

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Original OA/ID Number: 2710				
Document ID: 9900835				
Stack: V	Row: 46	Section: 3	Shelf: 10	Position: 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9900835
RECEIVED: 05 FEB 99 19

TO: ANNAN, KOFI
ROBINSON, MARY

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 29 MAR 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: UN
HUMAN RIGHTS

HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 17 FEB 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BUSBY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION
STATE

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
BUSBY
KRASS
NSC CHRON
SCHWARTZ

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 3/18/2015
7011-D/68-F

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY  DATE 3/29 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY: NSTSM

DOC 5 OF 5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9900835

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 NAPLAN	Z	99020519	APPROPRIATE ACTION
001	Z	99021113	ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 BUSBY	Z	99021113	APPROPRIATE ACTION
002	Z	99032407	RECD STATE COMMENTS
002 BUSBY	Z	99032407	APPROPRIATE ACTION
003 BERGER	Z	99032614	FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
004	X	99032718	KERRICK SGD MEMO
004 PRESIDENT	Z	99032718	FOR SIGNATURE
005	X	99032921	PRESIDENT SGD LTRS
005 STATE	X	99032921	FOR DISPATCH

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

001	990119		STATE
004	990327		VICE PRESIDENT
004	990327		WH CHIEF OF STAFF
005	990329	STATE	
005	990329	ANNAN, KOFI	
005	990329	ROBINSON, MARY	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9900835
RECEIVED: 05 FEB 99 19

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBINSON, MARY
ANNAN, KOFI

DOC DATE: 19 JAN 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: UN
HUMAN RIGHTS

HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE DATE: 17 FEB 99 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: NAPLAN

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION
NAPLAN

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

BAKER
BERGER
DAVIES
KERRICK
LACKEY
SCHWARTZ
STATE
STEINBERG

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By V2 NARA, Date 3/18/2015
201-0168-F

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0835
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG MLC A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	<u>1</u>	<u>KJ</u>	
Rice			
Davies			
Kerrick			
Steinberg			
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>3/29 DWT</u>	<u>X</u> <u>for to state</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	<u>B 3/29</u>	<u>D</u>

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

CC:

COMMENTS:

DATE March 29, 1999 ?

150 MP 254 504

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0035
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG 5 A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>SSB</i> Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>(P) 3/26</u>	<u>Done</u>
Davies			
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<u>(K) 3/26</u>	
Steinberg	<u>copy</u>		
Berger	<u>copy</u>		
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>(R) 3/27</u>	<u>DCAPL</u>
Records Mgt.			

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc: *incoming received 5 Feb.* (P)

COMMENTS: *Letter to SG Annon* +
High Commissioner
Mary Robinson

139 MAR 20 11:27

Exec Sec Office has diskette yes

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0835
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG MLC A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
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Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	<u>B 3/29</u>	<u>D</u>

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

DATE March 29, 1999 ?

1999 MAR 29 PM 5:00

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0835
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG 3 A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<u>SSB</u> Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>(P) 3/26</u>	<u>Done</u>
Davies			
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<u>(K) 3/26</u>	
Steinberg	<u>copy</u>		
Berger	<u>copy</u>		
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>(B) 3/27</u>	<u>DCAPL</u>
Records Mgt.			

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

incoming received 5 Feb. (P)

COMMENTS:

Letter to SG Annan +
High Commissioner
Manu Robinson

1999 MAR 26 PM 1:27

Exec Sec Office has diskette yes

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 29, 1999

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I share your commitment to advancing the noble principles contained in this important document.

As you may know, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, I issued an Executive Order relating to the implementation of human rights treaties in the United States. The chief purpose of that Order was to reaffirm to all components of our Federal Government our duty and commitment to implement fully the obligations we have undertaken by ratifying certain human rights instruments. I am happy to say that we are already pursuing several of the objectives you urge, including the signature and ratification of additional human rights instruments. We will keep you apprised of significant developments in the areas referenced in your letter.

Again, thank you for sharing your views with me on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Honorable
Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 29, 1999

Dear Madam High Commissioner:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I share your commitment to advancing the noble principles contained in this important document.

As you may know, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, I issued an Executive Order relating to the implementation of human rights treaties in the United States. The chief purpose of that Order was to reaffirm to all components of our Federal Government our duty and commitment to implement fully the obligations we have undertaken by ratifying certain human rights instruments. I am happy to say that we are already pursuing several of the objectives you urge, including the signature and ratification of additional human rights instruments. We will keep you apprised of significant developments in the areas referenced in your letter.

Again, thank you for sharing your views with me on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the "i" in "Clinton".

Her Excellency
Mary Robinson
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9900835

REFERRAL

DATE: 29 MAR 99

MEMORANDUM FOR: KENNEY, K

STATE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: ANNAN, KOFI

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 29 MAR 99

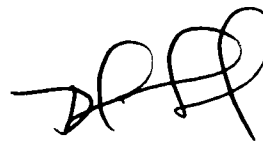
SUBJ: IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 30 MAR 99

COMMENT:

FOR



JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
DISTRIBUTION RECEIPT

LOG 9900835
DATE 29 MAR 99

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

DATE

TIME

SIGNATURE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ROOM 7224
2201 C STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20520
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PRINT LAST NAME: _____

COPY: ORIGINALS

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ATTACHMENTS
Initials: VZ Date: 3/19/2015

701-0168-E

DATE, TIME, SIGN THE RECEIPT AND RETURN TO: NSC RECORDS MGNT, ROOM 379 OEOB
PAGE 01 OF 01 PAGES

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

PRECEDENCE: _____ IMMEDIATE RELEASER: _____
_____ PRIORITY _____
_____ ROUTINE DTG: _____

MESSAGE NO: _____ CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PAGES: 3
(Including Cover)
FROM: NSC West Wing Desk (202) 456-9425 WH Situation Room
(NAME) (PHONE NUMBER) (ROOM NO.)
MESSAGE DESCRIPTION: POTUS LTR TO UN SEC GEN + UN HCHR re
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS NSC LOG # 0835

<u>TO (AGENCY)</u> <u>STATE</u>	<u>DELIVER TO</u> <u>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY</u>	<u>DEPT/ROOM NO.</u>	<u>PHONE NUMBER</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____

REMARKS:

ADVANCE COPY FOR CABLING, ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW

2 letters

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ATTACHMENTS
Initials: VR Date: 3/19/05
2011-0168-f

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 27, 1999

733 MAR 27 1999

Signed 3-29-99

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

SAMUEL BERGER (K) in

SUBJECT:

Implementing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Purpose

Respond to a letter from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson.

Background

Kofi Annan and Mary Robinson wrote to thank you for your participation in the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to urge you to implement fully the provisions in that document. Specifically, they recommend that we sign and ratify the principal international human rights treaties, publicize the Universal Declaration among all our citizens, and implement the recent UN Declaration in Support of Human Rights Defenders.

Your response notes that you helped commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration by issuing an Executive Order that reaffirms our duty and commitment to implement those human rights treaties to which we are a party.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Proposed Response

Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

March 26, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER (K) F

THROUGH: ERIC SCHWARTZ *DW for ES*

FROM: SCOTT BUSBY *DW for SB*

SUBJECT: Implementing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Attached is a memorandum to the President and a response to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson on the subject issue.

This response was delayed by our involvement in preparations for the President's trip to Central America, and by our effort to respond to high priority letters from the Congress regarding our recent Executive Order on the Implementation of Human Rights Treaties.

Concurrence by: Caroline Krass) *by email*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Proposed Response
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

0825

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

19 January 1999

Excellency,

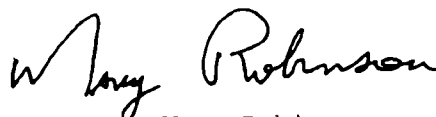
We have just concluded the historic commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are most grateful to you and your Government for your participation in this event and for your affirmation of commitment to the purposes of the Universal Declaration.

The United Nations and its Member States could pay no greater tribute to those who framed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights than by giving practical meaning to their ideas and vision. We would jointly urge all Governments to set themselves the following objectives:

- All States should sign and ratify the two Covenants and the four principal Conventions within the next five years;
- All States should make the Universal Declaration known to every one of their citizens, starting by introducing it to all primary education curricula;
- All states should implement the General Assembly's Declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, not just formally but in a true spirit of support for human rights defenders everywhere;
- Most importantly, all States should redouble their efforts to implement the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration in full.

We look forward to hearing from you on the progress made by your Government in implementing the above.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Mary Robinson
High Commissioner for Human Rights



Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency
Mr. William J. Clinton
President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEWYORK

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE.

21 January 1999

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Excellency Mr. William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Iqbal Riza', with a stylized flourish at the end.

S. Iqbal Riza
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Bill Richardson
Permanent Representative of the United States
to the United Nations
New York, N.Y.



S/S 9901930

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 4, 1999

Memorandum for:

**Mr. Glyn T. Davies
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House**

Subject:

Alerting NSCS on Presidential Correspondence

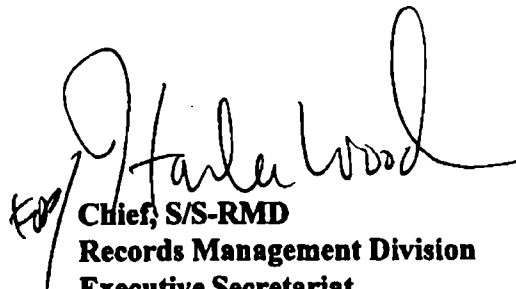
Enclosed is the original of a letter to President Clinton from

UN SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI A. ANNAN

which is transmitted for your information. This correspondence was received in the

Records Management Division of the Executive Secretariat on FEBRUARY 4, 1999

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


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

UNCLASSIFIEDClassification**DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT****TRANSMITTAL FORM**S/S 9901930Date March 23, 1999

FOR: Glyn T. Davies
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President William J. Clinton
From: Mr. Kofi A. Annan
Date: 19 January 1999
Subject: 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS

WH Referral Dated: _____

NSCS ID# (if any): _____

_____ The attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

_____ A draft reply is attached.
_____ A draft reply will be forwarded.
_____ A translation is attached.
_____ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
_____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
_____ The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.
_____ x Other (see remarks).

REMARKS:

NSC has prepared a response for the President,
cleared by DRL and L.

[Signature]
Office of the
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIEDClassification



S/S 9901930

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 4, 1999

**Memorandum for: Mr. Glyn T. Davies
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House**

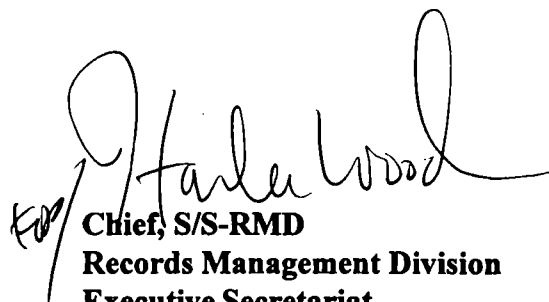
Subject: Alerting NSCS on Presidential Correspondence

Enclosed is the original of a letter to President Clinton from

UN SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI A. ANNAN

**which is transmitted for your information. This correspondence was received in the
Records Management Division of the Executive Secretariat on FEBRUARY 4, 1999.**

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


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

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9900835

REFERRAL

DATE: 05 FEB 99

MEMORANDUM FOR: KENNEY, K

STATE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: ROBINSON, MARY

DATE: 19 JAN 99

SUBJ: UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

DUE DATE:

COMMENT:


 FOR

JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

OFFICE OF MULTILATERAL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

FAX COVER SHEET

NATIONAL
SECURITY
COUNCIL

17th & Penn, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20504

Did you get a complete,
clear transmission? If not,
please call:

(202) 456- 9141

From: Scott Busby 456-9141 (phone) /456-9140 (fax)

To: Steve Wagoner 647- 4344
Bev Zweiben 647- 4628
Andre Suvana 736- 7116

Date/Time:

No. of pages to follow: 1

RE:

Draft response to Annan -
Robinson. Please communicate
your clearances to David
Wipman at 456-9141 by
noon on Monday. (I will

be on vacation, I hope.)

DRAFT

Dear Secretary-General Annan and High Commissioner Robinson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I share your commitment to advancing the noble principles in that document.

As you may know, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, I issued an Executive Order relating to the Implementation of Human Rights Treaties in the United States. The chief purpose of that Order was to reaffirm to all components of our Federal Government our duty and commitment to implement fully the obligations we have undertaken by ratifying certain human rights instruments. To enhance our ability to do so, the Order established an Interagency Working Group on Human Rights Treaties which will consider and coordinate actions on these matters. I attach a copy of the Order for your reference.

The Group has already met several times and will continue to do so on a monthly basis. Among other things, the Group is pursuing several of the objectives you urge, including the signature and ratification of additional human rights instruments, the more effective dissemination of the Universal Declaration to our citizens and the implementation of the General Assembly's recent declaration on human rights defenders. We will keep you apprised of significant developments in these areas.

Again, thank you for your letter. I appreciate the attention you are devoting to these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Secretary-General Kofi Annan
High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson
United Nations, NY 10017

*** MULTI TN REPORT ***

TX/RX NO 1773
INCOMPLETE TX/RX
TRANSACTION OK (1) 96474344
(2) 96474628
(3) 97367116
ERROR

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

OFFICE OF MULTILATERAL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

FAX COVER SHEET

**NATIONAL
SECURITY
COUNCIL**

17th & Penn, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20504

Did you get a complete,
clear transmission? If not,
please call:

(202) 456-9141

From: Scott Busby 456-9141 (phone) /456-9140 (fax)

To: Steve Wagoner 647-4344
Ben Zweigen 647-4628
Andre Sorena 736-7116

Date/Time:

No. of pages to follow: 1

RE:

Draft response to Annan -
Robinson. Please communicate
your clearance to David
Wipman at 456-9141 by
noon on Monday. (I will

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Implementing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Purpose

AP To respond to a letter from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson.

Background

Kofi ~~Secretary General~~ Annan and *Mary* ~~High Commissioner~~ Robinson wrote to thank you for your participation in the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to urge you to implement fully the provisions in that document. Specifically, they recommend that we sign and ratify the principal international human rights treaties, publicize the Universal Declaration among all our citizens, and implement the recent UN Declaration in Support of Human Rights Defenders.

Your response notes that you helped commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration by issuing an Executive Order that reaffirms our duty and commitment to implement those human rights treaties to which we are a party. ~~You note that the Order established an Interagency Working Group on these issues, which, among other things, is pursuing recommendations made by Annan and Robinson.~~

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Proposed Response

Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2 letters

me.

Dear Secretary-General: ~~Annan~~ [and High Commissioner Robinson:]

Thank you for your letter regarding the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I share your commitment to advancing the noble principles in that document.

contained this important

As you may know, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, I issued an Executive Order relating to the implementation of human rights treaties in the United States. The chief purpose of that Order was to reaffirm to all components of our Federal Government our duty and commitment to implement fully the obligations we have undertaken by ratifying certain human rights instruments. ~~To enhance our ability to do so, the Order established an Interagency Working Group on Human Rights Treaties that will consider and coordinate actions on these matters. A copy of the Executive Order is enclosed for your reference.~~

I am happy to say that we are

~~The group has met several times and will continue to do so on a monthly basis. The group is already pursuing several of the objectives you urge, including the signature and ratification of additional human rights instruments. We will keep you apprised of significant developments in the areas referenced in your letter.~~

Again, thank you for sharing your views with me on these important issues.

Sincerely,

① The Honorable
② Secretary-General Kofi Annan
High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson
United Nations NY 10017
③ Secretary - General of the United Nations
④ New York
- New York
Enclosure
Spell out
Dear Madam High Commissioner
① Her Excellency
② Mary Robinson
③ United Nations High C - for Human Rights
④ Geneva

Do not include
enclosure.
(R)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 10, 1998

EXECUTIVE ORDER

- - - - -

IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and bearing in mind the obligations of the United States pursuant to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and other relevant treaties concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights to which the United States is now or may become a party in the future, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Implementation of Human Rights Obligations.

(a) It shall be the policy and practice of the Government of the United States, being committed to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, fully to respect and implement its obligations under the international human rights treaties to which it is a party, including the ICCPR, the CAT, and the CERD.

(b) It shall also be the policy and practice of the Government of the United States to promote respect for international human rights, both in our relationships with all other countries and by working with and strengthening the various international mechanisms for the promotion of human rights, including, inter alia, those of the United Nations, the International Labor Organization, and the Organization of American States.

Sec. 2. Responsibility of Executive Departments and Agencies. (a) All executive departments and agencies (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 101-105, including boards and commissions, and hereinafter referred to collectively as "agency" or

"agencies") shall maintain a current awareness of United States international human rights obligations that are relevant to their functions and shall perform such functions so as to respect and implement those obligations fully. The head of each agency shall designate a single contact officer who will be responsible for overall coordination of the implementation of this order. Under this order, all such agencies shall retain their established institutional roles in the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of Federal law and policy.

(b) The heads of agencies shall have lead responsibility, in coordination with other appropriate agencies, for questions concerning implementation of human rights obligations that fall within their respective operating and program responsibilities and authorities or, to the extent that matters do not fall within the operating and program responsibilities and authorities of any agency, that most closely relate to their general areas of concern.

Sec. 3. Human Rights Inquiries and Complaints. Each agency shall take lead responsibility, in coordination with other appropriate agencies, for responding to inquiries, requests for information, and complaints about violations of human rights obligations that fall within its areas of responsibility or, if the matter does not fall within its areas of responsibility, referring it to the appropriate agency for response.

Sec. 4. Interagency Working Group on Human Rights Treaties. (a) There is hereby established an Interagency Working Group on Human Rights Treaties for the purpose of providing guidance, oversight, and coordination with respect to questions concerning the adherence to and implementation of human rights obligations and related matters.

(b) The designee of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs shall chair the Interagency Working Group, which shall consist of appropriate policy and legal representatives at the Assistant Secretary level from the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other agencies as the chair deems appropriate. The principal members may designate alternates to attend meetings in their stead.

(c) The principal functions of the Interagency Working Group shall include:

(i) coordinating the interagency review of any significant issues concerning the implementation of this order and analysis and recommendations in connection with pursuing the ratification of human rights treaties, as such questions may from time to time arise;

(ii) coordinating the preparation of reports that are to be submitted by the United States in fulfillment of treaty obligations;

(iii) coordinating the responses of the United States Government to complaints against it concerning alleged human rights violations submitted to the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and other international organizations;

(iv) developing effective mechanisms to ensure that legislation proposed by the Administration is reviewed for conformity with international human rights obligations and that these obligations are taken into account in reviewing legislation under consideration by the Congress as well;

(v) developing recommended proposals and mechanisms for improving the monitoring of the actions by the various States, Commonwealths, and territories of the United States and, where appropriate, of Native Americans and Federally recognized Indian tribes, including the review of State, Commonwealth, and territorial laws for their conformity with relevant treaties, the provision of relevant information for reports and other monitoring purposes, and the promotion of effective remedial mechanisms;

(vi) developing plans for public outreach and education concerning the provisions of the ICCPR, CAT, CERD, and other relevant treaties, and human rights-related provisions of domestic law;

(vii) coordinating and directing an annual review of United States reservations, declarations, and understandings to human rights treaties, and matters as to which there have been non-trivial complaints or allegations of inconsistency with or breach of international human rights obligations, in order to determine whether there should be consideration of any modification of relevant reservations, declarations, and understandings to human rights treaties, or United States practices or laws. The results and recommendations of this review shall be reviewed by the head of each participating agency;

(viii) making such other recommendations as it shall deem appropriate to the President, through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, concerning United States adherence to or implementation of human rights treaties and related matters; and

(ix) coordinating such other significant tasks in connection with human rights treaties or international human rights institutions, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Special Rapporteurs and complaints procedures established by the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

(d) The work of the Interagency Working Group shall not supplant the work of other interagency entities, including the President's Committee on the International Labor Organization, that address international human rights issues.

Sec. 5. Cooperation Among Executive Departments and Agencies. All agencies shall cooperate in carrying out the provisions of this order. The Interagency Working Group shall facilitate such cooperative measures.

Sec. 6. Judicial Review, Scope, and Administration. (a) Nothing in this order shall create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

(b) This order does not supersede Federal statutes and does not impose any justiciable obligations on the executive branch.

(c) The term "treaty obligations" shall mean treaty obligations as approved by the Senate pursuant to Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

(d) To the maximum extent practicable and subject to the availability of appropriations, agencies shall carry out the provisions of this order.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
December 10, 1998.

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