OUT ITS COMMITMENTS ANNOUNCED AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING, FIVE YEARS AGO. THE SPEECH ALSO REPORTS ON THE STRONG RECORD OF USG ACTIVITY IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES

OF WOMEN AND GIRLS BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD.

2. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT HAS DEMONSTRATED HER LEADERSHIP ON THIS AGENDA IN THREE IMPORTANT WAYS. THE MOST IMPORTANT WAY THAT THE SECRETARY HAS DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES IS BY HER PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO MAKE WOMEN'S ISSUES A CENTRAL PART OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. SHE WAS CHAIR OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING, CHINA IN SEPTEMBER 1995. SHE SERVES AS CHAIR OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN (PICW), THE USG TASKFORCE ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON IN 1995 TO IMPLEMENT BEIJING. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT WAS ALSO CHAIR OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION FOR THE BEIJING PLUS FIVE REVIEW.

3. THE SPEECH IS AVAILABLE ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

HTTP://SECRETARY.STATE.GOV. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT US GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE BEIJING DOCUMENT, PLEASE VISIT THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN WEBSITE, HTTP://SECRETARY.STATE.GOV/WWW/PICW/INDEX.HTML. FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON'S SPEECH DURING BEIJING PLUS FIVE AT A UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN FORUM WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTTEL.

4. POSTS REPORTING ON HOST GOVERNMENT AND NGO PREPARATIONS ON THE SPECIAL SESSION IS MUCH APPRECIATED. THIS VALUABLE INFORMATION ALLOWED FOR A NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN USG OFFICIALS AND OTHER DELEGATES, INCLUDING NGO'S DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION.

5. BEGIN TEXT OF SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S SPEECH DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION:

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: GOOD MORNING. PRESIDENT GURIRAB, SPECIAL GUESTS, SISTER DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I AM HONORED TO ADDRESS THIS LANDMARK GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. AND I AM ALSO DELIGHTED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF MONGOLIA, WHO IS PART OF A SMALL BUT GROWING GROUP OF WOMEN FOREIGN MINISTERS. THERE ARE NOW 14 OF US. I CONGRATULATE ALL WHO HELPED TO ORGANIZE THIS WEEK'S EVENTS, AND ALL WHO HAVE LABORED TO TRANSFORM THE POWERFUL PROMISE OF THE BEIJING CONFERENCE INTO THE REALITY OF A RICHER, FULLER AND FAIRER LIFE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

OUR MOVEMENT TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT WOMEN'S RIGHTS IS ONE OF THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY AND UPLIFTING FORCES NOW SHAPING THE WORLD. IT IS LIBERATING INDIVIDUALS AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES FROM REMOTE VILLAGES TO OUR LARGEST CITIES. AND IT IS STILL YOUNG, STILL BLOSSOMING, STILL ONLY BEGINNING TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY FOR WOMEN. THIS HISTORIC MEETING MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN OUR LONG JOURNEY UPWARD TO JUSTICE; IT ENABLES US TO ASSESS GAINS MADE DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS; AND OBLIGES US TO CHART A PATH THAT WILL LEAD TO EVER-MORE RAPID PROGRESS IN THE NEW CENTURY. I AM PROUD THAT I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN MANY OF YOU AT THE BEIJING CONFERENCE AND ALSO AT HUAIROU; AND PROUD TO HAVE ACCOMPANIED AMERICA'S FIRST LADY, HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, WHOSE VERY PRESENCE IN BEIJING MADE A STATEMENT, AND WHOSE STATEMENT THERE MADE HISTORY.

IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE, AFTER BEIJING, TO DENY THAT WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ARE INDIVISIBLE FROM THE UNIVERSAL RIGHTS OF EVERY HUMAN BEING.
(APPLAUSE.)

IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE, AFTER BEIJING, TO CONCEIVE OF DEVELOPMENT SEPARATE FROM THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, BECAUSE NO SOCIETY CAN MOVE AHEAD IF HALF ITS POPULATION IS HELD BACK.

IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE, AFTER BEIJING, TO ARGUE THAT

ABUSES AGAINST WOMEN ARE MERELY CULTURAL AND THAT THERE IS NOTHING ANY OF US CAN DO ABOUT THEM. BECAUSE WHEN A WOMAN IS RAPED, BEATEN, OR MUTILATED, IT IS NOT CULTURAL; IT IS CRIMINAL.

(APPLAUSE.)

AND NO GOVERNMENT, AFTER BEIJING, CAN DENY ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO STOP THESE CRIMES.

THE CALL THAT WENT FORTH FROM BEIJING WAS A CALL TO ACTION, AND THE UNITED STATES HAS RESPONDED. COORDINATED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN, AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NGOS, WE HAVE MOVED FORWARD AS A TEAM TO FULFILL THE COMMITMENTS WE HAVE MADE.

FOR EXAMPLE, OUR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HAS MADE NEW INVESTMENTS IN THE EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER; LAUNCHED A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH CLEARINGHOUSE; AND WAGED WAR ON

HIV-AIDS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS STRENGTHENED OUR POLICIES ON FAMILY LEAVE, INCREASED OUR INVESTMENTS IN CHILD CARE, HELPED MILLIONS OF WOMEN TO FIND GOOD JOBS, AND ENCOURAGED EMPLOYERS ACROSS AMERICA TO PROVIDE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT HAS EXPANDED SMALL BUSINESS AND MICROENTERPRISE CREDIT, THEREBY HELPING WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES TO GROW IN NUMBER TWICE AS FAST AS THOSE OVERALL.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS COMBINED TOUGH NEW LAWS AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE WITH ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND LOCALITIES TO HELP VICTIMS AND PREVENT CRIMES. AND WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A 24-HOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE, WHICH PROVIDES CRISIS INTERVENTION, COUNSELING AND REFERRALS IN EVERY HOUR OF THE DAY IN EVERY PART OF OUR COUNTRY.

WE HAVE ALSO INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO GAIN APPROVAL FROM OUR SENATE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. SOME SENATORS WOULD LIKE US TO GIVE UP. BUT WE WILL NOT.

(APPLAUSE.)

BECAUSE THERE IS NO DOUBT -- WEARINESS IN A CAUSE THAT IS JUST. HAVE NO DOUBT, WE WILL BE BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL THIS CONVENTION BECOMES THE LAW OF OUR LAND.

FINALLY, IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WE HAVE PLACED EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS RIGHT WHERE THEY BEONG -- IN THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. THROUGH THE VITAL VOICES DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE, WE ARE MOBILIZING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES, AND BRINGING WOMEN FROM AROUND THE WORLD TOGETHER TO EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE AND ACHIEVE RESULTS -- IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM, PROSPERITY AND PEACE.

THROUGH USAID, WE ARE HELPING WOMEN BRING DOWN THE

BARRIERS TO POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AS ADVOCATES AND VOTERS, LEGISLATORS AND LEADERS. WE ARE BACKING PROJECTS THAT ENHANCE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY THROUGH GREATER ACCESS TO CREDIT, EDUCATION, AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE. WE KNOW THAT WHEN WOMEN ARE ABLE TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS, WHOLE SOCIETIES BENEFIT, WHICH IS WHY OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING HELP TO EASE ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS, SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES, REDUCE THE

NUMBER OF ABORTIONS, AND ENABLE CHILDREN TO GROW UP HEALTHY AND STRONG.

WE HAVE ALSO LAUNCHED A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE TO HALT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS. THIS RAPIDLY GROWING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE HAS GONE GLOBAL, DISTORTING ECONOMIES, DEGRADING SOCIETIES, ENDANGERING NEIGHBORHOODS AND ROBBING MILLIONS, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, OF THEIR DREAMS.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION IS JOINING WITH OTHERS IN AN EFFORT TO STOP THIS DEADLY TRAFFIC COLD. DOMESTICALLY, WE ARE WORKING WITH CONGRESS TO ENACT A STRONG NEW LAW THAT WILL PUNISH PERPETRATORS MORE EFFECTIVELY AND PROTECT AND CARE FOR VICTIMS MORE THOROUGHLY. OVERSEAS, WE ARE FORGING PARTNERSHIPS ON EVERY CONTINENT TO SHARE INFORMATION, COORDINATE LEGAL ACTIONS, AND FIND AND CLOSE CRIMINAL NETWORKS.

AND THIS MORNING, I INVITE EVERYONE HERE TO JOIN IN A MULTI-YEAR, MULTI-NATIONAL EFFORT TO WIN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING. IF WE ARE DIVIDED, WE HAVE NO HOPE, BUT TOGETHER, WE WILL PREVAIL. AND WHAT A GIFT TO THE FUTURE THAT WILL BE.
(APPLAUSE.)

FIVE MONTHS AGO, WE CROSSED THE THRESHOLD INTO A NEW CENTURY, AMIDST CELEBRATION, BUT ALSO DETERMINATION. FOR IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO LOOK BACK AT HOW FAR WE HAVE COME. TOO MANY OF OUR SISTERS STILL LIVE SURROUNDED BY THE FOUR WALLS OF POVERTY AND EXPLOITATION, DISCRIMINATION AND CONFLICT. TOGETHER, WE MUST STRIVE TO SEE THAT THE BENEFITS OF GLOBALIZATION ARE SHARED NOT JUST BY SOME PEOPLE IN SOME COUNTRIES, BUT BY ALL PEOPLE IN EVERY COUNTRY.
(APPLAUSE.)

AS HILLARY CLINTON SAID ON MONDAY, "WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN, GLOBALIZATION SHOULD NOT MEAN MARGINALIZATION." ACCORDINGLY, WE MUST REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN 21ST CENTURY SKILLS MORE AVAILABLE SO THAT POVERTY RETREATS AND OPPORTUNITY SPREADS AROUND THE EQUATOR AND FROM POLE TO POLE.

WE MUST ALSO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE ON THE LIVES OF WOMEN. BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW AS MUCH AS WE SHOULD AND, UNLESS WE LEARN MORE, WE WILL NOT BE DOING AS MUCH AS WE SHOULD TO

ENSURE THAT TRADE WORKS FOR ALL PEOPLE.

IN RECENT YEARS, I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING WOMEN FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD WHO ARE CHAMPIONING GREATER FREEDOM, BROADER OPPORTUNITY, BETTER HEALTH, MORE FAIRNESS, AND OTHER PLANKS IN THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION. SOME OF THESE WOMEN HAVE BEEN BEATEN BACK, BEATEN DOWN, BEATEN UP, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN DEFEATED BECAUSE THEIR PRIDE IS TOO STRONG, AND THEIR FAITH IN OUR SHARED CAUSE IS UNSHATTERABLE.

THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT HAS FLOURISHED BECAUSE OF THE UNDERLYING POWER OF ITS CENTRAL PREMISE, WHICH IS THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL COUNTS. EACH OF US SHOULD HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND POWER TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS. WE MAY MAKE DIFFERENT CHOICES ABOUT HOW TO LIVE, WHERE TO WORK, AND EVEN WHAT TO WEAR, BUT WE MUST ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE.

BECAUSE OUR MOVEMENT IS NOT ABOUT MAKING EACH WOMAN THE SAME. IT IS ABOUT RECOGNIZING AND APPRECIATING WOMEN'S DIVERSITY, AND ABOUT TREATING EACH INDIVIDUAL FAIRLY. THIS PRINCIPLE IS THE MAGNET THAT HAS BROUGHT US TOGETHER ACROSS THE BOUNDARIES OF ETHNICITY AND VOCATION, GENERATION AND GENDER. AND IT IS THE POWER OF THIS PRINCIPLE THAT ENABLES US TO ENVISION THE DAY WHEN EVERY GIRL, EVERYWHERE, WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE THAT HER LIFE WILL BE VALUED, HER INDIVIDUALITY RESPECTED, HER RIGHTS PROTECTED AND HER FUTURE DETERMINED SOLELY BY HER OWN ABILITY AND CHARACTER.

THIS IS THE GOAL WE SET IN BEIJING FIVE YEARS AGO. THAT IS OUR PURPOSE HERE IN NEW YORK THIS WEEK. AND THAT IS OUR MISSION THAT WILL LIFT OUR SPIRITS, GUIDE OUR ACTIONS, AND UNITE OUR EFFORTS IN COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR ALL WE CAN DO TOGETHER.
(APPLAUSE.)

(END OF DOCUMENT)
TALBOTT

TOR: 07/18/00 19:04:26

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY NSC FELDMAN HUSO KEITH LIEBERTHAL MCADEN MCLEAN
NAPLAN OSIUS PATTEN PRITCHARD SCHWARTZ SMITHH SMITHP WILCOX

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 201832Z JUL 00
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
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ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
INFO: ////
SUBJ: SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE FIRST LADY FOR BEIJING
PLUS FIVE
TEXT: UNCLAS STATE 138759

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KWMN, PHUM, SOCI, KDEM, KOCI
SUBJECT: SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE FIRST LADY FOR BEIJING
PLUS FIVE

1. ON JUNE 5, 2000 DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION, FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON WAS INVITED TO SPEAK AT A UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM) FORUM DEDICATED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROCREDIT. THE FIRST LADY DELIVERED HER REMARKS TO A CAPACITY CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED UN DELEGATES AND NGO'S AT THE SPECIAL SESSION. HER REMARKS HIGHLIGHTED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN HELD IN BEIJING, CHINA IN SEPTEMBER 1995 AND THE UNFINISHED AGENDA. SHE STRESSED ISSUES THAT HAVE COME TO THE FOREFRONT SINCE BEIJING: THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC, GLOBALIZATION AND TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN.

2. THE FIRST LADY WAS HONORARY CHAIR OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING, CHINA IN SEPTEMBER 1995 AND DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS. SHE ALSO SERVES AS HONORARY CHAIR OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN (PICW), THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TASKFORCE ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON IN 1995 TO IMPLEMENT THE BEIJING DOCUMENT. IN ADDITION TO THESE LEADERSHIP ROLES, IN THE LAST SIX YEARS THE FIRST LADY HAS CONDUCTED SIGNIFICANT OVERSEAS TRAVEL ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DURING WHICH SHE PROMOTED WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY.

3. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT US GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AS FOLLOW UP TO THE UN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE CAN BE FOUND AT THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN WEBSITE, [HTTP://SECRETARY.STATE.GOV/WWW/PICW/INDEX.HTML](http://secretary.state.gov/www/picw/index.html).

4. SECRETARY OF STATE MADELINE ALBRIGHT'S REMARKS TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTTEL.

5. BEGIN TEXT OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON'S SPEECH:

TO ALL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND UNIFEM OFFICIALS; TO OUR AMBASSADOR RICHARD HOLBROOKE; TO ALL OF THOSE WHO ARE GATHERED HERE AS DELEGATES; MEMBERS OF OUR CONGRESS AND MEMBERS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY: I WANT TO BEGIN BY THANKING THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HIS INTRODUCTION AND HIS COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS CENTRAL TO ALL OF OUR DEBATES OVER WAR AND PEACE, POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, AND EVERY OTHER CHALLENGE FACING HUMANITY. I ALSO WANT TO THANK NOELEEN HIZER AND ALL OF UNIFEM FOR CHAMPIONING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY, AND ESPECIALLY FOR ONCE AGAIN BRINGING US TOGETHER TO SPOTLIGHT THE POWER OF MICROCREDIT TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND FAMILIES, ECONOMIES AND COUNTRIES.

OVER THE PAST 7 YEARS, THE UN HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN DEFINING AND GUARANTEEING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE. AT UN CONVENINGS IN VIENNA AND COPENHAGEN, CAIRO AND THE HAGUE. AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF W.H.O. IN GENEVA. HERE AT THE UN ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN,S DAY AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST AIDS WE HAVE SEEN PROGRESS BEING MADE. AND FIVE YEARS AGO IN BEIJING AT THE UN 4TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, WE SAW SO MANY STEPS TAKEN I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO PARTICIPATE IN

MANY OF THESE EVENTS AND I COUNT THE BEIJING CONFERENCE AS ONE OF THE MOST MOVING AND MOST MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE.

WE CAME TO BEIJING FROM 189 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. MOTHERS AND SISTERS, DAUGHTERS AND WIVES. DOCTORS AND LAWYERS, HOMEMAKERS AND POLICYMAKERS, ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS. WE WORE DIFFERENT CLOTHING, PRACTICED DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, AND SPOKE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. BUT, WITH ONE STRONG VOICE, WE PROCLAIMED FOR ALL THE WORLD TO HEAR THAT WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

ALTHOUGH OUR SHOUT WAS HEARD AROUND THE WORLD, NOT EVERYONE TRULY UNDERSTOOD IT. I LEARNED THAT WHEN I WAS ON A VOICE OF AMERICA RADIO CALL-IN SHOW NOT LONG AFTER. A GENTLEMAN CALLED AND HE ASKED ME THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: "WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID AT BEIJING THAT 'WOMEN'S RIGHTS WERE HUMAN RIGHTS?'" I ASKED THE GENTLEMAN TO CLOSE HIS EYES FOR A MINUTE AND THINK ABOUT ALL THE RIGHTS THAT HE, AS A MAN, HAD: THE RIGHT TO GO TO SCHOOL. TO HEALTH CARE. TO LIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF VIOLENCE AT THE HANDS OF

LOVED ONES OR STRANGERS. TO VOTE. TO OWN ONE'S OWN PROPERTY. TO GET A JOB OR CREDIT. TO SPEAK AND WORSHIP FREELY. TO SEEK LEGAL REDRESS. THE RIGHT TO BE FULLY HUMAN, TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP ONE'S OWN GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL.

MANY OF US HAVE SPENT OUR LIFETIMES FIGHTING FOR THESE RIGHTS. THAT IS THE MISSION THAT BROUGHT THOUSANDS OF US TO BEIJING AND BRING US NOW TO NEW YORK TO CELEBRATE OUR PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS AND RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO FINISHING THE WORK OF ACHIEVING WOMEN'S EQUALITY.

/WE HAVE COME TO THE UN NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS SHOULD BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. BUT ALSO BECAUSE WE KNOW NO COUNTRY TODAY WILL EVER GET AHEAD IF HALF OF ITS CITIZENS ARE LEFT BEHIND.

BEIJING WAS IMPORTANT -- BECAUSE WOMEN BROKE CENTURIES OF SILENCE AND SPOKE OUT ON ISSUES THAT MATTER MOST TO US, TO OUR FAMILIES TO OUR SOCIETIES. WOMEN PUT OUR HOPES AND FEARS, OUR CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES ON THE WORLD'S AGENDA.

BEIJING WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE COUNTRIES AGREED TO A PLATFORM FOR ACTION TO MEET GOALS IN 12 DIFFERENT AREAS.

THE PLATFORM PROVIDED A BLUEPRINT FOR ACHIEVING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EQUALITY AND PROGRESS FOR WOMEN. SO THAT, IN THE FUTURE, INACTION AND REGRESSION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS WOULD BE VIEWED, NOT SIMPLY AS THE WAY THINGS ARE AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, BUT RATHER AS A VIOLATION OF PROMISES AGREED TO.

AFTER THE DELEGATES WENT HOME, WAS USED THE PLATFORM AS A ROADMAP FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND AS A RALLYING CRY FOR NGOS AND CITIZENS WHO BEGAN FORMING PARTNERSHIPS TO FULFILL THE COMMITMENTS THAT WERE ENTERED INTO.

AND SINCE WE SPOKE OUT IN BEIJING, LOOK WHAT HAS HAPPENED. COUNTRIES HAVE PASSED LAWS RAISING THE LEGAL AGE FOR MARRIAGE, BANNING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, AND CRIMINALIZING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

SINCE WE SPOKE OUT IN BEIJING, RAPE IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS A CRIME BY INTERNATIONAL WAR TRIBUNALS. MORE WOMEN ARE GETTING MICROCREDIT, RUNNING THEIR OWN BUSINESSES, AND OWNING PROPERTY IN THEIR OWN NAMES.

HERE IN THE U.S., WE CREATED THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR WOMEN TO ENSURE THAT EVERY SINGLE GOVERNMENT AGENCY WORKS TO FULFILL THE PROMISES THAT WE MADE IN BEIJING. WE INCREASED OUR INVESTMENTS IN EVERYTHING FROM CHILDCARE TO FAMILY PLANNING TO COMBATING BREAST CANCER. WE QUADRUPLED THE NUMBER OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS AND DRAMATICALLY EXPANDED MICROCREDIT LOANS TO WOMEN HERE IN OUR COUNTRY AS WELL AS AROUND THE WORLD. AND WE STARTED A NEW GLOBAL DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE CALLED VITAL VOICES WHICH HAS WORKED TO GIVE THOUSANDS OF WOMEN, FROM BULGARIA TO

BOLIVIA, THE SKILLS AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO BUILD DEMOCRACY, PROSPERITY, CIVIL SOCIETY AND PEACE.

THESE WOMEN AND COUNTLESS OTHERS LIKE THEM WHO STARTED IN BEIJING ARE NOW PART OF A MOVEMENT. WHERE BEFORE WOMEN TOO OFTEN WORKED IN ISOLATION, NOW WE ARE INCREASINGLY WORKING TOGETHER, BLENDING OUR VOICES IN A CHORUS FOR CHANGE.

I'VE HEARD THOSE VOICES IN BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND, WHERE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC WOMEN, WHO HAD BURIED TOO MANY CHILDREN, AND SEEN TOO MUCH HATRED AND BLOODSHED, VOWED TO TURN THEIR CRIES OF "ENOUGH" INTO A FORCE FOR PEACE THAT COULD NOT BE IGNORED.

I'VE HEARD THOSE VOICES FROM KUWAIT, WHERE WOMEN ARE WORKING TO WIN THE RIGHT TO VOTE. FROM WOMEN IN CENTRAL ASIA WHO ARE BUILDING DEMOCRACY FROM THE GROUND UP. AND FROM WOMEN IN EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA, WHO PUT ASIDE DECADES OF CIVIL WAR TO BUILD BETTER FUTURES FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

I'VE HEARD THOSE VOICES IN SOUTH AFRICA. FROM WOMEN WHO WERE HOMELESS SQUATTERS BUT ARE NOW USING MICRO LOANS TO BUILD MORE THAN 100 HOMES, A DAY CARE CENTER, A STORE, AND A COMMUNITY. WHEN I ASKED HOW MANY PLANNED TO OWN THEIR OWN HOME SOMEDAY, EVERY SINGLE HAND OF THE HUNDREDS THAT WERE THERE WENT UP.

I'VE HEARD THOSE VOICES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, FROM WOMEN WHO MARCHED FOR FREEDOM AND NOW WANT TO PLAY A ROLE IN THEIR NEW DEMOCRACIES. AND IN KOSOVO AND BOSNIA, FROM WOMEN WHO HAD LOST CHILDREN AND HUSBANDS TO ETHNIC VIOLENCE AND ARE TRYING TO RECLAIM THEIR LIVES AND REBUILD THEIR COMMUNITIES.

AND I'VE HEARD THOSE VOICES IN MY COUNTRY, FROM WOMEN WHO ARE STILL FIGHTING FOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. FROM THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MOTHERS WHO RECENTLY MARCHED ON WASHINGTON D.C. TO DEMAND THAT OUR CONGRESS PASS SENSIBLE GUN SAFETY MEASURES TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN.

WE COME HERE TO HONOR THOSE VOICES AND TO SPEAK FOR ALL THOSE WOMEN WHO STILL DO NOT HAVE A VOICE.

WE COME HERE TODAY BECAUSE, FOR ALL OUR PROGRESS WE CAN POINT TO, OUR WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.

WHEN GIRLS ARE DOUSED WITH GASOLINE, SET ON FIRE, AND BURNED TO DEATH BECAUSE THEIR MARRIAGE DOWRIES ARE DEEMED TOO SMALL - AND WHEN HONOR KILLINGS CONTINUE TO BE TOLERATED -- OUR WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.

WHEN MILLIONS OF GIRLS ARE STILL KEPT OUT OF SCHOOL, OFTEN BY THEIR OWN FAMILIES, OUR WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.

WHEN BABIES ARE STILL DENIED FOOD, DROWNED, SUFFOCATED, AND ABANDONED SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE BORN GIRLS, OUR WORK

IS FAR FROM DONE.

WHEN WOMEN ARE STILL DENIED THE RIGHT TO PLAN THEIR FAMILIES, WHEN THEY ARE STILL FORCED TO HAVE ABORTIONS, OR ARE CIRCUMCISED OR STERILIZED AGAINST THEIR WILL, OUR WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.

WHEN WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE INCREASINGLY VICTIMS OF WAR, AND TURNED INTO REFUGEES BY THE MILLIONS, OUR WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.

WHEN GIRLS ARE ABDUCTED, AND USED AS CHILD SOLDIERS, HUMAN SHIELDS, AND SEXUAL SLAVES, OUR WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.

WHEN UNICEF TELLS US, AS THEY DID THIS WEEK, THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IS A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC THAT KILLS, TORTURES AND MAIMS - AND YET STILL IT IS VIEWED IN TOO MANY PLACES AS ACCEPTABLE, CULTURAL OR TRIVIAL, OUR WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.

WHEN WOMEN IN SOME COUNTRIES ARE STILL DENIED THE RIGHT TO VOTE, OUR WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.

AND WHEN WOMEN'S WORK IS STILL NOT VALUED, BY ECONOMISTS, BY GOVERNMENTS, AND BY EMPLOYERS WHO PAY THEM LESS AND TREAT THEM WORSE, OUR WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.

SO WE MUST CONTINUE TO STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT AND KEEP WORKING - NOT ONLY TO ELIMINATE THE INEQUITIES THAT HAVE CONFRONTED WOMEN FOR MILLENNIA, BUT ALSO TO CONFRONT THE NEW DANGERS THAT THREATEN TO DERAIL THE PROGRESS WE HAVE ALREADY MADE.

WE MUST SPEAK OUT FOR THE WOMEN WHO ARE STILL DYING IN CHILDBIRTH OR FROM UNSAFE ABORTIONS, FOR THE WOMEN WHO CANNOT GET HEALTH CARE, FOR THE WOMEN SUFFERING FROM CANCER, MALARIA, TB AND HIV/AIDS.

YOU KNOW, THE FACE OF AIDS TODAY IS INCREASINGLY FEMALE IN THE WORLD TODAY. AND IT IS TRAGICALLY CUTTING SHORT YOUNG WOMEN'S LIVES, LEAVING BEHIND AIDS ORPHANS, WHO TOO OFTEN ARE LEFT ON DANGEROUS STREETS TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES.

SOME OF US MAY REMEMBER BEING HERE IN DECEMBER AND HEARING FROM SOME OF THOSE AIDS ORPHANS AND THE STORIES THEY TOLD ABOUT THE LIVES THEY WERE NOW LEADING.

WHILE WE SEE POCKETS OF PROGRESS AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS THAILAND, UGANDA, AND SENEGAL, THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE IS STILL NO MATCH FOR THE SCOPE OF THIS PANDEMIC. THIS IS NOT AN AFRICAN PROBLEM,

OR AN ASIAN PROBLEM, OR AN AMERICAN PROBLEM. WE NEED EVERY GOVERNMENT, EVERY BUSINESS, EVERY NGO, EVERY FOUNDATION, AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL TO JOIN AN INTERNATIONAL CRUSADE NOW TO PREVENT HIV/AIDS, TO TREAT THOSE IT STRIKES, AND NEVER TO GIVE UP UNTIL WE FIND A CURE.

AND, IF WE ARE GOING TO FINISH THE WORK BEGUN IN BEIJING, THEN WE MUST ALSO SPEAK OUT ON BEHALF OF THE ONE MILLION TRAFFICKING VICTIMS WHO, EVERY YEAR, ARE BEING BOUGHT AND SOLD INTO MODERN SLAVERY.

THIS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES FACING GIRLS AND WOMEN TODAY.

WHAT MEANING CAN FREE MARKETS HAVE FOR WOMEN WHO, DESPERATE FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, ARE BOUGHT AND SOLD LIKE ANY CONSUMER PRODUCT? WHAT MEANING CAN FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY HAVE FOR THE GROWING NUMBER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO ARE TRAFFICKED INTO OTHER COUNTRIES TO BE ABUSED, DEGRADED, AND ENSLAVED?

I KNOW THAT SOME OF OUR COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO ADDRESS THIS TRAGEDY. BUT, ALL OF US MUST DO MORE TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING, PROTECT ITS VICTIMS, AND PROSECUTE AS CRIMINALS THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CRIME OF TRAFFICKING.

TRAFFICKING BY ORGANIZED CRIMINAL NETWORKS IS ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC BYPRODUCTS OF THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE. AND IT'S A STARK REMINDER THAT GLOBALIZATION CAN BRING PROBLEMS AS WELL AS PROMISE.

WE KNOW THAT IN MANY PLACES CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY HAVE ALREADY BROUGHT NEW MARKETS, NEW JOBS, NEW TRADING PARTNERS AND NEW WAYS OF SHARING INFORMATION ON EVERYTHING FROM STARTING BUSINESSES TO RUNNING FOR OFFICE, FROM PASSING LEGISLATION TO ORGANIZING PROTESTS.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN, GLOBALIZATION SHOULD NOT MEAN MARGINALIZATION.

AND WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE BENEFITS OF GLOBALIZATION HAVE CLEARLY NOT REACHED ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING IN MY OWN COUNTRY. AROUND THE WORLD, WOMEN MAKE UP 70 PERCENT OF THOSE LIVING IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY. TOO MANY CHILDREN ARE STILL EXPLOITED AND ABUSED IN THE NEW

GLOBAL WORKFORCE. IF WE ARE GOING TO FINISH THE WORK BEGUN IN BEIJING THEN WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY DOES NOT PUSH WOMEN DOWN OR LEAVE THEM BEHIND. AND I WANT TO THANK UNIFEM FOR MAKING THIS POINT AGAIN AND AGAIN.

IF WE KNOW WHAT WORKS, WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO DOING IT. WE KNOW THAT THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENT A DEVELOPING COUNTRY CAN MAKE IS IN EDUCATING ITS GIRLS AND EXTENDING EQUAL RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO WOMEN. WHEN COUNTRIES MAKE EDUCATING THEIR DAUGHTERS A PRIORITY, WE DECREASE POVERTY AND INFANT MORTALITY. WE CREATE STRONGER FAMILIES, CITIZENS, AND WORKFORCES.

THEREFORE IF WE ARE TO FINISH OUR WORK, THEN WE MUST OPEN

PRIMARY SCHOOL DOORS TO THE 113 MILLION CHILDREN WHO ARE NOW KEPT OUT -- THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE GIRLS - AND CREATE MORE PLACES IN SECONDARY SCHOOL AND HIGHER EDUCATION AS WELL.

IF WE ARE TO FINISH OUR WORK, THEN WE MUST TURN THE DIGITAL DIVIDE INTO A DIGITAL BRIDGE, BRINGING TO POOR CHILDREN IN REMOTE AREAS THE COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY, AND BOOKS THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN IN WEALTHY AREAS TAKE FOR GRANTED.

IF WE ARE TO FINISH OUR WORK, WE HAVE TO PROVIDE ALL CHILDREN THE NUTRITION AND HEALTH CARE THEY NEED TO GROW, LEARN AND THRIVE.

AS UNIFEM HAS MADE CLEAR, WOMEN'S PROGRESS DEPENDS ON ECONOMIC PROGRESS. AND MICROCREDIT IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOLS THAT WE HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL.

AND SO IF WE ARE TO FINISH OUR WORK, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT WOMEN, TOO OFTEN SHUT OUT OFF FROM COMMERCIAL BANKS CREDIT, HAVE ACCESS TO THE LOANS NEEDED TO TURN THEIR DREAMS AND HARD WORK INTO ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PROSPERITY.

WITH US TODAY WE HAVE A PANEL OF EXPERTS WHO HAVE CHAMPIONED MICROCREDIT LOANS AROUND THE WORLD. I WAS PRIVILEGED TO JOIN SOME OF THEM ON A SIMILAR PANEL THAT UNIFEM SPONSORED AT BEIJING. WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THEN AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT. TODAY MICROCREDIT IS REACHING MORE THAN 20 MILLION PEOPLE - AND WE ARE ON TRACK TO MEETING THE MICROCREDIT SUMMIT GOAL OF BRINGING MICROCREDIT TO 100 MILLION OF THE WORLD'S POOREST FAMILIES.

I'VE MET SO MANY OF THESE WOMEN WHOSE LIVES WERE LITERALLY TRANSFORMED BECAUSE OF MICROCREDIT. IN CHILE, I REMEMBER MEETING A SEAMSTRESS WHO WAS ABLE TO BUY A HIGH-SPEED SEWING MACHINE WITH A SMALL LOAN TO START A CLOTHING BUSINESS. SHE TOLD ME THAT THE SEWING MACHINE MEANT SO MUCH TO HER THAT SHE COULDN'T STOP KISSING IT. AND SHE SAID - AND THESE ARE HER WORDS - THAT SHE FELT LIKE A "CAGED BIRD SET FREE."

WE CAN JUST THINK OF ALL THE CAGED BIRDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO CAN SIMILARLY BE SET FREE.

AND IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS I HAVE RELISHED THE CHANCE TO INTRODUCE MY HUSBAND AND OTHER HEADS OF STATE TO MICROCREDIT. THE PRESIDENT AND I, ACCOMPANIED BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. MOUSEVENI OF UGANDA, WENT TO SEE A VILLAGE BANK PROGRAM. NEITHER OF THE PRESIDENTS HAD EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. I THINK WE MAKE CONVERTS OUT OF BOTH OF THEM BECAUSE CERTAINLY MY HUSBAND BEGAN PENCILING IN VISITS TO MICROCREDIT PROJECTS WHEREVER HE WENT. AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA, BECAUSE WHERE HE GOES, THE PRESS GOES, THE ENTOURAGE GOES, HE DRAGS TREASURY SECRETARIES AND OTHER IMPORTANT ECONOMIC (INAUDIBLE). AND SO I WAS DELIGHTED WHEN THE PRESIDENT HOSTED A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE NEW ECONOMY IN APRIL AND I URGED HIM TO

INVITE PEOPLE WHO KNEW ABOUT AND REPRESENTED MICROCREDIT.

AND BECAUSE I HAD ALSO URGED HIM TO SEE SOME MICROCREDIT PROJECTS ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO INDIA, HE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK WITH GREAT AUTHORITY ABOUT THE WOMEN HE HAD MET. SO OF COURSE IN ADDITION TO INVITING THE POWERFUL GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS LIKE ALAN GREENSPAN AND BILL GATES, THE PRESIDENT INVITED OTHERS AS WELL.

AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT THE PERSON WHO STOLE THE SHOW WAS MARAI CHATTERJEE FROM THE SELF-EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF INDIA. MARAI TALKED ELOQUENTLY ABOUT WHAT POOR PEOPLE - PARTICULARLY POOR WOMEN -- NEED TO CLOSE THE ECONOMIC DIVIDE: TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, CREDIT, CAPITAL, EMPLOYMENT, SELF-EMPOWERMENT. THE WORDS JUST FILLED THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE. BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT MICROCREDIT DOES.

I KNEW THAT BECAUSE SIX YEARS AGO, I HAD GONE WITH ELA BHATT TO VISIT SEWA AND TO MEET WITH HUNDREDS OF WOMEN, SOME OF WHOM HAD WALKED FOR 12 OR 14 HOURS, TO COME AND

SEE ELA AND ME AND TALK ABOUT WHAT MICROCREDIT HAD MET IN THERE LIVES. WE WENT INTO THAT SMALL ROOM WHERE THE BOOKS ARE KEPT - THE GREAT BIG BOOKS WHERE THE LOANS AND DEPOSITS ARE RECORDED. AND, WOMAN AFTER WOMAN TOLD ME STORIES - STORIES I HAD HEARD SIMILARLY FROM BANGLADESH AND KYRGISTAN AND MOROCCO TO NICARAGUA AND MY OWN COUNTRY. ABOUT HOW MICROCREDIT HAD CHANGED A WOMAN'S LIFE; HOW SHE COULD FINALLY AFFORD TO SUPPORT HER OWN FAMILY; SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL; STAND UP TO A HUSBAND OR A MOTHER-IN-LAW; HOW SHE FINALLY FELT WORTH SOMETHING IN THE EYES OF EQUALS AROUND HER.

AND WHEN OUR MEETING ENDED, THIS INCREDIBLE, BEAUTIFUL SEA OF SOME OF THE MOST ELEGANT WOMEN I HAVE EVER SEEN ANYWHERE, DRESSED IN PINK, RED AND PURPLE SARIS, BEGAN SINGING TO THE TUNE OF "WE SHALL OVERCOME." AN INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE THAT TRAVELED FROM THE FIELDS OF AMERICAN SLAVERY TO GHANDI'S INDIA BACK TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S STRUGGLES AND FINALLY BACK TO INDIA ONCE AGAIN.

THAT IS THE MESSAGE WE HAVE TO CARRY WITH US INTO THE FUTURE.

YOU KNOW, WE HAVE MARKED THE YEAR OF THE WOMAN. WE EVEN MARKED THE DECADE OF THE WOMAN. NOW LET US NOT JUST MARK BUT CELEBRATE A NEW CENTURY IN WHICH WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE ONCE AND FOR ALL TREATED AS HUMAN RIGHTS, FULLY RESPECTED AND PROTECTED IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD.

IN THIS NEW CENTURY, LET WOMEN'S VOICES BE HEARD AT THE BALLOT BOX AND ON THE SOAPBOX, IN GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS, IN COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES.

IN THIS NEW CENTURY, LET RAPE NO LONGER BE A WEAPON OF WAR, AND LET NO WOMAN OR GIRL EVER AGAIN BE SOLD INTO

SLAVERY OR SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE SIMPLY BECAUSE OF HER SEX.

IN THIS NEW CENTURY, LET WOMEN FINALLY RECEIVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. AND LET US PROVIDE THE CHILDCARE, HEALTH CARE, AND FAMILY LEAVE POLICIES THAT PARENTS NEED TO SUCCEED BOTH AT HOME AND AT WORK.

LET'S GIVE EVERY WOMAN A CHANCE TO SHAPE HER OWN ECONOMIC DESTINY, AND THE MEANS TO LIFT HERSELF AND HER CHILDREN OUT OF POVERTY.

LET'S ENSURE THAT ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE, CREDIT AND JOBS IS NO LONGER DEPENDENT UPON THE COLOR OF OUR SKIN, THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN, OR WHETHER WE ARE BORN A BOY OR A GIRL.

AND IN THIS NEW CENTURY, IF WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR GOAL OF ENSURING THAT WOMEN RIGHTS ARE ACCEPTED AND PROTECTED - THEN I BELIEVE ALL CHILDREN, BOYS AND GIRLS, WILL FINALLY HAVE THE CHANCE TO REACH THEIR GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL.

OUR WORK MAY BE FAR FROM DONE BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF BEING DISCOURAGED BY THESE REMAINING CHALLENGES. WE ARE THE HEIRS OF STRUGGLES ACROSS THE GLOBE AND BACK THROUGH HISTORY OF WOMEN AND MEN WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR, LIVED FOR, AND EVEN DIED FOR THE RIGHTS WE ENJOY TODAY.

IT'S A STRUGGLE THAT ACTUALLY IN THE MODERN ERA BEGAN 152 YEARS AGO, NOT FAR FROM HERE IN A PLACE CALLED SENECA FALLS, NEW YORK, WHERE THE VERY FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION WAS HELD. IMAGINE THE COURAGE IT MUST HAVE TAKEN FOR THOSE WOMEN TO ATTEND THAT CONVENTION. THINK OF A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED CHARLOTTE WOODWARD, A 19 YEAR-OLD GLOVEMAKER WHO WORKED LONG HOURS EVERY DAY WITH NO HOPE OF KEEPING HER WAGES OR OWNING PROPERTY. SHE DECIDED TO GO TO THAT CONVENTION. SHE SET OUT EARLY IN THE MORNING AND SHE FEARED NO ONE ELSE WOULD COME. AT FIRST THE ROAD WAS COMPLETELY EMPTY, SHE REPORTED. BUT AT EACH OF THE CROSSROADS, SHE SAW MORE WOMEN APPEAR IN CARRIAGES AND WAGONS AND ON FOOT. GRADUALLY THEY FORMED ONE LONG PROCESSION ON THE ROAD TO EQUALITY.

WE ARE STILL ON THAT ROAD. ONLY NOW, AT EVERY CROSSROADS, OUR CARAVAN IS JOINED BY WOMEN FROM EVERY CONTINENT, OF EVERY RELIGION, EVERY RACE, EVERY ETHNICITY, EVERY AGE, EVERY COMMUNITY.

AND WE KNOW WE MAY NOT SEE THE END OF THIS JOURNEY IN OUR OWN LIFETIMES. THOSE WHO TRAVELED TO SENECA FALLS UNDERSTOOD THAT THEIR CONVENTION WAS ONLY A FIRST STEP. THEY KNEW THEY WOULDN'T LIVE TO SEE THE DREAMS THEY HELD, BUT THEY HOPED THEIR DAUGHTERS AND GRANDDAUGHTERS WOULD. IN FACT, ONLY CHARLOTTE WOODWARD, THE 19-YEAR-OLD GLOVEMAKER, LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO SEE AMERICAN WOMEN FINALLY EARN THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT LAST NIGHT AS MY MOTHER CELEBRATED HER 81ST BIRTHDAY AND HOW SHE WAS BORN BEFORE

AMERICAN WOMEN HAD THE RIGHT TO VOTE. WHAT A GIFT THAT CHARLOTTE, HER SISTERS, AND A FEW BRAVE MEN GAVE US BACK THOSE MANY YEARS IN SENECA FALLS. WHAT A GIFT THAT ALL OF THE WOMEN WHO GATHERED ALL THOSE YEARS AT UN CONFERENCES HAVE GIVEN US -- IN MEXICO CITY, COPENHAGEN, NAIROBI AND IN BEIJING.

YOU HAVE GIVEN US THE ROAD MAP TO FOLLOW THAT ROAD TO EQUALITY. IT IS UP TO US TO HAVE THE COURAGE, THE DETERMINATION, THE COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF WALKING AS FAR AS WE ARE ABLE DOWN THAT ROAD AND THEN PASSING OFF THE ROAD MAP TO THE GENERATION BEHIND US.

IT IS UP TO US AND WE CAN REDEEM THE PROMISES OF BEIJING - FOR OUR DAUGHTERS AND GRANDDAUGHTERS IF WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER. I BELIEVE WE WILL AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR WHAT EVERY ONE OF US IS DOING.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH. END TEXT.
SHERMAN

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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
SUBJ: UN: SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON WOMEN AND
PEACE AND SECURITY, OCTOBER 24-25
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 USUN NEW YORK 002423

STATE PLS RETRANSMIT AS ALDAC
DEPT FOR IO/UNP,IO/ESA; JCS FOR DIR; OSD FOR SOLIC PK/HA,
AND TR

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TAGS: UNSC, PREL, KPKO, PHUM, ASOC
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1. SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 24 AND 25, THE SECURITY COUNCIL HELD AN OPEN DEBATE ON WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY FOCUSING ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND THE NEED FOR GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING OPERATIONS. NAMIBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, THEO-BEN GUIRIRAB, CHAIRED. KOFI ANNAN FIRST ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL (PARA 2), FOLLOWED BY ANGELA KING, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL AND SPECIAL ADVISOR ON GENDER ISSUES AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (PARA 3), AND NOELEEN HEYZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNIFEM (PARA 4). COUNCIL MEMBERS' STATEMENTS FOLLOWED, WITH AMBASSADOR SODERBERG DELIVERING THE U.S. STATEMENT (PARAS 5 AND 13). THERE WERE 28 NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS' STATEMENTS INCLUDING THE EU. MAJOR THEMES INCLUDED THE LACK OF WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, PEACEKEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING OPERATIONS, THE EXTREME HARDSHIP THAT WOMEN AND CHILDREN ENDURE DURING WAR, THE NEED FOR MORE WOMEN IN POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM, ENDEMIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES. THERE WERE SEVERAL CALLS FOR A STUDY ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PEACE OPERATIONS AND FOR GENDER-SENSITIVE TRAINING OF PEACEKEEPING PERSONNEL. ON OCTOBER 23, PRIOR TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE, JAMAICA HOSTED AN ARRIA-STYLE MEETING WITH NGOS (PARA 12) END SUMMARY.

SECRETARY-GENERAL ANNAN

2. SECRETARY-GENERAL ANNAN HIGHLIGHTED THE CHANGING NATURE OF ARMED CONFLICT AS A PRECURSOR TO THE DEBATE ON "WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY." HE MENTIONED THE RISE OF INTRA-STATE CONFLICT AND THE INCREASED TREND OF CIVILIAN VICTIMS, A MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOCUSED ON WOMEN'S ROLES AS PEACE EDUCATORS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN PRESERVING SOCIAL ORDER HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN WAS UNDERVALUED AND THAT MEN AND WOMEN SHOULD BE EQUAL PARTICIPANTS IN PEACE AND SECURITY DECISION-MAKING.

SPECIAL ADVISOR ON GENDER ISSUES AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

3. ANGELA KING, SPECIAL ADVISOR ON GENDER ISSUES AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, ADDRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN PLAYING ACTIVE ROLES IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES. SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE COUNCIL DISCUSSION SHOULD NOT FOCUS ON WOMEN AS VICTIMS OF CONFLICT BUT RATHER ON THEIR ROLE IN RESOLVING CONFLICT. SHE EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE WINDHOEK DECLARATION AND NAMIBIAN PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS. KING SUGGESTED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY BE CONDUCTED ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS TO PROVIDE OBJECTIVE EMPIRICAL INFORMATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN SUCH ACTIVITIES. SHE ADVOCATED THE TRAINING OF PEACEKEEPING PERSONNEL ON GENDER-SENSITIVE ISSUES, THE APPOINTMENT OF A FEMALE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL IN DPKO, THE APPOINTMENT OF FEMALE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE NEED TO INCORPORATE GENDER INTO PEACEKEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING PLANNING.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNIFEM

4. NOALEEN HEYZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNIFEM, DISCUSSED WAYS TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S ROLES IN NEGOTIATING AND IMPLEMENTING PEACE. SHE BROUGHT UP SEVERAL POINTS: THE NEED FOR A FUNDAMENTAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPACT OF ARME CONFLICT ON WOMEN (POSSIBLY A STUDY SIMILAR TO THE ONE SUGGESTED BY KING); THE NEED FOR IMPROVED PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY REFUGEES, FROM ALL KINDS OF PERSECUTION; THE NEED FOR SUPPORT OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP IN PEACE-BUILDING; THE NEED TO BRING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL PEACE AND SECURITY MEASURES (POSSIBLY BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN HIGH-LEVEL POSITIONS AND BY INCORPORATING WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS); AND THE NEED TO SUPPORT GENDER JUSTICE BY PROVIDING A "GENDER RESPONSIVE FRAMEWORK," A LEGAL AND ELECTORAL FRAMEWORK WHICH INCORPORATES GENDER AWARENESS. SHE ALSO ADVOCATED A STUDY ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PEACEKEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING

OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS A TRAINING REGIME FOR PEACEKEEPING PERSONNEL ON GENDER-SPECIFIC ISSUES.

U.S. STATEMENT

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5. AMBASSADOR SODERBERG EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. SODERBERG CALLED ON MEMBER STATES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF WOMEN AMBASSADORS TO THE UN AND UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF RISING ABOVE THE CURRENT "TOKEN REPRESENTATION" OF WOMEN. WHILE OFFERING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN, SODERBERG NOTED THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED THAT WOULD DISADVANTAGE MEN. (SEE FULL TEXT IN PARA 13 BELOW.)

RECURRING THEMES AMONG COUNCIL AND NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS'
STATEMENTS

6. WOMEN AS LEADERS AS OPPOSED TO VICTIMS: MANY SPEAKERS EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE WOMEN WERE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE DURING CONFLICTS, THEY SHOULD BE VIEWED AS MORE THAN VICTIMS. WOMEN PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN CREATING A CULTURE OF PEACE, AND THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN A MORE ACTIVE POSITION IN THE PREVENTION OF CONFLICT AND IN PEACE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES. SPEAKERS ENCOURAGED THE MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER ISSUES AND MANY ASSERTED THAT THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE SHOULD BE INCORPORATED IN ALL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OF UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. IF WOMEN WERE THOSE MOST LIKELY BE AFFLICTED BY POVERTY AND THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BE REFUGEES (ALONG WITH CHILDREN), THEIR ROLES IN THE AFTERMATH OF WAR SHOULD BE GIVEN PARTICULAR ATTENTION BY THE COUNCIL. IN ADDITION, THE UN SHOULD GALVANIZE ITS EFFORTS TO APPOINT WOMEN TO HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL AND DECISION-MAKING ROLES, INCLUDING AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

7. PEACEKEEPER TRAINING: SEVERAL SPEAKERS PRAISED RECENT PROGRAMS AIMED AT TRAINING AND SENSITIZING PEACEKEEPERS WITH RESPECT TO GENDER ISSUES, BUT SAID MORE MUST BE DONE THERE WAS MENTION OF THE CREATION OF GENDER ADVISOR POSITIONS IN DPKO. ANY UN PEACEKEEPERS GUILTY OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN MUST BE PROSECUTED.

8. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) AND OTHER BODIES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: MOST SPEAKERS PRAISED THE ROME STATUTE

OF THE ICC, WHICH LISTED GENDER-RELATED CRIMES (RAPE, SEXUAL SLAVERY, TRAFFICKING) AS WAR CRIMES. SPEAKERS ALSO URGED STATES THAT HAVE NOT SIGNED OR RATIFIED THE TREATY DO SO WITHOUT DELAY. MANY SPEAKERS URGED THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ENFORCE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN. IMPUNITY FOR SUCH CRIMES SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED.

9. BRAHIMI REPORT: A NUMBER OF SPEAKERS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GENDER ADVISORS AND UNITS WOULD BE INCORPORATED IN THE BRAHIMI REPORT'S IMPLEMENTATION.

10. PRECURSOR FORA: MANY SPEAKERS MADE REFERENCE TO THE OTHER VENUES IN WHICH WOMEN'S ISSUES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED, SPECIFICALLY WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA (WINDHOEK DECLARATION: THE NAMIBIA PLAN OF ACTION ON "MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN MULTIDIMENSIONAL PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS") THE MACHEL REPORT (1996), BEIJING, AND BEIJING PLUS FIVE. SEVERAL SPEAKERS URGED THE COUNCIL NOT TO REINVENT FRAMEWORKS OR TAKE ON MECHANISMS OUTSIDE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, BUT RATHER TO RELY ON THE OUTCOME DOCUMENTS OF THE CONFERENCES MENTIONED ABOVE AND OTHER UN-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS.

STATEMENTS THAT STOOD OUT

11. THE MAJORITY OF STATEMENTS DISCUSSED THE THEMES NOTED ABOVE IN PARAGRAPH SEVEN, BUT SOME COUNTRIES ADDED MORE SPECIFIC CONCERNS. SINGAPORE ARGUED THAT THE DEATH PENALTY SHOULD BE UTILIZED AS BOTH AN APPROPRIATE JUDICIAL RESPONSE AS WELL AS A KEY DETERRENT TO PREVENT WAR CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN. AFRICAN STATES URGED THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN REGARDLESS OF THE LACK OF ONE IN RWANDA. MANY AFRICAN STATES ALSO NOTED WITH CONCERN THE SPREAD OF AIDS THROUGH RAPE. A NUMBER OF STATES CALLED ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THAT THE ISRAELI'S OCCUPATION HAS INFLICTED ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN. THEY ALSO CALLED FOR THE PROSECUTION OF THESE CRIMES UNDER THE 1949 FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION. INDIA ENCOURAGED THE WEST TO DIRECT ITS EFFORTS AWAY FROM FULL INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO PEACEKEEPING AND OTHER MILITARY ROLES, AND TOWARD THE FOSTERING OF BETTER REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN NON-VIOLENT ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS PEACE-BUILDING. NAMIBIA ADDED THAT LANDMINE AWARENESS AND DEMINING ACTIVITIES SHOULD INCLUDE MORE WOMEN, AS WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE OFTEN

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THE MAIN VICTIMS.

ARRIA-STYLE MEETING

12. ON OCTOBER 23, THE COUNCIL HELD AN ARRIA-STYLE MEETING WITH NGOS, ANGELA KING, NOALEEN HEYZER, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, AND UNIFEM. JAMAICAN PERMREP DURRANT CHAIRED AND DISCUSSED ISSUES TO BE RAISED IN THE OPEN DEBATE ON OCTOBER.24 AND 25. THE NGOS GAVE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW BETTER TO INCORPORATE WOMEN'S ISSUES AND OPINIONS INTO SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS AND DECISIONS. RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED: INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, INCORPORATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY (ELDERS) THROUGH COMMUNITY MEETINGS AS A FORM OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION, GENDER-SENSITIVE TRAINING OF UN PEACEKEEPERS, PROSECUTION IN THE ICC OF ALL VIOLATORS OF SEXUAL CRIMES, CONSIDERATION OF WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' SPECIAL NEEDS IN DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS, INCREASED ATTENTION TO WOMEN'S ISSUES ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL AGENDA, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF WOMEN--CREATED BY THE SECRETARIAT -- TO CONSULT ON GENDER ISSUES. SPEAKING FOR THE U.S., AMBASSADOR SODERBERG UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT HILLARY CLINTON HAS PLAYED IN BROADENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING. SODERBERG SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF GENDER ADVISORS IN PEACEKEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING OPERATIONS AND ADDED THAT THE ARRIA-STYLE MEETING WAS A UNIQUE HISTORICAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN'S GROUPS TO HAVE THEIR VOICES HEARD AND, IN TURN, FOR THE COUNCIL TO RESPOND. COUNCIL MEMBERS GAVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO BROADENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES AND TO FOSTERING GENDER EQUALITY.

TEXT OF THE U.S. STATEMENT

13. BEGIN TEXT:

THE UNITED STATES WARMLY WELCOMES THIS OPEN DEBATE ON WOM AND PEACE AND SECURITY. WE THANK SECRETARY GENERAL ANNAN FOR HIS REMARKS AND FULLY CONCUR WITH THE STATEMENT IN HIS REPORT. EQUALITY OF RIGHTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN ARE FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENTS IN BUILDING A DURABLE PEACE. I COMMEND PRESIDENT BEN GURIRAB AND AMBASSADOR ANDJABA FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. IN PARTICULAR I WANT TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO MS. ANGELA KING, THE SPECIAL ADVISOR ON GENDER ISSUES AND ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND MS. NOALEEN HEYZER, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNIFEM. I HOPE THIS BODY WILL MEET THE HISTORIC CHALLENGES YOU HAVE PUT FORWARD TODAY. I ALSO WANT TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS IN THE GALLERY. YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT. IT IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE HEARD APPLAUSE IN THIS CHAMBER.

--TODAY'S MEETING MUST NOT ONLY MAKE US ALL MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE WOMEN PLAY IN PREVENTING CONFLICT, ENCOURAGING RECONCILIATION, AND HELPING TO REBUILD CONFLICT-RIDDEN SOCIETIES, BUT IT MUST ALSO SPUR US TO

CONCRETE ACTION. WE, IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, HAVE FAILED TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AS SECRETARY OF STATE ALBRIGHT POINTED OUT IN A RECENT SPEECH TO A GROUP OF BUSINESSWOMEN, "IN TOO MANY PLACES, WOMEN REMAIN AN UNDERVALUED AND UNDERDEVELOPED HUMAN RESOURCE."

--WE APPLAUD THE UNWAVERING EFFORTS OF THE UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO CONFRONT THE PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT MOSTLY WOMEN. THE WORK OF THESE BODIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S MORAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SUCH EFFORTS HAVE CHANGED THE LIVES OF MANY, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD. WORKING TOGETHER, WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO PROMOTE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, EDUCATE GIRLS AND WOMEN, CHANGE UNBALANCED INHERITANCE AND DIVORCE LAWS, ADVANCE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY, AND ERADICATE TRADITIONAL PRACTICES HARMFUL TO WOMEN AND GIRLS.

--MUCH OF OUR ATTENTION HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD PROTECTING WOMEN, ESPECIALLY FROM THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF ARMED CONFLICT INCLUDING FORCED DISPLACEMENT, TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN, TORTURE, RAPE AND OTHER ACTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AS WELL AS A HOST OF OTHER CRIMES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE 1993 WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUSED SOLELY ON WOMEN VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT. WHILE THE ISSUE OF PROTECTION OF WOMEN CANNOT BE IGNORED, I HOPE THAT SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION WILL EMPHASIZE THE LEADERSHIP ROLE WOMEN CAN AND SHOULD PLAY IN RESTORING PEACE.

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--WOMEN ARE AN UNDER-UTILIZED POSITIVE FORCE FOR PEACE. THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN RECOGNIZED THAT THEY MUST BE FULLY INVOLVED IN PREVENTING AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS. WE MUST ACTIVELY PROMOTE FORMAL MECHANISMS, WHICH SUPPORT A CONSISTENT FEMALE PRESENCE AT THE PEACE TABLE, IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND IN THE PEACE BUILDING EFFORTS TO RECONSTRUCT INSTITUTIONS VITAL TO LASTING STABILITY.

--THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, BY APPOINTING QUALIFIED WOMEN TO VISIBLE POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE, HAS SET A LAUDABLE EXAMPLE FOR US TO FOLLOW. DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL LOUISE FRECHETTE, HIGH COMMISSIONERS MARY ROBINSON AND SADAKO OGATA, UNICEF'S CAROL BELLAMY, AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM CATHERINE BERTINI, JUST TO NAME A FEW, DEMONSTRATE DAILY THAT WOMEN DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN DEFUSING CONFLICT AND PROMOTING EQUALITY, PEACE, AND SECURITY. THE CHALLENGE

BEFORE US IS TO EMULATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY. THE UNITED STATES APPLAUDS THE APPOINTMENTS OF THESE WOMEN, AND WE WANT TO SEE MORE DONE. IN PARTICULAR, WE NEED MORE WOMEN AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, AS SPECIAL ENVOYS, AND AS HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATORS AND MONITORS. WE HOPE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL STRIVE TO APPOINT MORE FULLY QUALIFIED WOMEN TO THESE IMPORTANT POSITIONS. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE MEMBER STATES TO BRING SUCH CANDIDATES TO HIS ATTENTION AND TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF THE UN MAINTAINING A ROSTER OF QUALIFIED WOMEN MAINTAINED AS PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS STANDBY ARRANGEMENTS SYSTEM

--WE NEED MORE THAN INFLUENTIAL WOMEN AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF POWER AND PRESTIGE. THE UNITED NATIONS MUST ENSURE THAT WOMEN'S VOICES ARE HEARD WHEREVER THE UN ASSISTS IN THE SETTLEMENT OF CONFLICT AND IN POST-CONFLICT PEACE-BUILDING. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO MY COLLEAGUES, JUST LOOK AROUND THIS ROOM. A GOOD PLACE TO START WOULD BE FOR MEMBER STATES TO APPOINT MORE WOMEN AS AMBASSADORS TO THE UN. CERTAINLY, ONE WOMAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, THE DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADOR PATRICIA DURRANT, OUT OF FIFTEEN ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS AT LEAST SIX OR SEVEN TOO FEW. AND 10 WOMEN OUT OF 189 PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IS A SAD COMMENTARY ON THE STATE OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES. IF WE ARE TO HEED PRESIDENT BEN GURIRAB'S CHALLENGE WE ALL SAW IN THE VIDEO, TO MAKE WOMEN HALF OF EVERY SOLUTION, MEMBER STATES MUST BE ABLE TO DO BETTER THAN 5 PERCENT. IN ALL PHASES OF PEACEKEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING MISSIONS THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN MUST BE VISIBLE AND CONSISTENT. WHEN POSSIBLE, FACT-FINDING MISSIONS SHOULD INCLUDE GENDER ADVISORS AND THE TERMS OF RECONCILIATION AND RECONSTRUCTION SHOULD DRAW ON THE EXPERTISE OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY GROUPS. THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF A CONFLICT PROVIDES A UNIQUE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO RE-BUILD, WITH THE EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN, THE PUBLIC SECURITY INSTITUTIONS VITAL TO LASTING STABILITY. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THIS, STATES SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO GENDER BALANCE IN THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVILIAN POLICE AND OTHER PEACEKEEPING CONTINGENTS AND TO ASSISTING OTHER STATES IN ACHIEVING A GENDER-BALANCED PERSPECTIVE. IN PLACE AFTER PLACE -- FROM NORTHERN IRELAND TO GUATEMALA TO SOUTH AFRICA, WE SEE THAT WOMEN ARE MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN THEY ARE ABLE TO ORGANIZE AND BE HEARD. OUR FIRST LADY'S INVOLVEMENT IN VITAL VOICES AROUND THE WORLD HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT FACT TIME AND AGAIN. WE, AS MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, CANNOT BE CONTENT WITH TOKEN REPRESENTATION OF HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A VERY SPECIFICALLY MANDATED, EXPERT PANEL OR WORKING GROUP TO REPORT ON MECHANISMS THAT WILL ENSURE EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING OPERATIONS.

--WE ALSO NEED TO PREPARE OUR UN PEACEKEEPERS FOR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ENTIRE POPULATION IN A MISSION AREA. THIS MEANS THAT PEACEKEEPERS, MILITARY, CIVILIAN POLICE AND CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD BE TRAINED ON GENDER ISSUES. THOSE

WHO VIOLATE WOMEN'S MOST BASIC RIGHTS MUST BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. THE TRAINING SHOULD FOCUS ON CODES OF CONDUCT, CULTURAL AND SOCIETAL NORMS WITH RESPECT TO WOMEN, AND STUDY OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. AT MANAGERIAL LEVELS, TRAINING SHOULD INCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN INSTITUTION BUILDING, PARTICULARLY IN RULE-OF-LAW AREAS. THE TRAINING UNIT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS SHOULD DEVELOP EXPORTABLE MODULES THAT MAY BE USED IN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND ALL UN TRAINING PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE ELEMENTS ON GENDER ISSUES.
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--WE ENCOURAGE STATES TO ASSIST IN OTHER MEANINGFUL WAYS, AS WELL. THE UNITED STATES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS PROVIDED FUNDING TO THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO SUPPORT THE BOSNIAN WOMEN'S INITIATIVE, WHICH PROMOTES THE REINTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE ECONOMY. IT EMPHASIZES TRAINING, LEGAL ASSISTANCE, AND SUPPORT FOR MICRO-ENTERPRISE PROJECTS. LIKEWISE, THE U.S. HAS SUPPORTED THE RWANDAN WOMEN'S INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS REFUGEE WOMEN'S REINTEGRATION. THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS ALSO PROVIDED SUPPORT TO THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN THAT OPERATES IN SIERRA LEONE, AFGHANISTAN, AZERBAIJAN AND SUDAN. THESE PROGRAMS NOT ONLY PROVIDE SERVICES TO WOMEN IN WAR-TORN AREAS, BUT THEY SEEK ALSO TO INTEGRATE THEM INTO THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIVES OF THEIR COUNTRIES.

--AS WE MOVE FORWARD, WE SHOULD TAKE CARE THAT OUR EFFORTS TO FURTHER EMPOWER WOMEN IN NO WAY DISADVANTAGE MEN. WE SHOULD STRIVE FOR EQUALITY, NOT SPECIAL TREATMENT. WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS A COMMITMENT FROM UN MEMBER STATES, THE SECRETARIAT, AND ALL CONCERNED PARTIES TO HONOR THE OBLIGATIONS AND PROMISES ALREADY MADE TO WOMEN. NOW WE SHOULD LOOK AHEAD TO CONCRETE INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF THOSE PROMISES.

--LET ME AGAIN COMMEND PRESIDENT BEN GURIRAB AND AMBASSADOR ANDJABA FOR CALLING FOR THIS MEETING TODAY. I HOPE IT IS THE BEGINNING OF REGULAR DISCUSSIONS IN THIS CHAMBER AND THAT ONE DAY THERE WILL BE EQUAL GENDER REPRESENTATION AROUND THIS TABLE AND THROUGHOUT THESE HALLS.

END TEXT
CUNNINGHAM

TOR: 10/27/00 17:54:11

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY NSC MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN SCHWARTZ SHEA SMITHP
WILCOX

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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TO: RUEHZJ/HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COLLECTIVE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0879
INFO: RUEHBE/AMEMBASSY BELIZE 0112
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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 5406
SUBJ: THIRD COMMITTEE VOTES ON SIX AGENDA ITEMS
TEXT: UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 002436

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REF: SECSTATE 205720

SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 26, THE THIRD COMMITTEE TOOK ACTION ON FIVE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS: COMBATING THE CRIMINAL MISUSE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (L.8)--A U.S.-LED PROPOSAL--INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (L.19), UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (L.22), INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (L.24), FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN (L.28), AND USE OF MERCENARIES AS A MEANS OF VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMPEDING THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (L.23). END SUMMARY

2. THE THIRD COMMITTEE ADOPTED THE U.S. CYBERCRIME RESOLUTION (AGENDA ITEM 105) BY CONSENSUS WITH 58 CO-SPONSORS.

3. ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, HOWEVER, ANNOUNCED THAT WHILE THEY WOULD NOT BREAK CONSENSUS, ELEMENTS IN THE RESOLUTION CAUSED THEM GRAVE CONCERN. AS A RESULT, THEY WOULD RESERVE COMMENT ON THE RESOLUTION AND POSSIBLY CALL FOR A VOTE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4. FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE'S ACTION, BARBADOS AND BELIZE STATED THAT WHILE THEY, TOO, JOINED CONSENSUS, THEY RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SPEAK ON THE RESOLUTION IN THE G.A. THE CARICOM RESERVATIONS ARE RELATED TO SEIZURES OF BANK DOCUMENTS BY U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES THIS WEEK IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA. MISSION COMMENT: THE SEIZURES HAD NOTHING TO DO

WITH CYBERCRIME, AND USUN WILL WORK WITH CARICOM TO ACHIEVE
CONSENSUS. END COMMENT

5. THE NEXT FOUR PROPOSALS WERE ALSO APPROVED WITHOUT A VOTE
(AWOV), WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION JOINING CONSENSUS IN EACH.

6. THE MERCENARIES RESOLUTION, SPONSORED BY CUBA, WAS PUT TO
A VOTE: 92 IN FAVOR, 16 OPPOSED (U.S.), AND THIRTY-THREE
ABSTAINED. VOTES AGAINST INCLUDED NOT ONLY THE U.S. BUT ALSO
WESTERN EUROPEAN AND LIKE-MINDED STATES. MOST EU AND
EU-ASSOCIATE MEMBERS EITHER VOTED WITH THE U.S. OR ABSTAINED.
(USUN WILL SEND A FINAL VOTE COUNT TO IO/SHA.)

6. PER REFTTEL 205720, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE VOTE ON RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION, THE U.S. DELEGATE PRESENTED THE USG'S
EXPLANATION OF POSITION (E.O.P.)
CUNNINGHAM

TOR: 10/27/00 20:43:44

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY BLACK NSC HARRIS HINCKLEY MAERTENS MCLEAN NAPLAN
PATTEN SAMORE SCHWARTZ SHEA SMITHP TUCKER WILCOX

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUCNDTA2830 3401759-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 051759Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
OSRI: RUCNDT
DTG:
ORIG: USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1518
INFO: RUCNRPP/REFUGEE PROCESSING POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: PLENARY SESSION TAKES ACTION ON THIRD COMMITTEE
REPORT
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 002830

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: UNGA PHUM PREF

SUBJECT: PLENARY SESSION TAKES ACTION ON THIRD COMMITTEE
REPORT

1. SUMMARY: THE UNGA PLENARY SESSION TOOK ACTION MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, ON ALL OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE'S REPORTS, ITEM FOR ITEM. IN A KEY ISSUE, THE ASSEMBLY VOTED BY A 13-VOTE SPREAD TO ENDORSE THE EU-SPONSORED SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE REPORTS ADOPTED ARE AS FOLLOWS (WITH AGENDA ITEM NUMBER IN PARENTHESES): SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS, AND THE FAMILY (103); FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF OLDER PERSONS (104); CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (105); INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (106); ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (107); IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENTITLED "WOMEN 2000: GENDER EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY" (108), REPORT OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS (109); PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN (110); PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (111); ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (112); RIGHT OF PEOPLE'S TO SELF-DETERMINATION (113); IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS (114A); HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS" (114B); HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES (114C); COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION

(114D); REPORT OF THE UNHCHR (114E); REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (12). ACTION ON THE INSTRAW RESOLUTION WAS POSTPONED, PENDING CONSIDERATION BY THE ACABQ AND THE FIFTH COMMITTEE.

3. THE PLENARY SESSION ADOPTED MOST OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS BY CONSENSUS AND, HENCE, WITHOUT A VOTE. THE FOLLOWING REPORTS (AGENDA ITEM NUMBER) WERE BROUGHT UP FOR A VOTE:

4. "WORKING TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF HONOR" (107), PASSED WITH 146 IN FAVOR (U.S.), ONE AGAINST (LESOTHO), AND 26 ABSTENTIONS.

5. "OFFICE OF THE UNCHR" (109), PASSED WITH 139 IN FAVOR (U.S.), NONE AGAINST, AND 31 ABSTENTIONS.

6. "THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION" (113) PASSED WITH 170 IN FAVOR, TWO AGAINST (U.S. AND ISRAEL), AND FIVE ABSTENTIONS (CANADA, MARSHALL IS., MICRONESIA, PALAU, AND TONGA).

7. "USE OF MERCENARIES AS A MEANS OF VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS" (113) PASSED WITH 119 IN FAVOR, 19 OPPOSED (U.S.), AND 35 ABSTENTIONS.

8. "PROMOTION OF A DEMOCRATIC AND EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ORDER" (114B) PASSED WITH 109 IN FAVOR, 52 AGAINST (U.S.), AND 7 ABSTENTIONS.

9. "HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL COERCIVE MEASURES" (114B) PASSED WITH 117 IN FAVOR, 49 OPPOSED (U.S.), AND 6 ABSTENTIONS.

10. "RESPECT FOR THE PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UN" (114B) PASSED WITH 104 VOTES IN FAVOR, 52 AGAINST (U.S.) AND 15 ABSTENTIONS.

11. "GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS" (114B) PASSED WITH 112 IN FAVOR, 46 OPPOSED (U.S.), AND 15 ABSTENTIONS.

12. "RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT TO UNIVERSAL FREEDOM OF TRAVEL AND THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION" (114B) PASSED WITH 106 IN FAVOR, ONE OPPOSED (U.S.), AND 67 ABSTENTIONS.

13. "PROMOTING AND CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY" (114B) PASSED WITH 157 IN FAVOR (U.S.), NONE OPPOSED, AND 16 ABSTENTIONS.

14. "PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS" (114B) PASSED WITH 165 IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, AND 8 ABSTENTIONS (U.S.) INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, INDIA, ISRAEL, MALAYSIA, MICRONESIA, MYANMAR (BURMA), PALAU, AND SINGAPORE.

15. THE COUNTRY-SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS (114C) WERE MORE CONTENTIOUS. THE ONE ON THE SUDAN PASSED WITH 85 VOTES IN FAVOR, 32 AGAINST, AND 49 ABSTENTIONS (U.S.).

D.R.CONGO ALSO PASSED WITH 102 IN FAVOR (U.S.), 2 AGAINST (RWANDA, UGANDA), WITH 63 ABSTENTIONS. IRAQ WAS APPROVED WITH 102 IN FAVOR, 3 AGAINST (LIBYA, MAURITANIA, SUDAN), AND 60 ABSTENTIONS.

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16. FINALLY, THE "SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN" PASSED WITH 67 VOTES IN FAVOR (U.S.), 54 AGAINST, AND 46 ABSTENTIONS. THANKS TO INTENSE WORK BY OUR EMBASSIES AND CONSULAR POSTS LOBBYING IN CAPITALS, RUMORS THAT THE IRANIAN DELEGATE WAS WOOING SMALL ISLAND STATES TO CHANGE THEIR VOTES CAME TO NOUGHT AS MOST CARICOM AND PACIFIC ISLAND STATES VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION. USUN ADDS ITS APPRECIATION TO THAT OF THE DEPARTMENT.

HOLBROOKE

TOR: 12/05/00 14:22:53

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY NSC MCLEAN SCHWARTZ WILCOX

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHHIA2776 3610959-UUUU--RHEHNSC.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: P 260959Z DEC 00

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY HANOI

OSRI: RUEHHI

DTG:

ORIG: AMEMBASSY HANOI

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1578

INFO: RUEADWW/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEHZU/APEC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHC/DEPTLABOR WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEATRS/DEPTTREAS WASHDC

RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J5/FPA//

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC

RUEHRC/USDA WASHDC

RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0112

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3714

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1351

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0030

SUBJ: POTUS VISIT: FIRST LADY'S FORUM OUTLINES
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES FACING VIETNAMESE WOMEN

TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 HANOI 002776

STATE FOR S/S, S/PICW (LOAR), P, E, S/P
STATE ALSO FOR EAP (BOYCE), EAP/BCLTV, DRL, EB, INR
STATE PASS USAID FOR ANE (FERRARA)
WHITE HOUSE FOR OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY (VERVEER)
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC (PRITCHARD), NEC (ROSEN)
NSC FOR LIEBERTHAL, CHRISTY AND SCHWARTZ
LABOR FOR DEPUTY U/S SAMET/BENJAMIN
USDOC FOR 4431/MAC/AP/OKSA/HPPHO
TREASURY FOR OASIA
SECDEF FOR ISA/EAP STERN
USDA FOR FAA/AO/SHUETE
PARIS FOR SUE BREMNER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, KWMN, PREL, PHUM, SOCI, ELAB, PINR, VM

SUBJECT: POTUS VISIT: FIRST LADY'S FORUM OUTLINES
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES FACING VIETNAMESE WOMEN

REF: A) HANOI 2775

B) HANOI 2667

C) HANOI 2639

D) HO CHI MINH CITY 1766

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

2. (U) SUMMARY: AT HER FORUM TO ADDRESS WOMEN'S ISSUES IN HANOI DURING THE PRESIDENT'S HISTORIC TRIP, THE FIRST LADY DISCUSSED WITH VIETNAMESE WOMEN LEADERS HOW TO ADVANCE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL EQUALITY, AND HOW TO CONFRONT TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AND HIV/AIDS. A GROUNDBREAKING EVENT IN VIETNAM, THE FORUM FEATURED A PANEL OF SEVEN VIETNAMESE WOMEN SPANNING A WIDE VARIETY OF AGES, PROFESSIONS AND SOCIAL POSITIONS, WHO DISCUSSED THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS, PUBLIC LIFE, EDUCATION, AND SOCIETY. SEVERAL PANELISTS, INCLUDING THE MINISTER OF LABOR AND A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER, EXPRESSED HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC VIEWS ABOUT THE GAINS WOMEN HAVE MADE IN RECENT YEARS, POINTING TO THE LAWS VIETNAM HAS PASSED GUARANTEEING FULL EQUALITY. TWO OF THE YOUNGER PANELISTS EXPRESSED HOPES FOR GREATER OPPORTUNITY IN THE FUTURE. MRS. CLINTON NOTED THAT A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR VIETNAM, AS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, IS MATCHING THE LOFTY RHETORIC OF LAWS ON THE BOOKS WITH ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AND CHALLENGES FOR VIETNAMESE WOMEN

3. (SBU) THE FIRST LADY, SENATOR-ELECT HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, HOSTED A WOMEN'S FORUM AT THE VIETNAM HISTORY MUSEUM NOVEMBER 18 AS PART OF THE HISTORIC PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO HANOI (REFS A AND B). THE FORUM FEATURED A PANEL OF SEVEN WOMEN, SPANNING A WIDE VARIETY OF AGES, PROFESSIONS AND SOCIAL POSITIONS, WHO DISCUSSED ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS, PUBLIC LIFE, EDUCATION, AND SOCIETY. MODERATOR VI PETERSON, A BUSINESS CONSULTANT AND SPOUSE OF THE AMBASSADOR, OPENED THE FORUM WITH BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS, FOLLOWED BY REMARKS BY HA THI KHIET, PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S UNION, A MASS ORGANIZATION BACKED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM (CPV). KHIET WELCOMED THE FIRST LADY, HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLE OF THE WOMEN'S UNION IN EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIETNAMESE WOMEN AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL, AND SPOKE OF "THE LONG CENTURIES OF STRUGGLE BY VIETNAMESE WORKING PEOPLE" TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE. (COMMENT: THE LEAD-OFF COMMENTS BY KHIET AND THEN LABOR MINISTER HANG, BOTH OF WHOM ARE CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, SEEMED TO HAVE A SOBERING EFFECT ON SOME OF THE OTHER VIETNAMESE PARTICIPANTS. THEY WERE MUCH LESS CANDID IN THIS "FORMAL" SETTING THAN THEY HAD BEEN AT AN INFORMAL LUNCHEON PRIOR TO THE FORUM. THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES NEGOTIATIONS AND DYNAMICS OF THE FORUM ARE DISCUSSED FURTHER SEPTTEL. END COMMENT.)

4. (U) IN HER REMARKS, THE FIRST LADY ACKNOWLEDGED THE COMMON WORK OF WOMEN IN DIFFERENT FIELDS AROUND THE WORLD TO REALIZE THE GOALS OF THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AND THE WYE ROW NGO FORUM. SHE SAID WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD HAVE SIMILAR GOALS: TO ACHIEVE FULL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ALL SPHERES OF SOCIETY. IN CONCRETE TERMS, THEY SEEK TO EXPAND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY, TO LIVE FREE FROM VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION, TO RAISE CHILDREN TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, AND TO HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, JOBS, AND CREDIT TO IMPROVE THEIR

OWN LIVES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR COUNTRIES.

5. (U) THE FIRST LADY NOTED THE DAY BEFORE SHE HAD VISITED
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 HANOI 002776

STATE FOR S/S, S/PICW (LOAR), P, E, S/P
STATE ALSO FOR EAP (BOYCE), EAP/BCLTV, DRL, EB, INR
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WHITE HOUSE FOR OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY (VERVEER)
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PARIS FOR SUE BREMNER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, KWMN, PREL, PHUM, SOCI, ELAB, PINR, VM
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A MICRO-CREDIT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT RUN BY THE
WOMEN'S UNION WITH ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL NGOS. SHE
COMMENTED ON HOW WELL-RUN MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAMS HAD
ACHIEVED GREAT RESULTS IN REDUCING POVERTY IN MANY
COUNTRIES. SHE ACKNOWLEDGED ACHIEVEMENTS BY VIETNAMESE
WOMEN AND STRESSED THEIR CONTINUING CHALLENGES SUCH AS
EXPANDING ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AND CONFRONTING
TRAFFICKING AND THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS. THE FIRST LADY
ANNOUNCED THE U.S. COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF HAD PLEDGED \$10
MILLION TO IMPROVE SAFETY FOR CHILDREN IN VIETNAM.

PANELISTS HIGHLIGHT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

6. (SBU) MINISTER OF LABOR NGUYEN THI HANG WAS THE FIRST OF
THE SEVEN PANELISTS; SHE ADDRESSED HUMAN TRAFFICKING. SHE
DESCRIBED VIETNAM'S EFFORTS IN PASSING UN CONVENTIONS AND
LAWS OUTLAWING TRAFFICKING AND GUARANTEEING GENDER EQUALITY
AND WORKER RIGHTS. SHE NOTED PRESIDENT LUONG HAD SIGNED
THE UN CONVENTION ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR NOV.
17. HANG SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS, VIETNAM HAD MADE GREAT
PROGRESS ECONOMICALLY, BUT THIS HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY
MANY SOCIAL VICES. SHE ASSERTED THERE WERE ONLY ISOLATED
CASES OF TRAFFICKING INSIDE VIETNAM, BUT ABOUT 20,000 WOMEN
HAD BEEN TRAFFICKED TO CHINA AND CAMBODIA AS THE RESULT OF
FALSE PROMISES OF GOOD JOBS OR OTHER BENEFITS. SHE SAID
THE WOMEN'S UNION AND OTHER MASS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE WORKED
HARD TO INCREASE PUBLICITY SO THAT RURAL WOMEN,
PARTICULARLY, ARE INFORMED ABOUT TRAFFICKING.

7. (SBU) NGO BA THANH, A THREE-TERM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MEMBER AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAM LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION, GAVE A ROSY VIEW OF WOMEN'S LEGAL STATUS IN
VIETNAM. SHE CLAIMED GENDER EQUITY HAS EXISTED IN VIETNAM
SINCE THE COUNTRY GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE, AND SAID THE

"NATIONAL LIBERATION" PROCESS LED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS LINKED TO THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN. (COMMENT: THANH IS NOT A CPV MEMBER AND IN PRIVATE IS ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL AND OUTSPOKEN ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. HER PRESENTATION IN THE FORUM WAS MORE UPBEAT THAN HER COMMENTS IN PRIVATE BEFORE IT. END COMMENT.) SHE SAID VIETNAM HAD MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN RECENT YEARS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. SHE CLAIMED THAT TODAY ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTIONS IS MUCH MORE VIGOROUS.

8. (U) PHAM CHI LAN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAMESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, SAID WOMEN PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN VIETNAMESE BUSINESSES, WITH 70% OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES HEADED BY WOMEN. THE NEW ENTERPRISE LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION HAVE MADE IT EASIER FOR WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN BUSINESS. SHE ARGUED THAT, AS A RULE, WOMEN ARE MORE ENTERPRISING THAN MEN IN VIETNAM AND MORE PRUDENT BUSINESSPERSONS. MANY WOMEN RELY ON THEIR EXTENDED FAMILY TO HELP THEM JUGGLE COMPETING DEMANDS OF BUSINESS AND FAMILY.

9. (SBU) NGUYEN THI MAI THANH, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE REE REFRIGERATION COMPANY, DESCRIBED HOW HER COMPANY BECAME ONE OF VIETNAM'S FIRST PRIVATIZED FIRMS IN 1993 AND TODAY IS ONE OF SIX COMPANIES LISTED ON THE FLEDGLING HO CHI MINH CITY STOCK EXCHANGE. THANH, WHO IS A CPV MEMBER AND REPORTEDLY WILL ADDRESS THE UPCOMING CPV CONGRESS IN MARCH 2001 ABOUT PRIVATIZATION, STRESSED THAT COMPANIES MUST PRIVATIZE IN ORDER TO HAVE AUTONOMY IN THEIR BUSINESS
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 HANOI 002776

STATE FOR S/S, S/PICW (LOAR), P, E, S/P
STATE ALSO FOR EAP (BOYCE), EAP/BCLTV, DRL, EB, INR
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PARIS FOR SUE BREMNER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, KWMN, PREL, PHUM, SOCI, ELAB, PINR, VM
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OPERATIONS AND MORE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN DECISION-MAKING. SHE SAID THERE ARE MANY NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS TODAY, THOUGH POOR INFRASTRUCTURE, OBSOLETE TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER LIMITATIONS UNDERCUT THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE THAT VIETNAMESE FIRMS SHOULD ENJOY IN THE REGION BECAUSE OF VIETNAM'S CHEAP, EDUCATED LABOR. SHE STRESSED THE NEED FOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO HELP VIETNAMESE WOMEN EXPAND THEIR BUSINESS

PROSPECTS.

10. (U) VUONG THI HANH, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION PROMOTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, STRESSED THE NEED FOR RURAL WOMEN TO HAVE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN GRASSROOTS DECISION-MAKING. SHE SAID THE CPV AND STATE HAD ADOPTED LAWS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. TODAY MORE THAN 26% OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ARE WOMEN, AND THERE IS A FEMALE VICE PRESIDENT AND A MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO. HOWEVER, THOUGH WOMEN MAKE UP WELL OVER HALF OF THE WORK FORCE, THEY LAG BEHIND IN MANAGEMENT -- ESPECIALLY RURAL WOMEN, WHO FACE GREAT SOCIAL BURDENS.

11. (U) VU MANH LOI, THE ONLY MALE ON THE PANEL AND A RESEARCHER AT THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY, DISCUSSED HOW VIETNAM'S FOCUS ON THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC MAY UNDERESTIMATE ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN. HE POINTED OUT THAT GVN POLICY FOCUSED ON HIV PREVENTION AS A PROCESS OF IDEOLOGICAL CONCERN, CURTAILING "SOCIAL EVILS." HE EXPLAINED SOME WOMEN CONTRACT HIV WITHOUT ENGAGING IN "SOCIALLY EVIL" BEHAVIOR, SUCH AS BY HAVING UNPROTECTED SEX WITH HUSBANDS WHO CARRY AND TRANSMIT THE VIRUS. HE CALLED FOR BROADER EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PUBLICIZE TO WOMEN THE RISKS OF ACQUIRING HIV.

12. (U) HA LAN ANH, A 15-YEAR-OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND ONE OF VIETNAM'S TWO DELEGATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT, SAID VIETNAMESE YOUTH ARE EAGER TO HAVE MORE EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND WANT TO BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPING THEIR COUNTRY. SHE SUGGESTED THE FIRST LADY'S FORUM SHOULD BE FOCUSED NOT ONLY ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES, BUT ALSO THE DREAMS OF VIETNAMESE WOMEN AND YOUTH. SHE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THE FUTURE WOULD BE BRIGHTER AND HOLD BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIETNAMESE YOUNG PEOPLE.

13. (U) NGUYEN AI CAN, A PROGRAM OFFICER AT UNDP WHO HEADS A GOOD GOVERNANCE PROJECT, SAID ONE OF THE MAJOR WEAKNESSES IN THE STATUS OF VIETNAMESE WOMEN COMES FROM POOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS ON THE BOOKS. VIETNAM HAS MANY GOOD LAWS THAT COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS; SHE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT UNDP IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE LABOR MINISTRY TO BETTER IMPLEMENT THE LABOR CODE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FOLLOWING HER PRESENTATION, AI CAN SAID PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND NGOS HELD GREAT PROMISE FOR ADDRESSING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

14. (U) FOLLOWING THE STATEMENTS BY THE PANELISTS, THE FIRST LADY COMMENTED THAT MANY THEMES RAISED AT THE FORUM WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE IDENTIFIED IN OTHER COUNTRIES. SHE NOTED THAT OFTEN EXPRESSIONS OF EQUALITY IN LAW WERE VERY DIFFERENT FROM ACTUAL CONDITIONS, SINCE SOCIETAL ATTITUDES AND FAMILY SYSTEMS OFTEN DON'T REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND DREAMS OF WOMEN. SHE OBSERVED THAT MANY VIETNAMESE WOMEN HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE CAMPAIGNS FOR INDEPENDENCE AND NATION-BUILDING. THE FIRST LADY NOTED WOMEN HAVE TO DO
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STATE FOR S/S, S/PICW (LOAR), P, E, S/P
STATE ALSO FOR EAP (BOYCE), EAP/BCLTV, DRL, EB, INR
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, KWMN, PREL, PHUM, SOCI, ELAB, PINR, VM
SUBJECT: POTUS VISIT: FIRST LADY'S FORUM OUTLINES
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES FACING VIETNAMESE WOMEN

MUCH OF THE WORK INSIDE THE HOME, AS WELL AS OUTSIDE, AND
THERE CONTINUE TO BE LINGERING QUESTIONS ABOUT
DISCRIMINATION IN SOCIETY AND THE WORKPLACE. ONE OF THE
BIG CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD IS BALANCING
FAMILY AND WORK RESPONSIBILITIES. SHE COMMENDED VIETNAM'S
EFFORTS TO CONFRONT HUMAN TRAFFICKING, "A MODERN FORM OF
SLAVERY," AS WELL AS THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS. SHE ALSO
COMMENDED YOUNG VIETNAMESE FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO STUDY MORE
AND SEEK FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN
THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

COMMENT

15. (SBU) THE FIRST LADY'S FORUM WAS A GROUNDBREAKING
EVENT IN VIETNAM, PULLING TOGETHER A UNIQUE MIX OF WOMEN
FROM VARIED SECTORS AND AGE GROUPS. THAT SAID, THE EVENT
DID NOT MATCH ITS POTENTIAL, IN PART BECAUSE LONGISH
PREPARED STATEMENTS CROWDED OUT TIME FOR FOLLOW-UP
DISCUSSION. SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS AND NUMEROUS ATTENDEES
HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ANOTHER FORUM, AND POST PLANS TO
BRING ANOTHER GROUP TOGETHER IN THE NEW YEAR.

16. (SBU) WHILE VIETNAM HAS MADE SOME IMPORTANT
ACHIEVEMENTS IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS, THE FORUM HIGHLIGHTED AREAS
NEEDING INCREASED ATTENTION. NGOS GENERALLY GIVE THE GVN
GOOD MARKS FOR ITS EFFORTS TO CONFRONT TRAFFICKING. DURING
THE PAST FEW YEARS, VIETNAM ALSO HAS MADE IMPORTANT
PROGRESS IN RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT HIV/AIDS.
HOWEVER, IN BOTH CASES, GOVERNMENT TREATMENT OF THESE
ISSUES AS "SOCIAL EVILS" MAY THWART CLEAR THINKING AND
POLICIES TO ADDRESS THEM. AS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE FORUM,
VIETNAMESE WOMEN PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN BUSINESS AND
TRADITIONALLY EXERCISE SIGNIFICANT DECISION-MAKING
INFLUENCE THROUGH OPERATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES. MORE THAN A QUARTER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
DEPUTIES ARE WOMEN, AS WELL AS SEVERAL MINISTERS AND SUB-
CABINET MINISTERS. HOWEVER, THOUGH ONE OF 18 POLITBURO
MEMBERS AND THE VICE PRESIDENT ARE WOMEN, AT THE MOST

SENIOR LEVELS OF THE CPV AND GOVERNMENT THERE IS A DE FACTO
"GLASS CEILING" THAT THUS FAR HAS KEPT WOMEN OUT OF THE
MOST POWERFUL POLITICAL POSITIONS. WE CERTAINLY AGREE WITH
THE FIRST LADY THAT THE MAIN CHALLENGE AHEAD IS TO
TRANSLATE THE LOFTY LANGUAGE OF LAW AND INTERNATIONAL
COVENANTS INTO REALITY SO THAT ALL WOMEN, PARTICULARLY POOR
RURAL WOMEN, ARE ABLE TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES AND THOSE OF
THEIR FAMILIES. END COMMENT.
HARTER

TOR: 12/28/00 03:22:18

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY NSC Christy MCLEAN NAPLAN Osius PATTEN Pritchard
Schwartz SHEA SMITHP WILCOX
PRT: rosen verveer