



U.S. Department of State

Overview to Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998

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INTRODUCTION TO THE 1998 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

I. The Right To Democracy

More than 50 years have passed since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed that all human beings are "free and equal in dignity and rights." Yet for too long, the world's dictatorships have sought to undermine one of its most fundamental precepts: the right to democracy. Although Article 21 of the Declaration provides that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government . . . expressed in periodic and genuine elections," many governments continue to deny their citizens the right to choose their own government. In too many countries, leaders speak of democracy even as they rig elections, suppress dissent, and shackle the press.

Since the founding of the Republic, Americans have recognized that constitutional democracy provides the best protection for the full range of human rights. Our democratic system has empowered Americans to challenge their own government and to secure fundamental political change. From the Civil War to the civil rights movement, Americans have demanded that their government adhere to the principles of self-government and civil liberties upon which this country was founded, thereby securing the blessings of equality, liberty, and justice.

The right to democratic governance is both a means and an end in the struggle for human rights. Freedom of conscience, expression, religion, and association are all bolstered where democratic rights are guaranteed. Rights to a fair trial and to personal security are enhanced in genuine democracies. Elected leaders gain legitimacy through the democratic process, allowing them to build popular support, even for economic and political reforms that may entail temporary hardships for their people.

Democracy and genuine respect for human rights remain the best paths for sustainable economic growth. In contrast, an authoritarian development model may generate prosperity for a time, but cannot sustain it in the face of corruption, cronyism, and the continued denial of citizens' rights. When severe economic downturns occur, authoritarian regimes cannot respond flexibly or effectively to economic problems. Without genuine democratic mechanisms to channel popular displeasure, the government must often choose greater repression to avoid a popular uprising.

Contrast Indonesia, where last year a Soeharto regime lacking both accountability and transparency saw an economic downturn quickly deteriorate into a political crisis, with the Republic of Korea, where genuinely democratic elections gave new President Kim Dae Jung - a former political prisoner - the popular support he needed to implement austerity measures and economic reforms. These events confirmed that nothing about "Asian values" precludes respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, even in times of economic crisis.

To be sure, democratization is a long and complex struggle that does not come easily. Government "of the people" cannot be imposed from the outside. Rather, countries must come to democracy by their own path. As Secretary Albright has noted, "[D]emocracy must emerge from the desire of individuals to participate in the decisions that shape their lives. . . . Unlike dictatorship, democracy is never an

Mandela
U.S. Govt
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imposition; it is always a choice."

Moreover, 1998 again confirmed that democracy must be more than just elections. The slow development of democracy in some newly independent states demonstrated that elections should be regarded not as an end in themselves, but as the means to establish a political system that fosters the growth and self-fulfillment of its citizens by promoting and protecting their political and civil rights. Genuine democracy thus requires not just elections, but respect for human rights, including the right to political dissent; a robust civil society; the rule of law, characterized by vibrant political institutions, constitutionalism, and an independent judiciary; open and competitive economic structures; an independent media capable of engaging an informed citizenry; freedom of religion and belief; mechanisms to safeguard minorities from oppressive rule by the majority; and full respect for women's and workers' rights. These principles - combined with free and fair elections - form the basis for a culture of democracy. As my predecessor, John Shattuck, has noted, building such a culture is never easy, but the rewards - stability, prosperity, and the enrichment of the human spirit - make the effort profoundly worthwhile.

The United States supports democracy for the long haul. We foster the growth of democratic culture wherever it has a chance of taking hold. We focus particularly on providing support for countries in transition, defending democracies under attack, and strengthening the network of established democracies. Each year, we invest over \$1 billion in these efforts. We do so not just because it is right, but because it is necessary. Our own security as a nation depends upon the expansion of democracy worldwide, without which repression, corruption, and instability would almost inevitably engulf countries and even regions. Democracy holds its leaders accountable to the people. It provides breathing room for civil society. It opens channels for the free flow of information and ideas and for the development of diverse and vibrant economic activity. History shows that democracies are less likely to fight one another and more likely to cooperate on security issues, economic matters, environmental concerns, and legal initiatives. Where democracy flourishes, so too do peace, prosperity, and the rule of law.

II. The Year in Review

This year's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provided an opportunity to assess our progress in promoting human rights. As President Clinton noted in his White House address on Human Rights Day 1998, the Declaration has served both as a "Magna Carta for humanity" and as an important reminder that the struggle for human rights continues today. In that spirit, the President took numerous steps to ensure that the United States fulfills its responsibility to promote human rights abroad, including increased U.S. support for the United Nations Torture Victims Fund; the establishment of a new atrocities early warning center at the Department of State; greater assistance to genocide survivors in Bosnia, Rwanda, and Cambodia and increased awareness of the plight of women and girls suffering under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan; and a new program to help nongovernmental organizations respond rapidly to human rights emergencies.

The President also took measures to ensure that the United States embraces at home what it advocates abroad. He signed an executive order that strengthens the U.S. Government's ability to implement those human rights treaties that past Presidents have signed and the U.S. Senate has ratified - including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on Torture, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. He instructed the Department of Justice to develop new measures to address the problem of illegal aliens who suffer abuses at the hands of smugglers and sweatshop owners.

At the same time that the United States moves to strengthen its own commitment to human rights, it continues to monitor closely developments elsewhere. Despite significant gains in freedom around the world, the past year saw a number of authoritarian governments maintain their authority through the systematic repression of the human rights of their citizens. The sections that follow review key developments in human rights, democracy, and labor.

Developments in Human Rights

1. The Right to Democratic Dissent. Some traditionally repressive governments have granted their citizens greater individual authority over economic decision-making, but without an accompanying relaxation of controls over peaceful political activity. These actions show that economic freedom cannot compensate for the lack of political freedom. The right to democracy necessarily includes a right to democratic dissent, namely the right to participate in political life and advocate the change of government by peaceful means.

A case in point is Serbia, where the human rights situation deteriorated sharply in 1998. The regime of Yugoslav Federal President Slobodan Milosevic used the military, police, judiciary, and state-controlled media to strangle dissent throughout Serbia and to promote support for a brutal crackdown on civilians and separatist insurgents in Kosovo. By year's end, the violence in Kosovo had left about 2,000 persons dead - the vast majority of whom were unarmed ethnic Albanian civilians, displaced close to 180,000 individuals, and triggered the worst regional political and military crisis in Europe since the end of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Parts of Asia suffered a similar fate. In Burma, the military junta similarly continued its highly repressive policies, targeting all forms of dissent and intensifying its restriction of free assembly and association. In North Korea, famine and economic disaster did not prevent the Government from maintaining brutally repressive measures to silence dissent.

In China, the Government's human rights record deteriorated sharply at the end of 1998 with a crackdown against organized political opposition. China's sharp limits on freedom of expression and association were evident, as dozens of political activists were detained for attempts to register a political party, and three leaders were given harsh sentences in closed trials that flagrantly violated due process. These developments overshadowed an earlier loosening of restrictions on political debate and the Government's October signature of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). *no one has a monopoly*

Despite the Pope's visit early in 1998, the Cuban Government of Fidel Castro continued to exercise control over all aspects of Cuban life and to suppress ruthlessly all forms of political dissent. Authorities routinely engaged in the arbitrary detention of human rights advocates and independent journalists, subjecting them to interrogations, threats, and degrading treatment. Nineteen months have passed since the Cuban government imprisoned the four founders of the Internal Dissidents' Working Group - economist Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello, professor Felix Bonne Carcasses, lawyer Rene Gomez Manzano, and social democratic activist Vladimiro Roca Antunes - for nonviolently exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association. Only in September 1998 did the Government finally charge them with "sedition," recommending sentences of 5 to 6 years' imprisonment, and at year's end they still had not been brought to trial.

In the Middle East, equally harsh patterns were visible. In Iraq, the regime of Saddam Hussein continued its brutal campaign of executing perceived political opponents and leaders in the Shia religious community. Syria used its vast security apparatus to quash effectively all organized political opposition or dissent. Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhafi employed extrajudicial executions and summary judicial proceedings to suppress human rights. In Iran, factional struggle and occasionally violent tactics by hard-line elements opposed to change hampered the movement toward greater openness.

Africa also saw governments use violence to quash dissent. In Equatorial Guinea, the Government continued to maintain power through intimidation, coercion, and fraud, committing serious and systematic human rights abuses. The Government in Sudan suppressed all forms of political and religious dissent, utilizing extrajudicial execution, disappearances, torture, beatings, harassment, and arbitrary arrest and detention.

In some of the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union, governments used violence to suppress dissent. In Belarus, the Government's human rights record again worsened, as President Aleksandr Lukashenko continued to neutralize all opposition to his return to Soviet-era authoritarian practices. Turkmenistan, a one-party state dominated by President Saparmurad Niyazov, made only modest progress in moving from a Soviet-era authoritarian style of government to a democratic system by releasing most political prisoners. In Uzbekistan, police and security forces regularly applied torture,

harassment, illegal searches, and wiretaps, arbitrarily detaining or arresting opposition activists and other citizens on false charges and frequently planting narcotics, weapons, and other false evidence on them.

2. Human Rights in Countries in Conflict. The past year also saw a disturbing trend toward the widespread abuse of civilians trapped in conflict, particularly in countries facing internal insurgencies or civil war. Insurgent movements and government forces worldwide resorted to murder, rape, and other human rights abuses and crimes against humanity. Tens of thousands of men, women, and children died not only because of conflict, but also from premeditated campaigns designed to wreak havoc and inflict terror on civilian populations.

This pattern emerged most clearly in Sierra Leone, where rebel forces killed and maimed with extraordinary cruelty. While retreating from Freetown to the interior, the rebels left behind a bloody trail of murder, mutilation, rape, abduction, and destruction. The insurgents decapitated, burned alive, and inflicted bullet and machete wounds. Particularly appalling were the hacking off of ears, noses, hands, arms, and legs of civilians - including small children and the elderly- and the abduction, torture, and conscription of young children into rebel forces, where they were forced to participate in rebel atrocities.

To the south, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, government and rebel forces - as well as troops of the governments supporting each side - similarly committed extrajudicial executions, torture, beatings, and rape. Security forces (and at times incensed civilian crowds egged on by hate radio) murdered ethnic Tutsi and other suspected rebels. There are reports that rebel forces massacred an undetermined number of Catholic clerics and lay workers in South Kivu in August and murdered hundreds of civilians in Makobola at year's end.

Angola's recovery from 24 years of civil war was stymied by UNITA's failure to fulfill its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol and renewed hostilities between the Government and UNITA forces, with both sides responsible for a wide variety of human rights abuses. In Sudan in northeastern Africa, an extended civil war, widespread famine, and innumerable violations of human rights and the laws of war have conspired in the deaths of nearly 2 million individuals in the past 16 years.

The year witnessed similar atrocities elsewhere in the world. Afghanistan continued to experience civil war and large-scale political instability. Armed units, local commanders, and rogue individuals committed political killings, torture, rape, arbitrary detention, looting, abductions, and kidnappings for ransom. Both Taliban and anti-Taliban forces indiscriminately bombarded civilian areas. In August, there were credible reports that the Taliban massacred hundreds of persons as they captured Mazar-I Sharif. In Algeria, fighting continued between Government forces and armed Islamist groups, leading to extrajudicial killings, disappearances, kidnappings, torture, rape, and other abuses by both sides.

In Colombia, the Government continued to face a serious challenge to its control over the national territory, as longstanding and widespread internal armed conflict and rampant violence - both criminal and political - persisted. The principal participants were government security forces, paramilitary groups, guerrillas, and narcotics traffickers.

3. Religious Freedom. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration protects everyone's "right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom . . . to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance." By so saying, the Declaration recognizes that religious freedom is both a universally recognized human right and an essential component of democratic culture.

Nearly all states claim to respect the principle of religious freedom. But in too many, governments refuse to respect this fundamental right, discriminating against, restricting, persecuting, or even killing those whose faith differs from that of the majority population. In Sudan, a bloody civil war fueled by the regime's intolerance of animists, Christians, and some Muslims continued unabated. Assaults on religious freedom extended into systematic oppression, as the regime imposed its harsh rule on Muslims and non-Muslims alike, adopting a strict interpretation of Shari'a (Islamic) Law. The Government subjected animists and Christians in the south to kidnapping and sale into slavery, forced conversion to Islam, and a government-imposed food shortage that put millions at risk of starvation.

To the north in Egypt, approximately 6 million Coptic Christians face both occasional violent assaults by extremists and legal and societal discrimination. In 1998, extremists killed at least eight Christians, and there were credible reports of violence against Coptic businesses and churches and government laxity in preventing attacks on Christians. The violence violates Koranic strictures on principles of tolerance in Islam and comes at the expense of historically strong relations between the Coptic and Muslim communities. Christians also face job discrimination in universities and throughout Egypt's police, armed forces, and government agencies. Anti-Semitic articles and cartoons are commonplace. In Saudi Arabia, the Shi'a Muslim community, which makes up about 10 percent of the population, continues to face widespread government discrimination, including unequal access to social services, education, and government jobs.

In Iran, the Zoroastrian, Christian, Jewish, and Baha'i minorities suffered varying degrees of officially sanctioned discrimination, particularly in the areas of employment and education. In 1998, Sunni Muslims encountered religious discrimination at the local level, and reports of discrimination against practitioners of the Sufi tradition surfaced as well. Baha'is were particular targets of coordinated government repression. The Government executed at least 1 Baha'i for the practice of his faith and at year's end continued to detain 14 others, including 6 on death row. Baha'i places of worship remained in government hands, and the confiscation and desecration of Baha'i graveyards remained an ongoing concern. Government agents mounted a nationwide crackdown on an informal university system established by the Baha'i community.

Religious violence in 1998 was hardly confined to the Middle East. In India, controversy between Hindus and Muslims continued with regard to three mosques built centuries ago on sites where temples are believed to have stood previously. In addition, violence against Christians increased significantly, linked to extremist groups with ties to the governing Bharatiya Janata Party. In Pakistan, sectarian violence between Shia and Sunni groups claimed 75 lives. Religious minorities face violence and harassment, and police often refuse to charge persons who commit such acts. Militant Sunni mullahs targeted minority Ahmadis as "heretics," and one even called for the Ahmadis' "massacre." Even rumors that someone may be an Ahmadi or may have Ahmadi relatives can stifle opportunities for employment or promotion. Other religious minority groups also face discrimination and persecution. Christians in particular face harassment and intimidation, and a general atmosphere of religious intolerance led to trumped-up charges of blasphemy and acts of violence. In Uzbekistan, the Government increased pressure against independent Muslims, using a new religion law to close independent mosques. It also used arrests under false pretenses, harassment, disappearances, and expulsion of students from public educational institutions for Islamic attire or grooming.

Problems in East Asia were no less daunting. In Indonesia, attacks ranging from minor vandalism to arson targeted churches, temples, mosques, and other religious facilities. Although the number of churches targeted was significantly lower in 1998 than in previous years, members of minority religions continued to report inadequate responses by officials to protect their property or to arrest those responsible for the destruction. Intercommunal violence became more common as the year progressed. Allegations that unidentified provocateurs were fanning sectarian conflict contributed to widespread tensions but remained unproven.

In Vietnam, the Government severely restricted religious activities other than those by officially sanctioned groups. The Government continued not to recognize the United Buddhist Church of Vietnam, and imprisoned a number of its monks (although some were released during the year). Religious organizations needed permission to conduct most activities, and Pentecostal house churches continued to meet in the face of government restrictions on proselytizing.

In China, the Government attempted to restrict religious practice to officially sanctioned organizations and registered places of worship. Unapproved religious groups, including Protestants, Catholics, Tibetan Buddhists, and Muslims, continued to experience degrees of official interference and repression that varied from region to region and locality to locality. In some areas, authorities guided by national policy made strong efforts to control the activities of unapproved churches; religious services were broken up, and church leaders or adherents were detained and, at times, reportedly beaten. At year's end, some remained in prison because of their religious activities. In other regions, registered and unregistered churches were treated similarly. The number of Catholic and Protestant adherents, in both registered and

unregistered churches, continued to grow rapidly. In Tibet, the Chinese Government maintained tight controls on religious practices and moved to suppress religious manifestations that advocate Tibetan independence or any expression of separatism. The Government renewed its rhetorical campaign against the Dalai Lama and intensified a reeducation campaign aimed at monks and nuns. There were reports of imprisonment and abuse or torture of monks and nuns, the death of prisoners, and the closure of several monasteries. Despite repeated international expressions of concern about the welfare and whereabouts of Gendun Choeyki Nyima, the boy designated by the Dalai Lama as the Panchen Lama, the Government refused access to him by international observers.

Even among countries that claimed to respect religious freedom, abuses continued. Over the past year, Russia's restrictive 1997 law on religion was cited by some local officials as they limited citizens' religious freedom. Ostensibly targeting dangerous religious cults, the law could discriminate against members of foreign and less well-established religions by making it difficult for them to manifest their beliefs through organized religious institutions. The law's most controversial provisions limit the rights, activities, and status of religious groups that have existed in Russia for less than 15 years.

Despite their commitment to the principle of religious freedom, several European countries have similarly begun to respond to a perceived fear of "sects" with actions that discriminate unfairly against new or minority religious beliefs. France and Germany were among those European countries that sought to use laws to restrict groups such as the Church of Scientology.

In 1998, the Clinton Administration, Congress, NGOs and religious organizations completed a 2-year national dialogue on how to place religious freedom squarely in the mainstream of U.S. foreign policy. Secretary Albright appointed Robert Seiple as Special Representative of the Secretary of State for International Religious Freedom, and established an Office of International Religious Freedom in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad facilitated direct representation of views and concerns from a broad spectrum of American citizens of various faith traditions. The Administration worked diligently with Congress to codify many of these measures through passage of the International Religious Freedom Act, which the President signed into law in October.

The Act assists the President and Secretary of State's continuing efforts to advance religious freedom around the world. It requires the President to choose from a menu of options, ranging from diplomatic measures to economic sanctions, in responding to violations of religious freedom. Under the Act, such measures would not affect the provision of food, medicine, and humanitarian assistance. The President can take into account prior actions by the United States (that are still in effect) against a country in considering how best to respond to violations of religious freedom by that country. Because the Act also contains waiver authority, these tools are designed to allow the President sufficient flexibility to tailor the appropriate U.S. response to abuses of religious liberty in each particular situation. The Act also establishes a U.S. Commission on Religious Freedom to advise on policy matters concerning religious persecution abroad. It instructs the Department of State to publish specific country reports that evaluate international religious freedom worldwide beginning in September 1999, a task that the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor will coordinate.

4. Press Freedom and the Information Revolution. Democracy depends not just on unfettered minds, but also on an informed electorate. Only free media - whether print, broadcast, or electronic - can ensure that citizens have access to the information that they need to make political decisions. If a government can control information or limit press freedom, it can usually preordain elections, stunt civil society, and manipulate the judiciary. Throughout the world, journalists risk harassment, arrest, imprisonment, and even death to get the story told. It is hardly surprising that, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, homicide is the leading cause of death on the job among journalists worldwide.

Moreover, the free flow of information supports not just democracy but economic growth. As Vice President Gore said in his speech to the APEC Forum in Malaysia, "If governments try to suppress the creative potential of their people by denying them access to information, they will undercut their own efforts to build their economies. Any government that suppresses information, suppresses [its own] economic potential."

With the information revolution, the struggle to control information has moved well beyond the realm of traditional media. From Singapore to Syria, governments have sought to limit or prohibit access to the Internet and purchases of computers, modems, fax machines, pagers, cell phones, and television satellite dishes. Such devices can only facilitate the growth of freedom around the world by directly bypassing the central government to channel information directly to citizen-consumers.

Even as new channels of information were created, governments found new ways to limit access. In many of the countries where radio is the most important medium of mass communication, governments monopolized domestic broadcasts and often jammed international services ranging from the BBC to Radio Free Asia. In more developed societies emerging from authoritarian rule, governments sought similar control over television and limited opposition access to the airways. In West and Central Africa and the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union, some governments exploited poorly written criminal libel laws to restrict freedom of the press.

In China, authorities continue to exert control over print and broadcast media. For most of the year, the press was able to expand the range of issues it covered, and President Clinton's June visit witnessed unprecedented live broadcasts of Presidents Clinton and Jiang's joint press conference and President Clinton's speech at Beijing University. However, by late fall the Government took steps to strengthen control over both print and broadcast media as the political atmosphere became increasingly tight. Authorities shut down an influential book publisher and several popular newspapers, increased monitoring of the Internet, fired some editors and writers, and warned other newspapers about the permissible content of articles and editorials.

A parallel pattern emerged in Cuba, where the Castro regime subjected independent journalists to internal travel bans, arbitrary and periodic detentions, acts of repudiation, harassment of family members, the seizure of equipment, and repeated threats of prolonged imprisonment. The Government rigorously monitored other forms of expression and often arrested persons for the crime of disseminating "enemy propaganda and false news."

When, in October, NATO threatened to intervene in Serbia over the Belgrade regime's crackdown in Kosovo, the Milosevic Government used a new draconian Information Act to shut down independent print, radio, and television outlets throughout Serbia and to harass Albanian-language newspapers in Kosovo. In contrast, the Government of President Djukanovic in Montenegro, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's other remaining republic, allowed independent media outlets closed down by Serb authorities to publish and disseminate their material. In Belarus, the Lukashenko regime banned the dissemination of official information to independent media outlets, restricted access to printing presses and distribution systems, pressured advertisers, evicted newspapers from their offices, and sought to silence several journalists by securing criminal convictions on trumped-up charges. In Turkey, the Government used a variety of laws to detain and arrest scores of journalists on the grounds that their words or ideas threatened the country's unity or national security.

Africa also exhibited signs of this disturbing trend. In Ethiopia, the Government used provisions of the Press Law concerning publishing false information, inciting ethnic hatred, and libel to justify the arrest of journalists. In Eritrea, the arrest in March 1997 and ongoing detention without trial through December 1998 of a correspondent for reporting remarks made by President Isaias raised continued doubts about press freedom. In Nigeria, the first half of the year saw the Abacha regime continue its suppression of the press, with one human rights group estimating that more than 30 journalists were in prison prior to Abacha's death. However, after General Abdoulsalami Abubakar succeeded Abacha in June, the Government significantly relaxed its restrictions on freedom of the press and demonstrated increasing respect for these rights in practice.

5. Women. The situation facing women in Afghanistan represented perhaps the most severe abuse of women's human rights in the world. The Taliban's blatant abuse of women included public beatings for failure to wear the all-enveloping burqa and for not being accompanied by a close male relative. In 1998, credible reports detailed the Taliban's devastating disregard for the physical and psychological health of women and girls. The Taliban drastically limited access to medical services and hospitals and continued to cut back severely access to education as a result of the closure in Kabul of private home-based schools for girls. Women cannot work outside the home, except in extremely limited circumstances in the

medical field. These problems were further exacerbated by the fierce civil war, which left many women as their family's sole breadwinner and forced many to beg on the streets to feed their children.

As First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton noted in her remarks during the White House Commemoration of the Universal Declaration, "We cannot allow these terrible crimes against women and girls - and truly, against all of humanity - to continue with impunity. We must all make it unmistakably clear that this terrible suffering inflicted on the women and girls of Afghanistan is not cultural, it is criminal. And we must do everything we can in our power to stop it."

In Indonesia, a joint government and nongovernmental organization fact-finding team commissioned by the Indonesian Government reported 85 incidents of sexual violence targeted primarily against Chinese women and girls during the riots in May. Intimidation and threats against investigators and witnesses, together with criticism of the investigation by government officials, contributed to difficulties in documenting all the initially reported incidents. At year's end, the Indonesian Government had not yet compensated victims or proceeded with further investigation of the military as recommended by the fact-finding team.

In 1998, women throughout the world continued to be trafficked for forced labor or services, including forced sexual slavery, domestic servitude, coerced sweatshop labor, or other slavery-like treatment. As a thriving, multibillion-dollar, multinational industry, trafficking constituted a global phenomenon involving countries of origin, transit, and destination. All too often, the women and girls caught in its web were treated as perpetrators rather than victims.

In response women all over the world took actions in 1998 to promote and protect more effectively their human rights. At the U.S.-cosponsored Vital Voices conferences in Belfast and Montevideo, women leaders met to explore ways to strengthen the role of women as democracy-builders through workshops in law and leadership, politics and public life, economics, and business. In addressing the Belfast conference, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton noted that "Economic progress depends on women's progress. Democratic progress depends on women's progress. Human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights. And this Conference is part of an ongoing, global initiative that is making these points over and over again and in the process transforming women's lives and societies."

The past year saw significant global advances for women's rights as human rights. Several governments passed new legislation that helped engender positive change. The Government of Yemen waived tuition fees and uniform requirements for elementary school girls to encourage more girls to go to school. The Parliament in Turkey passed the Family Protection Law in January 1998 making spousal abuse illegal. Cote d'Ivoire and Togo passed statutes banning the practice of female genital mutilation. Uganda and Malawi passed legislation granting women property and inheritance rights, and Nigerian women celebrated a landmark court ruling - won after 39 years of legal wrangling - that invalidated the customary practice of denying inheritance rights to widows. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia set a precedent for prosecuting the aiding and abetting of rape as a war crime.

Despite these advances, numerous challenges remain. In 1998, domestic violence and sexual harassment remained endemic. Women in Saudi Arabia continue to face institutionalized discrimination affecting their freedom of movement and association and their right to equality in employment and education. In Pakistan the misapplication of rape laws resulted in victims bearing the brunt of the crime. In Algeria militants continued to target women for systematic rape, kidnapping, and forced prostitution.

Continuing violations of women's rights could be seen in worldwide practices. In some Latin American countries, for example, a rapist was not prosecuted if he offered to marry the victim and she accepted his proposal. In China, coercion in family planning practices, including instances of forced abortion and sterilization, continued. Throughout South Asia, dowry-related violence remained a serious problem.

Female genital mutilation, which has negative, life-long physical and psychological health consequences for women and girls, continues to be practiced in much of Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in varying degrees in Egypt, Oman, Yemen, and a few other countries in the Middle East. Less obvious but also challenging are the problems facing women in societies where they received equal pay for equal work but did not have the same professional opportunities given to men and often had to work in more menial,

low-skill, or low-paying jobs.

6. Protection of Minorities. Democracy does not mean the tyranny of the majority. Genuine democracy requires that a government protect the rights of all of its citizens, particularly in states with substantial minorities. Governments that choose to ignore or repress the rights of individuals because of their race, sex, religion, disability, language, or social status not only undermine the principle of democracy but also risk violence and separatism.

In too many states, majorities in power chose to repress or persecute those not like themselves. In Serbia, the Milosevic's regime's brutal policies in Kosovo helped bolster the popularity of separatist insurgents and stimulated the expansion of the Kosovo Liberation Army at the expense of nonviolent ethnic Albanian political leaders. The crisis in Kosovo escalated dramatically in late February after Serbian police killed scores of civilians in the process of trying to eliminate what the regime alleged was a "terrorist" cell. When further violence followed and with NATO air raids looming, Milosevic reached an agreement with U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke, which, for a time, mitigated the humanitarian disaster unfolding in the province. Throughout the year, Serbian police and military forces committed widespread abuses against Kosovo's ethnic Albanian population, including massacres of unarmed civilians, the torching and looting of homes, arbitrary arrests, and torture and brutal beatings in detention. Albanian insurgents in the Kosovo Liberation Army also committed abuses against Serbs, who, while a majority in Serbia, represent a minority in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo.

In Indonesia, minority populations in East Timor and Irian Jaya expressed their opposition to repressive acts by the Government more freely, although security forces at times continued to intervene with excessive force in order to prevent demonstrations and arrest protesters and political opponents. Throughout Indonesia, members of regional or ethnic minorities argued for greater local self-government and control over resources. They also sought accountability for past and continuing abuses, including extrajudicial killings and illegal detentions. In East Timor, insurgent activity in support of separatism continued, and President Habibie made a surprise announcement in early 1999 to permit East Timor to choose autonomy or release from Indonesian control, a decision whose political import remains unclear at this writing.

In China, minority groups, particularly Buddhists in Tibet and Muslims in Xinjiang, came under increasing pressure as the Government intensified restrictions on religion and fundamental freedoms. In Tibet, repressive social and political controls continued to limit the fundamental freedoms of ethnic Tibetans and undermined Tibet's unique cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage. In Xinjiang, authorities cracked down harshly on suspected Uyghur nationalists and independent Muslim religious leaders as the number of anti-Chinese Government demonstrations grew and a series of bomb explosions and related incidents occurred.

7. The Holocaust: Completing the Historical Record. The world cannot forget the vast scale of death and human suffering visited upon European Jews and other peoples during the Holocaust. Only in the past few years, however, has a long-hidden dimension of that unique tragedy come into view: the extent to which families and communities were systematically robbed of their material possessions and financial resources. History's greatest genocide was almost certainly also its largest organized robbery.

In 1998, a remarkable combination of governments and NGOs achieved important progress both in completing the Holocaust's historical record and in securing justice for its victims. Many of the historical commissions established by 17 separate governments to examine these issues (and in some cases, their countries' broader relationship to the Holocaust and the Second World War) completed their work. The United Kingdom, the United States, and France closed out the Tripartite Gold Commission and established the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund, to which 17 governments have pledged over \$61 million. A landmark \$1.25 billion settlement was reached with major Swiss banks in August. Upon taking office in October, the new German Government of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder began working with German industry to develop a fund structure that would at last benefit former slave and forced laborers.

The Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets, cosponsored by the State Department and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, brought together 44 governments, 13 NGOs and scores of other experts to give unprecedented attention to Nazi-confiscated art works, insurance policies, and Jewish

communal property. Conference participants reached consensus on a set of principles guiding the restitution of Nazi-confiscated art. Other major steps included the passage of new restitution laws by several Central European governments, the establishment of a database on confiscated art by major French museums, and the efforts of a broad-based commission of insurance regulators, companies, and Jewish groups headed by former U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

It is essential that these efforts move forward while the past is still a living memory and the victims who can gain some comfort from a measure of justice remain alive. The international community not only has the responsibility to complete this long overdue work but must take advantage of this opportunity to establish new, higher standards for restitution of assets and property confiscated during conflict.

B. Developments in Democracy

1. Free and Fair Elections. In 1998, the right to democracy was not merely honored in the breach. A number of countries enjoyed free and fair elections in 1998. According to Freedom House, at the end of 1998 there were 117 electoral democracies, making up roughly 55 percent of the world's population. Several countries made important strides toward democracy, and significantly, in 1998, no country saw a reversal from democracy to dictatorship. However, a number of democratic states faced significant challenges, and several nondemocratic states failed to conduct successful free and fair elections.

In Nigeria, after the June death of General Sani Abacha and his succession by General Abubakar, the Government launched a program to restore democracy by May 1999. Over the second half of the year, the Government released political prisoners, allowed independent political parties to form and permitted independent journalists greater freedom. In August, the Government scheduled a series of elections - for local government officials, state legislators and governors, national legislators, and president - to be held between early December 1998 and late February 1999. Although marred by scattered violence and local irregularities, the December elections for local government officials were generally free, fair, and open.

In Asia, Indonesia's authoritarian political system came under sustained challenge, resulting in President Soeharto's departure from office and offering the first opportunity in years for meaningful political and economic reforms. In response to demands for early elections, new President B.J. Habibie pledged to advance parliamentary elections by 3 years, revise electoral laws, and complete the selection of a new president by the end of 1999. Although Indonesia's future remains cloudy at this writing, the Government allowed new political parties to form, released some but not all political prisoners, and adopted a more responsive attitude toward groups demanding improved protections for human rights. In Cambodia, after a campaign marked by voter intimidation and lack of opposition access to the media, the July elections proved relatively free of fraud. After 3 months of contentious negotiation, the same leaders who dominated politics before the 1997 violence finally formed a new Government.

Elsewhere, less promising trends emerged. In Russia, the killing of pro-democratic parliamentarian Galina Staravoirova symbolized both the risks facing democratic activists and the tenuous nature of Russian democracy. Although Russian political structures are constitutionally well defined and democratic in conception, democratic institution-building continues to face serious challenges, often due to significant limitations on the State's financial resources. In Kazakhstan, the regime of President Nursultan Nazarbayev engineered the scheduling of early presidential elections for January 1999, blocked opposition leaders from running, controlled access to the media, and coerced popular support. In December, the OSCE announced that it would not send an election observer mission, and the subsequent election was badly compromised. In Azerbaijan, the October presidential election, while an improvement over an earlier election in 1995, involved incidents of ballot stuffing and other irregularities that led international and domestic observers to conclude that it failed to meet international standards. When the opposition continued to assert that President Aliyev had not received the two-thirds vote necessary to avoid a run-off election, the Government responded by cracking down on the opposition and the press.

2. Civil Society. Free and fair elections represent a necessary but not sufficient condition for democracy. Democracy's continued healthy functioning requires the full flowering of civil society - the broad array of political parties, labor unions, NGOs, societies, and clubs that, along with the independent media (see Section II.A.4.), encourage political and social participation. These organizations help individuals

connect with the broader body politic, in the process reinforcing democratic institutions, and serve as an important conduit by which individuals may express their dissatisfaction with politics as usual.

It is precisely because of the power of civil society that so many governments seek to limit or quash the influence of these private institutions. In the months leading to the resignation of President Soeharto in Indonesia, for example, security forces abducted and detained student and NGO activists, some of whom reported torture while in detention. After Soeharto resigned, only nine of those kidnapped had been released from captivity; roughly one dozen others remain "disappeared" and are presumed dead. In Malaysia, Prime Minister Mahatir Mohammed and other government officials made numerous harsh statements ascribing seditious or treasonous motives to NGOs.

In China, the Government began in the fall to crack down on organized political dissent. Dozens of dissidents were arrested, and some were sentenced to lengthy jail terms. Authorities also banned a popular but politically sensitive book series; shut down a political discussion group; prevented attempts to organize workers; and promulgated new restrictive regulations on social organizations.

Similarly, in Cuba, the Government tightly circumscribed artistic, literary, political, and academic freedoms, and repeatedly harassed, detained, and imprisoned those who expressed dissent. The law punished any unauthorized assembly of more than three persons, including those for private religious services in a private home. The authorities selectively enforced this prohibition and often used it as a legal pretext to harass and imprison human rights advocates.

Europe witnessed parallel trends. In Serbia, the regime's assault on free speech was the most pronounced since Milosevic came to power over a decade ago. Parliament's adoption in May of a new Universities Act severely curtailed academic freedom by allowing the Government to appoint deans with the power to fire independent professors and to replace them with regime loyalists. In Kosovo, authorities cracked down on peaceful demonstrators throughout the year. In Sandzak, the regime banned all outdoor rallies, even for election campaigning.

In Turkey, government officials continued to intimidate, indict, and imprison independent voices for the ideas they expressed in public forums. Security forces harassed, detained, and otherwise limited the work of some political party activists, nonviolent leaders of human rights groups, some devout politicians in mainline conservative parties, religiously observant Muslim businessmen, and lawyers and doctors involved in documenting human rights violations. A campaign against Islamists and pro-Kurdish activists continued throughout the year. The military publicly identified "reactionaries" (Islamists) and "separatists" (pro-Kurdish activists) as the principal threats to Turkey's national security.

In the Middle East, a number of governments, including those in Libya, Iraq, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, tightly proscribe civil society. In other countries where nongovernmental activism is permitted, governments placed limits on certain types of NGOs. In Egypt, for example, many local and international human rights activists have concluded that government restrictions on the activities of NGOs have inhibited reporting on human rights abuses. In December, authorities jailed Hafez Abu Se'da, Secretary General of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) for several days after the EOHR released a report critical of police conduct in a murder investigation.

3. The Rule of Law. Democratic institutions and officials are guided by and constrained by the law that is to say, a government accountable to, not above the law. Governments that respect individual rights apply a body of laws that are transparent, predictable, based on popular sovereignty, and fairly and equitably applied. They have a fair and efficient legal system led by an independent and professionally competent judiciary that acts as final arbiter of the law. A strong rule of law helps to assure sustainable economic development, to combat corruption, to support social stability and peace, and to carve out necessary space for individual political and economic activity. It also provides the average citizen with confidence that he or she has access to a mechanism to hold leaders and institutions accountable - in both the public and private sectors. Absent an independent judiciary and the rule of law, democracies simply lack mechanisms to ensure that laws and procedures protect universal human rights.

Many governments confuse the existence of laws with the rule of law. In too many countries - Belarus,

Burma, Cuba, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria, to name only a few - the rule of law has been warped to fit the whims of a tiny ruling elite. In others, well-intentioned laws have become paper fictions, providing cover for corrupt politicians and criminals. Some governments legislate restrictions on free speech, free press, and other key rights in the name of the rule of law. For the rule of law to be truly effective, a country's legal system must be independent and in conformity with universal human rights principles.

Unfortunately, too many governments ignored this fundamental precept in 1998. In Malaysia, government action, constitutional amendments, and legislation restricting judicial review undermined judicial independence and strengthened executive influence over the judiciary. During the ongoing trial of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, the judge repeatedly failed to protect the defense from transparent abuses by the police, including raids on the defense attorney's office and the harassment of defense witnesses. Several other high-profile cases continued to cast doubt on judicial impartiality and independence and to raise questions of arbitrary verdicts and selective prosecution.

In China, the Government launched new efforts to reform the legal system and widely disseminated information about new legislation. However, authorities violated due process in politically sensitive trials involving "state security." A number of laws passed in recent years have the potential to enhance citizens' rights, but even if fully implemented, these reforms still would fall short, in many respects, of international standards.

In Pakistan, corruption, crime, political violence, and fundamental disagreements over the nature of the legal system all posed continuing serious problems. Despite attempts at legal reform, police persisted in numerous abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, physical abuse, and rape. The judiciary, especially the lower courts, remained subject to executive influence and suffered from inadequate resources, inefficiency, and corruption. In November, the Prime Minister announced martial law in Sindh province and the establishment of military courts in Karachi to try terrorists.

In Russia and Ukraine, the pervasiveness of corruption, connections between government officials and organized crime, and the political activities of organized crime figures allowed criminals to act outside the law to influence politicians, police investigations, and court decisions. Politicians, businessmen, campaign managers, and journalists were victimized by sometimes-fatal attacks. Criminal elements routinely intimidated victims and witnesses into withdrawing or changing testimony. In Russia, the celebrated case of Aleksandr Nikitin, in which the noted environmentalist and former navy officer faced a third year of prosecution for publication of information on the Russian Northern Fleet's environmental record, continued to demonstrate that country's difficulties ensuring due process. There are credible charges that the case against him was politically motivated.

In Peru, the judicial system continued to be inefficient, often corrupt, and easily manipulated by the executive branch. President Alberto Fujimori used provisional and temporary appointments to create a corps of judges largely beholden to him for the ongoing occupation of their offices. The 1997 decision by the Fujimori-dominated Congress to fire three Constitutional Court judges left that court without the necessary quorum to address constitutional questions. Proceedings in civilian terrorism trials and particularly in military treason trials continued to fall significantly short of internationally accepted standards of openness, fairness, or due process. In Colombia, the number of outstanding arrest warrants stood at 150,000 in August, while the civilian judiciary suffered from a backlog of 3.5 million cases as of October. The suborning or intimidation of judges, witnesses, and prosecutors by those indicted or involved in crimes was common.

C. Developments in Labor

Worker Rights. At the annual June conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva, member nations took an important step in the struggle to secure worker rights around the world by adopting a "Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work." The Declaration reaffirmed the obligation of all ILO members to promote and respect core labor standards, including freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, freedom from forced or compulsory labor, freedom from abusive child labor, and nondiscrimination in employment. To further promote adherence to these principles and rights, the Declaration mandated the establishment of a follow-up mechanism for

monitoring progress even in those countries that have not ratified the relevant ILO conventions.

Despite this important achievement, 1998 saw many countries ignore or violate these core standards. As a result, trade unions faced harassment and closure, discrimination against workers remained commonplace, and child, bonded, and slave labor remained endemic in many parts of the world. In response to the growing outrage over these practices, the Administration worked actively with corporations, trade unions, Congress, and NGOs to secure adherence to core labor standards. President Clinton and Congress worked together to secure a tenfold increase in the U.S. contribution to the ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC).

Several countries saw their labor situations improve in 1998. Indonesia ratified ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association, released opposition trade union leader Muchtar Pakpahan, and permitted trade union pluralism. Nigeria released imprisoned labor leaders and repealed two anti-trade union decrees, thereby opening the way to free elections in the Nigerian Labour Congress. In Swaziland, government, labor, and business leaders worked with representatives of the ILO to draft new labor laws that take into account provisions of ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and ILO Convention 98 on the Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively. In Pakistan, child labor remained endemic, but carpet manufacturers began to work with ILO/IPEC to establish a Rugmark program to eliminate child labor from the industry through monitoring and rehabilitation.

However, other countries did not see progress or experienced significant reversals. The economic developments that so damaged many economies and exchange rates in 1997 - particularly in Asia - continued to pose serious problems in 1998. Millions of those who benefited from the "economic miracle" of the past decade found themselves out of work and bereft of hard-earned savings, increasing labor strife in such countries such as Indonesia, Korea, and Russia.

Child labor remained endemic in 1998. According to the ILO, as many as 250 million children under the age of 15 were employed full or part time around the world. Child workers often were denied the opportunity to obtain education, and frequently worked in dangerous conditions. Economic turmoil only further exacerbated the problem. Thanks to the work of IPEC, the year did see some progress toward the reduction of some of the more abusive forms of child labor, such as that found in the carpet and garment industries in South Asia and elsewhere. At its June 1999 Conference, the ILO is expected to adopt a new convention on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor.

Compulsory labor was a part of China's penal system in 1998, but since 1990 the export of prison-produced goods has been illegal under Chinese law. In addition to prisons, the Government also maintained a network of reform-through-labor and reeducation-through-labor camps, whose inmates usually were required to work as well. Most anecdotal reports concluded that work conditions in the penal system's light manufacturing facilities were similar to those in other factories, but conditions on penal farms and in mines could be quite harsh. In 1992, the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China to facilitate investigation of prison-labor produced exports. Chinese cooperation under the MOU has varied over time, and overall has been unsatisfactory.

The protection of workers in Cambodia remained in its infancy. The 1997 labor law provided workers with internationally recognized worker rights, but the Government's enforcement of these rights was uneven. Workers had little concept of their rights, and little collective bargaining took place. A number of strikes protesting pay and working conditions in the burgeoning garment industry resulted in some satisfaction of worker grievances. In Thailand, worker rights protections as well as trade unions remained weak. The military government of 1991 withdrew the right of public sector and enterprise workers to form unions, and, despite legislative efforts by successive civilian governments, this right has yet to be restored. The economic crisis caused widespread job losses, and the lack of an adequate social safety net resulted in dislocation and increased poverty.

In Haiti, the worker rights situation was heavily influenced by the weak economic situation. High unemployment remained a major obstacle to union organizing efforts. Collective bargaining was largely nonexistent, and employers usually set wages unilaterally. Female workers, particularly in the assembly sector, reported sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace. Although there was little child labor in the formal sector, many children were forced to work as unpaid domestics.

Haiti is not the only country where the mistreatment and abuse of domestic servants was a problem. In much of the Middle East and parts of the developed world, labor laws do little to protect vulnerable workers who travel from developing nations to work as domestic servants in order to support families at home. Many of these individuals face extraordinarily long work days, poor living conditions, unpaid wages, and sexual violence. Isolated from their families, desperate to make a living, and afraid of their employers, few of these victims seek help from law enforcement authorities. In some countries such as Saudi Arabia, authorities often return runaways to their employers against the employees' wishes.

III. Conclusion

The Universal Declaration promised a world where "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Yet half a century later, the world still has a long way to go before it fulfills this promise. The past year confirmed that the best path to accomplishing that goal remains the establishment of democratic governments. The right to democracy thus stands both as a part of, and an essential means to, ensure universal human rights principles.

 In the past 10 years alone, the number of electoral democracies has almost doubled, in good measure because democratic institutions offer the best assurance of respect for human rights as well as the best chance to improve the lives of average citizens. The contrast between the brittle economies of most authoritarian states and the relatively resilient economies of most democratic states demonstrates the centrality of democratic participation to public confidence in economic growth. As Vice President Gore noted in his November speech at the APEC summit in Malaysia, "History has taught us that freedom - economic, political, and religious freedom - unlocks a higher fraction of the human potential than any other way of organizing society." The past year confirmed that democratic governance, human rights, and religious and labor freedom remain inextricably intertwined with our prosperity and security.

Harold Hongju Koh

Assistant Secretary of State

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

February 26, 1999

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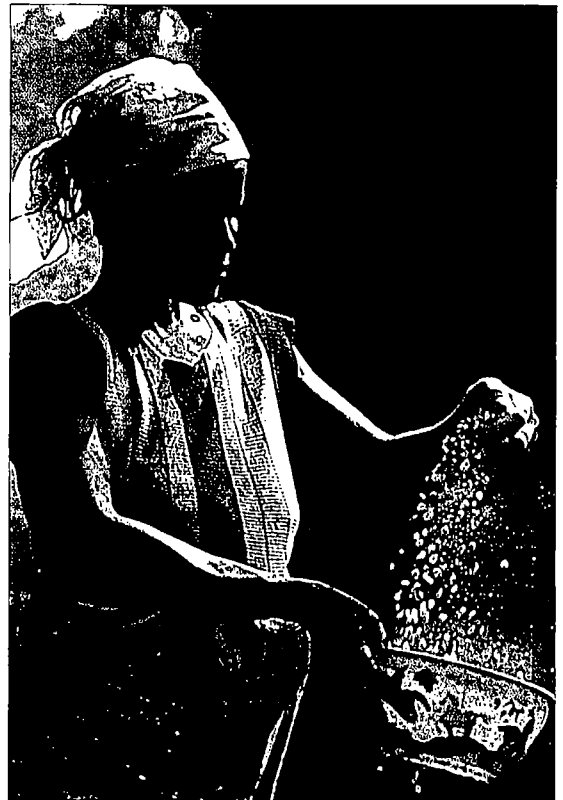
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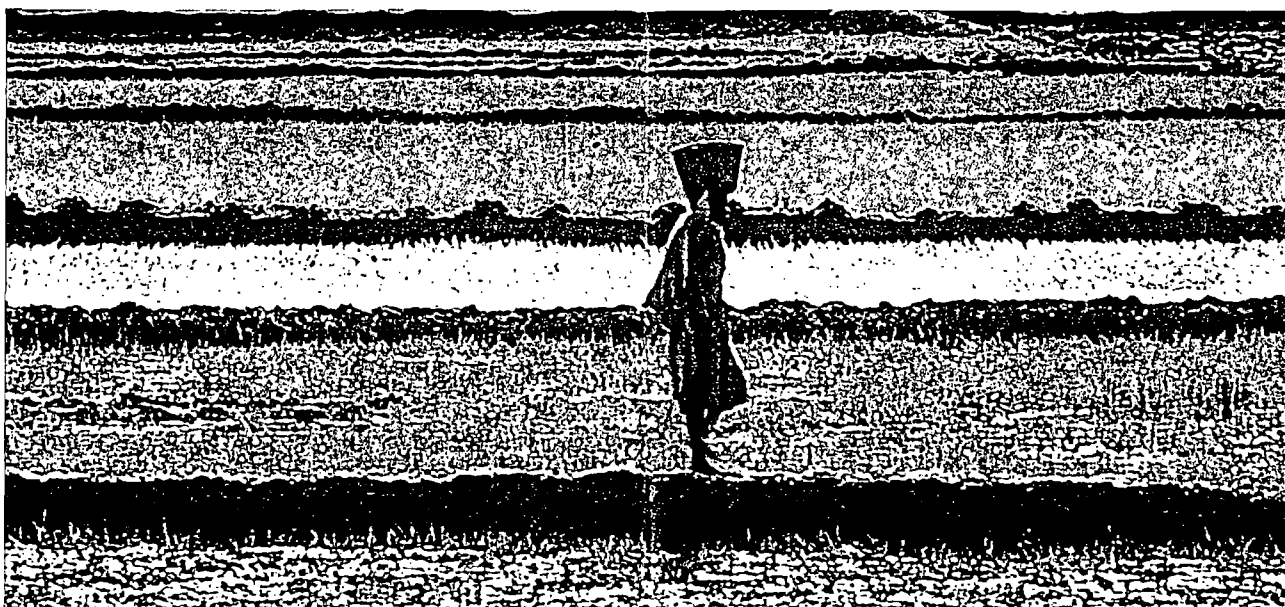
Nasri Hussein Adam lives in Somalia and is a trainer with Iida, one of the few organizations that embraces all clans and ethnic affiliations within that country. The war in Somalia displaced many people, and violence disrupted health, agriculture, food, education, water and sanitation.

With UNIFEM's support, Nasri was trained in conflict resolution and now encourages women to undertake peace-building activities in communities throughout the country. "Women's compassion and healing efforts help society to maintain a semblance of normal life," says Nasri. Iida also provides displaced women with housing, jobs, and education.

UNIFEM has helped change the lives of countless women like Nasri by giving them encouragement and hope in desperate times. **YOU CAN HELP TOO!**

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HOW DOES UNIFEM HELP?

Rekha Dubey

Rekha Dubey lives in Uttar Pradesh, India. She was married at the age of 14, and deserted by her husband at 21. As the only daughter in her family, she was deprived of her own ancestral property when her father died. A two-room house, a small plot of land and a shop were taken by her uncle. Her in-laws threw her out of her home and took her older son.

Through the UNIFEM-funded project, "Women in Grassroots Democracy," conducted by the Centre for Social Research, Rekha learned about her rights. She not only regained what she lost but progressed and won what she never had. Her son and her property were returned to her, and she has even run for office in her community. She is knowledgeable about her legal rights, she is confident and no longer exploitable.

UNIFEM has helped change the lives of countless women like Rekha by giving them knowledge of their rights and opportunities, so that they can join the political process, secure jobs and property rights and achieve self-reliance. **YOU CAN HELP TOO!**

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HOW DOES UNIFEM HELP?

Maria del Carmen Ramirez

Maria del Carmen Ramirez is a founding member of Las Molineras—The Women Millers—in Huancayo, Peru. She and her group are fighting poverty in her mountainous land in the Andes by producing traditional flours and cereals using new innovative food processing technologies.

Thanks to her group winning a \$10,000 contest funded by UNIFEM throughout the Andean region, the value of Las Molineras' work has been publicized by the media and the products of Huancayo are reaching new markets.

Through Maria's travels, the public has learned about the potential of traditional local foods in improving their families' diets.

"What is easy, we do it," said Maria. "What is hard, we also do it. The impossible, we do our best to do it."

UNIFEM has helped change the lives of countless women like Maria by promoting food security and creating sustainable livelihoods. **YOU CAN HELP TOO!**

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1998

Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton
at Makerere University

Kampala, Uganda
March 25, 1998

MRS. CLINTON: Bana' Uganda. Muli mutyano. (Applause.) It is such a great honor and pleasure for me to be here on the campus of this great university. (Applause.) Before I begin, I want to thank President and Mrs. Museveni for the warm hospitality that they have extended to us during our visit. And I particularly want to thank Mrs. Museveni, not only for that kind introduction, but I want to acknowledge her leadership on so many fronts, especially her creation of the Uganda Women's Effort to Save the Orphans. (Applause.) I also want to congratulate her on her recent graduation from the university. (Applause.)

Thank you for your warm welcome, Mr. Vice Chancellor. And, no, I do not mind at all, for you're asking that the needs of the students and faculty here be met, and I will carry your message back to the United States. (Applause.)

It is a pleasure once again to be with your Vice President, whom I admire so much and who told me that she, too, was a student and a teacher here at the University. (Applause.) I am also delighted to be joined by the Speaker of the Parliament, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Deputy Chief Justice, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Gender and Community Development, and so many of you distinguished guests and faculty and students.

It is wonderful for me to have been able to return to Uganda. Last year when I visited with my daughter I made the promise that I would return with my husband. And I'm very pleased I could keep that promise. (Applause.) I learned a lot about your country, your struggles and challenges, last year.

Since then I have followed your development with great interest and very great admiration, because I have some small sense from the conversations I have had with many men and women here in Uganda and Ugandans in the United States about what you have had to overcome.

As the choir sang the Uganda National Anthem a few minutes ago, I thought about how appropriate it is for these words to fill Freedom Square today -- united, free for liberty. For 75 years, Makerere University has stood for those principles. And, yet, I know that that forces of evil stole the life of Makerere's first Ugandan Vice Chancellor. I know that the forces of evil arrested, tortured and vilified students. They pushed faculty out of the country and tried to demean those who stayed. They wanted to destroy this world-class university. (Applause.)

People like Idi Amin and his ilk are not comfortable in the light of freedom and education -- they prefer ignorance and backwardness. And you did not let them succeed. (Applause.) Instead you healed the wounds of the past and you are now building this university for the future, just as Uganda is doing, just as Africa is doing.

Out of the hard soil of the Cold War, democracies, free market economies and civil societies are all taking root. Students who once fought oppression underground re-emerged as liberators and now as leaders of a free Uganda. And voices for freedom and dignity and human rights once silenced are now again echoing through the halls of this university and across this country.

Many such voices are here with us today. I could call the names of many faculty and students, government and academic leaders, members of the professions and the businesses here in Uganda -- people who stood up for freedom when it really counted. We can hear the voices of freedom from Sister Rachele Frassera, the Deputy Head Mistress of St. Mary's College in Aboke.

When the Lord's Resistance Army kidnapped 139 girls, 75 percent of the student body, she chased down the terrorists, convinced them to release 109 girls and is working day and night to make sure all of them return safely. (Applause.)

We can hear the voice of freedom from Dr. Joy Kwesiga, the former Chair of Action and Development, the former Chair of the Women's Studies Department, and now Dean of Social Sciences here at Makerere. (Applause.) She has worked hard to ensure that the victims of domestic violence are heard, that their accusations are treated seriously and that the crimes are punished.

We can hear the voice of freedom from Sarah Bagalaliwo. As a founder and Chair of the NGO FIDA, Sarah instituted a legal aid clinic, which over the last 10 years has helped thousands of vulnerable women understand and exercise their fundamental legal rights. (Applause.)

Just a few hours ago my husband and I were in Rwanda, where we spoke with survivors of the 1994 genocide. It is still hard to imagine that in the space of three months, one million people were murdered. Nowhere has that number of people ever been murdered in such a short period of time in history. We listened to a delegation of six Rwandans who spoke of their experiences. One member was a woman whom I met exactly a year ago here in Kampala. I could not myself go to Rwanda, but several women came to see me and we met here to talk about their experiences.

Last year and again today, I will forever see the faces of the people I spoke with as they described the human toll of Rwanda's violence and what they were doing to rebuild their lives and communities. As my husband said in his remarks today, genocide destroys not only individuals, but our humanity. We must continue to bring healing to the victims, and we must bring the perpetrators of genocide to justice. (Applause.) We must continue to be vigilant about the dangers that still exist and do everything we can to make sure that nothing like what happened in Uganda in the '70s and what happened in Rwanda in 1994 happen again.

That means every one of us must act. Not just our leaders -- we must hold our leaders accountable -- it is for all of us to stand up for the rights of all people. We must work to end atrocities around the world, not just the ones that grab headlines, but the indignities that people suffer quietly, when they are denied the chance to speak or learn, to work or eat; when they're denied the chance to live free from fear or want. In other words, we should stand up for the rights of all persons to be fully human.

You have made many steps toward that goal here at this university. I could not name them all, but I want particularly to commend the University for creating the Department of Women's Studies, and now for creating the Human Rights and Peace Center. (Applause.) There is no better time than for all of us now to reaffirm our commitment to human rights and peace, for it was 50 years ago that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was born and the world acknowledged a common standard for human dignity. The document puts it very directly: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. All human

beings -- not just men, not just adults, not just people of particular cultures or nations, races or religions. This declaration means that we must expand the circle of human dignity to all human beings.

And just think how much wider that circle has grown in Africa in just a few short years. Only a decade ago who would have imagined that Nelson Mandela would move triumphantly from prisoner to President in South Africa. (Applause.) Or that more than 30 years of turmoil would give way to healing and unity in Mozambique. And who would have imagined that it would have been your brave President, President Museveni, that would have taken on the scourge of AIDS with his public health campaign, and that he would and you would, working together, stem the rise of AIDS in Uganda. That is also standing up for human rights. (Applause.)

And who would have imagined that Uganda would produce your Vice President, the highest ranking woman in any African government. (Applause.) I could add, the highest ranking woman in many governments around the world, not just in Africa. (Applause.)

And yet, despite the steady march of progress, the commitment here to universal primary education, for example, there are still who will claim that human rights are a luxury of the West; that they have nothing to do with Africa, or Asia; that they are just the province of people like Americans. But the beliefs inscribed in the Universal Declaration were not invented 50 years ago; they are not the work of any single culture or country. They are universal and timeless.

Sophocles wrote about universal human rights 25 years ago, when he had Antigone declare that there were ethical laws higher than those of even kings. Confucius articulated them in ancient China. And we can look throughout this continent and find examples of ancient leaders of Africa who also said that all people walk the same way, all people must be treated with dignity. These are the core teachings of all major faiths in the world. They are the foundation of what it means to be a respected human being -- in Africa, in Asia, in America -- because they live in the human soul.

Around the globe, I have seen many women and men pushed to the margins of their societies. They may know nothing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but they are eloquent in their beliefs that they were born with God-given rights just as surely as they were born into the human family.

It is absolutely untrue that individual human rights and community rights cannot co-exist. The truth is, they are indispensable to each other. Democratic progress is possible when all citizens can be heard. Economic progress is possible when all citizens have the tools of opportunity, such as education and health care, that will enable them to support their families.

Yesterday, President and Mrs. Museveni went with my husband and me to visit a village -- the Jinja Village. We saw women who are working together through a village bank to make their lives better, increasing their income, helping their husbands support their families better, taking care of the children that were orphaned that they have taken in from brothers or sisters or other relatives. And they are doing it because they've been given access to credit; they've been given tools to enable them to make economic progress.

Real security is only possible when we learn to live together and to respect each other's fundamental differences. I found a quote I particularly like from a Dinka Chief, who put it like this: "If you see a man walking on his two legs, do not despise him; he is a human being. Bring him close to you and treat him like a human being. This is how you will secure your own life."

But yet, it is not an easy task, in my own country, or any country, to make human rights a reality. The work is not done when a law is passed or a constitution is drafted. Securing

human rights for all people is a never-ending struggle. In my own country, it has taken most of our 222 years -- some of them bloody and few of them easy -- to extend the benefits of citizenship to all Americans.

We went from a very small group of white, property-owning men having citizenship, and gradually expanded it to include black men, and then to include women. But then we had to work to make sure that the words in a constitution meant what they said. One of my predecessors, Eleanor Roosevelt, who helped to write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was 35 years old before she could vote. My own mother was born before women were allowed to vote in the United States. And yet, if we do not secure human rights for all, none of us is secure in our own rights.

Some of you may recall the words of the Protestant minister living in Nazi Germany who said: "In Germany, first they came for the Communists, but I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak out because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak out."

At the dawn of the millennium, those of us who have the power to speak, and all of you here associated with this great university, by virtue of you being here and attaining this education, not only have the power to speak, but the obligation. We must speak up wherever we see injustice and inequality.

And particularly today, I want to speak up and ask you to speak up for the women in Africa and all over the globe. Too many of them every day do the work that needs to be done -- managing the home; feeding, schooling, and caring for children; providing water and fuel. But every day, too many women are also being fed less and last; too many are trafficked like drugs and sold into prostitution; too many are left out when important decisions are made about their lives and their families and in their communities.

I want to commend Uganda for your new Local Government Act, which will help more women be part of the decisions that affect their lives. (Applause.) I am pleased to announce today that the United States government will provide \$2 million to help train these elected official women as they assume their new roles and responsibilities. (Applause.)

Because, yes, women's rights are human rights. And everywhere I travel, I meet women who are struggling to make sure that occurs. We have to speak out when either law or customs treat women like children or second-class citizens, when women are blocked from owning land, receiving inheritances, securing credit, or participating in the political process. We also have to speak out for more countries like Uganda to make sure that girls are educated.

Two-thirds of the 130 million children out of school worldwide are girls. I wish that some of the people in those countries that still prevent girls from being educated would come and visit the classrooms I have seen here in Uganda -- the bright faces of young boys and girls ready to learn so that they can become better citizens. I am so pleased that universal primary education is a critical part of Uganda's future.

There is much else we must speak up against: violence against women; the practice of genital mutilation; women and children who are brutalized by conflict wherever it occurs.

In Uganda, a pilot program here has reduced the number of women who endure genital mutilation by more than one-third. And when I go to Senegal in a few days, I will meet with a group of women who over the last year have voted in their villages to end this practice and are helping others to do the same.

We must also speak up for women and children caught up in war and conflict around the

world. It used to be that women, children, and civilians were to be protected during a war. Today, they are increasing the targets of war. Since the turn of this century, civilian fatalities during war have increased from 5 percent to 90 percent, and 80 percent of war's refugees are women and children.

You have seen this here in your country, because nothing so offends any definition of human rights than the use of children as pawns of war and the mistreatment and abuse of women as a tactic of war. The war in Rwanda was waged against the lives and dignity of women. Rape and sexual assault were committed on a mass scale. Here, according to a U.N. report, the children of northern Uganda like children throughout the world, are also at risk.

Last year when I spoke with President Museveni, he talked to me about the more than 10,000 Ugandan children who have been abducted by the Lords Resistance Army. One of those children is Charlotte, and she is one of the girl's that Sister Rachele tried to save. I met with her mother, Angelina, at the White House a few weeks ago before we came on this trip. She told me what had happened the night that the LRA kidnapped Charlotte and the other girls from St. Mary's school; how they broke the windows, tied up the girls, beat them if they cried; took them away into a life of unspeakable horrors. Thankfully, many have been rescued or escaped, or their freedom has been purchased. But many others, like Angelina's daughter, have not returned.

Like terrorists and dictators throughout history, the LRA claims to be doing the Lord's work. But there is no greater sin than forcing children to murder each other, family members, and even the parents who brought them into existence. There is no greater sin than raping young girls and sending them into slave labor. And there is no greater sin than using children as human shields in battle.

The LRA call themselves soldiers, but they are cowards, for only cowards would hide behind children in battle. (Applause.) Through a group called Concerned Parents Association, Sister Rachelle, Angelina and other parents are working to save their children and all children.

One of Charlotte's classmates who escaped talked about what happened when another girl tried to escape. Listen to her words: The girl who is brought in front of us and the rebels told us to stomp her to death. We killed the poor innocent girl. If we did not kill the girl, we were going to be shot by guns. We prayed for that girl in our hearts, silently, and asked God to pardon us and forgive us because it was not our will to kill her.

Another girl who was rescued wrote: I'm pleading with you to find a way of stopping this rebel activity, so they we children of northern Uganda could also share in the peace that other children around the world are sharing in. We need peace.

I'm hoping that every government around the world and every citizen joins your government and people in Uganda in your fight for peace and in your efforts to save these children. Already Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International are shining a spotlight on this tragedy. UNICEF is helping to get assistance to groups working at the local level. And non-governmental organizations like World Vision and Gulu Save the Children Organization are caring for children who escape.

There are three of those children here with us that I just had a chance to meet before I came out to see you. Their names are Isaac and Janet and Betty. They were kidnapped by the LRA in the north. They managed to escape, eventually finding refuge. As I looked into their faces and their eyes, I saw the faces and eyes of children the world over. And I thought to myself as I looked at these young men and women of Uganda that we owe them and the thousands more like them everything we can do to make sure that they, too, have a chance, like the children I saw yesterday, to grow up in peace, to be educated, and to look forward to their own families and futures.

There are no easy answers, but I want Janet and Betty and Isaac to know, and I hope that someday Angelina will be able to tell her daughter, Charlotte, as well, that America cares about your children, and we want to work with you to try to stop this tragedy and to care for the children who are its victims.

(Applause.)

That's why I am very pleased to announce new steps our government is taking through the United States Agency for International Development. First, we will provide \$500,000 directly to local groups like the Concerned Parents Association and GUSCO, to help them find abducted children and give them the medical care they need to heal. (Applause.)

Second, we will provide \$2 million over the next three years for a new Northern Uganda Initiative that will help the people living there plagued by rebel activity get jobs rebuilding roads, dams, schools, health clinics and their own communities. (Applause.) I am very pleased that other donors, including the World Bank, have agreed to support these efforts.

Third, we will provide \$10 million to local African NGOs who are working to improve food security and to prevent, ease and respond to conflict in the region. (Applause.)

And, finally, my husband and our government will increase their efforts to pressure Sudan to end its support for the LRA and their cowardly abductions of children. (Applause.) We will work with you to end this terror, and we will work with you to continue your rebuilding of your country.

But I want to add just one more thought, because when we talk about democracy and human rights we know how important laws and institutions are. We know that strong and free markets are also important because they unleash so much creative entrepreneurial energy from people like the women I saw in Jinja yesterday. But, ultimately, the struggle to protect human rights depends upon the millions of decisions and actions that are taken every day by ordinary people like us.

It is what Alexis de Tocqueville called, the habits of the heart. It is what we tell our children. Do we continue to tell them to hate those who our grandparents hated, or do we try to help them give up that hatred? It is what we tell each other in our neighborhoods, our villages, our workplaces when we hear someone making disparaging comments about someone of another ethnicity or tribal or racial or religious background. Do we say: Why do you say that about a person's group? Do you know the person? Can you make a judgment about that person as an individual? If you cannot, don't engage in stereotypes.

There have been too many stereotypes between us. (Applause.)

In so many ways every day each of us can stand up for human rights. We don't have to be as brave as Sister Rachele rescuing girls. We don't have to be as brave as these three young children who have endured so much, but have come back to build their own lives. We can in so many ways stand up for human rights every day.

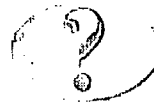
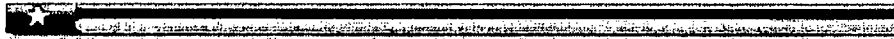
That is why I'm pleased that the Human Rights and Peace Center is developing a curriculum to be used throughout the campus, so that the lessons taught and learned here will stay with everyone forever. Because, ultimately, all the work that the President or Mrs. Museveni, or the Vice President or the Vice Chancellor, any of those who are currently leaders in Uganda can do will not be successful unless the students at this University and the children in the schools today understand how important it is to stand up for democracy and freedom and human rights.

No one understands better the importance of human rights than Ugandans. You understand the nightmares that come when they are abused. No one is in a better position to honor the past generations by passing these lessons on to the next generations. I hope that you will

accept this challenge, not only now as you are doing, but for many years in the future. Many of us will look to Uganda as an example; as a country that is putting the past behind it in ways that the rest of us not only can admire, but follow. You have a historic opportunity to build a future that is not only one that you are proud to pass on to your children, but one that stands as a beacon not only for Africa, but for the world.

Many of us know what you suffered. Today we stand in admiration of what you are doing now to build a better future. And we will look to you as we move toward this new century and new millennium to show us how people develop new habits of the heart, to make it clear that every person is worthy of dignity and respect, and that peace and freedom, democracy and human rights will always be part of Uganda's life.

Thank you all very much. (Applause.)



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UNITED NATION'S EVENT COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Date: Thursday, March 4th, 1999

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: ECOSOC Chamber (sits 750 people)

Speakers: FLOTUS and Secretary General Kofi Annan

Why:

- FLOTUS was present at International Women's Day 1995 at the United Nations
- FLOTUS efforts in championing the cause of women all over the world are admired by the Women of the United Nations.

Audience: Female Permanent Representatives to the United Nations
Heads of UN Agencies
CSW Participants
UN Women Employees
VIP Guests

Host: Group on Equal Rights for Women in the United Nations
[Contact: Agnes Marcaillous, President of Group, (212) 963-3768]

Background: The purpose of the Group on Equal Rights for Women in the United Nations is to eliminate inequalities between men and women in the United Nations in areas such as recruitment, conditions of employment, assignments, training and promotion, and to promote mutual respect and understanding between men and women in accordance with the aims of the Charter of the United Nations. To achieve its objectives, the Group works in cooperation with any other women's groups or staff bodies concerned with these issues

The Group on Equal Rights for Women is a loosely knit and open-ended group which was established in 1971 to work towards the elimination of discrimination against women in the United Nations and to ensure that equal opportunities exist for women as provided in Article 8 of the UN Charter. (The United Nations should place no restriction on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any category and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs.) In an effort to achieve an equal balance and treatment of women and men staff members, in all categories and at all levels, the Group monitors the implementation of official policy statements and directives, provides a support system for women in the United Nations and encourages consciousness raising among the group and staff in general.

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United States Committee for UNIFEM

United Nations Development Fund for Women

777 United Nations Plaza • 7th Floor • New York, New York 10017 • Tel: 212-808-4988 • Fax: 212-972-0164

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Date: February 28, 1999

TO: **Christie M.
Office of the First Lady
The White House**

Fax: (202) 456-5709

Phone (202) 456-2935

FROM: **Hope S. Miller
President, United States Committee for UNIFEM**

SUBJ: **Information for the First Lady's Speech on March 4.**

As discussed last week, here are the names that Mrs. Clinton might decide to mention in her speech. Also attached is some additional information about the U.S. Committee for UNIFEM, taken from our new membership brochure.

Hope Miller, President of the United States Committee for UNIFEM.

Ruth Zeller, President of the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the U.S. Committee for UNIFEM.

Norma Levitt, immediate past President of the New York Chapter, who helped build the chapter over the last decade.

Mildred Robbins Leet, recipient, with her late husband Glen Leet, of the 1992 *Award of Excellence*.

Leila Toplic, President of the Wellesley Chapter, which is our first student chapter.

Margaret Snyder, founding Director of UNIFEM.

^{EXEC}
Noeleen Heyzer, Director of UNIFEM.

Thank you again for all your help!

Sincerely,

H.S.M. signed map

Hope S. Miller
President

3 Pages 1/3

UNIFEM supports the self-help initiative of women in developing countries, thus making their lives more productive. By increasing their economic power, UNIFEM helps to improve the lives of women, their families, and their communities. When UNIFEM helps 250,000 women, 1,000,000 children benefit.

**THE UNITED STATES COMMITTEE
FOR UNIFEM:**

- Encourages concerned women and men to become members.
- Publicizes UNIFEM's work through meetings, newsletters, networking, and individual contacts.
- Sponsors special educational programs.
- Raises funds for UNIFEM through public events and private contributions.
- Solicits matching tax-deductible contributions.
- Informs elected officials about UNIFEM's important work and appeals for their support.
- Seeks sponsorship of its programs from businesses, organizations and individuals.

- JOIN US! -

Call 1-800-55-UNIFEM



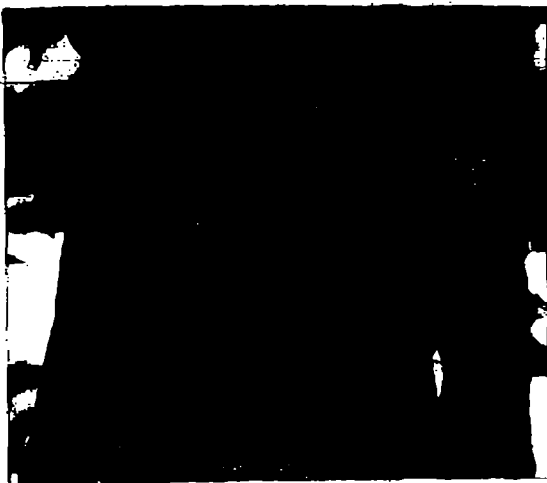
Design © Emerson, Washington, D.C. © Photograph: Norma Hill, John Lewis, Ruth Mason, JAMES/REI/JOE

**When UNIFEM Helps 250,000 Women,
1,000,000 Children Benefit**

**WOMEN HOLD UP
HALF THE SKY**



*The United States Committee for the
United Nations Development Fund for Women
(UNIFEM)*



WHAT DOES UNIFEM ACCOMPLISH?

- UNIFEM helps women living in poverty in the developing world to help themselves.
- UNIFEM is an agency of the United Nations. It is dedicated to the creation and support of equality between women and men.
- UNIFEM taps powerful reservoirs of hope and enthusiasm among women who view themselves and their world in negative, fragmented, and broken terms.
- UNIFEM strengthens women's economic capacity by encouraging innovative and socially responsible initiatives that will lead women to a larger role in the private sector and in the global marketplace.
- UNIFEM gives voice and visibility to women by encouraging their leadership in decision-making processes that shape their lives.
- UNIFEM promotes women's rights and seeks to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

- JOIN US! -

HOW DOES UNIFEM HELP?

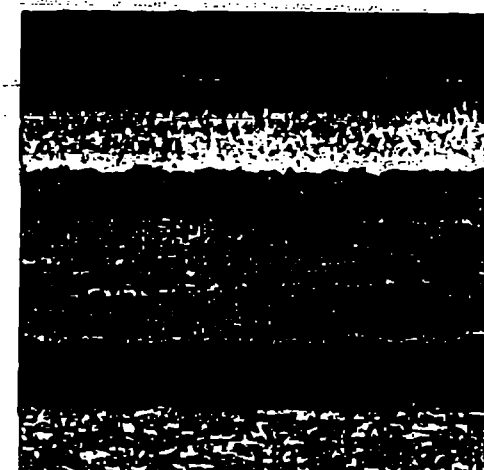
Nasri Hussein Adam

Nasri Hussein Adam lives in Somalia and is a trainer with Iida, one of the few organizations that embraces all clans and ethnic affiliations within that country. The war in Somalia displaced many people, and violence disrupted health, agriculture, food, education, water and sanitation.

With UNIFEM's support, Nasri was trained in conflict resolution and now encourages women to undertake peace-building activities in communities throughout the country. "Women's compassion and healing efforts help society to maintain a semblance of normal life," says Nasri. Iida also provides displaced women with housing, jobs, and education.

UNIFEM has helped change the lives of countless women like Nasri by giving them encouragement and hope in desperate times. YOU CAN HELP TOO!

- JOIN US! -



HOW DOES UNIFEM HELP?

Rakha Dubey

Rakha Dubey lives in Uttar Pradesh, India. She married at the age of 14, and deserted by her husband at 21. As the only daughter in her family was deprived of her own ancestral property when her father died. A two-room house, a small plot of land, a shop were taken by her uncle. Her in-laws threw her out of her home and took her older son.

Through the UNIFEM-funded project, "Women in Grassroots Democracy," conducted by the Centre for Social Research, Rakha learned about her rights. She not only regained what she lost but progressed and what she never had. Her son and her property were returned to her, and she has even run for office in her community. She is knowledgeable about her legal rights and is confident and no longer exploitable.

UNIFEM has helped change the lives of countless women like Rakha by giving them knowledge of their rights and opportunities, so that they can join the political process, secure jobs and property rights and achieve self-reliance. YOU CAN HELP TOO!

- JOIN US! -



304 East 45 th Street . New York, N.Y. 10017 . Tel: 212-906-6400, Fax: 212-906-6705

To: Ms. Noel Meyer
Office of the First Lady
The White House

Fax: 202 456 2581

From: Rita Gibbons
Public Affairs

Date: 25 February 1999

Dear Ms. Meyer:

Attached is information you requested by phone:

1. The name of the village that Mrs. Clinton visited in Senegal is **MALICOUNDA**. This project to mobilize local people and educate them about the dangerous effects of harmful traditional practices (FGM) is a joint project of UNICEF/UNIFEM/and Tostan – an NGO.
2. Some Statistics on Women's Progress since the Founding of UNIFEM (three pages).
3. Some excerpts from a recent progress report for 1998 prepared by UNIFEM summarizing outcomes of a few of UNIFEM initiatives.

Please feel free to call me (212 906 6897 if you need additional information.

With best regards,

Some Statistics on Women's Progress Since founding of UNIFEM.

Education.

Gender gap in education more than halved in developing countries ~~some~~ between 1970 and 1990

(Source: Human Development Report, 1995)

In 1995, girls' school enrollment rates, as a percentage of boys' enrollment rates were:

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
All dev. countries	87	81
Least dev. countries	76	69
Industrial countries	99	102
World	89	85

Source: Human Development Report, 1998.

Health.

Between 1970 and 1990, female life expectancy increased 20% faster than male life expectancy. High fertility rates fell by one-third. Maternal mortality rates nearly halved.

(Source: Human Development Report, 1995)

Average number of births per woman

	1980	1996
Low and middle income countries	4.1	3.0
High income countries	1.9	1.7
World	3.7	2.8

(Source: World Development Report, 1998)

Employment.

Women's share of adult labour force (%)

	1970	1995
All developing countries	37	41
Least developed countries	43	48
Industrial countries	40	47
World	38	41

(Source: Human Development Report, 1998).

Political participation:

Proportion of seats held by women in national
elected assembly (%)

	1975	1987
Eastern Europe & USSR	25	27
Other developed countries	7	14
Africa (Northern)	3	4
Africa (Subsaharan)	5	7
Latin America & Caribbean	5	8
Eastward & South Eastern Asia	10	13
Southern Asia	4	5
Western Asia	2	5

(Source: World Women - Trends and Statistics, 1991)

Proportion of seats held by women in the
national elected assembly (%)

	1997
All developing countries	8.6
Industrial countries	15.3
World	11.8

(Source: Human Development Report, 1998)

UNIFEM CC39
Objective 1.A

31. In **Africa**, UNIFEM Lagos Office sponsored a project on the economic empowerment of street food vendors through resource mobilization and technology transfer. The aim of the project was to aid street vendors in developing mechanisms of access to credit and other resources, and to identify renewable energy systems and technology options for improving their enterprise. The first component of the project was the needs assessment study carried out to explore technologies that can reduce the workload of women street vendors, while increasing their efficiency. Twenty women were selected through a questionnaire, and focus groups were conducted. The second phase explored means of collaboration between the Renewable Energy Systems Development and Applications (RESDA) programme and the Food Basket Foundation International.

32. The need assessment study revealed that the majority of the women sampled used firewood, which burns less efficiently, as well as manually operated machines, which increased women's workload. Based on these findings, two workshops were organized. The first, "The Development of an Alternative Mechanism for Resource Mobilization by Food Vendors," was held on 7 December 1998; the second, "Street Foods, Food Security and Renewable Energy Systems," was held on 9-10 December 1998.

Result: The workshops promoted the development of a Street Vendors' Union to assist in resource mobilization using the various alternative mechanisms discussed. They also produced recommendations on the promotion and development of alternative sources of energy, as well as the use of available, affordable, and durable appliances.

33. In **Asia/Pacific**, UNIFEM supported women workers in the informal sector by strengthening HomeNet and other organizations involved in helping home-based workers to gain access to better wages and working conditions. UNIFEM funded a strategic planning meeting of HomeNet in November 1998 to review the plan agreed upon at the first home-based workers meeting in 1996. It also looked at the organizational issues, membership, funding and strategic alliance with other bodies. While continuing to campaign around the ILO Convention on Home-based Workers, HomeNet extended its work to a number of key themes including strengthening grassroots organizations and spreading knowledge and information on home-based work. In addition, members of the Southeast Asia network (Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines) have consolidated their national and regional networks. In India, a national campaign has been developed around minimum wages and social security for the informal sector, including home-based workers. SEWA Mahila Trust and Adithi have done extensive work with home-based workers in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

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Result: A southern focal point of HomeNet was set up in Ahmedabad in 1998. Guidelines and other documents were agreed upon: funding proposals; collaboration with WIEGO; membership of HomeNet; working with consumer campaigns and codes of conduct. These documents are to be produced and distributed. Finally, there was improved awareness among key players in South Asia about the concerns and needs of home-based workers, and an increase in understanding of the ILO Convention on Home-Based Work.

34. In Latin America, UNIFEM funded and actively fund-raised (from the GTZ, Canada, the Federal Government of Brazil, USAID) for the First International Meeting of Women of the Amazon Forest, which took place 12-15 December 1998. The meeting objectives were to gather women of different backgrounds from five countries in the region to discuss their common problems and their organizations. UNIFEM also funded activities of the NGO collectives in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, and the national women's machineries of Chile (SERNAM—Servicio Nacional de la Mujer) and Uruguay (Instituto de la Mujer y de la Familia), to follow-up the Beijing Platform for Action through sponsorship of seminars, data gathering, and publications.

35. In addition, UNIFEM supported a pilot project in Ecuador, which targeted women street vendors and domestic workers. In collaboration with the Centro de Estudios de la Mujer Ecuatoriana, the pilot project consisted of research on the living/working conditions and needs of this group and on training on issues such as human and labour rights, self-assertion, violence against women, quality management, and commercialization. The training, communicated through weekly radio programmes, assisted in raising awareness of domestic workers rights, their ability to demand and exercise these rights, their self-esteem, and leadership skills. These programmes are gradually becoming a space where domestic workers themselves determine the issues, orientation, and testimonies to be broadcast, and will be eventually fully conducted by them.

Result: Increased awareness of common problems and improved networking among women's organizations in these countries. The training has resulted in domestic workers in Ecuador advocating for their legal recognition in order to claim their labour rights and benefits comparable to those working in other sectors. After many months of negotiations, the Labour Ministry finally approved the legal status of the domestic workers' association.

36. In Peru, the Manuela Ramos Movement and various indigenous craftswomen's organizations carried out the First Latin American Indigenous Craftswomen Fair within the UN Campaign for Women's Rights. The Fair, which received wide media coverage, provided indigenous women

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programme to build on the achievements of the five-year SADC Gender Programme, which officially came to a close at the end of 1997. In light of the strong potential for the newly-established SADC Gender Unit to effectively coordinate gender mainstreaming approaches and practices within the inter-governmental body, UNIFEM has reached an agreement with staff of the SADC Gender Unit, to target its future support to capacity-building of women's national machineries and NGOs, and to brokering partnerships between NGOs and governments within the SADC region. This approach would work both to complement and strengthen the capacity of the Gender Unit to effectively undertake its tasks.

13. In the **Asia Pacific** region, UNIFEM initiated a project to gender-sensitize the 1998 Pakistan Census in order to ensure that women's participation in and contribution to the national economy are accurately reflected for resource allocation and policy formulation. It also sought to increase awareness of women's work and the importance of women's participation in and to the national and household economies. UNIFEM, in conjunction with UNFPA and the Population Census Organization (PCO), provided support to a gender-training campaign in all four provinces of Pakistan for all master trainers of enumerators through BEDARI's gender trainers. It also provided support for the organization of 118 district level meetings for enumerators and respondents, and a strong media campaign through the AURAT Foundation. In general, this initiative has generated a regional forum for census exercises in Pakistan, India, and Nepal so as to share expertise. In India, Census data on women's workforce participation will be used as an advocacy tool to increase resource allocations and women's access to and control over resources and opportunities. The Government will continue to develop more adequate methodologies in data collection and to implement its policy of gender-sensitizing its officials. Women's groups will undertake gender-auditing activities to reflect women's participation in and contribution to the national economy in national development plans and other policies including budget allocations. Officials from Nepal responsible for the next Census (2001), for example, saw the process first-hand and were able to draw lessons for future use.

Result: Enumerators now know how to ask questions to assess labour force participation. Additionally, awareness was raised among respondents through massive media campaigns, such as the publication and dissemination of posters and jingles. Overall, this project resulted in increased recognition of the true contribution of women's work to the national economy.

14. UNIFEM continued work on a 1993 project to improve the availability of statistics on and sensitivity to gender issues in national statistical systems of selected ESCAP developing countries: India; Pakistan; the Philippines; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Vietnam. A regional publication on Statistics on Women and Men was prepared and discussed at the Second Regional Workshop, and the publication is now being finalized. A second phase to replicate this project in another six Asian countries is now being developed. Difficulties encountered were mainly due to delays in preparing the regional publication. To address this problem, a consultant was engaged to continue the preparation of the final draft as well as to provide technical editing. In the context

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Amazonia) was organized, with the participation of over 200 women of different backgrounds – mostly forest workers, but also sex workers, midwives, artisans, teachers, health agents and faith healers - ethnic/race origins. Situational analysis and policy proposals on various subjects – violence, sustainable development, etc. – were drafted, which will be forwarded to governmental and non-governmental institutions. The event highlighted the plight of Amazon women and their needs, and provided an opportunity for Amazon women organizations and others working with them to network and exchange information.

35. In the **West Africa** sub-region, UNIFEM has been facilitating a process of building women's leadership skills through a training programme being implemented by the Institute for African Democracy (IAD) in Dakar. Beneficiaries of the training include women mayors, parliamentarians, trade union leaders, and local government officials in **Mali, Cameroon, Benin, and Burkina Faso**.

Result: This programme has resulted in the establishment of a website on African women in politics. Another strong indication of the success of this initiative is reflected through the increasing requests from other countries of the region to receive similar training.

36. In **Nigeria**, efforts to support women's leadership development in 1998 included the convening of a media-training workshop for aspiring female politicians. The process succeeded in imparting skills to women politicians on the effective design of media campaign strategies, which would undoubtedly strengthen their campaign efforts in the forthcoming national elections.

37. Efforts to strengthen women's leadership development at the political level in the **East Africa** region include ongoing support being provided to the East African Women Leaders and Parliamentarians Forum, established in 1997. UNIFEM's support to the Forum is targeted on building the Forum's capacity to advocate for women's political and economic empowerment, and women's human rights in the region. This initiative is expected to facilitate the Forum's efforts to develop concrete strategies and an action plan on various ways of enhancing women's political empowerment. It will also ensure and monitor the implementation of gender-sensitive legislation and regional treaties.

38. At the country level in **Kenya**, UNIFEM provided support to the Kenyan Women's Political Caucus (KWPC) during 1998, to convene workshops and training activities aimed at gender-sensitizing parliamentarians and other parliamentary officials.

Result: Due to the training and sensitisation activities undertaken by the KWPC, a Constitutional Review Commission Act now requires that at least one third of commissioners be women. In addition, the Commission has adopted gender-sensitive language in the conduct of its business.

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X 39. An innovative approach being supported by UNIFEM, aimed at strengthening the political influence of women parliamentarians in **Rwanda**, has been in the form of an initiative to establish a Gender Desk in the Rwandan Parliament. The Gender Desk is specifically intended to ensure that parliamentary debates and ensuing legislation are gender-sensitive and responsive. Under this initiative, regular gender sensitisation seminars will be convened for parliamentarians in Rwanda. UNIFEM's support for this process will extend to 1999. It is anticipated that, as a result of this initiative, increased gender awareness would be created amongst both male and female parliamentarians, which will ultimately facilitate the enactment of gender-sensitive parliamentary legislation.

40. In **Uganda**, at the level of strengthening inter-generational learning on the achievements of women leaders, UNIFEM has provided support to the Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) for a project to document the tremendous advances made by Ugandan women since the 1950s, to increase their levels of political participation. This initiative will provide an historical record of women's achievements, and is also intended to encourage younger generations of women to aspire to higher political leadership positions.

41. As part of efforts to strengthen women's political leadership in **India**, UNIFEM provided support to the 84th Amendment to the Constitution of India. This included facilitating the convening of a two-day national debate on Reservation for Women in Politics in Hyderabad during September. This process is aimed at encouraging political parties to translate into practice, their commitment to reserving seats for women political leaders. This initiative is also working to ensure that women's voices are reflected within national policymaking processes.

X 42. Leadership-building support targeted to women in the **Pacific** region in 1998 was ensured through the initiation of a three-year programme to empower Pacific women to become active participants in political structures and decision-making processes. To date, the programme accomplishments include completion of a 'Women and Political Empowerment Training Manual' developed for the Pacific region, and the provision of campaign coordination and communications skills to women candidates in preparations for national elections.

X **Result:** As a result of the latter efforts, there was a recorded increase in numbers of women running for political office in Vanuatu and Kiribati, while in the Solomon Islands, two more women were elected to the Provincial Council.

43. As part of efforts to foster cross-regional learning on best practices, UNIFEM is exploring the feasibility of adapting the 'Women and Political Empowerment Training Manual' for the Pacific to the **CEE/CIS** region. Specifically, the manual would be adapted to inform planned leadership training workshops for the successor states of the former Yugoslavia.

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project document that emphasised support for women's efforts at the policy level, through the establishment of an advisory group to inform the work of the National Reconciliation Commission; support for the rehabilitation of psychologically traumatised women and girls; and a media awareness raising campaign stressing the role of women in peacemaking. Continuing political instability in Tajikistan to date has delayed the Project implementation process.

48. Another collaborative undertaking between UNIFEM and UNDP in the CEE/CIS, initiated in 1998, is a pilot programme in **Albania**, focused on weapons in exchange for development. The project will be implemented in the Gramsh district of Albania, and UNIFEM's contribution is targeted at supporting women's efforts in the disarmament and peace process through awareness raising and community sensitisation.

* 49. The first phase of a regional project to support the peace-building efforts of women in **Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, and Sudan** was completed in 1998. The project was implemented over a two-year period, with the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands. The key strategies which guided the implementation process stressed capacity-building of women's peace movements, providing conflict resolution skills training to women peace activists within the four countries, and supporting women to undertake advocacy initiatives for peace at regional and international levels. An evaluation of the project's activities in order to assess its impact, as well as the feasibility for extending the project activities into a second phase, was jointly undertaken by UNIFEM and the Government of the Netherlands in October 1998. The evaluation report underscored the relevance of the project, and provided clear recommendations for developing a second phase of the project activities. UNIFEM is currently awaiting feedback from the Government of the Netherlands to the request for additional financial support for a second phase of project activities.

* **Result:** Through activities undertaken in the first phase of the peace project, UNIFEM succeeded in mobilising additional resources for initiation of country-specific activities in two of the four countries covered under the regional project – Burundi and Somalia. Also as a result of the project activities, over 100 women in the four countries obtained conflict resolution skills training, and have in their turn trained wider communities of women. The project activities also facilitated the establishment of an African-wide Federation of African Women for Peace, a vehicle for coordinating advocacy initiatives at regional and international levels. The Federation has gained increased visibility since its launch in February 1998, and has, to date, undertaken peace and solidarity missions to Ethiopia, Eritrea, and, Congo-Brazzaville, organized with support from UNIFEM and UNDP.

50. Under a partnership established with the Government of Sweden in 1998, UNIFEM initiated a project to support the peace-building efforts of women in **Burundi**. The project seeks to

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KOFI ANNAN UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

Biographical Note

Statements

Kofi Annan, the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations who was Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations at the time of his appointment, brings to the position a wealth of experience and expertise gained through more than three decades of service with the world Organization. A national of Ghana who is fluent in English, French and several African languages, he was appointed on 17 December by the General Assembly to serve a term of office from 1 January 1997 through 31 December 2001.

Mr. Annan has had a remarkably varied United Nations career, focusing not only on questions of management -- administration, budget, finance and personnel -- but also refugee issues and peace-keeping. He has also carried out a number of sensitive diplomatic assignments, including negotiating the repatriation of over 900 international staff and the release of Western hostages in Iraq following that country's invasion of Kuwait in 1990; initiating discussions on the "oil-for-food" formula to ease the humanitarian crisis in Iraq; and overseeing the transition from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia to the multinational Implementation Force (IFOR) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) following the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement.

Complementing this strong grounding in management and in peace-keeping -- two areas of paramount importance to the future of the Organization at a critical juncture in its existence -- is the new Secretary-General's strong commitment to economic development and social justice. As he stated in an address to the General Assembly following his appointment, "a new understanding of peace and security must emerge". The world is beginning to recognize, he said, that conflict has many roots, that peace rests on economic and social stability, and that "intolerance, injustice and oppression -- and their consequences -- respect no national frontiers". Similarly, he continued, "we now know more than ever that sustainable economic development is not merely a matter of projects and statistics. It is, above all, a matter of people -- real people with basic needs: food, clothing, shelter and medical care".

As the first Secretary-General to emerge from the ranks of the international civil service, and having served in Addis Ababa, Cairo, Geneva, Ismailia (Egypt) and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Mr. Annan also has intimate knowledge of the Organization's activities in the field, at the grass-roots level, as well as of the views of staff at all levels, at duty stations throughout the world.

United Nations Career

Most recently, from 1 March 1993 until his appointment as Secretary-General -- except for the period from 1 November 1995 to March 1996, when he served as Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the former Yugoslavia -- Mr. Annan served as Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, and for a year before that, as Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations. In these positions, he helped to formulate new approaches to the complex uncertainties of a post-cold-war world marked by unprecedented levels of international cooperation, as well as widespread strife fuelled by fierce assertions of national and ethnic identities. Throughout this volatile period, Mr. Annan worked to strengthen the capacity of the Organization to undertake both traditional peace-keeping missions and multifunctional operations, and to shoulder new tasks in the area of international peace and security such as "preventive deployment".

To cope with the dramatic growth in the number of operations -- 28 of the 43 operations in United

Nations history have been mounted since 1989, the majority of them since 1993 -- Mr. Annan oversaw the creation of a "situation centre" that monitors United Nations peace-keeping operations around the clock. He also concentrated on enhancing the Organization's readiness for peace-keeping, canvassing Member States for commitments on "stand-by arrangements" for the provision of troops, equipment and other resources. As of 2 June 1997, 66 Member States had confirmed their willingness to provide stand-by resources totalling some 87,000 personnel.

Mr. Annan also worked with Member States to improve "response time" by taking steps towards the creation of a Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters, with earmarked Secretariat and other personnel, which became functional in 1997. And to ensure that the lessons of peace-keeping experiences, successful and otherwise, are assimilated and applied, Mr. Annan created a "Lessons Learned" Unit within the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. The Unit's activities will soon be broadened to encompass lessons learned by other departments -- including the Departments of Political Affairs, Humanitarian Affairs, and Public Information -- in the area of peace and security.

As Secretary-General, Mr. Annan has also emphasized his commitment to engaging with Member States in a dialogue about the best possible use of the tools of peace-keeping, preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building.

The Secretary-General's managerial portfolio is similarly extensive, and Mr. Annan has been deeply involved in the full range of questions now at the forefront of efforts to reform and streamline the Organization, a priority for which he appointed Maurice Strong as Executive Coordinator for United Nations Reform in January 1997. His United Nations postings in the management area include Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance and Controller (1990-1992); Assistant Secretary-General in the Office of Human Resources Management and Security Coordinator for the United Nations system (1987-1990); Director of Budget in the Office of Financial Services (1984-1987); Deputy Director of Administration and Head of Personnel at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva (1980- 1983). His first assignment with the United Nations was in 1962 as an Administrative Officer and Budget Officer at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.

As Secretary-General, Mr. Annan intends to place particular emphasis on achieving consensus among Member States on the role the United Nations should play in its many fields of endeavour. As he said in the press conference following his appointment, "We need to encourage Member States to develop the sustained will to support the Organization". Equally important, he added, is the need to "demystify the United Nations and not make it so bureaucratic and distant from the average person. We should bring the Organization closer to the people". Another one of Mr. Annan's principal priorities is to undertake major initiatives to resolve the Organization's financial crisis.

In addition to his regular posts, Mr. Annan has carried out a number of special assignments. From 1 November 1995 to March 1996, he served as Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the former Yugoslavia and, in this context, as Special Envoy to NATO. In this capacity, following the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement in December 1995, he coordinated the United Nations role in achieving a smooth transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina from UNPROFOR to the NATO-led IFOR. He also supervised the establishment of the three successor peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia.

In 1990, following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, Mr. Annan was sent by the Secretary-General to facilitate the repatriation of more than 900 international staff and to conduct negotiations for the release of Western hostages. While there, Mr. Annan helped focus attention on the plight of more than 500,000 Asians stranded in Iraq and Kuwait as a result of the hostilities. Subsequently, Mr. Annan was the first to encourage the Government of Iraq to discuss the sale of oil to fund purchases of humanitarian aid, and he led the first United Nations team negotiating with

Iraq towards this end. That initiative has since borne fruit with the 1996 agreement between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations on implementation of the "oil-for-food" formula under Security Council resolution 986 (1995).

Apart from his official duties, Mr. Annan has long been involved in the areas of education and the welfare and protection of international staff. He has contributed to the work of the Appointment and Promotion Board and the Senior Review Group (both of which he chaired); to the Administrative, Management and Financial Board; to the Secretary-General's Task Force for Peace-keeping; and to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School in New York (1987-1995) and as a Governor of the International School in Geneva (1981-1983).

Background and Education

Mr. Annan studied at the University of Science and Technology at Kumasi, Ghana, and completed his undergraduate work in economics at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota (1961). From 1961 to 1962, he undertook graduate studies in economics at the Institut universitaire des hautes études internationales in Geneva. As a 1971-1972 Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he received a Master of Science degree in Management. In a two-year break from United Nations service from 1974 to 1976, Mr. Annan served as the Managing Director of the Ghana Tourist Development Company, serving concurrently on its Board and on the Ghana Tourist Control Board. Currently, the Secretary-General serves on the Board of Trustees of Macalester College, which in 1994 awarded him its Trustee Distinguished Service Award in honour of his service to the international community. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Institute for the Future, in Menlo Park, California.

Mr. Annan was born on 8 April 1938, in Kumasi, Ghana. He is married to Nane Annan, a lawyer who is now an artist. They have three children.

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Trafficking in Women and Girls - An International Human Rights Violation

Fact sheet released by the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues, March 10, 1998.

The Problem

- Trafficking in women and girls has become one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. This increasingly serious problem is having an impact on all nations, including the United States. An estimated one to two million women and girls are trafficked annually around the world, generally for the purpose of forced labor, domestic servitude or sexual exploitation. Ten thousand to 100,000 women are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- Traffickers in women, much like narcotic traffickers, operate boldly across international borders, using modern means of communication and trade. They lure victims with advertisements and false promises of jobs as nannies, waitresses, sales clerks, and models. This modern form of slavery frequently involves force, deception, and coercion.
- Victims of trafficking often reach international borders with faulty documents. Sometimes they travel with valid tourist visas; however, these visas are obtained by misrepresenting the purposes of their travel.
- Well-established criminal organizations traffic in women and girls, often capitalizing on rising unemployment and disintegrating social networks in developing countries, Central Europe, and the former Soviet Union. North America is a growing destination point for trafficking victims.

U.S. Government Response

- The President's Interagency Council on Women established a senior governmental working group on trafficking to address the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. The working group consults closely with non-governmental organizations and members of Congress.
- The Department of State is working jointly with the European Union, the Group of Eight, and the United Nations, as well as the Governments of Israel, Italy, and Ukraine, to combat trafficking.
- The United States and the European Union formally launched an information campaign, kicked off in November 1997 by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, to combat trafficking in women and girls and to warn potential victims of methods used by traffickers. The United States supports a public awareness campaign in Ukraine and the European Union supports a similar campaign in Poland.
- The Department of State and the Department of Justice are training foreign immigration and law enforcement personnel to enhance their ability to effectively implement border security and to identify traffickers and victims of trafficking. They are also training foreign judges and prosecutors regarding enhanced enforcement of laws against trafficking.
- The Department of Justice is actively investigating and prosecuting cases involving trafficking in women and girls into as well as within the United States.

- The Department of State funded the development of a comprehensive database on U.S. and international legislation protecting women and children from commercial sexual abuse. The project is analyzing laws, penalties, sentencing patterns, reporting requirements, law enforcement capabilities, extradition practices and victim assistance programs. An expected outcome of this project is prototype legislation and guidelines on enforcement and victim protection.

New Initiatives

- The President's Interagency Council on Women will convene a gathering of governmental and non-governmental representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop strategies for combating this egregious human rights violation.
- The Department of Justice is reviewing existing United States criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women, to ensure safety and services for victims, and to recommend any legal changes to combat trafficking.
- The Department of State, in coordination with the Department of Justice, will work with other countries to provide assistance to victims of trafficking, to develop legislation to combat trafficking, and to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.
- The Department of State consular presence worldwide will work with source, transit, and destination countries to develop strategies for protecting victims and expanding and enhancing anti-fraud training to stop the international movement of trafficked women and girls.
- The Department of State and United States Agency for International Development will work jointly with the Government of Ukraine to develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated strategy to combat trafficking of women and girls into and out of Ukraine. The United States-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.
- The Department of State and the United States Information Agency will expand public awareness campaigns targeted to potential victims to warn them of the methods used by traffickers.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 11, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION
AGENCY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day today, we highlight the achievements of ~~women around the world~~. We also acknowledge that there is much work yet to be done to ensure that ~~women's human rights are protected and respected~~. The momentum generated by the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our government, as well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to improve the lives of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to ~~give its advice and consent to ratification to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women~~, thus enabling the United States to ~~join 161 other countries in support of the Convention~~. This Convention is an effective tool that can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. Ratification of this Convention will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. Our efforts help to combat this human rights violation around the world and here in the United States. As part of the 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares certain forms of violence against women to be Federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to States, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to this problem. The Department of Justice is implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with communities across the country to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. Through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day recognition of the importance of this issue grows around the world. In recent years, many countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation and government programs addressing violence against women. The international community increasingly regards violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to women's full participation in democracy.

Today I am directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world. We have made great progress since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, but there remains much to be done. We must continue to work to implement the Act fully and to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims of domestic violence here in the United

States so that they will not be forced to choose between deportation and abuse.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an insidious form of violence, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an international problem with national implications. Here in the United States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude. The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. My Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with nongovernmental groups and the U.S. Congress.

I am also directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to increase national and international awareness about trafficking in women and girls. I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about this problem so that they will not fall prey to traffickers' tactics of coercion, violence, fraud, and deceit.

I also want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I direct:

I. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts should be responsive to government and nongovernment requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.

II. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in consultation with nongovernmental groups.

III. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking including to determine ways to insure: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in settings that secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of victims and witnesses to their originating countries; witness cooperation in criminal trials against traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status.

IV. The Attorney General to review existing U.S. criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to ensure that trafficking is criminalized and that the consequences of trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional intelligence sources, evidentiary needs and resource capabilities.

V. The Secretary of State to use our diplomatic presence around the world to work with source, transit, and destination countries to develop strategies for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international trafficking of women and girls.

VI. The Secretary of State to coordinate an intergovernmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a

comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls from and to Ukraine. The U.S.-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VII. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to provide assistance to victims of trafficking, and to continue to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

VIII. The Secretary of State and the Director of the United States Information Agency to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to warn potential victims of the methods used by traffickers.

IX. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and nongovernment representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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November 4, 1998, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 14; Column 1; Foreign Desk

LENGTH: 525 words

HEADLINE: Indonesian Army Is Blamed For Role in Spring Violence

BYLINE: By The New York Times

DATELINE: JAKARTA, Indonesia, Nov. 3

BODY:

Members of the Indonesian military helped to instigate the violence and looting in the Indonesian capital in May that killed nearly 1,200 people and led to the resignation of President Suharto, a fact-finding team concluded in a report released today.

The 18-member investigating team, including representatives of the Government, private groups, the armed forces and the Commission on Human Rights, also concluded that the military had been ineffective in controlling the chaos that engulfed the capital and four other cities from May 13 to 15.

Flanked by members of the clergy, the military and the Right Commission, Marzuki Darusman, the head of the team, announced the results after a three-month investigation. Government officials failed to show up for a meeting to receive the report.

"There was the involvement of many sides from local thugs and political and mass organizations to the involvement of certain members and elements within" the military, Mr. Darusman said.

The report concluded that much of the violence had been organized and provoked. Mr. Suharto's role in the rioting was not addressed, with the report attributing the chaos to "a conflict between the political elite, related to the continuity of national leadership, and a deterioration of the monetary situation." 

The report confirmed that 66 women, most of Chinese descent, had been raped during the three days of rioting and that 10 others had been victims of sexual assault and harassment. Ethnic Chinese residents, who are predominant in the country's merchant class, were a target of many of the rioters.

The number of rape cases verified in the report is far lower than earlier reports by rights groups that 168 women had been raped, but higher than estimates by the military, which said it had investigated and found no evidence that any rapes had occurred.

One member of the investigating team, Asmara Nababan, attributed the discrepancy to difficulties in verifying the rapes in the climate of fear that

The New York Times, November 4, 1998

followed the riots.

Although there were fears that the team's findings would be watered down to protect the interests of the military and Government officials, the report turned out to be frank.

Two military officers were singled out as bearing the most responsibility for the unrest. The team called on the Government to investigate the role of former Lieut. Gen. Prabowo Subianto, a son-in-law of Mr. Suharto who was the commander of an elite army unit.

The officer who was in charge of security in the capital during the riots, Maj. Gen. Syafrie Samsuddin, was found not to have carried out his duties properly, and the report said he "should be held accountable."

General Samsuddin remains an active officer in the Indonesian military, while General Subianto was ousted from the military in August on charges that he was involved in the abduction and torture of political activists earlier in the year.

Mr. Nababan said that the report could not be used as a legal document for prosecution purposes but that he hoped that its eight recommendations, including a court-martial for Mr. Subianto, would be taken seriously.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 4, 1998

6TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1998 The New York Times Company
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September 6, 1998, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 13; Column 1; Foreign Desk

LENGTH: 772 words

HEADLINE: Resentment Still Aimed At Chinese In Indonesia

BYLINE: By SETH MYDANS

DATELINE: JAKARTA, Indonesia

BODY:

More than three months after huge riots swept the city, the back lanes of Glodok, Jakarta's Chinatown, are still strewn with ash and bricks and bits of broken glass. Multi-story department stores are fire-blackened shells; small shops are rubble. } A

On an alleyway near a Buddhist temple, old men drink coffee and look over their shoulders when they talk.

"We are always the scapegoats," said a 50-year-old ethnic Chinese shopkeeper who lost his shop during the three days of rioting in May, the week before President Suharto stepped down. "People tell us to leave, but we have nowhere to go. We are Indonesian, but people here don't recognize us as Indonesian. So we have no country, no home and no guarantee of our future."

The shopkeeper, who said he was afraid to give his name to a reporter, said he had seen the anonymous pamphlets that have been circulating lately, warning of further attacks. He said he had also seen the small painted circles and triangles that have appeared on Chinese-owned shops and homes, ostensibly marking them for arson or looting. "They are just trying to sow terror," he said.

But he said he was too poor to join the exodus of tens of thousands of ethnic Chinese who have fled the country, in several waves of panic, as rumors of new riots have swept Jakarta and other cities like Semarang, Surabaya and Solo.

Although the shopkeeper and others like him lack the means or connections to leave the country, many more prosperous members of the ethnic minority have found haven overseas.

At the same time, the country's wealthier Chinese, who control many of its big businesses, are said to have transferred billions of dollars of cash abroad, dealing a severe blow to Indonesia's prospects for economic recovery.

Though they make up little more than 3 percent of Indonesia's population of more than 200 million, ethnic Chinese are the nation's trading class, from shopkeepers to billionaire managers of multinational conglomerates, and they

The New York Times, September 6, 1998

control as much as 70 percent of the Indonesia's private economy. They are also among the country's young and well-educated professionals, own many of its factories and form the backbone of the distribution network for food and other commodities.

In addition, an angry backlash among overseas Chinese in other Asian countries could do long-term damage if this economically powerful group decides to take its business elsewhere. In one of the most concerted political actions this loose-knit international community has ever taken in recent years, ethnic Chinese have staged protests in Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines and the United States, as well as in China itself.

Their anger has been inflamed by reports that organized groups of rioters engaged not only in the burning and looting of Chinese-owned shops but in the systematic humiliation and rape of ethnic Chinese women.

"Indonesia: rapist capital of the world," read a banner at a recent demonstration in the Philippines. In China, the official People's Daily said in a commentary, "These criminal acts have sparked grave concern and strong indignation among the people in China and the overseas Chinese community."

Human rights groups and women's shelters here in the capital, Jakarta, have reported that more than 160 women and girls were raped in the rioting last May. They say 20 of these women died as the result of the assaults, some by suicide.

But their reports have been undermined by a failure to bring forward any victim who could give a first-hand account, by what now appear to be slipshod methods of collecting data, and by what may have been a disinformation campaign in the distribution of horrifying but inauthentic photographs of purported victims. Women's advocates say these pictures, distributed over the Internet, could be part of a campaign by people trying to increase the fears of ethnic Chinese.

Although human rights investigators stand by their accounts, saying the victims are too traumatized to talk publicly, these lapses have opened room for doubt.

Women's Affairs Minister Tutty Alawiah, one of the leaders of a Government investigation into the reported rapes, said, "The team has been conducting an investigation for one-and-a-half months now but has found no woman who fell victim to gang rape or who claimed to have been raped during the May riots."

And Gen. Wiranto, the chief of the armed forces, dismissed the reports as "simply a rumor that did not have strong supporting evidence."

The unemployed shopkeeper in Glodok, sipping his glass of coffee, said he had also heard of the rapes but did not know anyone who had been involved.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 6, 1998

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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December 22, 1998, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final
Correction Appended

SECTION: Section A;Page 16;Column 4;Foreign Desk

LENGTH: 948 words

HEADLINE: World Briefing

BYLINE: Compiled by Christopher S. Wren

BODY:

EUROPE

RUSSIA: MIXED RESULTS IN RUNOFF -- Runoff elections for the St. Petersburg legislative assembly, widely seen as a bellwether for democratic reformers, drew less than one-third of the eligible voters and ended with mixed results. Centrist and reform candidates took 23 of the 50 seats at stake. The Communist Party won 5, and independents and smaller factions the remaining 22. The leading reformist bloc, Yabloko, captured 8 of the 23 seats that it contested. Michael Wines (NYT)

RUSSIA: CARNATIONS AT STALIN'S TOMB -- Several hundred Communists marched to Red Square to lay carnations at Stalin's tomb on the 119th anniversary of his birth. The scene underscored how Stalin's legacy still divides Russians. (Reuters)

FRANCE: OLD RUSSIAN BONDS -- A French association that represents thousands of creditors who hold Russian bonds issued before the 1917 Revolution announced that it had begun a legal action to recover \$1.8 billion. The French Association of Russian Bond Holders said it had asked Paris courts to seize nondiplomatic property that the Russian Government owns in France. (Agence France-Presse)

VATICAN: PADRE PIO BEATIFICATION IN MAY -- A 20th-century mystic, Padre Pio, is to be beatified in May, the Vatican announced. Padre Pio's followers, who believe that he carried stigmata and had miraculous healing powers, began venerating him as a saint before he died in 1968. Beatification is the last major step before canonization. Alessandra Stanley (NYT)

ASIA

INDIA: PRIMAKOV PROPOSES NUCLEAR TRIANGLE -- Prime Minister Yevgeny M. Primakov of Russia became the first head of state from the five nuclear powers to visit New Delhi since India held nuclear tests in May. Mr. Primakov described India as a great power and proposed a "strategic triangle" that would involve Russia, India and China, to build peace and security. Celia W. Dugger (NYT)

JAPAN: OBUCHI INVITES ARCHRIVAL -- Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi said he hoped

The New York Times, December 22, 1998

that a former archrival and future coalition partner, Ichiro Ozawa, the Liberal Party leader, would join his Cabinet. The Prime Minister would not pinpoint the date for the shuffle. (Reuters)

NORTH KOREA: LAUNCHING PREPARATIONS REPORTED -- North Korea is preparing to launch a ballistic missile from the cape of Musu Dan on the Sea of Japan, despite the protests after the firing of a rocket that flew over Japan in August, the Itar-Tass news agency of Russia reported. The agency quoted Russian military officials as having said North Korea was engaged in daily training exercises. (Agence France-Presse)

INDONESIA: DOZENS OF RAPES ADMITTED -- The Government acknowledged that dozens of ethnic Chinese women were raped in May in rioting that swept Jakarta. State Secretary Akbar Tanjung denied that the rapes were widespread or systematic and said not all the victims were ethnic Chinese. Seth Mydans (NYT)

NEPAL: PRIME MINISTER RESIGNS -- Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala resigned. But his Nepali Congress Party said he had struck a deal with a Communist faction to head a new coalition Government. Party officials said Mr. Koirala had won support from a Communist opposition group on the condition that he appoint Communists to the new Government and hold parliamentary elections early next year. (Reuters)

MIDDLE EAST

LEBANON: BAN ON PROTESTS LIFTED -- The new Government of Prime Minister Salim Hoss has restored the right to protest, lifting a five-year-old ban on demonstrations. Demonstrations were banned in 1993, after a protest against the Oslo peace accords between Israel and the Palestinians led to clashes with the army in which eight supporters of Hezbollah, the militant group, were killed. (Agence France-Presse)

CYPRUS: TRIAL DATE FOR 2 SUSPECTED ISRAELI SPIES -- Two Israelis charged with spying on Cyprus pleaded not guilty and will face trial on Jan. 20. The case has strained relations between the two countries. Israel denies that the defendants, Udi Hargov and Igal Damary, were spying on Cyprus on behalf of Turkey. But Israel has not said what their mission was. (AP)

AFRICA

ZIMBABWE: ARMY PAY TO INCREASE -- President Robert Mugabe has decided to double the pay of the 33,000-member army next month, a Zimbabwean newspaper reported. Discontent has been reported among the 6,000 soldiers who are fighting in Congo, and the military police have been reported en route to suppress nascent mutinies. Privates earn \$86 a month. Donald G. McNeil Jr. (NYT)

LESOTHO: LOOTED FIRMS HAD LITTLE INSURANCE -- Fewer than 2 percent of the businesses burned and looted in political upheaval in September had insurance to cover the destruction, the Chamber of Commerce said. Much of the capital, Maseru, was destroyed when South African troops rolled into the poor mountainous kingdom, setting off rioting that caused an estimated \$150 million in damage. Suzanne Daley (NYT)

NIGERIA: GASOLINE PRICE JUMPS, FROM 49 cents TO \$1.10 -- Gasoline prices jumped, to \$1.10 a gallon, after four years at 49 cents, a level the Government set.

The New York Times, December 22, 1998

Past increases have led to riots. Businesses and international lenders have long called for fuel subsidies to be abolished in the largest oil producer in Africa. (Reuters)

THE AMERICAS

PERU: STUDY FINDS 250,000 FORCED STERILIZATIONS -- BBC News reported that 250,000 women in poor areas have had forced sterilizations in the last three years, according to an investigation by the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights. A Spanish newspaper, El Pais, prematurely published details of the committee report.

Compiled by Christopher S. Wren

CORRECTION-DATE: January 7, 1999, Thursday

CORRECTION:

A report in the World Briefing column on Dec. 22, citing a BBC News report, misstated the number of Peruvian women in poor areas who underwent forced sterilization in the last three years according to an investigation by the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights. Many of the 250,000 women who were sterilized in the last three years were forced to undergo the procedure, but not all.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 22, 1998



1/2

ELEVEN & A HALF MILLION

WOMEN WAITING TO BE FREED

His name is
Amy
OK

December 16, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Room 100
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

This past March at White House ceremonies celebrating International Women's Day, you very powerfully spoke out about the brutal treatment of Afghan women and girls under the Taliban's system of gender apartheid. And in ceremonies on December 10 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights you reminded the world that women's rights are indivisible from human rights and again told the heartbreaking story of the entire population of Afghan women who have been forcefully silenced. We admire your strength in speaking out and your determination to secure the freedom and rights of women around the world. And we salute you and the President for this Administration's decision to mainstream women's rights into U.S. foreign policy for the first time in history.

As you know the Feminist Majority Foundation initiated a Campaign in 1997 to inform public opinion about gender apartheid and mobilize support for the full restoration of human rights for Afghan girls and women. We need your help in our Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid.

On Monday, March 29, 1999, we are organizing a major event in Los Angeles to both increase public awareness of this issue and raise critically needed resources for our Campaign. We would be extremely honored if you would join us that evening as the keynote speaker. We can think of no other person who would be a more powerful and authoritative voice against gender apartheid. Your participation will heighten the impact and reach of our March 29 event. And, we would be very grateful if you would be the Honorary Chairperson for this event. We have asked Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former First Lady Betty Ford to join us as Honorary Co-Chairpersons.

Our plan is for an evening of substance, with a reception preceding a serious educational program. We will tell the powerful stories of the women now silenced by the Taliban, show true footage of women and girls before and after the imposition of gender apartheid, and launch our "Girl to Girl" program through which American school girls will send basic educational necessities (such as a pencil and paper) with letters of hope to their counterparts now being denied an education in Afghanistan.

MARCH 8, 1999 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

CAMPAIGN TO STOP GENDER APARTHEID IN AFGHANISTAN

A PROJECT OF THE FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION

8105 WEST THIRD STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90048 • PH 323-651-0495 • FX 323-653-2689

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
page 2

Our Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan has brought together over 130 women's and human rights organizations, both national and international. Tens of thousands have signed petitions to protest the Taliban's system of gender apartheid and we have testified about this issue in Congressional hearings. Our mission has been to educate as many people as possible of this brutal situation and to generate the same kind of outrage against this abrogation of rights as was galvanized by activists working for a free South Africa. We all won a major victory when both the United States and the United Nations announced last March they would not recognize the Taliban regime until women's rights were fully restored.

We also protested Unocal's plans to build a pipeline in Afghanistan for the Taliban. According to an article in the *New York Times* on Saturday, December 5, Unocal has abandoned the pipeline project in part according to a company spokesman because of pressure from feminist organizations protesting the company's involvement with the Taliban. Our Campaign's activities were specifically referenced in the article. We intend to spotlight any American corporation doing business with the Taliban until women's rights have been restored. Again, like South Africa, economic and social sanctions will force the Taliban to change.

Thank you for considering our invitation and for your continued work on behalf of the women and girls in Afghanistan and for the rights of women worldwide. We hope you will join us March 29, 1999 with both your presence and your endorsement.

With admiration,

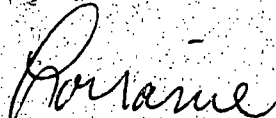


Mavis Leno, Event Chair

Event Co-Chairs



Peg Yorkin



Lorraine Sheinberg



Linda Bloodworth-Thomason



Eleanor Smeal



Kathy Spillar