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Date: April 28, 1997

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Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

From: Peggy McLeod

Subject: Leadership Forum

COMMENTS:

Lisa,

This is the information on the Forum. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Peggy

International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities

As a follow up to the U. N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education Judith E. Heumann, who represents the Department of Education on the President's Interagency Council on Women, and Susan Daniels, Associate Commissioner at the Social Security Administration, will co-chair an International Leadership Forum with Women with Disabilities, to be held in June of this year.

The Beijing Conference recognized the special challenges faced by disabled girls and women, and addressed many of their issues. For example, women with disabilities from all over the world spoke about the educational and training opportunities they needed. Also, a grantee of the U.S. Department of Education did research during the Conference that showed the barriers women with disabilities face in assuming positions of leadership.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton honorary chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women and HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, former co-chair of the Council, have urged the representatives of the Council to establish interagency collaborations to implement the Platform for Action. Accordingly, Assistant Secretary Heumann has asked Council representatives to join the Department of Education and the Social Security Administration in sponsoring the Forum.

The response of the Council members to this request has been overwhelming. Twenty Federal agencies and departments will sponsor this event, and about 350 to 400 women from more than 90 countries and the U.S. will participate. Besides the Federal agencies, many non-governmental organizations will also be sponsors of the Forum. Together, they will provide scholarships, sponsor workshops and site visits in Washington, and will cover some of the other costs involved in the Forum.

The First Lady has agreed to be honorary chair of the Forum. Secretary Albright and Secretary Shalala will be speaking Monday, June 16 and Secretary Riley will speak Tuesday, June 16.