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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9905805
RECEIVED: 30 JUL 99 15

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: DIAZ, MARY

DOC DATE: 29 JUL 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY PROGRAM
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: WOMEN COMMIS FOR REFUGEE WOMEN & CHILDREN CONCERNS RE WOMEN IN
REBUILDING PROCESS IN KOSOVO

ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY DUE DATE: 11 AUG 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: GUARNIERI

LOGREF:

FILES: PA NSCP: CODES:

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

FOR ACTION
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COMMENTS: SEE SHEBA'S COMMENT

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9905805

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 HURLEY	Z	99073016	APPROPRIATE ACTION
001	Z	99080208	ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 GUARNIERI	Z	99080208	APPROPRIATE ACTION
001	Z	99080509	ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 STATE	X	99080509	DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

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001 990729 STATE

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WOMEN'S
COMMISSION
for refugee women & children

10th ANNIVERSARY 1989 - 1999

President Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20005

July 29, 1999

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, to bring to your attention the special concerns of Kosovo's women and children during this period of rebuilding. We are encouraged by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) four pillars initiative and want to applaud U.S. support for this critical effort.

The Women's Commission has had extensive experience in Rwanda, Bosnia, and other reconstruction efforts around the world. Every refugee and return situation is different, but our experience shows us that **women in particular have a critical impact on the rehabilitation of societies**. Unfortunately, women are often excluded from the rebuilding process, both as beneficiaries but also as planners and participants. We urge the United States to make as a priority the inclusion of women in the reconstruction process, and to ensure that their participation is significant and meaningful. To that end, we expect the proposed \$10 million Kosovar Women's Initiative will be regional in scope and will work to empower women throughout the Balkans.

The foundation for Kosovo's rehabilitation may well be a reliance on law and order. To that end, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has established a police academy to institutionalize public commitment to tolerance and the rule of law. It is critical that women not be left out of this effort. We have written to UNMIK to encourage the advancement of tolerance through gender training for police and other security officers as well as the recruitment of female police and security personnel.

The Women's Commission recognizes gender as an important consideration in the rebuilding process. Issues of gender exist in all areas of reconstruction. For that reason, we have urged UNMIK to commission a point person on gender topics to serve under Bernard Kouchner, Special Representative to the Secretary General.

We have written to urge the European Union (EU), charged under the four pillars system with all areas of reconstruction, to continue its long tradition of support for

Women's Commission for
Refugee Women and Children
122 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10168-1289
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www.intrescom.org/wcrwc.html

An independent organization formed
with the assistance of the International
Rescue Committee to advocate for the
solution of problems affecting refugee
women and children.

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Diana Quick
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Communications Coordinator

Wendy Young
Washington Liaison and Staff Attorney

JUL 30 15:23

women's right's initiatives by including women in all phases of the reconstruction. In addition to their incorporation into the planning stages of rebuilding, women should be employed in construction projects, road and highway building and maintenance, utility provision and other industrial activities. The reconstruction of the market place and restoration of the economy too must actively involve women. Women, especially female heads of households, must be assisted in assuming ownership of properties and businesses.

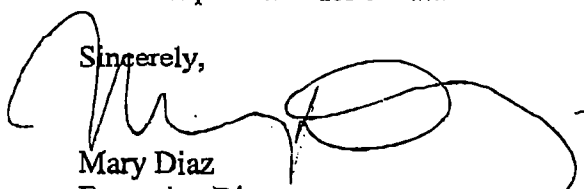
One of the most delicate tasks of the four pillars will be to recreate the civil society shattered by the crisis. An important task under the United Nations (UN) mandate will be to reissue lost, stolen and/or destroyed identity, property and travel documents. We have urged the United Nations to recognize the right of women to take possession of their own identity papers, and to assert their due rights to land and property. Your administration has consistently upheld international women's rights; we look for your continued support of the UN in this important dimension of reconstruction.

We support the deployment of U.S. troops as part of the UN peacekeeping effort, but we must learn from the missteps of past peacekeeping missions. While we recognize that instances of rape, assault and exploitation perpetrated by peacekeepers are isolated events, we urge training on women's and children's rights for all peacekeepers and UNMIK personnel.

Kosovar women have distinct protection needs. Many now face the reality of life as widows, female heads of households, and/or survivors of rape and other violence. Others continue their lives as mothers, daughters and wives. United States' contributions can ensure that all Kosovar women are guaranteed access to food, shelter and education. In addition, we feel that immediate attention must be focused on rehabilitating healthcare, including reproductive and mental health programs.

UNMIK has emphasized the importance of immediate action to rebuild infrastructure and reestablish public services in the region, involving the local community in that effort. As members of the community uniquely affected by the crisis, Kosovar women have the capacity to make distinct contributions to the reconstruction. Women constitute more than 50% of the Balkans' population. Over the past ten years they have formed organizations that held together the fabric of Kosovar society, providing education, healthcare and upholding human rights. The opportunity should not be lost to guarantee that Kosovar women can shape the future for their children and grandchildren. Their involvement in all aspects of the rehabilitation process will help ensure peace and stability in the region. Your leadership will set the tone as Kosovo rebuilds. We look to you with great interest in and expectation for the future of the Balkans.

Sincerely,



Mary Diaz
Executive Director,
Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

CC: Madeline Albright
Samuel R. Berger
Julia Taft, BPRM

5805

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

c/o International Rescue Committee • 122 East 42nd Street • New York, NY 10168-1289

Telephone 212.551.3111 • Facsimile 212.551.3180 • Internet wcrwc@intrescom.org

Facsimile Transmission Sheet

TO:	National Security Council	FROM:	Mary Diaz
ATTN:	Samuel Berger	TEL. #:	(212) 551-3089
FAX #:	202.456.2883	AX #:	(212) 551-3180
DATE:	July 30, 1999	E-MAIL:	Mary@intrescom.org
RE:	Letter to President Clinton	No. of Pages (includes cover sheet):	3

If all pages are not received and in good condition, please call Erin Hagopian at 212-551-3088.

To: @multilat
@ Kosovo

Please ~~at~~
prepare response (I'm not sure
for whose signature), if appropriate.

Thanks,
Sheba

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ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE DATE: 11 AUG 99 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HURLEY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION
HURLEY

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COMMENTS: SEE SHEBA'S COMMENT

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ACTION OFFICER:

Hunter
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LOG NUMBER:

5805

DUE DATE:

8.11.99

DATE STAFFED:

7.30.99

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

Mary Diaz

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9905805

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DATE: 05 AUG 99

MEMORANDUM FOR: KENNEY, K

STATE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: DIAZ, MARY

DATE: 29 JUL 99

SUBJ: WOMEN COMMIS FOR REFUGEE WOMEN & CHILDREN CONCERNS RE WOMEN IN
REBUILDING PROCESS IN KOSOVO

REQUIRED ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

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FOR



JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE