

MEMORANDUM TO JOHN PODESTA AND MARIA ECHAVESTE

FROM: MELANNE VERVEER

RE: OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY MISSION STATEMENT

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 1998

The mission of the Office of the First Lady is to assist the First Lady in advancing important issues at home and abroad and to uniquely convey American culture, history, and hospitality through White House social events.

The objectives for the Office of the First Lady for the next two years are-- through speeches, events, travel, convenings, and engagement with other White House offices, federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations to:

Domestic issues

- Improve the lives of children and their families by advancing issues such as child care quality and affordability, early childhood development, foster care and adoption, after-school programs, national service, and community-wide efforts for children.
- Strengthen the quality of education available through Head Start and America's public schools, and to oppose efforts to undermine public education through vouchers.
- Promote economic security for women through a strong Social Security system, an increased minimum wage, and programs like microenterprise that help women move from welfare to work.
- Advocate for universal access to health care, promote initiatives affecting children's and women's health, and support funding for research and prevention of specific diseases.
- Be the Administration's voice on issues affecting the District of Columbia.
- Ensure the future vitality of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, and the Legal Services Corporation.

International

- Call attention to and promote specific programs that address both human rights and the needs of people around the world, particularly vulnerable populations of women and children.
- Strengthen democratic participation, especially women's political participation, and promote
- Planned trips include the Middle East, an address in Berlin to NGO representatives from

Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS on best practices in promoting civil society, a keynote address to the Vital Voices conference for the Baltic region, and a keynote address at the UN family planning conference in the Netherlands.

Social Office

-- Convey the unique style of the President and First Lady through events in the White House with a special focus on showcasing America's best from a spectrum of artistic disciplines, creative presentation, welcoming people of accomplishment from diverse backgrounds, and seeking innovative coverage to open the White House to a wider audience.

Millennium Council

The mission of the White House Millennium Council is to inspire Americans to commemorate our history and celebrate the new millennium in ways that leave a lasting legacy for ourselves and our children.

The objectives for the White House Millennium Council for the next two years are to:

- Develop, coordinate and promote national millennium projects which "Honor the Past -- Imagine the Future," with a special focus on Saving America's Treasures with the help of private sector partners.
- Encourage organizations and individuals to participate in national projects, replicate them at a local level and make their own contributions to mark the millennium.
- Lead a national celebration at the turn of the century, including developing, coordinating, and promoting government and nongovernmental millennium projects.
- Keynoting a conference in Rome on World Cultural Heritage, Preservation, and Social Development.

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