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Outreach Plan for 4th World Conference on Women

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OUTREACH PLAN FOR FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Doris

Speaker's Bureau-Linda Tarr-Whelan is working to secure the funding for Lynn Cutler's idea of a speaker's bureau. This will be run out of the Communications Consortium with Amy Sobel as the coordinator. This will ensure that internal State Department events and external related efforts (Center for Policy Alternatives, Ms. Foundation, etc.) are coordinated. Lycia is coordinating with Amy, and is keeping the internal State Department calendar.

I. Events

We are plugging into a number of events that are already planned around the country, as well as trying to generate some additional events.

Doris
How is all of this being billed?

A. Speaking engagements already scheduled (see attached calendar)

- Miami, Fla.: Conference of Mayors
- Philadelphia: NGO Group, American Jewish Congress
- Seattle: General Federation of Women's Clubs
- Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh
- California: Southern California Women in Business Conference, U.N. 50th Anniv. in San Fran.
- Kansas City, Missouri: Univ. of Miss.
- Nashville, Tennessee: Nat. Women's Pol. Caucus
- Atlanta: CPA Grassroots Forum
- Delaware: DOS Town Meeting
- Milwaukee: Nat. Conf. of State Leg.
- DC: CPA Grassroots Forum
- New York: NGO briefing, Ms. Foundation Forums
- Denver: Women's Economic Summit

B. Events we have commitments for but not definite dates

- Rochester/Seneca Falls: 75th Anniv
- Boston: Wand and NGO Group
- St. Louis
- San Francisco: CPA/Ms. Foundation Grassroots Forum
- Minneapolis: CPA/Ms. Foundation Grassroots Forum
- Sacramento, Ca.: Maeley Tom
- San Antonio, Texas (Maria B.)
- Connecticut (DeLauro-MMM)
- Baltimore: National Association of Commissions for Women Convention

C. Additional states, cities, and events we are targeting

- California
- Ohio-Colombus (NOW Convention)
- Tampa, Fla. (Arthenia Joyner)
- Oregon
- Minnesota (MTC)
- Michigan
- Seattle: NGO Boot Camp

- Chicago:CPA/Ms. Foundation Grassroots Forum
- Boston:Amnesty International Meeting
- Kentucky(LC)

D. Post Conference events(Lynn Cutler)

- Univ. of Missouri:NGO Forum, youth event
- Mayors, legislators(Lynn Cutler is asking state officials to do follow-up events in their districts)
- Michigan:Planned Parenthood
- DC:Wand Dinners
- Iowa (Stanley, Des Moines - LC)
- Tacoma, WA (Women of Vision)
- AAUW (Philadelphia, New Jersey, Delaware)

II. Press

Amy is coordinating Conference Sec. activities with PA(internal) and Communications Consortium(external).

A. Internal

- Regular message memos(updates) to delegation and anyone who may be speaking publicly about conference, so we are all coordinated.
- Message:One-size-fits-all
- coordinate with USUN press office on regional reporter list.
- Coordinate outreach events with PA for ad-ons, etc.

B. External(Communications Consortium-K. Bonk)

- Identify outlets and interest in cities we are going to.
- Press kit(finalized in next 2 weeks)
- op-ed placement

C. International

- USIA:Iris Burnett

III. Mailings(Nancy Carter-Foster & Lycia Sibilla)

A. 2 smaller mailings(in-house)

- G/CS list added to G data base(approx. 5,000)
- June, July

B. President's Report to Women(as large as possible)

- August
- Lynn Cutler is working to raise funds for publication production and mailing cost.
- This will most likely have to be done outside of DOS because of size restrictions and ban on unsolicited mailings.

C. We are working to identify groups with newsletters who would include our stuff.



HIGHLIGHTS AND LINKAGES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT and the FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

A Platform for Action will be agreed to at the Fourth World Conference on Women (4WCW), September 4 - 15, 1995 in Beijing, China, which sets a new course to be undertaken in support of women by governments, the UN system, and private organizations. Negotiations are currently underway on the draft Platform and work will continue during the summer.

The draft Platform for Action calls for the integration of women into mainstream decision making processes and reaffirms the International Conference on Population and Development's (ICPD) call for women's empowerment as a guarantor of development. These goals mirror US positions through Cairo and the Beijing preparations.

The ICPD Program of Action is a comprehensive strategy to move toward balance between the world's citizens and resources. It addresses the many factors that go into decisions about family size. The ICPD is an important basis for the work of the 4WCW because it recognizes that gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women are necessary precursors to sustainable development, alleviating poverty, and stabilizing population growth as well as being aims in their own right.

There are several key areas where the 4WCW builds on agreements reached at the ICPD, reemphasizing their importance.

PLATFORM HIGHLIGHTS

Health: The Platform includes a lifespan approach to health that broadens the attention given to the health of women of all ages and from a diversity of situations and backgrounds. Key elements in the health section include: access to affordable, good quality health care; strengthening preventive programs; undertaking multi-sectoral initiatives that address HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and other sexual and reproductive health issues; promoting research and information dissemination on women's health; and resources and follow-up.

Issues related to breast and cervical cancer, as well as other cancers of the reproductive system, menopause and other conditions associated with aging, nutrition, substance abuse, and environmental and occupational health hazards are all addressed.

The ICPD carefully addressed reproductive rights and reproductive and sexual health, including access to family planning and measures to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. These issues remain fundamental to the Platform and, in conjunction with the rest of the health chapter, are integral to a woman's ability to control her life. The document also emphasizes particular attention to the health needs of girls and adolescents.

The Platform also addresses important ethical issues such as eliminating practices of over medication and medically unnecessary or coercive medical interventions as well as ensuring responsible, voluntary and informed consent in regard to health services. It recommends that comprehensive courses on women's health be included in medical school curricula and other health care training.

Education: Education is a basic right and an essential tool for improving the quality of life. Education of girls and women is key to improving health and empowering women to participate in decision-making in society and economic development. As the ICPD Program of Action recognized, efforts to increase women's self-determination improve the health and well-being of women and their children and will slow the pace of population growth.

The Platform calls for universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80% of primary school-age children by the year 2000; closing the gender gap in primary and secondary school education by the year 2005; and ensuring universal primary education in all countries before the year 2015.

It also calls for the schooling of pregnant adolescents and young mothers. Training programs and materials for teachers and educators that raise awareness about

the status, role, and contribution of women and men in the family and society, which promote equality, cooperation, mutual respect, and shared responsibility between girls and boys must be developed.

The Platform sets out actions to be taken to develop non-discriminatory education and training, improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, continuing education, and to promote life-long learning.

Human Rights: The human rights of women are addressed throughout the Platform, reinforcing standards articulated at the 1993 Vienna Human Rights Conference and looking at critical issues of violence and the impact of armed conflict. The Platform underscores governmental responsibilities to ensure the human rights of women, and to advance women's legal equality and civil and political rights.

The section on violence against women restates what constitutes such violence -- including sexual violence. It calls on governments to take responsibility for preventing and punishing these acts of violence.

Reproductive rights are critical to women's empowerment. Reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing, and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion, and violence, as

expressed in human rights documents.

Girls: Expanding on the ICPD Program of Action, African countries inserted a section specifically to address development of girls, recognizing the importance of young people in shaping the next century.

The Platform calls for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against girls and for measures to address the root causes of son preference. Son preference results in harmful and unethical practices regarding female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, as well as reduced access to education, food, health, and opportunities for girls.

Environment: Women's roles in managing natural resources and protecting the environment are addressed throughout the Platform, building on strong text in Agenda 21 and the ICPD Program of Action. The Platform makes an important linkage between women's health and environmental protection to address the data gap concerning women's susceptibilities and exposures to environmental hazards and toxic substances. The participation of girls and women at all levels of decision making, integrating gender concerns and perspectives in sustainable development policies, is emphasized.

The Platform acknowledges that women have often played leadership roles in promoting an environmental ethic and points out that women can have a particularly powerful role in influencing sustainable consumption decisions.

Women's contributions to environmental management, includ-

ing through indigenous communities and grass-roots and youth campaigns, have often taken place at the local level, where decentralized action on environmental issues is most needed and decisive.

Other areas: Other components of the Platform for Action include: the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women; women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies; the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels; mechanisms to promote the advancement of women; and women and the media.

The Platform calls attention to the role that non-governmental organizations play in policy planning, development, implementation, and monitoring of programs for the advancement of women and urges governments to work in partnership with NGOs.

US Delegation: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Honorary Chair (although no decision has been made about her attendance at the conference); Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright, Chairman; Secretary Donna Shalala, Co-Chair; Under Secretary for Global Affairs Timothy E. Wirth, Alternate Chair; the Honorable Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, Deputy Chair.

If you have specific questions about US participation in the 4WCW you may contact:
Conference Secretariat
US Department of State
2201 C St. NW, Room 1318
Washington, DC 20520
202/647-3129 phone
202/647-4787 fax

June 1995

June 1995

4WCW Public Outreach

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 7:00pm General Federation of Women's Clubs - Seattle, MMM	3
4	5 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg	6 9:20am MMM-HHS "Women's Health" Conference, Arlington 3:30pm Public/NGO Meeting OPM w/ Irene Santiago	7 12:00pm MMM - American Jewish Congress, Philadelphia	8 12:00pm MMM addresses Chairs/Co-Chairs of Network, DC 2:15pm Alan Guttmacher Institute Board, D.C. - Kathy 3:30pm Document Discussion Mtg - Human Rights w/ JShattuck	9	10
11 7:00pm MMM - American Jewish Committee, Pittsburgh	12 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg 3:00pm Inter-agency Meeting	13 3:30pm Document Discussion Mtg - Environment	14 <i>Flag Day</i> 5:30pm UNIFEM Annual Membership Meeting, D.C. - MMM	15 12:30pm MMM, KHBrown Bag Conf from a Veteran's POV-CPA 5:00pm MMM Speech - Baldwin High, Bryn Mawr	16 3:30pm Document Discussion Mtg - Health/ Girl Child	17
18 <i>Father's Day</i> 7:30am LC Conf. of Mayors, FL	19 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg 3:30pm Document Discussion Mtg - Education/Girl Child	20 TEW - World Resources Institute, DC	21 <i>Summer begins</i>	22 2:00pm Public/NGO Meeting - UN, NY 3:30pm Document Discussion Mtg - Poverty/Economics 7:00pm MMM - Nat'l Assoc of Commissions for Women, MD	23 TEW - League of Conservation Voters, LA 3:30pm Document Discussion Mtg - UN Systems/Resources	24 LC SoCal Women in Business Conf, Long Beach 9:00am TEW-UN @ 50 Conf, SFO
25	26 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg MMM to Boston, Meet w/NGOs & Government	27 9:45am M. Yunus (Grameen Bank) briefs USDEL, Room 6320 3:30pm White House Corporate Reception	28 MMM, KH to Kansas City MC-USAID/WID Women's Legal Rights Conf, Mt. Vernon	29 7:30am MMM, KH Univ of Missouri NGO Mtg	30 3:30pm Document Discussion Mtg - Diversity	

July 1995

4WCW Public Outreach

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Dominion Day (Canada)</i>
2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> Office Closed	5	6	7	8
9	10 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg 12:30pm ??Brown Bag- "Cultural Activities @ 4WCW" CPA	11 3:30pm Public/NGO Meeting OPM	12 TEW - Aspen Institute 10:00am NGO Mtg w/Ms. Foundation, NY	13 LTW Grassroots Forum - Atlanta TEW - Denver 11:00am KH - University of Pittsburgh, PA	14	15
16 LTW Nat'l Conf of State Legislators, Milwaukee	17 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg	18 1:00pm Intern/Youth Briefing on 4WCW, Dean Acheson	19	20	21	22
23	24 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg	25	26 KH to DOS Town Mtg - Wilmington, Delaware MMM DL LTW Summit on Women's Economic Security, CO	27	28	29
30	31 Informals on PFA - NY 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg					

August 1995

4WCW Public Outreach

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 TEW - Ecological Society of America, Utah TEW - Planned Parenthood? 3:30pm Public/NGO Meeting OPM	2	3 4:00pm CPA Brown Bag Mixer, DC	4 LTW Grassroots Forum - DC MMM to Nat'l Women's Political Conf, Nashville	5
		Informals on PFA - NY				
6	7 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg	8	9 10:00am NGO Mtg w/Ms. Foundation, NY	10	11	12
	Delegation Briefing					
13	14 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg	15	16	17 AED 4WCW Send-off Reception	18	19
20	21 11:00am G/CS Staff Mtg	22	23	24	25	26 Women's Equality Day 75th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment
27	28	29	30	31		
			NGO Forum Beijing			

September 1995

4WCW Public Outreach

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
							1	2
							NGO Forum Beijing	
3	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5	6	7	8	9		
	4th World Conference on Women Beijing							
	NGO Forum Beijing							
10	11 <i>Int'l Youth Day</i>	12	13	14	15	16		
	4th World Conference on Women Beijing							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 <i>Autumn begins</i>		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

Focus on 4WCW



Update on Preparations

United States Department of State • Bureau of Public Affairs • Office of Public Communication • June 16, 1995



The UN Fourth World Conference on Women (4WCW), to be held in Beijing, China, September 4-15, 1995, is intended to stimulate increased activity at all levels—from local to global—to improve the status of women and promote equality between women and men. At the conference, the U.S. delegation will be discussing ways to ensure that women are full partners in their families, communities, and nations, as well as on a worldwide basis.

The UN Fourth World Conference on Women is important to Americans because women everywhere want strong families, economic security, access to basic and better education and health care, participation in all levels of decision-making, personal safety, legal rights, and basic equality.

U.S. Priorities

At the conference, the United States aims to promote the advancement and empowerment of women and to build on the commitments made at other important UN conferences: the 1985 Women's Conference in Nairobi, the 1992 Environment and Development Conference in Rio, the 1993 Vienna Human Rights Conference, the 1994 Cairo Population and Development Conference (ICPD), and the 1995 Copenhagen Social Summit (WSSD).

The U.S. will provide leadership on the following issues:

- Human rights of women, including actions to end violence against women;
- A life-span approach to health and education;
- Efforts to balance work and family responsibilities of both women and men;
- Economic security;
- The importance of the participation of the non-governmental sector as partner in building communities—locally, nationally, and internationally; and
- The full participation of women in political and economic decision-making.

U.S. Delegation

The U.S. Government has appointed a strong team to lead the official delegation to the UN Fourth World Conference on Women. First Lady

Hillary Rodham Clinton will serve as Honorary Chair of the Delegation; no decision has been made about her attendance at the conference. Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, will chair the Delegation; Donna Shalala, U.S. Secretary for Health and Human Services is Co-chair. Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth is Alternate Chair, and former Member of Congress Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky is Deputy Chair/Director of the Delegation. Veronica Biggins, former assistant to the President, will serve as Vice Chair.

Other members of the delegation currently include Lynn Cutler of Washington, DC, Maria Antonietta Berriozabal of Texas, Arthenia Joyner of Florida, Dorothy Lamm of Colorado, and Linda Tarr-Whelan of Washington, DC. The White House is expected to name the full delegation by early summer.

Global Prepcom

The final preparatory committee negotiating session, or "Prepcom," concluded its pre-conference work in

Public Participation

The Global Conference Secretariat of the U.S. Department of State is sponsoring monthly public meetings to discuss preparations for the Women's Conference. All interested individuals are invited to attend. The meetings will be held 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) auditorium in Washington, DC, 1900 E St. NW, on the following dates: July 11 and August 1.

In addition, a series of substantive discussions on specific sections of the conference's Platform for Action are open to the public. These discussions will be held in room 1350 at OPM 3:30-5:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Education/Girl-Child: June 19
Poverty/Economics: June 22
UN Systems/Resources: June 23
Diversity: June 30

There will be an additional meeting in New York on Thursday, June 22 to be held from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in UN Conference Room 2. □

and registration for the NGO Forum have passed.

NGO observer representatives can register for photo identification badges near the Beijing International Convention Center beginning August 28 upon presentation of a photo ID and individual confirmation letter from the UN. A photocopy of the UN's letter stating that the NGO has been accredited along with an original letter from the NGO stating that the individual is one of the group's designated representatives will also suffice.

Visas to China will be issued by the Chinese embassy and consulates. Visas are valid only for three months and, therefore, should not be requested until late June at the earliest for NGO Forum attendees; early July for those participating in the conference. See box for information about visas to China.

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It is recommended that Forum and Conference participants consider purchasing travelers insurance to cover all reasonable contingencies for canceling your trip.

Due to the change of site to Huairou, all Forum participants are required to fill out a "New Hotel Reservation Form" that is being sent out by the NGO Forum. The deadline for returning this new form to the China Organizing Committee is July 5, 1995. The address for the committee is:

China Organizing Committee
Fourth World Conference on Women
and NGO Forum on Women
Beijing '95
No. 15 Jianguomen St.
Beijing 100730
P.R. China
Phone: 861-5221133, ext: 3006
Fax: 861-5225329

State Department. Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth established the Global Conference Secretariat to coordinate all U.S. Government preparations and

follow-up for the conference. Ms. Theresa Loar is the Director of the Global Conference Secretariat. Contact:

Global Conference Secretariat
Room 1318
2201 C St. NW
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520
Phone: 202-647-3129
Fax: 202-647-4787

United Nations. Ms. Gertrude Mongella of Tanzania is the Secretary General of the Conference. Contact :

UN Secretariat of the Fourth
World Conference on Women
Division for the Advancement
of Women
DC2-1234
Two United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-963-8385
Fax: 212 963-3463

NGO Forum. Ms. Supatra Masdit is the Convenor of the NGO Forum. Contact :

NGO Forum on Women, Beijing '95
211 E. 43rd St., Suite 1500
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-922-9267 or 922-9268
Fax: 212-922-9269 ■

Follow up w/ Betsy
Jackie Jackson

Debbie

Jackie Jackson
didn't go

From 6/21
Beijing meeting
attended by
Doris

Ault
Betsy
is in the
loop for
this -
Doris

DRAFT

August 5, 1995

U. S. DELEGATION TO THE U. N. FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Honorary Chair

The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright, Chair and Head, U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations

The Honorable Carol Browner, Co-Chair, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

The Honorable Donna Shalala, Co-Chair, Secretary of Health and Human Services

The Honorable Timothy Wirth, Alternate Chair and Alternate Head, Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs

The Honorable Marjorie Margolies Mezvinsky, Deputy Chair; former Member of Congress from Pennsylvania

The Honorable J. Veronica Biggins, Vice Chair; Executive Search Consultant, Heidrick & Struggles; former Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel, the White House

The Honorable Geraldine A. Ferraro, Vice Chair; U. S. Ambassador to the U. N. Human Rights Commission

The Honorable Thomas H. Kean, Vice Chair; President of Drew University; former Governor of New Jersey

Government and Public Sector Delegates:

Maria Antoinetta Berriozabal, Lecturer/Consultant; Hispanas Unidas, Center for Women in Church & Society

Evan Bloom, Attorney Advisor, Department of State

Iris J. Burnett, Chief of Staff, U. S. Information Agency

Bonnie J. Campbell, Director, Violence Against Women, Department of Justice

Mary Curtin, Human Rights Officer, Department of State

Nils Daulaire, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Agency for International Development

Kathleen Hendrix, Special Assistant, Global Conference Secretariat, Department of State

Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services,
Department of Education

Melinda Kimble, Deputy Assistant Secretary, International Organization Affairs, Department
of State

Sharon Kotok, Officer in Charge of International Women's Programs, International
Organizational Affairs, Department of State

Sarah Kovner, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Health and Human Services

Madeleine M. Kunin, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education

Ginger Lew, General Counsel, Department of Commerce

Ambassador Victor Marrero, U. S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council of
the United Nations

Ellen Marshall, Acting Senior Coordinator, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration,
Department of State

Jean Nelson, Counselor to the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Karen Nussbaum, Director, Women's Bureau, Department of Labor

Jan Piercy, U. S. Executive Director, World Bank

Sally Shelton, Assistant Administrator, Agency for International Development

David Stewart, Assistant Legal Advisor, Department of State

Bisa Williams Manigault, Advisor, U. S. Mission to the United Nations

Private Sector Representative Delegates:

Laila Al-Marayati, M.D., Obstetrician and Gynecologist; Assistant Professor, University of Southern California School of Medicine; Vice-Chair, Muslim Women's League

Myrna Blyth, Editor-in-Chief and Publishing Director, Ladies' Home Journal

Elizabeth J. Coleman, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO, Maidenform, Inc.; Vice Chair, President's Export Council

Lynn Cutler, Senior Vice President, The Kamber Group

Felice D. Gaer, Director, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights of the American Jewish Committee

Adrienne Germain, Vice President and Program Director, International Women's Health Coalition

Arthenia L. Joyner, Attorney and Founding Partner, Stewart, Joyner, Jordan-Holmes, Holmes, PA

Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly, O.S.U., President, College of New Rochelle

Dorothy V. Lamm, Columnist, Denver Post; Faculty Member, Estes Park Institute

Marilyn Monahan, Secretary-Treasurer, National Education Association

San Juanita Munoz, Youth Delegate; Fellow, Carnegie Mellon University, Heinz School of Public Policy

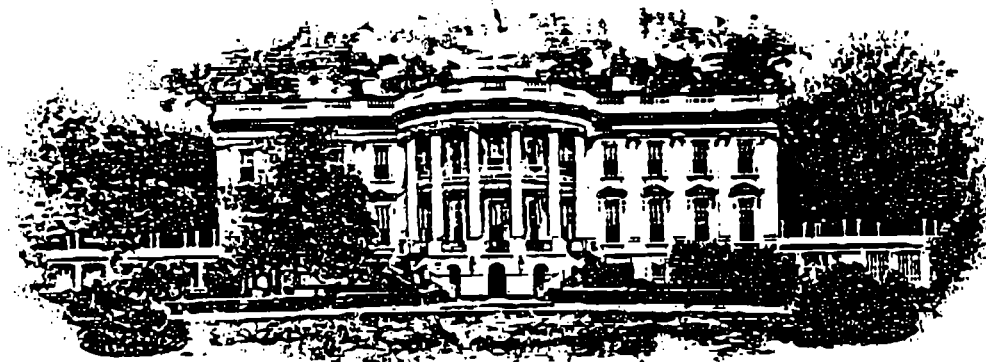
Julia Taft, President and CEO, InterAction, the American Council for Voluntary International Action

Linda Tarr-Whelan, President and CEO, Center for Policy Alternatives

Virginia Trotter Betts, J.D., M.S.D, R.N., President, American Nurses Association

Susan Roosevelt Weld, Ph.D., Professor of Chinese and Japanese Law, Boston College

Marie C. Wilson, President, Ms. Foundation for Women



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE:

Aug 7, 1995

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

Janice Enright

OFFICE:

Harold Tucker

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61121

SENDER:

Antonella Panalto

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66761

COMMENTS:

Latest draft of List

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SEP - 5 1995

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet):

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NOTES:

Most recent draft from
BEIJING delegation of
U.S. Commitments resulting
from 4th World Conference on Women.
(as of 9/5, 7:30 p.m. fax from
Beijing)

BETSY MYERS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

UNITED STATES COMMITMENTS

announced at the

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

BELJING, CHINA SEPTEMBER 1995

The United States announces commitments in four areas that American women have identified as priorities: equality and power-sharing; economic security, including balancing work and family responsibilities; the human rights of women with particular emphasis on violence against women; and health.

I. EQUALITY AND POWER-SHARING

o An Inter-Agency Council, operating out of the new White House Office of Women's Outreach and Initiatives, will direct a year-long process to begin implementation of the Platform for Action and develop a long-term plan to promote the empowerment of women and advance their status. The U.S. delegation to the Conference, consisting as it does of government and non-governmental people of wide geographic and demographic representation and expertise in the Platform issues, will serve as an advisory body to the Council. This process will build on the strong partnership of non-governmental organizations and government that has developed in preparing for the Conference on Women.

o The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is launching two mutually reinforcing international programs under an initiative on Women's Political Participation and Legal Rights.

II. ECONOMIC SECURITY INCLUDING BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

o The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor will launch a campaign to solicit pledges from employers, organizations and community groups to make systemic changes in policies and practices in the workplace to benefit women and their families.

o The Treasury Department, through the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, will inaugurate an annual Presidential Awards for Microenterprise Excellence and coordinate a new Federal Microenterprise Initiative.

o The Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise and the National Women's Business Council will carry forward an annual report of the IACWBE to Congress to strengthen the women-owned business sector.

o USAID will continue its support of microenterprise programming for women.

III. THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

o The new Office of Violence Against Women at the Justice Department will lead a comprehensive national effort to fight domestic violence and other crimes against women by combining tough new federal laws with assistance to states and localities in law enforcement, victim assistance, prosecutions and crime prevention.

o The Administration reaffirms its commitment to obtain ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

IV. HEALTH

The Department of Health and Human Services will take action on a range of problems of concern to women of different backgrounds throughout the life-cycle, with special attention to women of low income and from ethnic and racial minorities:

o A comprehensive plan to reduce smoking among children and adolescents by 50 percent, including prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to them;

o Prevention of teenage pregnancy by encouraging abstinence and personal responsibility while providing access to health and family planning services and health education in schools;

o Establishment of a Governing Council on Children and Youth that will develop a strategy that includes a Children's Budget, recommends priority areas for investments of attention and resources, builds communication across the government, supports partnerships with governments and communities, and coordinates research and evaluation agenda;

o Addressing the health needs of older women through the new Women's Health Initiative that examines the major causes of death, disability and frailty in post-menopausal women;

o Overall health promotion and disease prevention through a variety of initiatives on breast and cervical cancer, the inclusion of women in clinical trials, and greater attention to the impact of poverty related diseases on women, and the inauguration of a new National Women's Health clearinghouse, a toll-free women's health information telephone line;

o Contraceptive research and development with special emphasis on microbicides and Mifepristone RU-486;

o Development of a public policy agenda on HIV/AIDS specific to women, adolescents and children;

I. EQUALITY AND POWER SHARING

A. THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS ITSELF

In keeping with the provisions of the Platform for Action to be adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the firm intention of the United States Government to promote the empowerment of women and advance their status, and the strong interest expressed by US non-governmental organizations concerning implementation, the United States' follow-up efforts include a year-long process to develop a comprehensive implementation plan until the year 2000. In addition, many specific steps will be taken to put the Platform's words into action.

This public/private partnership will continue the process begun in preparation for the Fourth World Conference -- a two-way communication that puts government and citizens in direct contact with each other to facilitate a plan for implementation.

An Inter-Agency Council, operating out of the new White House Office of Women's Outreach and Initiatives, will direct implementation and follow-up efforts with the private sector and NGO community. The U.S. delegation to the Conference, consisting as it does of government and non-governmental people of wide geographic and demographic representation and expertise in the Platform issues, will serve as an advisory body to the Council.

The Inter-Agency Council and advisory body on implementation will form task forces from their members plus other interested and relevant individuals and organizations :

- to analyze the Platform recommendations and their relevance to the U.S.;
- to conduct outreach to American women about the conference and their priorities and recommendations;
- to explore mechanisms and processes for continuing implementation;
- to develop ongoing communications between government and NGOs;
- to consider possible legislative action or reforms at the federal, state and local levels;
- to develop youth initiatives and to receive input from youth on their concerns and recommendations through a youth task force comprised of youth advocates inside and outside of government and, most importantly, young people themselves.

B. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND LEGAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

Women's legal status is closely linked with their political participation, and has an impact on their ability to contribute to and benefit from economic and social progress. To address these critical development issues, the Agency for International Development, USAID, is launching an Initiative that will consist of two distinct but mutually reinforcing programs:

The goal of the **Women's Political Participation** program is to increase women's access to and participation in political processes and elections in both transitional and consolidating democracies around the world. Assistance will be provided in four areas: political leadership training; networking; civic and voter education; and technical training and leadership services.

Expected results include an increased number of women registering to vote, joining political parties, an increased number of elected women assuming leadership positions in the legislative and executive branches of government, and an effective use by politically active women of traditional political tools such as coalition building, lobbying, policy analysis, and formation of women's caucuses. Also, institutional support will develop and strengthen financial management capability, organizational structure, and democratic processes for decision-making and leadership selection.

The **Women's Legal Rights Initiative** of USAID will adopt a strategy to both develop knowledge and disseminate information regarding women's legal status as well as build the capacity of NGOs, PVOs and other institutions to implement corrective programs and actions. Emphasis will be placed on identifying the highest priority legal rights issues affecting women, by region and at the country level; determining at which levels the most severe obstacles to women's legal rights exist (legislative, judicial, community awareness/ acceptance); and identifying the types of program interventions that are most effective in producing changes in women's legal status. Dissemination of findings will include information exchange within target countries and within target regions. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening and development of South-South networks to share lessons learned and best approaches.

Programs to be supported will include those that strengthen women's legal literacy; integrate gender issues into law school curricula; provide gender sensitivity training to the judiciary; provide or support legal clinics; engage in direct policy dialogue with legislators to promote more equitable laws and policies; and facilitate partnerships and networks across sectors. Collaboration between PVOs and NGOs, development and legal professionals, and women's groups and other organizations addressing women's legal rights will be an important outcome of this element of the program.

II. ECONOMIC SECURITY

A. BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

This month the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor will begin a year-long campaign to make work better for women and their families. The Bureau will solicit pledges from employers, organizations and community groups to make systemic changes in policies and practices in the workplace. These pledges will be recognized in a Working Women Count Honor Roll that the Bureau will publicize in order to encourage others to implement similar changes.

The changes will fall under three broad categories:

Improved Pay and Benefits: especially health benefits, in order to obtain economic security. For example, a group of small businesses will collectively purchase health insurance for employees and their families; a national nonprofit organization, (an NGO), will provide prorated sick leave to part-time and temporary employees.

Work and Family: changes in the workplace culture in order to help balance work and family responsibilities. For example, a county public service organization will offer seed money for local groups to develop innovative child care services, including care for children whose parents work nights and weekends; a school district will redesign its bus schedule to make it easier for children to attend after-school child care programs.

Increased Value for Women's Work: for example, a community foundation will raise funds over three years to provide job training for hundreds of infant/toddler child care providers. A professional association will establish a job-training scholarship fund for women reentering the workforce.

The campaign goal is to obtain thousands of changes in policy and programs that will affect a million people. The target is employers, businesses, state and local governments, unions, advocacy organizations and individuals.

B. MICROENTERPRISE: EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Self-employment by American women is growing at an unprecedented pace, and women constitute the great majority of Americans who gain access to credit through microenterprise lending. Microenterprise programs have been successful in assisting owners of very small businesses, particularly women, to gain their first access to critical resources for improving their lives. The United States will take several key actions to further support self-employment and microenterprise development in our country.

o The US Department of the Treasury has recently established the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund. The Fund will help promote the development of micro-lenders and other financial institutions dedicated to community development through financial support, technical assistance and training to micro-lenders. It will also identify and disseminate information on best-practice microenterprise assistance.

President Clinton has recently issued a Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury to undertake two additional programs to further enhance US microenterprise development.

o The Treasury Department, through the CDFI Fund, will help establish and run a new Presidential Awards program to honor outstanding micro-lending organizations. In publicizing their achievements, the awards will provide challenging benchmarks for microenterprise programs throughout the nation to use in assessing their own efforts and in learning from well-performing peers.

o The Treasury Department, through the CDFI Fund, will serve as coordinator of a new Federal Microenterprise Initiative to ensure coherence among the many microenterprise programs operating across a number of Federal agencies. This initiative will ensure that Federal funding effectively supports the growth and development of the microenterprise field. The Treasury Department, through the CDFI Fund, will coordinate program requirements, work to standardize data collection and reporting, take steps to harmonize regulations where appropriate, identify complementary roles among programs, and explore the feasibility of a one-stop for obtaining information on Federal microenterprise programs.

USAID's continuing commitment will ensure a significant level of agency support through its Microenterprise Initiative, with a renewed focus on reaching women and the very poor. Highlights of this strategy include a \$125 million Microenterprise Innovation Project, and promotion of high-level policy attention to microenterprise through the new Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP), managed by a consortium of donors convened by the World Bank.

C. WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

This month the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise has submitted its first annual report to the President and the Congress. Created in 1994 to strengthen efforts of the government to support the growth of the women's business sector, the ten-agency Committee works in partnership with the National Women's Business Council, a private sector group composed of successful women entrepreneurs and non-governmental women's business advocates.

The IACWBE has assessed the programs for women's business enterprise across all of the federal agencies on the basic dimensions that women have identified as the areas which need attention. Innovative programs that work have been identified and will be shared across the agencies and to women across the country. The Office of Women's Business Ownership in the Small Business Administration now has a Home Page on the World Wide Web and a newsletter, *Partnerships* has been inaugurated through the National Women's Business Council. The four areas of emphasis are:

- o Opening the public marketplace for free and open competition for procurement of goods and services by the government to meet the goals of 5% of women's business contracts and subcontracts in each agency.

- o Data collection and research on women owned business is advancing with new studies being released by the Federal Reserve and the Bureau of the Census. A nationwide conference will be held in November at the Business School of Northwestern University to develop a long-term research agenda.

- o Expanding the support of entrepreneurship through technical assistance, training and information for women business owners.

- o Opening capital access for start-up and expansion of women-owned businesses.

III. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A. THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE

Earlier this year President Clinton announced the creation of the Violence Against Women Office at the Justice Department, following the passage of the 1994 Crime Bill which included the Violence Against Women Act. This new office on Violence Against Women will lead a comprehensive national effort to fight domestic violence and other crimes against women.

The effort will combine tough new federal laws with assistance to states and localities to make real progress in law enforcement, victim assistance, prosecutions and crime prevention.

Through outreach, collaboration and public education initiatives, the Office will work to transform public attitudes toward these crimes and dispel the notion that acts of violence against women are private disputes not fit for public scrutiny or legal judgment.

The Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, working closely with an Advisory Council, will bring broader public attention to the problem of violence against women and ongoing programs to prevent it through meetings across the country with law enforcement and advocacy groups and through public appearances and media interviews.

The Act provides for \$1.6 billion in federal resources to be expended over the next six years. This coming year the Office expects to devote about \$200 million to the effort, concentrating on helping U.S. jurisdictions across the country to establish specialized police and prosecution units for sexual and domestic violence and to enhance training of police, prosecutors and judges and court personnel.

Also the Office will support the adoption of reforms and new procedures and regulations in cases of crimes of sexual or domestic violence in U.S. jurisdictions that include: ordering restitution for the victim permitting evidence of the accused's history of commission of other sexual or domestic violence crimes introduced into cases involving these such offenses; ensuring confidentiality about the victim's address and whereabouts and about communications between victims and counselors, therapists and advocates; establishing registration systems for child molesters and other sexually violent criminals and encouraging nationwide criminal history background checks for persons employed in child care, disabled care and elder care positions.

B. ENFORCEMENT OF FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO CLINIC ENTRANCES ACT

The United States has committed and continues to commit considerable resources to the enforcement by the Department of Justice of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994, including the deployment of three principal investigative agencies -- the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Marshal's Service -- as well as attorneys from the Criminal, Civil and Civil Rights Divisions.

Ongoing task forces directed by U.S. Attorneys that include federal, state and local law enforcement officials will continue to develop plans to ensure security for reproductive health clinics.

Finally, at the direction of the Attorney General, the United States Marshal's Service will continue to facilitate and coordinate communications among clinics and federal, state and local law enforcement officials regarding potential threats of violence.

C. RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The Administration has submitted its ratification package to the Senate and reaffirms its commitment to make every effort to obtain its ratification.

IV. HEALTH

A. The Department of Health and Human Services will take action on a range of problems of concern to women of different backgrounds throughout the life cycle:

o **Smoking Prevention Among Children and Adolescents.** A comprehensive plan to reduce smoking by children and adolescents by 50 percent, including prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to anyone under 18.

o **Preventing Teen Pregnancy.** Encouraging abstinence and personal responsibility while providing access to health and family planning services and supporting health education in schools.

o **Youth and Children.** A Governing Council on Children and Youth that will develop a comprehensive and coordinated strategy for children and youth that includes a Children's Budget, recommending priority areas for investments of attention and resources, building communications across the government, supporting partnerships with governments and communities, and coordinating research and an evaluation agenda.

o **Disabled Women and Girls.** Interagency coordination to integrate health issues affecting disabled girls and women into an overall health agenda.

o **Older Women.** Addressing the health needs of older women through such initiatives as the Women's Health Initiative, the largest clinical research study ever conducted that examines the major causes of death, disability and frailty in post-menopausal women.

o **Contraceptive Research and Development.** Conducting and funding contraceptive research and development, with special emphasis on microbicides hormonal implants, immuno-contraception and Mifepristone (RU-486).

o **HIV/AIDS.** Pursuing a policy agenda on HIV/AIDS specific to women, adolescents, and children focused on research, education and prevention such 1) the release of guidelines that call upon medical professionals to offer routine HIV counseling and voluntary testing to all pregnant women in response to research indicating that zidovudine (ZDV, or AZT) could reduce perinatal HIV transmission by as much as two-thirds in some infected women and their babies; 2) development of the Women's Interagency HIV Study, a long term, large scale study that investigates the impact of HIV infection in US women; 3) the development of the Interdepartmental Task Force on AIDS convened on behalf of the President to assure a coordinated approach to the HIV/AIDS epidemic which will develop a national plan reflecting the goals and objectives of the Federal government in combating AIDS..

o **Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.** In addition to working for health care reform by seeking changes to improve efficacy in the health care system that curtail health spending, the US will continue to address the health needs of women through such initiatives as:

- The National Action Plan on Breast Cancer
- New Frontiers in Breast Cancer Imaging
- The Mammography Quality Standards Act
- Expansion of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program
- Inclusion of Women in Clinical Trials
- The National Women's Health Clearinghouse
- Expansion of the Infertility Prevention Program

B. The Agency for International Development will continue its support of:

Public education campaigns to provide information on women's reproductive and sexual health and availability of health, education and legal services.

- Expanded family planning services, as appropriate, including screening and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.
- Involvement of more non-governmental organizations in actual service delivery, particularly those that are run and managed by women.
- Securing universal access to safe, effective, culturally appropriate reproductive health care services, including family planning, to improve the health of women and families and to provide greater self-determination for women.
- Prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS with particular attention to the fact that over the next decade more women than men in developing countries will become infected.