

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. cable	To White House from Ambassador Eizenstat re: Accomplishments (1 page)	09/21/1995	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Vermeer
OA/Box Number: 20017

FOLDER TITLE:

Accomplishments [1]

2013-0534-S

ry1532

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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.

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]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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]

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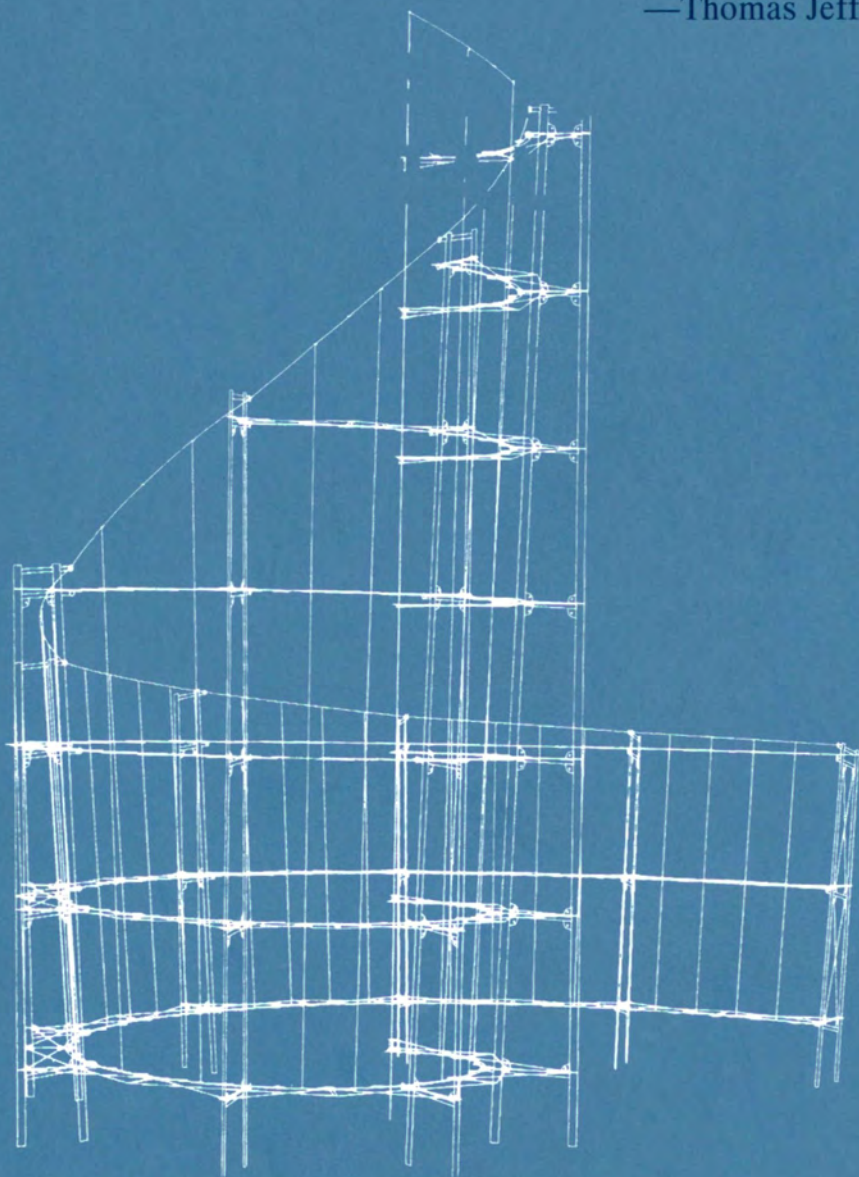
The Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial

Arlington, Virginia

May 21, 1996

*"To preserve the freedom of
the human mind...
and freedom of the press,
every spirit should be ready
to devote itself to martyrdom."*

—Thomas Jefferson



The Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial
Arlington, Virginia



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301



27 FEB 1996

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Hillary

I was pleased that you took time from your busy schedule to write to me after your visit to Baumholder, Germany about our support of military families whose members are deployed to Bosnia. Your interest is gratifying, and I want to assure you that we share your interest and work continually to enhance the quality of life of our people.

I am glad that Ms. Carolyn Becraft, our Deputy Assistant Secretary for Personnel Support and Families had the opportunity to brief you and your staff on the broad range of family programs available to our people a few weeks ago. I want to underscore that we have accentuated those programs that have the most beneficial effect on the families of personnel deployed to Bosnia. For example, the Baumholder Child Development Center (CDC) is offering free child care during Family Support Group and Town meetings, and 10 hours of respite care each month for junior enlisted Service members. The CDC has also increased its normal daily and weekend operating hours. In addition, the Command is using a portion of its Quality of Life funding to subsidize family child care to recruit additional child care providers, and to provide additional hourly care spaces in homes. The military community has also formed a support group for service providers and their staff who have Service members deployed.

Thank you for your interest and support of our men and women in uniform and their families. This means a great deal to them and to us.

Sincerely,

Bill Perry



file accomplishments

UNCLASSIFIED

Printed By: Edward J. Fendly

ACTION SA-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 ANHR-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 NEA-01 PA-02
SS-00 G-00 /006W

-----107136 170933Z /38

R 170929Z JAN 96 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO USIA WASHDC 4727
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
SECSTATE WASHDC 7289
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 000367

USIA

USIA FOR NEA, B/TVP, B/TV, R, R/NA, C, AND D
SECSTATE FOR SA/PAB
WHITE HOUSE FOR LAIPSON

E.O. 12958: N/A
SUBJECT: MRS. CLINTON'S "MY TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA"
CARRIES POLICY BAGGAGE AGAIN

REF: 95 ISLAMABAD 11837

1. POST AGAIN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MRS. CLINTON'S POPULARITY IN PAKISTAN TO COMBAT THE PERCEPTION HERE THAT THE U.S. IS ANTI-ISLAM. WE REPACKAGED THE FIRST LADY'S POSITIVE REMARKS ON ISLAM, MADE DURING HER SLIDE PRESENTATION "MY VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA," ALONG WITH EXCERPTS FROM A MAY 1995 USIA OFFICE OF RESEARCH ARTICLE ENTITLED "U.S. PUBLIC'S VIEW OF ISLAM AND IRAN." THE RESULTING PRODUCT, AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "POLLS SUPPORT HILLARY CLINTON'S CLAIM AMERICANS NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ISLAM" APPEARED IN MAJOR DAILIES IN PAKISTAN'S THREE LARGEST CITIES.

2. AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, MRS. CLINTON'S STATEMENTS ON THE NEED FOR AMERICANS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ISLAM RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE ON NATIONAL TV AND RADIO AND IN EVERY MAJOR PAPER IN PAKISTAN. POST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE GOOD WILL GENERATED BY "MY VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA" TO PLACE BEFORE THE PAKISTANI PUBLIC POLL RESULTS WHICH ACCURATELY PORTRAY AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD ISLAM: THAT MOST AMERICANS, COUNTER TO OFTEN HEARD STATEMENTS HERE, DO NOT RANK "ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM" AS ONE OF THE TOP THREATS FACING THE U.S., DO NOT LINK ISLAM WITH TERRORISM, AND DO NOT LINK OUR DISLIKE FOR IRAN WITH ISLAM. THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS, THE POLL RESULTS INDICATED, DID NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT ISLAM TO FORM AN OPINION, PRECISELY MRS. CLINTON'S POINT.

3. POST RELEASED THE ARTICLE IN ENGLISH AND URDU IN AN ATTEMPT TO COUNTER REPEATED STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS, PARTICULARLY THE MORE WIDELY READ URDU PAPERS, THAT AMERICANS ARE ANTI-ISLAM. WE WERE, THEREFORE, PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT FOUR OF THE SEVEN NEWSPAPERS WHICH CARRIED OUR ARTICLE WERE PROMINENT URDU DAILIES.

4. POST HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION

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Printed By: Edward J. Fendly

TO B/TV AND NEA FOR "MY VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA." WE
WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK R/NA. THIS TYPE OF POLL
INFORMATION IS VERY USEFUL IN HELPING US TO
PORTRAY ACCURATELY U.S. POLICY AND AMERICAN
ATTITUDES ON THIS VERY SENSITIVE AND POTENTIALLY
VOLATILE ISSUE. BERNIER

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PAGE 03 OF 03

ISLAM

7. NO FORMAL EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS YET APPEARED.
PUBLISHED COMMENTS BY JOURNALISTS COVERING THE EVENT HAVE
BEEN LAUDATORY:

8. JASER AL JASER IN "AL IQTISADIA" PRAISES THE FIRST
LADY FOR HER CONCERN FOR SOCIAL ISSUES AND NOTES THAT SHE
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PEOPLE TO INTERACT IN A NON-POLITICAL CONTEXT." THE
ARTICLE ALSO SAYS THAT HILLARY CLINTON'S ADDRESS WILL
BT
#0903

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<MSGID> M2126197

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PAGE 01 OF 03

PRT: FIRST LADY

<PREC> IMMEDIATE <CLAS> UNCLASSIFIED <DTG> 121948Z MAR 96

FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH

TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3422
RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3485
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1035
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1200
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1827
RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
UNCLAS SECTIO^ 01 OF 02 RIYADH 000903

USIA

USIA FOR B/TV, NEA, R, R/MR, I/GNEA, P/FW, B/VOA/X,
B/VOA/N
SECSTATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/P, INR, S/P (LEWIS)
WHITEHOUSE FOR OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: FIRST LADY'S VIDEOTAPED ADDRESS TO SAUDI
CULTURAL FESTIVAL

1. IN RESPONSE TO A USIS RIYADH INITIATIVE SUPPORTED BY AMBASSADOR MABUS, FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON VIDEOTAPED A MESSAGE TO THE JANADRIYA CULTURAL FESTIVAL, AN ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM THAT BRINGS TOGETHER SAUDI, ARAB, MUSLIM AND OTHER INTELLECTUALS, WRITERS, AND SCHOLARS. THE FESTIVAL'S THEME THIS YEAR IS "ISLAM AND THE WEST" AND CONSISTED OF FOUR PANEL DISCUSSIONS. AMONG THE INVITED PARTICIPANTS IN THIS YEAR'S SYMPOSIA ARE SUCH AMERICAN SCHOLARS AND ACTIVISTS AS SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, JOHN ESPOSITO, JAMES ZOGBY, KHALED BLANKENSHIP, RALPH BRAIBANTY, AND ABDUL RAHMAN AL-AMOUDI.

2. MRS. CLINTON'S MESSAGE WAS RELAYED TO USIS RIYADH VIA WORLDNET AND PLAYED AT THE OUTSET OF THE 8 P.M. MARCH 11 PANEL DISCUSSION ENTITLED "THE ISLAMIC THREAT TO THE WEST: FACT OR FICTION." THE VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE WAS FOLLOWED BY AN ARABIC TRANSLATION DELIVERED BY THE CPAO.

3. IN HER FOUR-MINUTE MESSAGE (SEE TEXT IN USIA'S NEWSILE OF MARCH 11), MRS. CLINTON NOTED THAT "AMERICANS

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 03

ARE BEGINNING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RICH TRADITIONS OF ISLAMIC HISTORY AND CULTURE AND TO APPRECIATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ISLAMIC PEOPLE TO OUR OWN CULTURE." SHE REFERRED TO HER OWN INTEREST IN STUDYING ISLAM, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WESTERN SOCIETY "TOO OFTEN MISCHARACTERIZES ISLAM" AND SAID MUSLIM CHILDREN KNOW NOW THAT THEIR RELIGION HAS A PLACE IN THEIR PRESIDENT'S HOUSE -- A REFERENCE TO THE FIRST-EVER EID AL-FITR CEREMONY AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN FEBRUARY.

4. INITIAL REACTION TO THE FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY POSITIVE AMONG SAUDI LEADERS AND OTHER FIGURES. PRINCE BADR IBN ABDUL AZIZ, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD (SANG), WHO WATCHED THE VIDEO MESSAGE IN A SPECIAL ROOM OFF THE MAIN CONFERENCE HALL, PRONOUNCED HIMSELF "SIMPLY DELIGHTED." OTHERS IN HIS PARTY WERE EQUALLY PLEASED. ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, WHO WAS SEATED IN THE MAIN HALL, HAVING SEEN MRS. CLINTON'S STATEMENT, TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO ENSURE THAT IT APPEARED ON THE MAIN TELEVISION NIGHTLY ARABIC NEWS AT 9:30 P.M. A COPY OF THE VIDEOTAPE WAS RUSHED TO RIYADH TV AND WAS INDEED SHOWN AT THE MAIN NEWSCAST THE SAME EVENING. THE SAUDI MASTER OF CEREMONIES EXPRESSED ON BEHALF OF SANG DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE FIRST LADY'S STATEMENT.

5. ALL MEDIA PROVIDED PROMINENT AND EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON'S VIDEOTAPED ADDRESS TO THE JANADRIYA CULTURAL FESTIVAL. SAUDI TV PLAYED HER ENTIRE MESSAGE ON THE 3/11 9:30 P.M. NEWS WITH ARABIC VOICE OVER, REPEATING IT ON THE 3/12 3:00 P.M. NEWS. MOST PAPERS ON 3/12 CARRY THE FULL TEXT OF HER STATEMENT. AL IQTISADIA NOTED IN ITS ARTICLE THAT HILLARY CLINTON IS THE FIRST WOMAN (ALBEIT BY VIDEOTAPE) TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM IN KING FAISAL HALL.

6. SAMPLE HEADLINES:

ASH SHARQ AL AWSAT: ISLAM HAS A PLACE IN THE HOUSE OF THE US PRESIDENT

AL JAZIRA: HILLARY AT JANADRIYA

AL IQTISADIA: AN INTERESTING DEBATE BETWEEN HILLARY CLINTON AND HOFFMANN

ARAB NEWS: HILLARY CALLS FOR MORE DIALOGUE WITH MUSLIMS

RIYADH DAILY: ISLAM HAS A PLACE IN US HISTORY, HILLARY SAYS

OKAZ: HILLARY TO AL JANADRIYA: I'M EAGER TO STUDY

*File
Accomplishments*

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 4, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR: Melanne Vereer
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Deputy Chief of Staff to the
First Lady

Michael McCurry
Assistant to the President and
White House Press Secretary

FROM: Iris Burnett *JB*
Chief of Staff
U.S. Information Agency

SUBJECT: Pakistani Press and TV Highlight First Lady's
Message on Islam

Below is the transcript of a cable received from our post in Islamabad regarding the First Lady's slide presentation "My Visit to South Asia."

Islamabad is delighted to report that it achieved a double success by airing excerpts of the videotape of First Lady Hillary Clinton's slide presentation "My Visit to South Asia" on the Pakistan National Television Network (PTV) while also placing her complimentary remarks on Islam from the video tape in every major paper in Pakistan. The First Lady's message forcefully countered the often-heard perception here that the U.S. is anti-Islam, supporting one of this post's top public diplomacy goals.

PTV aired the complete portion of Mrs. Clinton's presentation on Pakistan during its prime time slot (7:15 p.m.) on Wednesday, December 27. PTV also heavily promoted the program during prime time on December 28.

On December 29 all USIS posts in Pakistan distributed a press release in English and Urdu highlighting Mrs. Clinton's statements on the importance of a better understanding of Islam by Americans and her appreciation for the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan along with a color photograph taken of her at Faisal Mosque in Islamabad. The following day, a Friday when newspaper readership is at its weekly peak and space is at a premium, the full USIS press release appeared prominently in almost every important national daily of the country, from Karachi to Peshawar, both in English and Urdu language press. Many papers carried the story with a color or black and white photo. As it was also released by the two largest national wire services, a large number of regional newspapers are likely to carry the story in more far flung areas like Myderabad, Mulian, Quetta, Bahawalpur and Faisalabad.

2.

Since her March 1995 visit here, Pakistanis have consistently expressed great admiration and respect for Mrs. Clinton. The largest circulation English-language daily "Dawn" carries her weekly syndicated column. Mrs. Clinton's slide presentation and call for improved understanding of Islam was a story the Pakistani press could not resist.



American Council for Voluntary International Action

No. 0037 P. 2/2

*free
unfiled*

National Council

Marjorie Craig Benton
Robin Duke

Dorothy I. Height
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh
Marion Fennelly Levy
Charles H. Percy
Jill Ruckelshaus

December 18, 1995

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, D. C.

**President &
Chief Executive Officer**
Julia Vadala Tafi

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Chairperson
William Reese

As the year draws to a close, I would like to send you thanks for the many ways in which you have promoted women's empowerment around the world in 1995. I thank you for...

Vice Chairperson
Linda Pfeiffer

Secretary
Vivian Lowery Derryck

...sharing the slides of your Asia trip at the White House; I have worked extensively in Asia, and you captured the plight and promise of the women there and made those who attended feel warm and at home and as sisters...

Treasurer
John Costello

Assistant Secretary
Jose A. Aponte

...coming to the InterAction Forum in May, which enlivened and energized our own efforts for gender equity in development...

Assistant Treasurer
Thomas H. Fox

Executive Committee

Sheppie Abramowitz
Nancy Arossee
Richard Cobb
Jane Covey
Peggy Cudin
Julie Dargis
Larry E. Doss
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Margaret Guemero
Sam Harris
Glen Hers
Le Xuan Khoo
Charles McCormack
Jerry Michaus
Sally Montgomery
Andrew Natsios
William Novelt
Vaughn O'Halloran
Mitzi Schroeder
Victoria M. Sheffield
Euse Smith
Rudy von Bernuth
Richard Walden
Susan Weber
Martin Wenick
Kathryn Wolford
Tetsunao Yamamoto

...making the trip to Beijing and presenting the most inspiring and quintessential speech of the Conference and the Forum...

...supporting US participation in the Women's Conference and Conference follow-up, which give women needed structures for strengthening our efforts for the advancement of women...

...and serving as a role model for us all, but especially for our daughters.

Warm wishes to you and your family for a most wonderful Christmas season and peaceful new year.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Kindervatter

Suzanne Kindervatter
Director, Commission on the Advancement of Women

1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 801
Washington, DC 20036
PHONE: (202) 667-8227
FAX: (202) 667-8236
(202) 667-4131
E-MAIL: ia@interaction.org

Printed on recycled paper.

InterAction is a membership association of U.S. private voluntary organizations engaged in international humanitarian efforts including relief, development, refugee assistance, environment, population, public policy, and global education.

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File Accomplishments
21

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 03

PRT: FIRST LADY

<PREC> IMMEDIATE <CLAS> UNCLASSIFIED <DTG> 121948Z MAR 96

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UNCLAS SECTIO^ 01 OF 02 RIYADH 000903

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PAGE 03 OF 03

ISLAM

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<MSGID> M2126197

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Accomplishments

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70 Melanne - Bond -
Just a few changes
as marked.
July 24, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

CC: SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR TONY LAKE
USAID ADMINISTRATOR BRAIN ATWOOD

SUBJECT: REPORT ON CENTRAL EUROPE AND BALTIC TRAVEL
JULY 1-11, 1996

I recently returned from an eleven-day visit to Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Estonia. My purpose was to demonstrate America's support to these countries rejoining the Western democratic family. These states rightfully consider themselves part of Europe, and they are eager to ~~permanently~~ erase the artificial political and cultural dividing lines imposed during fifty years of totalitarian rule. I also visited Finland, which has played an important role in the Baltics region.

As I said during my first stop;

Let there be no doubt that...America will do her part to ensure integration into the family of democratic nations. Millions of Americans fought in two World Wars to keep the cause of freedom alive in all of Europe. And never once did we forget in the aftermath of 1945 that the liberation of Europe was incomplete -- that one-third of a continent was forced to endure dictatorship after dictatorship, oppression after oppression, indignity after indignity.

Now, with tyrants overthrown and the Cold War behind us, we are more determined than ever to help these countries replace the shackles of the past with the liberties of a democratic future. Americans of both political parties agree that the integration of Europe's new democracies is one of our greatest challenges in the post-Cold War world.

The timing of my trip was important. The runoff for the Russian Presidential elections on July 3 was a subject of considerable interest and some anxiety in the region. In addition, many of the countries I visited had either been through their own elections recently or were preparing for elections in the near future. Democracy was very much on their minds.

Each of these countries has approached the transition from a communist to a democratic

PHOTOCOPY
HRC HANDWRITING

overall
 and free market system in its own way, and with varying success, but I was impressed with ~~their~~ dedication to integration into the western family of democratic nations. A ~~consistent~~ *but* theme in my meetings with heads of state and political leaders was their view that this integration depends to a great degree on the leadership of the United States. This is particularly true with respect to ~~the~~ *their views on the* enlargement of NATO.

During my trip, I focused on the social building blocks of democracy, arguing that these countries' shared desire for integration with the West must include a shared commitment to the development of responsible, civil societies. I stressed the need for "an alliance of values" that make democracy stronger ~~rule of law~~, equal rights for women and minorities, freedom of the press, and inclusion of all sectors of society in addressing social and humanitarian issues. *Economic*

The Democracy Network Program, which you announced in Prague in January 1994, is now up and running in eleven countries ~~in~~ Central and Eastern Europe. ~~We~~ met with local groups involved in this program, which is improving social services, helping minorities, addressing women's concerns, and strengthening civil society. ~~We consistently~~ saw evidence of the positive effects USAID has achieved by carefully targeting modest resources to NGOs under this program..

In each country, I was particularly encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment of community groups and non-governmental organizations working at the ground level to ~~building~~ and ~~maintaining~~ democracy. In each country, the NGOs emphasized the critical importance of U.S. assistance, both public and private, in catalyzing their own efforts -- showing them new ways to approach problems and helping them raise funds to sustain their important work. I remain concerned that decreases in the U.S. foreign assistance budget may cause us to prematurely abandon these fledgling NGOs which are playing such a vital role in ~~building~~ and sustaining the new democracies. *creating*

I was pleased to see the partnerships that have emerged from U.S. investments from both the public and private sectors. I witnessed several such activities in the health care arena, where U.S. companies and educational institutions are finding that there are mutual benefits in the relationships they have established with the region's hospitals, medical training facilities, and clinics. The U.S. partners, sometimes with small SEED (Support for East European Democracies) support administered by USAID, are not only improving health conditions in these countries, but they are also demonstrating the principles of local responsibility and initiative.

Problems still exist: some minority communities ~~still~~ feel less than welcome; private community organizations are frustrated by legislative and bureaucratic barriers; opportunities for women are underdeveloped; and some segments of society have yet to realize the benefits that flow from political and economic independence. Nevertheless, the countries and people of the region have made tremendous progress and deserve our continued support.

I was privileged to make a speech on the Fourth of July at the headquarters of Radio Free Europe that was transmitted in 23 languages to countries in the region and the former Soviet Union. I conveyed a message of encouragement from America to people who might question the pace of progress or the pain of change, explaining that today's challenges are not unique to Central Europe, but face all democracies new and old. To meet them, the West needs to expand its democratic family by opening up the institutions that have served us for decades. But even as we do this, we must recognize that democracy is not just about institutions; it is also about the internalization of democratic values in people's hearts, minds and everyday lives. Along with wider political, economic and strategic alliances, I stressed that we must develop an alliance of democratic values to guide us as we confront the unavoidable questions of the 21st century. We will do this the way it has always been done best: by building and strengthening civil society -- the vehicle for our values, the way we convey who we are and what we stand for. And when we encounter the inevitable setbacks and historical bumps in the road, the alliance of values that fuels civil society is what will carry us through.

ROMANIA

My first stop was in Bucharest, where I received an enthusiastic public welcome. Long considered to have been on the wrong side of the old dividing lines in Europe, Romanians are anxious to become a part of the West. They recognize they have an important opportunity now, but are not confident of acceptance, and worry that their neighbors, especially Hungary, are getting more attention. Romanian officials, including President Iliescu, stressed their desire for membership in NATO, which is supported by 97 percent of the population, the highest percentage of any country in the region. But they also expressed the fear that their old rival Hungary, once allowed into NATO, will work to keep Romania out.

Romania faces unique challenges. As I said in my remarks in Bucharest, "It is no secret that the oppressive hand of Communism left a deeper imprint in Romania than almost anywhere in Europe. You suffered through some of the most misguided economic policies, the most cynical disregard for human rights, the most abusive forms of social repression. From the smallest villages to the largest urban centers, the Romanian people bore a daily burden unimaginable in the West. Yet now, you are poised to break through to a new era -- a new era politically, economically and socially."

President Iliescu described to me the complex experience of the Ceaucescu era which began as a popularly supported challenge to Soviet dominance, but degenerated into devastating totalitarianism after Ceaucescu's exposure to Korean Dictator Kim Il Song in the 1970's. As a result, Romania was left far behind most of its neighbors when totalitarianism collapsed in Central Europe. The scars of that experience are still too visible, even upon very young children as I saw tragically during my visit to a USAID-supported pediatric AIDS

clinic. Romania has the highest rates of abortion, maternal mortality and pediatric AIDs in Europe. The NGO community and the government have begun to address these problems. In addition to the excellent pediatric AIDs center, I saw a progressive primary school jointly funded by USAID and UNICEF. The NGO community gave us a sense of how critical their work in Romania will be in advocating government action and in advancing the rights of women, children and minorities.

Romanians still seek clear affirmation that they will be welcomed into the new Europe. At the dedication of an Advanced Center for Nursing Education supported by American academic and health institutions, I reassured Romanian community leaders of U.S. support for Romania's integration with the West. I also stressed that building a democratic society is not easy. While meeting with a group of fledgling non-governmental organizations (NGOs) I noted that Romania, with the widest range of ethnic, religious and cultural groups in central Europe, must build its strength on the diversity of its people. This will require tolerance and a deliberate effort to assure all segments of society are free to participate and contribute.

I could see that Romania's political leadership -- the government and opposition -- is generally committed to democracy. But democracy in Romania needs more nurturing than many other countries of the region. Extremist views continue to play an important role in domestic politics. Nationalism remains a temptation. In fact, we found it necessary to cancel my visit to the Orthodox Kretzulescu church which, supported by the government, had tried successfully to restrict activities by a group of Jehovah's Witnesses just prior to my arrival.

Today, supporters of reform can appeal to the Romanian population's intense desire for integration with the West. However, should the people of Romania ever perceive this goal to be unattainable, reform could be jeopardized. My message to Romania was first one of encouragement for a country which has made tremendous progress with extremely limited resources; and second a reminder of how much remains to be done.

POLAND

Poland has been the most dynamically successful of the Central European countries since 1989. Its democracy has taken firm root despite frequent changes of government since 1989. Poland has instituted the furthest reaching economic reforms and now boasts the highest growth rate in the region. The ex-communist leadership has generally continued the reforms put in place by earlier Solidarity-organized governments. As I said in my speech in Warsaw at Lazinski Palace:

Today, the struggle for freedom is over in Poland. And at last, your nation's future is yours to shape. You have built a vibrant democracy in which elections are routine, the press is skeptical and free, and politicians are held accountable for the decisions they make. You have reached out to your neighbors to

overcome ancient disputes. Your economy is growing faster than any in Europe.

And thanks to the success of your democratic transformation and you economic reforms, America now looks at Poland in a very different way. Today Poland is becoming what you have always wanted it to become: a normal European country with normal European problems -- and most important, with normal European responsibilities.

Poland has made NATO membership its top foreign policy priority -- it enjoys nearly 80 percent support in public opinion polls. The prospect of NATO membership has helped stabilize Polish politics. This certainty of purpose, combined with Poland's economic success, seems to have created a confidence among Poles that the worst is over and the future is bright.

No longer distracted by misgivings about its own future, Poland is now actively "exporting stability" to neighboring countries, especially former adversaries Ukraine and Lithuania, with which it is establishing joint peacekeeping battalions. Poland understands that its eventual membership in NATO should not come at the expense of its neighbors, and is eager to work with us to foster regional stability.

I began my visit to Poland in Krakow, where I spent a day paying my respects to Poland's dramatic and often tragic history. I met with two intellectuals, veteran editor Jerzy Turowicz and Nobel Laureate Czeslaw Milosz, who were instrumental in keeping the flame of democracy and the rights of the individual burning during Communist rule. Accompanied by Poland's First Lady, Jolanta Kwasniewska, I also visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps where millions of people, primarily Jews but also Poles and members of every European nationality were killed by the Nazis in World War II.

Later the same day, I arrived in Warsaw and visited the headquarters of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation where several independent Jewish organizations, including a kindergarten for about 30 children, have begun to rebuild a small but vibrant Jewish community in Poland.

moderated by Mrs. U
In a round-table discussion, *Denise* a group of Polish women who are involved in grassroots and non-governmental organizations told me of their desire to become more active in Poland's evolving democracy. These women represented a variety of political views, from ex-communists to Solidarity veterans, but they shared a common commitment to becoming more directly involved in the building of Poland's democratic society.

In my speech in Poland and elsewhere, I noted that women have suffered disproportionately both from the injustices of Communism and during this period of transition

to the free market. Women are the primary caretakers for their families. They do much of the work in and out of the home. Yet, by and large, their wages have suffered the most since 1989. But I have also seen what happens when women do have access to education, health care, credit, jobs and basic rights. Their families are stronger. Their communities are stronger. Their nations are stronger. Women and children are key to building a civil society -- and to progress and prosperity in every country.

I saw a similar commitment when I met with recipients of \$700,000 in grants through the Democracy Network program administered by USAID. These grants will help Polish NGOs that are building democracy on the front lines in Poland by helping local groups protect their environment, improve health services, and teach children the values of democracy.

The enthusiasm of the women's groups and NGOs for democracy and their active role in building a civil society left me optimistic about Poland's future. USAID's assistance to these vibrant groups is a clear demonstration of what can be achieved through strong partnerships between our country and aid recipients.

I arrived in Poland just after President Yeltsin's re-election, and prior to President Kwasniewski's departure for Washington for his July 8 meeting with you. I met with President Kwasniewski to discuss Poland and its challenges and his upcoming visit to the U.S. He hosted a luncheon to which he invited leaders from Polish academia, media, the arts, politics and social concerns.

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic is a fully functioning parliamentary democracy whose citizens enjoy the rights of free speech and free assembly. It has an independent legislature and free press. The Czech economic miracle -- growth, low unemployment, and macroeconomic stability -- is a shining example of what a free people can accomplish after years of tyranny. Because of the Czech Republic's success, other countries in the region look to it as a model for their development. As a result, the Czech Republic must continue to hold to the highest standards of democracy, including tolerance for minorities.

The key event of my visit to Prague was my speech on the Fourth of July, delivered at the headquarters of Radio Free Europe. I noted the world's admiration for the Czech Republic's bloodless "Velvet Revolution" and urged the Czech people to maintain their high standards for developing a civil society.

President Havel welcomed Ambassador Albright and me to a private dinner at his home. I also visited the Olga Havel foundation facility, an NGO founded by the President's late wife which seeks to integrate into society those ~~who face permanent~~ ^{with disabilities} or long-term health problems. The Foundation is an example of the important work being undertaken in the Czech Republic

by voluntary organizations. I later participated in a meeting with representatives of NGOs active in the Czech Republic, where I emphasized the critical role their organizations must play in the building of a civil society.

I found the Czech NGO community well-established and driving toward establishing financial independence. Private U.S. groups, USAID and the Peace Corps have helped establish laws for philanthropy and have worked with foreign and Czech companies to support this community. I was impressed with how far Czech NGOs have come since 1989, but the groups still urged that U.S. assistance not be cut off prematurely, before the foundation of democracy is self-sustaining.

Ambassador Albright and I met with Prime Minister and Mrs. Klaus where we discussed the recent election in the Czech Republic and the Prime Minister's achievement, earlier that same day, of establishing a new government. I also welcomed the Klaus' personal involvement in the problems of the Roma community. This community faces widespread *job employment* and economic discrimination in the Czech Republic, and many of them have been unable to acquire Czech citizenship due to restrictive conditions and bureaucratic requirements. I learned personally the problems confronted by the Roma community when I met with several of their representatives and visited a USAID-supported hospital and orphanage which accepts and attempts to place Roma children. Under the auspices of USAID, the Charles University Vinohrady Hospital, a major Czech teaching hospital, has teamed up with several U.S. medical institutions to ~~adapt~~ *implement* improvements to health care quality that can be transferred easily to other hospitals in the Czech Republic.

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia is unique among the Central European countries that I visited; although there is grassroots support for democracy, the government's acceptance of basic democratic principles is more ambivalent, as has most recently been demonstrated by official policies which could hinder the development of participatory democracy in Slovakia. Both Ambassador Albright and I drew the attention of the Slovak government to our government's concerns.

I was warmly received by President Kovac, who greatly appreciates your meeting with him last November, and by Prime Minister Meciar, and Mayor Kresanek of Bratislava. During these discussions I expressed America's support for Slovakia's integration into the West. However, I also stressed the importance of protecting essential freedoms as a firm condition of this process. In light of the government's proposed legislation restricting the environment for NGOs, I specifically urged Prime Minister Meciar to recognize the essential contribution which NGO's make to the fabric of democracy. The Prime Minister insisted both to me and to Ambassador Albright that his government is committed to democracy, but that democracy in Slovakia would be "different." Unfortunately, some of that difference may have been demonstrated in the particularly rough way the Prime Minister's security treated

PHOTOCOPY
HRC HANDWRITING

members of the American press who were traveling with me.

My meeting with representatives of NGO's in Bratislava was very encouraging. They were enthusiastic, undaunted and exhibited a sophisticated understanding of the opportunities and limitations of Slovakia's political, economic and social environment. They spoke of the government's pressure on the NGOs, which they likened to the practices of the Communist regime.

I stressed the need for all elements of society to work together, and the importance of individuals taking responsibility for political life. I encouraged the NGO's to continue their work as they provide the opportunities for individuals and groups to exercise their civic responsibility. I expressed the view that it is often difficult for those in elected positions to accept the inevitable criticism that goes with holding public office in a democracy, but this criticism is an essential part of the democratic process. Praising the efficient management of the Democracy Network program, the NGO leaders appealed to me to assure continued U.S. support for their efforts.

I was warmly received by a large crowd of Slovaks in Bratislava's Old Town, all of whom exhibited great affection for the U.S.

HUNGARY

Hungary, like the Czech Republic, has made tremendous progress in re-establishing stable democratic institutions and broadening its civil and participatory society. Because it instituted significant economic reforms as far back as the 1960's, by 1989 Hungary was in many respects well ahead of its neighbors in economic development and ties with the international private sector. However, this head start inhibited the launch of ambitious market reforms after 1989, and Hungary has paid a price.

In spite of Hungary's success in attracting foreign investment to an increasingly dynamic economy, the government is still struggling with the difficulty of providing social services and security in its new economic environment. Social programs in Hungary under Communist rule were generous, at least in theory, and many Hungarians look at capitalism as a much harsher, less caring system. This can also impact on minority issues, and during my meeting with representatives of Hungary's Roma community, I learned that even Hungary's fairly advanced society has not been able to provide for its small minority populations as well as it might. On a more positive front, I visited the Pediatric Oncology Outreach Hospital (POOH) which, through a USAID hospital partnership program, has received help from the Kansas University Medical School, has become one of the premier pediatric oncology centers in Hungary and is now expanding that expertise to other countries in the region.

In my remarks and encounters in Budapest, I stated that we will continue to support Hungary and view Hungary as a good friend and reliable partner. I urged them to stay the

course on economic reform, since sustained economic growth in coming years will bring tangible benefits to Hungarians who now feel left behind. I participated in a roundtable discussion with Hungarian women involved in a wide variety of professions, where I learned of issues confronting women in Hungarian society and stressed the importance of networking and communicating to better leverage skills and resources. The women lamented their insignificant numbers in government leadership and the fact that 50% of the unemployed are women. They underscored the patience that is required to get through this period of transition.

During my stay, I met with President Goncz and Prime Minister Horn and stressed our appreciation for our excellent bilateral relations. I thanked them for Hungary's willingness to host some 4,000 U.S. troops supporting IFOR in Bosnia, and its support in opening the FBI-led International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest. Prime Minister Horn described the political difficulty of continuing the pace of economic and social welfare reform, but stressed his determination to do so, recognizing that while the present generation may not be able to enjoy the fruits of this effort, the next will.

We also discussed Hungary's relations with its neighbors, and the Prime Minister described his government's efforts to bring about a historic reconciliation between peoples in the region. I complimented him on recent progress with Slovakia and the Ukraine, and expressed the hope that efforts with Romania would progress as well.

ESTONIA

In Estonia, the excitement and pride over the 1991 reassertion of independence is a tangible and vibrant part of the national environment. This was made evident to me in the discussions I had with community leaders and representatives of NGO's, in my walk through the Tallinn's Old Town, and in the music and the folk dances that I was drawn into during my visit. It was also evident in my meetings with President Meri and Prime Minister Vahi who impressed me as capable and dynamic leaders.

At the same time, there is a sense of precariousness due to Estonia's continual strained relationship with Russia and a sense of Russian pressure. Estonians are confident of their European heritage, but some fear the West might abandon them should Russia intensify pressure on their country.

I was told before I arrived of the complaints raised by Russia, sometimes in a strident fashion, about the treatment of Estonia's ethnic-Russian minority which makes up 29 percent of the population. I asked about this issue, particularly in my meeting with NGOs and community leaders and was impressed with the broad commitment to progress. A representative of the President's Roundtable on minority issues described the strains on the ethnic-Russian minority that must adjust to its new situation. I heard about grassroots initiatives where localities have created their own discussion roundtables; about communities

which have promoted courses for schoolchildren in civic responsibility; and how rural areas are being taught to establish their own political action groups. I heard the assertion that Estonia is coming to accept a new identity as a multi-ethnic society.

I told them the U.S. believes Estonia has made significant progress as a nation in recognizing problems which need to be addressed, and is working to include the broadest possible spectrum of society in this effort. I encouraged them not to be afraid of the political process -- electoral or non-electoral -- because politics is the process by which societies come to agreement, make decisions, and set priorities. I also specifically praised the government's continuing role in promoting a multi-ethnic society.

I visited the USAID funded hospital partnership between the Tallinn's Women's Clinic, the first in Estonia to offer a broad range of health services for women, and George Washington University. This collaboration seeks to explore length of stay for childbirth and innovative home visit programs which can shorten hospital stays, an issue which concerns both the U.S. and Estonian medical community.

Before leaving Estonia I delivered a speech addressed to the people of all three Baltic nations at Estonia's newly re-opened National Library before an audience of political and community leaders. The speech was also relayed by video monitor to a nearby square where hundreds of Estonians were gathered. I reiterated our support for the Baltics, stressing we stood by them in the past, and would not abandon them in the future. I praised the progress of the Baltic countries in democracy building and the economy, and expressed admiration for their courage. I also publicly stated our support for the Estonian government's enlightened and courageous approach to its minority population, and stressed the importance of carrying this even further.

I reiterated my call for an "alliance of values" to guide our democracies as we confront the inevitable challenges of the 21st century: the challenge of keeping peace in a world where ancient hatreds are slow to die and new ones are too easily born; the challenge of giving all citizens the chance to fulfill their God-given potential and participate fully in the life of their country. I told them:

Democracy gives us the capacity to cope with these challenges.
But democracy can only thrive in the post-Cold War era if we
are able to convey the values underlying it -- the values of
opportunity, responsibility, community and respect for human
dignity.

And just how do we convey those values to ourselves and, more
important, to our children?

We do it by strengthening civil society -- by strengthening the

daily associations and actions that weave together the fabric of democratic life...In short, we are creating an alliance of democratic values.

FINLAND

Finland impressed me as being eager to intensify its already strong institutional ties with the West. During the Cold War, Finland learned how to deal with the Soviet Union and is taking great care to avoid damaging its relationship with Russia now. At the same time, Finland has steadily moved closer to the Western institutions. Curiously, Finland suffers from high unemployment for the same reason as do many CEEs -- the collapse of the Soviet market hurt Finland's (and other CEE's) uncompetitive industries.

In my discussions with President Ahtisaari and other Finnish officials, I was impressed by Finland's sense of responsibility for strengthening the security of its Baltic neighbors, especially Estonia. Finland, now an EU member, sees itself as a major actor in the economic and security affairs of the eastern Baltic Sea. This is a role we should encourage.

In Finland I participated in a lively discussion with prominent women in Finland, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense, the Speaker of the Parliament, and the Governor of the Central Bank.

CONCLUSIONS

The countries that I visited have made great strides in developing the kinds of dynamic civil societies necessary to support healthy democracies. My trip demonstrated the importance of American leadership and the contributions we have made to this effort through our assistance programs, the Peace Corps, the contributions of American NGOs, the work of our embassies and by example.

These countries still face many challenges and we have an interest in contributing to their continued success. Our SEED assistance program in Central Europe will move toward being phased out as these countries "graduate" from our assistance. All countries I visited are mindful of this. Estonia is due for its graduation in September of this year, but we are wisely continuing some excellent regional programs, including the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund, the Democracy Network, the Baltic regional energy project, and our law and democracy program. We can still help throughout the region in many ways by taking advantage of other regional programs as countries graduate from bilateral assistance, and by helping to direct the resources of international institutions and American private organizations. We should do so.

In September I will host a meeting at the White House with American government officials and representatives of American foundations to determine how we might work together more effectively to leverage limited resources.

Minorities in particular continue to be an important issue for most of the countries of the region. Their situation in many ways reflect the fractured nature of society and politics which has caused instability and conflict in the past, and could do so again in the future. It is important for the United States to remain focused on this issue in whatever way we usefully can, from providing support to specific institutions to promoting progress on bilateral treaties between nations.

While my discussions were not specifically directed towards economic issues, it is clear that progress in economic development remains key to political and social stability in the region. I saw much evidence of the U.S. contribution to the impressive growth that has taken place since 1989, from SEED programs to helping governments put in practice market economic principles to the substantial investments by U.S. companies. I hope this can continue.

Nowhere, however, was the impact of the United States more noticeable and more appreciated than in our leadership in enhancing the independence and security of these nations by promoting their integration into the fabric of western institutions. And, among these institutions, none is perceived to be more important than NATO. Every leader with whom I spoke stressed the critical importance of developing the process of NATO enlargement in a way which avoids any new dividing lines -- real or perceived -- in Europe. This is certainly the most important challenge facing our government in this region for the foreseeable future.

Central Europe deserves our continued support. Some countries need more reassurance than others, but all require attention. It was clear that the governments and the people in all the countries that I visited appreciated and were encouraged by the high profile attention of my visit. As decisions critical to the future of this region are addressed by the West over the next year, I believe it will be important to maintain this kind of attention.

The United States devoted our leadership and billions of dollars of our resources to waging the struggle against communism. Today these countries are free, they are making impressive progress on the road to democracy, but they will confront many challenges until they have solidified their democratic, free market transformation and joined the democratic community of nations. Our support and encouragement continue to be critical.

ROUTINE

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*free foreign press
Melanie
accomplishment*

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PRT: FIRST LADY

SIT: GRUMMON NSC PARRIS

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUEHVV/ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE
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UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 000367

USIA

USIA FOR NEA, B/TVP, B/TV, R, R/NA, C, AND D
SECSTATE FOR SAPAB
WHITE HOUSE FOR LAIPSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: MRS. CLINTON'S "MY TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA"
CARRIES POLICY BAGGAGE AGAIN

REF: 95 ISLAMABAD 11837

1. POST AGAIN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MRS. CLINTON'S POPULARITY IN PAKISTAN TO COMBAT THE PERCEPTION HERE THAT THE U.S. IS ANTI-ISLAM. WE REPACKAGED THE FIRST LADY'S POSITIVE REMARKS ON ISLAM, MADE DURING HER SLIDE PRESENTATION "MY VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA," ALONG WITH EXCERPTS FROM A MAY 1995 USIA OFFICE OF RESEARCH ARTICLE ENTITLED "U.S. PUBLIC'S VIEW OF ISLAM AND IRAN." THE RESULTING PRODUCT, AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "POLLS SUPPORT HILLARY CLINTON'S CLAIM AMERICANS NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ISLAM" APPEARED IN MAJOR DAILIES IN PAKISTAN'S THREE LARGEST CITIES.
2. AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, MRS. CLINTON'S STATEMENTS ON THE NEED FOR AMERICANS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ISLAM RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE ON NATIONAL TV AND RADIO AND IN EVERY MAJOR PAPER IN PAKISTAN. POST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE GOOD WILL GENERATED BY "MY VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA" TO PLACE

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BEFORE THE PAKISTANI PUBLIC POLL RESULTS WHICH ACCURATELY PORTRAY AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD ISLAM: THAT MOST AMERICANS, COUNTER TO OFTEN HEARD STATEMENTS HERE, DO NOT RANK "ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM" AS ONE OF THE TOP THREATS FACING THE U.S., DO NOT LINK ISLAM WITH TERRORISM, AND DO NOT LINK OUR DISLIKE FOR IRAN WITH ISLAM. THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS, THE POLL RESULTS INDICATED, DID NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT ISLAM TO FORM AN OPINION, PRECISELY MRS. CLINTON'S POINT.

3. POST RELEASED THE ARTICLE IN ENGLISH AND URDU IN AN ATTEMPT TO COUNTER REPEATED STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS, PARTICULARLY THE MORE WIDELY READ URDU PAPERS, THAT AMERICANS ARE ANTI-ISLAM. WE WERE, THEREFORE, PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT FOUR OF THE SEVEN NEWSPAPERS WHICH CARRIED OUR ARTICLE WERE PROMINENT URDU DAILIES.

4. POST HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION TO B/TV AND NEA FOR "MY VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA." WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK R/NA. THIS TYPE OF POLL INFORMATION IS VERY USEFUL IN HELPING US TO PORTRAY ACCURATELY U.S. POLICY AND AMERICAN ATTITUDES ON THIS VERY SENSITIVE AND POTENTIALLY VOLATILE ISSUE. BERNIER

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PRT: RABNER

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6167
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 3920
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 2758
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RHBUE/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 2125
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 8635
UNCLAS ASUNCION 000114

STATE FOR ARA/BSC (PLANTY) AND CA (A/S RYAN)

WHITE HOUSE FOR FIRST LADY'S OFFICE (NICOLE RABNER)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PREL, PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAYANS DELIVER RECORD ADOPTIONS BEFORE
JUDICIAL RECESS: A HAPPY ENDING, BUT PROBLEMS
REMAIN

REFS: (A) 95 ASUNCION 3977, (B) 95 STATE 291542

1. SUMMARY. A WELL-TIMED LETTER FROM FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, INTENSE LOBBYING BY THE EMBASSY AND TIRELESS WORK FROM OUR CONSULAR SECTION RESULTED IN A RECORD 90 ADOPTIONS COMPLETED UNDER THE WIRE BEFORE THE PARAGUAYAN JUDICIAL SUMMER RECESS. THIS OUTCOME IS A CREDIT TO USG ADVOCACY FOR AMERICANS ABROAD AND A GENUINE HAPPY ENDING FOR THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS. NEVERTHELESS, THE PARAGUAYAN ADOPTION SYSTEM IS STILL FRUSTRATING AND UNPREDICTABLE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED DEPARTMENT HELP TO GET THAT WORD OUT TO THE AGENCIES AND TO THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. REF A AND PREVIOUS REPORTED THE SERIOUS BOTTLENECK OF U.S. ADOPTION CASES IN PARAGUAY AROUND CHRISTMAS. WITH THE NEARLY 2-MONTH PARAGUAYAN JUDICIAL RECESS LOOMING, 70-PLUS AMERICAN ADOPTIVE PARENTS IN ASUNCION APPEALED TO THE EMBASSY FOR HELP.

3. IN RESPONSE, EMBASSY ADVOCACY FOR THE BELEAGUERED AMERICANS HAS STEPPED UP, INCLUDING CONTACTS WITH

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PRESIDENT WASMOSY, SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT PACIELLO AND WITH EVERY MEMBER OF THE APPELLATE JUVENILE COURT.

4. HOWEVER, IT WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY A PERSONAL LETTER FROM FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TO MRS. WASMOSY (REF. B) WHICH MOVED THE ADOPTIONS ISSUE TO THE FRONT BURNER. ACTIVE FOLLOW-UP ON THE PARAGUAYAN SIDE BY MRS. WASMOSY'S CHIEF OF STAFF, LEILA RACHID, WAS ALSO A KEY FACTOR IN MOVING NOT ONLY THE COURTS, BUT ALSO THE CIVIL REGISTRY AND GOP PASSPORT OFFICE.

5. BY THE DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE, THE COURTS HAD SIGNED OUT 90 ADOPTION DECREES FOR U.S. CITIZEN PARENTS. THE EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION HANDLED 25 PERCENT OF THE ENTIRE YEAR'S ADOPTIONS IN A WEEK, AND DID SO WITH EQUANIMITY AND PROFESSIONALISM -- DESITE FURLONGHS AND NO PAY.

COMMENT

6. INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS IN PARAGUAY ARE TERRIBLY COMPLICATED AND THE FRUSTRATION LEVEL OF AMERICAN ADOPTIVE PARENTS GENERALLY RUNS FROM HIGH TO OFF THE SCALE. THIS EPISODE ENDED WELL. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT REALISTICALLY SUSTAIN THE LEVEL OF PRESSURE ON THE GOP APPLIED IN THE LAST 10 DAYS OF DECEMBER. FURTHERMORE, THE PARAGUAYANS ARE TRYING TO CLEAN UP THE ADOPTION PROCESS, IN PART, BECAUSE WE HAVE ASKED THEM TO. SOME DEGREE OF CHAOS WILL INEVITABLY PLAGUE THE REFORM EFFORT AND THIS WILL NOT BE LOST ON AMERICAN ADOPTIVE PARENTS. POST WILL CONTINUE TO NEED DEPARTMENT'S HELP IN WARNING AGENCIES AND PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS ABOUT THE DELAYS AND FRUSTRATIONS OF ADOPTING IN PARAGUAY.

HARRIS

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UNCLASSIFIED

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accomplishments

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 25, 1996

His Excellency Alberto Fujimori
President of the Republic of Peru
Lima

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your kind letter reflecting on the opening of the Princess of Ampato exhibit last month and inviting me to visit Peru. I was honored to participate with you in the opening ceremony and thrilled to see "Juanita" close-up. The exhibit was a great success, attracting large numbers of visitors for the entire month. You and your Government deserve our gratitude and congratulations for making it possible.

I also appreciate your invitation to visit Peru and witness first-hand the many programs you have instituted and supported to improve the lives of women and children throughout your country. I would certainly enjoy such a visit at an appropriate time.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Hillary Rodham Clinton

bcc: NSC
Ambassador
Melanie ✓

Lima, June 5, 1996

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States
Office of the First Lady
United States of America

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

It was a pleasure to meet you again on my trip to Washington two weeks ago. I want to thank you for your kind support at the unveiling of National Geographic's exhibit of the Princess of Ampato. All Peruvians are proud of the genuine interest and enthusiasm of the American people for this wonderful visitor from my country's mystical past. Your presence at the opening made the moment even more special.

I was particularly pleased that you could attend the ceremony because I have long admired your leadership and outspoken defense on issues of women's rights and gender equality. Your presence and influence at Beijing was crucial in making the event the success that it was. As you may know, my Administration has moved boldly and quickly to empower women with a greater ability to control their lives. To that end, I have tried to use the Presidency as a source of real policy change to improve the lives of women in Peru. Over strong opposition, Peru now has a family planning program that provides information and services to Peruvian women of all income groups. Similarly, I have tried to make women's issues and women's empowerment a cornerstone of my social policies—including these themes in my inaugural address and in the key speeches in my recent U.S. visit, and ensuring that they remain a priority throughout my Administration.

To that end, I would like to invite you to come to Peru and allow me to personally escort you to view the women's education, family planning and technical training projects we have begun in rural areas in my country. Your presence in Peru, on a trip specifically targeted to women's issues, would send a strong message of change to the region.

All Peru would be honored to have you as our guest. Please consider the invitation; we would greatly benefit from your presence and advice.

Yours sincerely,



Alberto Fujimori
President of Peru.

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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]
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- 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]

ANASUYA SENGUPTA

2E-102, DOS Housing Colony
Airport Road, Domlur
Bangalore, India - 560 071.

15th August, 1995.

Dear Mrs Clinton,

It seems rather strange (and terribly difficult) to be writing to the First Lady of the United States... and how many letters to you begin this way?

I can, however, testify that when I met with you in New Delhi in March, I felt extraordinarily inspired. I almost entirely forgot who you were in the excitement of finding out how you were - I do hope you will take this as the compliment it is meant to be!

It has been four months, Ma'am, since you read out my poem at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation on your tour of SE Asia. Since then, other than battling with the media (thankfully a short term phenomenon), I have had to battle with my final year Economics exams; I'm not sure which of the two take top honors for being unpredictable and terrifying. Anyhow, I did survive long enough to graduate with a first division (wonders will never cease) and am now with my family in Bangalore, getting my breath back.

For the wonderful gift you gave me - of sharing my thoughts with the world - I thank you. I had never felt that any of my words were capable of moving people to tears, leave alone worthy of their attention. But for you, I may never have truly appreciated the power of words - for that too, I thank you.

I suppose, at 21, I share a certain impatience with all my friends - we want the world to change overnight, through the power of people's actions. I guess those are the fires and the fallacies of being young. You hope every day will be Christmas, and every activist, a Santa Claus.

Perhaps if we tempered our idealism with some amount of realism, then we might just make a difference some day. Maybe not of the earth shaking bull-dozer kind, but at least of the little, hug-at-night variety! Like I had mentioned to you, I will be applying to universities in the US for Environmental Management; hopefully, that is the first step in the right direction.

I'm sure I join a great many women across the world in wishing you every strength for the Beijing Conference. I understand that some issues are likely to remain unresolved, but I'm sure there will be unanimity in the wish for a better world for women. Ergo - a better world for everyone.

I feel privileged to be an educated young woman capable of fighting for justice and empowerment. I also feel privileged, Mrs Clinton, to have met someone like you who already does fight for both.

With best wishes,

Ananya Singh

P.S. A hug to Socks - I love cats!

DRAFT

Head Start

" Head Start reminds us that our country cannot afford to waste its young or ignore their families...Head Start creates the sense of community that all of us need in our lives. The dedication of thousands of volunteers, staff and parents helps create the special relationship that defines the Head Start program. Head Start is indeed a celebration of human diversity and creativity."

-- President Clinton, May 18, 1994

Background:

- Launched in 1965 as a comprehensive child development program, Head Start has provided a beacon of hope and support to more than 13 million low-income children and their families across the United States over its 30-year history.
- Hallmarks of Head Start are its **comprehensive** approach to child and family needs, bringing together education, health, social services, parent involvement, and disability services; its **focus on parents**; and its **grounding in the community**.
- In FY95, Head Start served more than 750,000 children through a network of more than 2000 grantees and delegate agencies operating almost 40,000 classrooms and nearly 600 home visiting programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the outer Pacific Islands and nearly 150 tribal communities.
- Most children served in Head Start programs are 3- and 4-year-olds from low income families. About 95% of Head Start children come from families with incomes below the Federal poverty line. About 13% of children have a diagnosed disability.
- Head Start has a 30-year history of bipartisan support, which was renewed in 1994 with a virtually unanimous, bipartisan reauthorization.

Administration Position:

The Administration is firmly committed to Head Start, as a critical investment in our nation's future and a program that has 30 years of success in preparing children for school and for life.

The Administration is committed to **ensuring quality** in all Head Start programs, so that every child experiences the comprehensive, high quality services that are the core of the Head Start vision; to **responding to the emerging needs of today's families**, such as full-day, full-year services so that parents can work; and to **partnerships** between Head Start and key state, local, and community institutions that provide services and support to families.

Every budget request by this Administration has proposed a major investment in Head Start, because investing in young children's education and early development is the wisest choice we can make as a nation. The President's FY95 request proposed a \$700 million funding increase; the FY 1996 request proposes a \$400 million increase. The President's long range budget plan provides funding increases for Head Start of \$1.5 billion over 7 years, from 1995 to 2002.

*file
Admin.
accomplishments
on children*

Administration Accomplishments:

- **Created a renewed, bipartisan vision of Head Start for the 21st Century.** The bipartisan Head Start reauthorization of 1994, crafted with the President's personal commitment and sponsored by senior members of Congress of both parties, was based on the most thorough review in the history of the program.

"[Head Start] was my new start. I began to face each day as a learning experience. I was able to put down the drugs and pick up Head Start. Each time I felt like I wanted to use drugs, I'd go over to the Head Start program, and I too would feel safe and wanted....Today, we live in our own house in a quiet neighborhood and I am working on my associate's degree. If things go well, I will graduate with a law degree at the same time my youngest son graduates from high school. Head Start taught me how to set goals and achieve them." -- Head Start parent Diane Hebert, Massachusetts, in testimony before Congress.

- **Added 131,000 children to Head Start since 1992.** Funding has increased over the same period by \$1.3 billion, or 61%.

By this fall, the Commission on Economic Opportunity, the Head Start grantee in Rensselaer County, New York, will complete a \$2.2 million Intergenerational Head Start and Day Care center in North Greenbush, New York. The center will provide day care for 108 children (infants through school age), Head Start for 100 children, and services to 18 adults. Construction for the center was supported by grants from several Federal and state agencies. The program plans to raise corporate, individual and community donations which will be matched by the Early Childhood Investment Fund, making this a successful intergovernmental, public and private partnership.

- **Supported working parents, by adding 20,000 full-day/ full-year slots to Head Start in 1994 alone.**

The KCMC Child Development program in Kansas City, Missouri operates a "New Start" program that focuses on family self-sufficiency and builds upon Head Start services through extending comprehensive quality child care services from part-day to 12 hours a day, 12 months a year. The New Start program includes a unique collaboration between Head Start and the JOBS program, (Missouri FUTURES). FUTURES and Head Start eligible families are provided the comprehensive services of both programs through joint case management between Head Start staff (family advocates) and the State JOBS staff (FUTURES Advocates).

- **Made and kept a commitment to quality services for all children -- a commitment backed up with dollars and with tough new policies.** In 1994 alone, local Head Start programs invested \$289 million in critical quality improvements such as hiring much-needed family services staff, renovating out-dated facilities, and increasing teacher salaries to an average of \$16,700. During the same period, 72 problem grantees have shaped up as a result of intensive technical assistance, and 20 more grantees have been terminated or have given up their grants because they were unable to provide quality services even with support and assistance.
- **Offered the opportunity for an Early Head Start to almost 20,000 babies and toddlers and their families.** Responding to research that demonstrates the importance of the first

three years of life, Congress and the Administration created the Early Head Start program in 1994 so that our most vulnerable children won't have to wait till they are three or four years old to get a Head Start on healthy development.

"Early Head Start marks a turning point in America's commitment to our youngest children and their families. By focusing on child development, a new era of support to very young children and their families is born, building on the experiences and lessons learned from existing Head Start programs."

"Advisory Committee on Services for Families with Infants and Toddlers"

Early Childhood: Head Start and Child Care

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Clinton Administration strives to support children's healthy development and enable parents to pursue economic independence by providing increased opportunities for early education and improved parenting skills through the Head Start and Early Head Start pre-school programs, by providing working parents with resources for child care, and by assisting states in ensuring that their child care programs are safe, accessible and of high quality.

BACKGROUND

HEAD START -- Head Start has a 30 year history as the nation's premier early childhood program and as one of the most successful bipartisan efforts in this country's history. It has served over 14.5 million children and their families, enabling children to start school ready to learn while helping parents become actively involved in their children's education as well as going back to school and finding jobs. It is a program that works because it is community based and depends on parents and other community volunteers for its success. Head Start embodies the new, bipartisan vision of government's new, reinvented role in today's society.

As a nationwide program, Head Start plays a critical role as a national laboratory for innovative approaches in early childhood education. It is the testing ground for state-of-the-art approaches to teaching young children and working with their families. It serves as a catalyst to the whole early childhood field because of its national prestige and comprehensiveness.

CHILD CARE -- Every day, millions of children spend part or all of the day in child care, while their parents are at work, in school, or in training. The number of children in child care of all sorts -- in home, family child care, and center-based care -- has grown dramatically over the last twenty years as more and more mothers have entered the work force.

The Federal government subsidizes child care through two basic mechanisms: tax credits (which are mostly used by middle and upper income families) and subsidies to low-income working families and welfare recipients making the transition to work. In 1991, approximately \$2.5 billion was claimed in the Dependent Care Tax Credit. Currently, we spend almost \$2 billion on four main subsidy programs for low-income families in work, training,

and education.

Despite these supports, millions of families face serious hurdles in obtaining quality child care. The need for subsidy continues to grow as low-income families who pay for care spend more than a quarter of their income on child care. All across the country communities report long waiting lists for child care support.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HEAD START -- Since 1992, funding for Head Start has increased by \$1.32 billion, or 61%. As a result:

- o An additional 131,000 children have been enrolled into the Head Start program.
- o 20,000 more children will be able to be served in full-day full-year programs to support parents in work or in training. An additional 100,000 more children are in programs with extended hours to meet family needs.
- o Head Start programs across the country are providing quality services. Programs have hired family service workers, repaired or replaced unsafe facilities and equipment, and increased teacher salaries to an average of \$16,700.

This Administration, with the Congress, initiated the Early Head Start program for pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers. In developing this new program, the Administration engaged in consultation with parents, practitioners, and researchers to set forth a vision and set of principles that exemplify high quality care and support during the early years of a child's life. We expect that 20,000 infants and toddlers will be served in FY 1995 through this important program.

In early 1994, the Secretary of Health and Human Services received recommendations from an advisory committee to keep Head Start responsive to the changing needs of America's families and to forge closer linkages with other relevant service programs.

Head Start was redesigned to meet the needs of American's children and families through last years bipartisan reauthorization which examined every feature of the program and was signed by President Clinton on May 18, 1994. This redesign serves as the blueprint for the program as we move into the 21st century.

In the last year, the Administration has moved forcefully to ensure accountability and take prompt action against poorly performing programs. Of 125 identified poor performers, 72 have improved after receiving intensive technical assistance and 20 have been terminated or voluntarily relinquished their grants after they were unable to improve to a satisfactory level.

Partnerships with the States have been broadened. We are now funding 22 State Collaboration grants and by FY 1996 State Collaboration grants will be funded in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. These grants will emphasize better coordination between Head Start and other early childhood programs in the State.

A wide array of partnerships to link Head Start to other services for low-income children and families have been established. For example:

- o Interagency agreement with the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) to help Head Start families access WIC services.
- o Interagency agreement with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the establishment of 24 new child care programs in public housing sites.
- o Partnership with the Department of Education to coordinate other federal early childhood efforts with Head Start.
- o Cooperative agreement with Americorps to place volunteers in Head Start programs operated by Indian and Migrant Head Start grantees.

CHILD CARE -- Over the past two years the Administration has worked to ensure increased resources for child care, streamlined operations, increased technical assistance efforts, and provide more flexibility to states.

The President's budget for the last two years each year included investment in child care. Our welfare reform package included funds to continue the child care guarantee for families moving towards self-sufficiency and an increase of \$1.5 billion for working poor families.

The Administration has streamlined federal child care by bringing together the operations of the four main child care programs administered by ACF into a Child Care Bureau.

We are stimulating partnerships between the health and child care communities to ensure safe and healthy environments for children

in child care.

We have launched a National Child Care Information Center to disseminate child care information, publications, and resources to grantees and the public.

We convened the states to share promising practices around key issues such as: ensuring health and safety in child care, infant care and school age care.

VISION

All children from birth to age three need early childhood experiences that honor their unique characteristics and provide love, warmth, and positive learning. All families need encouragement and support from their communities so they can achieve their own goals and provide a safe and nurturing environment for their very young children.

There is a growing consensus that early childhood development must focus on two generations: the parent and the child. We want children to have safe and health environments that promote their development and parents to have a learning environment for themselves as well as information to enable them to make informed choices from a variety of settings for their children.

As the life situations for families change, as they move from welfare to work, or transition from one job to another, there should be as much continuity of care for their children as possible. Child care can be a natural setting for family support; a place where parents are actively involved in their children's lives, a place where efforts are made to protect and promote children's health.

Early childhood education is also an area of employment for the millions of mostly women who dedicate their lives to taking care of our nation's children everyday. The quality of the work environment for these providers is a strong determinant of the quality of care and education that is provided. Efforts must be made to ensure adequate wages and ongoing supports to this work force.

UPDATE

The House included a Child Care Block Grant in its welfare reform bill, H.R. 4. This block grant consolidated all the major child care programs, including the IV-A programs (AFDC and transitional child care, and the at-risk child care program) and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), and cut the funding by \$1.6 billion over five years. It eliminates the IV-A child care guarantees (for JOBS participants and others). It also

eliminates State matching requirements, which had existed in the IV-A programs, and removes the quality protections and set-asides which existed in the CCDBG statute.

The welfare reform legislation passed by the Senate Finance Committee eliminates all the IV-A child care programs while maintaining an extremely limited child care assurance for mandated work activity participants with children under age 6, but leaving all others out in the cold.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee recently passed a bipartisan bill reauthorizing the CCDBG; it made some minor modifications to the existing CCDBG program, but preserved the funding and quality protections. It also included a provision which carries the CCDBG requirements and standards over to other federally funded programs and promotes integrated administration of child care activities.

ANECDOTES

" I greatly appreciate the help paying for child care. My child care provider is very good and I know that my son is in a good place while I work. He learns and has fun with a good little group of kids. Without help with child care, life would be a lot more stressful as a single parent that it already is. "

"If I had to pay for child care myself I wouldn't have enough money to live on and get through each month. My rent and child care costs would take more that three-quarters of my take home pay alone. Thank you so much for this child care assistance program."

Derek Williams was born with pulmonary atresia, a congenital heart disease, and was ill for the first six years of his life. Local day care centers would not accept Derek but Head Start offered him assistance for two years. Derek is now a senior in high school and an honor roll student. He is the vice-president of his class, a member of Who's Who among American High Schools, taking advanced placement math classes, and in the top 15% of his graduating class.

Shirley Crutch was an active volunteer at Head Start while two of her children were enrolled. She became a cook for Head Start and held that position for seven years. Later she was hired first as a teacher assistant and then as a Group Teacher. She earned a college degree in 1986, and earned a masters degree in Early Childhood Education in 1994. (New York, Region II)

"With the child care assistance the JOBS program is providing me,

I am a full-time student on the Dean's List at Front Range Community College. After graduating from school, I hope to become a teacher with the Head Start Program and work with children who have special needs."

--Laura Rowley, Colorado JOBS participant

"If they [the Republicans] cut child-care funding, what am I going to do with these people? I can't help them get jobs. The first time they get a kid with chicken pox - bam! They're home for two weeks and they're out"

--Karol Lightner, a San Diego GAIN social worker

**Child Welfare:
Child Protection, Family Preservation and Support, Adoption and
Family Violence Prevention**

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This Administration aims to support the safety, permanency and healthy well-being and development for all children and families. We seek to accomplish this in partnership with the States by helping families improve their abilities to care for their children through the provision of child protective services, family preservation and support, foster care, adoption, and assistance to abandoned infants.

BACKGROUND

CHILD ABUSE -- In 1993, nearly 3 million children -- 4% of America's children -- were the subjects of abuse and neglect reports. This represents an increase of almost 25% since 1988. About 40% of the reports were substantiated, affecting almost 1 million children. At the end of 1993, almost 450,000 children were in foster care, nearly a 50% increase since 1988. These are large and growing numbers, and they represent a particularly vulnerable group of children and families.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of many committed and talented people at all levels, the child welfare system today is in crisis, overwhelmed by the increasing caseloads and the increasing intensity of need of the families and children it serves.

In the past few years, courts in 22 states and the District of Columbia have found that the child welfare system violates state and federal laws for protecting abused and neglected children. Courts have found that many reports of child abuse are not investigated, children in foster care lack case plans and in some instances have no caseworker, children are not provided with basic protections, and children under agency care continue to be damaged both at home and in foster care.

ADOPTION -- In 1990, approximately 69,000 children in foster care had a goal of adoption. Of those children, parental rights had been terminated for 20,000, so they were legally free to be adopted and awaiting placement in an adoptive home.

FAMILY VIOLENCE -- While accurate information on the extent of domestic violence is difficult to obtain because of extensive underreporting, it has been estimated that about 2.1 million

women were victims of domestic violence each year from 1978 to 1982.

It has also been found that children whose mothers were victims of wife battery were twice as likely to be abused themselves as those children whose mothers were not victims of abuse. When children witness violence in the home they have been found to suffer many of the negative symptoms that are experienced by children who are directly abused.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND SUPPORT -- Investments in the family are smart money. Real progress has been made under the Clinton Administration in promoting the personal safety of America's children and families.

This Administration won bipartisan support for a comprehensive Family Preservation and Support program, in which states examine the changes that are needed to make services more responsive to the needs of individuals and families and more sensitive to the context in which they are to be delivered. As a result, each state, in partnership with the Federal Government, is developing a comprehensive plan to strengthen and integrate children's services in the child welfare system.

This Administration has launched seven national resource centers to provide information and technical assistance related to abused, neglected, and abandoned children and their families.

CHILD WELFARE -- The Clinton Administration is reinventing child welfare monitoring. We are implementing a system comprehensive enough to address ongoing stewardship responsibilities, but at the same time putting greater emphasis on State/Federal partnerships. The new Federal role focuses on improving services and the outcomes experienced by children and families served through the public child welfare system rather than merely determining whether Federal laws, regulations, and policies are being followed.

FAMILY VIOLENCE -- Violence is not only a criminal justice problem but a major public health problem. With enactment of the Crime Bill and a total of \$1.4 billion over the next six years, the Administration will support after-school activities for at-risk youth, launch a national domestic violence hotline, enhance shelter services for women and children, and increase economic development and employment opportunities within disadvantaged

communities.

The Administration has built four national resource centers with 1-800 number access provide comprehensive information, policy development, and technical assistance to enhance community response to and prevent domestic violence.

We have launched an effort to coordinate child abuse and family violence programs. Demonstration projects are underway to help improve services to families where both child abuse and spouse/intimate abuse are present.

ADOPTION -- The Administration is ensuring that states make full and effective use of the Adoption Assistance program, which provides critical economic support to families who adopt special needs children, since they may have large medical and other expenses. Under the Clinton Administration, the number of children for whom adoption subsidies are provided has increased by about 30%.

Special grants have been provided to public and private agencies to develop successful models for recruiting families and providing post-legal adoption services.

The Administration has conducted national and regional leadership conferences to build the capacity of public and private agencies to facilitate the adoption of minority and special needs children.

The Administration is committed to fully enforcing the Multiethnic Placement Act, whose non-discrimination and recruitment provisions should increase the number of children who are adopted.

VISION

The Clinton Administration is committed to ensuring the safety of children and all family members and to support and strengthen families, including biological, adoptive, foster and extended families. We want to enhance parents' ability to create stable and nurturing home environments that promote healthy child development. Where possible, we want to assist children and families to resolve crises, connect with necessary services, and remain safely together in their homes.

Children become part of the child welfare system because they have been abused or neglected or are in danger of abuse or neglect. Our goals for child welfare programs are to: assure the safety of all children; prevent unnecessary separation of children from their families; improve the quality of care and

services they receive as well as the systems that provide them; ensure permanent homes for children through reunification with parents, through adoption, or through another permanent living arrangement; and ensure child and family well-being.

UPDATE

The House-passed welfare reform bill (HR 4) includes a child protection block grant that would reduce federal funding for these services by an estimated \$3.5 billion through FY 2000. This proposal eliminates important safeguards for children and by cutting funding, would reduce the likelihood of states making desperately needed improvements in their child welfare systems. In addition, because a block grant cannot adjust to address changes in social and economic conditions, the House proposal eliminates the current guarantee of protection for abused and neglected children.

When the Senate Finance Committee approved its welfare reform legislation on May 26, it did not include provisions affecting child welfare programs. This means that the Senate Finance proposal would continue current law regarding foster care, adoption assistance, family preservation and support, and child welfare services.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over the the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and two small discretionary child welfare programs, has begun to hold hearings on child abuse prevention and treatment, and intends to mark-up a bill on June 14 (the bill will be introduced that week).

The rescission bill approved by the House-Senate conference committee would repeal FY 95 funds for the "Community Schools" youth development program funded under the Crime Act.