



Lima, November 15, 2000

**Your Excellency
Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady
U.S.A.**

Dear Ms. Rodham Clinton :

Today I wish to share with you the expectation, hope and responsibility that I proudly embraced when I assumed the commitment to have Peru as the venue for the Tenth Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. This forum was privileged to share experiences, express realities and especially find common solutions to social problems that hamper our societies and that urge us to not be indifferent.

The Adolescents of the Americas were our common objective as well as the understanding that they are called upon to forge the future of the new millennium, an encouraging conviction. The work carried out with the Offices of the First Ladies, that pooled their efforts for this major project, has been an enriching experience that has made me feel proud.

Unfortunately, in view of the current political circumstances, against my own deep will, it forces me to cancel this conference since these events may interfere with the noble goals that it pursues.

I sincerely hope that the work that has been carried out with so much effort and dedication throughout these months will be carried forward through the projects that have been presented by the International Agencies as specified in the Plan of Action and the commitments to be adopted through the Declaration of Lima. I sincerely hope that this material will be used as a responsible contribution made by Peru for a future conference.

For that reason, I rest assured of your understanding in view of this difficult situation and hope that you will excuse any inconvenience caused by the canceling of this event.

Finally, I feel very fortunate for having had this opportunity to offer to the Americas as a meeting ground for our mission. In the expectation that Peru, in a near future, will be able to assume this unforgettable responsibility that joins all the Americas in a special manner, I wish to reiterate my sincere respects and best wishes.

Sincerely,

**Keiko Sofía Fujimori Higuchi
First Lady of Peru**

TALKING IT OVER**BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****RELEASE: WEEKEND, OCTOBER 14-15, 1995**

One thing I've learned since becoming First Lady is that wherever I go, Eleanor Roosevelt has surely been there before me.

I've been to farms in Iowa and factories in Michigan where Mrs. Roosevelt paid a visit a half century ago. I've been to schools and colleges named for Mrs. Roosevelt and walked the halls of hospitals she toured before I was born.

Even when I go to other countries, Mrs. Roosevelt has doubtless been there first. When my daughter and I went to Pakistan and India last spring, we discovered that Eleanor Roosevelt had traveled there in 1952, and even had written a book about her trip.

Now I'm in South America, following in Mrs. Roosevelt's footsteps yet again. She came here several times and visited several countries, sharing her vision of justice and compassion with all who would listen. The United States, she believed, had a vested interest in helping any neighbor in our hemisphere that sought to build a democratic way of life.

"Our obligation to the world is primarily our obligation to our own future," she once said. "Obviously, we cannot develop beyond a certain point unless other nations develop, too."

Traveling now through South America, I find myself thinking often about Mrs. Roosevelt -- who was born 111 years ago last Wednesday. And I'm convinced that if she were still alive today, nothing would thrill her more than coming to watch children perform at the Circus School in Brazil.

It's a place I'm visiting on this trip where runaway children learn the principles of discipline and teamwork, and build self-confidence through acrobatics and trapeze training. Not only do these children show a renewed interest in education and improved attendance in school, they perform before sellout crowds every weekend.

Mrs. Roosevelt also would be right at home chatting with the poor women I met at a neighborhood center in Santiago, Chile, or listening to women in Managua, Nicaragua, talk about the sewing businesses they started with \$100 loans from the local bank and support from the U.S. government.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON 10/14-15/95

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Wherever she went, Mrs. Roosevelt celebrated the richness of the human experience. She appreciated every person's potential to do something great with very little. Perhaps that is why people all over the world, including here in South America, remember her with such admiration and fondness.

She was, in the words of historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, "a woman for all times and all people."

I know I will think about Mrs. Roosevelt again during the last leg of my trip. In Paraguay. There, I'll be participating in a conference of First Ladies from the Western Hemisphere. We'll be talking about ways to improve the health and education of children and families throughout the Americas.

It's a conversation that began last December in Miami when we met during a summit the President hosted for all the democratic nations of North and South America.

We have much at stake when it comes to building relations with our neighbors to the south. Many men and women in our country trace their roots to Latin America. And people living in those countries are among the biggest consumers of American goods and services.

Just last week, we hosted the President of Mexico for a state visit at the White House. As you may recall, our government offered loans and loan guarantees to Mexico to help that nation's economy stay afloat earlier this year. Already Mexico has paid back a significant portion of the loans ahead of schedule.

On a personal note, I am looking forward to spending time over the next few days with women from North and South America who are willing to devote their energy and ideas to nurturing the next generation. I think it's a wonderful way to celebrate Mrs. Roosevelt's birthday. After all, it was her example in both words and deeds that showed us how to bridge national boundaries and cultural traditions to achieve our common goals.

Talking to these First Ladies of today, I know I will be thinking of my inspiring predecessor.

Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt.

And happy birthday.

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**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The pregnant woman wore an alpaca shawl over her blouse and full skirt, the traditional Indian dress in Bolivia. She looked about 35 and was attending a prenatal class at a health clinic I visited this week in the Bolivian capital, La Paz. She was nursing a 3-month-old baby and expecting her eighth child, who she hoped would be her last.

I was in Bolivia to attend the Sixth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Women from countries throughout the Western Hemisphere got together to talk about strategies to eliminate measles, promote education reform and improve maternal health in our region.

Bolivia, a country of majestic beauty in the heart of South America, was an auspicious location for such a discussion. More women die in Bolivia during pregnancy and childbirth than in any other country in South America. But in the face of this human tragedy, Bolivia has become a model of how one nation can respond to the crisis of maternal mortality by galvanizing the government, non-governmental organizations and the medical establishment to launch a nationwide family-planning campaign.

In a country where half of all expecting mothers go through pregnancy and childbirth alone -- without medical attention of any kind -- Bolivia's aggressive effort to educate women about their own health and their options for childbearing is resulting in safer pregnancies, stronger families and fewer abortions. Without access to family planning, women in Bolivia -- and in many developing nations -- often turn in desperation to illegal, unsafe abortions that can end in death or serious injury. Deaths from abortion complications account for half of all maternal deaths in Bolivia.

As Bolivia has ably demonstrated, voluntary family planning teaches women about the benefits of spacing children several years apart, breast-feeding, good nutrition, prenatal and postpartum visits and safe deliveries. It also decreases the number of abortions.

Bolivia's success at preventing mothers from dying and lowering abortion rates has been possible, in part, because of help from the United States and other countries. The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided financial and technical assistance to help Bolivia establish a network of primary health care clinics.

The clinic I visited in La Paz is one that the United States helped start. Called PROSALUD (which, loosely translated, means "for the good of health" in Spanish), the clinic has doctors and nurses who offer round-the-clock prenatal, obstetric and pediatric services, as well as counseling about family planning in a poor neighborhood of 15,000 people. In the first six months of this year, the clinic staff provided 2,200 medical consultations, delivered 200 babies, registered 700 new family-planning users and immunized 2,500 children.

There are obvious benefits of such a program to Bolivian women, children and families, but health and family-planning services also help alleviate poverty and contribute to the economic stability of a democratic ally in our hemisphere. Yet opponents of foreign assistance and particularly of family planning in Congress are trying to eviscerate U.S. funding for programs like the one I saw at PROSALUD. Some argue that the United States has no national interest in the health and well-being of other countries' citizens. Others mistakenly suggest that family planning is being used to encourage -- rather than decrease -- abortions. In fact, our government has prohibited funding of any overseas project that promotes abortion since 1973.

Ignoring this, Congress last year approved draconian cuts in family-planning assistance amounting to a 35 percent reduction in funds. To add insult to injury, the cuts were accompanied by new restrictions that delayed delivery of aid for the first nine months of the fiscal year.

Similar harsh cuts and delays are included in the current budget, meaning that many organizations could again be denied assistance for months and then receive it only in monthly installments.

According to a recent analysis by five population organizations, the funding cuts alone will result in an increase of 1.6 million abortions, more than 8,000 maternal deaths, and 134,000 infant deaths in developing countries.

Family-planning campaigns at work in Bolivia and elsewhere represent sensible, cost-effective and long-term strategies for improving women's health, strengthening families and lowering the rate of abortion. My husband's administration remains committed to the continuation of these investments. And I will do everything I can to ensure that U.S. support for these initiatives continues. If you share my concern, I hope you will add your voice to mine and give all women everywhere the same opportunities for their lives we take for granted in ours.

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December 3, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bill and I spent a week in Mexico for our honeymoon. Like most American tourists, we reveled in Mexico's rich history, lively culture, warm people and great food. (And like many Mexicans, we also honeymooned with our parents.)

We were particularly excited about returning to Mexico last week, this time for an official state visit that also took us to summits of Central American leaders in Costa Rica and Caribbean leaders in Barbados. Each stop reminded us how much this vast region has changed in the last two decades and how its future is inextricably tied to our own.

We are connected to our Latin American neighbors by both geography and history: The United States now claims the fifth largest Hispanic population in the world. But we are also bound together by technology, trade and the forces of global economic integration. And we share many of the same concerns, from drugs, crime and environmental decay to strengthening democracy throughout the region.

For decades, Central America was torn apart by civil wars, bloody coups, repression and poverty. With the historic signing of the peace accords in Guatemala in December 1996, the region is finally free of war and conflict. Democracy now exists in every country in Central America. Political and economic reforms are leading to new hope for lasting peace and increasing prosperity from the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean.

From the moment I landed in Merida on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula to the day we left Bridgetown, Barbados, eight days later, I could see that many men and women are responsible for brightening the prospects for our hemisphere's future. The people of Merida welcomed me with a program of music and folkloric dance staged before one of the oldest churches in Mexico. Choruses sang in Spanish and Mayan, the language of the ancient culture that produced great pyramids like those I visited the next day at Uxmal.

I met with several hundred women from across the country, many direct descendants of the Mayans, Aztecs and other indigenous people of MesoAmerica. Thanks to small loans they have received through microcredit projects, they have been able to earn a living for themselves and their families selling goods as varied as ceramics, honey, coffee, hammocks and clothing.

These women, who might otherwise have been left on the outskirts of opportunity, have discovered their potential to take control of their lives and their futures, not through a handout but through their own hard work. At the same time, they are helping preserve their indigenous heritage, giving people the world over a chance to enjoy the products they create and becoming better integrated into the society and economy of Mexico.

I saw the same tremendous entrepreneurial spirit in Costa Rica at a forum sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the InterAmerican Development Bank. One woman had started a thriving business in rare orchids; another makes clothing for children; and one man described how he and his father used small loans to become organic farmers.

Most memorable, however, was an Indian woman from Guatemala who proudly told a large crowd that she had started out selling mangoes on the street when she was 12. With microloans, she expanded her line of goods and now employs others. Her profits enabled her to send her children to school, including a son to the University of North Carolina.

Economic participation, which microenterprise ensures for countless poor men and women around the world, is a human right essential to the success of any democracy. But so too are all human rights, which have often been violated in Latin America, sometimes with the encouragement or indifference of my own country. To highlight the U.S. commitment to human rights, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and I visited the Institute for Human Rights in Costa Rica, which has dedicated itself to ensuring political and legal rights.

Throughout the region, men and women have risked -- and lost -- their lives to fight for freedom and social justice. Fortunately, their work and sacrifice contributed to Central America's movement away from the repressive regimes and human rights abuses of years past. Still, the transition to democracy remains incomplete -- particularly when it comes to the rights of women. Seated around a simple table at the institute, women from Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador reported about the obstacles they face, ranging from violence in and out of their homes to a lack of laws protecting them.

From Central America, we traveled to the Caribbean, a region from which many Americans trace their roots -- and to which many Americans return for vacations. Countries there have been particularly hard hit by changes in the global economy. At a regional microenterprise forum, I announced a grant that, as part of the President's initiative to help the region, will expand Caribbean microcredit projects.

Luckily, the trip was not all business and meetings. Bill and I were able to spend one wonderful day relaxing on Barbados, which reminded us of our honeymoon. We slept, read, sunned and swam. He graduated from crutches to cane. And we came back refreshed and more convinced of the importance of strengthening our ties with our friends and neighbors in this hemisphere.

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May 13, 1997

TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Last week, I went to Panama, and this week, I am accompanying Bill on his state visits to Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina. Since I firmly believe relationships between the United States and Latin America are critical to the entire hemisphere's future peace, I wish every American could be on these trips with us.

Then, Americans could see for themselves how what happens thousands of miles south of our border affects our lives at home. Venezuela, for example, is our biggest supplier of oil -- and home to some of the best players in major league baseball. Brazil, with more than 160 million people, is a multiracial democracy struggling with some of the same problems we face. Argentina has joined with us in U.N. peacekeeping operations around the world -- from Haiti to Bosnia.

And Panamanians and Americans are working to define our partnership after the Panama Canal reverts to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999. The United States is the principal beneficiary of the goods that travel through the canal, which allows ships to cross between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans without sailing around the tip of South America. In fact, at the Miraflores Locks, canal officials permitted me to open a set of locks for a 33,000-ton South Korean container ship on its way from Savannah, Ga., to Long Beach, Calif.

Over a century ago, building the canal was essential to improving opportunities for people all over the Americas. As daunting as that task was, we face what may be an even harder challenge today. Instead of mountains, we seek to move hearts, to change old attitudes, to banish hunger and disease, to educate all our children and to empower the women of our hemisphere to participate fully in the life of our nations.

Empowering women to make the most of their God-given promise was one of the main themes of the Seventh Annual Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Governments of the Americas I attended in Panama City. Each year since the 1994 Summit of the Americas in Miami, we have tried to shine a spotlight on -- and take action to address -- some of the most important issues facing women and children in our hemisphere: primary education, eradicating measles, maternal mortality, family planning and women's political participation.

A few years ago, Faustina Nunez and her friends acted on their dream to make the most of their abilities. They started a business growing plants and seedlings to sell in the cities of Panama and to the government's reforestation programs. Their neighbors laughed at the idea. "They said that our nursery was going to fail, that this was something

the men did, not women," she told me and Panama's First Lady, Dora Perez-Ballardares, when we visited the 5-acre nursery in Chica, a small hilltop village at the edge of the tropical forest.

But Faustina and her partners, who called themselves the Association for Gender, Nature and Progress, were not discouraged. Within two years, the women had sold enough orchids, medicinal plants and seedlings to expand their business. They had provided seedlings to reclaim 48 acres of the deforested Altos de Campana National Park. And most importantly for them, where before they had worked for free on their husbands' vegetable farms, they were now able to contribute to the family finances, to bring in extra income to buy books and school clothes for their children.

"We grew and grew, and our community was able to see that we were playing an important role," Faustina said. "We were a society of strong-willed women, and we were not going to step back."

Part of the work Faustina and her partners are accomplishing is helping reforest the land around the grand Panama Canal. When I flew over the canal in a U.S. Army helicopter, I saw one of the world's engineering marvels and a tribute both to technological innovation and human fortitude. But I also saw some of the damage man has caused to Panama's rich tropical forest in the canal watershed.

Acres of thick, green forest tapered off into barren land dotted by tall yellow grasses, naked trees and fields abandoned by poor farmers who had moved on to clear more land. Over the past 40 years, slash-and-burn agriculture has reduced Panama's forests by half, causing soil erosion and depleting much of the fresh water supply the canal depends on to function smoothly.

Faustina, her partners and other women are part of a joint effort by Panama and the United States to turn this situation around. Our cooperation isn't limited to this. Americans and Panamanians are also working on a multinational counter-narcotics center that would monitor, track and stop drugs coming north. Just as men of imagination, talent and perseverance sought to connect the oceans in an earlier time, today, men and women of goodwill and vision are working together, within and across borders, to solve today's problems.

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October 14, 1997

First Ladies Conference in Ottawa, Canada

**Ninth Conference of the Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**

**Ottawa, Canada
September 30, 1999**

MRS. ALINE CHRÉTIEN: And now, it is my great pleasure to introduce our next speaker, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton. (Applause)

MRS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Thank you very much. I am delighted to join all of you again for this Ninth Conference of the Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

Since we were last together, our hemisphere, particularly Central America and the Caribbean, have suffered greatly from the triple threat of the hurricanes Mitch, George and Floyd. And I know that all of us have been particularly concerned about helping our friends and neighbors in those areas that were so devastated to recover and move forward with the plans that—we know so well from the reports we have received—that they are undertaking on behalf of further progress in their countries.

I am very pleased to be back in Ottawa, a place that my husband and I have very fond memories of from our last visit here nearly five years ago.

I particularly remember ice skating with Aline on the Rideau Canal. And my piece of advice is: do not ice skate with Aline, who is a graceful, beautiful ice skater. But she does everything that way, and over the years I have come to admire and respect and have great affection for her and the way she discharges her duties. I appreciate very much the support and leadership that she has given to this endeavor and the excellent job that she has done in putting together this conference.

I also want to thank the government and people of Canada for supporting this conference, and particularly for inviting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to this meeting. So many of us have seen firsthand the work that NGOs do in our countries and throughout our hemisphere. We have seen the patient grassroots activism; we have seen the partnerships that are created among the public, the private and the NGO sectors.

Much of the progress we are discussing today, and hoping for for tomorrow, would not have been possible were it not for those partnerships and the particular role that NGOs play. So I welcome the NGOs, and I hope that they will be a continuing presence in the conference and the meetings as we go forward.

These conferences have certainly proven their worth over the years. They have been an important meeting place to bring people together, to trade ideas, to share stories, and to resolve to work more cooperatively to meet common goals that will benefit all of the people of the Americas.

Five years ago, at the Summit of the Americas in Miami, our nations pledged to work together to meet our common challenges and to look towards the future as one hemisphere. As the leaders met, we convened a parallel conference to examine how the Summit agenda could address the challenges facing the women and children of our regions. Before we left Miami, we pledged to make the concerns of children and families a priority in our home countries and a focus for cooperation throughout the Americas.

We have continued our work at meetings in Paraguay and Bolivia, Panama, and last year in Chile. We have heard the follow-up report from Mrs. Labelle and the representatives from UNICEF, from Mrs. Wilkinson from the World Bank. And we have heard so many of the representatives and first ladies, as well, discuss what has been accomplished because of these meetings.

Today we need to renew our pledge to continue our work and cooperation. Over the past five years we have made steady progress on the goals that we set, including the three that were set in Miami. Today, because we pledged to reduce maternal mortalities, health ministries throughout the hemisphere are extending prenatal care to more women, upgrading delivery rooms, and fighting centuries-old ignorance about pregnancy.

Because we set a goal of eliminating measles by the year 2000, measles cases have fallen 76 per cent in our regions, and all across the Americas children in the most remote villages are getting their first immunization against that deadly disease.

Because we called attention to education reform, the Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas was formed, and finance ministers, who once only looked at GDP numbers, are now looking at school graduation rates and searching for new ways to give all children chances to learn.

We have made a lot of progress, but with the 21st century just weeks away, I know that all of us hope to do more. Every two seconds another child is born somewhere in the Americas. Each of these precious children is a child of tremendous potential, potential that can be unlocked in the first years of life or locked away for a lifetime. How we empower these children and their parents, how we provide for their education and health care will not only shape their lives, but also shape the lives of our nations and our regions.

The theme today, "A Healthy Start: Investing in Children Ages 0 to 6," is one of the most important themes we could choose. Now there are some who might argue that other meetings where the headlines are trade or security or other matters that finance ministers and presidents and prime ministers discuss are more important. But I think if we take a look at what will really matter in the 21st century—preparing our children, investing in and educating our children, making sure they have the health care they need—will determine every other issue we could possibly discuss.

So, therefore, raising awareness about early childhood development is a critical matter. It is one that many of us have worked on for many years. For more than 25 years as an attorney and advocate for children, I have tried to make clear that what we do for a young child today matters far more than what happens later. Because we can prevent problems and save money if we invest early instead of waiting for problems or crisis to occur.

It is such an important issue that in 1997, my husband and I held the first ever White House Conference on Early Learning and Childhood Development. We were looking for strategies that would enable our children—all of our children—to have a healthy start.

Now we were building on work that has been done in the United States before, work such as Head Start, which is a critical program that has enabled thousands and thousands of young children to enter school better prepared. We have seen similar programs throughout the hemisphere, and I know how dedicated so many of you are to ensuring that these kinds of preschool, early learning programs are available as universally as possible.

We also know that a childhood free of disease and illness is basic to a healthy start in life. Every year, 12 million children under the age of five worldwide lose their lives to infectious diseases. Here in the hemisphere, it is 565,000 young children—and these diseases are largely preventable.

Through USAID, the United States has sponsored innovative efforts to combat disease throughout the hemisphere, but what we are finding today is a new challenge. Too often, the antibiotics used to treat disease in young children have been used inappropriately, and too many children, even in the very earliest years of life, have developed resistance to the medicines that could save their lives.

So I am pleased to announce today a new \$2 million USAID grant that, with the Pan American Health Organization, will enable public health experts to determine just how antibiotics are being misused and to train doctors and pharmacists in the correct way to administer prescription drugs.

Through this grant, we hope that the medicines we have developed will be able to do the job they are supposed to do, and that is particularly important in two of the major killers of young children: diarrhea and respiratory infections.

As we look at the important challenges of health and education, I know that each one of us could, as we have already heard from our distinguished colleagues, provide many examples of what is working throughout our hemisphere.

What we have learned through these conferences is that good ideas can happen anywhere, and I have seen them everywhere in my travels. But too often, if we did not have conferences such as this, we would not know what was working in Chile or El Salvador or anywhere else in the hemisphere.

So I believe that this coming together is one of the important ways we can put our children first. We were successful in Miami, and then later at the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, in persuading our governments to pay more attention to the needs of children and women. But I believe that that is an issue that must be addressed constantly. We have to continually remind ourselves and remind our governments that they must put children first.

So on behalf of the 100 million young children of our regions, I certainly thank all of you for being part of this ongoing effort of the first ladies here, in this hemisphere, to bring attention to our problems and honestly discuss them.

I don't know how many conferences in the hemisphere would have leading citizens, such as the women around this table, stand before an open audience and talk about everything from incest to drug abuse to child abuse to domestic violence. But it is that kind of frankness and openness that will enable us to fully understand the problems we face and then work towards solutions.

So thank you very much for continuing to build on this. And working together, I know, we can make progress on behalf of the children who need that progress so much.

Thank you very much. (Applause)

September 1999

First Ladies Conference in Ottawa, Canada

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

1999 W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award

Adoption Legislation Event

Minimum Wage Event

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 16, 1995

**REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
AT THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND OF
GOVERNMENTS OF THE AMERICAS
ASUNCION, PARAGUAY**

MRS. CLINTON: I am privileged to have the opportunity to represent my country, the United States, for the first time at this Fifth Conference of First Ladies from the Western Hemisphere. It is also a great honor for me to be here in Paraguay with all of you.

We have gathered together to discuss the futures of women and children in all of our countries. Whether we live in North, Central, or South America or the Caribbean region, we are united in our belief that women everywhere share common aspirations and concerns.

Yet, as we meet here in this beautiful hall this evening, we also know that a vast reservoir of human potential is now being wasted across the Americas.

No nation in our hemisphere can say that all of its children are fed, clothed, housed, schooled, and raised by loving parents. No nation in our hemisphere can say that all of its women are treated with dignity, respect, and given the chance to fulfill their God-given potentials. And no nation can say that each and every family within its borders is healthy, strong, and stable.

Our world, as we know, is far from perfect. But even though enormous challenges remain, we have come here hopeful about our future. Hopeful because, somewhere in our hemisphere right now, a baby in a local health clinic is being immunized against a serious disease. . . a little girl is going to school and is learning to read and write . . . a woman is taking out a small loan from a neighborhood bank that will enable her to start her own business in her home. We know that every problem we face in our hemisphere is being solved somewhere in our region at this very moment.

We are also hopeful because of the progress made at last year's Summit of the Americas in Miami, at the United Nations Conference on Social Development in Copenhagen earlier this year, and more recently at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on

Women in Beijing. I think it is very fitting that we meet after those three historic gatherings, which drew world attention to the plight of women and children and, in so doing, to the plight of families as well.

Since Miami, we have seen cooperation grow among our nations, and our political leaders. The Summit not only recognized every nation's duty to invest in its people, but also the special role that girls and women play in the economic and social development of the Western Hemisphere.

That theme was reiterated again in Copenhagen, which focused on the alleviation of poverty as an essential factor in political, social and economic progress.

Many of us also attended last month's women's conference in Beijing, where it was again made clear that democracy and prosperity cannot be attained or sustained in countries that do not value women as full and equal partners in society.

The conferences in Miami, Copenhagen and Beijing showed the world that issues involving children and women are not secondary issues. They are keys to building democratic institutions, strengthening market economies, and achieving social justice.

They are also among the hardest issues we face.

That is why the agreement reached in Miami last year was an historic first for countries of this hemisphere. For the first time, there was universal recognition that no nation can compete in the global economy if half its population cannot read or write, cannot find a job, or cannot rise out of poverty.

And that is why it is also heartening that, despite assurances from skeptics that nothing would be accomplished in Beijing, more than 180 nations endorsed a platform for action that lays out specific ways to expand the rights and opportunities of women around the world.

This is particularly critical today, given the growing gap between the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, the skilled and the unskilled.

Those among us who enjoy the opportunities of education, health care, jobs, credit, legal and political rights are flourishing in the new global economy. Those without such opportunities are lagging farther and farther behind. And more often than not, those lagging behind are women and poor children.

This trend, if it continues, threatens to undermine the very institutions we are seeking to uphold: strong families, strong economies, and strong democracies. All will be in jeopardy if women

continue to be denied the opportunities they need to thrive and compete in the new century.

So, what must change?

First, values and attitudes.

In our everyday lives, we must begin to respect the dignity of each person, no matter where that person lives or what he or she looks like. To do that, we must be willing to overcome many assumptions, presumptions, prejudices and prejudgments.

Because, to truly respect a child means to respect every child in every family, boy or girl. To respect a child means to give that child the love, attention, and discipline he or she needs to grow up with confidence and competence. To respect a child means to nurture that child with the health care and schooling that he or she needs to get the right start in life.

Every time we dismiss the potential of a child because of skin color, parental income, or family background, we betray our own futures.

We must also appreciate the contributions of every woman, instead of pigeon-holing and categorizing women in ways that limit their potential. To truly respect a woman means to respect and protect her human rights; it means to respect the choices she makes for herself and her family; and it means to value the experience she brings to all facets of life.

Second, institutions must change, and so must the ways we go about our everyday business.

If programs and policies have outlived their usefulness, we should admit that they no longer solve the problems they were meant to solve. We must fix programs that don't work with reforms that are efficient and inexpensive. And we must insist that institutions -- whether government, schools, or health care systems -- overcome bureaucratic intransigence and put people first.

We must also take advantage of the many innovative programs that do exist throughout our hemisphere. Prior to arriving in Paraguay today, I was in Brasilia, where President and Mrs. Cardoso told me about Brazil's efforts to improve the quality of primary education.

I then traveled on to Salvador da Bahia, where an extraordinary effort is underway to channel the potential and energy of thousands of street children. One program I saw was a circus in which the performers were children, some as young as eight, who had been recruited off the streets where they lived.

They were not being trained for circus jobs; their performances were merely a vehicle for learning the value of discipline, teamwork, and hard work. Along the way, these children develop confidence, self-esteem, and pride in their accomplishments. Part of a program called Project Axe, they also receive schooling and vocational training, as well as counseling to reunite them with their families.

I asked one 15-year-old boy, who had been with the project since it began five years ago, whether it had made a difference in his life. If not for the project, he said, "I would be dead or in prison now."

Programs like this one, which receive support from the public and private sectors and some international organizations, can be replicated widely. But that requires us to share information, exchange ideas, discuss honestly our successes and failures, and learn as much as we can from each other.

Government has a vital role in all of this. But government is only effective if it listens to the voices of the people it serves, instead of making decisions based on political convenience or whim. And government must be held accountable for meeting human needs.

At the same time, government cannot address every problem alone. We must not look on government as a panacea, but as an able partner of business, non-governmental organizations, and other private institutions committed to investing in the promise of every person, including those who are poor, disadvantaged, and politically powerless. And one of the best things government can do is to make it easier for outside groups, non-governmental groups, to do the work they are willing to do.

Finally, as societies, we must be willing to move beyond inertia to action. And all of us -- individuals and institutions -- must heed that call to action. We must start by taking responsibility within our own families and then spreading that responsibility to the communities in which we live.

Every segment of society has a stake in this issue. And every segment of society can affect positive change.

Schools, for example, can be more flexible in responding to the needs of their students, young and old.

A few days ago, in Santiago, Mrs. Frei took me to a school that embodies the Chilean commitment to building an educational system for the future. I saw boys and girls busy working on computers hooked up to the Internet.

I learned from the Minister of Education that schools may begin to keep their doors open on Saturdays and Sundays to

accommodate the children of working parents who have no alternatives for child care, and for children who wish to acquire new skills for themselves.

I saw that Chile has not been content to stick with old methods that do not work. The government and people of that country are devising new ways of training teachers, involving parents and communities. All of this is happening now in many countries throughout the Americas and more can happen if we are willing to learn from each other's experiences.

Heeding the call to action also means that financial institutions must serve all people, even if they are poor, live in remote areas, or are women. How much more evidence do we need that women are a good credit risk? I have seen the proof myself at the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, where the poorest of the poor in the world have transformed entire villages by taking out small loans for cows, rickshaws, and other items they use to earn an income.

I have even seen it in my own country, where poor women at a project called Mi Casa, in Denver, Colorado, have banded together to take out small loans to help themselves. And they told me very, very directly how difficult it is for women even in the United States to have access to credit. One woman said: "Too many great ideas die in the parking lots of banks."

But all over this hemisphere, women are overcoming these obstacles. In Nicaragua, which I visited at the beginning of my trip, I saw how hard President Chamorro has worked to strengthen democratic institutions and promote a market economy. And I met thirty women from a very poor barrio in Managua who run a bank in their neighborhood, borrowing small sums of money to start their own businesses, to start a bakery, to make mosquito netting, to be a seamstress.

Not only had these women organized themselves to improve their own circumstances, they were also improving the circumstances of their families and communities.

Furthermore, they have, like every bank I have ever visited, a high loan repayment rate. In that particular neighborhood bank, the repayment rate was 100 percent. And from what I know about banking, that would be the envy of many commercial lenders.

Individual men and women need to change attitudes and then act, just as every branch of society.

Businesses can initiate policies, such as flexible work schedules, child care, and the use of modern technology, that enable employees to perform well on the job and continue to fulfill their family obligations. Businesses also can value women by paying women equal salaries for

equal work with their men employees.

The media can assume greater responsibility for the values it transmits by avoiding negative advertising and television programming that sensationalizes violence and glorifies the exploitation and degradation of women and children.

At this conference, we will examine these issues, and we will focus specifically on what can be done to address the pressing health and education of women and children.

We will discuss initiatives to ensure the elimination of diseases that primarily affect women and children, reduce maternal mortality and provide comprehensive health care to women throughout their lifetimes, including family planning. We will talk about what every nation must do to ensure that girls are guaranteed the right to an education and that all citizens acquire the knowledge and skills they will all need in the new global economy.

And we will explore ways to end the problem of domestic violence, which has destroyed the lives of too many women and their families in every country represented here.

I would like to make one final point about our agenda. Because we are talking about the issues that matter most in the lives of women and children does not mean we are not talking about the lives of men and boys.

When I was in Nicaragua, I noticed billboards along the side of the road. They showed the face of a crying child with the caption: "My father has left the home." The problem of the absent father is as tragic as the problem of the undervalued mother and wife. It is a problem that, in the United States, we are urgently trying to address.

If, as a hemisphere, we truly care about strong families, strong communities, and strong societies, we have to recognize that men and women can and must complement each other inside and outside of the home. We should not be at opposite poles; we should be partners in a common enterprise for the good of all of us, and particularly our children.

Because of the roles that the women here and many of you in this hall have, we know we can help initiate the changes that must take place if we ever want to realize the great potential of this hemisphere.

Like the women I have met all over this hemisphere in Canada, in my country, in Mexico, in Nicaragua, in Chile, in Brazil and here in Paraguay, we come together to pool our experiences and

ideas to improve conditions for our individual families as well as our national family and the family of nations.

I was not present at the earlier conferences, but I want to thank and applaud all of the women who took part in those conferences and who have moved this agenda forward. I was privileged to host our meeting in Miami and I look forward to the work ahead of us. It is the most exciting and challenging work any of us can imagine or be engaged in. And it is work in which we can make a difference.

Thank you very much.

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As delivered

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF
WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND OF GOVERNMENTS OF THE AMERICAS
LA PAZ, BOLIVIA
DECEMBER 3, 1996

President and Mrs. Sanchez de Lozada, First Ladies and special envoys representing the nations of the Western Hemisphere, and distinguished guests:

It is a great pleasure for me to be in La Paz and to join you for this annual conference. I particularly want to thank Mrs. Sanchez de Lozada for her leadership on behalf of women -- especially her work to promote safe motherhood, education, and to reduce domestic violence -- and for extending to all of us a warm welcome this week.

I know that, as in the past, this gathering will provide new insights and fresh inspiration as we work to expand opportunities for women, children, and families in North, Central, South America and the Caribbean region. I am also pleased to note that Vice President Gore will be in Santa Cruz in a few days representing the United States government at what promises to be a significant hemispheric meeting on sustainable development.

This is my first trip to Bolivia, but I have long felt a special connection to this country. Little Rock, the capital of my home state of Arkansas, is a sister city of Santa Cruz in what is called the Eastern Bolivia-Arkansas partnership. This partnership has initiated cultural, professional and health exchanges that have benefitted the people in both of our countries. So I am especially delighted finally to be in Bolivia after all these years.

Many Bolivians have made their mark on my country. I am proud to say that President Clinton named a woman who was born and raised here in La Paz, Maria Otero, to be the Chair of the

Board of the Inter-American Foundation. That foundation funds grassroots development in the region, and Maria is with me today.

I'm also pleased to be here at a time of such hope and promise for women, children and families across the Americas and around the world. A few days ago, I returned from a trip with my husband to Australia, the Philippines and Thailand, and at each stop I had the chance to talk to diverse groups of women -- from government leaders to grassroots activists to teenage school girls. And I was reminded once again, no matter where we find ourselves in the world today, our aspirations and concerns are fundamentally the same.

Thanks in part to the agenda set at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, as well as the conferences of this group in Miami, and Asuncion and elsewhere, the status of women is improving in many countries.

In the Philippines last week, I had the opportunity along with Mrs. Frei to speak to 15,000 women and girls in Manila. Some had traveled for days by boat and car to celebrate the Beijing Agenda and just as we are doing today, they came together to renew their commitment to women's rights -- and to ensure that every woman and girl has access to the tools of opportunity: health care, education, jobs and credit, legal protections and the right to participate fully in the political life of their countries.

In the 15 months since Beijing, we have seen advances on every continent. In country after country, governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and corporations, and individual citizens are beginning to recognize that elevating the status of women and girls in society is essential to progress and prosperity. That is the same whether we are talking about the East, the West, the North or the South; there is a growing appreciation of women's contributions inside and outside of the home - and a greater understanding that everyone in society benefits when women are allowed to claim the political, economic, social, and civic power they are due.

The Western Hemisphere is no exception. In Panama, the family code has been reformed, giving women more say in alimony, child support and child custody cases. The country's new Law 27

on Intra-Family Violence criminalizes certain forms of domestic violence. In Colombia, men and women now have equal weight in determining divorce. In El Salvador and Peru, new institutions have been established to address issues relating to women's development. In Guatemala, a national university has created scholarships for indigenous women to study political science.

Jamaica's Gold Street Program, which addresses teen violence and adolescent pregnancy, has become a model that the United States is using to confront the same issues in the city of Baltimore. In Brazil, women are now entitled to free breast and uterine exams. And in Chile, the government has committed itself to tackling AIDS and adolescent pregnancies and to expanding educational opportunities for girls. And here in Bolivia, as part of the President's plans, the Plan de Todos, special efforts are being made to reach out to the indigenous population.

From the northernmost reaches of Canada to the southern tip of South America, women are pushing governments to lift the veil of secrecy that for too long has concealed the tragic crime of domestic violence. I mentioned the legal advances in Panama. Another ground-breaking domestic violence law was passed in Ecuador, creating Family Courts that are empowered to separate an abusive spouse from the home. In Costa Rica, police officers receive special training on how to handle domestic violence cases. In my own country we recently launched a national hotline for victims of domestic violence which has already received 50,000 calls.

Looking across our region, we also see progress on the goals that this group outlined at our previous meetings. Those goals to eliminate measles from the hemisphere, reduce maternal mortality, and promote education reform are making progress. Since 1995, our region has witnessed a 63 percent decline in measles. We have seen the Partnership for the Revitalization of Education in the Americas launch new efforts to expand educational opportunities in six countries. And while the tragic problem of maternal mortality continues to haunt us, we know that progress will come if we focus more energy and resources on this issue.

It is clear that pioneering efforts are underway across the Americas to improve conditions for women and girls. Earlier

today in La Paz, I visited with Ximena, Banco Sol, the only commercial bank in the world and the largest that specializes in microenterprise right here. I spoke to women whose lives had been transformed because they had received a modest loan to start selling vegetables in the market, to start making skirts. Not only had they become economically self-sufficient, they had begun to lift their families out of poverty and improve the economies of their communities. We met one woman in the market who is caring for her six orphan grandchildren because of the loans that she had received. I have seen the same encouraging results at FINCA, a micro-lending enterprise that I visited in Managua, Nicaragua. I've visited a comparable enterprise in Santiago and I have seen it in my own country.

In La Paz today I also visited new and expectant mothers at a primary health care center run by an NGO, PROSALUD. The 28 PROSALUD clinics offer prenatal care and family planning services that have resulted in safer pregnancies and deliveries and, in some cases, have saved lives.

This is but one piece of the nationwide effort here in Bolivia to promote safe motherhood and family planning so that women and girls are educated about their own health and their own reproductive options.

Although the rate is far too high, Bolivia's success over the past five years at reducing maternal mortality offers a model for the world of how one nation has responded to a serious health crisis and galvanized the government, non-governmental organizations, and the medical communities. I wish to commend the President and the Vice President for their leadership in this very important effort.

It is worth noting that Bolivia undertook this campaign not only as a way to reduce maternal mortality, but also to reduce the increasing rate of abortion. Without access to family planning, women often turn in desperation to illegal, unsafe abortion procedures that account for half of all maternal deaths in this country. Deaths from abortion complications are responsible for from 30 to 70 percent of maternal mortality in our hemisphere, depending on the country.

Here, in Brazil, and in other places around the globe, I have seen examples of how investments in family planning improve maternal health and the well-being of families as well as reduce the number of abortions. The United States has supported family planning efforts, including Bolivia's. However, as you may know, some members of the United States Congress have voted to limit American support for family planning initiatives. My husband's Administration remains committed to encouraging a continuation of these investments, which represent a sensible, cost-effective and long-range strategy for improving women's health and for lowering the rate of abortion. And for my part, I will certainly remember and share the powerful stories I have heard around the world to explain why these programs are critical.

Education is also critical. It is inextricably tied to how women and children achieve progress. Children of illiterate mothers are twice as likely to die as those with mothers who are educated. So our efforts across the Western Hemisphere to educate girls and mothers will have a profound and concrete effect on women's health. The better educated a girl or woman is, the healthier she is. The healthier she is, the healthier her family is. And all of society stands to gain.

While some may dismiss the achievements of this conference and the conferences before or of the Beijing Agenda as merely "women's issues" that have no place on the front-burner of global politics, I believe that you here in Bolivia, and certainly your President and Vice President understand how they are part of sustainable development and progress. They represent a balancing of power that is just as crucial to the endurance of democracy as issues like trade, diplomacy and national security. Democracy, after all, requires the full participation of all citizens, including women.

And today, we can take heart knowing that democracy has replaced dictatorship around the world and virtually throughout our own hemisphere. Building and sustaining democracy has always required a balance of power, a balance of public power, private economic power, and the power of civic society, those formal and informal networks that bring people together. It is the balance of power that Bolivia has incorporated into its Popular Participation Law, and by doing so, insured the further success of democracy. Whether we succeed at achieving the balance of

power is particularly important for women who despite the strides we have made, still find their voices silenced and their potential stymied in too many parts of the world. In country after country -- from the most advanced democracies to those newly emerging, from the most dynamic free market economies to those struggling in the face of rapid global change -- women are still striving to define and attain their rightful place in government, the economy, the civil society and throughout their lives.

Women are seeking balance in their lives and in their societies, and I am heartened that civic education is on the agenda of this conference. Teaching people about democratic values and the importance of their participation in the political process is critical to sustaining democracy. When we look at what is happening in our hemisphere, when I look at what is happening in my own country, I see that the voices and votes of women can make a difference. If all of us believe in the God-given potential of each human being, then all of us should do what we can in our own ways and our own roles to further those voices and that potential.

For all of the challenges that confront us on the eve of this new century I am optimistic about our future. I am optimistic about our hemisphere and about our capacity to meet those challenges. And certainly, if there is one vision that should guide us, it is that of the young people who rely on us to leave them a world that encourages their dreams, nurtures their talents and respects their choices. That is really why we are gathered today -- most of us in this auditorium have made most of the choices we will make that will determine the course of our lives. It is up to us to determine how we provide the same opportunities for all of our sons and daughters.

Building a better future for children, women, men, and families in the Western Hemisphere is not just the opportunity of government, it is the responsibility of all of us. And I thank you very much for being part of meeting that responsibility and challenge.

As delivered

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR THE PLENARY OF THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF
FIRST LADIES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE AMERICAS
DECEMBER 4, 1996**

I know we all join in expressing our appreciation to everyone who has had anything to do in putting on this Conference and the inaugural ceremony and reception last night. Over the next several days, this conference will work on an ambitious agenda that builds on our work in Paraguay last year and focuses on challenges facing women and children of the Americas on the eve of a new century.

This year's conference allows us the opportunity to measure the progress achieved since Miami and to focus on concrete ways to advance this agenda for sustainable development.

Let me report on three areas of concern that were discussed in Miami and Asuncion: the elimination of measles from our hemisphere, education reform, and reducing the rate of maternal mortality.

First, we can all be encouraged by the Pan American Health Organization's report on measles, which shows a 63 per cent reduction of confirmed cases of measles since 1995 and a 99 per cent decrease since 1990. These statistics are evidence of how close we are coming to the goal of eliminating measles from the Western hemisphere by the year 2000. Such progress was possible as we have already heard because of the efforts of many of the people in this room to raise awareness in your own countries and to launch regional Pan American Health Organization campaigns across the hemisphere.

A year ago, I pledged that the United States government would support these efforts. On June 27, the United States Agency for International Development signed an \$8 million regional grant with PAHO to help achieve the measles elimination goal. Over the next several years, USAID's missions around the Hemisphere will make their own contributions to the measles campaign.

Our second concern was to promote education reform so that by 2010 every school-age child in our hemisphere would have completed a primary education.

While we all recognize that education is a gateway to our individual and collective progress and prosperity, our region continues to lag far behind countries with comparable GDPs in the percentage of children who complete primary school. In the Western Hemisphere, barely half of the children entering primary school complete the sixth grade. Girls from indigenous and minority communities, including in my own country, are least likely to secure the education they need.

And we must be a voice for change on this critical issue.

Last year I spoke about PERA, the new Partnership for Education Revitalization in the Americas. Based on commitments made by our nations in Miami, PERA will create networks that allow for the exchange of information on programs and policies that have been successful in expanding educational opportunities. I am pleased that the United States' contribution of \$3.7 million over five years launched this initiative. The United States has now made an additional commitment to nearly double that contribution over the next five years.

Other steps are underway. The Inter-American Dialogue, perhaps the premier private center of analysis and exchange on hemispheric affairs, has agreed to serve as the PERA secretariat. Their members include some of the hemisphere's most prominent citizens. With us today is Peter Hakim, President of the InterAmerican Dialogue. He will be available during the education working group sessions to answer questions and explain further how this partnership will work.

Mr. Hakim and the Dialogue will work closely with the Government of Mexico, which volunteered as part of the follow-up to the Miami Summit to coordinate initiatives on education.

National education teams already are promoting educational reform efforts in six countries--Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Peru and Nicaragua. Two others, Venezuela and Ecuador, recently joined this group. PERA will focus on issues of decentralization, school finance, quality and equity and will be available to support education reform teams throughout the region.

There are encouraging signs of progress: New and exciting bilingual programs in Guatemala and Bolivia; the EDUCO programs in El Salvador and the Dominican Republic; preschool programs in Costa Rica and Jamaica. PERA will compile the best and most successful cases of education reform so that we can learn from each other's experiences.

Promoting education reform is critical to strengthening democratic institutions and values throughout the Americas. Democracy cannot thrive or survive without educated citizens; and in a fast-paced, highly competitive global economy, an educated populace is vital to every nation and every region's economic growth. That is why the commitment to universal primary education made in Miami is so important.

Let me also add that girls must be part of any education equation. Girls must not be left on the margins, consigned to lives of poverty and ignorance. It does them no good. It does their families no good. It does their nations no good. Educating girls is the best single investment we can make if we care about building strong democracies with vibrant free market economies.

I am also heartened that civic education is on the agenda of this conference. Teaching people -- especially women and girls -- about democratic values and the importance of their participation in

the political process is critical to sustaining democracy across our hemisphere and giving women a voice in determining their own future.

The Civitas Panamericana Conference held in Argentina in September brought together members of government, the media, civic organizations and the private sector -- all of whom share a responsibility for conveying the tenets and values of democracy to the larger public. Encouraging women to get involved in the political life of their countries will strengthen civic culture and move us closer to our democratic ideals.

Finally, we face a serious challenge of reducing maternal mortality in the Americas.

More than 23,000 women will die this year in our hemisphere from causes related to pregnancy. Five women die every hour. Since we have been in this room, between 10 and 15 women have died. The numbers are unacceptable. Without access to voluntary family planning, women too often turn in desperation to illegal, unsafe abortions that can result in death.

Voluntary family planning enables women to make informed decisions about their own health and their reproductive options. As Bolivia has ably demonstrated, educating women about their own health -- about the benefits of spacing births, breastfeeding, good nutrition, prenatal and post partum visits and safe deliveries -- not only reduces maternal mortality and strengthens families, it also decreases the number of abortions.

Emergency obstetric care, now lacking in too many places in our hemisphere, is also vital. The United States, through USAID, will sign in a few moments a \$2.25 million regional grant to the Pan American Health Organization specifically aimed at improving emergency obstetric care. This grant is part of the Maternal Mortality Reduction Initiative that was adopted in Miami at the Summit of the Americas. The Mother Care project and the Quality Assurance project will provide additional support to nongovernmental organizations and to governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve responses to obstetric emergencies and the quality of care at community clinics as well as to teach the public about the need for prenatal and postnatal treatment and safe delivery.

These are among the initiatives and accomplishments that the people in this room can be proud of. We have worked hard and the work is beginning to pay off in improved conditions for women, children and families of our region. I am confident that if this work continues and if all of us are committed to raising our voices on behalf of the importance of improving the lives of women and girls in the Hemisphere, that we will continue to achieve positive results. I am also confident that if the media continues to cover these issues, as it has begun to do around our region, that the public will understand the mission that this conference represents and will join with all of us in making sure that the initiatives that we have adopted will be carried out.

Thank you all for your commitment and for the work and for the achievement that have already been accomplished. Thank you very much.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE REMARKS FOR THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF SPOUSES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS AS DELIVERED BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, PANAMA CITY, OCTOBER 9, 1997.

Good morning. Mrs. Perez Balladares, First Ladies, your Majesty, representatives of the nations of the Western Hemisphere, and Distinguished Guests: I am honored to be part of this Seventh Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and Governments of the Americas and to join you for a third year at this important meeting.

I would like first to thank the government and the people of Panama, especially our hostess for organizing this conference and for welcoming us with the hospitality we have come to associate with your country. My country, the United States, and Panama enjoy a rich and enduring friendship -- one that will grow only stronger in the new millennium. For even as our century-old partnership at the canal comes to a historic moment of transition, we will always be bound by mutual respect and a shared commitment to securing the blessings of democracy for all of our people.

I think it is fitting that we gather in Panama for our annual conference. Panama is truly the crossroads of the Americas -- a nation that literally brings our hemisphere together. The diversity of this country -- ecological, cultural and ethnic -- is a microcosm of all the Americas.

We have come together here from across our hemisphere in hopes of building a better world and better lives for all women, children and families. In many ways, our task is more difficult and more complex than that of the canal builders a century ago. Instead of mountains, we seek to move hearts, to change old attitudes, to banish hunger and disease and ignorance, to educate all our children -- and very importantly-- to empower the women of this hemisphere to participate fully in the life of our nations.

We are pursuing our goals at a moment in history that is full of hope, a time ripe for social change of the most positive kind. Across the Americas, military dictatorships have given way to freely-elected democracies. For the first time in decades, or perhaps the first time ever, we have millions of people enjoying the right to choose their own leaders, to form their own opinions based on information gathered by a free press, to speak frankly and to meet in support or opposition to a cause.

Yet, we all know that every democracy, whether newly formed or centuries old, is fragile. The process of building and tending a democracy is never-ending. Democracy can only take root when its principles are internalized in the hearts and minds of all people. And democracy can only thrive when no one fears the consequences of standing up or speaking out for justice. And democracy can only achieve its fullest potential when women are not barred by law, by ignorance, by tradition or custom, or by intimidation from making their voices heard at the ballot box, and from pursuing their most cherished dreams.

That is why I believe this portion of our conference, aptly called "rights and participation," is so important. Empowering more women to seek and claim their rights as citizens and as human beings is the only way we can ensure that our democracies -- old and new -- survive and thrive into the 21st century.

I am told that the word "empowerment" does not translate very well. But I am sure that every woman in this room knows its meaning well. "Empowerment" means the right to participate in the political and economic life of our countries. "Empowerment" means being able to lead lives free of sexual and domestic violence. Empowerment means access to justice under law, to education, to health care, to credit and property ownership.

In short, empowering women means making sure they are treated as full citizens in their countries. No nation can hope to succeed in our global economy if half of its people lack the opportunity and the right to make the most of their God-given potential. And as we can all attest, in too many countries, my own as well, too many rights are denied and too many doors of opportunity remain tightly closed.

Too many women live in fear of violence at the hands of family members. For them, their home provides no refuge, the law no protection, and public opinion no sympathy. Domestic and sexual violence against women remains one of the most serious and under-reported human rights violations in our region. We must all work to instill new attitudes and new protections against this human rights violation -- domestic violence. As Secretary of State Madeleine Albright -- my country's first female foreign minister -- has said, domestic violence can never be excused as cultural. It is criminal.

Too many women, especially those who are poor and less educated, are unaware of their legal rights in the workplace, of their rights to own and inherit property, of their rights to vote and choose their leaders. While these laws may exist on the books, they have never come alive for too many women.

Too many women and children are trapped in an endless cycle of poverty -- a cycle perpetuated by inadequate health care, poor or no access to family planning and limited education.

But let us not forget that we already know many of the solutions to these problems. We already know what works to change and improve lives. Next week, I will be privileged to travel to Venezuela and Brazil and Argentina with my husband. There, I will be visiting microcredit programs, family planning and education programs -- ones that I, and many of you, have worked to support here in the hemisphere and all around the world. These efforts have long, successful records of empowering women to lift their children, their families, their communities, and themselves out of poverty.

There is also encouraging news to report on the three priorities that were established following our meeting at the Miami Summit of the Americas in 1994 -- the elimination of measles in the Americas by the year 2000, the reduction of maternal mortality, and education reform -- all of which we have heard about this morning. Last year, not a single case of measles was reported in 27 countries of the Americas. And while we may have experienced a setback with an outbreak of the disease in Brazil, as well as in my own country, we must stay on track to meet the goal by the end of the century. Every country in the hemisphere has joined with PAHO in efforts to improve prenatal and obstetrical care and reduce maternal mortality, and many of the women in this room have contributed greatly to that effort. We have brought institutions and individuals together through the Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas to boost public primary education. In Honduras, El Salvador and many other countries, more children are staying in school longer and graduating from primary school. And we have helped to elevate education reform and revitalization to the top of our respective countries' national agendas, where it belongs.

But the topic we are focusing on now -- the promotion and expansion of women's legal and political rights is perhaps the most difficult challenge we face. Slowly, but surely, we are witnessing legal reforms to raise the status of women in the home and in society. In Costa Rica, women have pushed through a law against domestic violence and worked to incorporate domestic abuse issues in police training. Many countries now have human rights ombudsmen with special offices dedicated to protecting the rights of women. In El Salvador, legislators have modernized rape laws, forcing perpetrators to face prosecution. They've also passed laws forcing politicians to prove that they have paid child support before running for office. A very good model. Here in Panama, legislators have reformed the Family Code to better regulate such matters as alimony, child support and child custody. Throughout Latin America, we see new laws encouraging more women to run for office. In my own country, we have introduced Comprehensive Violence Against Women plans that provide counseling for victims, training for police officers, and prosecution of offenders in all of our 50 states. These are some of the ideas we need to share with each other so that women throughout our hemisphere can experience the same improvements in their lives.

None of this progress would have happened if women themselves had not spoken out, demanded change and forced governments to respond to their needs. We must encourage more women to make their voices heard, to join together in both grassroots and national organizations to press political changes beneficial to all women, and to encourage women to take their

responsibility as citizens seriously to vote in local and national elections, and send more women into public office.

Only women ourselves can make democracy work for us and for our families. It is a message that is coming alive in countries all around the world. Last summer at a conference in Vienna, I was privileged to meet with a group of women from the newly-democratic countries of the former Soviet Union. They had just begun to recognize the power of independent citizen action to address challenges as diverse as the trafficking of women for prostitution and the improvement of health care. And they had gathered to share ideas, to renew and strengthen their faith in democratic values and freedoms. This kind of convening of many, many women might be beneficial for our hemisphere as well. To bring together women who are working on the front lines for the kinds of changes that will lead to the improvements we advocate. As our countries continue to expand our political, economic and strategic alliances, the women of this hemisphere can lead the way in building an alliance of democratic values that will strengthen our democracies into the next millennium.

In May, Secretary Albright and I visited the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights in Costa Rica. The organization was founded to defend and foster respect for human rights at a time when repressive regimes controlled the lives of many of the peoples of the Americas. Over the last decade, it has helped guide those countries along the difficult path toward democracy by advising leaders, educating citizens, and monitoring critical transitional elections. Today, the Institute's new mission is to help the new constitutional governments, their police forces, their citizens and children to understand and live by the principles of democracy -- to create a true human rights culture in the Americas. Secretary Albright and I met with women activists and officials who told us that even though the governments had changed, the task of safeguarding and deepening respect for human rights remained as challenging as ever. A few years ago, the Institute began a Gender and Human Rights Program designed to educate women about their rights and promote the principle that women's rights are indeed human rights. Later this morning, there will be a ceremony announcing a \$4.8 million USAID grant to help the Institute continue with this important work, focused on women's rights.

Like the Institute, our work as individuals and as First Ladies of the Americas is far from done. We must continue struggling to make democracy mean justice for everyone, to encourage and empower all women to take their rightful place at the table and the government, in the corporation, and in every institution of society to use their talents to start businesses and pay back loans, to use their voices and votes to elect presidents and build peace. And we should not rest until we have repealed the laws, swept away the webs of tradition, stared down the forces of intimidation that stifle the potential of women and children and that keep nations from being truly democratic and free.

Last year, I participated in a call-in radio show for the Voice-Of-America. One male caller, who called not from our hemisphere, but from across the ocean, asked me very earnestly what I had meant when I said at the Beijing Conference on Women that, "Women's rights are

human rights and human rights are women's rights." I asked the caller to close his eyes and think of all the rights and privileges he enjoyed as a man. Then I asked him to imagine a world where every woman enjoyed those very same rights and privileges.

I know that if we continue the work that has been started by all of you and that we have done together, we can move our hemisphere closer to making that world a reality so that question in the future cannot even be asked. Thank you very much.

First Ladies Conference in Santiago, Chile

First Ladies' Conference Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Santiago, Chile September 30, 1998

Good morning. Mrs. Frei, thank you, once again, for bringing us together and organizing this conference. I know from the reports that I have received that it has been a remarkable and very successful conference. I'm delighted to be here with all of you – First Ladies and special envoys of the hemisphere, distinguished guests, members of the U.S. delegation – including Aida Alvarez, the Director of the Small Business Administration and a member of my husband's Cabinet. It is also a special pleasure to be back in Chile – and to be part of the gracious hospitality that it has always extended to anyone fortunate enough to be able to come to Santiago. It is particularly fitting that we would meet here in Santiago – the site of the Second Summit of the Americas last spring. Many of you were there as well, and many of you helped, along with your husbands and other government officials, to be sure that the priorities included women and children. And this conference seeks to reinforce those priorities that were set at the Summit.

Before I begin my remarks, I would like to say to our friends in the Caribbean how our thoughts and prayers have been with all of you as you deal with the terrible aftermath of Hurricane Georges. I was delayed in coming to the conference because I had to go to Puerto Rico on a relief mission. And I saw for myself the great damage that was done there. But I am well aware that the damage in other parts of the Caribbean was much more extensive. And we will all be working to help those countries and people rebuild their lives.

This is the fourth Conference of First Ladies of the Americas I've had the honor to attend. And I'm pleased to see both many familiar faces as well as many new ones. I'm always reminded at these conferences that no matter what country we're from, or what language we speak, we share many common concerns and common hopes for the future, particularly for improving the lives of women and children.

A belief in the power of women to make a difference in their own lives and in their societies was at the heart of the United Nations Fourth World conference on Women in Beijing, which a number of you attended. I know you'll remember that women from every corner of the globe came together to draw attention to the challenges facing women and children. What that conference made undeniable clear – and what we all know from experience and history – is that democracy and prosperity cannot be attained – or sustained – in countries that do not value women as full and equal partners in society.

The wave of energy and optimism release in Beijing in 1995 has begun to transform lives everywhere. Governments are being held to the commitments they made, and grassroots action is igniting reform in every corner of the globe. I have seen such changes and reforms myself, from Senegal to South Africa, from America to Australia, from Eastern Europe to China. And I have been particularly pleased to see and learn about the progress being made here in our own hemisphere in the Americas.

This morning, for example, throughout the Americas, more girls are sitting at desks in classrooms; more mothers are visiting health care clinics and having their babies immunized, and seeking other health care which they need. More women are running their own businesses, and gaining greater economic independence. More children are growing up healthier and stronger. More women are now protected against violence in their own homes – than ever before in our history.

I along with all of you have also seen democracy taking hold throughout our hemisphere. And women have played significant roles in these hard-fought victories on behalf of empowerment and democracy. You've heard from many distinguished speakers over the past two days, and you understand the progress we have made, but also you realize that we still have great obstacles to overcome, in order to ensure that

every citizen, especially women, are able to participate fully in the political lives of their nations. One of the greatest barriers in our path to equality is that women still do not hold enough positions of authority, and leadership, and power. Women's participation in decision making lags behind our gains in education, our contributions to the workforce, our participation in grassroots activities. Yet all around us we can see the positive impact that occurs when women leaders are given responsibility for helping to improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

There are so many examples throughout our hemisphere. A woman mayor in a small town in Peru, who has promoted projects to protect children's rights, and created occupational workshops to encourage women to increase their family incomes without having to leave their home. A woman senator in the Dominican Republic, whose courageous voice helped pass a strong law against domestic violence in 1997. A young woman from Colombia, who ran for mayor on a peace platform in one of the most violent areas of her country, and is now helping to heal the divisions that were caused by violence.

Those are just a few of the examples. Each of us could give many, many, more. And we all know about the extraordinary leadership that our two women presidents, Janet Jagan and Violeta Chamorro, have given to the hopes and aspirations to women in their countries.

And so we stand at a moment of great opportunity for women in leadership positions. And we are realizing across our globe that unless women's voices are heard, unless they are encouraged to be full participants and citizens, unless they are given the tools to take responsibility for their own lives; unless some are brave enough to run for political office and hold leadership positions, we will never see the fruits of democracy spread as widely and deeply as they should be.

Luckily, many leaders in countries throughout our hemisphere and throughout the globe are recognizing how the empowerment of women is critical to a vibrant democracy – as critical, I would argue, as many issues that are often in the headlines, such as trade and diplomacy and national security. Because it is what happens inside a country, where we inculcate the beliefs in democracy and a commitment to equality, that will keep a country strong and stable, despite whatever the external crises might bring.

As a result, governments across our hemisphere have begun to unlock the doors that were once closed of decision making and leadership. Today a growing number of countries require a minimal level of women's participation in local and national elections. Others have created agencies to promote women and family public policies. Some programs are now looking for ways to increase the pool of qualified women to compete for leadership positions, and others are using all kinds of means of helping women be effective leaders once they are elected or appointed.

The impact of these new laws – combined with greater political will – is even now being felt at every level of government. And I must admit that many countries have gone much farther than my own to boost the percentage of women representatives and leaders.

By 1996, all but two countries in Latin America had at least one woman Cabinet member. In Colombia now, over a third of the Cabinet positions are held by women. And while women are still vastly under-represented in legislative assemblies, there are signs of progress. In the Bahamas women fill as many as 33 percent of the senate seats. And in Argentina, as a result of a new law, women's representation in the Lower House of congress is 28% -- the eighth highest in the entire world. The number of women mayors is also growing, and throughout the hemisphere more women are serving as judges, agency heads, and in other leadership positions.

Such progress represents not only new laws, but also important social changes and changes in attitudes. Since more women are getting an education, and joining the workforce, more women have the internal self-confidence to feel that they can fulfill roles in their governments. We also know the deeply held attitudes against women's participation in public life are changing, slowly but surely.

I am pleased that my country will be working with all of you to further this progress. After this session I'll be joining with Mrs. Frei in a signing ceremony of two programs – funded by USAID – that will support initiatives across the Americas to nurture strong local leadership – especially of women – and

will help countries more effectively pursue the goals of the Summit of the Americas, through joint training programs here in Chile. These partnerships – as well as a major donation by Merck pharmaceutical company, which will donate 5,000 medical guides in Spanish and help educate rural women about their health, are proof that the commitments made at the Summit of the Americas and reiterated here at this conference are being taken seriously.

Even as we celebrate these steps forward – and the remarkable accomplishments of women who have gained these positions of power and influence such as yourselves – we know we have far to go. When women are elected they often still are on the outskirts of legislative or executive power. They are not adequately represented in party leadership positions. And while women make up one third of the formal labor force in this region – they make up, of course, a much larger percentage of the informal labor force in the region – they are not adequately represented in unions or in business.

We all know building a better future for men, women, and children is not just the responsibility of governments – it is the responsibility of all of us. I hope that the results of this conference will lead to more action in each of our countries to be sure that women are encouraged to make sure their voices are heard. I will travel to Montevideo today to participate in the “Vital Voices” conference that will bring women representatives of grass roots organizations from throughout the Americas together to build networks, learn lessons, and lift up their voices and power, to make sure that the priorities that are being set at this conference will actually become a reality.

Today our work is more urgent than ever before. We live in an increasingly interdependent world, where our economies and our security – our very futures – are tied with one another. It is a time of unparalleled opportunity – but also of great risk. Those among us in this room, in this beautiful place, in this beautiful city, enjoy the opportunities of education, health care, jobs, credit, and political rights. And we, therefore, are flourishing in this new global economy. Those without such opportunities – too often women and children – are lagging further and further behind.

It is up to all of us to eliminate those inequities – and bridge the gaps that will enable every woman to feel she has a stake in her future and a responsibility to help her society and nation flourish.

Thank you very much.

September 1998

Playboard/Kaboom Playground Partnership Event

Vital Voices Conference, Belfast

Colon Cancer Event

Foster Care/Destination Future 98 Conference

United Jewish Appeal Lion of Judah Conference

Dedication of the New Peace Corps Building

Ed Muskie Award

Congressional Black Caucus on U.S. Engagement in Africa

Hurricane Relief Announcement Puerto Rico

First Ladies Conference in Santiago, Chile

Power of the Arts in Education

First Ladies Conference in Ottawa, Canada

Ninth Conference of the Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Ottawa, Canada
September 30, 1999

MRS. ALINE CHRÉTIEN: And now, it is my great pleasure to introduce our next speaker, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton. (Applause)

MRS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Thank you very much. I am delighted to join all of you again for this Ninth Conference of the Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

Since we were last together, our hemisphere, particularly Central America and the Caribbean, have suffered greatly from the triple threat of the hurricanes Mitch, George and Floyd. And I know that all of us have been particularly concerned about helping our friends and neighbors in those areas that were so devastated to recover and move forward with the plans that—we know so well from the reports we have received—that they are undertaking on behalf of further progress in their countries.

I am very pleased to be back in Ottawa, a place that my husband and I have very fond memories of from our last visit here nearly five years ago.

I particularly remember ice skating with Aline on the Rideau Canal. And my piece of advice is: do not cease skate with Aline, who is a graceful, beautiful ice skater. But she does everything that way, and over the years I have come to admire and respect and have great affection for her and the way she discharges her duties. I appreciate very much the support and leadership that she has given to this endeavor and the excellent job that she has done in putting together this conference.

I also want to thank the government and people of Canada for supporting this conference, and particularly for inviting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to this meeting. So many of us have seen firsthand the work that NGOs do in our countries and throughout our hemisphere. We have seen the vibrant grassroots activism; we have seen the partnerships that are created among the public, the private and the NGO sectors.

Each of the progress we are discussing today, and hoping for for tomorrow, would not have been possible if it not for those partnerships and the particular role that NGOs play. I welcome the NGOs, and I hope that they will be a continuing presence in the conference and the meetings as we go forward.

These conferences have certainly proven their worth over the years. They have been an important meeting place to bring people together, to trade ideas, to share stories, and to resolve to work more creatively to meet common goals that will benefit all of the people of the Americas.

Years ago, at the Summit of the Americas in Miami, our nations pledged to work together to meet common challenges and to look towards the future as one hemisphere. As the leaders met, we opened a parallel conference to examine how the Summit agenda could address the challenges facing women and children of our regions. Before we left Miami, we pledged to make the concerns of men and families a priority in our home countries and a focus for cooperation throughout the Americas.

We have continued our work at meetings in Paraguay and Bolivia, Panama, and last year in Chile. We heard the follow-up report from Mrs. Labelle and the representatives from UNICEF, from Mrs. Larson from the World Bank. And we have heard so many of the representatives and first ladies, as well as discuss what has been accomplished because of these meetings.



DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

Date: 7/28/00

To: Tish Butler

Telephone: _____ Fax: 216-3262

From: Eric Morse / Ann O'Leary

Telephone: 456-0122 Fax: 456-2878

Subject: _____

Pages: 7 (Including this cover sheet)

Comments:

UNCLASSIFIED
AID 06/20/00
ADCM:JWILLIARD
EXO:PCOCHELLA
1.ODI:MWILLIAMS, 2.ADD:AEISENBERG
AIDA PER RSO ADM

AMEMBASSY LIMA
SECSTATE WASHDC

ADM AID

E.O. 12958: N/A
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE - O'LEARY, ANN M.
USAID/PERU

1. THE EMBASSY GRANTS COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR THE VISIT TO PERU OF ANN M. O'LEARY, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE FIRST LADY, FROM JUNE 25 TO JULY 3, 2000, TO ATTEND THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE X ANNUAL FIRST LADIES' CONFERENCE. HOTEL RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AT HOTEL EL OLIVAR, LOCATED AT PANCHE FIERRO 194 ESQUINA CON MERINO 122, SAN ISIDRO, TELEPHONE NO. 221-2120.
2. CONTROL OFFICER IS MADELINE WILLIAMS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES. USAID/PERU SWITCHBOARD IS 433-3200 EXT. 334, EMBASSY AFTER-HOURS DIRECT LINE FOR MARINE SECURITY GUARD 434-3032, HOME PHONE 445-8540. PLEASE EXIT CUSTOMS THROUGH THE DOOR DIRECTLY AHEAD; YOU WILL ENTER A FENCED-IN STAGING AREA. PLEASE GO TO THE LEFT AND EXIT THE STAGING AREA WHERE THE DRIVER WILL HAVE A SIGN WITH YOUR NAME. CONTROL OFFICER SHOULD BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON ARRIVAL IN COUNTRY IF NOT MET AT THE AIRPORT.
3. PASSPORT/VISA: TO ENSURE FULL PROTECTION FOR TRAVELERS, THE MISSION REQUIRES THAT ALL VISITORS HOLDING OFFICIAL/DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS USE THEM WITH AN OFFICIAL VISA TO ENTER PERU. OFFICIAL TRAVELERS WHO DO NOT HAVE OFFICIAL/DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS SHOULD USE A TOURIST VISA AND NOT USE A BUSINESS VISA REPEAT OFFICIAL TRAVELERS SHOULD NOT USE BUSINESS VISAS.
4. SECURITY: COUNTRY CLEARANCE IS GRANTED FOR THE LIMA METROPOLITAN AREA ONLY. TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THIS AREA MUST HAVE PRIOR POST APPROVAL. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE MISSION BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY OF DELAYS OR CHANGES IN PLANS OR ITINERARY. PERSONNEL MUST NOT CHANGE HOTELS WITHOUT FIRST NOTIFYING CONTROL OFFICER. THE STATE

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FYI. Contact

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W/ hotel contact

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Ann

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AUTH:JW

DRAFT:PC

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Dial: 011-511-

221-2120

011-511-433-3200

UNCLASSIFIED

2

DEPARTMENT HAS DESIGNATED PERU AS HIGH-THREAT FOR TERRORISM AND HIGH-THREAT FOR CRIME. TWO TERRORIST GROUPS OPERATE IN PERU: SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) AND MOVIMIENTO REVOLUCIONARIO TUPAC AMARU (MRTA). BOTH ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE TO BE POTENTIAL THREATS AND HAVE TARGETED U.S. FACILITIES IN THE PAST. DUE TO GOP EFFORTS, THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SL AND MRTA HAVE BEEN GREATLY REDUCED AND LARGELY CONFINED TO RURAL AREAS. OVERLAND TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF LIMA DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS IS PROHIBITED BECAUSE OF UNSAFE ROAD CONDITIONS AND THE THREAT OF ARMED BANDITS. TERRORIST GROUPS OPERATE WITH RELATIVE IMPUNITY IN SOME INTERIOR AREAS AND ARE KNOWN TO TARGET VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. CRIME IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN METROPOLITAN LIMA AND POPULAR TOURIST AREAS SUCH AS AREQUIPA, CUZCO AND MACHU PICCHU. MOST CRIMES INVOLVE PETTY THEFT, PICKPOCKETING, BAG SLASHING, GRAB AND RUN AND THEFT FROM OCCUPIED AND UNOCCUPIED VEHICLES. MORE COMMON VIOLENT CRIMES INCLUDE ARMED ROBBERY, CARJACKING AND CHOKE AND ROB. CRIMINALS FREQUENTLY REACT VIOLENTLY WHEN RESISTANCE IS ENCOUNTERED. IN ALMOST ALL INSTANCES IT IS ADVISABLE NOT TO OFFER RESISTANCE. MOST AREAS OF DOWNTOWN LIMA ARE DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS. VISITORS ARE CAUTIONED TO REMAIN ALERT TO THEIR SURROUNDINGS AT ALL TIMES, PARTICULARLY WHEN IN CROWDED AREAS, SUCH AS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, OUTDOOR MARKETS AND TOURISTS SITES. COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST CRIME ALSO PROTECT AGAINST TERRORISM. SPECIAL CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED AT THE JORGE CHAVEZ INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN CALLAO. CRIMINALS FREQUENT THIS AREA, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT, AND ARE KNOWN TO TARGET FOREIGNERS.

SECURITY BRIEFINGS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL OFFICIAL VISITORS TO PERU. BRIEFINGS ARE GIVEN IN THE NEW EMBASSY COMPOUND ON TUESDAYS PROMPTLY AT 9:30 A.M.

5. HEALTH: CHOLERA IS ENDEMIC IN PERU AND DISEASE RATES REACH HIGH LEVELS FROM JANUARY TO MAY. TRAVELERS TO THE JUNGLE AREA OF PERU SHOULD HAVE UP-TO-DATE YELLOW FEVER VACCINE AND MALARIA PROPHYLAXIS. TRAVELERS IN PERU SHOULD SUBSTITUTE BOTTLED BEVERAGES FOR POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED WATER. FISH, SHELLFISH AND VEGETABLES SHOULD NOT BE EATEN UNLESS WELL COOKED, AND ALL FOOD SHOULD BE EATEN WHILE STILL HOT. FRUITS WITH A PEEL ARE PROBABLY SAFE, BUT SHOULD BE PEELED BY THE TRAVELER.
HAMILTON##

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Notional Schedule for Ms. Ann O'Leary

Head of Delegation for the Technical Preparatory Meeting for the X Annual Conference of Spouses
June 26 - 29, 2000 - Lima, Peru

Monday - June 26th

4:00AM	- Arrive in Lima
5:00AM	- Arrive at Hotel El Olivar
5:00AM - 8:30AM	- Rest
8:30AM	- Registration and Accreditation for the Conference
9:00AM	- Inauguration of the Technical Preparatory Meeting
9:30AM - 1:00PM	- Conference
1:00PM - 2:45PM	- Lunch sponsored by the conference
2:45PM	- Depart for Embassy
3:30PM	- Meeting with Ambassador Hamilton
4:30PM	- Depart Embassy for Conference
5:15PM	- Arrive at El Olivar
7:30PM	- Depart with other conference attendees for reception/dinner at the National Museum of Anthropology, Archeology and History

Tuesday - June 27th

8:45AM - 12:00PM	- Conference
12:00PM - 1:30PM	- Option #1 - Conference Lunch at the Hotel El Olivar
	- Option #2 - Hosted Lunch (Ambassador or USAID Director)
1:30PM	- Depart for Site Visit
2:15PM - 2:45PM	- Site Visit to CEDRO (Central Lima)
3:15PM - 5:00PM	- Conference
Dinner	- Hosted by Conference - in Barranco

Wednesday - June 28th

9:00AM - 12:45PM	-Conference
Lunch	- Hosted by conference
1:30PM	- Depart for Site Visit
2:15PM - 3:30PM	- Site Visit to CIDE/TAREA (Lima - southern cone)
4:15PM	- Arrive at Hotel
4:15PM - 5:15PM	- Delegation Wrap-Up Meeting
5:15PM - 6:00PM	- Rest and Prepare for Departure
6:00PM - 8:30PM	- Tour of Lima and Barranco at night organized by conference host.
Dinner	- Option 1 - Conference dinner and show at Costa Verde (Note: Ann is not likely to be able to attend full dinner due to the fact that she will have to leave for the airport.) - Option 2 - Hosted dinner prior to late night departure (Note: This would require that Ms. O'Leary leave the group before the end of the tour.)
9:00PM	- Depart for Airport (Checking for last possible moment.)

(Post-O'Leary Departure)

Thursday - June 29th

9:00AM - 12:15PM	- Conference will be covered by remaining USG delegation member
12:15PM - 1:30PM	- Closing Ceremony
1:30PM - 3:30PM	- Lunch at the Swissotel
3:30PM - 4:45PM	- October Conference Logistics
7:00PM	- Transportation to Torre Tagle
7:30PM - 9:30PM	- Closing Reception at Torre Tagle Palace