

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/9/98 5:27:01 PM
FROM Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT UDHR speech [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Brown, Keirn C.
Davies, Glyn T.
Dejban, Donna D.
Hachigian, Nina L.
Kerrick, Donald L.
Millison, Cathy L.
Moretz, Sheila K.
O'Brien, Penelope R.
Rice, Edward A.
Scott-Perez, Marilyn L.
Storey, Sharon V.
Sutphen, Mona K.

CARBON_COPY @SPEECH - NSC Speechwriters
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
Malinowski, Tomasz P.
Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
Bernard, Kenneth W.
Busby, Scott W.
Denniston, Richard L.
Guarnieri, Valerie N.
Hawley, Leonard R.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Kale, Dora A.
Malley, Robert
Moller, Catherine A.
Naplan, Steven J.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Wippman, David
Bader, Jeffrey A.
Armstrong, Fulton T.

TEXT_BODY For SRB/JS Review: input from Planning, Multilat., Bader,
Armstrong.
Comments to Widmer, 6-9375.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

UDHR.doc
12/9/98 5:25 pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 10, 1998

[acknowledgments: First Lady, members of Congress, members of the Roosevelt family, members of human rights community]

Fifty years ago, at a meeting in Paris, the United Nations General Assembly voted to approve the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It signaled a watershed moment for the young UN ... and a new chapter in a much older story ... the story of humanity trying to live up to its potential.

The Universal Declaration was bold for its time, and still challenges us today. Like all great breakthroughs, it was an act of imagination and courage, an opening of the heart and the mind. With spare elegance, it served notice that for all our differences, we are bound in a common enterprise, with a common birthright of freedom.

It was not easy to affirm faith in mankind's future in 1948 ... three years after a cataclysmic war and holocaust ... as a Cold War was beginning to blight the postwar landscape. But this document - the Magna Carta of Mankind - did just that.

Article one states "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." There are no commas or parentheses in these sentences - no qualifications or exceptions - just the power of affirmation.

Other articles defend the freedom to worship, to work, to assemble, to participate in a life of meaning and purpose. These are still words to stand by.

They have been translated into every language of the United Nations.
They
resonate everywhere on Earth that human dignity is under siege.

The Declaration owed a great deal to the remarkable woman who
presided over the
drafting. Eleanor Roosevelt rose to every challenge, defending
American idealism
...honestly admitting our own imperfections ... and always calling on
the best
each delegate had to offer. A delegate from Panama grew so
exhausted by the pace
Mrs. Roosevelt was setting that she had to remind her that delegates
have human
rights, too.

Today, we celebrate the life of this document and life it has given us.
For
fifty years, we have been trying to catch up to the Universal
Declaration. The
good news is ... we're getting there. The bad news is ... we still have a
long
way to go.

Mrs. Roosevelt worried that it is hard to translate ideas on paper into
real
places, with real people - kitchens, factories, ghettos, prisons. But
words have
power. Since 1948, the UN has expanded its mandate, adopting legal
instruments
against torture, genocide, slavery, apartheid and discrimination against
women
and children. As nations grow more interdependent, the idea of a
unified
standard of human rights becomes easier to define...and more
important than ever
to maintain.

Obviously, all nations have more work to do on human rights. The
United States
is no exception. We are trying hard to keep the dialogue moving
forward,
learning from our own mistakes and frankly calling for improvement
in other
nations. In totalitarian states like North Korea. In military
dictatorships
like Burma. In countries where leaders practice the politics of ethnic
hatred,
like Serbia and Iraq. In nations where people of tolerance and faith
must

struggle against zealous fundamentalism, like Afghanistan, Algeria and Sudan. In Cuba, where persons who struggle for peaceful democratic change are repressed and imprisoned. In China, which has improved its willingness to discuss human rights, but still has a very long road to travel.

I reject the idea that there are "Asian values," or "African values," or "Western values" that would divide the human race into so many subcategories. We are one species. Each of us is molded in the divine image. The Declaration applies to all of us. The word "universal" was put there for a reason. President Kennedy, standing at the Berlin Wall, said "freedom is indivisible." The end of the Cold War is all the more reason to deepen the meaning of freedom.

A day like today gives us a chance to reflect on how far we have come, and even better, to chart a course for the future. Today, I'd like to announce some new initiatives that demonstrate our continuing commitment to the pursuit of human rights at home and abroad.

First, we are taking further pre-emptive steps to prevent genocide. When I visited Rwanda in March, I announced an International Coalition Against Genocide. That Coalition will meet this month. In addition, the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency have established a Genocide Early Warning Center where intelligence gatherers will identify potentially explosive situations before they erupt. In addition, USAID has agreed to provide up to \$8 million to NGOs to enhance their ability to respond rapidly to human rights emergencies.

Children have always been especially vulnerable to human rights infractions, and I am proud that we will be dramatically increasing our support for the fight against child labor with a tenfold increase in US assistance to the International Labor Organization, from \$3 million to \$30 million. These resources

will ensure
that thousands of children around the world will have the same
opportunity to
grow that all children deserve.

I am also pleased to announce that we are increasing assistance to
victims of
human rights abuse, increasing our support to the UN Torture Victims
Fund and
initiating a program to address the special needs of genocide survivors
in
Bosnia, Rwanda and Cambodia.

We must also practice at home what we preach abroad, looking to
protect people
who have difficulty protecting themselves. This morning I signed an
Executive
Order that strengthens our ability to implement human rights treaties,
and
creates a White House group to evaluate our ratification of additional
treaties.

I am also pleased to announce that today the Immigration and
Naturalization
Service is issuing new guidelines for the evaluation of asylum claims
by
children, making the process better serve our youngest and most
vulnerable asylum
seekers - especially those who have experienced forced conscription,
prostitution
and illegal labor.

Last year, the brutal killings of Matthew Shepard and James Byrd
outraged
Americans from all backgrounds. In the next session of Congress, I
will again
fight to pass legislation that would strengthen our ability to prevent
and punish
these senseless attacks.

Another traditionally vulnerable group is workers in the margins of
industry, in
jobs that they cannot afford to leave. We are fighting to protect worker
rights
in the apparel business, taking steps to eliminate sweatshop conditions
and
inform consumers about fair labor practices.

We are also taking steps to protect aliens who suffer abuses at the
hands of
smugglers, traffickers and sweatshop owners. These victims have a

built-in
disincentive to complain about abuse - their unlawful status. I am
asking the
Department of Justice to provide me with legislative options to
address this
problem.

Finally, I would like to repeat my support for a top legislative
priority ... an
Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would apply federal
standards to the
private sector, banning discrimination against gays and lesbians in the
workplace. All Americans are entitled to the same respect and legal
protection,
no matter what their race, gender or sexual orientation. I agree with
something
President Truman once said ... "when I say all Americans, I mean all
Americans."

These actions and the ones announced by the First Lady cover very
different
aspects of the struggle to protect human rights. Each is an important
step
toward reaching the promise outlined in Paris fifty years ago.

Much of the best work in human rights has been done by those
working outside of
government - by NGOs here and abroad ... by students and activists ...
by brave
religious leaders ... by people from all backgrounds who simply want
their
children to grow up safer and happier. Many have done so in the face
of great
adversity ... like the imprisoned members of the Internal Dissidents
Working
Group in Cuba ... the political prisoners of the National League for
Democracy in
Burma ... the imprisoned dissidents in China.

Today, it is my privilege to give out the first Eleanor Roosevelt
Award for Human
Rights to four outstanding Americans. From different backgrounds
and
generations, they have all stood up when and where it mattered.
Robert
Bernstein, a pioneer for freedom of speech and the protection of rights
at home
and abroad. Bette Bao Lord, the head of Freedom House, a prolific
author and

campaigner. Dorothy Thomas, a champion of women's rights. And John Lewis, a veteran of the civil rights struggle who is now serving his country in the House of Representatives. The military aide will now read the citations.

--CITATIONS READ FOR ROBERT BERNSTEIN, BETTE BAO LORD, DOROTHY THOMAS, JOHN LEWIS

On behalf of the American people, I thank all four of you for your hard work and your heroism.

The day the UN delegates voted to approve the Universal Declaration, Eleanor Roosevelt wrote, "long job over." It was one of her few hasty judgments. The long job of protecting human rights continues everywhere people suffer discrimination ... it continues every time they are punished for speaking the truth. Fifty years is only a blink of the eye for a document that contains an eternal promise of renewal. We must stay the course - and stay true to our nation's most generous instincts.

America's destiny is to use our strength to help others help themselves. That destiny was conceived in our founding moment, with these five words from the Declaration of Independence: "all men are created equal." Today, we include all people in that thought, but it remains the same idea expressed in 1776. And our rights only grow stronger as millions around the world see what they have freed our people to do.

Every generation reaffirms this destiny in a different way ... Lincoln's struggle against slavery, FDR's Four Freedoms, the unfinished work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy. Their work - and our work - may never be finished. But we are a young nation yet. The people we honor today, young and old, show that we will always find new sources of strength in the battle for human rights ... rights that will flourish as long as there are human beings to

claim them.
#

7

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/9/98 5:31:27 PM
FROM Naplan, Steven J.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT 1998 HR deliverables/Awards Fact Sheet [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Gobush, Matthew N.

CARBON_COPY Bernard, Kenneth W.
Busby, Scott W.
Denniston, Richard L.
Guarnieri, Valerie N.
Hawley, Leonard R.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Kale, Dora A.
Malley, Robert
Moller, Catherine A.
Naplan, Steven J.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Wippman, David
Crowley, Philip J.
Leavy, David C.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
@SPEECH - NSC Speechwriters
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
Malinowski, Tomasz P.
Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)

TEXT_BODY Attached, please find the first of two DRAFT Fact Sheets we are forwarding to @Planning for release after POTUS' Human Rights Day event is tomorrow.

(WH Press Office specifically asked that we include the language from the citations in the fact sheet).

The second draft fact sheet will be on Clinton Human Rights Accomplishment for 1998.

I'll leave it to Matt to work these through @Plan and @Press and on to WH press.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT '98 POTUS HR deliverables Fact Sheet.doc
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 10, 1998

DRAFT FACT SHEET

Human Rights Day 1998 & Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award

December 10, 1998, Human Rights Day, also marks the 50th anniversary

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the UN General Assembly declaration affirming universal standards of human rights and fundamental freedom

In order to commemorate this historic anniversary, President Clinton announced a number of important policy initiatives, as well as the establishment of the annual Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award to demonstrate the Administration's commitment to the promotion of human rights and democracy, the world

--Human Rights Policy Initiatives

- Human Rights Executive Order, reiterating our commitment to respect and implement those international human rights treaties we have ratified, and creating an Administration working group to coordinate these efforts and develop our position on other human rights instruments.

- Establishment of a Genocide Early Warning Center which will focus U.S. Government intelligence resources on situations that could become genocidal

- Enhancing U.S. Government response to human rights emergencies by providing additional funding to nongovernmental organizations to develop rapid response capacities (up to \$50 million over the next five years).

- Increased assistance to victims of human rights abuse through the funding of several efforts to assist human rights victims, including Afghan women survivors of genocide, as well as an increase in our annual contribution to the UN Voluntary Fund for Torture (from \$1.8 million in FY 1998 to \$3 million in FY 1999).

- Combating child labor by contributing \$30 million this year to the International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor, a ten-fold increase over last year's \$3 million contribution.
- Preventing youth hate crime through the Department of Education's publication in January of an "Harassment and Anti-Hate Guide for Schools."
- Issuance of new guidelines for the adjudication of asylum claims by consular officers in the United States. These will sensitize immigration officials to the special needs of our youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers.
- Protecting victims of smugglers, traffickers and sweatshop owners in the United States by asking the Department of Justice to explore legislative options that would permit illegal aliens who are the victims of serious abuses in the United States (forced labor, forced prostitution, etc.) to avoid deportation if they cooperate with authorities in identifying abusers.

Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award:

Eleanor Roosevelt was the driving force behind the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To honor her commitment to the principles of the Declaration the President established the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights.

For the inaugural recipients of this new award, the Secretary of State recommended, and the President approved four distinguished U.S. citizens:

- * Robert L. Bernstein, founder of the Fund for Free Expression and well-known Human Rights Watch; retired chairman of Random House.
- * Representative John Lewis, for his life-long commitment to civil rights.
- * Bette Bao Lord, human rights activist, China scholar and novelist.
- * Dorothy Q. Thomas, women's rights activist responsible for groundbreaking research and advocacy on human rights violations against women around the world.

1998 Eleanor Roosevelt Award Citations:

ROBERT L. BERNSTEIN

Robert Bernstein has dedicated his life to giving voice to the voiceless, publishing banned books to founding the groups that led to the creation of Human Rights Watch. His ceaseless efforts have increased both our determination and ability to oppose human rights violations wherever they occur. We honor him today for a life devoted to the active defense of freedom and dignity throughout the world.

JOHN LEWIS

For 40 years John Lewis has been at the vanguard of the civil rights struggle. From Freedom Rides to the House of Representatives, he has educated and mobilized generations of Americans in the crusade against injustice. He often did so at great personal risk, yet he never deviated from his commitment to peace change through nonviolent means. We honor him today for his uncompromising heroism in the face of bigotry and his unswerving commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BETTE BAO LORD

Born in China, raised in the United States, Bette Bao Lord has dedicated her life to the defense of liberty, particularly through her inspired leadership of Freedom House. One of her books on China includes the story of a boy who flies a kite each day outside a prison so that his captive father will see the kite and not lose hope. Her work has similarly sustained hope in countless others. We honor her today for her own activism and for setting a high standard for human rights and democracy activists around the world.

DOROTHY Q. THOMAS

Dorothy Thomas has played a leading role in efforts to define and defend women's rights around the world. Through her work at Human Rights Watch, she has raised global awareness of state-sponsored violence and discrimination against women and helped reshape international law to fight these abuses. We honor her today for her courageous advocacy of women's rights as basic human rights.

###

3

4

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/9/98 6:28:27 PM
FROM Gobush, Matthew N.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: 1998 HR deliverables/Awards Fact Sheet [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Ted - Could you please take a look at the attached fact sheet this evening? Would appreciate your input. Thanks!

-----Original

Message-----

From: Busby, Scott W.

Sent: Wednesday, December 09,
1998 5:37 PM

To: Gobush, Matthew N.

Cc: @MULTILAT - Multilateral
and Humanitarian Affairs; @PLANNING - Strat Plan & Comm

Subject: FW:

1998 HR deliverables/Awards Fact Sheet [UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

One
small fix.

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

From: Naplan, Steven J.

Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 1998 5:31 PM

To: Gobush, Matthew
N.

Cc: @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @PRESS
- Public Affairs; @PLANNING - Strat Plan & Comm

Subject: 1998 HR
deliverables/Awards Fact Sheet [UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 10, 1998

DRAFT FACT SHEET

Human Rights Day 1998 and Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award

President Clinton today commemorates Human Rights Day and marks the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the U.N. General Assembly declaration affirming universal standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Clinton Administration is committed to these principles and has led international efforts to promote them. On the historic anniversary of the UDHR, President Clinton announces several policy initiatives to advance human rights at home and abroad. He also honors four distinguished American human rights leaders as the inaugural recipients of the newly-created Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights.

Human Rights Policy Initiatives

- Signing of a Human Rights Executive Order, strengthening our ability to implement human rights treaties, and creating an Administration working group to coordinate these efforts and to develop our position on other human rights instruments.

- Establishment of a Genocide Early Warning Center which will focus U.S. Government intelligence resources on situations which could potentially

genocide.

- Enhancing U.S. Government response to human rights emergencies by funding nongovernmental organizations to develop rapid response capacities (up to \$10 million over the next five years).

- Providing Increased assistance to victims of human rights abuse through funding of several efforts to assist human rights victims, including Afghan women and survivors of genocide, as well as an increase in our annual contribution to the UN Voluntary Fund for Torture (from \$1.8 million in FY 1998 to \$2 million in FY 1999).

- Combating child labor by contributing \$30 million this year to the International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor, a ten-fold increase over last year's \$3 million contribution.

- Preventing youth hate crime through the publication in January of an "Harassment and Anti-Hate Guide for Schools" by the Department of Education and the National Association of Attorneys General.

- Issuing new guidelines for the adjudication of asylum claims by children in the United States. The guidelines will sensitize immigration officials to the special needs of our youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers.

- Protecting victims of smugglers, traffickers and sweatshop owners by the Department of Justice to explore legislative options that would permit illegal aliens who are the victims of serious abuses in the U.S. (forced labor, forced prostitution, etc.) to avoid deportation if they cooperate with authorities in identifying abusers.

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- * Robert L. Bernstein, founder of the Fund for Free Expression and well Human Rights Watch and retired chairman of Random House.
- * Representative John Lewis, life-long civil rights leader.
- * Bette Bao Lord, human rights activist, China scholar and novelist.
- * Dorothy Q. Thomas, women's rights activist responsible for groundbreaking research and advocacy on human rights violations against women around world.

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###

3

2

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/9/98 7:43:04 PM
FROM Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT UDHR speech [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Brown, Keirn C.
Davies, Glyn T.
Dejban, Donna D.
Hachigian, Nina L.
Kerrick, Donald L.
Millison, Cathy L.
Moretz, Sheila K.
O'Brien, Penelope R.
Rice, Edward A.
Scott-Perez, Marilyn L.
Storey, Sharon V.
Sutphen, Mona K.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Please sub for version just sent. Includes SRB edits and streamlined deliverables. Please note important new (bold) sentence on p. 3 (from Schwartz). Comments to Widmer.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

UDHR.doc
12/9/98 6:40 pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 10, 1998

[acknowledgments: First Lady, members of Congress, members of the Roosevelt family, Assistant Secretary Koh, Theresa Loar (Sr. Coordinator for Intl. Women's Issues), Amb. Nancy Rubin (Amb. to UN Commission on Human Rights), members of the human rights community]

Fifty years ago, at a meeting in Paris, the United Nations General Assembly voted to approve the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It signaled a

watershed
moment for the young UN ... and a new chapter in a much older
story ... the story
of humanity striving to realize its great potential.

The Universal Declaration was bold for its time, and it is bold for our
time.
Like all great breakthroughs, it was an act of imagination and courage,
an
opening of the heart and the mind. With spare elegance, it served
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for all our differences, we share a common birthright of freedom.

It was not easy to affirm faith in mankind's future in 1948 ... three
years after
a cataclysmic war and holocaust ... as a Cold War was beginning to
blight the
postwar landscape. But this document - the Magna Carta of
Humankind - did just
that.

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and
rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act
towards one
another in a spirit of brotherhood." There are no commas or
parentheses in these
sentences - no qualifications or exceptions - just the power of
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Other articles assert the freedom to worship, to work, to assemble, to
participate in a life of meaning and purpose. These are still words to
stand by.
They have been translated into every language of the United Nations.
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resonate everywhere on Earth that human dignity is under siege.

The Declaration owed a great deal to the remarkable woman who
presided over its
drafting. Eleanor Roosevelt rose to every challenge, defending
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...honestly admitting our own imperfections ... and always calling on
the best
each delegate had to offer. A delegate from Panama grew so
exhausted by the pace
Mrs. Roosevelt was setting that she had to remind her that delegates
have human
rights, too.

Today, we celebrate the life of this document and lives it has saved
and

enhanced. For fifty years, we have been trying to catch up to the Universal Declaration. The good news is ... we're getting there. The bad news is ... we still have a long way to go.

Mrs. Roosevelt worried that it was hard to translate ideas on paper into real places - kitchens, factories, ghettos, prisons. But words have power. Ideas have power. And the march for human rights has steadily gained ground. Since 1948, the UN has adopted legal instruments against torture, genocide, slavery, apartheid and discrimination against women and children. As nations grow more interdependent, the idea of a unified standard of human rights becomes easier to define...and more important than ever to maintain.

Obviously, all nations have more work to do on human rights. The United States is no exception. We are trying hard to learn from our own mistakes - and we reserve the right - the obligation -- to frankly call for improvement in other nations. In totalitarian states like North Korea. In military dictatorships like Burma. In countries where leaders practice the politics of ethnic hatred, like Serbia and Iraq. In nations where people of tolerance and faith must struggle against zealous fundamentalism, like Afghanistan, Algeria and Sudan. In Cuba, where persons who struggle for peaceful democratic change are repressed and imprisoned. In China, which has improved its willingness to discuss human rights, but still has a long road to travel.

I reject the idea that there are "Asian values," or "African values," or "Western values" that would divide the human race into so many subcategories. We are one species. Each of us is molded in the divine image. The Declaration applies to all of us. The word "universal" was put there for a reason. President Kennedy, standing at the Berlin Wall, said "freedom is indivisible." The end of the Cold

War is all the more reason to deepen the meaning of freedom. As the Vice President recently indicated, the United States will always stand by those calling for peaceful democratic change around the world.

A day like today gives us a chance to reflect on how far we have come, and even better, to chart a course for the future. Today, I'd like to announce some new initiatives that demonstrate our never-ending commitment to the pursuit of human rights at home and abroad. Each is an important step toward reaching the promise outlined in Paris fifty years ago.

First, we are taking steps to respond quickly to genocidal conditions, through the International Coalition Against Genocide I announced during my visit to Rwanda, and a new Genocide Early Warning Center sponsored by the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency. We will provide additional support to the UN Torture Victims Fund, to genocide survivors in Bosnia, Rwanda and Cambodia, and to women suffering repression under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. I am also announcing today that USAID will provide up to \$8 million to NGOs to enhance their ability to respond rapidly to human rights emergencies.

Second, children have always been especially vulnerable to human rights violations, and I am proud to announce that we will dramatically increase our support for the fight against child labor with a tenfold increase in US assistance to the International Labor Organization, from \$3 million to \$30 million. On a different front, I am also pleased that today the Immigration and Naturalization Service is issuing new guidelines for the evaluation of asylum claims by children, making the process better serve our youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers - especially those who have experienced forced conscription, prostitution and abusive labor.

Third, we must practice at home what we preach abroad. This

morning I signed an Executive Order that strengthens our ability to implement human rights treaties, and creates an interagency group to monitor our progress.

Fourth, we are taking steps to protect aliens who suffer abuses at the hands of smugglers and sweatshop owners. These victims have a built-in disincentive to complain about abuse - their unlawful status. I am asking the Department of Justice to provide me with legislative options to address this problem.

Finally, I would like to repeat my support for two top legislative priorities ... an Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would ban discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace, and create tough laws to fight the scourge of hate crime. Last year, the entire nation was outraged by the brutal killings of Matthew Shepard, a young gay student in Wyoming, and James Byrd, an African-American in Texas. All Americans are entitled to the same respect and legal protection, no matter what their race, gender or sexual orientation. I agree with something President Truman once said ... "when I say all Americans, I mean all Americans."

My administration will never relinquish the fight to move forward on these and other fronts. We are also aware that some of the best work in human rights has been done by those working outside of government - by NGOs here and abroad ... by students and activists ... by brave religious leaders ... by people from all backgrounds who simply want their children to grow up safer and happier. Many have done so in the face of great adversity ... like the imprisoned members of the Internal Dissidents Working Group in Cuba ... the political prisoners of the National League for Democracy in Burma ... the imprisoned dissidents in China.

Today, it is my privilege to present the first Eleanor Roosevelt Award

for Human
Rights to four outstanding Americans. From different backgrounds
and
generations, they all stand in the great tradition of Mrs. Roosevelt,
pioneers in
the fight to expand the frontiers of freedom. Robert Bernstein, a
pathbreaker
for freedom of speech and the protection of rights at home and abroad.
Bette Bao
Lord, the head of Freedom House, a prolific author and campaigner.
Dorothy
Thomas, a champion of women's rights. And John Lewis, a veteran of
the civil
rights struggle, now serving his country in the House of
Representatives. The
military aide will read the citations.

[CITATIONS READ FOR BERNSTEIN, LORD, THOMAS,
LEWIS]

On behalf of the American people, I thank all four of you for your
hard work and
your heroism.

The day the UN delegates voted to approve the Universal Declaration,
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Fifty
years is only a blink of the eye for a document that contains an eternal
promise
of renewal. We must stay the course - and stay true to our nation's
most
generous instincts.

America's destiny is to use our strength to help others help
themselves. That
destiny was conceived in our founding moment, with these five words
from the
Declaration of Independence: "all men are created equal." Today, we
include
all people in that thought, but it remains the same idea expressed in
1776. And
our rights only grow stronger as millions around the world see what
they have
freed Americans to do.

Every generation reaffirms this destiny in a different way ... Lincoln's struggle against slavery, FDR's Four Freedoms, the unfinished work of Martin

Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy, the ongoing work of the people in this room.

Our work may never be finished. But we are still a young nation.

Those we

honor today show that we will always find new sources of strength in the battle

for human rights ... rights that will flourish as long as there are human beings

to claim them.

#

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/9/98 9:43:15 PM
FROM Gobush, Matthew N.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT Human Rights Day Fact Sheet - FOR APPROVAL [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Blinken, Antony J.

CARBON_COPY @SPEECH - NSC Speechwriters
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
Malinowski, Tomasz P.
Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)

TEXT_BODY Tony - Fact sheet for release during tomorrow morning's human rights day event. Drafted by Multilat; scrubbed by both Ted and me. Will forward to Steinberg for approval with you blessing. Thanks.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Human Rights Day Fact Sheet.doc
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 10, 1998

FACT SHEET

Human Rights Day 1998 and Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award

President Clinton today commemorates Human Rights Day and marks the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the General

Assembly declaration affirming fundamental freedoms and human rights

people. On the historic anniversary of the UDHR, President Clinton announced several policy initiatives to advance human rights at home and abroad. He honors four distinguished American human rights leaders as the inaugural recipients of the newly-created Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights

Human Rights Policy Initiatives

- Signing of a Human Rights Executive Order, strengthening our efforts to implement human rights treaties, and creating an Administration working group to coordinate these efforts.

- Establishment of a Genocide Early Warning Center, jointly run by the Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, training intelligence personnel on situations that could potentially lead to genocide.

- Enhancing our response to human rights emergencies. The U.S. Agency for International Development will provide up to \$8 million over the next five years to non-governmental organizations to enhance their rapid response capabilities. Organizations can use these funds for a variety of purposes, including the creation of assessment teams, monitoring units or other means of addressing situations where human rights may be imminently threatened.

- Providing increased assistance to victims of human rights abuse. The Department of State will significantly increase our annual contribution to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Torture Victims (from \$1.8 million in FY 1998 to \$3 million in FY 1999). This Fund distributes money to organizations around the world that rehabilitate those who have suffered torture. In addition, the Department of State is initiating a program to address the needs of genocide survivors through funding of indigenous groups in Rwanda, Bosnia and Cambodia.

This program will primarily target women, providing training and counseling.

- Combating child labor by contributing \$30 million this year to the International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor, a ten-fold increase over last year's \$3 million contribution. The program works with governments, businesses and non-governmental organizations to discourage the use of child labor around the world.

- Issuing new guidelines for the adjudication of asylum claims by children. The U.S. is only the second country after Canada to adopt such guidelines.

The guidelines will sensitize immigration officials to the special needs of the youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers.

- Preventing youth hate crime through publication in January of a guide for schools entitled "Protecting Students from Harassment and Hate Crimes" developed jointly by the Department of Education and the National Association of Attorneys General.

General. The guide provides suggestions to school systems for addressing the issue of school violence.

- Protecting victims of smugglers, traffickers and sweatshop owners. The Department of Justice will explore legislative options to address the immigration situation of illegal aliens in the U.S. who are the victims of serious abuses such as forced labor and forced prostitution. The aim is to encourage greater reporting to and cooperation with U.S. authorities in targeting abusers of human rights.

Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award

Eleanor Roosevelt was the driving force behind the adoption in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To honor her commitment to the principles of the Declaration the President established the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights.

For the inaugural recipients of this new award, the Secretary of State recommended, and the President approved, four distinguished American human rights leaders.

- * Robert L. Bernstein, founder of the Fund for Free Expression and well known Human Rights Watch and retired chairman of Random House.
- * Representative John Lewis, life-long civil rights leader.
- * Bette Bao Lord, human rights activist, China scholar and novelist.
- * Dorothy Q. Thomas, women's rights activist responsible for groundbreaking research and advocacy on human rights violations against women around the world.

1998 Eleanor Roosevelt Award Citations

ROBERT L. BERNSTEIN

Robert Bernstein has dedicated his life to giving voice to the voiceless, publishing banned books to founding the groups that led to the creation of Human Rights Watch. His ceaseless efforts have increased both our determination and ability to oppose human rights violations wherever they occur. We honor him today for a life devoted to the active defense of freedom and dignity through

the world.

JOHN LEWIS

For 40 years John Lewis has been at the vanguard of the civil rights struggle. From Freedom Rides to the House of Representatives, he has educated and mobilized generations of Americans in the crusade against injustice. He often did so at great personal risk, yet he never deviated from his commitment to peace change through nonviolent means. We honor him today for his uncompromising heroism in the face of bigotry and his unswerving commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BETTE BAO LORD

Born in China, raised in the United States, Bette Bao Lord has dedicated her life to the defense of liberty, particularly through her inspired leadership of Freedom House. One of her books on China includes the story of a boy who flies a kite each day outside a prison so that his captive father will see the kite and not lose hope. Her work has similarly sustained hope in countless others. We honor her today for her own activism and for setting a high standard for rights and democracy activists around the world.

DOROTHY Q. THOMAS

Dorothy Thomas has played a leading role in efforts to define and defend women's rights around the world. Through her work at Human Rights Watch, she has raised global awareness of state-sponsored violence and discrimination against women and helped reshape international law to fight these abuses. We honor her today for her courageous advocacy of women's rights as basic human rights.

###

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/9/98 10:04:14 PM
FROM Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: UDHR speech [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Schwartz, Eric P.

CARBON_COPY Bernard, Kenneth W.
Busby, Scott W.
Denniston, Richard L.
Guarnieri, Valerie N.
Hawley, Leonard R.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Kale, Dora A.
Malley, Robert
Moller, Catherine A.
Naplan, Steven J.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Wippman, David
@SPEECH - NSC Speechwriters
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
Malinowski, Tomasz P.
Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)

TEXT_BODY eric: Mara makes good points. I'll be in early to address any changes.

-----Original
Message-----
From: Rudman, Mara E.
Sent: Wednesday, December 09,
1998 8:56 PM
To: Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
Cc: @LEGISLAT - Legislative
Affairs
Subject: FW: UDHR speech [UNCLASSIFIED]

Ted ---

I
really like this speech. See where I have noted some specifics where
you may get into trouble in terms of accuracy/Congressional

role/politics.

-----Original

Message-----

From: Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)

Sent: Wednesday, December

09, 1998 8:10 PM

To: @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs

Subject: UDHR

speech [UNCLASSIFIED]

Mara: this not cleared yet, but I wanted
you to make sure it's OK.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT UDHR.doc
12/9/98 6:40 pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 10, 1998

[acknowledgments: First Lady, members of Congress, members of the
Roosevelt
family, Assistant Secretary Koh, Theresa Loar (Sr. Coordinator for
Intl. Women's
Issues), Amb. Nancy Rubin (Amb. to UN Commission on Human
Rights), members of the
human rights community]

Fifty years ago, at a meeting in Paris, the United Nations General
Assembly voted
to approve the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It signaled a
watershed
moment for the young UN ... and a new chapter in a much older
story ... the story
of humanity striving to realize its great potential.

The Universal Declaration was bold for its time, and it is bold for our
time.
Like all great breakthroughs, it was an act of imagination and courage,
an
opening of the heart and the mind. With spare elegance, it served
notice that
for all our differences, we share a common birthright of freedom.

It was not easy to affirm faith in mankind's future in 1948 ... three
years after
a cataclysmic war and holocaust ... as a Cold War was beginning to

blight the
postwar landscape. But this document - the Magna Carta of
Humankind - did just
that.

Article One states "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity
and
rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act
towards one
another in a spirit of brotherhood." There are no commas or
parentheses in these
sentences - no qualifications or exceptions - just the power of
affirmation.

Other articles assert the freedom to worship, to work, to assemble, to
participate in a life of meaning and purpose. These are still words to
stand by.

They have been translated into every language of the United Nations.
They
resonate everywhere on Earth that human dignity is under siege.

The Declaration owed a great deal to the remarkable woman who
presided over its
drafting. Eleanor Roosevelt rose to every challenge, defending
American idealism
...honestly admitting our own imperfections ... and always calling on
the best
each delegate had to offer. A delegate from Panama grew so
exhausted by the pace
Mrs. Roosevelt was setting that she had to remind her that delegates
have human
rights, too.

Today, we celebrate the life of this document and lives it has saved
and
enhanced. For fifty years, we have been trying to catch up to the
Universal
Declaration. The good news is ... we're getting there. The bad news
is ... we
still have a long way to go.

Mrs. Roosevelt worried that it was hard to translate ideas on paper
into real
places - kitchens, factories, ghettos, prisons. But words have power.
Ideas
have power. And the march for human rights has steadily gained
ground. Since
1948, the UN has adopted legal instruments against torture, genocide,
slavery,
apartheid and discrimination against women and children. [I think the
preceding

sentence is ok, but I just flag our vulnerability on CEDAW and the convention on child rights as the former has not been ratified by the Senate and won't be as long as Helms chairs, and I believe we haven't even submitted the latter to Senate because we may have issues with it... MULTI and LEGAL might better be able to comment, but you may need some qualifier line here if you include those in the line up.] As nations grow more interdependent, the idea of a unified standard of human rights becomes easier to define...and more important than ever to maintain.

Obviously, all nations have more work to do on human rights. The United States is no exception. We are trying hard to learn from our own mistakes - and we reserve the right - the obligation -- to frankly call for improvement in other nations. In totalitarian states like North Korea. In military dictatorships like Burma. In countries where leaders practice the politics of ethnic hatred, like Serbia and Iraq. In nations where people of tolerance and faith must struggle against zealous fundamentalism, like Afghanistan, Algeria and Sudan. In Cuba, where persons who struggle for peaceful democratic change are repressed and imprisoned. In China, which has improved its willingness to discuss human rights, but still has a long road to travel. [Given press in recent day s on China, do you really want to laud it at all right now, or can laud but temper more than you have?]

I reject the idea that there are "Asian values," or "African values," or "Western values" that would divide the human race into so many subcategories. We are one species. Each of us is molded in the divine image. The Declaration applies to all of us. The word "universal" was put there for a reason. President Kennedy, standing at the Berlin Wall, said "freedom is indivisible." The end of the Cold

War is all the more reason to deepen the meaning of freedom. As the Vice President recently indicated, the United States will always stand by those calling for peaceful democratic change around the world.

A day like today gives us a chance to reflect on how far we have come, and even better, to chart a course for the future. Today, I'd like to announce some new initiatives that demonstrate our never-ending commitment to the pursuit of human rights at home and abroad. Each is an important step toward reaching the promise outlined in Paris fifty years ago.

First, we are taking steps to respond quickly to genocidal conditions, through the International Coalition Against Genocide I announced during my visit to Rwanda, and a new Genocide Early Warning Center sponsored by the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency. We will provide additional support to the UN Torture Victims Fund, to genocide survivors in Bosnia, Rwanda and Cambodia, and to women suffering repression under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. I am also announcing today that USAID will provide up to \$8 million to NGOs to enhance their ability to respond rapidly to human rights emergencies.

Second, children have always been especially vulnerable to human rights violations, and I am proud to announce that this year I will request that the Congress dramatically increase support for the fight against child labor with a tenfold increase in U.S. assistance to the International Labor Organization, from \$3 million to \$30 million. [QUESTION: Is this an increase we are REQUESTING from Congress - in which case, is it OMB approved for fy2000 budget -- or one that we have already been given via this year's appropriations? My guess is the former, which means we need to be more qualified.] On a different front, I am also pleased that today the Immigration and Naturalization Service is issuing new

guidelines for the evaluation of asylum claims by children, making the process better serve our youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers - especially those who have experienced forced conscription, prostitution and abusive labor.

Third, we must practice at home what we preach abroad. This morning I signed an Executive Order that strengthens our ability to implement human rights treaties, and creates an interagency group to monitor our progress.

Fourth, we are taking steps to protect aliens who suffer abuses at the hands of smugglers and sweatshop owners. These victims have a built-in disincentive to complain about abuse - their unlawful status. I am asking the Department of Justice to provide legislative options [remember that if the options are legislative - need Congress to act on them - so just providing to POTUS doesn't do much] to address this problem.

Finally, I would like to repeat my support for two top legislative priorities ... an Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would ban discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace, and a Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Last year, the entire nation was outraged by the brutal killings of Matthew Shepard, a young gay student in Wyoming, and James Byrd, an African-American in Texas. All Americans are entitled to the same respect and legal protection, no matter what their race, gender or sexual orientation. I agree with something President Truman once said ... "when I say all Americans, I mean all Americans."

My administration will never relinquish the fight to move forward on these and other fronts. We are also aware that some of the best work in human rights has been done by those working outside of government - by students and activists ... by NGOs ... by brave religious leaders ... by people from all backgrounds who simply want their children to grow up safer and happier. Many have done so in

the face of great adversity ... like the imprisoned members of the
Internal
Dissidents Working Group in Cuba ... the political prisoners of the
National
League for Democracy in Burma ... the imprisoned dissidents in
China.

Today, it is my privilege to present the first Eleanor Roosevelt Award
for Human
Rights to four outstanding Americans. From different backgrounds
and
generations, they all stand in the great tradition of Mrs. Roosevelt,
pioneers in
the fight to expand the frontiers of freedom. Robert Bernstein, a
pathbreaker
for freedom of speech and the protection of rights at home and abroad.
Bette Bao
Lord, the head of Freedom House, a prolific author and campaigner.
Dorothy
Thomas, a champion of women's rights. And John Lewis, a veteran of
the civil
rights struggle, now serving his country in the House of
Representatives. The
military aide will read the citations.

[CITATIONS READ FOR BERNSTEIN, LORD, THOMAS,
LEWIS]

On behalf of the American people, I thank all four of you for your
hard work and
your heroism.

The day the UN delegates voted to approve the Universal Declaration,
Eleanor
Roosevelt wrote, "long job over." It was one of her few hasty
judgments. The
long job of protecting human rights continues everywhere people
suffer
discrimination ... every time they are punished for speaking the truth.
Fifty
years is only a blink of the eye for a document that contains an eternal
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America's destiny is to use our strength to help others help
themselves. That
destiny was conceived in our founding moment, with these five words
from the

Declaration of Independence: "all men are created equal." Today, we include all people in that thought, but it remains the same sublime idea expressed in 1776. And our rights only grow stronger as millions around the world see what they have freed Americans to do.

Every generation reaffirms this destiny in a different way ... Lincoln's struggle against slavery, FDR's Four Freedoms, the unfinished work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy, the ongoing work of the people in this room. Our work may never be finished. But we are still a young nation. Those we honor today show that we will always find new sources of strength in the battle for human rights ... rights that will flourish as long as there are human beings to claim them.
#

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/10/98 8:50:51 AM

FROM Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT UDHR--final [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Bernard, Kenneth W.
Busby, Scott W.
Denniston, Richard L.
Guarnieri, Valerie N.
Hawley, Leonard R.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Kale, Dora A.
Malley, Robert
Moller, Catherine A.
Naplan, Steven J.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Wippman, David

CARBON_COPY @SPEECH - NSC Speechwriters
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
Malinowski, Tomasz P.
Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
Rudman, Mara E.
Bader, Jeffrey A.

TEXT_BODY

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT UDHRbig.doc
12/10/98 8:40 am Widmer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 10, 1998

[acknowledgments: First Lady; National Security Adviser Berger; Undersecretary Loy; Assistant Secretary Koh; members of Congress, members of the Roosevelt family; Amb. Nancy Rubin (Amb. to UN Commission on Human Rights), Theresa Loar (Sr. Coordinator for Intl. Women's Issues); members of the human rights community; distinguished guests]

Fifty years ago, at a meeting in Paris, the United Nations General Assembly voted to approve the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It signaled a watershed moment for the young UN ... and a new chapter in a much older story ... the story of humanity striving to realize its great potential.

The Universal Declaration was bold for its time, and it is bold for our time. Like all great breakthroughs, it was an act of imagination and courage, an opening of the heart and the mind. With spare elegance, it served notice that for all our differences, we share a common birthright of freedom. It was not easy to affirm faith in mankind's future in 1948 ... three years after a cataclysmic war and holocaust ... as a Cold War was beginning to blight the postwar landscape. But this document - the Magna Carta of Humankind - did just that.

Article One states "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." There are no commas or parentheses in these sentences - no qualifications or exceptions - just the power of affirmation. Other articles assert the freedom to worship, to work, to assemble, to participate in a life of meaning and purpose. These are still words to stand by. They have been translated into every language of the United Nations. They

resonate everywhere on Earth that human dignity is under siege.

The Declaration owed a great deal to the remarkable woman who presided over its drafting. Eleanor Roosevelt rose to every challenge, defending American idealism ... honestly admitting our own imperfections ... and always calling on the best each delegate had to offer. A delegate from Panama grew so exhausted by the pace Mrs. Roosevelt was setting that she had to be reminded that delegates have human rights, too.

Today, we celebrate the life of this document and lives it has saved and enhanced. For fifty years, we have been trying to catch up to the Universal Declaration. Mrs. Roosevelt worried that it was hard to translate ideas on paper into real places - kitchens, factories, ghettos, prisons. But words have power. Ideas have power. And the march for human rights has steadily gained ground. Since 1948, the UN has adopted legal instruments against torture, genocide, slavery, apartheid and discrimination against women and children. As nations grow more interdependent, the idea of a unified standard of human rights becomes easier to define...and more important than ever to maintain.

Obviously, all nations have more work to do on human rights. The United States is no exception. We are trying hard to learn from our own mistakes - and we reserve the right - the obligation -- to frankly call for improvement in other nations. In totalitarian states like North Korea. In military dictatorships like Burma. In countries where leaders practice the politics of ethnic hatred, like Serbia and Iraq. In nations where people of tolerance and faith must struggle against intolerant fundamentalism, like Afghanistan and Sudan. In Cuba, where persons who struggle for peaceful democratic change are repressed and imprisoned. In China, where important change has come, but where freedom is still not respected universally.

I reject the idea that there are "Asian values," or "African values," or "Western values" that would divide the human race into so many subcategories. We are one species. Each of us is molded in the divine image. The Declaration applies to all of us. The word "universal" was put there for a reason. President Kennedy, standing at the Berlin Wall, said "freedom is indivisible." The end of the Cold War is all the more reason to deepen the meaning of freedom.

As the Vice President said recently in Asia, he and I strongly share the belief that peaceful democratic progress is essential as nations prepare to greet the new century.

Throughout 1998, old fears and hatreds crumbled before the healing power of honest communication, faith in the future, and the strong will of the people. Today in Oslo, two leaders from Northern Ireland, David Trimble and John Hume, are receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts toward the Good Friday Accord. In the Middle East, where I go in two days, Palestinians and Israelis are talking about how to protect peace and security. In Kosovo, a serious humanitarian crisis was averted. All these breakthroughs were triumphs for peace and for human rights.

A day like today gives us a chance to reflect on how far we have come, and even better, to recommit ourselves to a course for the future. Today, I'd like to announce some new initiatives that reflect our never-ending commitment to the pursuit of human rights at home and abroad. Each is an important step toward reaching the promise outlined in Paris fifty years ago.

First, we are taking steps to respond quickly to genocidal conditions, through

the International Coalition Against Genocide I announced during my visit to Africa, and a new Genocide Early Warning Center sponsored by the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency. We will provide additional support to the UN Torture Victims Fund and genocide survivors in Bosnia, Rwanda and Cambodia. We will expand assistance to women suffering under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. I am also announcing today that USAID will provide up to \$8 million to NGOs to enhance their ability to respond rapidly to human rights emergencies.

Second, children have always been especially vulnerable to human rights violations. Last year I sought, and Congress provided dramatic new support for the fight against child labor with a tenfold increase in US assistance to the International Labor Organization, from \$3 million to \$30 million. On a different but related front, I am also pleased that today the Immigration and Naturalization Service is issuing new guidelines for the evaluation of asylum claims by children, making the process better serve our youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers.

Third, we must practice at home what we preach abroad. This morning I signed an Executive Order that strengthens our ability to implement human rights treaties, and creates an interagency group to hold us accountable for progress.

Fourth, I am concerned about aliens who suffer abuses at the hands of smugglers and sweatshop owners. These victims have a built-in disincentive - their unlawful status - that discourages them from complaining to US authorities. I am asking the Department of Justice to provide legislative options to address this problem.

Finally, I would like to repeat my support for two top legislative priorities ... an Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would ban discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace, and a Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Last

year, the
entire nation was outraged by the brutal killings of Matthew Shepard,
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All Americans
are entitled to the same respect and legal protection, no matter what
their race,
gender or sexual orientation. I agree with something President Truman
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... "when I say all Americans, I mean all Americans."
My administration will never relinquish the fight to move forward in
the
continuing struggle for human rights. And I am also aware that much
of the best
work in human rights has been done by those working outside of
government - by
students and activists ... by NGOs ... by brave religious leaders ... by
people
from all backgrounds who simply want their children to grow up safer
and happier.
Many have done so in the face of great adversity ... like the
imprisoned members
of the Internal Dissidents Working Group in Cuba ... the political
prisoners of
the National League for Democracy in Burma ... the imprisoned
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China.
Today, it is my privilege to present the first Eleanor Roosevelt Award
for Human
Rights to four outstanding Americans. From different backgrounds
and
generations, they all stand in the great tradition of Mrs. Roosevelt,
pioneers in
the fight to expand the frontiers of freedom. Robert Bernstein, a
pathbreaker
for freedom of expression and the protection of rights at home and
abroad. Bette
Bao Lord, the head of Freedom House, a prolific author and
campaigner. Dorothy
Thomas, a champion of women's rights, the voice of a new generation
committed to
human rights.

And John Lewis, a veteran of the civil rights struggle, now serving his
country
in the House of Representatives. The military aide will read the
citations.

[CITATIONS READ FOR BERNSTEIN, LORD, THOMAS,
LEWIS]

On behalf of the American people, I thank all four of you for your hard work and your heroism.

The day the UN delegates voted to approve the Universal Declaration, Eleanor Roosevelt wrote, "long job over." It was one of her few hasty judgments. The long job of protecting human rights continues everywhere people suffer discrimination ... every time they are punished for speaking the truth.

Fifty years is only a blink of the eye for a document that contains an eternal promise of renewal. We must stay the course - and stay true to our nation's most generous instincts.

America's destiny is to use our strength to help others help themselves. That destiny was conceived in our founding moment, with these five words from the Declaration of Independence: "all men are created equal." Today, we include all people in that thought, but it remains the same sublime idea expressed in 1776. And our rights only grow stronger as millions around the world see what they have freed Americans to do.

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human
beings to claim them.
#

21

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/10/98 9:07:44 AM
FROM Busby, Scott W.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: PRIORITY: Human Rights Day Fact Sheet [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Gobush, Matthew N.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY A couple of small changes to the Genocide section.

-----Original
Message-----
From: Gobush, Matthew N.
Sent: Thursday, December
10, 1998 8:52 AM
To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @PLANNING
- Strat Plan & Comm; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian A
@PRESS - Public Affairs
Subject: PRIORITY: Human Rights Day Fact
Sheet [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

FOR JS

Human rights
fact sheet for release this morning, with your approval.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

Human Rights Day Fact Sheet.doc
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 10, 1998

FACT SHEET

Human Rights Day 1998 and Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award

President Clinton today commemorates Human Rights Day and marks the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the General

Assembly declaration affirming fundamental freedoms and human rights

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Human Rights Policy Initiatives

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- Establishment of a genocide early warning center, jointly run by the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, to focus intelligence resources on situations that could potentially lead to genocide.

- Enhancing our response to human rights emergencies. The U.S. Agency for International Development will provide up to \$8 million over the next five years to non-governmental organizations to enhance their rapid response capabilities. Organizations can use these funds for a variety of purposes, including the creation of assessment teams, monitoring units or other means of addressing situations where human rights may be imminently threatened.

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- Issuing new guidelines for the adjudication of asylum claims by children and the

U.S. The U.S. is the second country after Canada to adopt such guidelines will sensitize immigration officials to the special needs of our youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers.

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General. The guide provides suggestions to school systems for addressing issue of school violence.

- Protecting victims of smugglers, traffickers and sweatshop owners. The Department of Justice will explore legislative options to address the immigration situation of illegal aliens in the U.S. who are the victims of serious abuse such as forced labor and forced prostitution. The aim is to encourage greater reporting to and cooperation with U.S. authorities in targeting abusers of human rights.

Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award

Eleanor Roosevelt was the driving force behind the adoption in 1948 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To honor her commitment to the principles of the Declaration the President established the Eleanor Roosevelt Award Human Rights.

For the inaugural recipients of this new award, the Secretary of State recommended, and the President approved, four distinguished American rights leaders.

- * Robert L. Bernstein, founder of the Fund for Free Expression and well Human Rights Watch and retired chairman of Random House.

- * Representative John Lewis, life-long civil rights leader.

- * Bette Bao Lord, human rights activist, China scholar and novelist.

- * Dorothy Q. Thomas, women's rights activist responsible for groundbreaking research and advocacy on human rights violations against women around world.

1998 Eleanor Roosevelt Award Citations

ROBERT L. BERNSTEIN

Robert Bernstein has dedicated his life to giving voice to the voiceless, publishing banned books to founding the groups that led to the creation of Human Rights Watch. His ceaseless efforts have increased both our determination and ability to oppose human rights violations wherever they occur. We honor him today for a life devoted to the active defense of freedom and dignity throughout the world.

JOHN LEWIS

For 40 years John Lewis has been at the vanguard of the civil rights struggle. From Freedom Rides to the House of Representatives, he has educated and mobilized generations of Americans in the crusade against injustice. He often did so at great personal risk, yet he never deviated from his commitment to peace through nonviolent means. We honor him today for his uncompromising heroism in the face of bigotry and his unswerving commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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Born in China, raised in the United States, Bette Bao Lord has dedicated her life to the defense of liberty, particularly through her inspired leadership of Freedom House. One of her books on China includes the story of a boy who flies a kite each day outside a prison so that his captive father will see the kite and not lose hope. Her work has similarly sustained hope in countless others. We honor her today for her own activism and for setting a high standard for rights and democracy activists around the world.

DOROTHY Q. THOMAS

Dorothy Thomas has played a leading role in efforts to define and defend women's rights around the world. Through her work at Human Rights Watch, she raised global awareness of state-sponsored violence and discrimination against women and helped reshape international law to fight these abuses. We honor her today for her courageous advocacy of women's rights as basic human rights.

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2

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/10/98 9:13:20 AM

FROM Gobush, Matthew N.

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT Human Rights Fact Sheet - FOR RELEASE [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Crowley, Philip J.
Leavy, David C.
Wozniak, Natalie S.

CARBON_COPY @SPEECH - NSC Speechwriters
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
Malinowski, Tomasz P.
Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
Bernard, Kenneth W.
Busby, Scott W.
Denniston, Richard L.
Guarnieri, Valerie N.
Hawley, Leonard R.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Kale, Dora A.
Malley, Robert
Moller, Catherine A.
Naplan, Steven J.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Wippman, David

TEXT_BODY PRESS: Please prepare for release ASAP. Cleared by Steinberg. Thank you!

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Human Rights Day Fact Sheet.doc
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 10, 1998

FACT SHEET

Human Rights Day 1998 and Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award

President Clinton today commemorates Human Rights Day and marks the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the General

Assembly declaration affirming fundamental freedoms and human rights

people. On the historic anniversary of the UDHR, President Clinton announced several policy initiatives to advance human rights at home and abroad. He honors four distinguished American human rights leaders as the inaugural recipients of the newly-created Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights

Human Rights Policy Initiatives

- Signing of a Human Rights Executive Order, that strengthens our efforts to implement human rights treaties, and creates an Administration working to coordinate these efforts.

- Establishment of a genocide early warning center, jointly run by the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, to focus intelligence resources on situations that could potentially lead to genocide.

- Enhancing our response to human rights emergencies. The U.S. Agency for International Development will provide up to \$8 million over the next five years to non-governmental organizations to enhance their rapid response capabilities. Organizations can use these funds for a variety of purposes, including the creation of assessment teams, monitoring units or other means of addressing situations where human rights may be imminently threatened.

- Providing increased assistance to victims of human rights abuse. The Department of State will significantly increase our annual contribution to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Torture Victims (from \$1.8 million in FY 1998 to \$3 million in FY 1999). This Fund distributes money to organizations around the world that rehabilitate those who have suffered torture. In addition, the Department of State is initiating a program to address the needs of genocide survivors in Rwanda, Bosnia and Cambodia. This program will primarily assist women, providing training and counseling.

- Combating child labor by contributing \$30 million this year to the International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor, a ten-fold increase over last year's \$3 million contribution. The program works with governments, businesses and non-governmental organizations to discourage the use of child labor around the world.

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/10/98 6:34:00 PM
FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT RBTP at Human Rights Day Presentation of Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award
[UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Crowley, Philip J.
Leavy, David C.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
@SPEECH - NSC Speechwriters
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
Malinowski, Tomasz P.
Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Remarks by the President
RBTP at Human Rights Day Presentation of
Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Human Rights Award.doc
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 10, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PRESENTATION
OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

10:39 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I want to welcome all of you here, the members of Congress, the members of our foreign policy team who have worked on this -- National Security Advisor Berger, Under Secretary Loy, Assistant Secretary Koh. I welcome Ambassador Nancy Rubin, the Ambassador of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights; Theresa Loar, the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues; members of the Roosevelt family and other distinguished guests.

I would like to say also before getting into my prepared remarks that someday when I write the memoirs of these last several years, one of the proudest moments of our administration for me will be the work the First Lady has done to advance the cause of human rights. (Applause.) I remember the speech she gave in Beijing on a rainy day, when people were struggling through the mud to get into that remote facility; the talk she gave just a few days ago at Gaston Hall, Georgetown University about Eleanor Roosevelt, I think one of the finest speeches she ever gave. But more important, the concrete work, the Vital Voices in Northern Ireland and Latin America, and all the little villages she visited in Latin America and Africa and Asia, on the Indian Subcontinent to try to advance the condition of women and children, experience young girls.

And I think that every person who has ever been the parent of a daughter could identify strongly with the remarks she just made and the brave women who were just introduced.

You know, most of us at least who have reached a certain age, we look forward to the holidays when our daughters come home from college and they have the human right to decide whether they want to come home or not. (Laughter.) When our daughters are married and they have our grandchildren, we hope they'll find a way to come home. Imagine -- I just wish there were some way for every American citizen to imagine how they would feel if the people Hillary just discussed were their daughters. I hope we can do more.

We are sponsoring these awards today and announcing them because, as of you know so well, 50 years ago in Paris the U.N. General Assembly voted to approve the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was a watershed moment for what was then a very young United Nations; a new chapter, however, in much, much older story -- the unending striving of humanity to realize its potential in the life of every person.

For its time, the Universal Declaration was quite bold. If you look at the world is going today, it's still quite a bold document. Like all great breakthroughs, it was an act of imagination and courage, an opening of heart and the mind with spare elegance. It served notice that for all our differences we share a common birthright.

You know, it's easy for us to forget, but if you think back to 1948, it might not have been particularly easy to affirm faith in mankind's future. After it was just three years after a cataclysmic war and the Holocaust; the Cold War was beginning to blight the postwar landscape; millions and millions more would die just in the Soviet Union under the terror of Stalin.

But this document did reaffirm faith in human kind -- it is really the Magna Carta of our humanity. Article I states that: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

There are no commas or parenthesis in this sentence, no qualifications or exceptions -- just the power of affirmation.

Other articles assert the freedom to worship, to work, to assemble, to participate in a life of meaning and purpose. Those words have now been translated into every language of the United Nations. Though 50 years come they still ring free, fresh and powerful, don't they? They resonate today because today human dignity is still under siege, not something that can be taken granted anywhere.

We all know how much the Declaration owed to the remarkable leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt. She rose to every challenge; she defended American idealism

she honestly admitted our own imperfections; she always called on the delegates from each delegate -- and she called on it again and again and again. Indeed, the delegate from Panama grew so exhausted by the pace that he had to remind Mrs. Roosevelt that the delegates had human rights, too. (Laughter).

Today we celebrate the life of this document and the lives it has saved and enhanced. Mrs. Roosevelt worried that it would be hard to translate ideas on paper into real places -- into kitchens and factories and ghettos and prisons. But words have power, ideas have power, and the march for human rights has steadily gained ground.

Since 1948, the United Nations has adopted legal instruments against genocide, slavery, apartheid, and discrimination against women and children. As nations grow more interdependent, the idea of a unified standard of human rights becomes easier to define and, more important than ever, to maintain.

Obviously, all nations have more work to do, and the United States is no exception. We must improve our own record, we must correct our own mistakes, even as we fulfill our responsibility to assist on improvement in other nations.

-- in totalitarian states, like North Korea; in military dictatorships, like Burma; in countries where leaders practice the politics of ethnic hatred, like Serbia and Iraq; in African nations where tribal differences have led to unimaginable slaughter; in nations where tolerance and faith must struggle against intolerant fundamentalism, like Afghanistan and Sudan; in Cuba where persons who strive for peaceful democratic change still are repressed and imprisoned; in China, where change has come to people's daily lives, but where basic political rights are still denied to too many.

Some suggest today that it is sheer arrogance for the President or for the United States to discuss such matters in other countries. Some say it is because we are not perfect here at home. If we had to wait for perfection, none of us would ever advance in any way. Some say it is because there are Asian values or African values or Western values dividing the human race into various sub-categories. Well, let's be honest -- there are. There are genuine cultural differences, which inevitably lead to different political and social structures. And that can be all to the good, because no one has the corner on the truth that makes life more interesting.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights does not say there are no differences among people -- it says what we have in common is more fundamental than our differences, and therefore, all the differences must be expressed in certain limits beyond which we dare not go without violating our common humanity.

This is a phony attack on those of you who fight every day for human rights. None of us want everyone to be the same; none of us want to have all the same religious practices; none of us want to have all the same social and political structures; none of us say we know exactly how life should be organized everywhere under all circumstances and how every problem should be solved. We say we have a common humanity and whatever you think should be done differently must be done within the limits that respects our common humanity.

Now, that means a lot to us on the verge of a new century, where freedom and knowledge and flexibility will mean more to people than ever before. We people in the poorest villages on every continent on this Earth will have a chance to leapfrog years and years and years of the development process simply because of the communications revolution -- if we respect universal human rights.

The Vice President said so well recently, in Asia, that we believe the peaceful democratic process that we have strongly endorsed will be even more essential to the world on the threshold of this new millennium. Throughout 1998, old fears and hatreds crumbled before the healing power of honest communication, faith in the future, a strong will for a better future.

Today in Oslo -- I'm happy about this -- today in Oslo, two leaders from Northern Ireland, John Hume and David Trimble, are receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts on the Good Friday Accord. In the Middle East, within two days, Palestinian and Israelis are struggling to bridge mutual distrust to implement the Wye Accords. In Kosovo, a serious humanitarian crisis has been averted, and the process toward reconciliation continues in Bosnia. All these breakthroughs were triumphs for human rights.

Today we commit ourselves to the ideas of the Universal Declaration, to keep moving toward the promise outlined in Paris 50 years ago.

First, we're taking steps to respond quickly to genocidal conditions, through the International Coalition Against Genocide I announced during my visit to Africa, and a new genocide early warning center sponsored by the Department of State and the CIA. We will provide additional support to the U.N. Torture Victims Fund and genocide survivors in Bosnia, Rwanda and Cambodia will continue assistance to women suffering under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. And USAID will provide up to \$8 million to NGOs to enhance their ability to respond more rapidly to human rights emergencies.

Second, we must do more for children who have always been especially vulnerable to human rights violations. This year I sought, and Congress provided, dramatic new support for the fight against child labor with a tenfold increase in U

States assistance to the International Labor Organization. Today, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is issuing new guidelines for the evaluation of asylum claims by children, making the process better serve youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers.

Third, we must practice at home what we preach abroad. Just this morning I signed an executive order that strengthens our ability to implement human rights treaties and creates an interagency group to hold us accountable for progress in honoring those commitments.

Fourth, I am concerned about aliens who suffer abuses at the hands of smugglers and sweatshop owners. These victims actually have a built-in disincentive to their unlawful status here -- that discourages them from complaining to authorities. So I'm asking the Department of Justice to provide legislative options to address this problem. And I know the Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder, and the Deputy Secretary of Labor, Kitty Higgins, are here, and trust they will work on this because I know they care as much about it as I do.

Finally, I'd like to repeat my support for two top legislative priorities -- the employment nondiscrimination act that would ban discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace, and a hate crimes prevention act. Last year, the

entire nation was outraged by the brutal killings of Matthew Shepard, a young gay student in Wyoming; and James Byrd, and African American in Texas. Americans are entitled to the same respect and legal protection, no matter their race their gender, their sexual orientation. I agree with something President Truman once said, "When I say Americans, I mean all Americans."

We will never relinquish the fight to move forward in the continuing struggle for human rights. I am aware that much of the best work in human rights has been done by those outside government -- students and activists, NGOs, brave religious leaders -- people from all backgrounds who simply want a better, safer world for their children. Many have done so in the face of great adversity -- the imprisoned members of the Internal Dissidents Working Group in Cuba, political prisoners of the National League for Democracy in Burma, the imprisoned dissidents in China. We make common cause with them all.

That is why, today, we are presenting the first Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights to four outstanding Americans -- not only for their own efforts, but because we know that, by working together, we can do more. From different backgrounds and generations they stand, all, in the great tradition of Eleanor Roosevelt, pioneers in the fight to expand the frontiers of freedom:

Robert Bernstein, a pathbreaker for freedom of expression and the protection of rights at home and abroad. Bette Bao Lord, the head of Freedom House, prolific author and campaigner. Dorothy Thomas, a champion of women's rights; the voice of a new generation committed to human rights. And John Lewis, a veteran in the civil rights struggle, now serving his Congress with great distinction in the House of Representatives.

I would like to ask the military aide to read the citations

(The citations are read.)

I'd like to ask the members of the Roosevelt family who are here to stand. Thank you. (Applause.)

The day the U.N. delegates voted to approve the Declaration, Eleanor Roosevelt

wrote, "Long job over." (Laughter.) One of the few mistakes she ever made (Laughter.) She left us and all our successors a big job that will never be over, for the Universal Declaration contains an eternal promise, one embraced by our founders in 1776, one that has to be reaffirmed every day in every way

In our country, each generation of Americans has had to do it -- in the struggle against slavery led by President Lincoln, in FDR's Four Freedoms, in the unfinished work of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, in the ongoing work here in this room.

I have learned in ways large and small in the last six years that there is within every person a scale of justice and that people can too easily be herded into hatred and extremism, often out of a belief that they have absolute truth and, therefore, are entitled to absolute power, that they can ignore any constitution, any laws, override any facts. There will always be work to be done.

And again, I would say to you that this award we gave to these four rich and deserving people is also for all of you who labor for human rights.

In the prologue of John Lewis's magnificent autobiography, "Walking with the Wind," he tells a stunning story that has become a metaphor for his life. It is a metaphor for your work, about being a little boy with his brothers and sisters and cousins in the house of a relative that was a very fragile house, when an enormous wind came up. And he said he was told that all the children hold hands, and one corner of the house would blow up in the wind and all the children would walk, holding hands, to the corner and it would go down. And then another corner would come up, and all the children would hold hands again and go to the other corner until the house came down. And by walking with the wind, hand-in-hand, they saved the house and the family and the children.

John says that that walk is a struggle to find the beloved community. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights applies to individuals, but it can be achieved by our common community.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

11:03 A.M. EST

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/10/98 6:39:03 PM
FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT Proclamation on Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, 1998
[UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Crowley, Philip J.
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TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

Human Rights Day Proclamation.doc
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 10, 1998

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, BILL OF RIGHTS DAY,
AND HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK, 1998

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

Thanks to the foresight of our Founding Fathers and their commitment t

human

rights, we live in a Nation founded upon the principles of equality, justice, and freedom -- principles guaranteed to us by our Constitution. With the me

tyranny fresh in their minds, the members of the First Congress of the United States proposed constitutional amendments known as the Bill of Rights, making explicit and forever protecting our Nation's cherished freedoms of religion, speech, press, and assembly.

But human rights have never been solely a domestic concern. American leaders have always sought to share these rights with oppressed people around the world. In his annual message to the Congress, on January 6, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt articulated this desire:

"In the future days, which we seek to secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression -- everywhere in the world; the second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way -- everywhere

in the world. The third is freedom from want The fourth is freedom from fear . . . anywhere in the world The world order which we seek is the cooperation of free countries, working together in a friendly, civilized society."

Fifty years ago, on December 10, 1948, the world reached a major milestone toward FDR's vision when the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights. This Declaration -- drafted by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights

under the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt -- established an international standard that recognized the "inherent dignity" and the "equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family" It denounced past "disregard and contempt for human rights [that] have resulted in barbarous acts which have

outraged the conscience of mankind"

Today, a majority of the world's people live in democracies and exercise their right to freely choose their own governments. International war crimes tribunals

seek justice for victims and their families by working to ensure that war

crimes against humanity, and genocide do not go unpunished. And we are heartened

by the progress toward peace made in Northern Ireland, the Middle East and elsewhere, which advances the cause of human rights. But there are still areas where human rights abuses are committed with impunity -- unchecked and unpunished.

To reaffirm our Nation's unequivocal commitment to upholding human today

I am issuing an Executive order to create an interagency working group enforce the human rights treaties we have already ratified and to make recommendations on treaties we have yet to ratify. In addition, my Administration is working to establish a genocide early warning center; fund nongovernmental organizations that respond rapidly in human rights emergencies. The Department of State is working to provide additional assistance

for Afghan women and girls under the oppressive rule of the Taliban. We also

supporting the work of the International Labor Organization in its effort eliminate child labor. Finally, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is issuing guidelines on how to handle cases where children seek asylum in United States.

This year, as we come together to celebrate the Declaration's 50th anniversary, let us not forget the driving force behind its creation. We are grateful that Eleanor Roosevelt brought her prodigious energies and talents to this task; it is fitting that we have established the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights, honoring others for their important contributions to protecting human rights around the world.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said that "the future belongs to those who believe

in the beauty of their dreams." Her accomplishments serve as an inspiration to us, and each of us can play a part in preserving and promoting her enduring

legacy. Let us each embrace the Declaration's promise by striving to uphold its principles and defending the rights it embodies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of

America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and of

the United States, do hereby proclaim December 10, 1998, as Human Rights Day;

December 15, 1998, as Bill of Rights Day; and the week beginning December 10,

1998, as Human Rights Week. I call upon the people of the United States to celebrate these observances with appropriate activities, ceremonies, and programs

that demonstrate our national commitment to the Bill of Rights, the United States Declaration of Human Rights, and the promotion and protection of human rights for all people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of December, in

the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the

Independence
of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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