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President's Interagency Council on Women/Beijing Plus Five [1]

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America's Commitment



The United Nations Women's Conference Women 2000 • Beijing Plus Five

The President's Interagency Council on Women

February 3, 2000

OBJECTIVE

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women by highlighting progress made in implementing the 1995 *Platform for Action* adopted in Beijing; and to begin the first year of the new millennium with a reaffirmation and recommitment to policies that advance the lives of women and girls.

BACKGROUND

In 1995, 189 countries signed the *Platform for Action* at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women. The platform calls for economic opportunity and security for women; for quality education and health care; for full participation of women politically and economically; for equality; and for the promotion of the human rights of women. It is one of the strongest policy statements promoting women's advancement ever made by the international community.

THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN

President Clinton established the President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the implementation of the U.S. commitment to follow up on the *Platform for Action*. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton serves as Honorary Chair of the Council, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright serves as Chair, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala as Immediate Past Chair. The members of the Council are high level representatives from executive branch agencies who work within the U.S. government. The Council holds quarterly open public briefings and discussions to continue a strong partnership with non-governmental organizations.

The Council leads U.S. government preparation for U.S. participation in **Women 2000**: the Special Session of the United Nations in June 2000 which will mark five years since Beijing.

- The Council will publish a five-year review of U.S. government programs, policies, and initiatives that promote the advancement of women. The 2000 edition of this publication, entitled *America's Commitment*, will highlight current efforts and projected policies and programs measured against the goals of the *Platform for Action*. Copies of *America's Commitment* will be available for distribution in time for the **Women 2000** Special Session.
- The Council is also coordinating various outreach events across the United States to celebrate the progress made since the UN Fourth World Conference on Women. These regional events will be organized in partnership with non-governmental organizations, colleges and universities, and regional community organizations, and will offer opportunities to share best practices, achievements and lessons learned.

UN SPECIAL SESSION FOR WOMEN 2000: CELEBRATING BEIJING PLUS FIVE

In June 2000, the UN Special Session of the General Assembly will provide an international forum to celebrate the achievements made since the historic 1995 conference and to reaffirm the worldwide commitment to the *Platform for Action*.

INTERNATIONAL UNITED NATION'S EVENTS

- **October 26- 29, 1999 - Bangkok, Thailand:** UN Regional PrepCom for ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] *Review of Regional Progress towards implementation of the Platform for Action*.
- **November 22 – 27, 1999 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:** UN Regional PrepCom for ECA [Economic Commission for Africa] *Review of Regional Progress towards implementation of the Platform for Action*. (USG is only observer)
- **December 15 – 18, 1999 - Beirut, Lebanon:** UN Regional PrepCom for ESCWA [Economic and Social Commission for West Asia] *Review of Regional Progress towards implementation of the Platform for Action*. (USG is only observer)
- **January 19 - 21, 2000 - Geneva, Switzerland:** UN Regional PrepCom for ECE [Economic Commission for Europe] *Review of Regional Progress towards implementation of the Platform for Action*.
- **February 8-10, 2000 - Lima, Peru:** UN Regional PrepCom for ECLAC [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean].
- **February 28 – March 17, 2000 - New York City, New York:** UN Commission on the Status of Women – PrepCom for Beijing Plus Five.
- **June 5 – 9, 2000 - New York City, New York :** UN Special Session of the General Assembly for Beijing Plus Five: "*Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century.*"

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The President's Interagency Council on Women



Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women & Children

INTERAGENCY ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICY COORDINATION

The President's Interagency Council on Women, chaired by the Secretary of State, leads the Clinton Administration's interagency coordination of international and domestic policy to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

Denouncing trafficking as a fundamental human rights violation and growing organized crime problem, President Clinton directed the Council in March 1998 to coordinate development of the United States' three-part anti-trafficking strategy: 1) prevention of trafficking; 2) protection of and assistance for trafficking victims; and 3) prosecution of and enforcement against traffickers.

The Council chairs a working group of senior level policy officials to accomplish the Administration's objectives. The working group includes representatives from the White House Domestic Policy Council and National Security Council, the Departments of Justice, State, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Treasury, as well as the Agency for International Development, the Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies.

At its regular meetings, the working group receives intra-departmental reports (e.g. FBI, INS, State Department Regional and Functional Bureaus) regarding the advancement of anti-trafficking policies coordinated by the Council, as well as interdepartmental cooperative efforts targeting specific anti-trafficking objectives such as the Worker Exploitation Task Force (investigations and prosecution) and the former Subgroup on Alien Smuggling and Human Trafficking working under the auspices of the NSC (trafficking data-collection).

Between meetings, the Council's coordinating responsibilities are the focus of staff dedicated full-time to the trafficking issue.

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Washington, DC 20520 • 202-647-6227 (phone) • 202-647-5337 (fax) • secretary.state.gov/picw
To Report Trafficking Cases: 1-888-428-7581 (DOJ Hotline)**

International Women's Issues

Overview

Missions play a vital role in carrying out the Secretary's mandate to integrate the advancement of women into U.S. foreign policy. The President's Interagency Council on Women's International Affairs Strategic Plan, developed in conjunction with S/RPP and the Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's issues, outlines USG priority areas and objectives.

The President's Interagency Council on Women pursues U.S. national interests and strategic goals related to economic prosperity, democracy and human rights, law enforcement and humanitarian response among others. The Council is charged with coordinating the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The Council is also responsible for developing related initiatives to further women's progress and engage in outreach and public education to support the successful implementation of the Conference agreements. In accordance with its mandate, the Council has identified two international priority areas: eliminating violence against women; and expanding women's political and economic participation with emphasis on target areas.

Objectives related to eliminating violence against women include:

- Reducing the incidence of trafficking in women and girls by 30% over the next five years;
- Increasing participation and support by 50% of foreign governments and international institutions over the next five years in training on women's human rights for international peacekeepers; and
- Developing the capacity within the USG to provide a rapid response to human rights violations against women and girls, including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault.

Objectives related to expanding women's political and economic participation include:

- Strengthening women's political participation as a key component of democracy by increasing women's political capacity by 30% over the next five years;

- Advancing women's economic status by increasing the pool of capital available to women worldwide through microenterprise programs by 20% over the next five years.

These objectives are tied explicitly to the following U.S. national interests and strategic goals:

Democracy and Human Rights (National Interest):

Increase foreign government adherence to democratic practices and respect for human rights (Strategic Goal);

Humanitarian Response (National Interest):

Prevent or minimize the human costs of conflict and natural disasters (Strategic Goal);

Law Enforcement (National Interest):

Minimize the impact of international crime on the United States and its citizens (Strategic Goal);

Economic Prosperity (National Interest):

Increase global economic growth (Strategic Goal);

Promote broad-based economic growth in developing and transitional economies (Strategic Goal);

Open foreign markets to free the flow of goods, services, and capital (Strategic Goal).

- **Economic Prosperity**

Promoting women's access to economic resources is vital in creating a more prosperous, secure and democratic world in the 21st century. Increasing women's capacity to participate in economic, social and political affairs optimizes the impact of resources for economic growth and sustainable development.

- **Democracy and Human Rights**

Fundamental to women's participation in established and emerging democracies is the assurance of their personal safety and well being. Trafficking in women and girls is one of the most egregious human rights violations of our time. Reducing the incidence of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault and trafficking in women and girls strengthens foreign government adherence to democratic practices.

- **Law Enforcement**

Trafficking in women and girls is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world and a major source of income for international criminal syndicates. Reducing trafficking in women and girls minimizes the impact of international crime on the United States and its citizens.

- **Humanitarian Response**

Strife and conflict are an ongoing reality affecting women, children and men in many parts of the world. Although women rarely have any role in decisions leading to armed conflict, they make important contributions in promoting peace. American values mandate offering assistance and international leadership to help alleviate human suffering from crises (man-made or natural). Because sexual crimes, including rape, are common during armed conflicts, providing protection and assistance to women victimized by violence minimizes the cost of human suffering.

About the Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues

Congress created the position of Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues in 1994 to promote the human rights of women and girls within American foreign policy. The goal of the Senior Coordinator's Office is to integrate these issues into the development and implementation of U.S. foreign policy by serving as consultants to regional and functional bureaus of the U.S. Department of State. Improving policy and program coordination across regional and functional areas enhances the institutional capacities of International Affairs Agencies to meet critical challenges confronting women and girls throughout the world.

About the President's Interagency Council on Women

On August 26, 1995, prior to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, President Clinton announced the formation of an interagency Women's Council. The President said:

"The (Beijing) Conference is going to talk about education and domestic violence and grassroots economics, employment, health care, political participation... And we don't intend to walk away from it when it's over. I'm going to establish an interagency council on women to make sure that all the effort and good ideas actually get implemented when we get back home."

The Council is charged with coordinating the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at Beijing, including the U.S. commitments announced at the Conference.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton serves as Honorary Chair of the Council. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has chaired the Council since March, 1997, following the strong leadership provided by the former Chair, Secretary of Health and Human Services Secretary Shalala. The Council includes high level representatives from Executive Branch agencies.

Target Areas

Target areas include: Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, People's Republic of China, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Greece, Haiti, The Holy See, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Somaliland (Northwest Somalia), South Korea, Suriname, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam among others.

Women's Political Capacity

Increasing women's political capacity involves expanding women's skills and resources to lobby government, vote, run for public office, serve as elected officials, and establish non-governmental organizations.

Beijing Platform for Action

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted unanimously at the Fourth World Conference on Women (4-15 September 1995) by representatives from 189 countries, reflect a new international commitment to the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere.

The Platform, divided into six chapters, identifies 12 "critical areas of concern" considered to represent the main obstacles to women's advancement. It defines strategic objectives and spells out actions to be taken over the next five years by Governments, the international community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector for the removal of existing obstacles.

Mission Statement & Global Framework

Since the 1985 Nairobi Conference on Women, the world has experienced profound changes, with both positive and negative effects on women. A worldwide movement towards democratization has opened up the political process in many nations. The growing strength of women's organizations and groups has become a driving force for change.

At the same time, widespread economic recession, political instability, heavy military spending, poorly designed structural adjustment programs, the servicing of the external debt burden and continuing environmental degradation have had a disproportionately negative impact on women.

The Platform for Action, an agenda for women's empowerment, seeks to reverse this trend. It seeks to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all women throughout their life cycle. It also calls for establishing the principle of shared power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities.

The success of the Platform for Action will require a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels. It will also require adequate mobilization of resources at all levels as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries.

Poverty

The Platform recommends action to:

- Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty;
- Revise laws and administrative practices in order to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources;
- Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions; and
- Develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty.

Education and Training

The Platform recommends action to:

- Ensure equal access to education. Governments are to commit themselves, by the year 2000, to universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary-school-age children. They also agree to close the gender gap in primary- and secondary-school education by the year 2000, and to achieve universal education in all countries before the year 2015;
- Eradicate illiteracy among women. Governments are to reduce the female illiteracy rate at least to half of its 1990 level;
- Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education;

- Develop non-discriminatory education and training;
- Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms; and
- Promote lifelong education and training for girls and women.

Health

The Platform recommends action to:

- Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services;
- Reduce maternal mortality by at least 50 percent of the 1990 levels by the year 2000s and a further one half by the year 2015;
- Encourage both women and men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behavior;
- Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and sexually and reproductive health issues; and
- Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health.

Violence

The Platform recommends action to:

- Adopt and implement legislation to end violence against women;
- Work actively to ratify and implement all international agreements related to violence against women, including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- Adopt new laws and enforce existing ones to punish members of security forces and police or any other State agents for acts of violence against women;
- Set up shelters, provide legal aid and other services for girls and women at risk, and provide counseling and rehabilitation for perpetrators of violence against women; and
- Step up national and international cooperation to dismantle networks engaged in trafficking in women.

Armed Conflict

The Platform recommends action to:

- Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels;
- Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments;
- Work towards the universal ratification of the Anti-mine Convention and Protocol by the year 2000;
- Recognize the important roles and contributions of women in peace movements throughout the world; and
- Recognize the need to protect women living in situations of armed and other conflict or under foreign occupation, or who have become refugees or displaced.

Economy

The Platform recommends action to:

- Promote women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade;
- Provide business services, training and access to markets, information technology, particularly to low-income women;
- Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks;
- Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination; and
- Promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men.

Decision-making

The Platform recommends action to:

- Ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making in governmental bodies and public administration entities, including the judiciary, international and non-governmental organizations, political parties and trade unions; and
- Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership positions.

Institutional Mechanisms

The Platform recommends action to:

- Create or strengthen national and other governmental bodies; ensure that responsibilities for the advancement of women is vested in the highest possible level of Government;
- Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programs and projects; ensure that before policy decisions are taken, an analysis of their impact on women and men is carried out; and
- Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation; measure, in quantitative terms, unremunerated work that is outside of national accounts.

Human Rights

The Platform recommends action to:

- Promote and protect the human rights of women by fully implementing all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- Review national laws to ensure implementation of all international human rights agreements;
- Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice; and
- Achieve legal literacy.

Media

The Platform recommends action to:

- Increase women's participation in access to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication; Governments should aim at gender balance through the appointment of women and men to all advisory, management, regulatory or monitoring bodies;
- Promote a balanced and non-stereotypical portrayal of women in the media. The media organizations, NGOs and the private sector should promote the equal sharing of family responsibility and produce materials that portray diverse roles of women leaders; and

- Develop within mass media and advertising organizations professional guidelines and codes of conduct and other forms of self-regulation to promote the presentation of non-stereotyped images of women, consistent with freedom of expression.

Environment

The Platform recommends action to:

- Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels, including as managers, designers and planners, and as implementers and evaluators of environmental projects;
- Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programs for sustainable development; and
- Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women.

The Girl-Child

The Platform recommends action to:

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl-child; enact and enforce appropriate legislation that guarantees equal right to succession and ensures equal right to inherit; regardless of the sex of the child;
- Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls;
- Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training;
- Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition;
- Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labor and protect young girls at work; and
- Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl-child.

Institutional and Financial Arrangements

The Platform establishes a set of actions that should lead to fundamental change. Immediate action and accountability are essential if the targets are to be met by the year 2000.

Governments are primarily responsible for their implementation. However, success depends also on various national, regional and international institutions, public

and private, which require clear and strong mandates, authority and resources.

- At the national level, commitment at the highest political level is essential for the successful implementation of the Platform. By the end of 1996, all Governments should have their own national strategies or plans of action. Governments should establish or improve effectiveness of national mechanisms that promote the advancement of women, and seek the active support of a broad range of actors;
- At the regional and sub-regional levels, the regional commissions of the United Nations should promote and assist national institutions. Regional institutions should develop and publicize regional plans of action for implementing the Platform within given time-frames and resources; and
- At the international level, all entities of the United Nations system should have the necessary resources and support to carry out follow-up activities. International financial institutions are encouraged to review and revise policies to ensure that their investments and programs benefit women.

To ensure system-wide implementation of the Platform and to advise on gender issues, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is invited to establish a high-level post in his office. The Platform also calls for committing adequate financial resources from all sources and across all sectors.

**Eliminating Violence Against Women and
Promoting Women's Political Participation:
A Notional List of Objectives**

- Improving policy and program coordination among USG departments and agencies on issues related to violence against women and women's political participation.
- Increasing accountability and transparency of foreign governments in meeting challenges posed by violence against women and women's political participation.
- Stopping trafficking in women and children and increasing international participation in training programs focusing on these issues.
- Monitoring parliamentary, judicial and human rights activities related to violence against women and women's political participation and facilitating the ratification and implementation of treaties and conventions that relate to international women's issues.
- Reducing the levels of domestic and political violence directed towards women.
- Increasing knowledge among USG personnel and FSN employees in target countries on critical issues related to violence against women and women's political participation.
- Increasing participation rates in international women's exchange programs, particularly among persons promoting policy and program coordination on international women's issues.
- Increasing local, national and international media coverage of matters related to violence against women and women's political participation; and promoting public awareness regarding these issues expanded civic education programs, including programs for women.
- Developing and implementing value-added, catalytic technical assistance programs and conferences on violence against women and women's political participation; strengthening USG partnerships with U.S.-based and indigenous NGOs, educational institutions, business leaders, foreign governments, and media organizations; and providing training and technical assistance to make conflict resolution mechanisms such as mediation boards more effective and efficient.
- Coordinating training for law enforcement officials in source, transit and destination countries in meeting challenges related to trafficking in women and girls.

Key Countries for The President's Interagency Council on Women's Supplemental MPP Guidance: Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Cote D'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, People's Republic of China, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Tunisia, Vietnam, Ukraine, Yemen

The President's Interagency Council on Women Supplemental Guidance for Mission Performance Plans

International Women's Issues

Secretary of State Madeline Albright has said, "Advancing the status of women is not only a moral imperative; it is being actively integrated into the foreign policy of the United States. It is our mission. It is the right thing to do, and frankly, it is the smart thing to do."

The International Affairs Strategic Plan, being the first of its kind, set the stage for USG international affairs agencies to evaluate their role in advancing U.S. international affairs policy. The President's Interagency Council on Women, the Department's lead coordinating body on international women's issues, has developed a strategic plan under this broad framework. The Mission Performance Plan is a mechanism to match policy on international women's issues, set forth in the Council's strategic plan, to country-level activities and government resources.

The President's Interagency Council on Women has developed this supplemental guidance to inform the development of Mission Performance Plans. This supplement provides strategies and performance indicators for selected objectives under the Council's priority areas of eliminating violence against women and increasing women's political and economic participation around the world. This supplement also highlights key countries under these objectives, identified in accordance with the Council's strategic plan and input from State Department regional and functional bureaus.

Eliminating Violence Against Women

Objective: Reduce the incidence of trafficking in women and children by 30% over the next five years

National Interest: Law Enforcement (LINK)

Summary:

Trafficking in human beings, predominately women and children, is a form of modern-day slavery. The USG defines trafficking in human beings as the recruitment, transport or sale of persons across international borders or within a country through fraud, coercion or force for purposes of forced labor or services, including forced prostitution, domestic servitude, debt bondage or other slavery-like practices.

President Clinton issued a directive on March 11, 1998 on Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls. (LINK) This directive established the United States' strategy to combat trafficking in women and children around the world. The strategy involves three parts: prevention; protection for victims; and prosecution against traffickers. The directive charged the President's Interagency Council on Women

to lead the development and coordination of USG domestic and international policy on trafficking in women and girls, in cooperation with NGOs.

The Council is also working multilaterally, bilaterally and with NGOs to develop policies and programs in accordance with the USG's comprehensive, anti-trafficking strategy. We are actively expanding our collaborative efforts in source, transit and destination countries. We have engaged the European Union and the United Nations, the governments of Italy, Finland, Ukraine, and Israel, and NGOs in countries around the world in our efforts to eliminate trafficking and assist trafficking victims.

In accordance with the growing sophistication and rapid expansion of the industry, USG international affairs agencies and their missions are urged to increase their efforts and resources devoted to combating trafficking in women and children around the world.

Assumptions:

- Given large profits, relatively low risk of detection, and rare convictions for traffickers, the industry of trafficking in women and children will continue to expand;
- Profits from the trafficking industry will feed into organized crime groups' involvement in other illicit activities;
- Without intervention, trafficking in women for purposes of forced prostitution or sexual services will increase the global burden of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS.

Key Countries (including but not limited to): Thailand, Ukraine, Russia, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Bangladesh, Brazil, Nepal, People's Republic of China, Cambodia, India, Nigeria, the Philippines, Vietnam and Benin

Strategies include but are not limited to:

- Improve data collection, monitoring and reporting of incidence rates, trafficking routes, information on known or suspected traffickers, conditions of exploitation, organized crime links, victim assistance needs, government responses, and other issues related to trafficking in women and children.
- Develop and implement in cooperation with government officials, multilateral agencies, and NGOs in the host country and region a country specific action plan to combat trafficking
- Based on established trafficking routes, develop and implement anti-trafficking strategies in cooperation with other source, transit or destination countries in the region
- Support the development and ratification of legislation designed to combat trafficking and assist trafficking victims;
- Improve enforcement of existing anti-trafficking laws;
- Implement trafficking enforcement training for border enforcement, consular anti-fraud and visa officials and diplomatic security passport and visa fraud special agents
- Develop and implement trafficking prevention strategies, including social and economic development projects for women and girls and public awareness campaigns

- Increase media coverage on trafficking-related issues
- Engage in efforts to protect trafficking victims and provide them with direct support of educational, legal assistance, and health care needs, with emphasis on the safe re-integration of victims into their communities after their trafficking experience.

Indicators:

- Establishment of baseline data on incidence of trafficking, as well as information on trafficking routes, known traffickers, organized crime links and other related issues
- Decrease in incidence trafficking and prevalence of trafficked women in source, transit and destination countries
- Development of country-specific action plan to combat trafficking
- Number of trafficking-related training sessions held for law enforcement, legislative and consular officials
- Number of prevention initiatives launched

Objective: Develop the capacity within the USG to provide a rapid response to human rights violations against women and girls, including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault.

National Interest: Democracy and Human Rights (LINK)

Summary:

Violence against women is specifically identified in the Beijing Platform for Action([LINK](#)) as an obstacle to the achievement of development, equality and peace. The President's Interagency Council on Women is charged with coordinating USG implementation of the Beijing Platform, adopted at the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women.

As established by the Council chaired by the Secretary of State, the elimination of violence against women is one of the USG's main foreign policy priorities on women's issues. The USG continues to work bilaterally, multilaterally, with NGOs and with Congress to secure government adherence to women's human rights around the world.

The Department of State's annual *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* details human rights violations, including violations against women and girls. These reports form the basis for bilateral discussions on human rights. To address the problem of domestic violence, the USG is taking steps to bring the issue out of the "private sphere" and into public policy arenas. The USG is also providing funding for multidisciplinary training of police, judges, lawyers, doctors and social workers to address this issue. The Department of State heads an interagency working group on female genital mutilation that works with African and American NGOs, as well as provides funding to local projects aimed at eradicating this practice. The USG is pursuing increased advocacy and public awareness efforts to improve the status of women and girls in Afghanistan.

In accordance with the dramatic human and economic costs of violence against women, international affairs agencies and their missions are urged to increase their efforts and resources devoted to combating violence against women around the world.

Assumptions:

- Without intervention, domestic violence will continue to be one of the leading causes of female injury, with these injuries sometimes resulting in death.
- The economic cost of domestic violence will continue to take its toll on economies around the world, contributing to increased utilization of the health care and criminal justice systems, increased homelessness, greater need for foster care, lower productivity in the workplace, and increased unemployment and absenteeism.
- Without appropriate recourse mechanisms at national and international levels to address human rights violations against women, the gap between the existence of rights for women and their effective enjoyment will continue to widen.

Key Countries (including but not limited to): Indonesia, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Russia, Ukraine, Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Nigeria

Strategies include but are not limited to:

- Improve data collection, monitoring and reporting on human rights abuses against women and girls
- Take steps to identify contributing factors and root causes of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault and other human rights violations against women and girls
- Ensure the inclusion of human rights abuses against women and girls in human rights country reports
- Increase media coverage of matters related to domestic violence, rape, sexual assault and other human rights violations against women and girls
- Encourage and support the participation of women's non-governmental organizations in national and regional conferences on women's human rights, as well as United Nations conferences and their preparatory processes
- Implement public awareness campaigns on issues related to violence against women, including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault

Indicators:

- Establish baseline on human rights violations against women
- Increase in number of reporting cables on human rights violations against women

Objective: Strengthen women's political participation as a key component of democracy by increasing women's political capacity ([LINK](#)) by 30% over the next five years;

National Interest: Economic Prosperity ([LINK](#))

Summary:

The USG has identified increasing women's political and economic participation as one of two priority areas for international women's issues. In our efforts to implement the

Beijing Platform for Action, the USG is developing policies and programs to ensure women's equal participation in decision-making and support institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women around the world.

The *Vital Voices* initiative is an effective policy mechanism to strengthen women's political capacity around the world. *Vital Voices* is an ongoing, global democracy building initiative that supports the participation of women in the political and economic lives of their countries. To date, *Vital Voices* conferences have been held in Vienna, Austria, Belfast, Northern Ireland and Montevideo, Uruguay. The private sector is engaged in follow-up partnerships and commitments to support conference outcomes.

In accordance with the growing movement toward democracy around the world, international affairs agencies and their missions are urged to increase their efforts and resources devoted to increasing women's political and economic participation.

Assumptions:

- Despite the widespread movement towards democratization in most countries, women remain largely underrepresented at most levels of government;
- The low proportion of women among economic and political decision-makers at local, national, regional and international levels reflects structural and attitudinal barriers that hinder women's full participation in political and economic life
- Underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the arts, culture, media, religion, education, and law prevent women from having a significant impact on many key institutions and policies
- Without adequate support, women will continue to be marginalized in national, regional and international government structures and institutions.

Key Countries: Nigeria, Indonesia, Kenya, Yemen, Morocco, Ukraine, Egypt, Tunisia, People's Republic of China, and Cote D'Ivoire

Strategies include but are not limited to:

- Monitor and evaluate progress in the representation of women in all levels of decision-making and in institutional mechanisms to advance the status of women through regular collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data
- Encourage greater involvement of indigenous women at all levels of decision-making and in institutional mechanisms
- Encourage and support the participation of women's non-governmental organizations in regional conferences to increase women's political capacity, as well as United Nations conferences and their preparatory processes
- Provide training for women and men to promote non-discriminatory working relationships and respect for diversity in work and management styles
- Develop mechanisms and training to support women's participation in the electoral process, political activities and other leadership areas

Indicators:

- Establish baseline data on issues related to women's political capacity
- Increase in the number of women voting, running for office and lobbying government
- Increase in institutional mechanisms to support women's political participation
- Increase media attention to issues related to women's political capacity

ES- as per my email

— WFP

W —

Let Mara

know you're

doing this.

Maria Echaveste

06/19/2000 10:03:05 AM

Record Type: Record

To: John Podesta/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Wendy L. Patten/NSC/EOP@EOP, Mara E. Rudman/NSC/EOP@EOP, Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP@EOP,
Jeffrey L. Farrow/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: Gutierrez letter/US position on trafficking of women, etc

On Congressman Gutierrez's letter to the President urging him to meet with PR religious leaders in light of the hunger striker--Mara and I discussed this am, and decided to have Jeff take a first stab at drafting a quick response to Luis (assuming we're still of the view that no such meeting should take place--which we--Jeff, Mara, me--all think we should not do). Scheduling has scheduled the PR political leader mtg with President for either 6/27 or 6/28 depending on other issues--we'll try to get that closed today so we can give folks a week's notice.

Lastly--on the President's inquiry on US position on trafficking on women--I asked Wendy Patten last week in NSC/Humanitarian desk to give me the lowdown so I could respond to the President and she's working on it--I'll stay on top of it and keep you posted.

By Ben Barber
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Clinton yesterday promised Jordan's King Abdullah U.S. backing for an international fund to resettle Palestinian refugees, a first step toward resolving one of the most intractable obstacles to Middle East peace.

"There has to be a provision made for dealing with the refugee problems, including some sort of fund, international fund, which would deal with the financial burdens of the displaced refugees everywhere, including Jordan," Mr.

Clinton tells king U.S. will contribute

Clinton told reporters after a White House meeting with the king

Though no figures were mentioned, analysts say the amount needed to resettle or compensate displaced Palestinians could run into the billions, with much of it shouldered by the United States.

It would come on top of up to \$100 billion estimated to have been spent to implement the 1979 Camp

David

\$15 billion to \$45 billion placed on any Israeli return of Golan Heights to Syria.

King Abdullah also met congressional leaders yesterday to discuss funding to resolve claims of the estimated 1.4 million Palestinian refugees who have lived in his nation for four decades.

White House spokesman P.J. Crowley said Mr. Clinton did not tell the king how large a refugee resettlement and compensation fund would be, or what the U.S.

see FUND, page A10

U.S. seeks softer stance on hookers

By George Archibald
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The U.S. delegation to a United Nations Women's Conference is leading efforts to avoid condemning prostitution as a "form of abuse" of women and is attempting to weaken anti-pornography provisions.

A leading U.S. negotiator, Sharon Kotok, confirmed reports from closed-door negotiating sessions on a U.N. report being drafted this week that the Clinton administra-

Clinton-led agenda weakens porn curb

tion spearheaded the move for wealthy, developed nations.

Poorer, undeveloped nations in Africa, the Middle East and South America have strongly objected to the U.S.-European moves because of strong religious traditions.

"We [the caucus of developed nations] had agreed to drop all of these phrases," Ms. Kotok said of

the anti-prostitution provision. She attributed the move to "cleaning up" the report to avoid listing specific abuses that could be broadly labeled "sexual exploitation."

The United States wants to drop an attack on the pornography industry as an exploiter of women and simply label pornographic and obscene material as an "obstacle" to women's dignity and rights.

The provisions are part of a draft report at a conference of

see WOMEN, page A9

Rough ride: The Street near Michig patching at each t

INSIDE

Wednesday, June 7, 2000
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NATION

The Washington Times

FROM PAGE ONE

WOMEN

From page A1

10,000 female delegates from throughout the world, five years after the 1995 Beijing women's conference. The delegates are mapping an agenda for women's advancement and empowerment over the next five years.

The United States, the European Union and wealthy, developed countries — Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea — are trying to use the report to expand homosexual rights, create new sexual rights for adolescent girls starting at age 10 and require abortion training for all health care workers.

Poorer undeveloped countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and South America want stronger pro-family provisions and condemnation of sexual exploitation of women through sexual promiscuity, prostitution, pornography and other abuses.

Participants in the closed-door sessions said the United States made the move to strike the prostitution provision in a section on women's migration after the Philippines delegation tried to strengthen it.

As written, the draft report noted that while global migration of women increases their earning opportunities and self-reliance, it also exposes women and children, especially girls, to inadequate working conditions, increased health risks, the risk of trafficking, economic and sexual exploitation,

The United States wants to simply label pornographic and obscene material as an "obstacle" to women's dignity and rights.

forced prostitution, racism, xenophobia and other forms of abuse.

The Philippine delegation moved to drop the word "forced" so that all prostitution was labeled as an exploitative abuse. At that point, delegates said, Ms. Kotok jumped up and moved to strike any reference to prostitution, racism and xenophobia.

This was not a paragraph calling for criminalization of prostitution, thus the Clinton administration cannot contend that it was trying to protect women from prosecution for a crime in which men go unpunished, said Kathryn Balmforth, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) delegate representing Family Voice of Utah.

The maneuver was simply designed to prevent voluntary prostitution from being included in a negative context.

Ms. Kotok said the United States and other countries in its caucus had agreed before the conference to push to delete the prostitution references.

"I suggested dropping this entire phrase," she said. "We were just trying to clean it up. That was a balanced sentence. We thought it [prostitution] was covered [as sexual exploitation]."

However, U.S. NGOs supporting positions of the Holy See, the Vati-

can's delegation to the U.N., and the undeveloped nations' caucus called the Group of 77, or G-77, said the administration has opposed U.N. references condemning prostitution in other negotiations.

According to published reports in the Wall Street Journal and elsewhere, in negotiations involving the U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime in Vienna, the administration has supported using the phrase "forced prostitution" rather than simply "prostitution," thus placing women in the position of having to prove whether their prostitution was coerced or not.

The administration's position in Vienna this year was spearheaded by the President's Interagency Council on Women, whose honorary chairman is first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the reports said. The President's Interagency Council on Women also is directing the U.S. delegation's positions at the U.N. women's conference, officials said.

"I am not involved in Vienna," Ms. Kotok, a State Department official assisting the U.S. delegation, said yesterday.

"It's all in brackets," she said of the prostitution section and the pornography section that the administration wants to have modified, meaning the two sections

have not been agreed to and are still under discussion.

"We are trying to condemn the entire pornography industry as an abuse; it is one of the obstacles we are dealing with," said T. Malek-Ebrahimi, a delegate for Islamic Women Institute of Iran, an NGO group.

The U.S. words referring only to pornographic materials are diluting the actual language because it does not encompass filmmakers who exploit women and children in making pornographic movies, or other aspects of the pornography trade, she said.

Pornography is the whole institution: filmmakers, magazines, sex shops and so forth. Pornographic and obscene materials are only one part of it.

Ms. Kotok says the U.S. proposal talks about products in a section dealing with women and media. "We thought it made more sense. We thought 'pornographic materials' was more appropriate," she said.

E.J. Suh, a University of Illinois college student representing World Youth Alliance, a major youth NGO group at the conference with members on five continents, said she was disappointed in the U.S.-led action.

"It doesn't make sense to me that the U.S. would loosen regulations on issues of prostitution, pornography and abortion," she said. "It is something very damaging to women physically, mentally and emotionally. As an American, I know how our society holds very dear freedom, but not freedom to do anything and everything."

Longer sought

GENEVA (AP) — Groups from around the world pressed for an international treaty guaranteeing maternity leave and breast-feeding work.

"There has been a using women's biology against them," activist Solve said as the International Conference debated a maternity protection.

"We are in a situation where we are having to do two poorly paid and the other she said of the dual role of employee and mother.

The new labor treaty, approved next week, will place a 1952 International Organization treaty on leave.

The original treaty was by only 39 countries, mostly in South America and Europe. The United States, Australia and much of Europe never signed it.

Thirty-four countries women less than 12 weeks maternity leave. Many do not women full pay and, in countries such as the United States, Australia and New Zealand, the unpaid, according to the Alliance for Breast-feeding.

adequate compensation, said an Arab source.
vision by Mr. Williams

Voices of Hope...

Voices of Progress...

Voices of Women Around the World...

"We know that we cannot build the kind of future we want without the contributions of women. And we know that around the world, women will only be able to contribute to our full potential if we have equal access, equal rights, equal protection and a fair chance at the levers of economic and political power. Advancing the status of women is the right thing to do; and, frankly, it is the smart thing to do."

- Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright



Vital Voices is an ongoing global initiative which implements U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's commitment to promote the advancement of women as a U.S. foreign policy objective. This initiative enjoys the active support and leadership of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Vital Voices is raising the dynamic voices of emerging women leaders around the world who are forging the way towards democracy.

Vital Voices is creating unprecedented partnerships among governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to support the full participation of women in the economic, social, and political progress of their countries.

Vital Voices is building a network of people throughout the world who support full participatory democracies and economic prosperity.

Vital Voices conferences launch regional initiatives to give citizens in emerging democracies and countries in transition the skills, tools, and resources they need to empower themselves, their communities and their countries. Regional Initiatives have been launched for Eastern and Central Europe, Northern Ireland, the Americas, the Baltics and Russia. Vital Voices Global and Regional Roundtables have been held in Palermo, Italy, Reykjavik, Iceland, and Istanbul, Turkey.

On February 16, 2000, Vital Voices will host a Global Roundtable at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC as part of the First Vital Voices Global Exchange.

If you wish to get more information, check out the Vital Voices website at <http://www.usia.gov/vitalvoices> or email us at vitalvoices@hotmail.com

Write or call: Theresa Loar, Director of the Vital Voices Initiative
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW Suite 6934 Washington, DC 20520-7512
Tel: (202) 647-5440 Fax: (202) 647-5337

Vital Voices.....Listen.



POP *Briefs*

Family Planning Matters

USAID's family planning program is recognized as one of the most successful components of U.S. foreign assistance. For over 30 years, the United States has played a critical role in the global effort to meet unmet need for family planning. USAID also remains the technical leader in designing and delivering voluntary family planning services and related health information to more than 60 countries throughout the developing world.

Enabling women to have their desired number of children at a time when they want them is central to the quality of women's lives and the well-being of their families. Family planning is also an effective means of saving lives:

- Maternal mortality is the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age in developing countries, killing almost 600,000 a year. One in four of these maternal deaths could be prevented by family planning. (1)
- Family planning could also prevent 25% of the 11 million infant deaths in the developing world each year by spacing births at least two years apart. (1)
- Family planning can also help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases by providing condoms and other barrier methods.
- Use of modern family planning methods is the most effective way to reduce unintended pregnancies and abortions.

Although family planning services are more widely available than ever, it is estimated that more than 150 million married women (aged 15-49) in the developing world still want to space or limit childbearing but do not use modern methods of contraception. In addition, more than one billion young men and women aged 15-24 – the largest youth generation in history – are entering their childbearing years.

Funding Facts and Figures

- USAID support for family planning programs reached its highest level ever at \$542 million in fiscal year 1995, following the landmark International Conference on Population and Development.
- In FY 1996, international family planning assistance was cut by 35% to \$356 million.
- From FY 1997 through FY 1999, USAID funding for international family planning assistance was capped each year at \$385 million.
- For FY 2000, the President and Congress reached a compromise resulting in a further cut of \$12.5 million, down to a level of \$372.5 million.
- In FY 1999, Congress zeroed out U.S. funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an important USAID partner. Funding was restored to \$25 million in FY 2000, subject to withholding restrictions.

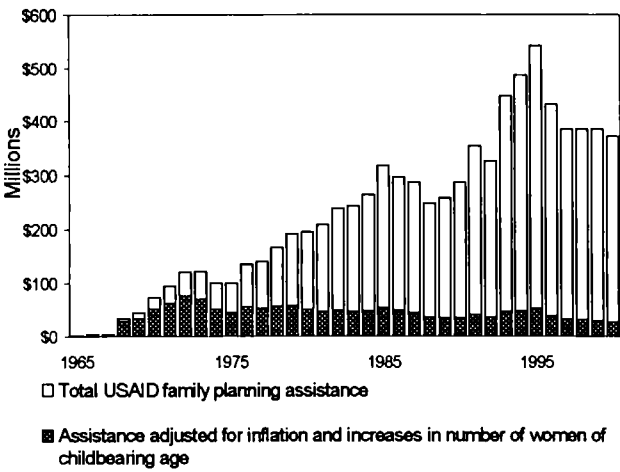
Family Planning Funding, FY 1995-2000*
(millions of dollars)

	USAID	UNFPA
FY 95	\$541.6	\$35.0
FY 96	356.0	22.8
FY 97	385.0	25.0
FY 98	385.0	20.0
FY 99	385.0	0
FY 00	372.5	25.0**

*USAID also funds other reproductive health activities, including maternal health and HIV/AIDS. In FY 1999, funding for these activities was \$185 million, with an additional \$472 million devoted to child survival and other health activities.

**Subject to withholding restrictions.

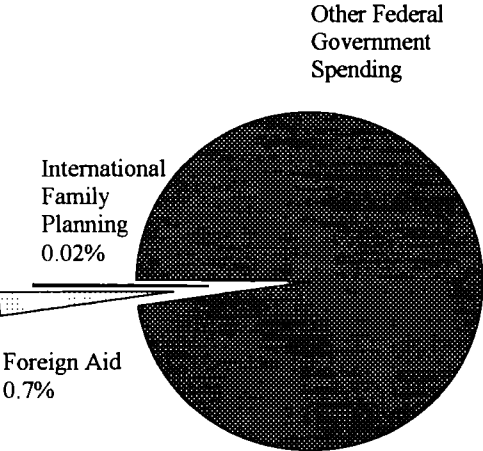
Family planning funding has not kept pace with increasing need



When the impact of inflation is taken into account, the increasing number of women of reproductive age are taking into account, the overall “purchasing power” of USAID support for international family planning has declined since the 1970s.

Source: USAID.

Less than 1%

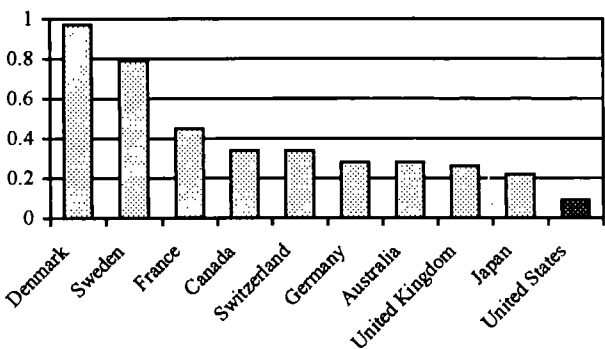


While most Americans think the U.S. spends much more, less than 1% of the total U.S. federal budget goes to foreign aid. Less than half of that goes to economic development and humanitarian assistance.

Approximately two-hundredths of one percent (.02%) of the federal budget goes to international family planning. This is the equivalent of less than 3 cents a week for every American.

Source: Office of Management and Budget and USAID, 1999.

Official development assistance as a percent of GNP



Although the U.S. is the largest donor country, it is last among all donors with the lowest official development assistance as a percentage of gross national product (GNP).

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 1999.

Sources: (1) Population Reference Bureau, *Family Planning Statistics*, 3rd edition, 1997.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2000

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. January is the time of year when many of us make New Year's resolutions, and work hard to keep them. Today, I want to talk about steps we're taking to keep a resolution of mine -- making sure women and men get the health care they need to have strong children and healthy families.

First, our administration has worked hard to make sure all women have access to prenatal care. We know when women get medical attention before a baby is born, that child is much more likely to be born healthy. And good health is the most precious gift we can offer a child or a family.

Second, we worked with Congress to make sure that every woman covered by federal government health insurance has reproductive health care coverage -- including prescription contraceptives. That was a significant step for more than a million American women, and it set a standard for insurance coverage around the country.

Third, when I took office, we faced an epidemic of teen pregnancy -- children having children. Over the last seven years, we have reached out to community groups, schools and health professionals working in an amazing network of American citizens from all walks of life. And, together, the American people have cut teen pregnancy by 15 percent.

Fourth, we've made a broad range of family planning and sex education programs more widely available for all Americans. And by making sure women have family planning choices, we are helping to make abortion more rare.

Today I am glad to announce we will be increasing funds for family planning and reproductive health care by \$35 million next year. My budget for 2001 will include \$274 million in grants for clinics and community-based health services that reach more than 5 million women and families.

That money will help make contraceptives available, and keep them affordable. It will fund counseling for teenagers, and support educational programs that encourage young people to postpone sexual activity. It will help more than 4,600 clinics screen for cancer, AIDS and other diseases. And it will fund partnerships with community organizations and health care professionals who are reaching out to teenagers and others at risk.

These services make a critical difference in people's lives. They help working women who otherwise could not afford medical tests that may

save their lives. They help AIDS patients who desperately need counseling and assistance. They provide support and information to young people who may not know the basics of caring for a newborn child. They give women access to the full range of reproductive health care -- before and during pregnancy. It's in the interest of every American that no one miss out on this kind of care -- and that no child miss the chance for a healthy start.

America has also been a leader in providing health and family planning assistance for women and families in developing countries. We do this because it's right, and because it will help build the kind of world we want for our own children.

Around the world, 150 million women would like to choose the timing of their pregnancies, but have no access to family planning of any kind. In the developing world, the complications of pregnancy kill more than one woman every single minute, because so many lack the most basic health care. These are personal tragedies, and they have profound consequences for families and communities. Where children are born healthy, and mothers and families gain power over their lives, communities are stronger. Economic progress is faster. And the future is brighter for everyone.

My budget for 2001 will increase funding for international family planning by almost \$170 million. I am asking Congress to support these funds, and to provide them without restrictions that hamper the work of family planning organizations, and even bar them from discussing or debating reproductive health policies.

We all agree that we want to save lives, help women and children stay healthy and empower families to take responsibility for their own choices. Supporting reproductive health and family planning is one of the very best ways to do that. We know it works. At home and abroad, we don't have a woman's life -- or a child's healthy start -- to waste.

Thanks for listening.

END



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

STEPS THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION IS TAKING TO STOP THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In his 1998 Presidential Directive on Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls, the first presidential directive ever issued on the subject, President Clinton called trafficking in women and girls a "fundamental human rights violation." The Administration is committed to taking decisive action toward combating the trafficking of human beings in a global effort. To that end, the United States has adopted a three-tiered strategy: *prevention, protection, and prosecution.*

PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

- The U.S. has increased its emphasis on economic opportunity and social development programs for women in source countries to provide economic alternatives to the lure of leaving their home countries or communities for employment. For example, USAID is sponsoring a consortium of NGOs in Ukraine to provide job skills training, small business development skills, and mentoring for women.
- The U.S. funds public awareness campaigns throughout source countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, warning potential victims of methods used by traffickers.
- The U.S. has developed a brochure entitled "Be Smart, Be Safe," targeted to potential victims, that describes the tactics criminals use to traffic women, the risks of trafficking, and what women can do to protect themselves.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

- The U.S. has allocated funds to the Mekong Region (which includes Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos) to provide return and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking.
- The U.S. has allocated funds to return trafficked migrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will put in place mechanisms and procedures for the orderly and safe return of trafficked victims in order to break the cycle of trafficking and re-trafficking of women who have been entrapped in the sex industry.
- The Department of Justice is funding a pilot project, through a network of community-based organizations, to provide services such as mental health counseling, emergency shelter, and referrals for medical care to Asian victims of trafficking in the Los Angeles area. The Justice Department is planning regional meetings with service providers from across the country.

PROSECUTION OF/AND ENFORCEMENT AGAINST TRAFFICKERS

- The Attorney General has created a Department of Justice Working Group to address this issue and, with the Department of Labor, has created a Worker Exploitation Task Force that is investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases.

- In July 1999, the U.S., together with Japanese officials and the International Organization for Migration, conducted a two-week training program on illegal migration and trafficking in women and children at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok.
- The Gore-Kuchma Commission established a law enforcement working group, which is cooperating on combating organized crime, including trafficking of women. This cooperative effort will include training programs for Ukrainian law enforcement officials.

MULTILATERAL/BILATERAL PROGRAMS:

- The United States and the Philippines will co-host the Asian Regional Initiative to Combat the Trafficking of Women and Children (ARIAT) in March 2000. Twenty-three Asian and Pacific nations will discuss national action plans and develop a regional strategy to prevent trafficking, protect victims, reintegrate trafficking victims into society, and prosecute traffickers.
- The United States and the Italian Government continue to cooperate on a bilateral initiative to combat trafficking in women and children signed by President Clinton in 1998. The joint campaign targets data collection, protecting the rights of victims, and training for law enforcement.
- At the November 1999 OSCE summit, the United States stressed the relevance of trafficking in the OSCE region and joined other summit participants in calling for the implementation of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking by all OSCE member states.
- Since 1998, the U.S. Mission in Nepal has carried out a program to combat trafficking. Six U.S. government agencies cooperate with the government of Nepal to help prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers. Programs in Nepal strike at the sources of trafficking through poverty alleviation and rural income generation. Department of State funds strengthen units of the Nepal police focused on crimes against women and children. The State Department has also sponsored seminars to draft legislation on trafficking.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

UN TRAFFICKING TREATY: MYTHS AND FACTS

The United States is currently negotiating a UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. One of its main objectives is to reach consensus on a protocol for the trafficking of human beings. By requiring participating countries to punish the perpetrators and help the victims, this treaty represents another historic step forward in our global efforts to help the one million women and girls who, every year, are being shipped across national lines and sold into modern slavery.

Although this treaty is being negotiated in Vienna with the strong support of governments and NGOs, some have waged a misinformation campaign against it. Many of their claims are misleading. Some are blatantly false.

As this debate moves forward, it is important to separate the myths from the facts.

MYTH: The Protocol will legalize prostitution.

FACT: The Administration opposes prostitution in all its forms. The United States has the most far reaching prostitution laws in the world. There are international human rights and humanitarian laws that fight exploitation and prostitution. We will not agree to a treaty that weakens existing prostitution laws here or around the world. In fact, the draft treaty clearly states that these international treaties – and the obligations they impose on participating countries – must remain unchanged. Despite what some have claimed, this treaty will not, in any way, undermine the 1949 UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

MYTH: The Administration opposes trafficking legislation.

FACT: The Administration has been working with Congress to craft the strongest possible legislation to stop trafficking. We want a law that will provide effective punishments for the perpetrators and protections for the victims – from medical treatment, to shelter, to the opportunity to become a legal resident. This assistance will not only give victims safety and security, but it will also help them assist in the prosecution of traffickers. If we are going to continue our progress in fighting trafficking, passing legislation is a critical next step. We remain committed to working closely with Congress this year to reach consensus and enact meaningful legislation.

MYTH: There is a groundswell of opposition to the protocol.

FACT: Most of the vocal opponents are trying to score political points by misrepresenting the protocol and dividing and conquering its supporters. The truth is, our approach enjoys broad support among countries and activists. The United States policy is the product of extensive work by experts across the government. And it is supported by many international and U.S. NGOs with experience working with trafficking victims – from Charlotte Bunch of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, to Gay McDougal of International Human Rights Law Group, to Reagan Ralph of Human Rights Watch.

MYTH: The protocol's definition of trafficking will be finalized in the next few weeks.

FACT: The language of the protocol is still being negotiated. The United States has entered into no final agreements. Agreement on the final text is at least 8 months away. In the interim, the U.S. delegation will be listening to the debate and making our voices heard.

MYTH: This protocol should focus only on the commercial sex industry.

FACT: This debate is about much more than the sex industry. Every day, women and girls are being sold not only into prostitution, but also domestic servitude, sweatshop labor, debt bondage, and other forms of modern-day slavery. Lured with promises of jobs as waitresses or hairdressers, are often held captive and forced to work in inhumane conditions. Many are raped or beaten repeatedly.

These crimes are violations of human dignity. The US will not rest until all forms of trafficking are stopped. The draft protocol addresses trafficking – in the sex industry and elsewhere – that involves force, deception, fraud, and coercion. It would help punish those who profit from buying and selling women and girls. And it would encourage countries to offer truly unprecedented protections and assistance to the victims. In appropriate cases, women and girls who have suffered unspeakable harm would be offered the possibility of lawful resident status, health care, shelter, restitution, and other help to rebuild their lives.

Conversely, switching the focus of the protocol entirely to the sex industry would move us backward in two fundamental ways. First, it fails to adequately address all the ways in which women and children are harmed by traffickers – from domestic servitude to bonded sweatshop labor. Second, many countries would withdraw their support. If this happens and the treaty is derailed, the only winners will be those who profit from buying and selling women and girls.

MYTH: The Administration has turned its back on trafficking.

FACT: This Administration has done more than any other to combat the trafficking of women and girls here and around the world. Today, trafficking is finally out of the shadows in large part because of the leadership of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, and Attorney General Janet Reno. The United States is a world leader on this issue. We have mobilized the entire government to prevent trafficking, to protect its victims, and to punish its perpetrators. We are working with Congress to enact the strongest possible legislation. We have established a taskforce that is prosecuting traffickers in the United States. We have engaged in anti-trafficking campaigns with many other countries – from the former Soviet Union to South East Asia. And we are actively leading international efforts, including those developed at the OSCE and the United Nations, to stop trafficking in every corner of the world.

TALKING IT OVER

By Hillary Rodham Clinton

Wednesday, January 19, 2000

Creators Syndicate, Inc.

Every day, in countries around the world, women and girls, desperate for economic opportunity, and seeking to follow their dreams of a better life, are lured from home by the promises of jobs and security. Sadly, though, they too often find themselves trapped in a nightmare, imprisoned by employers, mistreated, abused and often never seen nor heard from again.

Since the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, I have been working to raise awareness of the heinous practice of buying and selling women and children like commodities.

This week, representatives of over 100 countries, including the United States, are meeting in Vienna to continue negotiating a United Nations treaty that would protect these victims of trafficking and punish the perpetrators.

There are some who charge that international efforts to deal with trafficking will somehow undermine laws designed to eliminate prostitution. This is certainly not true. The U.S. government has made it absolutely clear that our country will continue to support and enforce its laws and policies aimed at ending prostitution in all its forms.

As the delegates debate the language of this vitally important treaty, it is critical that we keep our eye on the real issue – trafficking. Every year, approximately 1 million women and girls are trafficked and sold into a modern form of slavery. The State Department believes that 50,000 of them, primarily from the former Soviet Union, Southeast Asia and Latin America, end up right here in our own country. Here are just a few examples of trafficking cases that have been prosecuted in American courts:

Teenage Mexican girls, promised jobs in restaurants, child care and landscaping, enslaved and forced into prostitution in Florida and the Carolinas;

Thai women held captive and forced to work in sweatshops in California;

And hearing-impaired men and women from Mexico – enslaved, beaten and forced to peddle trinkets on the streets of New York and other cities.

No country is doing more than the United States to bring the worldwide trafficking of women and girls out of the shadows and into the glare of public attention.

In the summer of 1997, I met with women leaders from Eastern and Central Europe as well as victims' family members who, with tears in their eyes, pleaded with me for help in dealing with this growing problem. Later that year, in Lviv, Ukraine, I launched a new information campaign designed to warn young women about the dangers posed by traffickers.

In March of 1998, I joined the President, Secretary of State Albright, Attorney General Reno, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and a high-ranking member of the Thai government for a White House announcement of a presidential directive to prevent and deter trafficking and protect its victims.

Last Fall, in Istanbul, Turkey, at the meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, I announced a \$1 million U.S. commitment to combat trafficking, and called for greater economic opportunities to prevent young women from being driven into the hands of traffickers.

Our State Department is working in partnership with several foreign governments. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Labor have established a Worker Exploitation Task Force, which is actively investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases in the United States.

And the administration is working with Congress to craft bipartisan legislation to end trafficking by providing effective punishments for perpetrators and protections for victims. Passing this legislation is critical if we are to continue to make progress in fighting trafficking.

The draft U.N. treaty being debated in Vienna this week offers a unique opportunity to bring the power of international consensus, backed by punishment of the criminals and much-needed assistance for the victims, to the issue of trafficking. In no way will it, as critics claim, weaken existing international law or the laws of any individual nation. In fact, it will punish those who profit from buying and selling human beings, and encourage countries to offer truly unprecedented protections to the victims – including the possibility of lawful resident status, health care, shelter, restitution, and other tools to rebuild their lives.

Every day, more women and girls are being sold into the sex industry, domestic servitude, sweatshop labor, debt bondage and other forms of modern-day slavery. These crimes are violations of human dignity, and the United States will not rest until they are stopped.

We must not allow those who would distort the truth about this treaty derail the process. If they do, the only winners will be the international criminals who prey on desperate women and girls. The losers will be the victims of trafficking who, unless we take steps to protect them now, will continue to suffer unspeakable harm. They need our help. We must not let them down.

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Embargo: 20 January 2000, 10.30 am
Only the spoken word is valid

UN-ECE meeting in Geneva, 19–21 January 2000

Round table on the theme of violence against women and girls
Speech by Ms. Ruth Dreifuss, Federal Councillor
20 January 2000, 10am – noon

Madam Vice-Chair
Mr. Executive Secretary
Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

I should like to thank the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for inviting me to speak at this Round Table dedicated to the theme of violence against women and girls in general and trafficking in particular.

The violence directed against women and girls takes various forms and remains the most shocking manifestation of inequality between women and men. This violence is both the cause and the consequence of inequality: women who are economically dependent cannot effectively defend themselves against it. The different types of discrimination – in education, the labour market as well as in family and social legislation – facilitate violence against women and at the same time reflect and maintain the imbalance of power based on a belief in male superiority. We all have to admit that so far, efforts to achieve equality, and more specifically to combat violence, have proved inadequate, even where the criminal – or even Mafia – element is patently obvious.

The economic interests at stake in trafficking in women and girls partly explain why the fight against this combat has been ineffectual. The organized criminal groups behind this trade have financial resources which are infiltrated into and relaunched through the legal economy, enabling them to buy collusion, while the intimidation of victims and witnesses make the concrete mechanics of trafficking more impenetrable. Law enforcement efforts to fight this practice are still too fragmented: these bodies lack information and resources as well as being easily bribed in certain cases. So it is vital for national governments to recognize that this trafficking in women and girls, which is frequently linked to other criminal activities, threatens to undermine our societies.

Trafficking in persons represents one of the most flagrant and widespread violations of human rights in our European region, which is so proud of being the cradle of democracy and basic rights. Trafficking amounts to the negation of these rights – a modern form of slavery which often takes the form of sexual exploitation. It is not only their labour which is misappropriated, it is the intimate physical sphere of women and girls, their dignity and personal freedom that are violated. In Europe, at least 300 000 young women are now estimated to be the victims of trafficking, and this number is rising: the situation in certain regions of Central and Eastern Europe since the late Eighties encourages the development of this traffic, as regards countries of origin. What is more, demand is growing steadily in the countries of destination. Urgent, coordinated action must therefore be taken to tackle a whole chain of problems covering a vast geographical area: we must avoid situations where women fleeing from poverty or conflict fall into the hands of traffickers when what they are looking for is a better future for themselves and their families.

The victims' situation is dramatic: once these women have crossed the border, their papers are taken away from them and they are compelled to become prostitutes or do other forced labour to repay the trafficker for so-called "transport debts". They are under constant surveillance, with no chance of escape, and the punishments for rebellious women range from threats, through rape to death.

The victims' situation is tragic, yet demand is constantly increasing. There is a market on which consumers buy sexual services, when they cannot – or should not be able to – ignore the fact that these services are only available because women and girls provide them under duress. These consumers in rich countries thus benefit from the exploitation of the most vulnerable people in poorer countries. Unequal South-North or East-West relations generate human tragedies as well as financial flows.

The Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, defined five measures designed to combat trafficking in women:

1. ratifying and enforcing international conventions on trafficking in persons and slavery,
2. combating the root factors that encourage trafficking in women and girls,
3. concerted action by the relevant law enforcement authorities in order to dismantle trafficking networks,
4. funding programmes to promote the social rehabilitation of victims,
5. and measures to enact legislation to prevent sex tourism.

Today, our task is to give the action to be taken greater substance, and I would like to stress five measures:

The first, and most urgent, concerns the fate of the victims, either in the country of origin, transit or destination. We have to improve their situation. Negotiations have been in progress since 1997 on an International Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two Protocols about the smuggling of migrants on the one hand and trafficking in persons – in particular women and children – on the other. The latter Protocol provides for three measures: crime prevention, witness protection and social reintegration of the victims. Switzerland supports this new approach which involves providing psychological and medical assistance and protection against reprisals, as well as training women and girls who are the victims of trafficking instead of merely returning them to their countries, as illegal immigrants, as soon as they are discovered. In particular, we must provide training for all government services – social services, police and courts, to name but a few – to ensure their staff respect the basic human rights of trafficking victims. Adequate protection will thus encourage the victims to cooperate when it comes to prosecuting the traffickers, thus helping to put a stop to their activities. Some countries (Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy) have already prepared legislation on these lines.

The second measure aims at better knowledge and combating of the structural causes of trafficking, namely the persistence, development and increase in the demand the traffickers satisfy. To date, there are almost no studies with statistics and explanations of the deep-seated motivation that prompts men to buy sexual services. Yet such data are indispensable for taking action in the fields of education and information, for raising awareness among people in the countries of origin of the need for prevention and for bringing home to men in the countries of destination their role and individual responsibility in the repression or preservation of this traffic. We have a great deal of work ahead of us.

The third measure is to **review our laws** in order to avoid, or at least to limit, the exploitation resulting from the increase in illegal migration. In most rich countries, opportunities for legal immigration have decreased while the causes of migration have been aggravated in the poor countries. The interaction between our increasingly restrictive immigration laws and the mushrooming phenomenon of illegal migration should be the subject of international public debate.

The *fourth measure* concerns **improved cooperation** between all players in the fight against trafficking, in particular between government services and NGOs. NGOs play a **key role**, and are often the only sources of direct assistance to the victims. In many countries, it is the NGOs that implement programmes to warn women, girls and their families about the threat of trafficking. It is thanks to them that we have invaluable information about the scope and forms trafficking in women takes. We must support their action in the area of prevention, training and assistance to victims. We must also seek ways of incorporating them into the coordination units of our police forces. Cooperation between the specialized NGOs and government services is a precondition for more effective combating of trafficking.

A fifth indispensable measure is to produce **as broad a definition as possible** at international level of **trafficking in women**, irrespective of whether the traffic aims at sexual exploitation or other forced labour. We must harmonize, sign and ratify the various draft international instruments as soon as possible. In the meantime, we can already make the fight more efficient by coordinating the efforts of law enforcement services and, for instance, by improving the exchange of information.

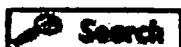
Governments, international institutions and NGOs – all of us must join forces to fight this scourge. On a wider front and in order to attain this objective, determined efforts to achieve equitable, sustainable economic development, peace and gender equality are indispensable. This is a global strategy which should finally enable us to say that a life in the grip of violence is no longer an inevitable and commonplace scenario for many women and girls.

Thank you!

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Prostitution flourishing in Cambodia

Money lures teens; HIV, AIDS common

January 28, 2000

BY MARK McDONALD

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

TODAY'S STORIES

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PHNOM PENH, Cambodia -- Turn left off Mao Tse-tung Boulevard, go past the School of Fine Arts and you're suddenly in Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh's largest red-light district. It's one of the busiest and raunchiest centers of sexual commerce in Asia.

More than 500 Cambodian and Vietnamese prostitutes work in the windowless wooden shacks that pass for brothels there. They linger in doorways or clutch at passing motorcyclists, and they call out to the men -- soldiers, cops, expatriates, tourists -- in a half-dozen languages.

New prostitutes arrive every day, most of them from the hardscrabble farms and rice paddies of southern Vietnam and rural Cambodia. They are lured from their families by itinerant procurers, middle-aged women who constitute a whole new class of sexual predator in Southeast Asia.

The Ministry of Health in Hanoi says that 20,000 Vietnamese women are working as prostitutes in Cambodia and that half will return home HIV-positive or with AIDS.

"There's a whole network, very secretive, very clandestine, that is bringing these girls out of Vietnam," said John Deidrick, country representative for Population Services

International, a nonprofit group that distributes subsidized condoms and birth-control pills to brothels, bars and karaoke clubs.

The Vietnam-to-Cambodia connection is one part of an extensive, gruesome underground network that traffics women and children throughout Southeast Asia. A report by the International Organization for Migration, for example, cites the "slavery-like practices" inflicted on Asian women as they are forced into indentured work as prostitutes, household servants, beggars and laborers.

But international agencies are mounting vigorous new efforts against such trafficking in Southeast Asia, including a six-country program that is being financed in large part by the United Nations Foundation.

"The problem of trafficking has reached critical mass at the highest levels," said Lisa Ng Bow, a specialist with the UN Development Program in Bangkok.

Bow said the UN's \$2.8-million program not only will study trafficking but will work to combat it. Part of that will mean taking on the procurers.

A procurer will pay an impoverished farm family a few hundred dollars, which can be twice the family's annual income in many cases. The daughter is promised work in Phnom Penh as a seamstress, a housekeeper or a waitress. The procurer assures the family that their daughter will soon be making plenty of money to send back home.

"The families are more or less selling their children," Deidrick said.

"The poor young girls here are tricked and deceived," said Dina Chan, 25, a Cambodian prostitute who is helping to establish a trade union for sex workers in Tuol Kork. "When these countryside girls get to the city, they are sold to pimps and brothel owners."

"And there are more and more of them coming here all the time, especially virgins," said Kamm Yomn, another union organizer who leads an HIV-AIDS program in Tuol Kork. "Many of them are 15, 13, even younger."

Virgins in demand

Rural girls brought to Phnom Penh are almost always virgins, and they command a high price when they first arrive, local prostitutes said. The pimps keep them locked up and do not put them to work until they've been shopped around to a series of bidders -- high-ranking military officers, politicians, businessmen and foreign tourists.

Men pay huge premiums for virgins -- hundreds, even thousands of dollars. Fear of HIV and AIDS is one reason for the booming trafficking in virgins here: The World Health Organization estimates that 64 percent of Cambodian prostitutes are HIV-positive.

Also, some Asian men say that having sex with a virgin reinforces their strength and vitality.

"There's a traditional view that if you have an STD," or sexually transmitted disease, "or you're HIV-positive and you have sex with a virgin, that you can actually be cured," said Deidrick, whose group works to improve the health of low-income people worldwide. "To sleep with a 14- or 15-year-old virgin is considered healthy -- even curative."

Chan was one of those indentured virgins. An orphan who got into debt for overdue rent payments and tuition fees, Chan suddenly found herself, at 17, being "owned" by a pimp in northern Cambodia.

"That man advertised me to the important people in the town -- the police chief and the director of the forest department," she said. "They're the only ones who could afford a virgin."

Eventually, the pimp sold her outright.

"I was sold to a man who ...took me to a pig slaughterhouse where he worked, and he locked me in a dirty, smelly cell. Then he came back with six other men. They all, one by one, raped me."

Typically, newly arriving prostitutes are locked in rooms at the back of the ramshackle brothels.

"I cannot leave the house and I do not often see the sun," said one Cambodian woman named Ra, who said she was kidnapped about three years ago at 18, raped and forced into sex work in a Tuol Kork brothel.

Police part of problem

Police make occasional sweeps through the area, knocking down shacks and arresting people, but it's a half-hearted exercise that all parties accept with a sigh, a wink or a payoff, prostitutes say.

"The police come and arrest us, and they take our money, our jewelry, sometimes even our few possessions in our rooms, like our bedcovers," Chan said.

"When they are convinced we simply have no money to pay them off, they take us to another brothel and sell us to a new pimp, usually for \$100 per girl. That's how we become indebted (again), and we have to pay off that debt to the new pimp. This is trafficking, with the police selling us into another cycle of slavery."

The city's police chief denies that his officers even arrest prostitutes, let alone become involved in trafficking.

Such are the economics of life in red-light districts across Cambodia.

From all indications, business is booming. The Dragon Hotel, the largest sex hotel in Svay

Pak, recently added a fourth story.

MORE NATION & WORLD STORIES

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RESOURCES FOR AMERICAN VALUES

A key objective of U.S. foreign policy is to promote values that reflect the interests, character, and ideals of the American people. We do this because it is right, but also because it is smart. Compared to dictatorships, democratic nations are more likely to be stable, better able to cope with financial stress, more reliable trading partners, and less likely to generate refugees or contribute to other global problems.

Right to Democracy: The State Department and USAID are helping to promote and deepen democratic institutions and practices around the globe, by encouraging nations in transition to hold free and fair elections, and by helping them to counter drug cartels, terrorists, corruption and other threats. During the past 20 years, the number of countries with democratically elected governments has almost doubled, from 58 to 115.

Human Rights: The United States strives to elevate levels of respect for human rights by:

- denying aid and other preferences to regimes that systematically deny human rights;
- seeking international support for resolutions calling upon nations such as Cuba and China to improve their human rights records;
- assisting in the important work of the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- strongly backing efforts to hold accountable the perpetrators of crimes against humanity in the Balkans, Rwanda, Iraq, East Timor; and Cambodia; and
- reporting frankly and honestly on human rights practices, including religious and press freedom and political rights in every country, every year.

Women and Girls. We place special emphasis on efforts to advance the status of women and girls. These efforts include initiatives to curb domestic violence, expand access to economic and political power, provide comprehensive health care, and end trafficking in human beings.

Child Labor. We have also taken the lead in a global effort to ban the worst forms of child labor, and to establish core standards to prevent the exploitation of workers overseas, while giving American workers a more level playing field on which to compete. We continue to argue that labor impacts should be considered when trade agreements are negotiated.

Help to the Neediest: America is the largest annual contributor to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. We contribute about \$100 million annually to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Our HIV/AIDS prevention programs are now in 32 countries. Partly as a result of U.S. leadership, over the past 30 years, literacy in developing countries has risen by almost 50 percent and infant mortality has been cut in half.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BACKGROUND ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS RESOURCES

International diplomacy and programs constitute America's first line of defense against threats to the security and prosperity of our people.

– Madeleine Albright

Although our economy is strong and our military unmatched, there remain serious dangers to our interests. These include terrorists, possible conflicts in key regions, the risk of another financial crisis, drug trafficking, and the spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

In addition to the threats, there are opportunities to serve U.S. interests by bringing nations closer together around basic principles of democracy, open markets, the rule of law and a commitment to peace.

That is why traditional notions of "foreign aid" have become virtually obsolete.

When we provide resources to inspect nuclear facilities in North Korea, or help farmers in Peru to cut coca production by 40 percent, or train foreign police in counter-terrorism techniques, we are not just aiding others, we are helping America.

The same is true when we help former adversaries such as Russia deactivate almost 5,000 nuclear warheads, or assist people in troubled regions such as the Middle East, Northern Ireland, and the Balkans to achieve peace. Diplomacy can help ensure that nuclear weapons never again target our homes, and make it less likely that our young people will die in combat because disagreements have deteriorated into wars.

We also benefit from bread and butter diplomacy, such as negotiating civil aviation agreements in support of an industry that employs more than 600,000 citizens; or visa offices that enable six million foreign nationals to visit our country annually, while keeping known criminals out.

Taken together, our international programs help make our citizens safer, our economy stronger, our world more stable, and our freedoms more secure. Unfortunately, our diplomatic resources have not kept pace with our responsibilities.

Most Americans would be shocked to learn that we rank dead last among industrialized nations in the proportion of our wealth that we devote to aiding development overseas. But we rank first in the amount we owe to the United Nations and other international organizations.

America cannot lead without resources. But we do not need enormous amounts of resources to lead. Today, the full range of international programs costs only about one penny out of every dollar the Federal government spends. The added investments we require are affordable and can be financed without jeopardizing defense and domestic needs or the surplus.

American diplomacy belongs on the short list of our budget priorities. And it deserves the strong support of the American people.

December 15, 1999

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RECORD ID: 0002775
RECEIVED: 21 APR 00 17

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: KUBILIUS, ANDRIUS

wp

DOC DATE: 08 MAR 00
SOURCE REF: 00006610

KEYWORDS: LITHUANIA
HUMAN RIGHTS

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PERSONS:

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION RE INTL WOMEN CONFERENCE ON JUN 15 - 17

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 03 MAY 00 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: NORLAND

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FILES: PA

NSCP:

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D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

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DOC 1 OF 1

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S/S 200006610



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 21, 2000

Memorandum for:

**Mr. Robert A. Bradtke
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House**

Subject:

Alerting NSCS on Presidential Correspondence

**Enclosed is the original of a letter to President Clinton from
Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius.**

**which is transmitted for your information. This correspondence was received in the
Records Management Division of the Executive Secretariat on 4/27/00.**

A copy has been assigned to the appropriate bureau for action.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. Muel for", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Chief, S/S-RMD
Records Management Division
Executive Secretariat
(202) 647-0053**

APR 21 17:10



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS MINISTRAS PIRMININKAS

Vilnius, 2000 m. kovo 8 d.

Gerbiamasis pone Prezidente,

Turiu garbės Jus informuoti, kad 2001 m. birželio 15-17 dienomis Lietuvoje rengiama tarptautinė moterų konferencija. Ši konferencija - tai 1999 m. spalio mėn. Reikjavike vykusios konferencijos "Moterys ir demokratija naujojo tūkstantmečio pradžioje" tęsinys. Renginyje dalyvaus Baltijos valstybių, Šiaurės šalių, Rusijos bei JAV vyriausybinių institucijų bei nevyriausybinių organizacijų atstovai. Taip pat ketiname pakviesti Lenkijos bei Vokietijos delegacijas.

Konferencijoje bus visapusiškai aptariami aktualūs moterų pilnateisio dalyvavimo demokratiniuose procesuose klausimai, apžvelgiami bendri Baltijos jūros regiono šalių ir JAV projektai, inicijuoti Reikjaviko konferencijoje. Apibendrinus padarytą pažangą, bus siekiama inicijuoti naujus projektus, bendrai ieškoma efektyvesnių problemų sprendimo būdų.

Manau, jog būtų tikslinga konferencijos parengimui sukurti tarptautinį komitetą, į kurį visų dalyvavimu konferencijoje suinteresuotų valstybių vyriausybės deleguotų atstovus koordinaciniam parengiamajam darbui. Šio komiteto tikslas būtų apžvelgti vykdomus projektus, inicijuotus Reikjaviko konferencijoje, bei teikti rekomendacijas dėl jų tolimesnio įgyvendinimo. Komitetas taip pat aktyviai dalyvaus, parengiant Vilniuje vyksiančios konferencijos tematiką. Tikimės, kad pirmasis tarptautinio komiteto susitikimas galėtų įvykti š.m. balandžio – gegužės mėnesiais Vilniuje.

Manydamas, kad konferencijoje nagrinėjamos problemos yra aktualios tarptautinei ir Jūsų šalies visuomenei, tikiuosi aktyvios Jūsų paramos bei JAV vyriausybės paskirtų pareigūnų dalyvavimo konferencijos paruošiamajame darbe.

Naudodamasis proga, gerbiamasis pone Prezidente, reiškiu nuoširdžiausią pagarbą.

Andrius Kubilius

*Prezidentui,
Baltieji rūmai,
Vašingtonas, D.C.20500*



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AMBASADA
VAŠINGTONAS

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

00006610

March 30, 2000

Dear President:

It is my great pleasure to forward you a letter from Mr. Andrius Kubilius, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania.

Sincerely,

Stasys Sakalauskas
Ambassador

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

00006610

Can T or A.

Translation from Lithuanian

Vilnius, 8 March 2000

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to inform you that on 15-17 June 2001 Vilnius will host an international women conference conceived as a follow up to the Reykjavik Conference on Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium which took place in October 1999. Representatives of the public institutions and non-governmental organisations of the Baltic and Nordic states, Russia and USA are to be present at the conference. We also intend to invite Polish and German delegations.

The conference will comprehensively discuss key issues pertinent to the full voiced participation of women in the democratic processes. It will highlight on the joint projects which the states of the Baltic Sea region and the USA initiated at the Reykjavik conference. After reviewing the progress made, the conference intends to initiate new projects, to seek by concerted efforts advanced and effective solutions to the problems.

I believe that with a view to better prepare the conference it would be expedient to set up an international committee which would include the representatives delegated by the governments interested in participating at the conference. The committee would be in charge of co-ordinating the preparatory work for Vilnius conference and reviewing the projects already under way after the Reykjavik conference and providing recommendations on their future implementation. The first meeting of the international committee could take place in April- May of the current year in Vilnius.

I hope you will agree that issues raised at the conference are vitally important to the international community and people of your country, and may I therefore count on your active support and the participation of the representatives nominated by the USA administration to work on the preparation of Vilnius conference.

Availing myself of this opportunity I would like to extend, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest considerations.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Andrius Kubilius
Prime Minister

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

**United States Mission
to the United Nations**

Fax

LEAVE ME A VOICE MAIL
AT (202) 647-6332
OR CALL ME AT THE OFFICE
AT (212) 415-4232

URGENT

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

Date March 8

From: Lidia Soto-Hernandez (ccA)

To: 1) Audrey Choi, 395-5084 395-6958
2) Wendy Patten, 456-9141 456-9141
3) _____
4) _____

Subject: Women in the Global Economy
FRAMEWORK FOR USG PARTICIPATION
IN INTL FORA

Page 1 of 6

☒ Urgent

☐ For Review

☐ Please Comment

☐ Please Reply

• Comments:

Audrey & Wendy,
This is the Policy Statement we would like
CCAd NSC clear. Labor, Commerce & State have all
cleared. The urgency is that we would like the
Secretary Albright to be able to announce this as
government-wide policy at our big event that takes
at the Dept of State. (Hope you are both coming!)

Thanks. You can leave voice mail at
my voice mail at (202) 647-6332. In New York
my office phone is (212) 647-4232 but don't leave a message.
Thanks.

2/29/00

DOCUMENT A

Women in the Global Economy **Framework for USG Participation in International Fora**

The Platform for Action adopted in September 1995 at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing enumerated a number of important goals and objectives to improve the lives of women around the globe. One of those objectives is the promotion of women in the global economy. This document is intended to be used as a framework to guide U.S. Government (USG) positions on this issue in various international fora, and to enable the USG to take the lead in those fora in promoting women's participation in the global economy. It sets forth the USG's overarching goals and strategic objectives, and enumerates a series of tools through which the goals and objectives can be achieved.

Overarching Goals:

- Increase awareness of differential gender impacts of policies and programs.
- Increase participation of women from all levels of society in decision-making and policy development.
- Enhance women's capacities through education and training to respond to opportunities created by globalization.
- Improve the work/business environment for women.
- Promote respect for core labor standards, i.e. freedom of association and the right to organize and bargain collectively, prohibition of forced and child labor and the principle of non-discrimination in employment.

Strategic Objectives:

I. Increased Participation of Women in Business and Trade

- A. Promote the participation of women in transborder trade.
- B. Expand the use of electronic commerce by women.
- C. Increase participation in business skills training.
- D. Increase participation in science/technology training.
- E. Improve access to financing.
- F. Provide special assistance to women from minority groups.
- G. Promote the participation of women in government procurement.

II. A Prepared Workforce

- A. Promote women's knowledge of and participation in education, training and retraining, and lifelong learning that prepare women to succeed in the Global Economy.
- B. Promote greater emphasis on training for nontraditional occupations and growth fields.
- C. Promote a gender-sensitive approach.
- D. Promote greater involvement of women in the design, development and implementation of training strategies in both the public and private sectors.
- E. Promote women's knowledge of and access to quality and timely labor-market information and employment services:
 - information about the full range of currently available jobs.
 - information about the full range of jobs and careers that will be in demand in the global economy.
 - assistance to women who lose their jobs to make the transition to new, adequately paid employment as quickly as possible.

III. A Secure Workforce:

- A. Promote the development of social safety nets for workers
- B. Promote legal literacy among women about labor and other laws particularly impacting them, and how they can seek to enforce these laws.

IV. Enhanced Economic Opportunities for Women

- A. Promote policies and programs that help women and men workers balance work and family responsibilities.
- B. Promote nondiscrimination enforcement and education so that women have the opportunity to make full use of their talents and abilities to help their employers, themselves, their families, and their countries succeed in the Global Economy.
- C. Promote women's access to higher-paying jobs, including nontraditional jobs; create viable economic alternatives for workers in hazardous occupations.
- D. Promote the widespread collection and use of sex-disaggregated labor market statistics, and gender-impact analysis by all policy making and policy impacting agencies; demonstrate the benefit of gender analysis in the development of policies and programs.
- E. Eliminate international trafficking of women.
- F. Promote safe and healthful working conditions and acceptable conditions of work with

respect to minimum wages and hours of work.

Tools for Enhancing the Participation by Women in the Global Economy:

- ***Outreach.*** Reach out to workers' and employers' groups and nongovernmental organizations, including women's groups, to provide information about gender-specific and gender-neutral government programs, and solicit their views in the policy and program development, implementation, and review process.
- ***Networking.*** Provide opportunities for women to network with each other and with traditional participants in the global economy.
- ***Training.*** Encourage programs that provide training directed at increasing women's participation in the global economy.
- ***Role Models/Mentoring.*** Establish role models and mentoring programs to encourage women to participate in the global economy.
- ***Advisory Committees.*** Ensure adequate participation of women in existing governmental advisory committees, and consider establishment of committees devoted to women-specific issues where such committees would better address the needs and interests of women.
- ***Fora for Women.*** Promote effective national and international governmental fora for discussion and action on concerns of women. Participate fully in international organizations where women's concerns are addressed.
- ***International Cooperation and Technical Assistance.*** Share best practices (including public-private partnerships) across countries; and, where appropriate, provide technical assistance.
- ***Research and Publications.*** Produce publications to educate the public and policymakers about gender issues.
- ***Education.*** Ensure full participation of women and girls in basic and advanced education to prepare for the global economy.
- ***Partnerships/Multiplier Programs.*** Establish partnerships among countries and economies, state and local governments, employers, unions, and nongovernmental organizations to carry out programs.
- ***Grants.*** Fund grants for programs directed at increasing women's participation in the economy.
- ***Loans.*** Provide loans to finance women's participation in the global economy.
- ***Legislation.*** Promote enactment and enforcement of effective laws and regulations governing issues relevant to the participation of women in the global economy.
- ***Conventions and Treaties.*** Implement relevant United Nations, International Labor

Organization, and other international organizations' conventions and treaties.

March 2, 2000

Warm greetings to everyone observing International Women's Day,
2000.

It is most appropriate that, here in the United States, we celebrate this special observance during Women's History Month, for it reinforces our awareness of the many contributions women have made to the life of our nation and the strength of our economy. Millions of women of courage and commitment have served our society as doctors and scientists, teachers and factory workers, athletes and mothers. At home and in schools, in offices and congregations, in our Armed Forces and our communities, women have helped to build this nation and keep it strong. Today, 58 women hold seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and 9 women are United States Senators. More women hold high-level positions in my Administration than in any other in history. And in the private sector, women own nearly 9 million small businesses, employing millions of Americans and contributing significantly to the strength of our economy.

Despite their progress and achievements, however, women still face barriers on the road to true equality. In America, women workers still do not receive pay equal to that of their male counterparts in the same jobs, and they still must struggle for equal opportunity to serve at the highest levels of business and industry. In other countries around the world, women and girls are subjected to discrimination in education, health care, employment, and credit. Many suffer in societies where their basic human and legal rights are violated and their desire -- and right -- to participate in the political, economic, and social life of their nations is denied.

In September of 1995, the United States proudly joined 188 other governments at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in adopting the Platform for Action, a historic and comprehensive statement on women's rights and public policy. As we prepare for the ~~United Nations~~ Special Session of the General Assembly in ~~June 2000~~, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to promote the rights of women and children in the United States and throughout the world. With vision, energy, and determination, we can advance the status of women and ensure that this new century is an era of continued progress and achievement for all women and their families.

Best wishes for a successful observance.

BC/SSK/MAH/pfs
(3. womens)

(Corres. #7124547)

(3. womens)

(Event: 3/8/00)

cc: Presidential Messages, 91 OEOB

DO NOT MAIL -- RETURN TO PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES, 91 OEOB, FOR
DISPATCH TO SONDRASEBA, WOMEN'S OFFICE

the Law & their own Family
Disunion August 7

~~As we prep to review program since Beijing at the 100th of the WIN (A) in an no.~~

The White House Office of Presidential Messages

Telephone 202-456-7487
Fax 202-456-2806



Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

No. of pages (including Cover): 2 Date: 3/3/00

Fax Number: 69220

To: Chris George

Comments: Can you please have this draft cleared
for us? The event is TOMORROW! Thanks.

From: Eileen McCaughey (x65494)



Lea Browning <lbrowning@igc.org>

02/27/2000 09:56:32 PM

Record Type: Record

To: lbrowning@igc.org

cc:

Subject: B+5--New Website for US NGOs

Dear All,

Those of you who are following preparations for the fifth year review of the Beijing Platform for Action (B+5) in June 2000 in New York City will be interested in this new website.

Lea Browning

W.E. A.R.E. for Human Rights

US Women Connect Launches www.uswc.org, the Internet Gateway for Linking US Women and Girls to the Year 2000 Review of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

How are US women and girls faring five years after governments adopted an international commitment to the world's women, the Beijing Platform for Action? Are government agencies and officials at the federal, state, and local levels implementing the US version of the Platform, the US Women's National Action Agenda?

Join US Women Connect and your sisters across the country to find out!

The Year 2000 has been designated by the United Nations as "Women 2000" or "Beijing +5," a time for governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) around the world to take stock of progress in implementing the Platform for Action adopted at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. The new US Women Connect (USWC) website serves as the major NGO clearinghouse and Internet gateway for comprehensive Beijing +5 related information and outreach in the US. USWC is also the US link to the "Global Communications Network for NGOs & WomenAction 2000," the prime online international NGO network for information-sharing and advocacy to follow-up on the Conference.

The USWC website is a tool for women and girls to use to access information about Beijing +5 in the US and around the world; swap strategies and best practices; and mobilize collective action and coordinated advocacy campaigns. As your gateway to involvement in Beijing +5, the USWC website offers online discussion working groups, an action center, event listings, regular updates on US and UN meetings, tools for organizing "story circles" to assess the impact of government on women's lives, a national "report card" campaign to "hold our government

accountable," and more.

Here's a list of ten things YOU can do to take advantage of the USWC website as a resource and to join forces with women and girls around the US to hold government accountable:

1. Join a USWC online working group on one of the five priority areas in the US Women's National Action Agenda. At the completion of these groups, a summary will be submitted directly to the President's InterAgency Council on Women for the United Nations Beijing+5 assessment in June 2000. The moderated working groups will begin in early 2000 and last initially 6 to 8 weeks. Subject areas include:
 - * Economic Security and Justice
 - * Education and Training
 - * Health and Reproductive Rights
 - * Women & Decision-Making
 - * Girls Zone--a forum for girls
2. Link with other US women's organizations and individuals working on women's and girls empowerment
3. Share strategies and best practices for your area of focus with women in the US and in other countries
4. Check out advocacy initiatives throughout the world
5. Find out the latest information on UN and US government Beijing +5 meetings and negotiations
6. Complete a "report card" for your state, local, or tribal government
7. Organize a women and girls "story circle"
8. Give your friends and colleagues a copy of the US Women's National Action Agenda
9. Distribute USWC information in your community (particularly to reach those women without internet connections)
10. Support US Women Connect financially (donations of any amount are tax-deductible)

For more information on US Women Connect and the many online initiatives and activities visit the USWC website at www.uswc.org

US Women Connect
PO Box 33847
Washington, DC 20036
e-mail: uswc@uswc.org

Theresa
Issues

Issues for Attack

yes

not essential to
have PPTs

Charan → reprod health / rts

mean, 61
have FLOW
+ modif.

gyl/lesbian rights

→ g in armed conflict

→ Refueling (Eq New)

[Signature]

US as host ~~country~~ country.

Sen. Helms intensely int'd —
sends staffer to intercessional mtgs.
right wing focused on it.

could be very odd for Prez to come not at opening
big speakers came up front.

Fl + sec at end → they did Beijing
good wrap up.

message - progress > needs to be done, but pos is
re. Q's accels; Q's NGOs

end product - cd be artworks doc
(but not even 1st read).

very similar to dynamics of Beijing.

can go well (one twenties $\leq + \geq$)

notg/ itself cd be messy but shaping
pieces around it like NGO
satellite conf (UN not central)

Now
Not a
from
to Helm
+ Chm
Smith had
~~Agony~~
Germany to
attack us.

no one really jumped at it

Reha-don
going up to
Sue's CIO
Herman - 4
Shelala
health
at Porter
College



UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 0001301
RECEIVED: 24 FEB 00 16

TO: BRADTKE

FROM: STREETT, S

DOC DATE: 24 FEB 00
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: HUMAN RIGHTS

SP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: SP ACCEPT FOR SPEECH TO WOMEN 2000 CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES

DUE DATE: 01 MAR 00 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: NONE

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
PATTEN

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTCG

CLOSED BY: NSTCG

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 0001301

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001

X 00022416 FOR RECORD PURPOSES

UNCLASSIFIED

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

OCTOBER 13, 1999

 ACCEPT REGRET**99 OCT 14 49:11** PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and
Director of Scheduling

FROM: Ann F. Lewis
Counselor to the President

REQUEST: Speech to the Women 2000: Beijing Plus Five Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

PURPOSE: Women from around the world will meet in New York to review the progress made in advancing the lives of women and girls since the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Heads of State are encouraged to address the General Assembly as part of the Special Session. The President and First Lady have exercised leadership on this issue around the world.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The First Lady addressed the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, where she delivered her "Women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights" speech.

DATE AND TIME: The Special Session of the General Assembly will be held from June 5-9, 2000.

BRIEFING TIME: 25 minutes

DURATION: 7-10 minute speech

LOCATION: The United Nations General Assembly Meeting Hall, New York City

PARTICIPANTS: The President would join with other Heads of State to address members of the General Assembly.

REMARKS REQUIRED: The President would deliver a major speech. The President's Interagency Council on Women would play a major role in preparing the background material and briefings for the President's remarks.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Extensive domestic and international press.

FIRST LADY'S ATTENDANCE: The First Lady would probably be in attendance.

RECOMMENDED BY: The President's Interagency Council on Women and the White House Women's Office

1301

ROUTING SLIP

DATE _____
FROM _____
Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Scheduling

File Accept - 6/9 (T)

Comments _____

SUBJECT: speech to the Women 2000 Conference in New York.

Kris Balderston	—	Sean Maloney	—
Lisa Berg	—	Capricia Marshall	—
Samuel Berger	✓	Thurgood Marshall Jr.	—
Sidney Blumenthal	—	Minyon Moore	—
Chuck Brain	—	Bob Nash	—
Charles Burson	—	Beth Nolan	—
Mary Beth Cahill	—	John Podesta	—
Maria Echaveste	—	Steve Ricchetti	—
Terry Edmonds	✓	Bruce Reed	—
George Frampton	—	Dan Rosenthal	—
Laura Graham	✓	Rozensky/Emrich	✓
Nancy Hemreich	—	Dori Salcido	✓
Mickey Ibarra	—	Patti Solis-Doyle	—
Ben Johnson	—	Doug Sosnik	—
Joel Johnson	—	Gene Sperling	—
Neal Lane	—	Carrie Street	✓
Ann Lewis	—	Karen Tramontano	—
Mark Lindsay	—	Loretta Ucelli	✓
Bruce Lindsey	—	Melanne Verveer	—
Joe Lockhart	—	Bob Bradtke	✓

ROUTING SLIP

DATE: 11/09/99

FROM: Stephanie Streett

Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Scheduling

File PENDING

Comments

SUBJECT: SPEECH TO THE WOMEN 2000
IN NEW YORK

Kris Balderston	—	Joe Lockhart	✓
Paul Begala	—	Sean Maloney	—
Lisa Berg	—	Capricia Marshall	—
Samuel Berger	—	Thurgood Marshall Jr.	—
Sidney Blumenthal	—	Minyon Moore	—
Charles Burson	—	Bob Nash	—
Mary Beth Cahill	—	Beth Nolan	—
Davis/Emrich	✓	Jennifer Palmieri	—
Maria Echaveste	—	John Podesta	—
Terry Edmonds	—	Steve Ricchetti	—
George Frampton	—	Bruce Reed	—
Nancy Hernreich	—	Dan Rosenthal	—
Mickey Ibarra	—	Patti Solis-Doyle	—
Ben Johnson	—	Doug Sosnik	—
Joel Johnson	—	Gene Sperling	—
Neal Lane	—	Larry Stein	—
Sara Latham	✓	Carrie Street	✓
Ann Lewis	✓	Loretta Ucelli	✓
Bruce Lindsey	—	Melanne Verveer	—
Mark Lindsay	—		

~~SECRET~~

Delany

not at full level
most countries will send heads of state
plus - key days are 11-13 days - opening
we will have fight over key speaker

leading ministers

high
expectation
not

not sure if will go smoothly -
trying to ensure it will not talk
it over or mischaracterize
will NGOs be upset over cred

not sure what optics will be

5,000 people coming (maybe)

cd be good just like Beijing was success
but hard to judge at this point

March
preparations
will know

not sure if will try to reopen Beijing platform
UN staff abysmal

potential pitfalls →

- 1) mischaracterize from far right - e.g. trafficking
- 2) Helms persons at all preparatory
- 3) Chris Smith has held form,

... potential for right to mischaracterize
2) lots disagreements on how proceed w/
docs - cd look like disarray
(Cairo + 5 - effort to reopen + relativity)

3) NGOs &
unhappy
b/c no
credentials

2/20/98



prop comm ~~NY~~ NY

March
(Feb 28 - Mar 17)

~~NYG0~~ ~~dealing~~ ~~something~~

3/8 - Int'l W's Day
event in NY

3/29 - DO state event

2:00 ~~celebrating~~
event Ann's can meet to ♀

~~avail for mass distro~~
avail in limited quantities and 3/8
1:00 into air

June 5-9 → Beijing + 5

INGA spec session
lot of evs and amendment
coord by BTS host comm.

COUNCIL MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN WOMEN 2000: BEIJING PLUS FIVE

- **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT (MARCH 8TH) AT THE US MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK (TENTATIVE).** There will be a reception for *Women 2000* and you are invited to be part of this event.

CONTACT: LIDIA SOTO-HARMON (202) 647-6227
PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN

- **MARCH PREP COM NGO DAILY BRIEFINGS AT THE UNITED NATIONS (FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 17) NEW YORK CITY.** During the March PrepCom we would like to feature a Council Member at the daily NGO Briefing for US NGOs. Council interested in showing how the work of their agency directly benefits women and their families should consider this opportunity.

CONTACT: LIDIA SOTO-HARMON (202) 647-6227
PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN

- **"CELEBRATING AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO WOMEN" EVENT. MARCH 29TH DEAN ACHESON AUDITORIUM AND EXHIBIT HALL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

1. Each Council Member, along with her agency, is asked to assign a person to be the contact for the showcase of federal programs benefiting women. There will be an information fair during the "Celebrating" Event where in each agency will have an opportunity to distribute information about their agency's work for women and families. This is part of our roll-out for the 2000 Edition of *America's Commitment*.
2. We would like to have each agency feature a webpage as part of its agency website that includes specific programs benefiting women and their agency's submission to *America's Commitment*.

CONTACT: LINDA KEYSER (202) 647-6267
PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN

- **SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATION'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY (JUNE 5 – 9), NEW YORK CITY.** There will be various events taking place in New York City to celebrate the progress women have made since the 1995 UN Women's Conference. The New York Beijing Plus Five Host Committee is preparing a roster of these events. Council members are encouraged to take part in these activities.

CONTACT: PROMITA SENGUPTA (212) 228-9605
COORDINATOR BEIJING PLUS FIVE HOST COMMITTEE
NEW YORK CITY

BEIJING + 5 HOST COMMITTEE

Dear Friends

The **Beijing + 5 Host Committee**, an ad hoc group of diverse NGOs and individuals who support the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, will facilitate celebratory activities and communications strategies, appropriate in scope and scale, during the UN Beijing Plus Five Special Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGASS).

Along with its host and facilitation responsibilities, two principal goals of the Beijing + 5 Host committee are to create a culture of accountability around this UN agenda and to stimulate further public interest in the same.

The specific tasks of the Beijing + 5 Host Committee will be to:

- Celebrate women's achievements and contributions.
- Host an appropriate celebratory event/s.
- Share information about other local and cultural activities in New York City during UNGASS.
- Facilitate a coordinated U.S. communications strategy for UNGASS to achieve maximum impact.
- Develop approaches to welcome women attending the Special Session.

The Host Committee will liaise and collaborate with the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) in Consultative Relationship with the UN in CONGO's role as a gateway for programs at the UN and in surrounding locations parallel to the official UN meetings.

The Host Committee will liaise with other international groups, such as the WomenAction 2000, an NGO global communications network for Beijing + 5, to assist in providing information regarding events at the UN and in New York City.

The Beijing + 5 Host Committee will have a Steering Committee of NGO organizations, individuals and ex officio members to guide its work in carrying out these functions. Subcommittees will be established to carry out the work of the committee, such as events, communications, New York City local events, collaborating with CONGO and other organizations. A staff person has been hired and housed at The Sister Fund to support these activities and committees.

The Host Committee's activities will end following the UNGASS.

Very soon all information regarding the Host Committee will be available on our web site www.beijingplus5hostcomm.com. This will include an updated calendar of events and meetings, links to other sites dealing with Beijing + 5 as well as travel maps of the city and lists of hotels for visitors attending the events in June, 2000.

For further information please contact:

Promita Sengupta
Coordinator, Beijing + 5 Host Committee
116 East 16th Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10003
Tel: (212) 228 9605
Fax: (212) 260 4633
E-mail: psbeijing@earthlink.net

America's Commitment



The United Nations Women's Conference Women 2000 • Beijing Plus Five

The President's Interagency Council on Women

WOMEN 2000: BEIJING PLUS FIVE REGIONAL OUTREACH EVENTS

The President's Interagency Council on Women coordinated thirteen outreach events across the United States to celebrate the progress made since the UN Fourth World Conference on Women. These inclusive, regional events were organized in partnership with diverse non-governmental organizations, colleges and universities, and regional community organizations, and offered opportunities to share best practices, achievements and lessons learned. Reports generated at each event were submitted to The President's Council for consideration by the U.S. Delegation to the UN Special Session in June 2000.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

February 11 & 12, 2000

"Beijing Plus Five Northwest Forum."

Site: Evergreen College (Olympia, Washington)

Contact: Karen Furia
Regional Administrator, U.S. Dept. of Labor Women's Bureau
1111 Third Avenue, Room 885
Seattle, WA 98101-3211
Tel: (206) 553-1534 Fax: (206) 553-5085
E-mail: furia-karen@dol.gov
Website: www.nwstonesoup.org

DENVER, COLORADO

February 12, 2000

"Women 2000: Charting the Future, Beijing Plus Five Summit"

Site: Convention Center

Contact: Karen Beeks
Director, Global Partnerships for Humanity
9461 South Crestmore Way
Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80126
Tel: (303) 470-7810 Fax: (303) 791-0993
E-mail: wkbeeks@compuserve.com
Website: www.coaauw.org/women2000/

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

February 25 & 26, 2000

"A Call to Action: Moving the Agenda for Women 2000"

Site: Pacific Bell Media Center

Contact: Marilyn Fowler
Executive Director, California Women's Agenda
Women's Intercultural Network
1950 Hayes Street, #2
San Francisco, CA 94117-1153
Tel: (415) 221-4841 Fax: (415) 221-4989
E-mail: win@win-cawa.org
Website: www.win-cawa.org

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

February 26, 2000
(Subject to change)

"The United Nations Women's Conference Beijing Plus Five."

Site: Mint Museum of Craft and Design

Contact: June Kimmel

Southwestern Regional Director, North Carolina Council for Women
500 West Trade Street, Box 360
Charlotte, NC 28202
Tel: (704) 342-6367 Fax: (704) 342-6367
E-mail: jmkimmel@ix.netcom.com

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

March 4, 2000

"Women in the New Millennium: Beijing Plus Five Summit"

Site: Atlanta Technical Institute

Contact: Dorris Muscadin

Program Specialist, U.S. Dept. of Labor Women's Bureau
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 7T95
Atlanta, GA 30303
Tel: (404) 562-2336 or (800) 672-8356
Fax: (404) 562-2413
E-mail: muscadin-dorris@dol.gov
Website: www.dol.gov/dol/wb/

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

March 31, 2000

Site: Pennington Biomedical Center

Contact: R. Gayle Harell Jackson

Assistant Attorney General
Louisiana Department of Justice
301 Main Street, Ste. 1250
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
Tel: (225) 342-9724 Fax: (225) 342-9637
E-mail: Jacksonrg@ag.state.la.us

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

April 15, 2000

"Beijing Plus Five: Next Steps, New Strategies."

Site: Mills College

Contact: Edna Mitchell

Director, Women's Leadership Institute, Mills College
5000 MacArthur Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94613-1301
Tel: (510) 430-2019 Fax: (510) 430-3233
E-mail: edna@mills.edu
Website: www.mills.edu/wli/wli.beijingplus5.html

Previous Women 2000 Regional Outreach Events

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

October 13, 1999

"Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century"

Site: University of Missouri at Kansas City

Contact: Carol Tally Davis
Tel: (816) 235-5725 Fax: (816) 235-5189
E-mail: davisc@umkc.edu
Website: www.umkc.edu/starr

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

November 6, 1999

"Women 2000: Beijing Plus Five Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference"

Site: DuPont Country Club

Contact: Kathleen M. Meyer
Conference Coordinator – Women 2000: Beijing Plus Five
Tel: (302) 764-8592 Fax: (302) 764-3776
E-mail: kathleenmeyer@msn.com

MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

November 6, 1999

"Beijing Plus Five – UN Women's Conference 2000"

Site: Holiday Inn, Manchester

Contact: The Honorable Jackie K. Weatherspoon
New Hampshire House of Representatives
Tel: (603) 778-9493 Fax: (603) 777-4384
E-mail: jweather@hotmail.com

DALLAS, TEXAS

November 6 & 7, 1999

*"The Third North Texas UN Conference on Women:
Advancing Women and Youth in the Next Millennium"*

Site: University of Texas at Dallas – UTD Conference Center

Contact: Rita Mae Kelly
Co-Chair, Third North Texas UN Conference on Women
The University of Texas at Dallas
Tel: (972) 883-2935 Fax: (972) 883-6297
E-mail: rmkelly@utdallas.edu
Website: www.utdallas.edu/dept/socsci/UN_planmtg.htm

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

December 6, 1999

*"Region V- Women 2000: Beijing Plus Five. Women's Rights are Human Rights-
Exploring the Local/Global Linkages."*

Site: The Chicago Cultural Center

Contact: Nancy Chen
Regional Administrator, U.S. Dept. of Labor Women's Bureau
230 S. Dearborn Street, Rm. 1022
Chicago, IL 60604
Tel: (312) 353-6985 Fax: (312) 353-6986
E-mail: chen-nancy@dol.gov

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

February 5, 2000

"Sharing Our Progress and Shaping Our Future"

Site: Simmons College

Contact: Judy Hickey
Event Coordinator, Massachusetts Action for Women
7 Cross Street
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: (617) 489-3180 Fax: (617) 489-5517
E-mail: judyhickey@aol.com
Website: www.simmons.edu/resources/silc/women2000



Voices of Hope...

Voices of Progress...

Voices of Women Around the World...



You are cordially invited to attend the
Vital Voices Global Roundtable
 with women leaders from around the world
 and opening remarks by

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

Loy Henderson Auditorium

The U.S. Department of State

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2000**Please arrive at 2:15 p.m. (bring photo ID)**

23rd St. Entrance of the State Department

Between C and D Streets, NW Washington, DC.

The roundtable will end at 4:30 p.m.

The *Vital Voices* Global Roundtable will bring together women leaders from around the world who are forging the way towards democracy in the areas of economics, politics, and human rights. Through their hopeful and courageous personal stories, the roundtable discussion will highlight the challenges and opportunities women face around the world as they work for political rights, economic prosperity and peace.

Vital Voices supports Secretary Albright's mandate to integrate issues affecting women into the mainstream of American foreign policy. *Vital Voices* is an ongoing global initiative and a public-private partnership which highlights and supports the critical role that women play in developing full participatory democracies and strong economies. *Vital Voices* is implemented through the active support and leadership of the First Lady to give citizens the skills, tools and resources they need to empower themselves, their countries and their communities.

The roundtable discussion at the State Department is part of the *Vital Voices* Global Exchange Program which will bring alumnae of *Vital Voices* conferences from Latin America, Eastern Europe, Northern Ireland, the Baltics, and Russia together to share strategies on how they are taking ownership of the *Vital Voices* Initiative in their countries and moving forward to support women building democracy. These women will also be joined by women from Africa, Asia, South Asia and the Middle East to plan for future *Vital Voices* activities as part of a *Vital Voices* strategy retreat sponsored by the Stanley Foundation.

Regional *Vital Voices* conferences have been held in Vienna, Austria; Montevideo, Uruguay; Belfast, Northern Ireland; and Reykjavik, Iceland. *Vital Voices* Roundtables have been convened in Palermo, Italy, Reykjavik, Iceland and Istanbul, Turkey. For more information, check the *Vital Voices* website at <http://www.usia.gov/vitalvoices>.

PLEASE RSVP BY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

VIA FAX AT (202) 647-1579 OR PHONE AT (202) 647-7129

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Social Sec. #: _____ Telephone #: _____

Fax #: _____ Organization: _____

Vital Voices...Listen



Voices of Hope...

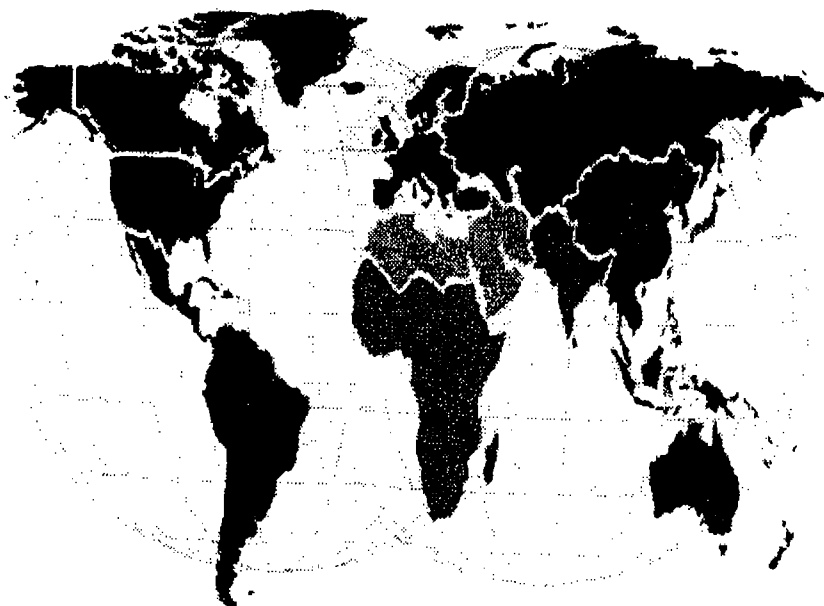
Voices of Progress...

Voices of Women Around the World...



The President's Interagency Council on Women
Invites you to join us for a reception to honor the
participants of the *Vital Voices* Global Exchange
following the *Vital Voices* Global Roundtable
at the U.S. State Department

The reception will be held
on Wednesday, February 16th
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
in the Treaty Room on the
7th floor of the U.S. State Department
Please RSVP to Carol Freeman (202) 647-5440
Fax (202) 647-5337



Vital Voices...Listen



The President's Interagency Council on Women

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
Chair

Secretary of Health and Human Services
Donna Shalala, Immediate Past Chair

Schedule *Vital Voices Global Exchange* February 11 – 18, 2000

Friday, February 11

Participants begin to arrive
(all participants will be greeted at the airport by *Vital Voices* staff)

Saturday, February 12

Participants have arrived
(all participants will be greeted at the airport by *Vital Voices* staff)

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Vital Voices Welcome Reception
Doyle Washington Hotel - Burlington A Room
1500 New Hampshire Ave., NW Washington, DC

Sunday, February 13

1:30 p.m. Bus picks up participants from the Doyle Hotel Washington
1500 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Washington, DC

3:00 p.m. Arrive in Warrenton, VA for the Retreat - *Vital Voices:
Analyzing the Process, Building for the Future* at the
Airlie House in Warrenton, VA

Monday, February 14

All day program *Vital Voices: Analyzing the Process, Building for the
Future* at the Airlie House in Warrenton, VA

Tuesday, February 15

- 9:00 a.m. Concluding Session - *Vital Voices: Analyzing the Process Building for the Future*
- 1:00 p.m. White House Reception
- ~~3:30~~ 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Roundtable Discussion at the U.S. Department of Justice
Women's Human Rights and Violence Against Women
Hosted by Bonnie Campbell, Director, Violence Against Women Office, U.S. Dept. of Justice

Wednesday, February 16

- 10:00 am - 11:00 a.m. Meeting with the Congressional Women's Caucus
hosted by Congresswomen
Sue Kelly and Carolyn Maloney
U.S. Capitol Building - Room HCR
- 11:45 a.m. Arrive at U.S. Department of State
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch meetings at the State Department Diplomatic
Dinning Room with regional bureau representatives
- 3:00 p.m. *Vital Voices* Roundtable Discussion
Opening Remarks by Secretary of State
Madeleine Albright
U.S. Department of State
- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. U.S. State Department Reception
Hosted by the President's Interagency
Council on Women
Treaty Room, seventh floor

Thursday, February 17

- Thematic Roundtables with US Government, private sector, and NGO partners
- 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. *Women in Business*
Hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Panel Discussion
Hosted by the World Bank

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. *USAID Europe/Eurasia Regional Roundtable*
Hosted by Don Pressley, Assistant Administrator, USAID

Women's Advocacy and Political Participation
Hosted by the White House

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. *Women in Mircocredit and Entrepreneurs*
Hosted by Counterpart International

7:00 – 9:30 p.m. *Vital Voices Global Exchange Closing Dinner*

Friday, February 18

Free day for individual meetings and touring
Some participants Depart

Saturday, February 19

Participants Depart



The President's Interagency Council on Women

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
Chair

Secretary of Health and Human Services
Donna Shalala, Immediate Past Chair

Vital Voices Global Exchange

Vital Voices Global Exchange Participants

BULGARIA

Maria Gavrilova Slavova
Chair, Bulgarian Vital Voices Association

CAMBODIA

Nanda Pok
Executive Director – Women for Prosperity

COLOMBIA

Paola Natalia Nieto Castillo
National Planning
Office of the President of Colombia

GHANA

Hon. Grace Coleman
Member of Parliament – Ghana
Vice-Chair of the Women's Caucus

HAITI

Nadine Perrault
Director, Cofal (a human rights organization)

INDIA

Anita Gupta
Vice President & Director
Corporate Affairs
Citigroup

INDIA

Rishira Gupta
Journalist and Producer, *Selling of Innocence*
UNICEF, Media Section

INDONESIA

Julia Suryakusuma
Director, API (Almanac of Political Parties) Foundation

IRELAND

Mary Murray
Senior Bank Manager, Alliance Bank
President, Dundalk Chamber of Commerce

KUWAIT

Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi
Professor, Kuwait University
and a leading advocate for women's political rights

NIGERIA

Hafsat Abiola
Director, Kudirat Initiative for Nigerian Democracy

RUSSIA

Ekaterina Genieva
Director General and President
State Library for Foreign Literature
Russian Ministry of The Open Society Institute

RUSSIA

Marina Pisklakov
President, Stop Violence
Russian Association of Crisis Centers for Women

TAJIKISTAN

Alla Kuvatova
Director, Traditions and Modernity (Organization to promote culture, democracy, political participation and peace)

UKRAINE

Oksana Gorbunova
Deputy National Coordinator
La Strada Ukraine (Anti-Trafficking Organization)



Vital Voices Global Exchange

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Bulgaria

Ms. Maria Gavrailova Slavova

After participating in the launch of the *Vital Voices* Women in Democracy Initiative for Central and Eastern Europe in Vienna, Austria in July 1997, Ms. Maria Gavrailova Slavova, along with the other eight delegates of the conference from Bulgaria, founded the *Vital Voices* of Bulgaria Association. She currently serves as the Association's chair. An esteemed academic, Ms. Slavova has established herself as a remarkable leader in Bulgaria. She is currently a lecturer on administrative law and administrative process, drafting, comparative administrative law, public administration and comparative administration at New Bulgaria University in Sophia, Plovdiv University and Burgas. Through her activism and achievements, Ms. Slavova has become a positive role model for the women of Bulgaria.

Cambodia

Ms. Nanda Pok

Ms. Nanda Pok is the dynamic leader and Executive Director of Women For Prosperity (WFP), an organization seeking to empower Cambodian women in the exercise of their rights on equal terms with men. WFP also promotes self-confidence in women in keeping with Khmer traditions, and it trains and motivates Cambodian women for leadership. Additionally, Ms. Pok has dedicated countless hours towards the elimination of discrimination towards women as Chair of the NGO's Committee on CEDAW. Her inspiring commitment to women's rights truly spans the globe.

Colombia**Paola Natalia Nieto Castillo**

Ms. Paola Natalia Nieto Castillo is Chief of the Financial Division in the National Planning Office for the President of Colombia. She works tirelessly to develop partnerships between the public and private sector to strengthen the social and economic life of her country. Ms. Castillo attended the *Vital Voices* of the Americas conference in Uruguay in October 1998.

Ghana**Grace Coleman**

Ms. Grace Coleman is one of the leading forces for democracy in Ghana. As a Member of Parliament, she has taken on leadership roles as Vice Chairperson of the Women's Caucus and Vice Chairperson of the Population Caucus. She has also served as Ghana's Ambassador to the Netherlands and has traveled throughout the world representing her country on high-level delegations. Ms. Coleman has articulated a personal commitment to women's economic empowerment throughout Africa, which stems from her position as the Manager of a bank prior to her work in politics.

Haiti**Nadine Perrault**

Ms. Nadine Perrault is a leading human and civil rights activist in Haiti. Currently, she serves as the Director of Cofal, an organization that focuses on legal rights issues. Ms. Perrault participated in the launch of the *Vital Voices* Initiative for the Americas in Montevideo, Uruguay in October 1998. When Ms. Perrault returned to Haiti, she expanded the *Vital Voices* delegation from ten Haitian women to one hundred and formed a *Vital Voices* of Haiti Organization which was officially launched in May 1999. She then began working with women throughout the Caribbean to develop a *Vital Voices* of the Caribbean Initiative in September 1999.

India**Ruchira Gupta**

Ms. Ruchira Gupta is a leading journalist in India. She directed and produced the renowned South Asian documentary film, "Selling of Innocence," based on her journalistic work in Nepal and India. Ms. Gupta has received international acclaim and awards for this video, which has helped to raise awareness of and combat the trafficking of women and girls. Due to both her experiences fighting against the trafficking of women and children and the success of her film, she is currently working with UNICEF as a consultant to prepare a media policy on violence against women.

India**Anita Gupta**

Ms. Anita Gupta is Vice President and Director of Corporate Affairs for Citibank N.A., India. She has been responsible for developing and executing a unified communications and corporate affairs strategy for the Global Consumer Bank, the Global Corporate Bank and its subsidiaries in India. Throughout her career, Ms. Gupta has been an active proponent of community support for economic development. Under her leadership, Citibank's Corporate Affairs has designed and implemented a number of pioneering initiatives for community development, including programs aimed at building self-reliance among economically deprived women. Ms. Gupta attended the *Vital Voices* conference in Iceland in October 1999, where she participated in a panel on Energizing Entrepreneurship and was a key speaker on the *Vital Voices* Global Roundtable with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Indonesia**Ms. Julia Suryakusuma**

Ms. Julia Suryakusuma is currently Director of the API (Almanac of Political Parties) Foundation. She is also a free-lance writer and columnist. She has produced a variety of articles, features, profiles and reviews on social, political and cultural issues for major national publications. Ms. Suryakusuma has demonstrated aggressive leadership by founding and organizing the first Jakarta International Women's Film Festival, organizing a panel discussion on Women and Politics on the occasion of International Women's Day and founding both the Women's Coalition for Press Freedom and the Indonesian Women's Coalition for Justice and Democracy.

Ireland**Ms. Mary Murray**

Ms. Mary Murray is the Manager of Allied Irish Bank in Dundalk, a county bordering Northern Ireland. Currently she is President of the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and has played a leadership role in bringing women of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland together to tackle economic issues. Ms. Murray has been involved in *Vital Voices* Initiative Northern Ireland.

Kuwait**Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi**

Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi, a professor of Sociology at Kuwait University, is dedicated to women's suffrage in Kuwait and is a strong advocate for democracy. She has served as a consultant to the United Nations, written multiple books and articles, and is an active member of the Kuwaiti Women's Social and Cultural Society, one of the groups at the forefront of women's rights in Kuwait. Dr. Al-Kazi is part of a growing group of prominent women in Kuwait to participate in a *Vital Voices* Project.

Nigeria**Ms. Hafsat Abiola**

Ms. Hafsat Abiola hails from a family of courageous fighters for freedom and justice in Nigeria. Her father was the first democratic President-elect and her mother was a renowned human rights advocate; they both sacrificed their lives for the causes of freedom and democracy in Nigeria. Ms. Abiola has continued in this family legacy of dedicated human rights and democracy activism by establishing and directing the Kudinat Initiative for Democracy (KIND) to promote the development of women and youth as change-makers. This organization's ultimate objective is to strengthen Africa's civil society and secure lasting democracy for its people. Both KIND and Ms. Abiola have received worldwide acclaim and recognition for their tireless efforts in promoting democracy. Ms. Abiola participated in the *Vital Voices* conference in Northern Ireland and is currently working with community groups there to strengthen youth leadership in civil society.

Russia**Dr. Yekaterina Geniyeva**

Dr. Yekaterina Geniyeva is a pioneer among women leaders in Russia. She is President of the Open Society Institute in Russia. As Director General and President of the Margarita Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature (VGBIL), she created and implemented the concepts of the VGBIL as both a virtual library and an international cultural center of ecumenical orientation. She also initiated the founding of the Russian Library Association (RBA) and promoted its joining the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Dr. Geniyeva is a published author, is a member of various foundations and societies, and has been awarded for her leadership skills. A key *Vital Voices* participant, she was chair of the Working Session on Building Skills for the 21st Century at the *Vital Voices* conference in Iceland.

Russia**Ms. Marina Pisklakova**

Ms. Marina Pisklakova is internationally recognized as one of the leading women's rights advocates in Russia, addressing the issues of domestic violence, international trafficking of women, gender discrimination, and other violations of women's rights. Following the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1993, she discovered that the problems of domestic violence, spousal abuse, and gender discrimination were at epidemic levels throughout Russia. To combat these issues, Ms. Pisklakova founded ANNA, the first organization of its kind in Russia, to provide crisis hotline services dealing with violence against women. Today, six years later and due to Ms. Pisklakova's leadership ability, there are over 35 of such crisis centers throughout Russia. Ms. Pisklakova was a key speaker in the *Vital Voices* Global Roundtable in Iceland with the First Lady.

Tajikistan**Ms. Alla Kuvatova**

Ms. Alla Kuvatova is a shining example of leadership for women in Tajikistan. She is currently head of the Sociology Department of the Institute of Philosophy and Law at the Tajik Academy of Sciences. Ms. Kuvatova also serves as the Director of Traditions and Modernity, an organization that promotes culture, democracy, political participation and peace, and she is a member of the Association of the Women with University Education. Her participation in workshops and seminars around the world are testimony to her dedication to women's issues. Ms. Kuvatova joined First Lady Hillary Clinton in a *Vital Voices* Central Asian roundtable in November 1999.

Ukraine**Oksana Gorbunova**

Ms. Gorbunova is the Deputy National Coordinator for La Strada Ukraine, a leading international organization committed to combating trafficking of women and girls for forced prostitution. La Strada has brought international attention to the problem of trafficking of women and girls in Ukraine and throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. In 1997, she participated in the *Vital Voices* Women in Democracy Conference for Central and Eastern Europe.



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520***WOMEN IN BULGARIA****Women in politics and economics**

No legal restrictions hinder participation of women in government and politics. However, they are underrepresented in these areas. In 1998, women held just under 11 percent of the seats in Parliament. A number of women held elective and appointive office at high levels, including three cabinet-level posts and several key positions in Parliament. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the leader of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) parliamentary group (the dominant party in the government) are both women.

Women face discrimination in terms of recruitment for jobs and the likelihood of layoffs. The rate of unemployment for women is higher than that for men. Women are more likely than men to be employed in low-wage jobs requiring little education, although statistics show that women are equally likely to attend university.

Violence against women

Domestic abuse is a serious problem. The current law is weak and ineffective. It exempts from state prosecution certain types of assault if committed by a family member. The government does not assist in prosecuting crimes of domestic assault unless the woman has been killed or permanently injured. Courts and prosecutors tend to view domestic abuse as a family rather than a criminal problem.

Trafficking

The relative new phenomenon of trafficking in women is of utmost concern to the government. An interagency governmental body was convened in 1997 to address this issue. In 1997 the government enacted a law against trafficking in women. It covers both traffickers and those who shelter traffickers for activities that take place in Bulgaria, as well as abroad. Women from the Ukraine and Russia are trafficked into Bulgaria and Bulgarian women are trafficked to other countries in Western and Central Europe.



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520***WOMEN IN CAMBODIA****Women in politics and economics**

Traditional cultural practices inhibit the role of women in government. In November 1998, the government in its political platform pledged to promote women's development in politics. Women took an active part in the 1998 elections. Five of the 39 political parties vying for National Assembly seats were headed by a woman. There are ten women among the 122 members of the National Assembly and two ministers and four state secretaries in the Cabinet. The government established a new cabinet Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs in 1998. A woman minister was appointed to both state secretary positions. It also appointed a woman to head the Ministry of Culture and appointed women as state secretaries in the Justice and Social Affairs and Labor Ministries.

Women constitute 52 percent of the population, 60 percent of agricultural workers, 85 percent of the business work force, 70 percent of the industrial work force and 60 percent of all service sector workers. Women are often concentrated in low-paying jobs and largely excluded from management positions. In practice women have equal property rights with men, same status in bringing divorce proceedings and equal access to education and to some jobs. Cultural tradition, however, continues to limit their ability to reach senior positions in business and other areas.

Violence against women

International and domestic non-governmental organizations report that violence against women, including rape and domestic violence, is common. Authorities normally refuse to become involved in domestic disputes. Trafficking in women is also a serious problem. The government has not adequately enforced a 1996 law against prostitution and trafficking in women.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

WOMEN IN COLOMBIA

Women in politics and economics

In contrast to other Latin American nations, Colombia has been known for the number of significant, active and vocal women leaders in political leadership. Women have risen to top political positions and lead a wide spectrum of civil society groups in Colombia. Former Foreign Minister Maria Emma Mejia and Presidential Candidate Noemi Sanin are both excellent examples of such prominent leaders. There are no legal restrictions, and few practical ones, on the participation of women in the political process. However, women are underrepresented in official and party positions. In 1998, 14 women were elected to the Senate and 19 to the Chamber of Representatives. The President appointed two women to his 16 member Cabinet to serve as Ministers of Communication and Foreign Trade.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with a group of women leaders from politics and civil society in Cartagena, Colombia on January 13, 2000. She discussed issues of mutual interest including the effects of the internal conflict, especially on women, prospects for peace and the human rights situation.

Despite the fact the Constitution prohibits any form of discrimination against women, discrimination continues to exist. Women's earnings for formal sector, nonagricultural work, correspond to approximately 85 percent of men's earnings for comparable work and women must demonstrate higher qualifications than men do when applying for jobs.

Violence against women

Rape and other acts of violence against women are pervasive in society and seldom are prosecuted successfully. In 1997 the Institute for Legal Medicine estimated that 88 percent of victims of sexual abuse were women. It also estimated that 95 percent of all abuse cases were never reported to the authorities. The 1996 Law on Family Violence criminalizes violent acts committed within families, including spousal rape. A 1997 law also made additional, substantial modifications of the Penal Code and introduced sentences of between 4 and 40 years for crimes against sexual freedom or human dignity, including rape. This law also repealed an old law that fully exonerated a rapist if he subsequently offered to marry the victim and she accepted.



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520***WOMEN IN GHANA****Women in politics and economics**

There are no legal obstacles to the participation of women in government. However, they constitute only a small minority in government and politics. There are 19 female parliamentarians. Several ministers and Council of State members are women.

Women continue to experience societal discrimination. There is resistance to women entering nontraditional fields of work. Few women enter college. Women's rights groups are active in educational campaigns for programs to provide vocational training, legal aid and other support to women. The government is active in educational programs and the President and First Lady are among the most outspoken advocates of women's rights.

Violence against women

Violence against women, including rape and domestic violence, is a problem. A 1998 study revealed that, particularly in low-income sections of greater Accra, at least 54 percent of women had been assaulted in recent years. According to data gathered by the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), 95 percent of victims of domestic violence are women. Most incidents go unreported. Legislation in 1998 doubled the mandatory sentence for rape. The media is increasingly reporting cases of assault and rape. In 1998 the police administration established a "women and juvenile unit" to handle cases of domestic violence, child abuse and juvenile offenses. Located in Accra, the unit works closely with the Department of Social Welfare, FIDA, and the Legal Aid Board.

Rural women can be punished with banishment by traditional village authorities for teenage pregnancy or suspected witchcraft. Hundreds of women have been sent to penal villages for suspicion of witchcraft. Legislation passed in 1998 provides some protection to these women. Human rights non-governmental organizations (NGO) are mounting a campaign to end this practice.

Trokosi is a traditional practice in which a young girl, usually under the age of 10, is made a slave to a fetish shrine for offenses allegedly committed by a member of the girl's family. There are at least 2,510 girls and women bound to various shrines, a figure that does not include the children of these women. In 1998 Parliament passed legislation to ban the practice of Trokosi. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is practiced, according to various studies and estimates, among between 15 and 30 percent of the women. There is a law banning the practice and several arrests were reportedly made in 1998. Local NGOs are making some inroads through their educational campaigns to encourage



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520***WOMEN IN HAITI****Women in politics and economics**

There are no legal impediments to women's participation in politics or government, but they are underrepresented in both areas. The election law provides that the deposit required of female candidates for political office is half that required of male candidates, if a recognized party sponsors them. In the recent past, Haiti has had a female president (Ertha Pascale Trouillot), prime minister (Claudette Werleigh), foreign minister and finance minister. In 1998, of the 80 sitting members of the Chamber of Deputies (with three seats vacant) three were women. The Senate has no female members. In the 1993 elections five women mayors out of 132, as well as 21 women vice mayors out of 264, were elected.

Work performed by women is vital to the Haitian economy. Women carry on the bulk of commercial activity, play a significant role in the agricultural sector, predominate in the assembly sector and do most of the child rearing. Female employees in private industry or service jobs, including government jobs, however, seldom are promoted to supervisory positions.

Violence against women

According to women's rights groups, rape and other violence against women is common. A recent survey by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) of violence against women found that 37 percent of women reported being victims of sexual violence or reported knowing a woman who had been. Another 33 percent reported being victims of other types of physical abuse. The law provides penalties for these crimes but the provisions are not adequately enforced.

In 1998, 20 women's organizations met with parliamentarians and proposed changes to laws they considered discriminatory. These included decriminalization of adultery, classification of rape as a crime against the person rather than against honor and extension of the Labor Code to cover domestic work. They also proposed a law on violence against women and changes in the family code.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

WOMEN IN INDIA

Women in politics and economics

There are no legal obstacles for women in government and politics. Women participate in voting and representation in both national and state legislatures. In 1998 there were 61 women out of 790 members of Parliament and four women out of the 40-member Cabinet. Four percent of elected state officials are women. In 1993 an Act was passed reserving 30 percent of spaces on village councils for women.

Under the Hindu Succession Act, a Hindu woman is legally entitled to inheritance. However, married daughters rarely receive their share in part because the woman's share is often perceived to have been given to her in the form of dowry at the time of her marriage. Under Islamic law (Muslims comprise approximately 15 percent of the population) a daughter's share is formally one-half that of a son. In traditional village situations, women may have little control over land use and sale. In spite of opposition, grassroots organizations have emerged to better the situation.

Violence against women

Violence against women is common. Domestic violence may occur as a result of dowry disputes which sometimes end in the murder of the woman by her husband or his family if they believe the woman's family has not given a sufficient dowry. The government reported 3,260 dowry deaths during 1998. Under a 1986 amendment to the Penal Code, courts must presume the husband or his family is responsible in every unnatural death of a woman, provided harassment can be proven. (Convictions in such cases are rare.)

Rape is in the spotlight and the media continues to report the growing numbers of acts of violence against women. Women's groups maintain that it is the reporting of such acts of violence that has grown more frequent. The Union Home Ministry reported in 1998, 15,452 cases of rape.

Non-governmental organizations and women's organizations estimate over 7,000 women and children are trafficked into the country each year. The number of women trafficked out of India is relatively small. The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act making trafficking illegal, is ineffective, partially because of the role organized crime plays in trafficking. Women involved in trafficking are often subjected to beatings and rape.

In general there is a high female mortality rate at all age levels. Infanticide and gender selective abortion plays into this. Child prostitution and trafficking may also contribute to this rate, as may poor enforcement of the law and insufficient government attention to the problem.



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520***WOMEN IN INDONESIA****Women in politics and economics**

There are no legal restrictions on the role of women in politics. The new Parliament elected in 1999 is approximately eight-percent women. This is similar to the 1997 parliamentary elections. Two of 35 cabinet ministers are women. The Vice President is a woman, Megawati Soekarnoputri.

Although some women enjoy economic and social freedom and occupy important positions in the public and private sectors, the majority is represented disproportionately at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale. A 1995 national profile of women's positions and roles showed that 37.4 percent of civil servants were women, but only 5.5 percent were in positions of authority. Female workers in manufacturing generally receive lower wages than men do. Unemployment rates among women are approximately 50 percent higher than for men.

Violence against women

Violence against women is poorly documented, but the government has acknowledged the problem of domestic violence in society. Rape by a husband of a wife is not considered a crime under law. Women's groups are trying to change this law. Police could bring assault charges against an abusive husband, but due to social attitudes, they are unlikely to do so. Rape is a punishable offense. Men have been arrested and sentenced for rape and attempted rape. According to women's rights activists, rape is seriously underreported due to the social stigma attached to the victim.

Women's advocates also believe domestic violence to be seriously underreported. They estimate that only 15 percent of domestic violence incidents are reported. The government provides some counseling for abused women and several private organizations exist to assist them. In 1998 non-governmental organizations established a National Commission on Violence against Women. There are only a few crisis centers for women.

There are credible reports of trafficking in women and the use of "temporary marriages" with foreigners in certain areas of the country.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

WOMEN IN IRELAND

Women in politics and economics

There is universal suffrage in Ireland, and avenues are open to everyone to participate in government. While women are involved in all levels of government, they are severely underrepresented especially at senior levels. The President is a woman, but out of 166 deputies only 20 are women. Similarly, three of 15 government ministers and only two of 17 junior ministers are women. On the Supreme Court, one out of the eight judges is a woman, and on the High Court sits three women out of 20 judges.

Efforts have been made to further women's standing in the workplace. Discrimination against women is unlawful. Various anti-discrimination and equal opportunity acts have been passed but women still deal with inferior pay and inequalities regarding promotions. The average weekly pay for women is about 69 percent of the weekly pay for men.

Violence against women

Domestic violence and rape are widespread in Ireland, issues that are downplayed in severity as a result of their frequency. There has been a task force established by the government and it has discovered women find existing systems unresponsive to their needs. The courts minimize the seriousness of these issues, while making women feel at fault, and ultimately failing to administer justice.

The Dublin Rape Crisis Center reported the number of rape incidences continues to rise. Between July 1997 and June 1998 the Center received 7,094 calls reflecting a 30 percent increase from the previous year. The number of the calls has desensitized the public to this issue. The Center estimates that of the committed rapes, only 29 percent are reported and of that, only seven percent received convictions.

Rape within marriage was criminalized in 1990 and free consultations are available for victims. With partial government funding, there are 12 shelters for women throughout Ireland providing accommodations for about 85 families.

In regards to children, the Trafficking and Pornography Act was passed in June, strengthening the protection of children. There are still no requirements for the mandatory reports of child abuse by health and social workers.



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520***WOMEN IN KUWAIT****Women in politics and economics**

Women may not vote or seek election to the National Assembly. They have little opportunity to influence government. In November the Parliament vetoed the Amir's May decree that would have given women the right to vote, to seek election to the National Assembly beginning with the parliamentary election scheduled for 2003 and to hold cabinet office. Shortly thereafter, identical legislation was introduced by Members of Parliament that was defeated by a narrow two-vote margin. Women's rights activists attempted to register as voters in two districts but were unsuccessful.

An estimated 33 percent of women of working age are employed. The law promises "remuneration equal to that of a man provided she does the same work." This promise is respected in practice. Women work as doctors, engineers, lawyers, bankers, and professors. A few have been appointed to senior positions in the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Planning, the Foreign Ministry, and the state-owned Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation. However, there are no female judges or prosecutors.

Women experience legal and social discrimination. Their testimony is not given equal weight to that of males in the Islamic courts. Married women require their husbands' permission to obtain a passport. By law only males are able to confer citizenship; therefore, children born to Kuwaiti mothers and stateless fathers are themselves stateless. The Government forbids marriage between Muslim women and non-Muslim men.

Violence against women

Violence against women is a problem. According to some local experts, domestic abuse of women occurs in an estimated 15 percent of all marriages. The police and the courts generally seek to resolve family disputes informally and may ask the offending spouse to sign a statement affirming that he agrees to end the abuse. The police refer serious cases to the Psychiatric Department at the Ministry of Health. The courts have found husbands guilty of spousal abuse.

There are several women's organizations that follow women's issues, among the most active of which are the Women's Socio-Cultural Society and the Women's Affairs Committee.

Beijing Plus 5

from
asst in
Ann
Leung's
office

Mar. 3 - Holbrooke - hosting
brkfst for Q edubro set
Waldorf Astoria -
to encourage coverage of
(Ann going) Beijing +5

message
mtg

prep com - Feb 28th →

US Mission may hold intl W's day event

March 30 - Albright - hosting at state

~~Boer~~

Boer - speak to Spec Secs in 'tue.

NY host comm →

USG - E&E
prep com
in Geneva

Title
June 5-9
NY
5 year review

will be negot'd doc.
UN Spec Session of
GA for Beijing
Plus five: women
2000 - Gender
Equality, Dev, & Peace for the
21st cen

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

OCTOBER 13, 1999

 ACCEPT

 REGRET

99 OCT 14 49:11 PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and
Director of Scheduling

FROM: Ann F. Lewis
Counselor to the President

REQUEST: Speech to the Women 2000: Beijing Plus Five Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

PURPOSE: Women from around the world will meet in New York to review the progress made in advancing the lives of women and girls since the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Heads of State are encouraged to address the General Assembly as part of the Special Session. The President and First Lady have exercised leadership on this issue around the world.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The First Lady addressed the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, where she delivered her "Women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights" speech.

DATE AND TIME: The Special Session of the General Assembly will be held from June 5-9, 2000.

BRIEFING TIME: 25 minutes

DURATION: 7-10 minute speech

LOCATION: The United Nations General Assembly Meeting Hall, New York City

PARTICIPANTS: The President would join with other Heads of State to address members of the General Assembly.

REMARKS REQUIRED: The President would deliver a major speech. The President's Interagency Council on Women would play a major role in preparing the background material and briefings for the President's remarks.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Extensive domestic and international press.

FIRST LADY'S ATTENDANCE: The First Lady would probably be in attendance.

RECOMMENDED BY: The President's Interagency Council on Women and the White House Women's Office

*OK
give*

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ROUTING SLIP

DATE _____
FROM _____
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULING

File Accept - 6/9 (T)

Comments _____

SUBJECT: speech to the Women 2000 Conference in New York.

Kris Balderston	—	Sean Maloney	—
Lisa Berg	—	Capricia Marshall	—
Samuel Berger	✓	Thurgood Marshall Jr.	—
Sidney Blumenthal	—	Minyon Moore	—
Chuck Brain	—	Bob Nash	—
Charles Burson	—	Beth Nolan	—
Mary Beth Cahill	—	John Podesta	—
Maria Echaveste	—	Steve Ricchetti	—
Terry Edmonds	✓	Bruce Reed	—
George Frampton	—	Dan Rosenthal	—
Laura Graham	✓	Rozensky/Emrich	✓
Nancy Hernreich	—	Dori Salcido	✓
Mickey Ibarra	—	Patti Solis-Doyle	—
Ben Johnson	—	Doug Sosnik	—
Joel Johnson	—	Gene Sperling	—
Neal Lane	—	Carrie Street	✓
Ann Lewis	—	Karen Tramontano	—
Mark Lindsay	—	Loretta Ucelli	✓
Bruce Lindsey	—	Melanne Verveer	—
Joe Lockhart	—	Bob Bladtke	✓

ROUTING SLIP

DATE: 11/09/99

FROM: Stephanie Streett

Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Scheduling

File PENDING

Comments

SUBJECT: SPEECH TO THE WOMEN 2000
IN NEW YORK

Kris Balderston	—	Joe Lockhart	✓
Paul Begala	—	Sean Maloney	—
Lisa Berg	—	Capricia Marshall	—
Samuel Berger	—	Thurgood Marshall Jr.	—
Sidney Blumenthal	—	Minyon Moore	—
Charles Burson	—	Bob Nash	—
Mary Beth Cahill	—	Beth Nolan	—
Davis/Emrich	✓	Jennifer Palmieri	—
Maria Echaveste	—	John Podesta	—
Terry Edmonds	—	Steve Ricchetti	—
George Frampton	—	Bruce Reed	—
Nancy Hernreich	—	Dan Rosenthal	—
Mickey Ibarra	—	Patti Solis-Doyle	—
Ben Johnson	—	Doug Sosnik	—
Joel Johnson	—	Gene Sperling	—
Neal Lane	—	Larry Stein	—
Sara Latham	✓	Carrie Street	✓
Ann Lewis	✓	Loretta Ucelli	✓
Bruce Lindsey	—	Melanne Verveer	—
Mark Lindsay	—		

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 0001301
RECEIVED: 24 FEB 00 16

TO: BRADTKE

FROM: STREETT, S

DOC DATE: 24 FEB 00
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: HUMAN RIGHTS

SP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: SP ACCEPT FOR SPEECH TO WOMEN 2000 CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES

DUE DATE: 01 MAR 00 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: NONE

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
PATTEN

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTCG

CLOSED BY: NSTCG

DOC 1 OF 1

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 0001301

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

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