

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/6/98 8:40:07 AM
FROM Busby, Scott W.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT Exec Memo for Women's Day [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Letts, Kelly J.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY

Please format.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

1686 BERGER MEMO.doc

Date

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ

FROM: SCOTT BUSBY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and
Girls

Attached is Memorandum to the President and a Memorandum to
Cabinet Members on
the above subjects. The Memorandum to Cabinet Members will be
announced by the
President during an event on March 11 commemorating International
Women's Day.

Concurrence by: Jamie Baker, Mara Rudman, Bill Courtney

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the attached Memoranda.

Attachment
Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Memorandum to Cabinet Members on Steps to Combat
Violence Against
Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls
1

1686

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 EXEC MEMO INT WOMENS DAY.doc

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and
Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day this year on March 11,
1998, we
highlight the achievements of women around the world. We also
acknowledge that
there is much work yet to be done to assure that women's human
rights are
protected and respected. The momentum of the United Nations Fourth
World
Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our
government, as
well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to
improve the lives
of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to join 161 other countries
in
ratifying the women's human rights treaty -- the Convention on the
Elimination of

all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This treaty is an effective tool which can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. Ratification of this treaty will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women, a despicable human rights violation, in all its forms. Our efforts are focused around the world and here in the United States. As part of my 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA"). The VAWA declares certain forms of violence against women to be federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to states, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to the scourge of violence against women. The Department of Justice is implementing the VAWA and working with our communities to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. And, through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day we learn more about the appalling abuses committed against women. However, in recent years, countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation and government programs addressing violence against women. The international community increasingly regards violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to women's full participation in democracy.

Today I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an atrocious form of violence against women, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an international problem with national implications. There is mounting anecdotal information to suggest that trafficking in women to the United States is on the rise. We have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude. The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. This Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with non-governmental groups and the United States Congress.

On trafficking in women, I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to increase national and international awareness about the problems associated with trafficking in women and girls. First, I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about trafficking so that they will not fall prey to traffickers tactics of coercion, fraud, and deceit. Second, in the unfortunate case that young women and girls are trafficked, I want to guarantee that the victims are protected and given assistance. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement

worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I am directing:

I. The Attorney General to assess the effectiveness of the Violence Against Women Act and to make a recommendation regarding the reauthorization of the Act, which expires in FY 2000.

II. The Secretary of State, in combination with the Administrator of Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts will be responsive to government and non-government requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.

III. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in consultation with non-governmental groups.

IV. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking to determine ways to insure: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in settings that secure their safety; witness safety during the pendency of criminal proceedings; witness cooperation in criminal trials against traffickers; precautions for the safe return of victims and witnesses to their originating countries; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack such legal status.

V. The Attorney General to review existing United States criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to insure that trafficking is criminalized in all its forms and that the consequences of

trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional intelligence sources, evidentiary needs, and resource capabilities.

VI. The Secretary of State to use our consular presence around the world to work with other countries to develop strategies for protecting victims of trafficking, to work jointly with source, transit, and destination countries to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international movement of trafficked women, and to expand and enhance services for trafficking victims.

VII. The Secretary of State to coordinate an inter-governmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls from and to that country. The United States-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VIII. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to provide assistance to victims of trafficking and to continue to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

IX. The Secretary of State, in combination with the Director for the United States Information Agency to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to potential victims to warn them of the methods used by traffickers.

X. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and non-government representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to

call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

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1686

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 POTUS MEMO.doc

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE EXECUTIVE CLERK

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Executive Memorandum on Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls

Purpose

To direct relevant agencies on the above subject.

Background

You will be participating in an event on March 11, 1998 to celebrate International Women's Day. This year's event will focus on four issues: (1) trafficking in women and girls; (2) violence against women; (3) women in Afghanistan; and (4) ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Your remarks, as well as the remarks of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, will discuss

initiatives we have undertaken or will be undertaking in each of these areas.

The attached memorandum addresses all of these issues. But it is primarily intended to provide specific direction to the relevant agencies on the steps they should take, both domestically and internationally, to combat trafficking in women and girls and violence against women. These steps include, inter alia: (1) directing the Attorney General to assess the effectiveness of the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA") and to make a recommendation regarding the reauthorization of that Act; (2) directing the Secretary of State to more effectively coordinate efforts, especially with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to combat violence against women around the world; (3) directing the Attorney General to review existing law and practice relating to the prosecution of those who traffic in women and children and the protection of victims of such practices; and (4) directing the Interagency Council on Women to convene an international gathering to develop strategies for combating trafficking in women and children.

We believe that the attached memorandum will be a useful vehicle for better coordinating and energizing our efforts against trafficking in women and children and violence against women.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum.

Attachment

Tab A Memorandum on Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls

1686

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/26/98 2:46:24 PM
FROM Rossi, Christopher R.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Package 1686 - Combatting Violence against Women
[UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Naplan, Steven J.

CARBON_COPY**TEXT_BODY**

-----Original Message-----

From: Gray, Wendy E.

Sent: Saturday,

March 07, 1998 3:21 PM

To: @DEMOCRACY - Dem/Human Affairs

Subject: Package

1686 - Combatting Violence against Women [UNCLASSIFIED]

As delivered
to West Wing with 2 red dots

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

1686 BERGER MEMO1.doc

March 7, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ

FROM: SCOTT BUSBY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and
Girls

Attached is memorandum to the President and a memorandum to

Cabinet Members on the above subjects. The memorandum to Cabinet Members will be announced by the President during an event on March 11 commemorating International Women's Day.

Concurrence by: Jamie Baker, Mara Rudman, Bill Courtney

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab A Memorandum to Cabinet Members

1

1686

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 EXEC MEMO INT WOMENS DAY1.doc

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and
Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day this year on March 11, 1998, we highlight the achievements of women around the world. We also acknowledge that there is much work yet to be done to assure that women's human rights are protected and respected. The momentum of the United Nations Fourth World

Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our government, as well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to improve the lives of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to join 161 other countries in ratifying the women's human rights treaty -- the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This treaty is an effective tool which can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. Ratification of this treaty will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. Our efforts help to combat this human rights violation around the world and here in the United States. As part of my 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares certain forms of violence against women to be federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to states, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to this problem. The Department of Justice is implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with our communities to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. Through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day recognition of the importance of this issue grows around the world. In recent years, countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation and government programs addressing violence against women. The international community increasingly regards violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to women's full participation in democracy.

Today, I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world. We have made great progress since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, but there remains much to be done. We must continue to work to implement the Act fully, and to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims of domestic violence here in the United States, so that they will not be forced to choose between deportation and abuse.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an insidious form of violence against women, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an international problem with national implications. Here in the United States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude. The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. This Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with non-governmental groups and the United States Congress.

I am directing the President's Interagency Council on Women, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to increase national and international awareness about trafficking in women and girls. I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about this problem so that they will not fall prey to traffickers tactics of coercion, violence, fraud, and deceit. I also want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I am directing:

I. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts will be responsive to government and non-government requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.

II. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in consultation with non-governmental groups.

III. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking including: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in settings that secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of victims and witnesses to their originating countries; witness cooperation in criminal trials against traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status.

IV. The Attorney General to review existing United States criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter

trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to insure that trafficking is criminalized and that the consequences of trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional evidentiary needs, and resource capabilities.

V. The Secretary of State to use our presence around the world to work with source, transit and destination countries to develop strategies for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, and to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international movement of trafficked women.

VI. The Secretary of State to coordinate an inter-governmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls from and to that country. The United States-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VII. The Secretary of State in coordination with the Attorney General, to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to provide assistance to victims of trafficking and to continue to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

VIII. The Secretary of State and the Director for the United States Information Agency, to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to warn potential victims of the methods used by traffickers.

IX. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and non-government representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international

organizations to
call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to
develop
strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

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1686

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT 1686 POTUS MEMO1.doc

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Executive Memorandum on Steps to Combat Violence
Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and Girls

Purpose

To direct relevant agencies on the above subject.

Background

You will be participating in an event on March 11, 1998, to celebrate International Women's Day. This year's event will focus on four issues: (1) trafficking in women and girls; (2) violence against women; (3) women in Afghanistan; and (4) ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Your remarks, as well as the remarks of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, will discuss initiatives we have undertaken or will be undertaking in each of these areas.

The attached memorandum addresses all of these issues. But it is primarily intended to provide specific direction to the relevant agencies on the steps they should take, both domestically and internationally, to combat trafficking in women and girls and violence against women. These steps include, inter alia: (1) directing the Attorney General to assess the effectiveness of the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA"); (2) directing the Secretary of State to continue and expand the efforts to coordinate, especially with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to combat violence against women around the world; (3) directing the Attorney General to review existing law and practice relating to the prosecution of those who traffic in women and children and the protection of victims of such practices; and (4) directing the Interagency Council on Women to convene an international gathering to develop strategies for combating trafficking in women and children.

We believe that the attached memorandum will be a useful vehicle for better coordinating and energizing our efforts against trafficking in women and children and violence against women.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum at Tab A.

Attachment
Tab A Memorandum for Signature

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1686

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff