

ATTN: Noa Meyer, Speechwriter
Office of the First Lady
FROM: Alex Kuzma, Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund
DATE: April 9, 1999

FAX: (202) 456-2581

Dear Noa:

The following are some elements that you might want to consider in drafting the First Lady's speech. I tried to address some of the specific issues that I remember Melanne mentioned she might want to incorporate into the First Lady's address. Feel free to use anything you think might be appropriate. I am in Michigan until Monday, but I'll be happy to address any concerns you might have. You can leave a message for me at (973)376-5140. Wishing you a good weekend and looking forward to being in touch next week. Alex

CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT:

CCRF has worked creatively with major US corporations such as Monsanto and John Deere to develop a strong community health program in targeted provinces. These are progressive companies that have tried, to instill a culture of caring and social responsibility in the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe, and to foster principles of good corporate citizenship.

CCRF has also tapped the resources of its home base by working with New Jersey-based pharmaceutical companies such as Merck, Bristol-Myers and Roche Laboratories to deliver high-quality antibiotics and cancer medications for Ukrainian pediatric centers. Their donations have helped to give Ukrainian children a fighting chance against life-threatening illnesses.

This evening, I was pleased to meet the new President of Roche Laboratories, Myron Holubiak (MY-ron ho-LOO-bee-ack) whose company is becoming increasingly involved in this effort, and I was pleased to learn that Searle Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Monsanto based in the Chicago area has also donated large volumes of excellent antibiotics to CCRF's previous airlifts.

[if appropriate]

I would also like to acknowledge several individuals in the room this evening who have been especially generous to this relief mission: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Katz of BBDO Enterprises, the Goldenbarr Company, the Fedash family, Dr. Mona Mikalsen, Mayor Tom Denny, and Lou and Judi Friedman. In addition to their own generosity, many of these individuals have helped CCRF secure major grants and millions of dollars' worth of medical technology and in-kind donations of medical supplies from corporate donors.

HOME RULE and LOCAL INGENUITY

In the finest tradition of US foreign aid, CCRF has established a strong local office in Kyiv which is now administered entirely by young Ukrainian citizens. These are talented graduates of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy who are in the best position to integrate American know-how with the innate creative genius of the Ukrainian people. CCRF's Kyiv office has shown a wonderful ability to develop indigenous solutions to local problems. Not content to rely on the financial support of its American patrons, the staff has developed a firm grasp of the concept of grassroots empowerment.

I understand that just last week, CCRF's Kyiv staff secured a donation of over \$100,000 worth of children's vitamins from Bristol-Myers Squibb. The Kyiv office also negotiated a grant from a local juice-packing company to organize a youth festival and Bikeathon to raise funds for a children's cancer center.

CCRF's partner hospitals are also mobilizing local entrepreneurs, artists, and community activists to upgrade the quality of care for their pediatric patients. In the town of Lootsk, in northwestern Ukraine, doctors rolled up their sleeves and volunteered their time along with carpenters and artisans to create a new sanitorium for children with cerebral palsy. This doctors' and workers' brigade also renovated a newborn intensive care unit and CCRF has rewarded their initiative by delivering new respirators and pulse oximeters to bring this unit up to Western standards.

By galvanizing local activists and professionals to design their own campaigns, CCRF has assured that its programs will be sustainable in the long run and that they can be replicated by other Ukrainian institutions.

US Community Involvement:

Much of CCRF's strength lies in its grassroots chapters and support groups based in communities across the United States. From Hartford to San Diego, from major urban centers like Cleveland, Detroit and Rochester, to quiet resort towns like Kerhonkson, New York; from bustling college campuses like Yale and Rutgers to retirement communities like Sun City, Arizona and North Port, Florida, CCRF has shown an amazing ability to capture the imagination of caring Americans across ethnic, religious and generational lines.

CCRF understands that we cannot hope to strengthen and galvanize communities in far-away Eastern Europe unless we have first reached out beyond the Washington Beltway and proven our ability to mobilize our friends and neighbors here in the United States.

By working in coalition with churches, schools and businesses, environmental groups and women's organizations, CCRF has greatly increased its ability to leverage resources, to reduce its costs and to maximize the value of its donors' contributions.

Many members of Congress and humanitarian experts at the State Department are amazed by how much CCRF has accomplished with such a lean staff and such a modest budget. Twenty airlifts,.... Eight partner hospitals,.... an MRI system,a premier pediatric leukemia center and blood testing laboratory. Many organizations have not accomplished a fraction as much as CCRF has accomplished with a budget and staff five to ten times its size. The secret to your success has been the devotion and the energy of your volunteers who have not spared themselves in this effort.

Having traveled extensively in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, I know how important your efforts are to the children stricken with these illnesses....How important they are to their parents who must worry constantly about their future.

We know that these children are very vulnerable to common infections, to thyroid cancer, and other illnesses. We know how the women of Ukraine are gravely at risk for AIDS, for birth complications and anemia, for hormonal and immune disorders. The work of CCRF and organizations like it seems unfathomable and thankless at times.

But when you visit these maternity centers and these neonatal intensive care units, when you look closely at the babies who are being born into this world, who are waging a desperate struggle for survival, you know that everything you're doing is worth the effort. When you meet the parents of the infants who survived this ordeal thanks to an infant warmer, or a respirator or and transport incubator delivered by an American relief group, your hearts and the heart of every American can justifiably swell with pride.

Today, we are on the threshold of the new Millennium. We understand more than ever that what happens in a remote village in Kosovo or in Vinnytsia or Chornobyl can have a profound impact on the lives of all our children. We can no longer turn a blind eye or shut down our conscience. But we must steel our courage and we can open our hearts, and in our own quiet way, we can work small miracles that can slowly, inevitably change the world.



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Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund

January 18, 1999

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Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
Room 100, Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20030

FAX: (202)456-6244

Dear Melanne:

It was a pleasure to visit with you and Katie last Wednesday. To follow up on our discussion, we would like to set a date for the special reception we are planning at the Ukrainian Institute of America (5th Avenue and 79th Street, New York City). In keeping with our earlier discussions, we would like to invite the First Lady to address this gathering of community leaders, medical experts and donors who have lent their support to our hospital partnership program in Ukraine. On this occasion, we would like to present the First Lady with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her long-standing commitment to the cause of women's health and her ongoing efforts to improve children's health in Eastern Europe and around the world.

I am writing to ask for your assistance in setting a date that would accommodate the First Lady's schedule. We would need roughly eight weeks' lead time to prepare this function. If possible, we had hoped to schedule the reception for some time in late March or late April. The Board of the Ukrainian Institute and its President, Mr. Walter Nazarewycz have assured us that they would make any arrangements that might be necessary.

Please call me or Nadia Matkiwsky at your earliest convenience so that we might finalize our plans for this very special event. You may reach us by fax at (973)376-4988 with any date(s) that might be available. We deeply appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Alex Kuzma
Director of Development

Patti-
we need
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gave
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date.

We need
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when
we
know
we're
going to
be in
NY.

Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund

272 Old Short Hills Road Short Hills, New Jersey 07078
Tel: 973.376.5140 Fax: 973.376.4988 e-mail: info@ccrf-icc.org

website: <http://www.tryzub.com/CCRF>

International Children of Chernobyl Foundation

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Tel/Fax: 38.044.228.1870 e-mail: iccf@gu.kiev.ua

Winner of the 1995 New Jersey Governor's International Volunteer Award
CCRF is a non-profit humanitarian organization. All gifts are tax-deductible.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 1, 1996

REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL TRAGEDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

Thank you and please be seated. And please know how welcome you are here at the White House for this special commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear tragedy. I want to thank all of you for taking part. But there are a few people I would like to acknowledge who are here in the audience: Senator Claiborne Pell, Brian Atwood, Ambassador Jim Collins, John Holum, Richard Morningstar, others who have worked on behalf of the United States government to assist those who have dealt on the front lines with the tragedy. I also want to extend a special welcome to the Ambassadors who were just introduced to all of you. Ambassadors of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia. They have joined us today to recognize the many individuals and organizations who have helped with relief efforts in the aftermath of Chornobyl -- and they are here also to join with us in rededicating ourselves to the healing and recovery that must continue into the future.

Ambassador Shcherbak, we are particularly indebted to you. You were one of the first medical doctors to respond to the tragedy at Chornobyl. And in the years since, few have done as much as you, Mr. Ambassador, to educate people around the world about the medical and scientific realities of the Chornobyl disaster, and what they portend for humanity's future. I would like to ask Ambassador Shcherbak to stand, so that we may thank him.

Before the Vice President and I came into this room, we were in the Blue Room with the Ambassadors and the wives who are here, and the other dignitaries that I just acknowledged, and Ambassador Shcherbak reminded the Vice President and me that it was on May 1, ten years ago, that children were encouraged and even required to participate in May Day activities, despite the dangers of fallout and continuing damages from Chornobyl. And those who are in this room, who have worked on behalf of all of the people affected by Chornobyl, know what a terrible aftermath that has caused in the lives of so many children.

That is why it is a great privilege for me to serve as

honorary chair of Chornobyl Challenge '96, which has convened experts, advocates and lay people from across the spectrum to devise new strategies for coping with the aftermath of Chornobyl. Already there have been symposia of scientists, journalists, academics, church leaders, business people and others who are working on these matters. This evening, at St. John's Church, there will be a prayer service for the victims of Chornobyl. Each of these gatherings gives us an opportunity to reflect on what we all need to do as citizens of the world to help those still coping with this unfolding tragedy.

Today's event is one both of mourning, but also of hope. Mourning because the people of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia have suffered so much in the ten years since the explosion and fire at Chornobyl's Unit 4 Reactor. Today, let us pray for those who lost their lives, and those who live each day with uncertainty about their own health and well-being.

But we are also here for a celebration of hope. As we so often see when tragedies occur, here and around the world, Americans and others respond with concern and compassion. They, and you, the entire human family, have answered the worst of man-made catastrophes with the best of human nature.

Even before the gravity of Chornobyl was fully revealed, offers of humanitarian assistance began pouring in. And they have continued year after year.

The private voluntary organizations, including those represented in this room, have supplied well over 1,000 tons of medicine and medical equipment and supplies to people in affected areas. Those donations alone are worth more than \$100 million.

Private voluntary organizations have also established special hospitals for those people -- many of are children -- afflicted with thyroid cancers, leukemia, and other disorders stemming from exposure to radioactive elements. As part of the recovery effort, American doctors have gone to the former Soviet Union and patients have come to the United State for care.

Other organizations here today have focused on the disaster's environmental consequences. Some are helping address the overwhelming public health challenges faced in the region. And still others are helping to study and evaluate the long-term effects of the disaster. Through these and other activities the private volunteer community continues to focus the world's attention on the consequences and lessons of Chornobyl.

But these organizations cannot -- and should not -- do this work alone. I am pleased that the generosity of private volunteers has augmented humanitarian relief efforts by the United States government, particularly the delivery of medicines

and treatment.

Today, these efforts convey a message of compassion and healing that tells the victims of Chornobyl that the world will not forget them or the tragedy they have endured.

Two years ago, and again last year, I was in the former Soviet Union and I had the opportunity to visit hospitals in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. I met with patients, many of them children, suffering from Chornobyl's aftermath. I talked with doctors and nurses who told me they were seeing increases in respiratory illness, heart disease, birth defects, male infertility and other reproductive problems. They told me about abnormally high rates of thyroid cancer and thyroid diseases in children -- diseases that before the catastrophe rarely appeared in people so young.

In Kiev, I talked to pregnant women who worried about what Chornobyl would mean for their children -- and their children's children.

And at each hospital I visited, I saw extraordinary work being done by health care professionals under extremely trying circumstances. Doctors and nurses face chronic shortages of medicine and supplies -- everything from syringes and simple antibiotics to chemotherapy medications and MRI machines.

Thanks to the contributions of our government and many organizations -- and to the partnerships that our hospitals have established with hospitals in these three countries -- lives are literally being saved every day.

Just in the brief time I was in Minsk, I saw American doctors from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh sharing new treatment techniques with their counterparts in Belarus.

I watched soldiers deliver large boxes of blankets, syringes, bandages, and medicine provided through Operation Provide Hope, a program run by the United States military that sends surplus medical supplies and equipment to the former Soviet Union. I was able to pass out crayons and coloring books donated by American companies, and even Boston Celtics caps that the team had sent.

Of course, this was just a fraction of the American relief work going on. And a fraction of the work that remains to be done by all of us.

As we celebrate, today, the many good and important deeds that were born of this tragedy, let's not forget that humanitarian assistance is not a short-term investment. The people and nations of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia are struggling

to build the infrastructure and institutions needed to sustain democracy and repair the human spirit after harsh decades of totalitarianism. It is our duty, it is our moral responsibility, as believers in freedom and democracy -- to help them.

Chornobyl is rare in the litany of global tragedies. Unlike bombings, wars, earthquakes, other natural and man-made disasters, we may never fully know the extent of damage done by the explosion and fire at Chornobyl ten years ago.

Some of the more obvious after-effects are well-documented. But what about the ultimate impact on the environment? On the food chain? On human genetics? And what about our own capacity to recognize that a tragedy like Chornobyl affects not just the people of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, but people in every nation of the world?

The history of the people in the region of Chornobyl is a history of endurance. The nuclear disaster was a horrible chapter in that history. But from that crucible has emerged an opportunity to create something far better in its place. An opportunity to add another chapter that speaks to the resilience of the people of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, and to the caring and compassion of our entire global family.

We are very grateful for all of you in this room, and for the many, many others you represent. Who through your work, your prayers, and your continued commitment to this important effort have already made a difference, and will continue to do so.

There is certainly, much more that we need to be doing, and Chornobyl Challenge '96 I hope will identify those efforts. But we have three people here today, who have been deeply involved in assessing and evaluating, understanding, and working to ameliorate the consequences of Chornobyl. First we will hear from our Vice President, he will talk to us about the efforts and commitment of the Administration and the United States government. Next, we will hear from Alex Kuzma, who as the coordinator of Chornobyl Challenge '96 will talk to us about the commitment of the American relief community. And finally we will hear from Vova Malofienko, a courageous 12 year old who will tell of his personal story about the treatment he has been receiving in this country for Chornobyl related illnesses.

And now, I have the honor of introducing a man whose attention to Chornobyl and its aftermath has never wavered, who in many respects tried to warn all of us about some of the issues we are now dealing with, because of his commitment to the environment and to the future that we all share together in this world -- the Vice President of the United States.

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Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund

A Special Evening

Honoring

The First Lady of the United States

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

Monday, April 19, 1999

Program

Introduction: Alexander B. Kuzma, Director of Development

Welcoming Remarks: Fred Caruso, Master of Ceremonies
Motion Picture Film Producer

Prolisok Choir: Andrij Stasiw, Musical Director

The Enchanted Violin

Words: Rybchynsky

Music: Poklad

Medley of Ukrainian Songs

Arrangement: Stasiw

My Ukraine

Words & Music: Petrenenko

Arrangement: Stasiw

Reflections: U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg

Special Guest: Alec Baldwin
Actor, Producer, Activist

Special Remarks: Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady

Program

Award Presentation: Nadia Matkowsky, Executive Director

Honored Guest: First Lady of the United States Hillary Rodham Clinton

Closing Remarks: Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, President

Benediction: His Grace Archbishop Antony
Ukrainian Orthodox Church - - U.S.A.

Prolisok Choir: Andriy Stasiw, Musical Director

The Children's Prayer
Words and Music: Barabash

"Prolisok", the girls choir of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA), whose members range in ages from 10 to 19 years have been in existence in New York City since 1994. To date, "Prolisok" has delighted audiences at numerous cultural festivals and programs in New York City and the Metropolitan Area, with a repertoire consisting of traditional and modern Ukrainian songs. The UAYA, celebrating its fiftieth year of existence, is an educational organization which teaches American children of Ukrainian descent their heritage through Ukrainian culture, history and literature.

The musical director of the choir is maestro Andriy Stasiw. Maestro Stasiw is also presently director and conductor of the Holy Cross Choir in Astoria, NY. He is a well-known pianist, conductor and composer and has traveled nationally and internationally, performing with several groups and as a solo performer.

Performers:

Andrea Babsky	Alexandra Harhaj	Natalie Rojowsky
Catherine Babsky	Christine Harhaj	Danielle Soroka
Christine Bartosiewicz	Katherine Kosiv	Michelle Soroka
Lisa Bartosiewicz	Adriana Paska	Natalla Stupak
Larysa Blahy	Anastasia Pazana	Romana Zajac
Ulana Blahy	Andrea Popovech	Tanya Zajac
Olesia Demczur	Mary Ann Popovech	
Nadia Dlaboha	Katherine Rojowsky	



Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund

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Larissa Barabash Temple
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Leo Wolansky, M.D.

April 5, 1999

Attention: Noa Meyer
Office of the First Lady
Speechwriter's Office
FAX: (202)456-2581

Dear Noa:

The following are some background materials on our relief mission. Tomorrow, I hope to send you some additional material on the aftermath of the Chornobyl accident and the current public health situation in Ukraine which you may want to consider in drafting the First Lady's speech for April 19th.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Looking forward to working with you in preparation for the April 19th reception.

Sincerely,

Alex Kuzma
Director of Development

Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund

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Winner of the 1995 New Jersey Governor's International Volunteer Award
CCRF is a non-profit humanitarian organization. All gifts are tax-deductible.

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND
TRACK RECORD
(Updated as of March, 1999)

- ★ Twenty Airlifts and Seven Sea Shipments; Delivery of 1,100 tons of humanitarian aid valued at over \$40 million US dollars;
- ★ Established state-of-the-art Blood Diagnostic Laboratory at the Lviv Regional Specialized Pediatric Clinic in Ukraine (1990); in 1997 the Laboratory was certified by an independent team of international inspectors as the finest in Eastern Europe.
- ★ Installed the first US-built Magnetic Resonance Imaging System in Ukraine (at the Kiev Emergency Hospital & Trauma Center) Over 9,500 patients have undergone diagnostic testing in the MRI, more than 800 malignant tumours found since 1994.
- ★ Provided cancer medication and post-operative drugs for hundreds of children with leukemia and thyroid cancer.
- ★ Modernized six neonatal intensive care units with respirators, transport incubators, pulse oximeters & other advanced technology. (Kyiv, Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovske, Lutsk, Lviv and Vinnytsia)
- ★ Organized training conferences, internships and advanced seminars for hundreds of Ukrainian doctors in the fields of pediatrics, oncology, surgery, clinical biochemistry and neonatal intensive care.
- ★ Testified as expert witnesses in Congressional hearings and UN forums on the aftermath of the Chornobyl disaster.
- ★ Founders became the first US citizens to receive Ukraine's Presidential Medal of Honor in recognition of CCRF's humanitarian achievements CCRF is also the winner of the 1995 New Jersey Governor's Volunteer Award and several other coveted honors.



Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund

For Immediate Release: April 5, 1999

First Lady Hillary Clinton to be honored for contributions to Children's Health Programs

(New York City) On Monday, April 19th at 6 p.m. First Lady of the United States Hillary Rodham Clinton will accept a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund (CCRF) in recognition of her long-standing efforts to improve children's health in Ukraine and around the world. The award will be presented at the Ukrainian Institute of America, at the corner of Fifth Avenue and East 79th Street in Manhattan, near the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Mrs. Clinton has been very supportive of efforts to aid the children of Chornobyl. In 1996, she and Vice-President Gore hosted a White House ceremony commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. On three separate goodwill missions, Mrs. Clinton visited children's hospitals in Ukraine to observe first-hand the health impact of the 1986 nuclear accident that released massive amounts of radiation into the environment of Ukraine and neighboring countries. She has also lent her support to US-based efforts to save the lives of Ukrainian children.

The New Jersey-based Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund has been cited by many authorities including Ukraine's former Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, the US State Department, and many members of Congress as one of the most effective and cost-efficient medical missions serving Ukraine. With the aid of technology, training and support services generated by US donors and activists, CCRF has achieved dramatic successes in its partner hospitals in Kyiv (Kiev), Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Vinnytsia, Lutsk, and other cities. The Fund has established model neonatal intensive care units that have sharply reduced infant mortality in several medical centers. (MORE.....)

First Lady to be honored by Chornobyl children's charity
Press Release, April 5, 1999 -- page 2

The Fund has also established the most advanced blood-testing laboratory in all of Eastern Europe, at the Lviv Regional Specialized Pediatric Clinic, to help combat children's leukemia and non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Together with the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, CCRF installed the first Magnetic Resonance Imaging System at the Kyiv Emergency Hospital and Trauma Center. Since 1994, the MRI has provided diagnostic tests for 9,500 patients, in many cases enabling doctors to perform life-saving surgeries on malignant tumours and traumatic brain injuries afflicting Chornobyl survivors, including children, evacuees, and nuclear cleanup veterans.

CCRF has chosen to honor Mrs. Clinton for her personal commitment to children's health and humanitarian efforts in Eastern Europe. Throughout her professional life, Mrs. Clinton has devoted herself to improving the lives of mothers and children, both in the United States and throughout the world. The First Lady has frequently spoken out about the need for increased aid for hospitals and non-governmental organizations such as CCRF that are implementing innovative, high-impact approaches to international aid and development.

In its first ten years, CCRF has completed twenty major airlifts and seven sea shipments to Ukraine, delivering over 1,200 tons of aid valued at \$40 million dollars.

For more information on the April 19th reception, please contact the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund in New Jersey at (973)376-5140 or in Kyiv (Kiev) at (011-38-044-228-1870, or consult CCRF's homepage at www.childrenofchornobyl.org or at www.ccrf-iccf.org. Email messages may be sent to info@ccrf-iccf.org.

*CCRF uses the Ukrainian spelling of "Chornobyl" recommended by the US Library of Congress and the National Geographic Society, as opposed to the former, Soviet spelling "Chernobyl".



Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund

Background Materials:

Mission Statement: The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund is a humanitarian organization created to protect and save the lives of children who confront the human legacy of one of the world's worst environmental disasters.

In 1995, with the aid of a major grant from the Monsanto Company, CCRF expanded its mission to mount a broad-based effort to combat infant mortality and early childhood diseases in several Ukrainian provinces.

Since 1990, CCRF has launched twenty large-scale airlifts and seven sea shipments. We've delivered more than 1,200 tons of aid, valued at over \$40 million dollars. Next to the US government, there is no US organization that has delivered more medical aid, or more medical technology to Ukraine. In April and May of 1999, we will be launching our 21st and twenty-second airlifts.

Beyond humanitarian aid, CCRF has established long-term hospital partnerships with pediatric hospitals and cancer treatment centers in eight cities: Kyiv (Pushcha Vodytsia), Dnipropetrovsk, Chernihiv, Lutsk, L'viv, Luhansk, Poltava and Vinnytsia.

Among our most notable achievements, CCRF has established one of the most advanced and best-equipped blood testing laboratories in the former Soviet Union, at the Lviv Regional Specialized Pediatric Clinic (LRSPC). With technology and training provided by CCRF, the Lviv Clinic has become one of the most effective treatment centers for children with leukemia and Hodgkins Disease. The diagnostic center is staffed by doctors and technicians who received extensive training (between eight weeks and 6 months) under CCRF's auspices in the United States. These physicians have since returned to Lviv, where they have sponsored national training conferences for hematologists, sharing skills and techniques learned at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and the Boston Children's Hospital, and the University of Pittsburgh, among others.

The doctors and technicians at the LRSPC have done a very fine job of utilizing equipment and training provided by CCRF. Since 1995, they have been producing their own monoclonal antibodies which are shared with diagnostic centers across Western Ukraine. In 1998, the CCRF-sponsored biochemistry laboratory at the LRSPC was certified by a prestigious European inspection team as the most accurate testing facility of its kind in Eastern Europe.

In one of the most exciting developments spawned by CCRF training programs and technology, Dr. Artur Sirenko, a young researcher at the LRSPC has produced ground-breaking results in his analysis of chromosomes linked to remission and regression rates among children suffering from leukemia and other life-threatening blood disorders. Working with a flow cytometer donated by the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and delivered by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund in 1992, and then with a new cytometer from Becton-Dickenson, Dr. Sirenko has identified a key chromosome that has been linked to pediatric leukemia patients' ability to achieve long-term recovery from their illness. Dr. Sirenko's findings were well-received at several major conferences hosted by the European Haematological Association. This research could have a major impact on the treatment of leukemia around the world.

* * *

In addition to our successes in the area of leukemia treatment, CCRF has modernized six **neonatal intensive care centers** - in Dnipropetrovsk, Chernihiv, Lutsk, L'viv and Vinnytsia, and at the Institute of Pediatrics, OBGYN in Kyiv. All of these NICU units have significantly strengthened the hospitals' ability to save the lives of newborns.

CCRF has created a fledgling **infant cardiac surgery** program at the Lviv Regional Clinical Children's Hospital under the direction of U.S.-trained surgeon Dr. Roman Kovalsky. The Cardiac Program has been equipped with essential diagnostic equipment, a transport incubator, ventilators and other technology needed to save children born with congenital heart defects. In the near future, CCRF hopes to upgrade this unit with a heart-lung machine we've secured from our chapter in Cleveland, Ohio to enable the staff to perform more complicated bypass and open-heart surgeries.

* CCRF has also installed the first U.S.-built **MRI system** in Ukraine with the assistance of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. The \$1.1 million dollar system is staffed by local Kiev radiologists who also received training through CCRF. In its first few years in operation, the MRI provided diagnostic tests for more than 9,500 patients, and located malignant tumours in more than 800 cases. The MRI has also enabled physicians at the Kiev Emergency Hospital and Trauma Center to obtain high-definition tests on scores of traumatic injuries without which life-saving treatments would have been impossible. Ongoing monitoring visits by CCRF staff and medical advisers have verified that the MR staff is well-versed in all applications of the system.

continued.....

Under its first USAID grant, awarded in 1994, CCRF received \$350,000 for the procurement of oncological medicines and a physicians' training conference in Kiev.¹ CCRF leveraged over \$5.5 million dollars' worth of chemotherapeutic agents and post-operative drugs. This included enough thyroxin and T-3, T-4 hormone supplements for the more than 300 Ukrainian children who have undergone surgery for thyroid cancer. CCRF also provided a full compliment of leukemic medicine for a leading cancer center in Lviv - enough to bring more than 100 leukemic children into remission. Only two children died in the ward during this period, and physicians were extremely pleased with the recovery and remission rate. The Fund also obtained large amounts of antibiotics to combat potentially life-threatening infections in post-operative settings.² CCRF also leveraged more than \$400,000 worth of Hepatitis-B vaccine (Recombivax HB) providing for the vaccination of 510 patients who were vulnerable to hepatitis following chemotherapy.

On numerous occasions, CCRF has succeeded in providing large volumes of cancer medication that enabled Ukrainian doctors to place and keep children in remission. Cancer centers in Kiev, Kharkiv, Lviv, Pushcha Vodytsia and elsewhere have reported favorable results after receiving a variety of products from CCRF.

CCRF's success in saving the lives of newborns and children with cancer has been cited in nationwide news broadcasts on Ukrainian television as well as in major publications in the U.S. and Ukraine. On May 1st, 1996, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore honored CCRF as one of the most effective groups involved in medical relief in Ukraine during a special White House ceremony marking the 10th Anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. The only NGO representatives invited to speak on behalf of the NGO community were CCRF staffer Alexander Kuzma and 11-year-old Vova Malofienko, one of the leukemic children who was saved through CCRF's relief efforts.

Since 1992, several Congressional bodies and United Nations agencies have called on representatives of CCRF to testify as expert witnesses on the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster and to assess the medical crisis in the former Soviet Union. These included the Senate Subcommittee on the Environment and Public Works, the House Human Rights Caucus, and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

CCRF has also been invited to co-host major conferences on Chernobyl with the Harriman Institute at Columbia University School for International Affairs and the Yale University Center on Russian and East European Studies.

¹ Chemotherapeutic agents and cancer medications are notoriously costly and difficult to obtain in the form of in-kind donations. The cost of medication for one leukemic child in the United States can easily run as high as \$100,000 per year. CCRF medical advisers were concerned that the funding provided for this purpose might not be adequate to make a significant impact on patients in the targeted region. Despite these challenges, the program resulted in significant benefits for hundreds of cancer patients.

² Children with cancer and Chernobyl survivors are particularly vulnerable to infections as their immune systems are weakened by radiation exposure or chemotherapy, and this often poses an acute challenge which CCRF and its partner hospitals felt compelled to address in developing effective protocols for the Oncology Program.

Honors:

CCRF's founders, Dr. Zenon and Mrs. Nadia Matkiwsky were the first U.S. citizens to receive the Medal of Honor from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma during in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments on behalf of the Chornobyl victims. The award was bestowed during the August 1996 Celebration of the 5th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence in Kiev. Mrs. Matkiwsky received a similar award from the Ukrainian Parliament ("*Verkhovna Rada*") in 1991 when she was officially granted the title "Honorary Mother of Chornobyl's Children". In 1995, CCRF was the recipient of the New Jersey Governor's Volunteer Award in recognition of its achievements in the field of international relief. In 1996, CCRF Executive Director Nadia Matkiwsky was invited by President Kuchma to serve on the National Planning Committee for the official commemoration of the Chornobyl 10th Anniversary at the Kiev State Opera Theatre. CCRF played a leading role in the organization of the concert, which was nationally televised and featured international celebrities from Ukraine, the United States and Great Britain. In 1995, CCRF received the Governor's Volunteer Award from New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman. CCRF has also been honored in the "Local Heroes" column in TIME Magazine (July 14, 1996) and has been nominated for the 1999 Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Award.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Georgetown University, Eleanor Roosevelt Lectures
Washington, DC - December 4, 1998

I am delighted to be here at this wonderful university. I want to thank my friend and your president, Father O'Donovan, for his introduction, for his leadership, for his many contributions. Not only here to this university but to the much broader American community as well.

I am delighted to be here with others, from whom you will hear as the program goes on. Dr. Glen Johnson from Val-Kill and Dr. Dorothy Brown and Dr. Sue Martin, Ambassador Betty King and Dr. McGrab and Dr. Milnik...and your own Dr. Jo Ann Moran Cruz and Tracy Roosevelt.

This is a very important first lecture and a very significant series that was undertaken by the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill at Hyde Park in New York. I am very honored to be taking part in this extraordinary lecture series and I'm very pleased to be a part of something that preserves the legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt. That gives new generations of all of us, men and women, here in America and around the world, a real opportunity to know more about this extraordinary woman.

What I wish to discuss this afternoon is how Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy as a person, as a leader, as someone who in her own way makes human rights part of our everyday experience and vocabulary, how she can help today to continue to guide us in protecting the human rights of all people and, in particular, of children. I believe that this is an important piece of unfinished business in our century and one of the challenges of the new millennium. It is of course more than fitting to have this first conversation about human rights at this great university and community --one which has always responded to the call of service, God, and humanity. It is the home, as Father O'Donovan just reminded us, of a student community that sends more than a thousand young people a year into Washington, DC schools and neighborhoods bringing math, and reading, and role modeling, and friendship, and a hug to some of our nation's most vulnerable children. It is the home of a brilliant faculty that has devoted their lives to their students, to scholarship, to service. Whether it's in the classroom or in some other activity, Georgetown continues to make an important mark on what we are as a people, how we define ourselves now and in the future. It is certainly the home of many distinguished alumni who have used the Jesuit ethos of service in this world, from Mark Gearan who sends Peace Corps volunteers to every corner of the Earth, to George Mitchell who helped bring peace to Northern Ireland, from my husband, to my Chief of Staff Melanne Verveer who is with me here today.

Now, as you might imagine, being somewhat in awe of this great university which has produced so many important people and that has made so many important contributions to our country, I thought I needed to discuss this speech with Eleanor Roosevelt. (laughter and applause) When I first told people some years ago that I sometimes hold imaginary conversations

with Mrs. Roosevelt, there were some --particularly, I must say, in the journalistic community --who thought they finally had irrefutable evidence that I'd gone off the deep end. (laughter) Well, I only can commend to you this imaginary conversation technique --whether it is with a parent, a grandparent or a beloved former teacher or a famous person --it does help to get your ideas straight because you say, "What would my grandmother say about this?" Or, "what would Mrs. Jones, who desperately tried to prevent me from dangling participles, have to say about this?" So talking to Mrs. Roosevelt, even in my imagination, has proven to be a very great source of strength and inspiration. You can imagine some of the situations I find myself in when I say, "Oh my good gracious, what would Mrs. Roosevelt say?" (laughter)

As anyone can tell you, particularly my daughter, I am technologically challenged. But, I decided in preparation for this speech to try a more modern, more acceptable way of communicating. So, first I tried to email her at erooselt@heaven.com, but I think the server was down. I tried calling on her cell phone, but the circuits were busy. Then I tried paging her but was told she had traveled to another part of Heaven to work with a group of angels on strike, and that I would need a universal skype to get through to her.

So there I was last night, I got home from New York late, worried about what I was going to say, staring at some pages of print when I realized that her life has already given us the guidance we need on today's topic so many times over. Not just some inspirational words that we might hear in our minds, in our imaginary conversations such as, "The thing to remember is to do the thing you think you cannot do." But also in her example, in the path that she created, in the life that she lived. Wherever I go as First Lady, I am always reminded of one thing: that usually, Eleanor Roosevelt has been there before. I've been to farms in Iowa and factories in Michigan, welfare offices in New York, where Mrs. Roosevelt paid a visit more than half a century ago. When I went to Pakistan and India we discovered that Eleanor Roosevelt had been there in 1952, and had written a book about her experiences.

So I was particularly honored when I received the Eleanor Roosevelt Center Gold Medal at Val-Kill. A beautiful wooded retreat where she went to entertain friends and family to think and to write. As I walked through her home I tried to imagine again how she worked tirelessly there for what she believed in. And I was told a story that I've never forgotten. It was a day in the 1950s and she had a speech to give in New York. She was so sick that her throat was literally bleeding. Everyone wanted her to cancel, but she refused. She drove from Hyde Park to 125th Street in Harlem. And when she got out of the car, a young girl with her face beaming handed her a bouquet of flowers. Eleanor Roosevelt turned to the person with her and said, "You see, I had to come. She was expecting me."

Well, they were always expecting her and she always came. She came to give support and to give a voice to those without either. To the migrant workers who watched her march through fields that had been newly plowed and were thick with muck, they would just matter-of-factly greet her by saying, "Oh Mrs. Roosevelt, you've come to see us." As if it were the most natural thing in the world. To the Japanese -Americans during World War II and to

African Americans every day during her long life, she would help support people who faced discrimination and challenges.

Another of my favorite stories is of an African American child, a first grader, whose mother worked in a laundry mat. His father was a mechanic who couldn't get good work. They lived in a tin shack without any foundation so every time it rained their house slid down the hill. This child wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt telling her that his house was literally falling down a hill. So she went to Kentucky, set up a meeting with the heads of the realty association and the banks, which led not only that child getting his house on much firmer footing, but also eventually to integrated housing in Lexington, Kentucky. The next year in the mail, he sent his second grade picture to Mrs. Roosevelt and she carried it with her to remind her of the boy she had never personally met. On the back, he had written his name with such care, erasing it many times so that it was just right, that it left an imprint on the front of the photo. He also included a letter, "Dear Mrs. Roosevelt," it said "Thank you for my house. I know you did it."

Without fanfare, she went anywhere and everywhere she thought her presence would make a difference. She wanted to see with her own eyes the everyday violations that rob individuals of their dignity and all of us of our humanity. And then she rolled up her sleeves and tried to do something about what she saw.

And that is the path she is asking us to walk today; to open our eyes and hearts, to use our minds and hands, and fulfill the promises of her greatest achievements of all, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It happened exactly 50 winters ago. As the Chair of the commission drafting the Universal Declaration of Human rights, Eleanor Roosevelt worked tirelessly from 1946 to 1948. Imagine how she must have felt on December 10, at 3:00 a.m. when the nations of the world agreed to create this new common standard for human dignity. We know how everyone else felt. The delegates stood and gave her a standing ovation.

Let me read a passage from that document: "The advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief, freedom from fear and want have been proclaimed as the highest aspirations of the common people." The declaration, as we know, did not take place in a vacuum. As Father O'Donovan has already reminded us, it was a worldwide response to evil, and I use that word deliberately. Those who study Hitler's rise to power and the Holocaust know that the Nazis were able to pursue their crimes precisely because they were successful at constricting the circle of those were defined as fully humans. The proceeded step by step, through laws and propaganda --Jews, the mentally ill, the infirm, gypsies, homosexuals --all of whom they identified as unworthy of life, as not human, as alien, other.

Throughout history, and even today, we have seen in many places and in many times this cold dark region of the human soul, this schizophrenia of the soul that permits one group to de-humanize another. And it was that all-too-human characteristic that the Declaration and Eleanor Roosevelt wanted to help us resist. In the half century since the declaration, this document has created an ideal that nations and individuals have reached towards, knowing that

they will never quite achieve it, but knowing that we must never stop trying. Many countries have used the Declaration for their own constitutions. Courts of law look to it. It has laid the groundwork for the world's war crimes tribunals.

At the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, it was the strength and challenge of this Declaration that enabled us to say for the world to hear that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights. It was the power of the Declaration that led in ~~1989~~ to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I am very proud that my husband signed that. And now I hope with all my heart that the United States will join with the Vatican and all the other nations of the world except Somalia and ratify the Convention once and for all. (applause) And this is why. In spite of our progress on human rights over the last half century, it is unconscionable that we still have not seen the circle of human dignity expanded to include all the children of our world. There are still too many excluded from the Declaration, too many whose suffering we fail to see, to hear, to feel, or to stop.

Now, any look back in the course of human history shows that every nation, every society, has its blind spots. Spots that somehow prevent us from understanding how the full circle of rights should include all of our fellow human beings. In our country it has taken us most of our 222 years --most of them bloody, few of them easy --to extend the benefits of citizenship to African Americans, to those without property, and to women. Eleanor Roosevelt was 35 years old before she was given the right to vote.

And we also know --especially in this new global economy --that no nation can move ahead when its children are left behind. Eleanor Roosevelt understood that. She knew that whether we treated children with respect would not only determine the quality of our lives, but also who we were as a nation and what kind of life it would be for the next generation. You could see it in the way she talked to children. I've seen so many pictures of her bending down from her tall frame and leaning her entire body over to hear a child, looking right into the eyes of that child, trying to understand that child's dream, trying to convey that she believed in that little boy or girl, and she always tried to give those children a voice.

The Declaration makes that clear. It reads, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." All human beings --it did not say all men, or all members of certain races, regions or religions. It did not say all adults. It also did not make choices between children because, in fact, it says specifically, "All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection." Because human rights are not given to us by a parent or the government. They do not miraculously appear when we turn 18. No piece of paper can give them or take them away. We know that children should be treated with extra care --not less. And every child should be viewed as endowed with all rights and dignity accorded to all human beings.

Now of course that's not always been the view of children. For millennia we viewed

children as the property of their families, principally of their fathers. They were mostly used for work --work outside and inside the house. Parents were given the right in every culture to abandon, ignore or sell their children. But over the centuries, we grew to understand that children were not just little adults, that they need the care, discipline and the love of a family. And we began to understand too --as industrialization spread across the world --that in order for children to be successful in the world that is being created, they needed education, they needed protection, they needed to grow slowly but surely into adulthood. We have to only go back to the 19th century to see how different times were. In Dickens' Hard Times, poor children grow up in a town where the black soot from the factory virtually extinguishes the sun and the school is taught by a teacher appropriately named Choke M. Child. So in this century, we have begun to appreciate more that children are people, are individuals, and not property.

Now what does that mean to us? Well, clearly in our country, it has meant passing laws, and enforcing them to prevent children from being abused in labor; being abused by those who are closest to them --their family; being given certain protections, whether they are caught up in the court system or the welfare system; being given the right of --which sounds like an oxymoron --compulsory education; being viewed in other words as people themselves who we must nurture into full citizenship. If you've ever worked with children, you can see in their eyes how so often we fail at that very fundamental task of respecting them. I've worked with abused and neglected children for more than 25 years. I've looked into the eyes of many poor children, many abandoned children, and I'm always amazed that there are some in our world who continue to dismiss the suffering of children, who believe that somehow children are so resilient that they will always bounce back, and it is not all of our responsibility to care for all of our children, and that we interfere with the rights of parents when we do something as simple as try to prevent children from being physically abused.

So we've changed attitudes, and we have seen great progress doing so here in our own country and around the world. There are others who say that human rights are a Western invention and that they come from a Judeo-Christian base and that they don't have universal application. But we also know differently. We can go back and trace the roots of the beliefs that were set forth in the Declaration. They were not invented 50 years ago. They are not the work of a single culture, whether it is Confucius who articulated them in ancient China, or Sophocles who wrote 2500 years ago about such rights and had Antigone declare there were ethical laws higher than the laws of kings. But whether it is the Golden Rule --which appears in every possible religion in one form or another --we know that at root we understand --whether we admit it or not --that we as human beings are vowed to each other in a mutual realm of respect, that we should nurture for our own sake, as well as for others.

Now what are these rights? Well, for children, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child declares that every child is born with the right to be protected from abuse and abduction, violence and work that threatens his or her development. It says that every child has the right to worship freely and express opinions and aspirations, that every child has the right to health, to education, to life. These are the promises that Eleanor Roosevelt and every other champion of

human rights held out for all people, but it has been up to us adults to make these promises real in the lives of children.

In many African villages, I'm told that neighbors greet each other not by saying hello, but by asking, "How are the children?" Well the answer is that today, 50 years after the Declaration, children are doing better around the world. They are more likely to live to see their 5th birthday and even their 75th. In health, nutrition, education, water supply and sanitation, three out of five countries are pretty much on track to reach the child survival goals set by the 1990 World Summit on Children. Over the last two decades, infant immunization rates rose from 5 percent to 80 percent, saving more than 3 million lives a year.

Around the world, I have personally seen governments and non-governmental organizations come together to put the lives of children first. Just a few months ago, Yemen adopted a national strategy for girls' education, including eliminating school fees for girls. Last year in the United States, we extended health insurance to millions of children, and enacted the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which says that our first priority in the child welfare system is the health and well-being of children. There are many examples I could give you of the progress we have made --certainly over 50 years, but even over 10 and the last 5 years. But still we have to ask, "How are the children?" And the honest answer is, which children? Where do they live? Who are their parents? How affluent are they? What kind of societies are they part of? Because, despite the advances, in many places around the world children are not doing very well at all. There are old foes like malnutrition and malaria and new foes like trafficking and child prostitutes and laborers. There is still a long distance for us to travel.

Over the last few weeks I randomly had pulled headlines from around the world. From Hong Kong, "Child Prostitutes Make Tearful Plea;" in Bangladesh, "The Plight of Street Children;" in Nairobi, "Poverty Blamed for Child Labor." Eleanor Roosevelt certainly would be the first to point out that a child's rights go far beyond simply responding to the images that we see on TV, or that reach us through the Internet or the newspaper. We have to ask ourselves, each of us, "What is it I can do? What is it I can ask others to do? How can I move my government, my church, my friends forward to do more for children?"

I think there are some very specific ways we can bear witness and things we can do to support those children whose lives are not much better today than they were 50 years ago, or who face new challenges --like being kidnaped, or being forced into combat --that we didn't even dream of 50 years ago. We have to understand that we can't just be satisfied by giving children help and nutrition for emergencies. We have to look at root causes. We have to support work by our own government, by our development agencies like USAID, by international organizations such as UNICEF. And it is particularly important that we do not forget the faces of the children here in our country, at this time of prosperity and peace. Americans have so many blessings, but there are even those among us who are being left out.

If we talk about human rights and freedoms we have to ask ourselves, "What does that

mean to the 7 million children who still die every year of malnutrition?" What does it mean to the 585,000 women who still die of childbirth complications or the girls who are fed last and fed least because they are not valued as much as their brothers?

What meaning can it have for a child who does not have access to school or for one who is shut out at school? We know that education, especially for girls, is the single best investment any country can make. It is what will give children a better future, keep them out of the labor market before they're ready, and keep them off the streets. And yet, 140 million primary school age children are not in school --60 percent of that 140 million are girls. And I have seen first-hand the obstacles, the cultural and economic obstacles that stand in the way of sending girls to school. In a small village outside of Lahore, Pakistan I visited with mothers who had sent their daughters to local primary school, and now they had daughters who had graduated who wanted to go on with their education, but there was no secondary school. I've met with families in Bangladesh, who in return for food and money permitted their daughters to go to school. It was a bribe, but it was a worthy bribe.

I've also visited places where child labor is the norm not the exception and, as Eleanor Roosevelt said when she championed the Child Labor Amendment in our own country so many years ago, "No civilization should be based on the labor of children." But that is happening every day --even in this country because children are being forced into labor, sold into labor, and we are not doing enough about it. The types of labor children are subjected to in this new global economy have perhaps changed, but not the impact on the child. It is not a problem of the past. It should not be excused by saying that parents need money. And we should not close our eyes to the work of children that goes into beautiful carpets or comfortable running shoes because the fact remains that one quarter of the children in the developing world, 120 million, work full time. It's a very difficult problem because many of them are the sole support of their families often with widowed or abandoned mothers, with younger siblings, or they're helping to supplement the hard earned income of a father.

The new face of child labor also includes things that I don't think Eleanor Roosevelt even thought to worry about. Girls are being sold as part of an international trade in human beings from South Asia, to the Middle East, to Central America. It is estimated that there are 250,000 children in Haiti alone who are virtually enslaved as domestic servants. I heard about that on my recent trip to Haiti. How they are often given away, sold, separated from their families, sexually and physically abused, malnourished, and literally sometimes worked to death. There are girls that I've met in Northern Thailand, when I visited their village I could tell by looking at their parents' homes which ones had sold their daughters into prostitution. The homes were bigger, nicer, they sometimes even had an antenna or satellite on top. But the next day I visited with some of the daughters that had been sold into the brothels in Bangkok and other cities who, after they became infected with HIV, were thrown out onto the streets and found their way home. They were rejected by their families, and thanks to the good services of relief and religious organizations they were taken in. And I met those girls --some of them as young as 12 --dying from AIDS.

Eleanor Roosevelt worked hard to rescue European refugee children during World War II. But I don't know if she, or anyone, could have seen the horrific ways in which children are now being brutalized by war. Until relatively recently in human history, war was being fought out between soldiers. Some conscripts, some volunteers, but by in large adult men --counting teenagers in their mid to late teens in some societies who were part of whatever the war effort was. In the last twenty or so years, that has increasingly not been the case. Who will speak today for the two million children that have been in conflicts in the last two decades, with six million seriously injured or permanently disabled, the one million left without parents or the twelve million left without homes? The primary victims of modern warfare are women, and children, and civilians --people who are picked on as victims, who are kidnaped by perpetrators, who are forced into being refugees. Who will speak for those children who are being used as instruments of war? From the young girls systematically raped in Bosnia, to the quarter of a million child soldiers around the world.

Who will speak for the three children I recently met in Uganda --Janet Issac and Betty? Like many children in Northern Uganda, they have literally been stolen from their homes. The boys are used in battle as human shields. The girls are sent into slave labor, usually raped, and then given away as wives to rebel commanders. The children are often forced to kill other children who don't obey or try to escape. The rebels call themselves soldiers but they are cowards, for only cowards would hide behind children in battle.

I met the head of a boarding school, a nun, Sister Rachele. Her 139 female students had been the subject of a raid by the rebels who had crossed the Sudanese border, had taken the school, tied the girls up, beaten them, and then taken them all away into the dead of night. But this tiny little woman of God was determined to get them back. She went after them, she was armed usually only with her faith, but she was able to pull together some funds to ransom some of the children out. She served as a safe haven for those who could find their way back. Many have, but I was sad to talk with the mother of one of those students who has not been rescued. Her mother doesn't know if she's alive or dead. She only knows that she was taken as part of a war that she has no say in whatsoever.

We also know that we cannot fulfill the journey that the Declaration started us on when 100 million street children now live in the developing world alone. They are out of school, without homes or families. They're left to take care of themselves, they roam the streets in tattered clothing, they sell gum, and they beg and they dig through the trash for food. I've seen them in Bulgaria. Roma children --one of the most discriminated against groups in Europe --you might call them gypsies. Roma children, sometimes by their own parents, are put out on the street to beg. Or if there are too many children in the family some are just left there. Or if they want to go to school instead of turning tricks they are left there.

I also saw them in Brazil where three street children a day are killed, usually by police doing the bidding of merchants who are tired of having these children camped in front of their stores. In both Bulgaria and Brazil, I saw how caring people can make a difference. I visited a

center run by a Bulgarian-American who has taken in children off the streets who are now going to school and learning, and thinking about a better future. But it's a small number of those that need to be helped. I visited a unique program in Brazil in Salvador de Bahia. A circus school where children were taken in and taught skills to entertain people who would come and see them perform. They would then have money so they could be housed, and given food, and educated --children who once had no future, thinking they wouldn't have one. It's not only in warm places like Brazil --I visited a center for street children in Mongolia where the children, because of the rapid changes in social life, because of problems adjusting to the new global economy, are either being pushed out or running away from homes that are in a great deal of stress and turmoil.

When we think about what is happening with these tens of millions of children around the world, we certainly cannot forget that there are still children here in Washington, DC and throughout America that need their rights protected as well. We should not, for example, condemn violence against children in Kosovo and turn away from it on the streets of Washington. We cannot mourn the children of Mongolia and forget about homeless children here, or raise our voices about children out of school in Guatemala and close our mouths when young people here drop out. We have to do better by our own children as well. We've been making progress here and around the world.

I've been pleased that this administration, under the President, has put the protection of children on the front burner. For example, this year, we are increasing by tenfold our U.S. commitment to take children out of abusive workrooms and put them in classrooms all over the world. Since September, the Voice of America has been broadcasting monthly public service announcements asking parents if they've talked about their children's health today, focusing on child survival issues, talking hard talk in some places, like not feeding your girl children, or being exposed to HIV and AIDS. We join with Ukraine to combat trafficking of girls in and out of that country. And from Guatemala to Nepal, I've seen how small investments in educational scholarships for girls, or safe birthing kits, or Vitamin A, can lift up and transform lives. So there is much that we can point to that is heading in the right direction, but there is much more we have to do.

Another story from Eleanor Roosevelt. She once talked about receiving a letter from an African American boy who had taken a drink out of what was then considered the wrong water fountain, and he was beaten up for it. He sent her the cup he had used to get the water and explained what happened. She not only kept that cup, she carried it around with her as a reminder of all the work yet to be done. I wish we each had some little talisman that we could carry around with us, that would remind us everyday of the work still to be done. I hope we remember the children who are victims and weapons of war when Congress revisits our United Nations dues. It should be unacceptable to all Americans of any political persuasion that the richest and most powerful country in the world is the number one debtor to the United Nations. (applause)

I hope we remember the children toiling in glass and shoe factories as we work to fulfill

the promises and one day ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I hope we continue to do all that we can to help promote democracy around the world to make sure that all parents have a voice that will be heard from the ballot box, and even the soap box, so they can speak out on behalf of the needs of their children. We know that we have to do more than pass, and even implement new laws. We have to teach people that they do have rights, and how to exercise them.

I was particularly pleased by an American-funded project I saw recently in Senegal. Where out in the villages they're learning about democracy, they're acting out skits. Someone stands up and expresses an opinion and then another stands up and they discuss it and take a vote on it. The rudiments of democracy. And in this skit are both men and women participating. As a result of that democracy skit one small village, after talking about issues that effected them --health, the education of their children --to put an end to female circumcision. That was a very brave decision. They convinced people in the village that it should be done, and they put it to a vote and they voted for it. And then, two men in their village went from their village to other villages and started talking to the people in the other villages and explaining that they had read the Koran and there was nothing in it that talked about this. It was not good for their daughters, it sometimes led to them hemorrhaging and bleeding to death, and sometimes caused grave complications in childbirth. Slowly, village after village began to recognize that it was a fundamental right of a young girl to grow up whole, to have her health protected. And then, the next thing I knew I got a letter saying these villages had banded together and presented a petition to the President and that a law would be passed. Now that law will not end this cultural custom, but it will begin to change attitudes about it. More and more girls and women will say, "No, this is not necessary."

➔ There are certain rights to health that we need to protect. First, think of what we could accomplish if we valued and respected every child, with particular emphasis on girl children, because they are still the most at risk in so many societies around the globe. If we are to put children's rights on the same level as adult's rights, then we have to think about what it is that we want for our own children. Those of us in this beautiful Gaston Hall, who try to keep our children healthy, who try to give them good educations that lead to a fine university education like this one here at Georgetown. We try to protect them from abuse and neglect and abandonment and desertion. We try not to put them to work in full time jobs before they are ready. So we have to think about what we want for ourselves, and in many countries where some of the worst violations of children's rights occur, those who are in power protect their own children and then look at others' children as being beyond the circle of human dignity.

So we have to complete that circle, and that falls to every generation. It fell to our parents who fought off depression and oppression. It fell to the generation that fought for civil rights and for human rights. And it falls to each of us, particularly the students who are here today. I like very much the article that Tracy Roosevelt recently wrote. She talked about the legacy that her great grandmother left all of us and that any young person could follow by standing up for the rights of others by standing against stereotyping of any person or group of

people.

Now we might not have Eleanor Roosevelt's stature --either in height or in life --but each of us can contribute to a child's future. We can make sure that we are part of a society that values health care for everyone, a good education for everyone, the strength of families to give them the tools they need to raise their own children with future possibilities, to make sure we do everything we can to live free from abuse and violence and war, and to make it possible for every person and every child to speak freely and live up to their own God-given potential.

As we look forward to the next fifty years, we will face many challenges and opportunities. It was almost 50 years ago that Eleanor Roosevelt spoke about this. She spoke about democracy and human rights to a group of students, both high school and college students, in New York. As we listen to her those words still ring true today. She said, "Imagine it's you people gathered here in this room who are going to do a great deal of the thinking and the actual doing because a good many of us are not going to see the end of this period. You are going to live in a dangerous world for quite a while I guess, but it's going to be an interesting and adventurous one. I wish you courage to face yourselves and when you know what you really want to fight for, not in a war, but to fight for in order to gain a peace, then I wish for you imagination and understanding. God bless you. May you win."

Those words are just as true for this generation of students as they were fifty years ago for the ones that Eleanor Roosevelt spoke to. I go back to that first story, despite how sick she was, she showed up and took that bouquet of flowers from that young girl. "You see" she said, "I had to come, she was expecting me." Think about all of the children who are expecting us. Think about, as we go forward into Advent and celebrate this Christmas season, about a particular child who no one was expecting but grew up to give us a chance to think anew, to live again in ways that connect us more deeply and profoundly to one another. Eleanor Roosevelt can serve as an inspiration, and a reminder that although as President Kennedy said, "God's work on this Earth is our own," we know that we can never complete it. But we know that we can live richer lives if we try. To the children of America and the world, you see, we have to come, because they are expecting us to make good on the promises that were made to them fifty years ago.

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CDC
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
AND PREVENTION
facsimile
TRANSMITTAL

TO: Doug Snider White House Speech Office Date: April 14, 1999

Phone: 202-456-2777

Fax: 202 456 2505

Doug,

You had asked for information about the number of children exposed to environmental hazards worldwide. I checked with our folks in CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, National Center for Health Statistics, Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry, and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Here's the information that I found:

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) published: *WHO's Health and Environment in Sustainable Development--five years after the Earth Summit, 1997*. We found data from one table listing the # of deaths due to different diseases and combined it with another that listed the % of those deaths due to environmental causes. Below is a paragraph from the WHO book talking about the environmental impact on these diseases.

"In different ways and to different degrees, each of the disease and disability categories discussed above owe their presence to one environmental factor or another. A summary portrayal of the environmental portion of the global burden of disease is given in Table 5.14. Applying these percentages across the diseases and conditions indicated leads to an estimate of the total DALY burden that is associated with environmental factors. This is 320 470 or 23% of the world's total DALY burden.

The percentages shown reflect how important these factors are in causing the burden and indicate how much their control would contribute to its reduction. Thus, even though many diseases (diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, measles, polio and tetanus) might be arguably 100% environmental, a lesser percentage is indicated because of the availability of effective preventive and curative care, including vaccines in some instances...."

Doug, some of the environmental exposures listed include: exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollution; crowding; poor housing conditions; poor sanitation, water supply and food safety. I'm sorry that I don't have a public affairs point of contact in WHO (in the event that you need to follow up on the information above).

2. Environmental Exposure to Children in the US: Attached is an ATSDR fact sheet about Children and Hazardous Waste Sites (US).

3. Finally, here are some data on work-related hazards affecting youths and children that may be useful from CDC's NIOSH.

--Home contamination by beryllium, lead, asbestos, pesticides, mercury, asthmatogens/allergens, and other substances carried home on workers' clothing and bodies may pose a serious public health problem. Health effects and deaths from workplace contaminants brought into the home have been reported in 36 states and 28 countries. (For example, in the first comprehensive study of home lead contamination among construction workers, NIOSH in 1997 found that children of lead-exposed construction workers were six times more likely to have blood-lead levels over the recommended limit than children whose parents did not work in construction.) A 1997 NIOSH educational document ("Protect Your Family: Reduce Contamination at Home," DHHS [NIOSH] No. 97-125) provides workers, their families, and others with practical information for recognizing and preventing potential home contamination risks, based on a major study conducted at the direction of Congress.

--Workplace exposures can pose reproductive risks, including risks of birth defects and developmental disorders from workplace exposures to lead, infectious agents, and ionizing radiation. NIOSH has issued easy-to-read educational documents on the effects of workplace hazards on male and female reproductive health and is working closely with diverse partners to advance research on fertility and pregnancy abnormalities under the National Occupational Research Agenda, NORA.

--Youths under 18 are at risk from preventable work-related injuries. The Department of Labor reported 62 deaths of workers under 18 in 1997, and NIOSH estimates that another 70,000 were injured seriously enough to require treatment in hospital emergency rooms. The three leading categories of work-related fatalities (motor vehicle deaths, homicide, and machine-related deaths) claim 16- and 17-year-old workers at rates comparable to or slightly higher than rates for adult workers. NIOSH is conducting key research for preventing such injuries and deaths, and works closely with industry, educators, and others to disseminate information to youths, parents, the health community, and others.

More details are available as needed (additional stats on home contamination, industry-specific injury rates for adolescent workers, etc.)

From the desk of...

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Information edited from WHO's Health & Environment in Sustainable Development - 5 years after The Earth Summit, 1992

Disease	# Deaths (0-14 yrs old) x1000	Environmental Fraction	# Deaths due to Environmental causes x1000
ARI	2918	0.6	1750.8
Diarrheal	2585	0.9	2326.5
Vaccine-preventable inf.	1897	0.1	189.7
TB	139	0.1	13.9
Malaria	699	0.9	629.1
Injuries (Unintentional)	1065	0.3	319.5
Mental Health	96	0.1	9.6
CVD	441	0.1	44.1
Cancer	163	0.25	40.75
Chronic Resp. dz	185	0.5	92.5
Total	10188		5416.45

Using data from approximately 1,500 National Priorities List (NPL) sites, ATSDR estimates there are approximately 1,553,573 children 6 years of age or younger living within 1 mile of an NPL site. The total population at those sites was 14,295,510 people. Approximately 11% of the potentially affected population are children 6 years of age or younger.



Children and Hazardous Waste Sites

Children Are Not Small Adults

In the United States, about one in four children live within 4 miles of a hazardous waste site. Of public health importance is that children are not small adults! Children who live near such sites often have greater exposures, greater potential for health problems, and less ability to avoid hazards. Although the many differences between children and adults are obvious to pediatric specialists, these differences demand special emphasis in communities faced with contamination of their water, soil, air, or food.

Children are clearly at greater risk from certain kinds of exposures to hazardous substances emitted from waste sites and emergency events. They are more likely to be exposed because they play vigorously outside (splashing, digging, and exploring) and they often bring food into contaminated areas. They are shorter than adults, which means they breathe dust, soil, and heavy vapors close to the ground; they are also smaller, which means they get higher

doses per body weight. Their developing body systems can sustain permanent damage if toxic exposures occur during critical growth stages. Most importantly, children depend completely on adults for risk management decisions, housing decisions, and access to medical care.

Special Vulnerability to Health Risks

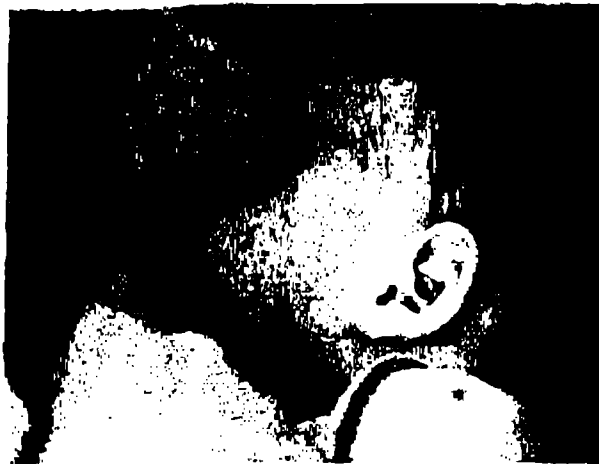
Developing human beings—in the womb and through puberty—can be uniquely vulnerable to environmental toxicants, depending on the substance and the exposure situation. The Agency for Toxic Substances and

Disease Registry (ATSDR) has long advocated a comprehensive approach to promoting the environmental health of children. ATSDR has confirmed, from more than 10 years of public health assessments, toxicologic investigations, epidemiologic studies, and reviews by expert workgroups, that children have unique characteristics that often place them at greater risk than adults when they live near hazardous waste sites. ATSDR's interest in



preventing toxic exposures and promoting the health of children can be traced to its earliest community health investigations and to certain special reports, such as the 1988 document *The Nature and Extent of Childhood Lead Poisoning in the United States: A Report to Congress*. The following examples of peer-reviewed work in this area were conducted or supported by ATSDR:

- In five states, the prevalence of speech and hearing impairments was elevated among children exposed to drinking water contaminated with TCE from hazardous waste sites.
- The rate of congenital defects was increased among newborn babies whose parents drank water contaminated by TCE from hazardous waste.
- Women who resided on a Mohawk reservation downstream from polluting factories on the St. Lawrence River and who ate fish caught in the river had PCBs in their breast milk. PCB concentrations in the urine of some of their children were 10 times higher than in the breast milk the infants consumed.
- Newborn babies exposed to PCBs in utero because their mothers ate large amounts of contaminated fish showed immature responses on the Brazelton Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale.
- Persons who were exposed during childhood to lead from a smelter in Idaho had



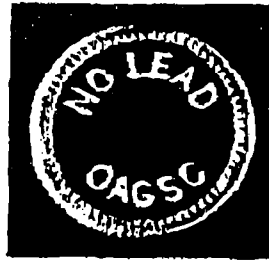
reduced neurobehavioral and peripheral nerve functioning when tested 15-20 years after exposure.

- Children living near a municipal waste incinerator had a threefold increase in risk of lower respiratory tract infection.
- In communities adjacent to many NPL sites throughout the United States, elevated blood lead levels were found in children who played near the sites, washed hands infrequently, and had other behavioral risk factors.
- Early public health action to remove children and families from their apartments in a former factory building in New Jersey prevented excessive mercury exposure and provided clinical examinations and long-term followup.
- Children exposed to indoor spraying of the pesticide methyl parathion are currently under health surveillance in several cities.
- To deliver high quality care to exposed children, ATSDR established pediatric environmental medicine referral units in Boston, New York City, and Seattle.

ATSDR's Office of Children's Health

In 1998, ATSDR established an Office of Children's Health to (1) emphasize child health in all agency programs and activities, (2) identify new projects that benefit children, and (3) solicit input from and disseminate information to partner agencies and

organizations. ATSDR's office complements formation of an Office of Children's Health Protection at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a child health subcommittee of the Environmental Health Policy Council at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR is working to mobilize outside interest and enhance capacity in the emerging field of pediatric environmental health and to focus attention on human populations and their most vulnerable constituents, including children. ATSDR has compiled *Children and Youth Health Activities Inventory*, which lists all activities that have a unique emphasis on children. There is an equally compelling need to educate children and their parents, as well as child health providers and advocates, to prevent hazards to child health from toxic substances emitted from hazardous waste sites and chemical releases. The child health initiative is a logical extension of ATSDR's overall mission and the role of public health in preventing human health risks from hazardous substances in the environment.



Girl Scout Badge
ATSDR and the Ozark Area Girl Scout Council helped girl scouts earn this badge by educating their community about lead-contaminated mine wastes.

Child Health Workgroup

ATSDR's external Board of Scientific Counselors appointed a multidisciplinary Child Health Workgroup composed of nationally recognized experts in various fields. The workgroup reviewed existing data on environmental hazards to child health and reviewed ATSDR's public health programs in detail with a particular focus on children. The following persons serve on this workgroup:

Cynthia F. Bearer, M.D., Ph.D.
Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
Cleveland, OH
David Bellinger, Ph.D., M.Sc.
Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital
Boston, MA
Joy E. Carlson, M.P.H.
Children's Environmental Health Network
Emeryville, CA
Millicent Collins, M.D.
DC General Hospital
Washington, DC
Joan M. Cranmer, Ph.D.
Arkansas Children's Hospital
Little Rock, AR
Lorne K. Garrettson, M.D. (Chair)
Georgia Poison Control Center
Atlanta, GA
Carole A. Kimmel, Ph.D.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
Philip J. Landrigan, M.D.
Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY
Susanne T. White-Sims, M.D., M.P.H.
Meharry Medical College
Nashville, TN

Partner Organizations

ATSDR has formed partnerships with several key nongovernment organizations to amplify the effectiveness of its programs and to form a closer association between the specialists and advocates in child health, public health, and environmental health. For example, ATSDR seeks to help child health advocates learn environmental science and help environmental scientists learn child health. ATSDR invites its partner organizations and other interested groups to submit technical reports, case studies, and other experiences and to suggest additional areas of emphasis. ATSDR is not seeking financial assistance from partners. The following organizations are partners in ATSDR's Child Health Initiative:

American Academy of Pediatrics
 American Association of Occupational
 Health Nurses
 American Association of Poison
 Control Centers
 American College of Occupational and
 Environmental Medicine
 American College of Preventive Medicine
 American Medical Association
 American Public Health Association
 Asian American & Pacific Islander
 Health Promotion
 Association of Occupational and
 Environmental Clinics
 Association of State and Territorial
 Health Officials
 Children's Environmental Health Network

Children's Health Environmental Coalition
 Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
 Interamerican College of Physicians
 and Surgeons
 Kids for Saving Earth Worldwide
 Learning Disabilities Association
 of America
 March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation
 National Association of Children's
 Hospitals and Related Institutions
 National Association of County and
 City Health Officials
 National Environmental Health
 Association
 National Medical Association
 National PTA
 Natural Resources Defense Council
 Physicians for Social Responsibility
 Sierra Club



ATSDR Child Health Web Page

ATSDR's web site features detailed information about the Child Health Initiative, including timely updates and useful linkages in the field of pediatric environmental health. ATSDR's Child Health Web Page is accessible on the Internet at the following address:

<http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080/child>

For more information, contact the ATSDR Information Center at (800) 447-1544 or the ATSDR Chief Medical Officer, Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.S., at (404) 639-0700.

November 1998

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