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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	David Mandel to John Clarkson; RE: Personally Identifiable Information [partial] (4 pages)	11/04/1997	b(6)
002. profile	Margarita V. Gokun Silver; RE: Personally Identifiable Information [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
003. profile	Invitees for Women's Round Table Discussion; RE: Personally Identifiable Information [partial] (3 pages)	11/07/1997	b(6)
004. profile	Kartashova; RE: Personally Identifiable Information [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
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FOLDER TITLE:

Trip of the First Lady to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine,
November 9-18, 1997 [2] [binder]

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**BACKGROUND ON
KAZAKHSTAN**

FACT SHEET - KAZAKHSTAN

U.S.-Kazakhstan Relations

The United States became the first country to recognize the Republic of Kazakhstan on December 25, 1991. In January 1992, the United States opened its embassy in Kazakhstan's capital, Almaty. Since then, the United States and Kazakhstan have developed close political, security, economic and commercial relations. The U.S. ambassador to Kazakhstan is A. Elizabeth Jones, who assumed the post in October 1995. Cooperation in support of the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction has formed the cornerstone of U.S.-Kazakhstani relations since Kazakhstan's independence. In 1994, the U.S. transported 600 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium from Kazakhstan to safe storage in the U.S. The United States is providing over 170 million dollars in assistance to Kazakhstan under the cooperative threat reduction "Nunn-Lugar" program.

U.S.-Kazakhstani security relations have also grown closer since Kazakhstan's independence. In 1996, the U.S. government provided six coastal patrol boats to Kazakhstan to enhance the country's ability to strengthen its export control activities on the Caspian Sea coastline. The U.S. has also provided assistance and support for the Central Asian peacekeeping battalion (see Military Issues, below).

As of October 1997, the U.S. has provided over USD 250 million in technical assistance under the Freedom Support Act to support economic reform and the development of a democratic society in Kazakhstan. U.S. companies have invested more than USD 1.5 billion in the development of Kazakhstan's economy, primarily in the oil, gas, and power generation sectors. U.S. foreign direct investment (FDI) in Kazakhstan accounts for Approximately 45 percent of all FDI into the country.

Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev made his first official visit to Washington, D.C. in May 1992. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Vice President Albert Gore visited Kazakhstan on separate trips in 1993. Since 1994, the U.S.-Kazakhstan Joint Commission has met annually. The Joint Commission is co-chaired by President Nazarbayev and Vice President Gore, and addresses the full scope of U.S.-Kazakhstani relations in its meetings.

The government of Kazakhstan officially marked the transfer of the country's capital from Almaty to Akmola with an opening ceremony in Akmola on October 24, 1997.

Humanitarian assistance

Since 1992, the United States has provided over USD 130 million in humanitarian aid to Kazakhstan. In 1996, the United States donated surplus snow removal equipment, electrical generators for children's hospitals, food, clothing, and medicine and medical supplies to the government and the private sector. In addition, the United States, principally through USAID technical assistance programs, works closely with the government and the NGO community on public health issues, including vaccination programs, family planning, pre- and post-natal health and nutrition projects, And programs to combat infectious respiratory and diarrheal diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also have an active program in Kazakhstan, working with the Ministry of Health to fight hepatitis, cholera, and diphtheria, and to control the rising tuberculosis rate.

Economic Assistance

Assistance to support the transition to a market economy USAID technical assistance and training programs have been central to the U.S. government's efforts to assist Kazakhstan's economic transition. In 1996 and 1997, the United States assisted in the preparation of Kazakhstan's application to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), and helped the government to create and regulate a stock market. It has provided consulting and training programs for tax system reform, adoption of international accounting standards, private sector development, health sector reform, banking, and telecommunications. With U.S. government support, the Central Asian-American Fund provided over USD 18 million in loans and support for small and medium sized private enterprises in Kazakhstan. The Peace Corps is active in Kazakhstan. As of October 1997, there were 84 volunteers working in almost every region of the country, primarily in English teaching, environmental, and small business development programs.

Assistance to support the transition to democracy

The U.S. supports the development of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in Kazakhstan. Dozens of grants have been provided by USAID-funded organizations to promote NGO development, including a number of NGO's that are promoting

independent media and legal reform. As of the end of FY 1996, more than 300 local NGO's had participated in USAID-funded training. In addition to this work, the Embassy's Democracy Commission managed by USIA awards grants annually to local applicants for democracy-building programs. The U.S. government also supports anti-crime, anti-corruption, and counter-narcotics efforts in Kazakhstan. The State Department's Office of International Criminal Justice coordinates programs among thirteen federal agencies, including the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), And the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), to provide training and technical assistance programs to the Kazakhstani government.

Bilateral Economic Relations

The United States seeks to promote economic reforms in Kazakhstan by encouraging trade and investment by U.S. companies. A trade agreement between the U.S. and Kazakhstan, which came into effect in February 1993, provides for reciprocal Most-Favored-Nation Treatment and creates opportunities for U.S. and Kazakhstani business. The agreement facilitates trade by allowing the free operation of commercial representatives in each country, and offers strong protection of intellectual property rights (although enforcement continues to be a problem). A Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which was signed in May 1992 and entered into force in January 1994, provides legal protection and assurances for U.S. investors, including treatment at least as favorable as that given to domestic enterprises -- guarantees of unrestricted transfer, non-performance requirements, and full access to binding arbitration in case of disputes With the host government. In October 1993, Kazakhstan signed a treaty with the U.S. on the avoidance of double taxation. This treaty went into force as of January 1996.

Kazakhstan is subject to Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions. However, in 1997, as in years past, Kazakhstan has been granted a waiver and enjoys Most Favored Nation (MFN) status with the United States. The Clinton administration will review Kazakhstan's Jackson-Vanik compliance in the fall of 1997 as a first step toward removing Jackson-Vanik restrictions and giving Kazakhstan unconditional MFN status with the U.S.

Military Issues

Since independence, Kazakhstan has accepted all the relevant arms control obligations of the former Soviet Union. On May

23, 1992, the United States signed the Lisbon Protocol to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with the nuclear successor states of the former USSR -- Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine -- committing all four to reductions in strategic nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan ratified the Start Agreement on July 2, 1992. In December 1993, Kazakhstan ratified the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state. In April 1995, Kazakhstan returned the last nuclear Warhead on its territory to Russia.

On December 13, 1993, the U.S. and Kazakhstan signed an umbrella agreement that provides the legal framework for the provision of Cooperative Threat Reduction (Nunn-Lugar) funds for the safe And secure dismantlement (SSD) of nuclear weapons. The U.S. committed \$104 million to assist Kazakhstan in eliminating START-limited systems and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) infrastructure, including silo launchers, heavy bombers, and liquid rocket fuel storage. The U.S. also committed \$35 million to enhance the security, control, accounting and centralization of nuclear weapons and fissile materials. An additional \$33 million was spent to encourage military reductions and reforms through defense conversion projects, to provide support for projects for former Kazakhstani weapons scientists through the International Science and Technology Center and to fund defense and military contacts.

On June 5, 1992, Kazakhstan and seven other NIS countries signed the conventional armed forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which establishes limits on categories of tanks, artillery, armored combat vehicles, combat aircraft, and combat helicopters and provides for the destruction of weaponry in excess of these limits. On July 2, 1992, Kazakhstan ratified the CFE agreement. In May 1997, Kazakhstan ratified the CFE Flank Agreement.

Kazakhstan opposes proliferation of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons or related technologies. It maintains a defensive military force of about 60,000. The military is committed to reform and improving the quality of life of its soldiers. Kazakhstan has an all-conscript army, but would like to move toward a volunteer army. Kazakhstan is an active member of NATO's Partnership for Peace. In 1996, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Kyrgyz republic established a Central Asian Peacekeeping Battalion (Centrasbat). In September 1997, Centrasbat hosted a military exercise in the spirit of the Partnership for Peace in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Troops from The United States, Russia, Turkey, Latvia, Georgia, and Centrasbat participated.

Political Conditions

Kazakhstan declared its independence from the former Soviet Union on December 16, 1991. In the December 1991 presidential elections, President Nursultan Nazarbayev ran unopposed and received 98% of the vote.

The 1995 constitution concentrates power in the presidency. President Nazarbayev is the dominant Political figure. The constitution, adopted by a referendum marred by irregularities, permits the president to legislate by decree and dominate the legislature and judiciary; it cannot be changed or amended without the president's consent. Presidential elections originally scheduled for 1996 did not take place, as president Nazarbayev's term in office was extended to 2000 in a separate 1995 referendum, also marred by irregularities.

Kazakhstan's bicameral parliament was elected in December 1995. Under the Constitution, the Parliament's powers are limited. It cannot initiate changes in the Constitution or exercise oversight of the executive branch. While the president has broad powers to dissolve the parliament, parliament can remove the president only with the consent of the Constitutional Council, which is largely controlled by the president. However, members of parliament do have the right to introduce legislation. During parliament's first full session, nineteen bills were drafted by deputies for consideration.

There are many small political parties. Most parties are weak, and with the exception of the Communist Party and some of the ethnic-based political movements, have little influence outside of the capital. Most opposition party members decided not to participate in the December 1995 elections and are therefore not represented in the parliament.

The judiciary is under the control of the president and the executive branch. The judicial system is being restructured to bring it into line with the Constitution. The lack of an independent judiciary makes it difficult to root out corruption.

The government generally respects the human rights of its citizens, including the basic rights of freedom of religion, speech, and assembly. The Constitution provides for peaceful assembly and association, but there are significant

restrictions. Prior approval of local authorities is required to hold a demonstration. Organizations that conduct public meetings must register with the government. Organizers of unsanctioned demonstrations have been arrested and fined or imprisoned, and members of independent trade unions have been harassed.

Independent media is tolerated, although the media practices self-censorship and the government maintains control of most printing facilities.

Kazakhstan's population of about 16 million consists of 45 percent Kazakhs and 35 percent ethnic Slavs, with many other ethnic groups represented. The government discriminates in favor of ethnic Kazakhs in government employment, where ethnic Kazakhs predominate, as well as in education, housing, and other areas. Most of the population speaks Russian; only about half of ethnic Kazakhs speak Kazakh fluently. According to the constitution, the Kazakh language is the State language; the Russian language is officially used on a basis equal with that of the Kazakh language in organizations and bodies of local self-administration.

Foreign relations

Kazakhstan has good relations with all of its neighbors. It joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in December 1991. Kazakhstan is a strong proponent of dialogue and cooperation among CIS states. It supports regional and international efforts to resolve peacefully the conflicts in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan joined the organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in January 1992 and the United Nations and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in March 1992. It is also an active participant in NATO's Partnership for Peace. Kazakhstan is committed to observing international legal obligations and human rights commitments under the OSCE.

Kazakhstan is also developing ties to its Asian neighbors. In 1992, Kazakhstan announced the establishment of a Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to promote regional stability. The organization is still in its infancy.

Economic Outlook

Kazakhstan is completing the initial phase of its transition to a free market economy. Inflation in 1997 was less than two percent per month, a substantial improvement over earlier years. The National Bank of Kazakhstan allows the national currency, the tenge, to float. The tenge is fully convertible with the U.S. dollar.

The transition costs to a market economy have been high. One of the problems hobbling Kazakhstan's economic recovery is the debt burden between enterprises, estimated at well over one billion dollars. The arrearages problem is particularly acute in the energy sector, with many private and commercial customers unable to pay for supplies.

Another difficulty for the government is paying pensions for retirees. As of June 1997, government pension arrearages amounted to approximately USD 500 million; annual government pension payments total slightly more than \$1 billion. In April 1997, President Nazarbayev ordered his government to begin paying all pensions on time as of July 1, 1997 and to pay all pension arrears by December 31, 1997. The government, with assistance from USAID, is drafting legislation to replace the government pension program with a private pension system. Kazakhstan expects to begin phasing in the private pension program on January 1, 1998.

While official unemployment figures are low, hidden unemployment is estimated at 30 percent. The steep decline in production that plagued Kazakhstan since independence bottomed out in 1996, when GDP showed its first modest increase. GDP is expected to grow by two percent in 1997.

Natural resource sectors dominate the Kazakhstani economy. Kazakhstan has proven reserves of 15.5 billion barrels of oil and estimated reserves of three to six trillion cubic meters of natural gas. Oil production increased during 1996, reaching its 1993 level of 23.5 million tons per year. Production in 1997 is expected to increase to 27 million tons. Natural gas production also increased in 1996, to 6.4 billion cubic meters, climbing more than eight percent over 1995 levels.

Privatization continued at a rapid pace in 1997. Although the government of Kazakhstan remains an equity partner in a wide variety of businesses, state-held shares in hundreds of enterprises have been reduced or eliminated. As of June 1997, the bulk of the petroleum sector was privatized. Rapid privatization has also occurred in Kazakhstan's electric power sector. More than half of Kazakhstan's

generating plants were sold to private investors between early 1996 and June of 1997.

Kazakhstan has run a trade deficit since 1992. In 1996, the current account deficit amounted to USD 845 million (roughly four percent of GDP) and the trade deficit was USD 397 million. In the near term the trade balance will likely remain negative, because Kazakhstan's ambitious investment program will require substantial capital goods, and demand for imported consumer goods will likely increase. As of the first quarter of 1997, net international reserves of the National Bank of Kazakhstan were slightly above one billion dollars, sufficient for three months worth of imports. Kazakhstan has been successful in attracting foreign direct investment, which amounted to USD 863 million in 1996.

Kazakhstan's geographical position - landlocked in the center of Eurasia -- makes it dependent on its neighbors' transport links to get its goods to world markets. Kazakhstan's railroad system links it to Europe via Russia, to the Persian Gulf via Iran, and to the Pacific Rim via China. In May 1994, Kazakhstan signed an agreement with China, Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic to upgrade a road network over the Karakoram Mountain Range to Pakistan. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is financing the improvement of the port at Aktau, on the Caspian Sea. Regular air flights connect Kazakhstan with Europe and some Asian countries. In 1996, four major European carriers -- Lufthansa, KLM, Austrian Airlines and Turkish Airlines -- had non-stop flights to Almaty, and by June 1997 Kazakhstan had signed flight agreements with Malaysia and Singapore, although flights had not yet begun. Kazakhstan's government-run railroads are in very weak financial condition. The three state railroad companies merged in January 1997.

Kazakhstan has a developed road network connecting all its major cities. However, lack of funds since 1991 has left most routes poorly maintained. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank are jointly funding a USD 284 million highway rehabilitation project connecting Almaty with the future capital city of Akmolai.

Environmental Issues

Kazakhstan has suffered disproportionately among former Soviet republics from the shrinking of the Aral Sea and from serving as the testing ground for the Soviet Union's nuclear programs. Kazakhstan has identified two major ecological

disaster zones -- the Aral Sea and the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing facility -- and is actively pursuing compensation and rehabilitation for victims living in these areas. Kazakhstan wants to work with the international community on environmental issues and has participated in conferences on regional environmental problems, including those concerning the Aral Sea. The USD 22 million U.S.-led initiative for the region is helping alleviate the environmental effects of desiccation of the Aral Sea basin, provide potable water for area residents, and facilitate regional cooperation through multilateral water-sharing and resource management projects. The Kazakhstani parliament became more vocal in 1997 about the necessity for environmental clean-up in its disaster zones and in the area around the Baykonur Space-Launch facility.

KAZAKHSTAN: MAIN ISSUES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS

U.S. ties with Kazakhstan have broadened and deepened since the early, post-independence focus on non-proliferation. Kazakhstan became a non-nuclear weapons state in 1995, but other issues of vital U.S. interest - access to energy resources, a stable investment climate, economic reform and democratic development - flesh out a maturing relationship.

Energy issues. The core U.S. strategic interest in Kazakhstan now is the development and delivery to world markets of Kazakhstani oil and gas. Kazakhstan has world-class oil reserves and its Tengiz oil field alone is one of the top ten in the world. The U.S. and Kazakhstan agree on the need to develop multiple pipeline routes to get Kazakhstani oil and gas to market. Multiple routes lessens both dependency on a given neighbor and interruption of the flow of energy because of natural disaster or political exigency. The U.S. supports routes that are commercially viable and which do not profit Iran. Kazakhstan takes a more expedient view and we seek to discourage Kazakhstan from including Iran in its export and pipeline planning.

U.S. investment. Promoting Kazakhstan's stability and independence are critical to U.S. and Western access to its energy resources. The Kazakhstanis, in turn, recognize that greater foreign investment and access to Western technology will be key to developing the resources that fuel economic and social growth, and promote political stability. This symbiosis has resulted in tremendous U.S. investment (an estimated \$1 billion) and Kazakhstani officials like to note that some 40% of foreign investment in their country is American. The Kazakhstani government views this investment as evidence of a long term U.S. commitment to it and an important counterbalance to what it terms a "tough neighborhood" that includes Russia, China, and Iran.

Reform imperative. The U.S. has stressed that greater increases in foreign investment will require more transparency in privatization, control over pervasive corruption and further economic reform, all areas in which the U.S. provides technical assistance. Kazakhstan is on the right track but will require implementation of concrete measures in such areas as improved customs processing, transparency in the tendering process, streamlined registration of businesses, and correcting distorted VAT and customs duties.

Non-proliferation. Although Kazakhstan is no longer a nuclear weapons state, non-proliferation issues remain as a major focus of the relationship. In 1997, the U.S. fulfilled its obligations

to Kazakhstan for the 1995 transfer of 600 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium to the United States. Under the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat program, we have provided assistance to Kazakhstan in the form of export control programs, material protection control and accounting (MPC&A), support at Kazakhstani nuclear facilities, and assistance for the destruction and dismantlement of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) facilities.

Democratization and human rights. Human rights are generally respected, abuses limited, and citizens enjoy basic freedoms of religion and speech. In the main, the government respects freedom of the press; there are several small opposition parties, and the media frequently disseminate critical views. The president is the dominant political force, however, and parliament and the judiciary remain weak. The police sometimes harass opposition figures. U.S. assistance is focused on legal reform and on encouraging the legislature to assert its prerogatives. The American Embassy recently sponsored the first nationwide televised debates for Senate candidates in Almaty. The U.S. will be urging that the upcoming 1999 parliamentary elections, and 2000 presidential elections be free and fair. Ethnic Slavs and other minorities are concerned about state-sanctioned preferences in favor of ethnic Kazakhs. President Nazarbayev has emphasized that all nationalities are entitled to equal treatment under the law.

Defense cooperation. The military-to-military relationship is in good shape. The U.S. worked this September with Kazakhstan and its Central Asian partners (Uzbekistan and Krygyzstan) to complete a successful peacekeeping exercise in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. This activity, held "in the spirit" of NATO's Partnership for Peace, reflects Kazakhstan's desire to integrate itself more closely with Western security structures.

KAZAKHSTAN - POLITICAL AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Increasingly strong presidency. Kazakhstan is politically stable, but with political power concentrated heavily in the presidency. President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who was the head of the Communist Party in Kazakhstan prior to independence, has been the nation's only leader since the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991. He strengthened his political grip in 1995 when he dissolved the parliament and stage-managed two Soviet-style referenda, both marred by serious irregularities. The first approved a new constitution that increased the power of the presidency at the expense of the legislature. The second extended his term in office until the year 2000.

Weak Parliament. Other political institutions in Kazakhstan are weak and unfocused. The parliament is not a serious player and has taken only a few tentative steps to insert itself into debate on issues of national import. In 1996, for example, it twice challenged government efforts to raise the retirement age, but ultimately backed off in the face of Nazarbayev's threat to dissolve parliament. The parliament has also debated the propriety of signing new leases with Russia for use of military test ranges on Kazakhstani territory. The deputies are responding to real public concerns over the catastrophic environmental damages caused by testing in the past. Last session, parliamentary deputies initiated nineteen pieces of legislation; however, parliament is primarily a reactive body. To be a truly effective counterweight, the deputies need to take the initiative, for example, through introduction of more legislation and the holding of public hearings.

Weak judiciary. The judicial system is, if anything, even weaker. Judges are appointed by the executive branch, beholden to it, woefully underpaid, and susceptible to corruption. There is no tradition of judicial independence.

Splintered opposition. A nascent Almaty-based political opposition is disorganized, undermined by rivalries and, when its leaders are not co-opted by the government, subject to harassment. The largest organized movement is the Communist party, but its support is limited almost exclusively to pensioners. The opposition has a number of significant pocketbook issues on which to score the government. Economic dislocations are real: in some localities wages have not been paid for months and pension arrearages are a nationwide problem. But the demonstrations the opposition has been able to muster have been relatively small. Leaders of democratic opposition groups are widely seen as members of the "intelligentsia" not attuned to working class concerns.

Social indicators. Kazakhstan's social indicators, while declining, compare favorably with the rest of Central Asia. In 1996, life expectancy was 66 years, adult literacy was 98 percent, and the infant mortality rate was 40/1000. Kazakhstan's population has declined by almost 1 million since independence because of increasing mortality, falling birth rates, and emigration by ethnic Russians who perceive diminishing economic opportunities. The social tension between ethnic Russians, who now see themselves as on the outs, and ethnic Kazakhs, now perceived as on the ascendancy in terms of influence and access to political power, is an increasingly sensitive issue.

Declining social spending. The decay of Kazakhstan's social infrastructure has worsened considerably since 1991, as the government drastically reduced spending on education and health care. The government recognizes that deteriorating social conditions must be addressed; hence its haste to develop the energy resources that will provide badly needed revenues.

Future prospects. Because government revenues are unlikely to grow significantly before the turn of the century, when new pipelines come on line, living standards are likely to continue to decline in the near term. Revenues from an ambitious privatization program, now nearly completed, can meet only a small percentage of needs and will be whittled away further by pervasive corruption. What social services there are will increasingly be provided by private entities, but principally to those who can afford to pay for them. The key for the government will be how it copes with any social unrest generated by income inequalities. In the long term, buoyed by increased oil and gas revenues, a more dynamic private sector, and a commitment by the government to address social concerns, Kazakhstan could make real progress toward a democratic, free-market society.

KAZAKHSTAN: ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL OVERVIEW

Dramatic economic decline. Kazakhstan's economy, largely dependent upon extraction and export of its vast energy resource, as well as agricultural production, was severely battered in the years immediately following the breakup of the Soviet Union. Trade dislocations caused by the breakup resulted in a decline in GDP and industrial output of 54 and 52 percent, respectively, between 1990 and 1996. The hardest hit sectors of the economy were in machine building, chemicals, construction, light industry, and agriculture. As output fell, state revenues shrank dramatically, forcing the government to drastically cut expenditures, including wages and pensions to state workers. By early 1997, these arrears equaled nearly 4 percent of GDP.

Bottoming out? Kazakhstan's early willingness to move ahead rapidly with macro-economic reform, especially in tax and commercial law, may finally be paying off. The government has maintained reasonably tight control over credit growth and deficit spending, resulting in a lowering of monthly inflation from 23 percent in 1994 to just over 1 percent in 1997. Kazakhstan's currency, the tenge, has been relatively stable. In 1996, the economy for the first time recorded modest growth.

New Prime Minister's uncertain commitment to reform. Much of this success can be attributed to the policies of former Prime Minister Kazahegeldin, who resigned from office on October 10, ostensibly for health reasons. President Nazarbayev named Nulan Balgimbayev, who was the head of the state oil company as the new PM, promising that economic policies would stay the course. It is too early to judge.

Privatization. Although the government maintained a steady commitment to macro-economic stabilization policies, its implementation of measures to promote private sector growth have not been as successful. While small firms are almost entirely in private hands, privatization has moved forward only fitfully for large-scale enterprises. A shift in 1994 away from "instant" privatization to hiring foreign advisors to restructure enterprises and prepare them for privatization has been moderately successful, with several large enterprises (mostly in the energy sector) having been sold to foreign investors. However, efforts by some ministries to keep some medium-size and larger firms (and their revenue flows) in government hands have undermined the process and underscored the pervasive corruption that plagues Kazakhstan. The government claims to have "corrected" this problem and asserts privatization will be completed by the end of 1998. Again, the October change in government may undermine the commitment to privatization.

Foreign investment. Kazakhstan has tried to create an attractive business climate for foreign investors, passing laws that in principle guarantee fair treatment and foster a more Western-style business environment. As a result, Kazakhstan received some \$3.5 billion in foreign investment -- mostly in the all important oil and gas sector - by the end of 1996. Nevertheless, in practice Kazakhstan's inadequate legal infrastructure, frequent tax changes, and cumbersome, often corrupt bureaucracy pose serious obstacles to foreign investors.

U.S. investment. U.S. investment in Kazakhstan amounts to roughly 40 percent of total foreign investment, or \$1.4 billion. There are more than 85 U.S. companies resident in Kazakhstan. Most of these are in the oil and gas, power generation, legal, and accounting businesses. The principal U.S. policy goal in this area is to ensure that U.S. companies have equal access and that awards are made in an open and transparent manner.

WTO membership. Kazakhstan has observer status in, and is seeking to join, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the U.S. has been providing technical assistance on its application. Kazakhstan is on track for membership in 1998, although the USTR has indicated that Kazakhstan must accelerate changes in trade practices and implementing legislation if it is to meet that ambitious goal.

KAZAKHSTAN - HUMAN RIGHTS

Mixed record. Kazakhstan falls somewhere in the middle ground in Central Asia in the promotion and protection of human rights. It trails neighboring Krygyzstan in actual practice, for example, on the holding of free and fair elections. It is certainly ahead of the game when compared with Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan on the issue of press freedom.

Strong presidency. The Constitution of Kazakhstan concentrates power in the presidency; President Nursultan Nazarbayev is the dominant political figure. The President, while not a democrat, can neither be described as an absolute autocrat. He comes out of a system where dissent was unknown and is clearly not entirely comfortable with the practices of a modern democracy. He is realistic enough to tolerate, however, the trappings of democracy, as well as some of its give and take, in order to attract Western investment and political acceptance. The Constitution, adopted by a 1995 referendum marred by irregularities, permits the president to legislate by decree and dominate the legislature and judiciary; it cannot be changed or amended without the president's consent.

Weak parliament and judiciary. Presidential elections originally scheduled for 1996 did not take place, as President Nazarbayev's term in office was extended to 2000 in a separate 1995 referendum, also marred by irregularities. The 1995 Constitution limited parliament's powers, although members of parliament have exercised their right to introduce legislation. The judiciary remains under the control of the president and the executive branch and its lack of independence has made it difficult to root out pervasive government corruption. Judges reportedly can be bought and may even solicit bribes for favorable rulings. However, the October 13 appointment of new Justice Minister Bayurzhan Mukhamedmetov could improve the situation. Mukhamedmetov is well-respected and committed to fighting corruption. He also wants to restructure the Kazakhstani judiciary on the U.S. model.

Basic human rights. Government respect for the basic human rights of its citizens is uneven. Citizens enjoy in theory -- and more often than not in practice -- basic rights of freedom of religion, speech and assembly. Kazakhstan is in the process of reforming its legal system and legislators have adopted a new criminal code. Human rights observers nevertheless assert that the legal system remains riddled by corruption. Law enforcement officials often exploit minor infractions of the law to arrest and detain government opponents. Members of the security forces

often beat or otherwise abuse detainees; arrests can be arbitrary; and prolonged detention without charge is a problem.

Right to privacy. The government sporadically infringes on citizens' rights to privacy. Kazakhstani authorities are suspected of tapping phones and monitoring the correspondence of some members of the political opposition.

Media self-censorship. While the government generally tolerates independent media, the media practices self-censorship, particularly when reporting on Nazarbayev. Freedom of assembly is sometimes restricted; organizations must apply for official permits prior to staging a demonstration (most are granted) and some organizers of unsanctioned demonstrations have been arrested and fined or imprisoned. Freedom of association, while generally respected, is sometimes hindered by complicated registration requirements for organizations and political parties.

Discrimination against women and minorities. The government discriminates in favor of ethnic Kazakhs and against women, the disabled and ethnic minorities. The government has tried to limit the influence of independent trade unions, both directly and through its support for state-sponsored unions, and independent trade unions have been harassed.

KAZAKHSTAN - ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Ethnic diversity. Kazakhstan's population of about 16 million consists of approximately 45 percent ethnic Kazakhs, 35 percent ethnic Slavs (principally Russians), as well as numerically significant German and Asian minorities. In May 1997, for what appears to be political reasons, the government announced that ethnic Kazakhs accounted for 51 percent of the population; most observers agree that this is not yet the case.

Exodus of non-Kazakhs. The government's announcement may have heightened the anxiety felt by Kazakhstan's non-Kazakh peoples -- and particularly ethnic Russians -- who perceive continuing governmental preferences for ethnic Kazakhs. Indeed, in the first year of independence, the government's "Kazakhification" program almost certainly accelerated an exodus of ethnic Russians, although lack of opportunity as Kazakhstan's economy collapsed served as the principal impetus for emigration. Recognizing that the "brain drain" of well-educated ethnic Slavs was detrimental to at least its short term interest, the government has backed away from "Kazakhification" and President Nazarbayev has publicly emphasized that all nationalities are welcome in Kazakhstan.

Continued ethnic discrimination. While ethnic Russian outflow has slowed, it has not stopped. The government continues to discriminate in favor of ethnic Kazakhs in government employment, as well as in education, housing, and other areas. Many observers interpret Nazarbayev's decision to move the capital to Akmola as a means to more closely anchor northern Kazakhstan, with its majority ethnic Russian population hugging the border with Russia, to Kazakhstan.

Language issue. The government has also accepted a significantly watered down law on languages that was intended to strengthen the use of Kazakh as the official state language. In fact, the new law slightly strengthened the status of Russian, recognizing it as equal with Kazakh in "organizations and bodies of local self-administration." Because of budgetary constraints, the government has also put off plans to require teaching in elementary and secondary schools in the Kazakh language only. However, the fact is that barely half of ethnic Kazakhs speak Kazakh fluently. For the immediate future, Russian will continue as Kazakhstan's lingua franca.

Ethnic tension not paramount issue. In short, tension between ethnic Russians and Kazakhs is real, but by no means approaches in importance day-to-day pocketbook concerns, including pessimism about the economy, a perception of widespread corruption, and across the ethnic board dissatisfaction with government. In a

1996 public survey conducted by the respected International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), current ethnic relations between Kazakhs, Russians, and other minorities were judged to be fairly relaxed, with no expectation of dramatic change.

Religious practice. Perhaps more so than its Central Asian neighbors, Kazakhstan accepted official Soviet atheistic doctrine; religious practice does not have deep roots in Kazakhstan. The government takes a tolerant view of religious observances and fully respects the right of its citizens to worship freely without government interference. The Constitution does require that the appointment by foreign religion centers of the heads of religious associations be conducted "in consultation" with the government, but in practice the government does not interfere in appointments.

Religious diversity. Islam is the faith accepted by the majority of those ethnic Kazakhs who worship regularly, but religious denominations of all kinds are active in Kazakhstan. Evangelical Protestants have alleged some low-level government harassment, generated by complaints from Russian Orthodox and Muslim Kazakhstanis who resent their activities. Some Jehovah's Witnesses have also claimed persecution because of their refusal to enter the Kazakhstani military, but the government backed away from arrests after protests by international human rights groups. Kazakhstan's small Jewish community has experienced no difficulty working with government officials, although there have been sporadic instances of anti-semitism.

KAZAKHSTAN: EDUCATION SYSTEM AND ISSUES

High literacy. Kazakhstan has a highly educated population and a literacy rate of 97 percent as a result of the strongly centralized system of education put in place by the former Soviet Union. Strong in natural sciences and mathematics, the curriculum is weak in the subjects now necessary for the education of a new generation facing market reforms and a move toward democracy.

Soviet structure. Formerly, academicians and teachers were highly respected by society and were well compensated for their work. Education was divided into three main groups--pre-school/day care; middle school (that included elementary through high school) and higher education (that included everything from technical schools through advanced graduate work). Schools were well funded and, although totally centralized, well organized and well-attended.

System deteriorating. Today, while the structures remain the same, education is not adequately funded by the government. Salaries for teachers and professors are seldom paid, the physical plant of the schools is deteriorating, and the government is spending little to no money for materials, books, or curriculum development. Parents are expected to pay for books and materials even in public elementary and secondary schools, and teachers do not have access to even the most basic supplies, such as chalk, copy-machines and teaching materials.

Low government spending. The average salary of a secondary school teacher is \$60.00 per month, but in most schools salaries have not been paid in months or have been paid in bartered goods, like potatoes or glassware. The proposed 1998 budget includes a 21 percent increase in spending for education, but the percentage of the budget spent on education remains at about 6 percent. The majority of teachers who continue to stay in public schools are of retirement age or are pensioners who have returned to work. Innovation and new curricula are basically unheard of given resource and incentive problems.

Universities. There are 61 state universities with a total of 255,000 students, and 26 private universities with approximately 12,500 students. State universities may now charge tuition in order to support themselves. The new Minister of Education openly supports private education. In his former capacity as a deputy prime minister, he encouraged reforms that allowed for the registration of private institutions. This decree put private institutions on the same footing as public institutions, and gave

them legal protection from arbitrary closure or other punitive measures by the Ministry of Education.

Financial crunch. Since payment of university salaries are also behind schedule, teachers at universities must take other measures to support themselves. University teachers have become "nomads," moving from university to university to teach courses on an hourly basis. They also work part-time in private businesses to help make ends meet. Teachers overburdened with teaching hours or with outside employment have a negative impact on the quality of education. Corruption regarding testing and grades has become almost routine, as teachers accept payment from students or parents to ensure passing or even good grades.

Continuing decline? According to key leaders in the field of education, without a commitment of real funds from the government, the quality of education in Kazakhstan will, continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate. Over the long term, experts fear a decrease in the literacy rate and a prolonged crisis in the education sector.

KAZAKHSTAN: WOMEN'S ISSUES

Demographics of women. Kazakhstan has a population of nearly 16.7 million, of which 8.8 million are female. In 1995, 4.5 million Kazakhstani women were between 15 and 49 years of age; this figure is expected to rise to 5.1 million by 2015. Life expectancy for women is 70.4 years and the fertility rate is 2.5 births per woman. The literacy rate for Kazakhstani women in 1990 was 96 percent, compared with 97.5 percent for the general population. Women have unrestricted access to higher education.

Political participation. There are no legal restrictions on the participation of women in politics. The Constitution bars discrimination on the basis of sex, but the persistence of traditional attitudes means that few women hold high office or play active parts in political life. There is one female federal minister (of 14), but no female provincial governors (Akims). In the parliament, of 47 senate members, five are women; of 67 lower house members, nine are women. Kazakhstan's UN permanent representative, Akmaral Arystanbekova, is a woman.

Employment issues. Employment of women is growing and in January 1996, women made up 48 percent of workers. The majority of Kazakhstani women work in the education, health care, and business sectors. Since independence, more women have moved into business. In 1995, 30 percent of those involved in small businesses were women. There is no legal discrimination against women, but women are seriously underrepresented in high-level positions in state enterprises and over-represented in low paying and some menial jobs. Women seem to be more susceptible to labor market changes than men. In 1995, more than 60 percent of the 95,700 workers who reported to the government that they had lost their jobs were women, many with higher or specialized secondary education and more than ten years work experience. Working women are also responsible for running the household and child care. Wider availability of contraceptives has given women more choice in seeking professional careers.

Domestic violence. According to human rights groups, there is considerable domestic violence against women. A local NGO, the Feminist League, estimates that hundreds of thousands of Kazakhstani women are the victims of spousal abuse. Police are often reluctant to intervene, considering it to be the family's business, unless they believe the abuse is life-threatening. The maximum sentence for wife beating is three years, but few such cases are prosecuted. The government has not specifically addressed the problem. Law enforcement authorities reported 1,905 cases of rape in 1996. The punishment for rape can range from four to fifteen years. Most cases of rape go unreported. There is very little coverage of rape in the press.

Women's rights. There is some activity in the non-governmental sector to address women's rights. The Almaty Women's Information Center, for example, conducts seminars on women's rights, provides legal consultations for women, publishes and informational bulletin, and conducts national and international conferences on women.

Fourth World Conference on Women. Ms. Roza Kenzhetaeva, head of the Social-Political Department of the Administration of the President, led the Kazakhstan delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women. Ms. Sara Nazarbaeva, President of the Republic's "Bobek" Foundation, and wife of the President, was the honorary head of delegation. At the Conference, Kazakhstan did not announce any actions it planned to take to implement the Beijing Platform for Action.

KAZAKHSTAN: POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING

Ethnic mix. Kazakhstan has a population of 16.7 million and a diverse ethnic make-up -- about 45 percent of the population are ethnic Kazakhs (originally Turkic nomads), 35 percent are ethnic Slavs (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, others), and about 20 percent are of other ethnic origins.

Age breakdown. In Kazakhstan's population as a whole, children and teenagers comprise 33 percent; working-age people 55 percent; and people older than working age 12 percent. In 1990, the average Kazakhstani life expectancy was 66.8 years. According to the UN, Kazakhstan's population is getting older; the aged portion of the population has increased by four percent since 1990, while there have been small decreases in the other population groups. More than 44 percent of the population is rural.

Labor force. Kazakhstan's labor force is estimated to be more than nine million; only one percent of the population is officially registered as unemployed. However, hidden unemployment is estimated to be more than ten percent.

Population decline. Over the past few years, Kazakhstan's population has declined due to a drop in the birth rate, an increase in mortality figures, and emigration. Fertility in Kazakhstan has declined over the past five years from a rate of 2.9 births per woman in the late 1980's to one of 2.5 births per woman in 1995.

Strategy to grow the population. Recently, the government's strategic planning agency drafted a strategy to increase the population. International donors have expressed concern that the strategy appears to be a throwback to centralized state planning. Policies under consideration range from tax incentives for having large families, to tax penalties for choosing not to have children, to prohibition of abortion. The government does not appear to have considered that increases in population growth would also have budgetary and other resource implications for all other sectors.

Birth control. Knowledge of contraceptive methods is virtually universal among Kazakhstani women. According to the 1995 Kazakhstan demographic and health survey, 59 percent of women of reproductive age are using contraceptives. As was the case during the Soviet period, abortion remains a primary birth control tool. Kazakhstani women are estimated to have had an average of two abortions in their lifetimes.

Some success. Demographic and health data show a link between the use of contraception and a decrease in the abortion rate. Over the last five years, the use of the pill and the intrauterine device increased by 32 percent; the abortion rate dropped by 15 percent. This data is clear and convincing evidence that contraceptive use has been a substitute for abortion. The U.S. can take much credit for this success through the work of the USAID reproductive health services expansion program for Central Asia.

KAZAKHSTAN: CHILDREN'S ISSUES

Deteriorating conditions. Thirty percent of Kazakhstan's population is under the age of 15. Like all segments of the population, children have been affected by the economic hardship Kazakhstan has experienced in the transition to a market-oriented economy. Almost half of all kindergartens and day nurseries in Kazakhstan were closed between 1991 and 1995. In addition, orphanages have had difficulty maintaining adequate living conditions and meeting basic nutritional requirements. Children's health care has also suffered in the transition period -- sixty-nine percent of children under the age of three suffer from anemia, and respiratory and diarrheal diseases remain major killers of young children. Infant mortality in Kazakhstan is about 40 per 1000 births, a high figure.

Aral Sea disaster. Children in the Aral Sea ecological disaster zone have suffered disproportionately in the transition period. Although infant mortality in the zone has decreased in recent years, it remains higher than the national average. The United States government acted quickly in 1994 to help implement Vice President Gore's \$22 million Aral Sea initiative. The initiative's goal was to bring potable water to the people of the Aral Sea region. This program has changed focus from local engineering projects to multilateral efforts to address water sharing and resource management issues. Since 1992, over \$130 million in humanitarian assistance has been provided to Kazakhstan, much of which went to children's hospitals or institutions working with children.

Vaccination rates. With the help of U.S. technical assistance programs, childhood vaccination has become more common: 72 percent of children are routinely inoculated against measles, 98 percent have begun a DPT series, and 100 percent are inoculated against polio.

Disabled children. Local non-governmental organizations have been strengthened to provide services to children with physical and mental disabilities (including the 16 percent of children with stunted growth and the 3 percent of emaciated children). Last year one of these organizations was instrumental in having legislation introduced specifically to assist persons with disabilities.

Adoption. At present, there are no clear laws governing the adoption of Kazakhstani orphans by foreigners and each locality sets its own procedures. Approximately 25 adoptions by U.S. citizens took place over past year. Kazakhstan is not a party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child

Abduction. Hence, cases of children abducted to or from Kazakhstan must be handled in the family courts of the country to which they have been taken. The State Department is not aware of any child abduction cases pending in Kazakhstan.

Child labor. Abuse of child labor is generally not a problem, although child labor is routinely used in agricultural areas, especially during the harvest season. Children under the age of 16 may work only with the permission of the local administration and the trade union in the enterprise in which the child would work. Such permission is rarely granted.

KAZAKHSTAN - HEALTH ISSUES

Deteriorating health conditions. Kazakhstan's Soviet-era health care system has deteriorated drastically since independence in 1991, leading to a dramatic decline in the health of the population. Life expectancy has steadily fallen, and now stands at 59.3 years for men and 70.4 years for women. The rates of infant mortality (40 per 1,000 births) and maternal mortality (77 per 100,000 live births) remain very high, although there are signs that they are beginning to drop. Kazakhstan has one of the world's highest reported incidence rates for tuberculosis (70 cases per 100,000 persons).

Declining government spending. Annual health care spending has plummeted since independence to less than ten dollars per capita as Kazakhstan has begun the difficult transition to a market economy. This funding shortfall has led to a dearth of basic medicines, supplies and equipment throughout the country. Although the government guarantees universal health care free of charge to all citizens, in fact an informal fee-for-service system has arisen, with patients responsible for providing the medication and supplies for their treatment.

Smoking and alcohol. Lifestyle behaviors such as heavy smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and a high fat diet have also contributed to the decline in life expectancy. The government would like to improve public education but is constrained by a lack of funds.

Environmental health issues. Certain segments of the population are also endangered by environmental pollution (primarily around the Aral Sea in central Kazakhstan) and the long-term effects of radiation exposure from Soviet-era nuclear testing programs (near Semipalatinsk, in northern Kazakhstan). In the Aral Sea region, U.S. and international assistance is focused on providing access to potable water for the local population. In Semipalatinsk, U.S. humanitarian assistance has provided medical equipment and expertise to help treat the high rates of cancer, leukemia and birth defects caused by radiation exposure.

Tuberculosis. Kazakhstan's tuberculosis incidence rate is among the highest in the world, and over ten times the rate in the U.S. The problem is particularly acute in prisons, where government officials estimate as many as one-third of all prisoners suffer from tuberculosis.

Reform efforts. With assistance from the U.S. and other donors, Kazakhstan has begun to take inexpensive steps to reform its health care system to provide broad access to affordable care.

These include decentralizing health care management to the local level, introducing compulsory health insurance, streamlining infrastructure by closing hospitals that are no longer viable, introducing privatization of selected health care facilities, and privatizing the pharmaceutical sector.

KAZAKHSTAN: ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The USG has provided Kazakhstan approximately \$518 million in humanitarian, technical, and investment promotion assistance since FY 92. Kazakhstan is by far the largest recipient of USG assistance in Central Asia. The USG budgeted \$43 million for programs in Kazakhstan in FY 97. This high level of funding reflects strong cooperation between the USG and Government of Kazakhstan (GOK) in pursuit of market economic restructuring, democratic reform, and elimination of nuclear weapons. The USG has contributed an additional \$16.6 million to the UNHCR and International Organization of Migration's 1997 Joint Appeal for CIS Migration Conference follow-up for programs in Kazakhstan, as well as Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

USAID assistance. USAID is leading an economic restructuring program that reflects the GOK's commitment to economic reform. USAID has nearly completed its programs on short-term stabilization measures to rein in government spending and inflation and on support for privatization of small and medium-sized enterprises. During FY 98, USAID will redirect its efforts toward the development of financial markets and a commercial legal infrastructure.

Treasury assistance. The Department of the Treasury has also provided the GOK a resident advisor on government debt during the past two-and-a-half years. The Treasury advisor has focused on core questions of security market development, including drafting an external debt law and issuing a successful Eurobond.

Central Asian Enterprise Fund. The Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund is also supporting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in Kazakhstan, (as it is in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan), through its equity investments and micro-lending services. The USG has budgeted \$16 million for fund activities in Kazakhstan since FY 92. The Fund has invested \$13.37 of these funds in food processing, manufacturing, printing, transportation, and other service businesses.

Democratic Reform. The USG has budgeted approximately \$18 million for democracy building programs in Kazakhstan. Much of this effort has focused on developing non-governmental organizations, including legal and business societies, as a way to lay the basic foundation of a civil society. Our programs have also sought to strengthen the Kazakhstani Parliament as an independent political institution, and assisted that body's legal reform efforts. Another key focus of USG assistance has been support for independent television stations across Kazakhstan.

Health. USAID support for the Reproductive Health Services Expansion Program in Kazakhstan seeks to reduce the rates of maternal mortality and abortions through the use of modern contraception. USAID also funds a hospital partnership between

Almaty and Tucson. The partnership has established an innovative baccalaureate program in nursing in over a dozen colleges in Kazakhstan, as well as a toxicology center at a hospital in Almaty. USAID is also introducing a health care reform program that seeks to improve the efficiency and quality of health services by emphasizing cost effective primary care over more costly hospital-based systems.

Environment and Energy. The USG has provided over \$26.5 million since FY 92 for projects based in Kazakhstan that aim to reduce regional economic and political tensions generated by transboundary environmental and energy issues. USAID has completed potable water and water management projects in the Aral Sea disaster zone, and is now encouraging regional cooperation through water sharing agreements among all five Central Asian republics which share the Aral Sea Basin. USAID is also working with the GOK to establish a legal and regulatory framework for Kazakhstan's oil and gas industries. These projects aim to attract investment to the oil and gas sector and to promote cleaner burning energy systems such as natural gas and hydroelectricity.

Security Issues. Kazakhstan has received over \$173 million since FY 92 under the Defense Department's Cooperative Threat Reduction (or Nunn-Lugar) Program. Specific projects in Kazakhstan have included dismantlement of missile silos, closure of nuclear testing tunnels, elimination of biological weapons (BW) production infrastructure, retraining of BW scientists, and provision of six patrol boats to the Kazakhstani Navy for export control operations on the Caspian Sea.

Humanitarian Assistance. Although humanitarian assistance is no longer a major focus of assistance programs in Kazakhstan, the USG did deliver \$28 million in medical equipment, medicines, and various other commodities donated by the U.S. Department of Defense and private voluntary organizations in FY 97.

Training and Exchanges. USIA runs a full range of programs in Kazakhstan including the Fulbright Program, the Bradley High School Exchange, the Muskie Graduate Program, and the International Visitors Program. USAID also supports farmer-to-farmer programs that bring volunteers from the U.S. to Kazakhstan to advise Kyrgyzstani farmers' on access to credit, enterprise start-up, business planning, and product distribution/marketing. In addition Kazakhstani managers and scientists participate in the U.S. Department of Commerce's Special American Business Internship Training Program, which provides for 3-6 month internships with private U.S. companies.

KAZAKHSTAN: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Kazakhstan shares the same array of environmental problems faced by other former Soviet bloc countries: nuclear waste, unsustainable agriculture and the aftermath of uncontrolled industrialization. In addition, Kazakhstan contains portions of the Aral Sea and borders on the Caspian Sea.

Soviet nuclear waste. Significant segments of the Soviet nuclear weapons complex were located in Kazakhstan and pockets of severe contamination are widespread. While the U.S. has been providing technical assistance on nuclear clean-up, the issue is really one of money, and neither the U.S. or Europe has been able to provide adequate financial support for such a massive clean-up effort.

Agricultural practices. While industrial waste and toxic pollution are of immediate concern, the biggest long-term threat to the environment in Kazakhstan is agricultural practices that degrade soils and disrupt watersheds. Such practices are largely responsible for the demise of the Aral Sea as a viable ecosystem. In particular, great damage has been done through irrigation of lands that are not suited for intense cultivation. Unfortunately, the immediate cash flow from such practices continues to override development of sustainable practices.

Environment and economic development. The natural resources of Kazakhstan, in particular oil and gas, but also its fisheries, present the earliest opportunity for economic development. Not surprisingly, the development of these resources involve environmental risks, in particular in and around the Caspian Sea. While it is possible to conduct such development in an environmentally sustainable manner, it will require more attention than it was given in the past. The collapse of the Caspian Sea sturgeon fisheries is a classic example of depletion of a regional resource through the inability of the nations sharing the resource to regulate their own usage.

USG activities. The U.S., under the leadership of Vice President Gore, conducts a joint commission with Kazakhstan which, among other things, has worked on these environmental issues. However, resources have been limited.

KAZAKSTAN: OVERVIEW OF U.S. MISSION

Staff. The U.S. mission in Almaty includes 64 U.S. government employees and about 250 local nationals. The Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce; the U.S. Agency for International Development; the U.S. Information Agency; and the Peace Corps (approximately 100 volunteers) are represented at post. The USAID regional office manages assistance programs in all five Central Asian states.

Goals. The mission is structured to pursue four key goals:

- Promote U.S. participation in the commercial development of Kazakhstan's petroleum resources;
- Enhance Kazakhstan's ties to Western security structures and commitment to non-proliferation;
- Encourage market reforms that create a favorable trade and investment climate and reduce corruption;
- Promote the development of democratic institutions and encourage respect for human rights and rule of law.

Activities. The mission provides support and advocacy for more than 85 U.S. companies resident in Kazakhstan. Embassy Almaty works to support increased military-to-military ties and regional security cooperation. It provides technical assistance to help Kazakhstan make the transition to a market economy. Peace Corps volunteers teach English and business management skills throughout Kazakhstan. All agencies work together to encourage political reform and the development of a civil society governed by the rule of law.

Key Embassy Officers

Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones
Deputy Chief of Mission Jon Purnell
USAID Director Patricia Buckles
Public Affairs Officer Michelle Logsdon
Defense Attache Col. Ralph Bruner
Political/Economic Section Chief Lee Litzenberger
Senior Commercial Officer Michael Lally
EMO Nora Logsdon
Regional Security Officer George Nutwell III

Tour/Opening of Women's
Wellness Center

November 13 - Tashkent Uzbekistan

Event: Opening of the Women's Wellness Center at Tashkent Institute

- Talking points to be provided by Jim Smith of AIHA
- Suggested tie-in talking points:

o It was my distinct pleasure in June to participate in a ceremony at Andrews AFB, just outside of Washington DC, which launched the 500th humanitarian mission to the Newly Independent States under Operation Provide Hope. This mission, a USAF C-5A, carried over \$7 million in pharmaceuticals donated through U.S. private volunteer organizations to the people of Uzbekistan.

o This was the beginning of a \$22 million USG medical package that delivered medicines, medical supplies and medical equipment to four outlying regions in Uzbekistan and twelve hospitals in Tashkent.

o I understand that you here at Tashmi-2 received over \$2 million of this Department of Defense relief commodity which included x-ray systems, sterilizers, operating room surgical instruments, and consumable supplies. I sincerely hope that this donation, given from the heart, has helped enhance your ability to provide quality patient care.

o Humanitarian relief efforts like the June Operation Provide Hope mission and AIHA Partnership affiliations like the one we find here at Tashmi, teamed with the University of Illinois at Chicago and focusing on key areas like neonatal care and nursing education, are invaluable links between our two peoples during a difficult period of change and transition. Since I was raised in Chicago, I am particularly proud that a Chicago hospital is involved in this program.

Burkhara:

NOTE: As part of the 500th Operation Provide Hope mission in June 97, the U.S. private volunteer organization AMERICARES distributed over \$900,000 in anesthetics, ophthalmics, vitamins and medical consumables to the Buhara/Karshi region.

Samarkhand:

NOTE: As part of the 500th Operation Provide Hope mission in June of 97, the private volunteer organization PROJECT HOPE distributed \$1.7 million in antihypertensives, anti-infectives, antiulcer drugs, anticeptics, penicillins, and medical consumables to the Samarkhand/Navoi/Dzniznak Region.

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

EVENT: Ribbon Cutting and Visit to USAID Funded Women's Wellness Center with First Lady of Uzbekistan

DATE OF VISIT: November 13, 1997
TIME: 10:00-11:15am
DURATION: 1 hour and 15 minutes
LOCATION: Second State Medical Institute (Tashmi II)
Maternity Building, 5th Floor
2 Farobi Street, Tashkent, Uzbekistan 70019
Tel: (011-7-3712) 46-47-43

CENTER DIRECTOR: Dr. Dilmurod Yusupov
Dr. Alla Pogorelova

AIHA CONTACTS: Washington, DC: James P. Smith, AIHA Executive Dir.
Tel: (202) 789-1136 Fax: (202) 789-1277
Almaty: Zhamilya Nugmanova, AIHA Regional Dir.
Tel: (011-7-3272) 501-370 or (011-7-3272) 335-240
Fax: (011-7-3272) 501-371 or (011-7-3275) 811-446

BACKGROUND: TASHKENT WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER

Under a cooperative agreement with USAID to develop and support partnerships between health care institutions in the US and their counterparts in the NIS, AIHA and the Tashkent-Chicago partnership have developed a model comprehensive women's wellness center that is scheduled for official opening on November 13, 1997.

The Tashkent Women's Wellness Center is based a common model created by a women's health care task force drawn from twelve AIHA sponsored partnerships. The model has been adapted and implemented by the Tashkent-Chicago Partnership. As in the case of its sister women's health centers in the NIS, the Tashkent Center is a "joint venture" made possible by significant local contributions. As its contribution to this partnership effort, the Second State Medical Institute and Tashkent City Health Administration has provided space for the center in the Maternity wing of the Second State Medical Institute (Tashmi II) and undertaken considerable renovations roughly equal to \$70,000. The Center is designed as an adaptation of an ambulatory western women's center and

includes a registration and waiting area, two exam rooms, a procedure room, an adolescent room, a laboratory and diagnostics room, an education room, a conference hall, an office for the director, and a nurse administrator's office. In keeping with the partnership programs commitment to sustainable change, the Second State Medical Institute and the Tashkent City Health Administration is responsible for all operating costs of the center. In its initial year, the Center is expected to see approximately 600 clients per month and a larger number through its educational programs.

Unlike traditional family planning oriented centers, the Tashkent Women's Wellness Center focuses on the whole woman and offers general health services, educational programs and health promotion activities. The Center is a model of a multi-disciplinary approach to women's healthcare that relies on the collaborative expertise of educators, internists, gynecologists and nurses. Through this model, the Center is well equipped to provide women of all ages with access to medical advances and educational programs that impact and benefit their lives and health.

The staff of the Center has been trained in modern primary care screening and services, contraceptive technology, health education and promotion, center management and a "customer" service approach to healthcare. This has been accomplished through partnership exchanges in 1996 and 1997, a series of AIHA workshops for the twelve centers that make up this initiative, and through other USAID training efforts. In fact, the Center represents an important effort to integrate a variety of programs that have been introduced by US and other donor country and international community supported NGOs and programs. The Center's "uniqueness" lies in the integration and packaging of these services in a manner which addresses the needs of women comprehensively and efficiently and which can be replicated by health officials in Uzbekistan and in other NIS countries on a broad scale.

In June 1997, four staff members of the Women's Wellness Center (WWC) traveled to Chicago for a two-week training program related to clinical and administrative aspects of women's services. Nurse-physician teams observed several models of care, with special attention given to the role of nurses in outpatient clinics and the development of procedural guidelines appropriate for the Tashkent WWC. In addition, the Medical Director of the WWC participated in a five-day AIHA sponsored management training seminar in Moscow prior to his visit to University of Chicago.

The Center is currently receiving patients. The Center is especially focused on the prevention and treatment of anemia, prevention and early detection of cancer, diagnosis and treatment of cervical dysplasia and urinary tract infections, and STD screening. The Center will be a distribution site for contraceptives donated by USAID. The Center is in the process of developing a full range of

services to adolescents and incorporating new approaches for addressing the health needs of postmenopausal and elderly women. In all areas, a premium is being placed on patient education. Equipment and educational supplies donated by the partners at the University of Chicago - Illinois and purchased by AIHA under the cooperative agreement with USAID, valued at approximately \$80,000, was recently shipped and installed in early October 1997. These contributions supplemented equipment and supplies provided under Operation Provide Hope as part of the 500th Flight which the First Lady attended. Transportation of both donated and purchased supplies and equipment has been arranged through the US State Department's Office of the Coordinator for NIS Assistance.

Concurrent with the Center's official opening, the Director of Ambulatory Care for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford are conducting an educational program for Center staff which emphasizes the continuum of care required by women as they pass through life stages. The program includes techniques and approaches to address the whole person (body, mind and soul) in the delivery of women's health care.

EVENT SUMMARY:

The visit to the Tashkent Women's Wellness Center will include a brief VIP tour of the center (see detailed schedule and proposed list of participants), followed by a brief visit in the education room with patients of the Center who have participated in a range of educational classes. Upon completion of the tour, the First Lady will participate in a ribbon cutting and initiation of the Center's opening ceremonies that will continue after the First Ladies' departure. At this point, the First Lady will have an opportunity to not only make a few remarks about the Center and its opening but also elaborate on other USG and USAID health and women related projects before departing. These would presumably include Project Provide Hope assistance as well as other USAID programs.

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS PARTNERSHIP

AIHA's Medical Partnership Program between the cities of Tashkent, Uzbekistan and Chicago, Illinois, funded under a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), was formed in October 1992. The Uzbek partner, the Second Tashkent State Medical Institute (TashMI II), is one of the ten largest hospitals in the NIS, and the largest medical facility in Central Asia. The US partner, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Medical Center, is a major academic medical center.

In addition to the Women's Health and Wellness Center visited by the First Lady, major areas of programmatic focus for this partnership have been neonatology and perinatal medicine, administration and finance, nursing and medical education.

Neonatology and Perinatal Medicine: A new neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) was equipped and staffed by physicians trained at UIC, and substantial improvement has occurred in resuscitation techniques and the care of premature infants. A focus of partnership activities has been to develop a Neonatal Resuscitation Training Center at TashMI II. The Center was officially opened in April 1997, and trains physicians, nurses and midwives from both TashMI II and other health care institutions in the region in neonatal resuscitation.

Hospital Administration and Financial Reform: Exchanges in hospital management and financial administration have focused on the reorganization of the hospital's management structure and the development of improved relationships between the medical institute and clinical departments. TashMI II has reduced costs and better balanced services by retiring nearly two-thirds of its beds and shifting patient care into more appropriate outpatient settings.

Nursing Reform: Nursing reform efforts have focused on the upgrading of clinical and management skills. Consequently, within the Chronic Disease Center of TashMI II, nurses have assumed primary responsibility for patient care and unit management. The Women's Wellness Center will provide another opportunity for demonstration of the expanding roles of nurses. Along with administrative responsibilities, nurses will also assume expanded roles in outreach and prevention, patient education and counseling.

Physician Training: Over 30 physicians have participated in intensive training programs in Chicago ranging from two weeks to six months. Training modules have been conducted in neonatology, orthopedics, neurosurgery, cardiac diagnostic and surgical procedures, obstetrics, gynecology, and medical education.

Summary Program Data

Total Partnership Exchange Days: 2,653 days

Value of In-Kind Partner Contributions: \$1.7 million



Innovations in Care at the Tashkent Women's Health Center

BY JOANNE NEUBER

Children will soon comprise more than 50 percent of the Uzbek population, according to Uzbek Ministry of Health statistics. This high birth rate, coupled with the fact that Uzbekistan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the former Soviet Union —

estimated at 46 per 100,000 live births — is placing increasing demands on the country's already strained health care system.

The changing demographic patterns in Uzbekistan prompted the Second Tashkent Medical Institute (TASHMI II) to create one of the country's first women's health centers, in collaboration with the AIHA Tashkent-Chicago partnership program in April 1996.

"We see the importance of promoting a health care system based on primary care," Hamid Karimov, MD, rector of TASHMI II said. "And women's health is a necessary component of that system."

This innovative women's health center provides comprehensive "cradle to grave" care for women in the region. It includes a maternity center, a neonatal care unit, and an ambulatory women's health clinic for women with medical, gynecological or obstetrical problems.

In a departure from traditional practice, the center consolidates women's health services in one building — services that tradi-



Alla Pogorelova (left) and Gultera Hashimova show the family planning materials at the Women's Health Center.

tionally were either non-existent, or were situated in buildings far from each other. For example, women deliver in their own private rooms. After delivery, women are transferred to a four-bed unit in the center with their babies to promote greater mother-child bonding. This new "rooming in" technique is also improving the level of breast-feeding in Uzbekistan, which is only 10 to 15 percent, according to US partner Dharmapuri Vidyasagar, MD, director of the Division of Neonatology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The maternity center also provides fam-

ily-centered prenatal education, screening, and counseling services to expectant mothers. Midwives at the center have been trained to conduct Lamaze classes about childbirth techniques for expectant mothers and their birthing partners, who because of religious and cultural reasons are often a female relative or friend rather than the father. Promotion of family-centered childbirth at TASHMI II is a significant accomplishment, where traditional beliefs formerly discouraged birth partners from being present during childbirth, said the center's director and obstetrician Alla Pogorelova, who has trained with University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) partners in obstetrics, high-risk maternal care and gynecology.

One area where partners have had a great impact is educational training in neonatal and perinatal care. Tashkent partners collaborate with colleagues from Chicago to learn effective, low-tech ways to manage and care for high-risk mothers and infants. Vidyasagar said that partnership training programs at TASHMI II that target low-tech neonatal resuscitation techniques, have contributed to the decline in infant mortality at TASHMI II, from 27 per 1,000 live births (1,000 to 1,499 grams) in 1992 to 15 per 1,000 live births in 1995.

"The positive results in maternal and child health at TASHMI II are a result of the partnerships' collaborative program in neonatal and perinatal care," Vidyasagar said. "This program has been very effective in improving the care of mothers and their newborns."

The ambulatory women's health clinic is a "more effective system than the referral system of the past," Pogorelova said. Women who opt to come to the clinic for a medical consultation are not required to have a special referral from their polyclinic, and may



the clinic throughout the day or evening, she said.

Patient visits at the clinic have doubled since it was opened last year due to a change in pre-natal services practices to include greater patient education, according to Pogorelova. "There is more open discussion between physicians and women of family planning alternatives," she said.

The clinic also provides ongoing, free family planning services to women. A fam-

ily planning education classroom at the clinic was created with the help of many international health organizations to promote increased awareness of contraceptive alternatives, including IUDs, condoms and oral contraceptives. Women are also encouraged to consult with their physicians on possible social and economic issues that may affect the number of children they have, explains Pogorelova. Partner clinical training of doctor/nurse teams at TASHMI II complements

these programs, noted Pogorelova.

The most important outcome of the center may not be measured in hard data, but rather as the "change in the way we view women's health," Pogorelova said. Earlier, certain women's health issues like birth control alternatives and family planning were "simply not discussed" in traditional Muslim society she said. "Now we can openly discuss important and necessary women's health issues." ■

Mother and Child Health Information Center Opens in Albania

New parents and health professionals now have their own resource center at the Maternity Hospital in Tirana, Albania, thanks to the support of AIHA and Albania's Health for All Foundation. A reception and ribbon-cutting were held July 5 to mark the formal opening of the hospital's Mother and Child Health Information Center, with a ministry of health representative, USAID officials, hospital staff and AIHA staff members in attendance.

The center houses a library with medical books and professional journals for physicians and nurses (largely in-kind donations from AIHA partner Jacobi Medical Center in Bronx, New York), and a computer with CD-

ROM capability and a planned Internet connection. For new parents, the center offers educational materials on topics such as breast feeding and care of the newborn. Two full-time staffers, provided by the Health for All Foundation (with support from the Soros Foundation), will coordinate educational seminars for new parents, to be held in the center's large meeting room. This room will also be available for workshops and seminars organized by the hospital's physicians and nurses.

Various officials attended the opening, including: Teodor Todhe, MD, general director for hospitals at the Albanian Ministry of

Health; Deedee Blane, USAID Representative to Albania; Cam Pippitt and Silva Mitro of USAID; Zhani Treska, MD, director of the Maternity Hospital; Tatjana Daci, director of the Health for All Foundation; Bill Walsh, chief operating officer of Jacobi Medical Center; and Charles Brecher, professor of public administration at New York University, representing AIHA's health management education partnership between Albania and New York.



Left to right: Zhani Treska, MD, director of University Maternity Hospital in Tirana, Albania; Teodor Todhe, MD, of the Albanian Ministry of Health; and Anduena Vako, manager of the hospital's Mother and Child Health Information Center, join in the center's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The center will also serve as an office for AIHA's new in-country coordinator for Albania, Judy Biletznikoff.

EVENT PAPER: TASHKENT WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER

SCENESETTER

The Women's Wellness Center is located at the Second State Medical Institute (Tashmi II), the largest medical facility in Central Asia. An extensive complex, it houses many specialized treatment institutes, now to include the Women's Wellness Center. The center was set up in cooperation with the American International Health Alliance and the University of Illinois Teaching Hospital at Chicago with financial assistance from USAID. Tashmi II is 15 minutes from the Intercontinental Hotel in normal traffic; with police escort, under 10 minutes.

You will conduct the official opening of the Center, which will be in operation by the time of your visit. You will be able to tour the clinic and speak with the staff and patients.

BACKGROUND

Unlike more traditional family planning center in Uzbekistan, the Wellness Center focuses on all aspects of women's health and provides educational as well as medical services. The staff of the center has been trained in modern health care services, health education and promotion, clinic management and a customer-service approach to health care. This has been made possible through the partnership with the University of Illinois Teaching Hospital at Chicago and USG-funded health training activities. Tashmi II was a major recipient of USG medical equipment delivered in conjunction with Operation Provide Hope's 500th airlift, which was sent off from Andrews AFB in June 1997.

Remarks: Women's Wellness Center

I am pleased to participate in the opening of the Women's Wellness Center at the Tashkent State Medical Institute. This center represents a model where women can receive comprehensive health care. Mothers can now come to one place for all their health care needs.

Around the world, women make up one third of the labor force. However, for every 100,000 births around the world, 320 women die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Most of these deaths are preventable -- thus presenting great challenges to the health professionals around the world, and in Uzbekistan.

I am pleased to note that the partnership between Tashkent Medical Institute and the University of Illinois is working towards this end and already has shown results in improving the services and quality of health care for women and children. You also have an active non-governmental sector involved in working with women and their health issues.

Women in Uzbekistan, as in other countries around the world, are the primary custodians of the health and well being of their families. It is therefore important that they have the resources available to them to effectively face their responsibilities. For example, right to education, access to jobs and good health empower women to effectively carry out their jobs at home and in the labor force. We will work with you to make the needed resources available to help the women of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan is going through transition from the Soviet system; people's lives are inevitably affected in the process. Some changes have brought economic hardships, at least in the short-term. This is of concern to you and to us as well. I am glad that our assistance could help alleviate some of these difficulties.

You have embarked on a large health reform program aimed at improving rural primary health care. Our governments have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding in this field. Under this agreement, we will cooperate in reforming the health care system to improve health care quality while ensuring that it is affordable and accessible to the people.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS: WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER

[Following are tie-in points on USG assistance.]

- It was my distinct pleasure to launch the 500th U.S. humanitarian mission to the Newly Independent States under Operation Provide Hope in June.
- That mission carried over \$7 million worth of pharmaceuticals donated by U.S. private voluntary organizations for the people of Uzbekistan.
- It was also the beginning of a \$22 million medical package that delivered medicines, medical supplies and medical equipment to four outlying regions of Uzbekistan and twelve hospitals in Tashkent.
- I understand that the Tashkent Medical Institute has received over \$2 million of these commodities, including x-ray systems, operating room surgical instruments, and other supplies.
- These supplies, along with your partnership with the American International Health Alliance and the University of Illinois at Chicago in neo-natal care and nursing education, should help you achieve the goal of providing quality patient care.
- Humanitarian efforts like these are of value not only medically, but also for the links they create between our two peoples.

(If asked: Is the U.S. doing anything in other parts of the country you are visiting?)

- In the Bukhara/Karshi region, as part of the 500th Operation Provide Hope mission in June, the U.S. private voluntary organization AMERICARES distributed over \$900,000 in anesthetics, ophthalmic supplies, vitamins and other medical consumables.
- In the Samarkand/Navoi region, as part of the same mission, the private voluntary organization PROJECT HOPE distributed \$1.7 million in pharmaceuticals and other medical consumables.

Women's Roundtable
Discussion



UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Clarkson, Tashkent Team Leader, FLOTUS Visit

FROM: David H. Mandel, USAID Country Representative

DATE: November 4, 1997

SUBJECT: Invitees for Women's Round Table for FLOTUS Visit

Set forth below is brief biographical information for each of the women I have suggested be invited to the round table. I continue to believe the group should be no more than 14 and have divided the list into those I think should be invited and those who are alternates. Per your request, I have extended the list of alternatives by adding several women.

1. Marfua Tokhtahodjaeva, President of Women's Resource Center, Tashkent

A native of Tashkent, and educated in the field of Architecture, Dr. Tokhtahodjaeva currently works at the Institute of Restoration of Historic Monuments. She is the founder and President of the Women's Resource Center which provides legal support and educates women on their rights. She has participated in the in-country training programs for NGO leaders offered by the Counterpart Consortium under the USAID-funded NGO Support Project. Her organization has received grant support from both Counterpart and the Eurasia Foundation which funded the publication of an Uzbek language text book on women's legal issues. She has published two scholarly works on women's issues, "Between the Slogans of Communism and the Laws of Islam" and "Daughters of the Amazons". Dr. Tokhtahodjaeva was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow in Architecture in 1996. She is fluent in English.

2. Raisa Garieva, General Director of Travel Company "Salom", Bukhara

A native and resident of Bukhara, Ms. Garieva is the Founder and Director the travel firm "Salom", a coordinator of the USAID-funded Aid to Artisans Project, and a Member of the Board of Directors of Bukhara Artisans' Center. She was trained in English language and worked for Intourist as a guide and interpreter for 20 years. When she lost her job in 1994, she went into the travel business with the support and assistance of a Peace Corps Volunteer. She subsequently was assisted by a retired Thomas Cook expert provided by the International Executive Service Corps under a USAID-funded program and received funding support from Mercy Corps International under a USDA-funded "Food for Progress" Program. She has also received a grant from Eurasia Foundation to conduct business training courses. Recently she borrowed money for her business from the Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund's small loan program, repaying her loan in

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	David Mandel to John Clarkson; RE: Personally Identifiable Information [partial] (4 pages)	11/04/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Karen Finney (Press Office)
OA/Box Number: 10673

FOLDER TITLE:

Trip of the First Lady to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine,
November 9-18, 1997 [2] [binder]

2015-0734-S
db3894

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

half the time allowed. She has also been active in the NGO movement, working with women artisans. She recently went to the U.S. for the USAID-funded NGO Leadership Training Course. She is fluent in English.

3. Muborak Tashpulatova, Director, Tashkent Public Education Center, Tashkent

(b)(6) Ms. Tashpulatova is the Founder and Director of Tashkent Public Education Center (TPEC). She started her career as a driller at the Tashkent Engine Equipment Plant while studying pedagogy in the evenings. She eventually became a secondary school teacher of history. The TPEC is developing citizenship and human rights education programs for all levels of students. Its first pilot project was supported by a USAID-funded grant through the American Legal Consortium. TPEC is currently working with the Soros Foundation on a human rights education project. Ms. Tashpulatova has been to the U.S. twice, one in 1995 to take part in the "Youth Leadership and Democracy" Project of the International Republican Institute, and in 1996 to participate in the USAID-funded NGO Leadership Training Course.

4. Munira Korieva, General Director, Pharmaceutical Firm "Djunabek", Tashkent

(b)(6) educated at the Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute. Ms. Korieva has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for more than 20 years. With the privatization of pharmacies, she went into business for herself and now owns two pharmacies in Tashkent, employs over 60 people, and supplies pharmaceutical products to about 1000 smaller pharmacies on a wholesale basis. Her firm imports products from over 50 foreign partners. Ms. Korieva has demonstrated a strong commitment to women's reproductive health by supporting USAID's Social Marketing for Change (SOMARC) Project implemented by the Futures Group. The project seeks to make a variety of safe contraceptives accessible to women through the commercial sector. Djunabek has executed more purchase agreements with the suppliers of SOMARC's "Red Apple" supported brands. Ms. Korieva is a member of the Business Women's Association.

5. Aral Atanyasova, Director, Perzent Center for Women's Reproductive Rights, Nukus

A native of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Dr. Atanyasova is the Chairperson of the "PERZENT" Center for Women's Reproductive Rights and the Director of the Karakalpak Center for Human Reproductive Health and Family Planning. She has a Ph.D. in Medicine from the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Moscow and has conducted research at the National Institute of Environmental Health in North Carolina. She was a gynecologist and surgeon at the Nukus Maternity Hospital. She founded the Perzent Center, one of the first NGOs in Karakalpakstan in 1992. She and her brother have also started an ecological education program and implemented a citizen's water quality monitoring program. She purchased the Government's "Marriage and Family" Clinic at the Nukus Hospital when it was auctioned as part of the Government's privatization program and established it as an NGO clinic. The Clinic received medicines and equipment from Operation Provide Hope. Dr. Atanyasova's NGOs have received grant support from USAID-funded organizations, ISAR, Counterpart Consortium and the American Legal Consortium for various projects.

[001]

6. Dilbar Kurbanova, Director, Disabled Children's Rehabilitation Center "Umid" (hope), Tashkent

(b)(6) Ms. Kurbanova was trained in medicine in Tashkent, Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev. She is a noted expert in the rehabilitation of paralyzed children and has written 150 articles, 4 brochures and a book on the subject. She established Umid in 1992 as a non-governmental organization (NGO). The Center provides rehabilitation services to approximately 100 disabled children at a time. While disabled children get special medical procedures (physio-, aqua-, orthopedic-neurological- and speech therapy) their parents are trained to handle their children and continue treatment at home. The Center also offers such services as psychological counseling, physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc. It is staffed by 7 trained professionals and 3 volunteer doctors, 15 nurses. Ms. Kurbanova participated in in-country training conducted by the Counterpart Consortium under USAID's NGO Support Project and the Center has received grant support from this project as well. The Center was a beneficiary of the 500th flight of Operation Provide Hope, receiving valuable equipment and medical supplies. Ms. Kurbanova attended a forum entitled "Children First" in Atlanta which was addressed by the First Lady through a television link.

7. Granada Kuritchkina, Director, Kridi Club, Tashkent

(b)(6) Ms. Kuritchkina came to Tashkent in 1942. She was trained in garment manufacturing and has work in this industry for most of her life. The parent of a daughter with cerebral palsy, she established the Kridi Club for parent of disabled children in March 1995 with a grant from the USAID-funded NGO Support Project implemented by the Counterpart Consortium. The club unites the parents of more than 350 disabled child between the ages of 6 and 18 in one district of the City of Tashkent. The mission of the Club is to develop the social potential of disabled children through the cooperation of their parents. Ms. Kuritchkina got the idea to form the group when she attended a Counterpart-sponsored NGO training course in Almaty in place of UMID Director Kurbanova.

8. Mavluda Shirinova, Director, Women's Crises Center "Sabr", Samarkand

A native of Andijan, Ms. Shirinova was educated in Leningrad, Samarkand and Moscow. She was a senior official of the Communist Party. Since independence, she held the position of Deputy Khokim for Women's Issues in Bagishamal Raion, served as Chairperson of the Raion level Republican Women's Committee and Deputy Chairperson of the Oblast level Republican Women's Committee. In 1996 she founded The Women's Crisis Center "Sabr" in Samarkand with the help of a grant from the USAID-funded NGO Support Project implemented by the Counterpart Consortium. The Center provides emotional support and psychological counseling to women and teenagers who are subjected to violence or find themselves in difficult situations. The Center has telephone hotlines and trained counselors. She has had training in the U.S. under the USAID funded NGO Leadership Training Course.

9. Flora Pirnazarova, Founder and Executive Director, Mehri (mercy) Society, Tashkent

(b)(6) trained in chemistry in Tashkent and Moscow. Ms. Pirnazarova worked for many years in research on bio-organic chemistry. In 1994, she co-founded the Women's Resource Center with Marfuu Tokhmahodjaeva. In 1997 she formed Mehri Society to provide support to women. She attended Beijing Conference and participated

in the USAID funded NGO Leadership Course in the U.S. She speaks English fairly well.

10. Dildora Alimbekova, Chairperson, Business Women's Association, Tashkent
(b)(6) educated in economics, Ms. Alimbekova has worked in government positions in light industry. In 1991 she became the Chair of the Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan (BWA). The BWA was founded in 1991 to assist in the development of women-owned small enterprises. It seeks to promote and encourage favorable conditions for women's business activities and supports its members by providing training, consulting services and credit. The organization has more than three thousand members and branches in all of the oblasts of Uzbekistan as well as the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The BWA has received support from USAID's NGO Support Project in the form of training and grants. The Counterpart Consortium has received additional USAID grant funds to provide technical assistance to the BWA. It has received a grant for a legal assistance project, funds for credit unions at the national and oblast level and funding to support the establishment of branches in all oblasts and the Republic of Karakalpakstan from a USDA "Food for Progress" Program implemented by Mercy Corps International. She is on the Advisory Committee of the Central Asia-American Enterprise Fund. Ms. Alimbekova attended the Beijing Conference.
11. Tadjihon Sadikamova, Executive Director, Business Women's Association, Tashkent
(b)(6) Ms. Sadikamova held government positions in the area of trade. She has been the Executive Director of the BWA since 1991. The organization is described above. She has been to the U.S. to participate in the USAID-funded Business Associations Training Course. She is Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Uzbek-American Initiative Center, an NGO of returned USAID trainees.
12. Mayluda Abdulhalimova, Chairperson, Namangan Business Women's Association, Namangan
(b)(6) educated in economics and business, she held various accounting positions in Komosonal and the Communist Party. In 1993 she bought a factory for processing rough wool. In 1995 she became Chairperson of the Namangan Oblast BWA. In 1995 she also received a grant from Mercy Corps International for a revolving credit fund, the first micro credit fund in Uzbekistan. The funds came from a USDA "Food for Progress" Grant. She has been to the U.S. to participate in the USAID funded NGO Leadership Training Course.
13. Svetlana Radjabova, Founder and Director, Private Clinic "Marriage and Family", Bukhara
(b)(6) Dr. Radjabova is the founder and Director of a private clinic called "Matrimony and Family". She is an ob/gyn trained in Andijan, Moscow and Leningrad. She was the head of the Bukhara Oblast Maternity House and then the head of the then government operated "Marriage and Family" Clinic. She and her husband purchased the clinic in 1995, under the government's privatization program. The clinic provides family planning services, examination and treatment of reproductive system for both women and men, and treatment of sexual disorders. It has its own pharmacy. In September, the clinic received technical assistance from an American ob/gyn provided by the International Executive Service Corps under a USAID-funded program. Dr. Radjabova has also just completed an intensive one week course in contraceptive technologies, counseling and training of trainers, organized by the USAID-funded SOMARC Project. She borrowed funds from the Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund's small loan program to purchase an ultrasound machine.

14. Nodira Sharipova, Chairperson of Pediatricians' Association of Bukhara and Director of a Private Pediatric Clinic

A native of Bukhara, Dr. Sharipova is the Chairman, of the Pediatricians' Association in Bukhara, and the Director of a private clinic. Educated in medicine in Bukhara and Moscow, she was the Chief Pediatrician of the City of Bukhara, head of the district Department of Health Care and Chief Physician of Bukhara Oblast. She is currently the Chair of General Practice Physicians of the State Medical Institute of Bukhara. She founded the Association of Pediatricians in 1992. In 1994 she participated in USAID-funded training on maternal and children's health. Her clinic was supported by a grant from Mercy Corps International under a USDA "Food for Progress" Program

Alternates

1. Victoria Ashirova, Director, Women's Crisis Center "Sabr", Samarkand

A native of Samarkand, Ms. Ashirova is one of the organizers and the sociologist of the Women's Crisis Center in Samarkand. A scientific researcher at the Samarkand Medical Institute, she was educated in the sciences in Samarkand and Moscow. She help to organize the Center in 1996 and worked there as a volunteer. She now manages the center on a day-to-day basis. She has received training in counseling from the USAID-funded Social Marketing for Change (Red Apple) Project and worked with teenagers on issues of sexuality and contraception. She went to the U.S. for the USAID-funded NGO Leadership Training Course.

2. Barno Turganova, Director, Alcoholics Anonymous, Tashkent

(b)(6) educated in Tashkent, Moscow and Riga in psychology, Ms. Turganova has taught psychology and organizational behavior at Tashkent State University. She has also worked in the government's Narcological Center. She founded AA with the assistance of the Counterpart Consortium, implementors of the USAID-funded NGO Support Project. She has received a grant and in-country training from Counterpart and recently went to the U.S. under the USAID-funded NGO Leaders Training. A part of her program consisted of an internship with the Castle Medical Center in Honolulu and participation in the 36th Annual Convention of the AA. Ms. Turganova speaks good English.

3. Zelfira Sattarova, Director of the Diabetic Children's Society

(b)(6) educated in Samarkand, the parent of a diabetic child, Ms. Sattarova organized a club for the parents of children with diabetes in 1993. The club provides a forum for parents to share experiences on how to deal with their children's illness and help themselves. The Society now has a staff of ten and about 200 members. Its runs a one month course for parents and children, two day seminars, and social functions. Ms. Sattarova has received NGO training from Counterpart Consortium.

4. Mayhuda Abdullayeva, Andijan Business Center, Andijan

Founded and operates a successful NGO business incubator. [We will try to get bio]

CC: Joseph Limprecht, Charge d'Affaires
John Fox, Chief, P/E
Blair Sheridan, Counterpart Consortium

EVENT PAPER: WOMEN'S NGO ROUNDTABLE

SCENESETTER

This event will be held at the Ambassador's residence. It is located 8 minutes driving time from Durman Dacha, 5 minutes with escort.

Independent leaders are often reluctant to speak frankly in "official" Uzbek government settings, which is why we have invited these women to the Ambassador's Residence. You may wish to invite some of the guests to explain their work and its significance to Uzbekistan's social development and economic and political reform. You may have to urge them to speak briefly, as there is still a tendency toward lengthy, Soviet style set piece presentations in this society.

BACKGROUND

The invitees are women who have moved beyond the traditional Soviet system of expecting the government to initiate all community action. Many are successful independent businesswomen and all are active as leaders of NGOs. These NGOs are involved in a wide range of grassroots activities, ranging from initiatives in women's and children's health and education in environmental issues to family violence issues to small business development. A few have close ties to the government, but most are independent, although many work closely with local government entities. USAID has been active in providing financial support and technical assistance to many of these groups.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. profile	Margarita V. Gokun Silver; RE: Personally Identifiable Information [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Karen Finney (Press Office)
OA/Box Number: 10673

FOLDER TITLE:

Trip of the First Lady to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine,
November 9-18, 1997 [2] [binder]

2015-0734-S
db3894

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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Margarita V. Gokun Silver -- Country Director, USAID funded SOMARC (Social Marketing for Change) Project, The Futures Group International

Margarita V. Gokun Silver was born (b)(6) In 1939 she left USSR for the US as a refugee with her family. On arrival in 1990 she attended Rivier College (Nashua, NH) and received her BS, summa cum laude, in 1992 with a major in pre-med. She then began a graduate program at the Yale University School of Epidemiology and Public Health, Department of International Health. Margarita's specialization during her graduate study was Women's Health and Women's Rights and her studies included courses at the Yale Law School, Yale School of Management, and Yale Graduate School International and Anthropology Departments. Much of Margarita's graduate study was focused on the Central Asian region with a special emphasis on Uzbekistan. Margarita first came to Uzbekistan in 1994 on an internship with the United Nations Development Programme. During her internship, Margarita was a participant in a UNDP Women in Development Mission and worked as a research assistant on women's issues. After completing her thesis on *"Effects of transitional society on women's status in Uzbekistan"*, Margarita received her Master of Public Health degree in 1995. Following her graduation from Yale, Margarita became a Program Officer with AVSC International in New York responsible for family planning programs in Ukraine and Moldova. In 1996 Margarita returned to Uzbekistan as the Country Director for The Futures Group International SOMARC Project. In this capacity she works closely with local pharmaceutical distributors, international manufacturers, Ministry of Health, and local NGOs to ensure that women of Uzbekistan have understanding of and access to a choice of quality family planning methods. Margarita is married to Keith L. Silver, a 1995 graduate of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, who is currently employed with the US & Foreign Commercial Service in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. [002]

MICHAEL

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. profile	Invitees for Women's Round Table Discussion; RE: Personally Identifiable Information [partial] (3 pages)	11/07/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Karen Finney (Press Office)
OA/Box Number: 10673

FOLDER TITLE:

Trip of the First Lady to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine,
November 9-18, 1997 [2] [binder]

2015-0734-S
db3894

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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DATE : November 7, 1997

SUBJECT: Invitees for Women's Round Table Discussion

1. Victoria Ashirova, Director, Women's Crises Center "Sabr", Samarkand

A native of Samarkand, Ms. Ashirova is one of the organizers and the sociologist of the Women's Crisis Center in Samarkand. A scientific researcher at the Samarkand Medical Institute, she was educated in the sciences in Samarkand and Moscow. She helped to organize the Center in 1996 and worked there as a volunteer. She now manages the center on a day-to-day basis. She has received training in counseling from the USAID-funded Social Marketing for Change (Red Apple) Project and worked with teenagers on issues of sexuality and contraception. She went to the U.S. for the USAID-funded NGO Leadership Training Course.

2. Aral Atanyasova, Director, Perzent Center for Women's Reproductive Rights, Nukus

A native of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Dr. Atanyasova, is the Chairperson of the "TERZENT" Center for Women's Reproductive Rights and the Director of the Karakalpak Center for Human Reproductive Health and Family Planning. She has a Ph.D. in Medicine from the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Moscow and has conducted research at the National Institute of Environmental Health in North Carolina. She was a gynecologist and surgeon at the Nukus Maternity Hospital. She founded the Perzent Center, one of the first NGOs in Karakalpakstan in 1992. She and her brother have also started an ecological education program and implemented a citizen's water quality monitoring program. She purchased the Government's "Marriage and Family" Clinic at the Nukus Hospital when it was auctioned as part of the Government's privatization program and established it as an NGO clinic. The Clinic received medicines and equipment from Operation Provide Hope. Dr. Atanyasova's NGOs have received grant support from USAID-funded organizations, ISAR, Counterpart Consortium and the American Legal Consortium for various projects.

3. Munira Korieva, General Director, Pharmaceutical Firm "Djurabek", Tashkent

(b)(6) educated at the Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute, Ms. Korieva has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for more than 20 years. With the privatization of pharmacies, she went into business for herself and now owns two pharmacies in Tashkent, employs over 60 people, and supplies pharmaceutical products to about 1000 smaller pharmacies on a wholesale basis. Her firm imports products from over 50 foreign partners. Ms. Korieva has demonstrated a strong commitment to women's reproductive health by supporting USAID's Social Marketing for Change (SOMARC) Project implemented by the

[003]

Future's Group. The project seeks to make a variety of safe contraceptive devices accessible to women through the commercial sector. Djurabek has executed more purchase agreements with the suppliers of SOMARC's "Red Apple" supported brand. Ms. Korieva is a member of the Business Women's Association.

4. Dilbar Kurbanova, Director, Disabled Children's Rehabilitation Center "Umid" (hope), Tashkent

(b)(6) Ms. Kurbanova was trained in medicine in Tashkent, Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev. She is a noted expert in the rehabilitation of paralyzed children and has written 150 articles, 4 brochures and a book on the subject. She established Umid in 1992 as a non-governmental organization (NGO). The Center provides rehabilitation services to approximately 100 disabled children at a time. While disabled children get special medical procedures (physical, aqua-, orthopedic- neurological- and speech therapy) their parents are trained to handle their children and continue treatment at home. The Center also offers such services as psychological counseling, physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc. It is staffed by 7 trained professionals and 3 volunteer doctors, 15 nurses. Ms. Kurbanova participated in in-country training conducted by the Counterpart Consortium under USAID's NGO Support Project and the Center has received grant support from this project as well. The Center was a beneficiary of the 500th flight of Operation Provide Hope, receiving valuable equipment and medical supplies. Ms. Kurbanova attended a forum entitled "Children First" in Atlanta which was addressed by the First Lady through a television link.

5. Tadijjon Sadikramova, Executive Director, Business Women's Association, Tashkent

(b)(6) Ms. Sadikramova held government positions in the area of trade. She has been the Executive Director of the BWA since 1991. The BWA was founded in 1991 to assist in the development of women-owned small enterprises. It seeks to promote and encourage favorable conditions for women's business activities and supports its members by providing training, consulting services and credit. The organization has more than three thousand members and branches in all of the oblasts of Uzbekistan as well as the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The BWA has received support from USAID's NGO Support Project in the form of training and grants. The Counterpart Consortium has received additional USAID grant funds to provide technical assistance to the BWA. It has received a grant for a legal assistance project, funds for credit unions at the national and oblast level and funding to support the establishment of branches in all oblasts and the Republic of Karakalpakstan from a USAID "Food for Progress" Program implemented by Mercy Corps International. Ms. Sadikramova has been to the U.S. to participate in the USAID-funded Business Associations Training Course. She is Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Uzbek-American Initiative Center, an NGO of returned USAID trainees.

6. Nodira Sharipova, Chairperson of Pediatricians' Association of Bukhara and Director of a Private Pediatric Clinic

A native of Bukhara, Dr. Sharipova is the Chairman, of the Pediatricians' Association in Bukhara, and the Director of a private clinic. Educated in medicine in Bukhara and Moscow, she was the Chief Pediatrician of the City of Bukhara, head of the district Department of Health Care and Chief Physician of Bukhara Oblast. She is currently the Chair of General Practice Physicians of the State Medical Institute of Bukhara. She founded the Association of Pediatricians in 1992. In 1994 she participated in USAID-funded training on maternal and children's health. Her clinic was supported by a grant from Mercy Corps International under a USDA "Food for Progress" Program.

7. Muborak Tashpulatova, Director, Tashkent Public Education Center, Tashkent

(b)(6) Ms. Tashpulatova is the Founder and Director of Tashkent Public Education Center (TPEC). She started her career as a driller at the Tashkent Engine Equipment Plant while studying pedagogy in the evenings. She eventually became a secondary school teacher of history. The TPEC is developing citizenship and human rights education programs for all levels of students. Its first pilot project was supported by a USAID-funded grant through the American Legal Consortium. TPEC is currently working with the Soros Foundation on a human rights education project. Ms. Tashpulatova has been to the U.S. twice, once in 1995 to take part in the "Youth leadership and Democracy" Project of the International Republican Institute, and in 1996 to participate in the USAID-funded NGO Leadership Training Course.

8. Marfua Tokhtahodjaeva, President of Women's Resource Center, Tashkent

A native of Tashkent, and educated in the field of Architecture, Dr. Tokhtahodjaeva currently works at the Institute of Restoration of Historic Monuments. She is the founder and President of the Women's Resource Center which provides legal support and educates women on their rights. She has participated in the in-country training programs for NGO leaders offered by the Counterpart Consortium under the USAID-funded NGO Support Project. Her organization has received grant support from both Counterpart and the Eurasia Foundation which funded the publication of an Uzbek language textbook on women's legal issues. She has published two scholarly works on women's issues, "Between the Slogans of Communism and the Laws of Islam" and "Daughters of the Amazons". Dr. Tokhtahodjaeva was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow in Architecture in 1996. She is fluent in English.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. profile	Kartashova; RE: Personally Identifiable Information [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Karen Finney (Press Office)
OA/Box Number: 10673

FOLDER TITLE:

Trip of the First Lady to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine,
November 9-18, 1997 [2] [binder]

2015-0734-S

db3894

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BIOGRAPHY

I. Kartashova, Nadezhda Ivanovna, was born (b)(6) in the family of civil servants. [004]

The father, Belyaev, Ivan Fyedorovich, born 1926, worked for Almaty Heavy Machinery Works as a section chief, died 1993.

The mother, Belyaeva, Nina Yevdokimovna, born 1927, worked for Almaty Heavy Machinery Works, Chief Technology Section, as an engineer-technologist, is on a pension at present.

In 1960 entered the first grade of eight-grade school No.67 where I was taught until 1968. From 1968 to 1979 I was taught at the school No.55.

After finishing secondary school, entered Kazakh Pedagogical Institute after Abay, Faculty of Math. Graduated from the Institute in 1974, became a teacher of mathematics.

From 1974 to 1976 was a teacher at secondary school No.112, Almaty city, and from 1976 to 1980 - at the secondary school No.102.

From 1980 to 1985 - a teacher of mathematics at the secondary school No.55.

From 1985 to 1991 - deputy director at the secondary school No.55.

From 1991 to present, I has been director of the secondary school No.55.

While working, has been rewarded more than once, have a badge "Excellent worker of Kazakhstan Republic Education".

Have two children:

Kartashova, Svetlana Alexeyevna

Kartashova, Larisa Alexeyevna, (b)(6)

RESUME

Name NATALIA BAKHMUTOVA
Age 39
Address Almaty, 175 Kurmangazy Str., apt.43
Phone # (3272) 538493

EDUCATION

1976 - 1980 - studying in Kazakh Pedagogical Institute on the Philological Faculty. Obtained a distinction on the specialty "The teacher of Russian and Russian literature".
In 1994 - The participant of "International Conference in Almaty International Cooperation in business education: world experience and abilities of Central Asia",
July, 1996 - participated trainings for NGOs management in Washington, DC
1994 - 1996 - Participated in more than 10 Leadership Conference as delegate and often as organizer; passed more than 3 trainings for trainers.
1996, 1997 - Passed trainings for NGO trainers of Counterpart Consortium.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Since May, 1995 - Executive Director of Association of Young Leaders
In 1994 passed the courses of economical education, organized by American Firm "Junior Achievement".
1994 - 1996 - The teacher of applied economics. in secondary schools ## 95, 55.
1994 - present time - The Program Coordinator of the Association of 'Young Leaders (AYL) in Kazakhstan.
1992 - 1994 - Deputy director for Science in secondary school # 95, Almaty.
1991 - 1992 - Teacher in secondary school # 95.
1984 - 1991 - Deputy Director for education work at secondary school # 95, Almaty.
1980 - 1984 - Russian and Literature teacher, form monitor at secondary school # 8 of Almaty.

July - August, 1995 - Took part in international Leadership Conferences of California Association of Student Councils in California, USA..
Passed different workshops, trainings and seminars for NGOs, conferences on Civics Initiatives, Law in Central Asia, Human Rights.
Since September.
Since 1996 works out and adapts the leadership programs for high school, conducts leadership lessons in school # 55.
Works out and conducts workshops on democratic leadership for NGOs and Educational officers. Conducts trainings for NGO leaders as contractor of Counterpart Consortium.
Since January, 1996, takes part in Conferences as independent trainer.

RESUME

Name ELENA VINOGRADOVA
Age 35
Address ALMATY, 50 Satpayev Str. apt. 6
Phone # (3272) 446360

EDUCATION

1969-1979 - secondary school # 105 with a number of subject in English. Specialized as a translator of technical and fiction literature.
1979 - 1986 Kazakh State Polytechnic Institute, Department of Geology. Specialized on mining geology.
1995, 1996 - Trainings on Leadership program.
1995 - Training on Civic Education (Central Asia training seminar on education for democracy).
1996?1997 - Training for trainers of Counterpart Consortium
1997 - Supreme Court Summer Institute, (Washington, DC, USA)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Since September, 1995 - Civic Education Coordinator of Association of Young Leaders. Designs the programs of Leadership in elementary school, conducts Civic education lessons, prepares and conducts trainings for teachers on Human Right/Civic Education on the basis of participativ and interactive methodology in Almaty and regions of Kazakhstan. Conducts training for NGOs. Translates Leadership and Civic Education materials from Russian into English.
July, 1995 - Took part in International Leadership Conference of the Association of Young Leaders in Almaty..
1993 - 1995 - teacher of Geography and English
1986 - 1993 - Geologist in Dzhangar Geological expedition (Taldykorga n province of Kazakhstan).
1995 - 1996 took part in organization and participated 3 training Conferences of Association of Young Leaders.
Participated different seminars, workshops and trainings for NGOs.
September, 1996 - participated in the International Conference on Human Rights/Civic Education of the Open Society Institute in Budapest (Hungary).
July, 1997 - participated in session 348 of the Salzburg Seminar "Education Youth. Challenging for future".

Association of Young Leaders Roundtable
Phonetic spelling of participants

Roundtable Participants

1. Bakhmutova, Natalia Ivanovna (Executive Director)
(bak-MU-to-va, na-TAL-ya e-van-OVna)
2. Vinogradova, Yelena Sergeyevna (Co-Director)
(veen-o-GRAD-ova, YA-lane-a ser-gay-YEV-na)
3. Telemtayeva, Aliya (Student President)
(tel-em-TY-ova, a-LEE-a)
4. Zhaksembayeva, Nadyezhda
(zhak-sem-BAY-yeva, na-DEZH-da)
5. Kan, Victor
(KHAN, VICK-tor)
6. Bakhmutov, Olyeg
(BAKH-mu-tov, O-leg)
7. Gaynutdinov, Maxim
(guy-noot-DIN-ov, MAX-eem)
8. Oleynik, Yulya
(ol-YE-nik, YUL-ya)
9. Skakov, Nariman
(SKAK-ov, NAR-e-man)

Roundtable Audience

10. Marchenko, Lyena
(mar-CHENK-o, lee-YANE-a)
11. Rakhmankulova, Yulya
(rak-man KUL ova, YUL-ya)
12. Pogodayeva, Natasha
(po-go-DIE-yeva, na-TASH-a)
13. Mashbayev, Serik
(mash-BAY-ev, SER-ik)
14. Pak, Lyena
(PAK, lee-YANE-a)
15. Bondaryev, Ivan
(bon-DAR-yev, E-von)
16. Pindus, Yulya
(PIN-dus, YUL-ya)

-2-

17. Kravtsov, Alexey
(KRAFT-sof, a-LEX-ay)
18. Paysov, Yuriy Petrovich
(PAY-sof, YOOR-ee pe-TROV-ich)
19. Kosophidi, Dasha
(kos-o-FEED-ee, DOSH-a)
20. Kohroshyev, Anton
(KHOR-o-shef, ann-TON)
21. Mitin, Alexey
(MEET-een, a-LEX-ay)
22. Musiyenko, Ira
(MOOS-ee-yenk-o, I-ra)
23. Abdygaparova, Bakhyt
(ab-do-ga-PAR-o-va, BAK-hoot)
24. Ivanov, Andrey
(E-von-of, AN-dray)
25. Dundukova, Larisa
(dun-DUKE-o-va, la-REES-a)
26. Kosova, Inna Ivanovna
(KOS-o-va, E-na E-van-ov-na)
27. Kazachkov, Misha
(KAZ-och-kof, ME-sha)
28. Kartashova, Nadyezhda Ivanovna
(kar-tash-OV-a, na-DEZH-da)
29. Motovilova, Olga Yakovlyevana
(mo-TOV-ee-lov-a, OLE-ga YAK-ov-lyev-an-a)
30. Pichugov, Yuriy Vasilyevich
(pea-CHOOG-of, YOOR-ee vas-ill-YEV-ich)
31. Primbetova, Yelyena Georgiyevna
(preme-BET-ov-a, ya-LANE-a GEORGE-ee-yev-na)

**List of Potential Participants
Visit of the First Lady
"Meet and Greet" with Prominent Kazakhstani Women**

1. Akayeva, (ah-K-EYE-yeh-vuh,)
First Lady of Kyrgyzstan
2. Babajanova, Rano (Bah-bah-JON-uh-vuh, RAN-no)
Chief editor, TV Channel-Seven
3. Bakhareva, Olga (bah-KHAH-reh-vuh, OLL-guh)
President, Special Olympics, Kazakhstan
4. Baliyeva, Zagipa (buh-LEE-yeh-vuh, zuh-GEE-puh)
Chairwoman, Central Election Commission
5. Chernolovskaya, Irina (chair-nuh-LOW-v-sky-uh, I-REE-nuh)
Journalist, former director of television station
"Family Channel"
6. Dzhangarycneva, (jen-gah-REE-chuh-vuh,)
Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan
7. Fedotova, Zinaida (feh-DOH-tuh-vuh, zin-eye-EE-duh)
Senator of the Republic of Kazakhstan
8. Fokina, Ninel (FOH-ki-nuh, NEE-nuhl)
Chairwoman, Almaty Chapter, Helsinki Watch Committee
9. Ishmukhamedova, Lyazat (ish-moo-ka-MYED-uh-vuh, lee-vuh-ZAHT)
President, Association of Single Mothers
10. Kainazarova, Mansiya (k-eye-nuh-ZAH-ruh-vuh, man-SEE-yuh)
Director-Coordinator, United Nations Gender Center
11. Kenesbayeva, Saule (ke-ness-BUY-yeh-vuh, S-OW-lay)
President, Women's Association "Liana"
12. Korzhova, Natalya (KOR-zhuh-vuh, nuh-TALL-yuh)
13. Loar, Theresa
Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State
14. Margolies-Mezvinsky, Marjorie
Women's Campaign Funds, USA
15. Nazarbayeva, Sarah (na-zar-BUY-eh-vuh, SAIR-uh)
wife of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
16. Pyshtiyeva, Yash (pish-TEE-yeh-vuh, YASH)
Mazhilis member, Turkmenistan
17. Sarsembayeva, Raushan (sahr-sem-BUY-yeh-vuh, R-OW-shahn)
President, Business Women's Association of Kazakhstan
18. Savostina, Irena (suh-VOH-stee-nuh, ee-RAY-nuh)
Chairwoman, Pensioners' Movement "Pokoleniya"
19. Shamsutdinova, Svetlana (shahm-soot-DEEN-uh-vuh, svet-LAH-nu)
Deputy Director, Consumer Rights Protection Organization
20. Sher, Raisa (SHARE, R-eye-EE-suh)
Member of Parliament, Republic of Kazakhstan
21. Sinitskaya, Svetlana (sih-NIT-sky-uh, svet-LAN-nuh)
Chairwoman, Association of Women Journalists 1
22. Sivryukova, Vaalentina (siv-RYOU-kuh-vuh, vall-uhn-TEE-nuh)
Deputy Minister of Labor
23. Tokhtakhodzhaeva, (tock-tuh-ho-J-EYE-yen-vuh,)
NGO leader and journalist, Uzbekistan
24. Turmagambetova, Zhemis (toor-mah-gahm-BYET-uh-vuh, ZHEMM-is)
Deputy Director, Kazakh-American Human Rights Bureau
25. Yertlesova, Zhannat (yair-TLESS-uh-vuh, ZHA-nat)

American
Community Event

EVENT PAPER: AMERICAN COMMUNITY RECEPTION

SCENESETTER

This event will take place the evening of November 14 either at the Hotel Intercontinental or at the VIP hall at Tashkent Airport. It will offer you an opportunity to get briefly acquainted with the families of Embassy American employees and Embassy American contractors as well as a representative selection of other Americans, largely business and NGO representatives, living and working in Uzbekistan.

EVENTS IN BUKHARA

UZBEKISTAN: BUKHARA SCENESETTER

History. Considered by many to be Uzbekistan's most beautiful city, Bukhara celebrated the purported 2500th anniversary of its founding on October 19, 1997. Successively ruled by Achaemenids, Greeks, Seleucids, Parathians, and Kushans before being captured by Arabs in the eighth century, it was a major trading, cultural, and educational center for much of its history. It was the capital of the Samanid empire -- the first independent central Asian state -- in the tenth century. Largely destroyed by Genghis Khan, the city's fortunes improved in the second half of the sixteenth century as it became the center of various Khanates or Emirates until 1920. The Emirate of Bukhara became a protectorate of Russia in 1873, although the Emir was allowed to continue to rule. Bukhara was a center of counter-revolution during the Russian civil war and was taken by the Red Army in September 1920. Any semblance of Bukharan independence (under a Bukharan People's Republic) was ended in September 1924 when the region officially joined the Soviet Union.

City setting. Today, Bukhara is a quiet city of roughly 300,000 inhabitants. While there are some industrial enterprises in the new part of the city, the city was not as heavily industrialized as others in central Asia. Moreover, the old city, with its narrow, twisting streets, maintains a separate atmosphere from more modern sections of Bukhara, and kept its historic identity intact.

Tour Cultural Sites

EVENT PAPER: BUKHARA HISTORIC SITES

SCENESETTER

Considered by many to be Uzbekistan's most beautiful city, Bukhara celebrated its 2500th anniversary on October 18. Bukhara has been a major trading, cultural, and educational center for much of its history, and was the capital of the Samanid empire -- the first independent Central Asian state -- in the tenth century. Largely destroyed by Genghis Khan, the city's fortunes improved in the second half of the sixteenth century, and it was the center of various khanates or emirates until 1920. The Emirate of Bukhara became a protectorate of Russia in 1873, although the Emir was allowed to continue to rule. Bukhara was a center of counter-revolution during the Russian civil war and was taken by the Red Army in September 1920. As part of Uzbekistan, it officially became part of the Soviet Union in 1924.

BACKGROUND

Today, Bukhara is a quiet city of roughly 300,000 inhabitants. The old city, with its narrow, twisting streets and its spectacular architectural reminders of Bukhara's glorious past, has maintained a separate identity from more modern sections of the city.

With its ancient history and beautiful architecture, Bukhara is a natural focus for efforts to promote preservation of cultural heritage. Bukhara's historically significant Jewish community has flourished for some 2,000 years, making Bukhara an example of religious tolerance as well. However, the vast majority of the city's Jewish inhabitants have immigrated to the United States and Israel over the past decade.

PROGRAM

Kalyan ensemble: The ensemble features the Kalyan mosque and minaret and the Mir-Arab madrassa (Islamic school). The minaret is a masterpiece of medieval architecture famous throughout Central Asia. Some 47 meters high and embroidered with ten decorative belts of brickwork, it was probably the tallest building in the world when it was completed in 1127. The minaret is sometimes known as the "Tower of Death," because criminals and unfaithful wives were sometimes hurled to their deaths from it.

The adjacent and massive mosque was also build in the twelfth century, but was severely damaged by Genghis Khan and rebuilt in the sixteenth century. The Mir-Arab madrassa, which dates from the sixteenth century, has historical as well as architectural significance: it was one of only two madrassas allowed to function in the Soviet Union. The Kalyan ensemble provides the most photogenic backdrop of any of your stops in Bukhara.

Ulugbek/Abdulaziz madrassas: Build in the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries respectively, these two madrassas form an impressive ensemble near the Kalyan. Both are richly decorated, with the Abdulaziz featuring mosaics or phoenixes and snake-headed birds in a break from the Islamic tradition of not depicting animals. Both today house local artisans selling their wares.

Lyabi-khauz: This ensemble features two madrassas and a khanaga (hostel for wandering dervishes) grouped around an attractive reflecting pool. The sixteenth century Kukeldash madrassa is Central Asia's largest. The seventeenth century Nadir Divanbegi madrassa is notable for its striking mosaic above the entrance arch. The square is also distinguished by a statue of Hodja Nasreddin, a popular figure in Uzbek folklore whose surface foolishness concealed a clever mind.

Trading Domes: Although not officially part of the schedule, the First Lady will probably pass through at least one of Bukhara's trading domes during her tour of the city. Dating mostly from the sixteenth century, these domes were originally limited to one type of merchandise (the three surviving ones are the cap-makers', jewelers', and money-changers' bazaars), but today a wide range of carpets, jewelry, and other handicrafts are available in each.

Mausoleum of the Samanids: The oldest of Bukhara's architectural masterpieces, Ismail Samani, founder of the Samanid Empire, build this mausoleum in 907 for his father and grandson, and ended up being buried there himself. The area became a popular place to be buried, and the mausoleum was eventually hidden by other graves and sediment before being uncovered by a Soviet archaeologist in the 1930's. The mausoleum features exquisite brickwork, which was well-preserved by the dirt which covered it for 400 years. The bricks are arranged in 18 different two- and three-dimensional patterns.

Museum and Ark: The site of the citadel of Bukhara's rulers virtually since the city's founding, the current ark dates from roughly the sixteenth century. With its walls looming

20 meters over the city, the Ark housed virtually the entire Bukhara government -- police department, prison, mint, treasury, armory -- as well as the Emir's royal apartments, reception rooms, and treasury. The Ark today houses a substantial history museum.

Emir's Summer Palace (Sitorai Mokhi-Khossa): Located about five miles outside the city, the Summer Palace was built mostly in the nineteenth century. Its ornately decorated halls house many of the Emir's objects d'art, much of it received as gifts from European and East Asian rulers. Time permitting, the tour also includes the Emir's guest house, which now houses a collection of royal robes, and the harem building and the adjacent pool, where (supposedly) the Emir's wives and concubines would bathe, while the Emir watched from a tower and threw an apple (some say a pomegranate) to his choice for the evening.

Remarks on
Cultural Diversity

BUKHARA: STATEMENT ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY
(Continuity and Change)

- As I have been visiting a few of Bukhara's historic sites today, I have been impressed not only by the endurance of civilization here -- as is evident from the city's recent celebration of its 2500th birthday -- but also by the diversity of traditions.
- To be sure, Bukhara's population today is largely Moslem. But that fact should not obscure the diversity that exists within Islam, evidenced by the thriving Bokhouddin Nakshbandi mosque a few kilometers from here, nor the continuation of many other religious and cultural traditions.
- Bukhara's Jews are arguably its most famous minority. Though now few in number, they nonetheless have contributed greatly to the city and remain a cohesive presence at the city's core.
- In Bukhara and Uzbekistan generally, Tajiks, Russians, Kazakhs, and many other groups are also present and contribute to religious and cultural life.
- This is not surprising. As an entrepot along the fabled Silk Route between east and west, Bukhara has been host to many travellers. This trade enriched the region, and during and following the Silk Route's zenith, many of Bukhara's cultural and religious monuments were constructed.
- But the benefit of this trade was not only goods, and its legacy not only buildings. It also brought people with new ideas and new ways of doing things. Among the results was the founding both of modern algebra and astronomy.
- At the same time, preservation of old ways is also important. We learn from the past and the accumulated wisdom of our forebears, and it is this wisdom that is passed down culturally -- in art and architecture, in literature, in the performing arts.
- For people to achieve their potential, then, we need both the old and the new, the indigenous and the foreign.
- In the United States, we are fortunate, as a nation of immigrants, to have some of the world's most diverse communities. These communities bring their old

traditions, but they add new ones, and in the process, become American.

- In Uzbekistan, and in Central Asia generally, there are many cultural traditions, and it is important that these be preserved. But for them to thrive, it is important that they be open to new ideas that have helped people achieve their potential -- to free trade and the market economy, to transparency and rule of law, and to democracy and local empowerment.
- By holding fast to cultural elements such as those that have produced the marvels of this city, while embracing ideas that have proven their value elsewhere, this city and country can achieve both stability and progress.

EVENTS IN SAMARKAND

UZBEKISTAN: SAMARKAND SCENESETTER

History. Samarkand, which celebrated its 2,500th birthday last year, was already a major urban center when it was conquered by Alexander the Great. For almost a thousand years, beginning in the second century B.C., virtually every caravan on the Silk Route passed through Samarkand. It remained an important trade city until sea routes between Europe and the Orient were opened. The city's glory ended with its destruction at the hands of Genghis Khan in 1220. However, by early in the thirteenth century, Samarkand recovered when Tamerlane (known here as Amir Timur, the "Iron Emir") chose it as his capital.

City setting. Today Samarkand, with a population of about 500,000, is a center of commerce supporting agricultural activity in the surrounding countryside. There has been some light industrial development. Samarkand is set apart from other Central Asian cities by its spectacular historic sights.

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Dreams of Tourism, Acts of Genghis Khan

BYLINE: By STEPHEN KINZER

DATELINE: SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan

BODY:

FOR centuries the name Samarkand has carried with it an air of almost mystic exoticism. Captured by Alexander and sacked by Genghis Khan, later the capital of Tamerlane's vast empire, this fabled city lies deep in the Central Asian steppe on the outer limits of geography.

"Is she not queen of the earth?" Edgar Allan Poe asked. "Her pride above all cities? In her hand their destinies?"

Historians say that between 1404 and 1841, only two Europeans penetrated Samarkand's grand isolation.

But today, although it is still surrounded by forbidding deserts and in ranges, its glories are easily accessible. This place, which was known as a mirror of the world and the garden of the soul and which once transfixed and terrified the European psyche, has become a tourist attraction.

No longer a base for hordes of genocidal invaders, no longer the domain of cruel warlords and no longer part of the Soviet Union, Samarkand now beckons outsiders rather than repelling them.

Well-Meaning Vandalism

By the busload, the Japanese and Europeans make their way through dusty streets to gaze in wonder at monuments that have fired the human imagination with their legendary beauty for centuries.

With this new tourism has come a form of destruction that Samarkand's ancient rulers could not have imagined. The Uzbek authorities, presuming that visitors want to see this city as Tamerlane saw it, are rebuilding its stately ruins, repainting fading facades and plastering new tiles onto walls where old ones have fallen away.

Many of the city's great Persian-inspired monuments are scaffolded as workers busily remake, repaint and reconstruct them. Those that have been restored are odd combinations of darker colors, signifying centuries of age, and lighter ones that have just been added alongside them.

The New York Times, November 2, 1997

What is intended as homage to this splendid city and the gifted artisans who built it turns out to be a kind of well-meaning vandalism. Today Samarkand is turned into an theme park, a too-perfect copy of a lost world that might be Las Vegas but seems painfully out of place here.

Filling In the Gaps

Inside the breathtaking Shah-i-Zinda necropolis, long renowned as Central Asia's finest ensemble of ceramic art, intricately designed crypts paneled with subtly colored tiles give a vivid sense of what it must have been like to walk these precincts centuries ago. But the ancient walkways themselves are newly paved with smooth flagstones, and gaps in the tile work are being filled with poorly matched modern copies.

"Something wonderful is being lost," said Larisa Malova, a painter who sells watercolors of the Shah-i-Zinda to passing tourists. "The original work gave you such a warm feeling, a connection to the old days. But someone has decided that tourists want everything to look perfect. Every year more is rebuilt here, which means that every year more is lost."

Since its construction in the 15th and 16th centuries, the most spectacular monument here has been the breathtaking Registan complex, a courtyard nearly the size of a football field surrounded on three sides by soaring arches, towering minarets and turquoise domes.

"The Registan of Samarkand was originally, and is still even in its ruin, the noblest public square in the world," Lord Curzon wrote after visiting a century ago.

May the glorious ruin is gone and with it much of Registan's nobility, covered by glitz. The facades of the mosques and religious schools are so garishly bright, the paint and tiles so glitteringly new, that they seem to be covered by psychedelic wallpaper.

It is as if the Greeks had reconstructed the Parthenon to look as it did the day it was completed, or as if the Romans had patched up the craggy walls of the Coliseum that have crumbled over the centuries.

In the Registan's rear courtyard, a small hand-lettered sign bears an arrow and the word "Museum." It points the way to a display of black-and-white photographs that show the splendor Samarkand is now losing.

A Fairy Tale

The photos, taken around the turn of the century, depict a city living amid the aging but still magnificent ruins of a civilization that placed supreme value on tangible beauty. No perfect domes or fully intact walls remain, but there is more than enough glory to inspire awe and reverence.

The curator of this sobering exhibition, a forlorn historian named Firdavs Naberayev, prefers to sit among his photos rather than step outside and see what the authorities have wrought in the name of preservation.

"It used to be very romantic to walk around Samarkand," Mr. Naberayev said. "It was like living in a fairy tale. Our scholars tried to stop what has

The New York Times, November 2, 1997

happened, but there was nothing they could do. When some Government official comes and says that ruins are not cute enough, that they don't please his eyes and must be rebuilt, there is no way for ordinary people to protest."

The same sad fate is enveloping Uzbekistan's two other historic cities, Khiva and Bukhara. President Islam Karimov recently held giant parties in both places to celebrate what he said were their 2,500th anniversaries, and both had to be prettified to meet what he and his minions think are Western standards of perfection. Tiles were slapped onto incomplete walls, and ceilings repainted in gaudy colors. In Khiva, intricately carved 19th-century wooden doors were "cleaned" by young workers using blunt tools to cut away not only grime but also much of the original detail.

"Some tourists may want to see ruins, but we're trying to be realistic," reasoned Bukhara's Deputy Mayor, Muzrob Buronov.

"If we don't rebuild, the ruins will disappear altogether," he said. "We aren't adding any new colors or patterns. We only want these old buildings to look the way they originally did."

GRAPHIC: Photos: Using blunt tools to remove grime. Tilers at work. The Government is on a campaign to spruce up Samarkand's landmarks without regard to historical authenticity. (Photographs by Staton R. Winter for The New York Times)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DATE: November 2, 1997

Visit USAID Artisan's
Development Center

EVENT PAPER: MEROS ARTISANS' CENTER

SCENESETTER

Located in an old building across the street from the Registan, the Artisans' Production Center is the headquarters of the Meros (Heritage) Artisans' Association. Meros is a non-governmental organization formed in 1996 by a group of artisans.

BACKGROUND

Meros has received technical assistance from Aid to Artisans (ATA) through a USAID-funded project. The Center is undergoing renovations with financial support from Mercy Corps International using funds from a U.S. Department of Agriculture "Food for Progress" Grant.

The Center's services include assistance with product design and marketing, business training, international networking and advocacy. One focus of attention has been the revival of ancient crafts such as paper making and the adaptation of traditional crafts to modern usage.

TALKING POINTS

- I am delighted to see the work that is going on here. It is important for two reasons: its economic value -- the creation of jobs and goods through cooperative enterprise -- and its cultural value.
- The combination of these makes this project a model for other economies where people living traditional ways are trying to adapt to modern times.
- The revival of ancient crafts such as paper making and the adaptation of traditional crafts to modern usage is a way of building on the wisdom of our forebears and of maintaining those human elements that create bonds between people.
- In Uzbekistan, and in Central Asia generally, there are many cultural traditions, and it is important that these be preserved. But for them to thrive, it is important that they be open to new ideas that have helped people achieve their potential -- to free trade and the market economy, to transparency and rule of law, and to democracy and local empowerment.

- By holding fast to cultural traditions such as those represented in your arts and crafts, while embracing ideas that have proven their value elsewhere, Samarkand and Uzbekistan can achieve both stability and progress.

"MEROS" Artisans' Association of Samarkand

"Look into our hearts. MEROS has given us our self respect." - a local artisan

Located in the Samarkand Art and History Museum across the street from the Registan, MEROS (Heritage) displays the works of over sixty members of the Association. MEROS is a democratically governed, non-governmental organization formed in 1996 by a group of artisans who believed that by working together, they could begin to solve many of the problems facing them during the time of transition to a market economy.

With technical assistance from USAID funded Aid to Artisans (ATA), MEROS has grown to serve a diverse membership of more than 90 artisan entrepreneurs, including master craftsmen, female home producers, fashion designers, teachers, apprentices and unemployed professionals from other fields. Services include assistance with product design and marketing, business training, international networking and advocacy. MEROS has also received financial support from Mercy Corps International using funds from a US Department of Agriculture "Food for Progress" Grant.

ATA is a subcontractor to Counterpart, the lead NGO which implements USAID/CAR's NGO assistance program. USAID has provided \$176k to ATA in Uzbekistan to date and an additional \$292k is expected through FY99, subject to the availability of funds, for an expected total of \$468k. Margaret Bishop is the new Regional Director of ATA. She recently arrived to replace Karla Hostettler, who did a tremendous job working with the artisans groups. Much of the credit for MEROS' success goes to Karla.

MEROS achievements are best understood in light of the obstacles its members have overcome in gaining control over their economic futures. The idea for an independent association was born when a small group of artisans found themselves threatened by authorities with the loss of electricity in their workshop if they attempted to market their crafts independently at an ATA craft sale in Tashkent. At that time, craft production and sale was controlled by the state artisans' association, which retained exclusive market rights and set fixed prices on artisans work, yet failed to market products aggressively or to represent more than a few select artisans.

Artisans working outside the state system, including female home producers and individuals creating in non-traditional design media were similarly limited by a lack of sales venues. Those selling to the primary gallery in town were also prohibited from selling elsewhere and were told their products would be confiscated en route should they attend the ATA sale.

Courageously, both groups attended the sale anyway and were rewarded when, after two days, their products sold in quantities that exceeded long-term levels achieved by the state. Encouraged by their success, as well as by ATA and other new independent groups they met at the sale, the Samarkand artisans immediately set about forming an independent marketing and business assistance association. They held community-wide meetings, drew up a charter, elected a board of directors and staff, and recruited members.

Within a year, combining confidence-building marketing efforts with increasingly aggressive

lobbying efforts, MEROS tripled its membership and achieved support and recognition from the local government. After great effort, it gained the right to occupy and manage half of the local state craft production facility. USAID and Mercy Corps awarded them financial assistance to continue their efforts.

USAID's ATA program is a specialized assistance part of the NGO development effort in the democracy strategy. Those efforts are focused on increased citizen's participation in the governmental decision-making process. ATA is creating a citizen-run, regional assistance network to help increasing numbers of artisans adapt to a free market system and stimulate growth of a regional craft industry. Far more than souvenirs, the product sectors addressed by ATA and NGO clients include home furnishings, textile products, apparel, and other potentially lucrative industries which will one day offer employment to thousands of Central Asian residents.

As of November, 1997, after two years of active work in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, ATA and NGO product development and marketing activities have generated over \$200k in direct, new, local sales for artisans, at a time when the majority of craftspeople, many of them female home producers and rural artisans, were earning an average income of less than \$25 a month. The artisans have recently begun to export products to U.S. and European wholesalers through ATA's representation at major gift and trade shows.

Equally important is ATA's work in strengthening citizen-run artisans associations which are emerging increasingly as effective vehicles for problem solving, marketing and advocacy. By carrying out assistance programs through these NGOs, restructuring organizations into democratic institutions, and assisting leaders in developing active service programs for their member entrepreneurs, ATA has enabled artisans to discover that they can solve many of the problems they face through collective organization and creative grassroots initiatives.

Meros Artisan's Center - Located in old building across the street from the Registan, the Artisan's Production Center is the headquarters of the Meros (Heritage) Artisan's Association. Meros, is a democratically governed, non-governmental organization formed in 1996 by a group of artisan who believed that by working together, they could begin to solve many of the problems facing them during the time of transition to a market economy. With technical assistance from Aid to Artisans (ATA), through a USAID-funded project, MEROS has grown to serve a diverse membership of more than 90 artisan entrepreneurs. Services include assistance with product design and marketing, business training, international networking and advocacy. One focus of attention has been the revival of ancient crafts such as paper making and the adaptation of traditional crafts to modern usage.

The Center itself was given to the Association by the city government. It is currently undergoing renovations with financial support from Mercy Corps International using funds from a U.S. Department of Agriculture "Food for Progress" Grant. The Center already houses several work shops including the work shop of the Association President Zarif Mutarov, a ceramicist. The Center will house a diverse group of master artisans, a craft sales room, offices for the association and a restaurant. When completed, the Center will be a major tourist attraction where crafts people at work can be seen and the products of association member purchased.

Zarif Mutarov and other members of his organization have received training under USAID's NGO Support Project, implemented by the Counterpart Consortium. Mutarov recently returned from the U.S. where participate in the USAID-financed NGO Leaders Training Course. He had the opportunity to meet with American ceramicists and artisan centers similar in purpose to his own, and visited the New York Gift Show where the Aid to Artisan's booth featured Uzbek products. In addition to funding Center renovations, Mercy Corp International has provided funds for a revolving credit fund which Meros will operate for its members.

A group of women artisan members of the association will be assembled in the court yard of the Center to demonstrate their work and meet with the First Lady. This would be another opportunity for the First Lady to make a statement the preservation of the country's cultural heritage through the promotion of handicrafts. Another theme could be the importance of non-governmental organizations as a fundamental building block of a democratic civil society.

Tour Registan Square

Tour of
Shah-I-Zindi Mausoleums

EVENT PAPER: SAMARKAND HISTORIC SITES

SCENESETTER

You will visit five major historic sites plus an artisans' center (separate paper). Four of the six sites are located rather closely together in the center of the city with the other two on the edge of town in the general direction of the airport.

Samarkand is an appropriate place to pursue the theme of the preservation of cultural heritage through the revival and adaptation of traditional handicrafts, as well as through the preservation of the historical sites themselves. Toleration of national and linguistic differences is also an appropriate theme for this most cosmopolitan of Silk Route cities.

BACKGROUND

Samarkand, which celebrated its 2,500th birthday last year, was already a major urban center when it was conquered by Alexander the Great. For almost a thousand years, beginning in the second century BC, virtually every caravan on the Silk Route passed through Samarkand. It remained an important trade city until sea routes between Europe and the Orient were opened. The city's glory ended with its destruction by Genghiz Khan in 1220. Samarkand experienced a revival soon thereafter when Tamerlane (known here as Amir Timur, the "iron emir") chose it as his capital.

Samarkand today, with a population of about 500,000, is a center of commerce supporting agricultural activity in the surrounding countryside. There has been some light industrial development. Samarkand is green and pleasant, but is set apart from many other Soviet cities by its spectacular historical sights.

PROGRAM

Tomb of Amir Timur (Gur-I-Mir): The tomb of Timur and his male heirs in the southwestern part of the city was erected in 1404. The mausoleum holds tombstones made of marble and onyx, the tombstone of Timur is carved from a slab of nephrite. The burials proper are located in a crypt under the mausoleum.

You may wish to visit the splendid interior of the monument, then descend into the crypt to view the tombs, themselves. Time required: approximately 15 minutes.

Registan Square: The Registan (place of sand) was the center of Tamerlane's Samarkand and is the center of the city today. The madrassas (religious schools) that bound it on three sides form,

perhaps, the most famous architectural ensemble in central Asia. A remarkably beautiful former mosque forms part of the central madrassa.

All three buildings, built between the 15th and 17th centuries, now house artisan shops and sales halls and the Tilla-Kari features a pleasant courtyard. It is about a two-minute walk from the parking lot to the main area of the Registan.

Bibi Khanum Mosque: Timur's architectural colossus is the cathedral mosque Bibi Khanum, under construction from 1399, the year of Timur's India Campaign, until 1404. Viewing this site, largely now in ruins, should take only a few minutes. Samarkand's lively market is next door.

Shah-I-Zinda Mausoleums: The memorial ensemble of Shah-I-Zinda is a paved staircase and passageway running up the southern slope of Afrasiab (the ancient city which was first located at the site of Samarkand). It is lined on either side with sepulchers of Tamerlane's dynasty. Many of these have lovely and elaborate enameled decorations, some of which have been restored. You will probably want to stroll the entire length of the passageway -- approximately 200 yards.

Ulugbek's Observatory: Although not imposing, this site is remarkable. Ulugbek (1407-1449), a scholar, architect, artist, scientist and above all, master astronomer, was in many ways the Thomas Jefferson of Uzbekistan. A grandson of Tamerlane, he presided over a period of tremendous progress in the arts and sciences in his kingdom. His astronomical calculations and observations -- some not surpassed until the 18th century -- gained him world-wide renown.

His observatory was extraordinary, 48 meters in diameter, 40 meters high, equipped with the most modern instruments of the period, decorated in the glazed tiles of the period. Only a fraction of it remains. This is an interesting site with a small museum adjoining. Visitors approach the observatory along a pleasant sidewalk lined with trees. The approach takes approximately two minutes. Touring the observatory takes approximately 10 minutes.