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Folder Title:
[Executive Order, Human Rights Treaties, 13107]

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TO: LAKE

FROM: GROSSMAN, M

DOC DATE: 16 JUL 93
SOURCE REF: 9316383

KEYWORDS: HUMAN RIGHTS

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PERSONS:

SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR MOVING AHEAD W/ PENDING HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

ACTION: NFAR PER SCHWARTZ

DUE DATE: 22 JUL 93 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: SCHWARTZ

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FOR ACTION

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9305259

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001 SCHWARTZ
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CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 93071907 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
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FOR ACTION
SCHWARTZ

FOR CONCURRENCE
BEERS
CLARKE
RICE

FOR INFO
GROSS
ITOH
KENNEY
KRECZKO
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COMMENTS:

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Eric Schwartz

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DOC 1 OF 1



Washington, D.C. 20520

July 16, 1993

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MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Department Strategy for Moving Ahead with Pending
Human Rights Treaties

Following the Secretary's remarks in Vienna last month before the UN World Conference on Human Rights regarding the Administration's plans for four human rights treaties, the Department is preparing to take its next steps. Our response to an inquiry from Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Pell allows us to make public our specific intentions.

Moving ahead with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is an important step for the Administration's human rights policy. When we submit the treaty priorities list to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee shortly, we intend to place that treaty in the "priority" category.

At the same time, it is important not to leave all of the other human rights treaties, especially the Women's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in the lowest category, described as "under review," where they have been for the last 12 years. Leaving them there will be interpreted as a lack of commitment to human rights by the Administration and generate serious criticism almost immediately. In fact, the backlash could jeopardize the chances for early ratification of the Convention on Racial Discrimination.

There is particularly strong interest in the Women's Convention. We have a commitment to women's groups in this respect. Not only are they very active on the Hill, but they also have worked very closely and constructively with us on human rights issues at Vienna and on other issues such as population. Senate interest in this treaty is also very strong. Sixty-eight Senators wrote the President urging prompt Administration action on the Convention, and Senators Mitchell and Pell are personally very interested.

There is a fairly simple solution that leaves the Administration considerable flexibility in terms of timing and maneuver. That is to put the Women's Convention in the "generally desirable" category, along with some four other unrelated treaties.

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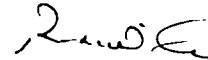
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This will be understood on the Hill and in the human rights community as consistent with the approach the Secretary outlined in Vienna, and allows us to control the ratification process in the long run while avoiding a very counterproductive outcry in the short run.

The Department understands that there are serious issues that must be addressed before we can actually move ahead with the Women's Convention. Elevating the priority of the Convention now, however, will still allow ample time for the interagency process to compile the specific reservations, declarations and understandings in areas of the Convention of concern to us.

The Department seeks NSC confirmation of this approach.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.



Marc Grossman
Executive Secretary

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