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Gloria G. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

August 16, 1996

Ms. Melanie Verveer
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer:

I want to thank you for meeting with Mary Alice Cisneros, Margarita Roque and me on Thursday, July 18, 1996, regarding the Avance Family Support and Education Programs. I would also like to thank you for the kind words of support expressed on behalf of the First Lady. Her commitment to Avance is appreciated and will truly aid in our organization's expansion not only within the United States but neighboring countries in Latin America.

Developments have occurred which I would like to share with you as I believe they will lead to a more productive White House meeting in November. Since we last met, a preliminary training budget has been submitted for consideration by the OAS Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). If approved, the allocated funds would enable groups from OAS Inter-American Commission member countries in Central America and Brazil to participate in a training institute hosted by Avance. The training would allow 16 to 24 individuals from Central America and Brazil to learn more about the Avance model, philosophy and curriculum. The institute is tentatively scheduled to be held in September of 1996 at our National Headquarters in San Antonio, Texas and will coincide with the first anniversary of the United Nations Beijing Conference on Women's Issues.

It is our desire that by enabling participating OAS countries to witness first-hand the Avance program, they will return in November with a stronger commitment to the implementation of our organization's program within their country. The training initiative will also allow the attending representatives to share the information they learn with the 36 Latin American countries representing the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).

I thank you once again for your support and will continue to keep you abreast of new developments.

Sincerely,

Gloria G. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

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President/CEO

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