

**Files of Melanne Verveer,
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Box 11: Files**

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Children's Health
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Child Abuse

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United States Department of State

Office of the Under Secretary
for Management

White House Liaison

file
child abuse

April 4, 1996

514-6383

To: Melanne Verveer, Office of the First Lady
From: Ertharin Cousin, Department of State *EC*
Re: Child Sexual Abuse Conference

Attached please find a brochure describing the conference and a letter of invitation encouraging the participation of the US in this conference. I would greatly appreciate your review this information with the First Lady. As we agreed, the dates of the conference make the participation of many people difficult if not impossible.

The idea of appointing Marian Wright Edelman as the head of delegation seems perfect. She is the US representative to UNICEF and no one can question her achievements in the area of children's advocacy issues.

Thanks for your help.

Nancy Chandler

not her name

Sr. McBready - Current House

Aileen Adams - 805-307-5983

Prosecutor - Linda Ferentig

• MELANNE VERVEER •

Pls fax to

Aileen Adams

514-6383

A call for action

It is now time for all humanity to join forces and demonstrate collective humanism. It is time to transform commitment into action.

The World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is a first crucial step to make this happen. It will:

- Focus, among other issues, on the legal and law enforcement aspects of the problem; psycho-social rehabilitation of victims and their mental and physical health; children in pornography; sex tourism; and responsibility of the media.
- Provide an open forum for discussion through workshops, seminars and presentation of case studies, in which all sectors of society — governmental, health care, law enforcement, media and education — can exchange perspectives and experiences to find common ground for devising solutions.

Define the scope of the problem, addressing the underlying causes and the different forms and geographic concentrations of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Seek ways to raise public awareness about the extent and nature of the problem and its social and political implications on a local, national and international level.

Adopt a Declaration and develop a concrete Plan of Action to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children, to protect the rights of children and to facilitate the rehabilitation of children who have suffered from the phenomenon.

For more information, contact:

Congress Secretariat of the Swedish Government's Host Committee

Vasagatan 8-10
S-10333 Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: +46 8 405 42 93
Fax: +46 8 21 48 17

UNICEF

Section for Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances

DH-40E
3 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017
USA
Tel: +1 212 702-7247
Fax: +1 212 702-7148

ECPAT

328 Phaya Thai Road
Bangkok 10400
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 215-3388
Fax: +66 2 215-8272

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

c/o International Catholic Child Bureau
63 rue de Lausanne
CH-1202 Genève
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 731-3248
Fax: +41 22 731-7793

ISCA International Save the Children Alliance

59 Chemin Moïse Duboule
CH-1209 Genève
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 788-8180
Fax: +41 22 788-8154

World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Stockholm, Sweden
27-31 August 1996



VI are reportedly forced into the sex market annually — a multi-billion dollar industry that subjects children to the most crushing form of exploitation.

To develop strategies to combat this growing problem, the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children — the first ever international meeting of its kind — will bring together political leaders and government representatives, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), law enforcement agencies, academic institutions, health professionals, representatives from the tourism industry and the media from all over the world.

The Congress, to be held in Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, is being organized by the Government of Sweden in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT), and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Regional consultations and country case studies will precede the Congress to examine the nature and extent of sexual exploitation, to review programmatic experience and lessons learned and to identify the specific needs to be addressed at the Congress.

Commercial sexual abuse

Commercial sexual exploitation endangers children's mental and physical health and impairs all aspects of their development. It is one of the worst violations of their basic human rights.

Around the world, children as young as five are treated like commodities; they are bargained for, smuggled and sold. Many are kidnapped and tricked into brothels by promises of legitimate employment. Often they are transported far from their families and to other countries where they are kept hidden and isolated by language, culture and their illegal status. They become ensnared in a dangerous and often inescapable web of coercion, intimidation, violence, drugs and degradation.

In the age of HIV/AIDS, the sexual demand for younger children, who are the most vulnerable, is growing; technological advances are stimulating the proliferation of child pornography; and the sale, abduction and trafficking of children across borders is increasing. The prospect of ever-larger profits fuels an illegal and inhumane growth industry.

While all children, especially girls, are at risk of sexual exploitation, those living in poverty, those who have been abandoned or abused, street children, the mentally disabled, refugees and others affected by armed conflict are much more vulnerable.

Many sectors of society participate in the sexual exploitation of children: those who seek financial gain (pimps, brothel owners, middlemen, criminal networks and at times even public officials); paedophiles (both local and foreign, including tourists) who derive sexual gratification; and those who are implicated, often unwittingly (parents and other family members).

Commercial sexual exploitation cannot be isolated from its root causes, which include poverty and cultural factors, discrimination and family disintegration, lack of education, child abuse, sex stereotypes and gender inequalities.

To ignore this grave infringement of child human rights is to neglect the children themselves and to condone the acts of their perpetrators, condemning another generation into a cycle of exploitation.

A step forward

The Convention on the Rights of the Child — the Magna Carta of children's rights — was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989. It is a major step forward to expand the world's legal boundaries, embracing legitimizing the needs of children and providing the legal and moral basis for their survival, development and protection. In a short span of 7 years, it has become the most widely accepted human rights treaty in history. By ratifying it, more than 175 governments have committed themselves to take measures to prevent and protect children from "unlawful sexual practices and exploitation" in prostitution and pornography, and from "abduction, sale or trafficking."

Recognizing the gravity of the problem, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1990 took another major initiative by appointing a Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to monitor and assess the situation worldwide and make specific recommendations for action. Two years later, the Commission adopted the United Nations Programme of Action on the subject.

NGOs around the world are also speaking out and lobbying their governments to protect children from sexual exploitation.



PRIME MINISTER

8525

Stockholm, October 17, 1995.

Dear Mr. President,

More than one million children worldwide are
reportedly forced into the sex market annually - a
multi-billion dollar industry that subjects children
to the most crushing form of exploitation.

Endorsing an initiative of ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism), an international non-governmental organization closely identified with the battle against sexual exploitation of children, the Government of Sweden has undertaken to host a World Congress to develop strategies to combat this growing problem.

The World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children - the first ever international meeting of its kind - will bring together political leaders and government representatives, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), law enforcement agencies, academic institutions, health professionals, representatives of the tourist industry and the media from all over the world.

The Congress will be held in Stockholm from 27 to 31
August 1996 and is being organized by the Government
of Sweden in cooperation with the United Nations
Children's Fund (UNICEF), ECPAT and the NGO Group
for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
Further details are explained in the enclosed
brochure.

The President
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Postal address
Prime Minister's office
S-103 33 Stockholm
SWE

Visiting address
Rosenbad 4

Telephone
08-405 10 00
Int -46 8 405 10 00

Fax
08-723 11 71
Int -46 8 723 11 71

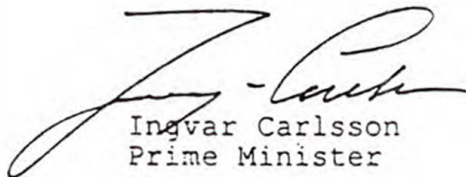
Regional consultations and country case studies will be held prior to the Congress to examine the nature and extent of sexual exploitation, to review programmatic experience and lessons learned, and to identify the specific needs to be addressed at the Congress.

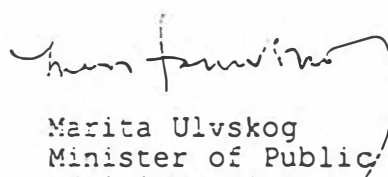
The Government of Sweden would very much appreciate your Government's presence and hereby invites you or your representatives to attend the Congress. Kindly inform the Swedish Host Committee, chaired by Ms. Lisbet Palme, regarding your intention to participate in the Congress before 15 December 1995.

In due course the secretariat of the Swedish Host Committee, (address Vasagatan 8 - 10, S-103 33 Stockholm Sweden, tel +46-8-405 42 93, fax +46-8-21 48 17) will send additional information to the appropriate authorities in your country.

Looking forward to welcoming you or your representatives to Sweden and Stockholm

Yours sincerely,


Ingvar Carlsson
Prime Minister


Marita Ulvskog
Minister of Public
Administration

Enc: Brochure

Clinton Presidential Records

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