file

HRC BEIJING AND MONGOLIA CLIPS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1995

AP
REUTER
BLOOMBERG
NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON POST
WALL STREET JOURNAL
USA TODAY
WASHINGTON TIMES
LOS ANGELES TIMES
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

AP
UPI
REUTER
BLOOMBERG
KNIGHT RIDDER
NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON POST
USA TODAY
WASHINGTON TIMES
LOS ANGELES TIMES
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1995

AP
UPI
REUTER
BLOOMBERG
KNIGHT RIDDER
NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON POST
WALL STREET JOURNAL
USA TODAY
WASHINGTON TIMES
LOS ANGELES TIMES
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995

AP
UPI
REUTER
NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON POST

USA TODAY
WASHINGTON TIMES
LOS ANGELES TIMES
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
NEWSWEEK
US NEWS & WORLD REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1995

AP
UPI
REUTER
NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON POST
USA TODAY
WASHINGTON TIMES
LOS ANGELES TIMES

AM-Mrs Clinton-Mongolia,650
First Lady Encounters Homeless Children in Faraway Mongolia
By TERENCE HUNT= AP White House Correspondent=

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP) In a city known as the coldest capital in the world, bug-infested homeless children shiver together in railroad cars and around heating vents much of the year, struggling to stay alive.

Hillary Rodham Clinton met with some of them Friday and lamented that the problem of homeless people afflicts not only poor nations like Mongolia but also rich ones like the United States.

At the Center for Street Children, a group of cheery-faced youngsters provided poignant entertainment for the first lady. ``If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands,'' they sang with gusto in their native Mongol tongue, stomping their feet, clapping their hands and slapping their knees.

``I remember singing that,'' the first lady said, ``but never as well as you just did.''

Mongolia is a nation of large families, with parents devoted to their children. But since breaking away from Moscow in 1990, the country has been wrenched by economic problems that have frayed the welfare system. The result has been an increase in alcoholism, family breakups and child abuse.

In Mongolia's two main urban centers, there are an estimated 4,000 street kids.

``The old system had ways of disguising, dealing and limiting this problem,'' U.S. Ambassador Donald Johnson said in an interview. Communist-era authorities would simply order that the streets be cleared of the homeless, he said.

``Now you don't have a system that can order that kind of thing,'' he said. ``These kids are falling through the net.''

Since opening in 1991, the Center for Street Children has sheltered 2,000 children, several dozen at any one time. Officials say they can handle only a small fraction of the needy. The center tries to reconnect children with their parents and to teach them vocational skills.

The first lady visited the center as she concluded a six-day trip that took her to an international women's conference in Beijing and then to this sparsely populated nation locked between China and Russia. It's a country where Siberian winds plunge winter temperatures as low as 57 degrees below zero.

Overall, the trip showcased Mrs. Clinton as a crusader for women and children, a role the White House believes most Americans prefer for her rather than major policy player.

The focus on the family and traditional values also is a major theme of President Clinton's re-election campaign.

Mrs. Clinton brought $3.5 million in energy assistance to help keep Ulan Bator's creaky heating plant running through the summer. She also announced $1 million in medical aid for children.

At the homeless center, Mrs. Clinton asked a nurse about the biggest health needs of the children. She was told that many of them have skin diseases from parasites and a lack of bathing. They also suffer from pneumonia and other respiratory problems. Kidney disease is common.

The center is located near the railroad yards, a symbol of hope to the youngsters, who take shelter in cold railroad cars.

In a discussion with Mongolian officials and leaders of the center, Mrs. Clinton said, ``You should know, this is a problem not only in Mongolia, but throughout the world ... including in my own country.''

She took note of recent comments here by the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader and a revered figure in Mongolia. He raised the problem of homeless children and reminded Mongolian businessmen, busy making money, that everyone has a responsibility to take care of the nation's children.

The United States has given the homeless center $12,500. Johnson, the U.S. envoy, said some of the newly approved $1 million in medical assistance will be earmarked for the center.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/08/95 at 13:14EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:08EDT ****

AM-Women's Conference, 2nd Ld-Writethru, a0402,0779
China To Delegates: Worry About Your Own Countries First
Eds: Leads with 9 grafs to RAISE arrest of three Hong Kong journalists Friday, UPDATE with their release. Edits to conform. Pickup 10th graf pvs, ``Nuclear testing...''
AP Photos BEJ103,NGO103-105
By RENEE SCHOOF= Associated Press Writer=

BEIJING (AP) China may be sorry it ever asked the United Nations to hold a women's conference here.

Stung by critics including Hillary Rodham Clinton, the government bluntly told conference delegates Thursday to pay attention to the problems in their own countries instead.

It went even further on Friday when police arrested three Hong Kong television journalists covering a small human rights protest in the complex where the U.N. meeting was being held. They were later released.

As the Foreign Ministry was admonishing outspoken foreigners Thursday, a group of conferees staged a silent protest in the heart of Chinese power the Great Hall of the People.

For Chinese authorities, the site is especially sensitive, as it adjoins Tiananmen Square, scene of the bloody 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy activists.

China is also growing increasingly irritated by criticism of heavy-handed security and nightmarish logistical problems at the sprawling, muddy site it provided for non-governmental women's groups in Huairou, 30 miles outside Beijing.

On Thursday, the official Xinhua News Agency said Western media had ``made a fuss over trifles'' and ``wantonly distorted'' conditions at the private forum, which ends Friday. This, and earlier testy Chinese commentary, have been the only hint to ordinary Chinese of foreign criticism at the sessions.

Delegates to the gatherings in Beijing and Huairou have repeatedly raised subjects embarrassing to China, challenging Beijing's position on issues ranging from its one-child policy to its security practices.

China has reluctantly allowed protests on the Huairou conference grounds, though it has monitored and sometimes intimidated activists.

Nuclear testing by the Chinese and the French, who exploded a test blast in the South Pacific on Tuesday, has been the target of frequent demonstrations.

Thursday's silent protest, however, was the first outside the grounds of either gathering and the first involving delegates in their official capacity as U.N. conferees.

At a conference-connected meeting with Chinese lawmakers, nine Danish lawmakers wore T-shirts emblazoned with a picture of an atomic blast and the words ``Stop'' in Chinese and ``No'' in French. Then they posed on the steps of the hall, while Chinese security hurriedly shoved reporters away.

At the U.N. gathering formally known as the Fourth World Conference on Women China has been embarrassed by the heavy emphasis on human rights, over which it frequently spars with the Clinton administration.

China's detention of Chinese-American activist Harry Wu who was eventually expelled nearly scuttled Mrs. Clinton's trip to Beijing.

During the two days Mrs. Clinton was in town, China stayed silent on her speech Tuesday to delegates, a rallying cry in favor of human rights worldwide and a rebuke to China over activists in Huairou.

As soon as she left town, though, the government let loose a blast of criticism and a veiled warning.

``Some people from some countries have made unwarranted remarks or criticism of other countries,'' said Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian, in response to a question about Mrs. Clinton's speech.

``We would like to caution these people to pay more attention to the problems in their own countries,'' he said, adding that the criticism ran counter to the spirit of the U.N. gathering.

On Thursday, though, the U.S. delegation was keeping up the pressure.

``By now you've heard our message loud and clear: this conference is about human rights,'' said Geraldine Ferraro, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Tensions between delegates and host China were stealing the spotlight from the real work of the conference: crafting an ambitious plan to improve the lot of women everywhere.

Working behind closed doors, delegates were said to be making slow progress in resolving disputes over gay rights, abortion and artificial contraception.

Negotiators acknowledged there will have to be some hard bargaining in the conference's remaining nine days. A full one-fifth of the platform remains in dispute.

``The range of views is very great,'' said negotiator John Mathieson.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/08/95 at 01:31EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:10EDT ****

PM-Women's Conference, Bjt,0682
China Is Increasingly Testy Host To Women's Forum
By CHARLENE L. FU= Associated Press Writer=

BEIJING (AP) The scene on the grounds of a U.N. women's conference today said it all: a protester holding a poster of a woman with her mouth gagged, and a Chinese security officer telling her and other demonstrators to be quiet and get inside.

Tensions over freedom of expression are threatening to boil over at the Fourth World Women's Conference, as tightly policed China shows increasing impatience with the debate and dissent the international conference has brought.

In the latest face-off, three Hong Kong television journalists were detained this morning as they covered a human-rights protest on the conference grounds. They were later released.

China's official news agency, Xinhua, accused the crew of hitting a Chinese guard with its camera. U.N. organizers did not comment on the incident, but some conferees said it revived concerns about heavy-handed Chinese security.

``We'll certainly take this up with our contacts at the Chinese Organizing Committee,'' said Irene Santiago, executive director of the parallel forum of private women activists, which was wrapping up today outside Beijing.

In recent days, China has reacted with growing stridency to criticism from foreign delegates to the U.N. conference and the private gathering. Delegates have raised a variety of subjects embarrassing to China, from human rights to mandatory family planning.

On Thursday, China's Foreign Ministry asked about a strongly worded human-rights speech Tuesday by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton suggested point-blank that foreign delegates mind their own business.

Another blast came from Xinhua, which said Western media had ``made a fuss over trifles'' and ``wantonly distorted'' conditions at the unofficial women's forum in Huairou, 30 miles west of Beijing. Participants complained of inadequate facilities and too-tight security.

Protests were common at the unofficial women's meeting, but they were well away from the capital. With the U.N. conference in its fifth day, however, the Chinese are having to cope with protests in Beijing itself.

In today's protest on the U.N. conference grounds, about 10 women carried a petition with more than 1 million signatures collected by groups including Amnesty International, urging the United Nations to implement a 1993 human-rights declaration.

Plainclothes police stepped in, trying to get the women to fold up large purple posters showing a woman with her mouth gagged.

``OK, take them down. You can show them in the building, not here,'' the guards admonished. ``It's not proper.''

``Please, go away!'' another guard told the women.

Finally the police pulled up a minivan to hide the protesters from reporters' view, and the women moved on to deliver the petition to a U.N. office inside the complex.

There was no mention today in the official Chinese media of a silent protest a day earlier by Danish parliamentarians in the heart of Beijing, at the Great Hall of the People.

The nine Danish delegates, attending a meeting of an international lawmakers' group, wore T-shirts depicting an atomic blast and the words ``Stop'' in Chinese and ``No'' in French.

An account of the meeting in today's official China Daily said simply that the parliamentarians had discussed ways to increase the number of women lawmakers.

In Huairou, the gathering of private women's activists was drawing to a close.

At their sprawling, muddy tent city, some 23,000 activists were packing up their literature and folding their brightly colored banners, getting ready to go home. A closing ceremony was set for later today.

Despite logistical difficulties and run-ins with Chinese security, the participants said they did what they came to do: work together.

``Global women's issues have ceased to be a concept they're a reality,'' said South African activist Judi Fortuin.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/08/95 at 03:29EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:10EDT ****

BC-CHINA HILLARY-CLINTON

President, Gore praise Hillary Clinton's China speech

WASHINGTON, Sept 8 (Reuter) - Hillary Rodham Clinton won praise from husband President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore on Friday for her speech this week that indirectly criticised China's human rights record.

However, the president was careful in his praise of the speech not to single out China for criticism. He has asserted previously that his wife did not mean to do so, either.

``I think that that speech she gave resonated so powerfully across the world because it was elemental, basic, true, profound in the simplicity of things that we all know. Things that we all know we should do, things we all know that we shouldn't do, and should not permit, if we can stop,'' the president told a prayer breakfast at the White House.

``It's a very powerful thing because it brought people together,'' he said of Mrs. Clinton's speech.

Gore, who spoke before the president, said, ``As an American I'd like to say how proud I was of her (Mrs. Clinton's) remarks.'' That prompted enthusiastic applause from participants in the prayer breakfast in the White House State Dining Room.

Mrs. Clinton made a ringing call for human rights at a women's conference in Beijing on Tuesday. In the section of her speech aimed most directly at China, Mrs. Clinton said its restrictions on participants in the conference were ``indefensible.''

She also assailed a range of abuses of women around the world, including sterilisation, forced abortions and the burning of brides deemed to have brought insufficient dowries.

China reacted to her remarks on Thursday, saying that her criticisms were unwarranted and warned Washington not to create more troubles.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/08/95 at 14:14EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:08EDT ****

BC-HILLARY-MONGOLIA (SCHEDULED)

Hillary Clinton defends U.S. foreign aid

By Laurence McQuillan

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (Reuter) - First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Friday toured a center for Mongolian street children benefitting from U.S. assistance and said it shows the need for continued American foreign aid.

Countering conservative Republicans in Congress who are demanding deep cuts in spending, Mrs. Clinton told reporters ''many Americans do not know that we spend so little money helping other countries.''

She said foreign aid ``is one percent of our entire federal budget'' and that it serves humanitarian purposes and fosters democratic principles important to the United States.

``I think most Americans, if they knew the facts, would be very proud of our country because of what we are trying to do to help others around the world, particularly others in countries that are struggling to be like we are,'' she said.

The overall size of U.S. foreign assistance is approximately $10 billion annually, down from an average of about $16 billion in recent years.

President Clinton has been fighting to keep current aid levels, but Republicans in Congress have been pushing for cuts of at least 20 percent. Debate on the foreign aid budget is set to begin next week in Congress.

The White House, hoping to generate support for current levels of funding, has been stressing that much foreign aid has been directed at programs dealing with immediate human needs rather than the major construction projects it often was used for in the past.

Underscoring that theme, Mrs. Clinton toured the Center for Street Children, established in 1991, which has cared for more than 2,000 homeless youths since it was created.

The center will receive some of the $1 million in aid for children's health programs in Mongolia that Mrs. Clinton announced Thursday. She also announced that $3.5 million in emergency funds would be available to help Mongolia meet its looming energy needs as it heads into another harsh winter.

As Mrs. Clinton toured the facility for homeless children, she spoke with various staff members about their needs and said, ``this is a problem not only in Mongolia but throughout the world.''

``All of us who care about children are trying to figure out ways to help children who, for whatever reason, are separated from their families or are unable to stay with their families and need the help of other people,'' she said.

The number of street children in Mongolia, where 45 percent of the population is under the age of 16, has soared since it declared independence in 1990 from what was then the Soviet Union.

As a country suffering the growing pains of shifting to a market economy, the resulting unemployment, inflation and other problems created a surge in homeless youngsters.

``I know that it is an overwhelming problem that you are facing here,'' Mrs. Clinton said at the center, ``but it is a problem everywhere, including my own country.''

The first lady departed for Washington shortly after the tour. Before visiting the Mongolian capital she attended the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/08/95 at 12:22EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:09EDT ****

BC-WOMEN-CHINA-USA (SCHEDULED)

China attacks U.S. for ignoring women's rights

By Jane Macartney

BEIJING (Reuter) - Under fire this week by the U.S. First Lady over human rights, China retaliated Friday with a blistering attack on U.S. treatment of women's rights, citing figures showing more women vote in China than in America.

``The position and conditions of Chinese women are in no way inferior to the situation of the women in the United States and are indeed much better on the whole,'' said a lengthy report issued by the Xinhua News Agency.

In a rebuttal of what it called censure by the United States, it cited the attitude of Beijing towards its women as one reason for the much better care and attention their sex enjoys in China than in the United States.

Chinese women suffer less discrimination with equal rights enshrined in the constitution set up by the Communist Party in 1949 when it came to power, whereas the U.S. Constitution does not enshrine equal rights for women, it said.

``It is thus quite obvious that the legal status of Chinese women is far superior to that of their American counterparts,'' Xinhua added.

China's attack followed a broadside by U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton in its own backyard when she addressed the plenary session of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing Tuesday.

She blasted China's limits on free speech at the conference and its policy of forced abortion.

``China prohibits forced abortions or forced sterilization, and has adopted a lenient birth policy for those belonging to minority nationalities,'' Xinhua said, rebutting frequent charges of human rights abuses in its tough one-couple, one-child family planning policy.

It said U.S. women only won the vote 144 years after America's founding, while Chinese women won suffrage with the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Since China's first general election in 1953, some 90 percent of women have cast their ballots in various elections, while in the United States, voter turnout in congressional elections is only 30-40 percent, it said.

``Therefore, the percentage of Chinese women participating in elections is indeed much higher than the total turnout in the United States,'' it said.

It did not specify what elections it was referring to in China, where the only elections with more than one candidate are at the grassroots village level and all government is controlled by the ruling Communist Party.

Regarding parliamentary representation, the 1992 elections saw U.S. women congresswomen rise to 10 percent of the total, while in China the number of female deputies account for 21 percent of the National People's Congress, it said.

The Congress is regarded by many as a rubber-stamp organisation.

However, one veteran Chinese women's activist says the equality has worked against Chinese women who have become complacent and are no longer able to fight against soaring discrimination brought by a new market oriented economy.

Chinese women account for 31 percent of state employees compared with only 22 percent of U.S. women, Xinhua said.

American women occupy just 3 percent of senior managerial posts in the United States, while their Chinese counterparts constitute 10 percent of company directors.

Chinese women are better off than their U.S. counterparts when it comes to salary comparisons with men. In China, salaries of women in urban areas were 77.4 percent that of men compared with just 59 percent in the United States.

Xinhua said rape was rare in China, domestic violence far from the norm and sexual harassment not widespread.

In a separate statement, China denied Friday it had detained people for

peacefully expressing their views, days after Mrs. Clinton's speech attacked countries that did not allow free speech.

``It is groundless to say that China detained people who express their views peacefully,'' Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian was quoted by the Xinhua news agency as saying when asked to comment on Clinton's speech last Tuesday.

Clinton had told the United Nations World Conference on Women that Beijing's restrictions on women at a parallel grassroots forum were ``indefensible'' and criticized countries that inhibited free assembly.

``China welcomes delegates from all countries to attend the women's conference and has provided necessary facilities,'' Chen said, adding that delegations turned away were refused entry because their activities did not fit the forum's theme.

``As for the assertion that China detained some people who express their views peacefully, such an assertion is groundless,'' Chen said.

``Let me be clear,'' Clinton told a conference plenary session. ``Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize, and debate openly. It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments.''

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/08/95 at 11:57EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:09EDT ****

BC-china-women
Chinese Women `More Equal' Than American Women, Xinhua Says

Beijing, Sept. 8 (Bloomberg) -- The position of Chinese women in society is ``much better on the whole'' than American women, the official Xinhua News Agency said in a long five-part article. It said sexism is rooted in the judicial and governmental systems of the United States because the American constitution and the Declaration of Independence speak of ``men'' rather than of men and women and the equal rights amendment there failed, while all of the many constitutions the Chinese government has passed since 1949 assert the equality of men and women. The article also states that the United States did not grant women the right to vote until 144 years after its founding in 1776 while the People's Republic of China granted women the right to vote the year it was founded in 1949.

China has reacted with anger to Hillary Rodham Clinton's attack on its human rights record in a speech at the non-governmental forum associated with the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in and near Beijing.

- All Chinese press citations refer to the China Daily, the People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency, China Securities News, Shanghai Securities News, Shanghai Star, Economic Daily, Economic Information Daily, China Market Economic News, Farmer's Daily, Liberation Daily, Wenhui Daily, Financial Times, and China Business Times.

(Xinhua News Agency 9/8)

-- Christina Mungan in the Hong Kong Newsroom (852) 2521-4500 rm

(Story illustration: For economics statistics from China or the US, type ECST. For more news about China, Hong Kong, or Asia, type NI CHINA, HK, ASIA or ASIAX. For more press summaries, BBN16.) -0- (BBN) Sep/08/95 6:38 EOS (BBN) Sep/08/95 06:38 86

**** filed by:BB-F(--) on 09/08/95 at 06:53EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:09EDT ****

After China, Hillary Clinton Finds Mongolia a Gentler Place

By SETH FAISON

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, Sept. 7 — Flying from China into this grassy, sparsely populated country, Hillary Rodham Clinton might be forgiven today for feeling as though she had passed through a looking glass.

In contrast with China, Mrs. Clinton found a functioning democracy here. The crowds that clog every Chinese city were nowhere to be found, and few Mongolians seemed to be disrupted when Mrs. Clinton's 10-car motorcade stopped traffic to speed through this shabby, almost deserted-looking capital. In perhaps the biggest change, the security agents seemed friendly.

In Beijing for two days this week, Mrs. Clinton irritated her authoritarian hosts with a powerful speech on human rights. She also inadvertently created chaos at a nongovernmental forum, where thousands of women trying to hear her speak clashed with Chinese security forces.

But in Mongolia, when Mrs. Clinton gave another speech about the need for democracy and freedom, Mongolian officials responded with applause, not condemnation.

The stated purpose of her visit here was to "express support for Mongolian democracy and for Mongolian independence," in the words of Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, who accompanied her.

But away from politics, Mrs. Clinton seemed most excited today by getting a taste of the nomadic life that still dominates Mongolia.

After arriving at the half-built Ouyant Ukhaa Airport and waving to a few dozen construction workers who seemed to be the only people around, Mrs. Clinton and her entourage headed about 20 miles into the Mongolian grasslands.

Wearing black suede cowboy boots and a maroon shawl she bought last year in India, Mrs. Clinton entered the musty-smelling yurt of a man named Zanahaatar and his wife, Haliun. She stepped carefully past the silver pail of cow dung used as fuel and gamely tasted the offered mare's milk and horse cheese.

Mr. Zanahaatar, with his six young children wide-eyed nearby in the dark tentlike structure, said that the rains had been good this year.

Taken outside to watch one of the family's horses get milked, Mrs. Clinton spied some large animals ambling along the crest of a hill.

"What's that big...? It's a yak!" she exclaimed.

After watching the children display their riding skills along a sloping green hill and presenting them each with a pack of M&M's, Mrs. Clinton sped off to spend lunch with Mongolia's pudgy and ever-smiling President, Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat, and his wife, Tsevelomaa.

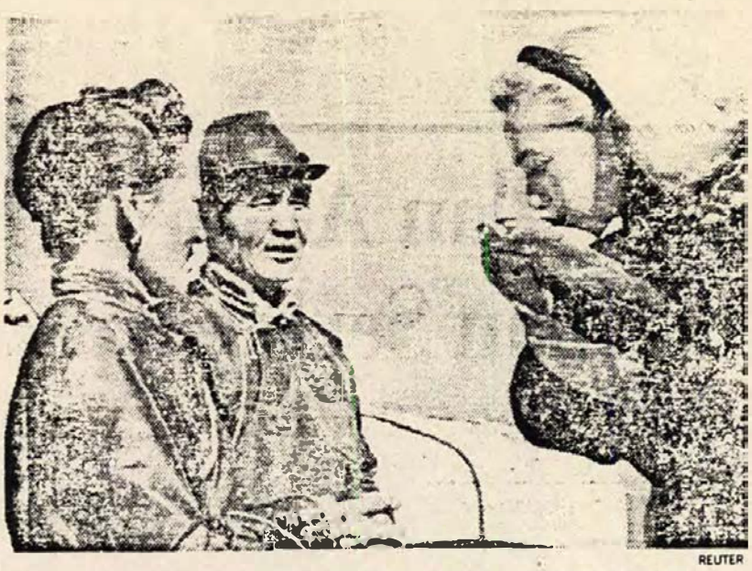
"A visit like this can put a spotlight on a country like Mongolia, which Americans pay little attention to," said Mr. Lord. "It's quite a remarkable story."

Mrs. Clinton seemed eager to learn about Mongolia's moves away from one-party control in 1990, its loss of aid from the Soviet Union, its runaway inflation and how the changes had affected the status of women, meeting with eight women in the residence of the American Ambassador, Donald Johnson.

But despite their new-found freedom to speak, the women — a doctor, a women's federation leader, a young politician among them — seemed to respond with rehearsed speeches. Mrs. Clinton's questions went largely unanswered.

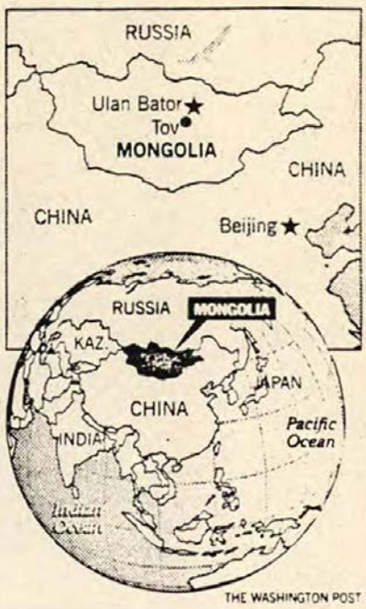
At Mongolian National University, Mrs. Clinton emphasized the importance of working together by citing a lesson that Genghis Khan's mother tried to teach her children.

"To make her point, she showed them how easily one arrow could be broken, but how hard it is to break five arrows when they are held together," she said.



REUTER

Clinton drinks fermented mare's milk while visiting a Mongolian family.



THE WASHINGTON POST

First Lady Sips Mare's Milk in Mongolia

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Foreign Service

TOV, Mongolia, Sept. 7—Sitting today at the hearth of a Mongolian hut and sipping mare's milk below a two-stringed horse fiddle, Hillary Rodham Clinton turned to the Zanabaatar family, her nomadic hosts, and asked them if they had had a good summer.

They replied, as the American first lady nodded her head, that it depended on whether you were talking about the cattle and the sheep, which had done quite well, or the horses, which could use a bit more fattening up. The conversation turned to snuff boxes and the Zanabaatars' impending move to warmer pastures.

Also jammed inside the circular hut were the Zanabaatars' six children—and more than a dozen American reporters and cameramen who descended like a Mongol horde to record the last leg of Clinton's six-day Asian journey.

For Clinton, this stop in one of Asia's emerging democracies has also been a move to gentler pastures after two tumultuous days in China at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women. There, the first lady irritated the Chinese government with thinly veiled criticism of its forced abortion policy and a blunt rebuke for its handling of the conference.

"Some people from some countries have made unwarranted remarks or criticism of other countries," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian in reply to a question about the first lady's remarks Tuesday in a speech to the Beijing conference.

"We would like to caution these people to pay more attention to the problems in their own countries," Chen said this afternoon as Clinton was dining with Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat and his wife.

But Clinton had already moved on to less sensitive matters. Mongolia is a nation of just 2 million people, whose president once said that his favorite pastime is sleeping. A former communist country, wedged between Russia and China, Mongolia became a democracy in 1989 and has begun opening and reforming its floundering economy. It has no political prisoners and an independent judiciary, and more than 90 percent of its people took part in its first open elections in June 1992 and 1993.

After years of prohibiting any public display of religion, the government has allowed the open practice of Tibetan Buddhist Lamaism, which was once popular here. The Dalai Lama, an exile from Chinese-ruled Tibet, recently visited.

Gone are the days after Genghis Khan united the nomads here into a single state and conquered nearly all of Asia and European Russia and sent his armies as far as Europe and Southeast Asia. "Mongolia is situated between two giants," said L. Galbagrakh, an adviser to the president. "Therefore, our cooperation with the United States is very important from the point of view of security as well as our progress toward democracy."

More than half the country lives in huts like the one the first lady visited—wood-framed, domed, covered with layers of horsehair blankets tied down on the outside by horsehair ropes. Built to withstand bitter Siberian winds of up to 50 mph, the huts, called *gers*, can be dismantled easily and moved to another location.

The first lady's briefing book for this leg of the trip had some useful advice such as: When you enter a ger, it is polite to walk clockwise around the fireplace, and if you have to leave to go to the bathroom during a meal, just tell your host that you're "going to take a look at the horses," and everyone will understand.

After her mare's milk aperitif, Clinton strolled outside the nomadic bungalow for a real look at the horses, as well as the yaks grazing in this stunning valley. A local man pushed a reluctant mare forward for milking. The Zanabaatar children raced on horseback, and the first lady rewarded them with M&Ms. She also presented the family with a new saddle and a red, white and blue saddle blanket. And then her 30-car motorcade lumbered back across the valley for the 45-minute drive to Ulan Bator, the Mongolian capital.

There she lunched with the president and watched performances that included a man who sang a single note with different, slightly buzzing, string-like variations; some tunes on the horse fiddle; and a 13-year-old contortionist who bent over backward, put her head between her legs from behind and balanced herself on her chin.

Clinton also had tea with some of Mongolia's most prominent women, including a doctor, a lawyer, teachers and wives of government ministers.

Afterward, she went on to the University of Mongolia for the most substantive part of her visit here, which senior administration officials said was intended to give a boost to a place trying to do the right things. Other than James A. Baker III, who visited in 1991 when he was secretary of state, Clinton is the most politically prominent American to visit Mongolia since Vice President Henry Wallace in 1944. Upon arrival, she announced a new $4.5 million U.S. aid package for Mongolia.

"This country has transformed itself from a one-party communist dictatorship into a pluralistic political system," she said in a speech. "The Mongolian people yearned so strongly for democracy that a movement began with demonstrations in sub-zero temperatures and culminated with the resignation of the Politburo, the legalization of other parties and the writing of a new constitution."

Mongolia, she said, should be a model for all Asia. "There are some who claim that freedom and democracy are Western concepts and that Asians prefer authoritarian rule; I say: Let them come to Mongolia."

Was that one last parting shot for the Chinese Communist regime in Beijing? No, said a senior administration official here. Mongolia is a "remarkable story" in its own right, and the first lady only wanted to lend U.S. support to Mongolian democracy.

Tens of Thousands of Women Sitting Around Talking

By Kathy Chen and Marcus W. Brauchli
Staff Reporters of The Wall Street Journal

As grassroots groups prepare to fold up their exhibition tents and head home from the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women, many are launching last-minute lobbying efforts that can be desperate or downright dirty.

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Since their part of the conference began a week ago, some 27,000 unofficial delegates have been holding exhibitions, workshops and debates in Huairou, the town an hour's drive from Beijing that is the site of an unofficial meeting. The grassroots groups have been trying to influence the nearly 5,000 attendants and journalists at the official U.N. forum in Beijing to see things their way. Over the next week, the official group will create a "Platform for Action" that will be a kind of economic and social blueprint for the world's women.

The distance between Huairou and Beijing has made lobbying difficult. "We've been separated. We've had no access," grumbles delegate Argery Giavasis, who spent some of her time shopping and sightseeing instead.

But logistical problems haven't stopped other groups, such as the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission. "We stand in hallways, we stand inside and outside sessions, we find their room numbers at hotels and leave fliers for them," says Julie Dorf, executive director.

Tracy Mickens admits that she goes "around eavesdropping on conversations" in the hallways. Ms. Mickens, coordinator for international advocacy at Planned Parenthood Federation of America Inc., also swaps information with like-minded delegates trying to figure out what the opponents are arguing.

◆◆◆◆

Among such opponents, Dale O'Leary and A. Majid Katme make an unlikely pair. Mrs. O'Leary is from Maryland, a 54-year-old Christian woman whose business card describes her as a "family mother." Dr. Katme, president of London's Islamic Medical Association, is a Muslim who favors the collarless white blouse and black jacket popular among Iran's top leaders. Together, they are tag-team pro-family lobbyists.

"I'm looking for differences in our views and can't find any," says Dr. Katme.

Call it the Holy Alliance. Much of the debate at the conference in Beijing and at the forum in Huairou has centered on abortion, pre- or extramarital sex, contraception and sexual orientation.

Groups as diverse as the Vatican, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Christian organizations from the U.S. and Europe have joined forces. Many of the groups originally bonded at last year's International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, where they fought platforms that included references to contraception and abortion.

That was where Mrs. O'Leary and Dr. Katme met. "We share so many values: that virginity is normal in our world . . . that marriage is a sacred contract, a divine contract, whether in Islam or in Christianity," says Dr. Katme.

"Our Muslim friends are wonderful because they understand all this," adds Mrs. O'Leary.

◆◆◆◆

Many of the conflicts surfacing here are simply cover for political battles that are taking place at home. Take the Iranian delegation's campaign to drop references to "universality of human rights" and "equality of women." The official delegation wants the word "equity" to replace "equality" in the conference platform. Equity isn't objective and would permit Iran to keep laws that forbid women from holding certain public posts, such as the presidency, without flouting the platform.

Fighting Tehran is the National Council of Resistance of Iran, a Paris-based parliament-in-exile that is represented in Beijing as a nongovernmental group. Soheila Sadegh, a soft-spoken 36-year-old who belongs to the council, notes that in Iran, women's career paths are restricted, their rights under marriage are limited, and they must wear head coverings. "It's ludicrous to talk about women's rights in a country where women cannot choose their own clothing," she says.

◆◆◆◆

Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech Tuesday, in which she criticized China for its "indefensible" restrictions on participants at the Huairou meeting and indirectly slammed its human-rights record, drew a much-delayed reaction Thursday.

Responded Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian: "We take note of the fact that some people from some countries made some indiscreet remarks or criticisms. . . . We would like to caution these people to pay more attention to the problems prevalent within their own countries."

◆◆◆◆

After a day in which many women complained about how little money the world was spending on women's issues, the United Nations Development Fund for Women yesterday celebrated its 20th anniversary with a gala party at a fancy Beijing club.

But the organization, which has an annual budget of $11 million—not enough to cover the air fares of even a third of the participants at the Beijing conferences—found some willing sponsors.

"We are family hotels, even though we cater to

Please Turn to Page B2, Column 3

Continued From Page B1

businessmen, and we wanted people to know about us," says Herbert Carran, food and beverage director of the Moevenpick Hotel in Beijing, which chipped in $4,000 and staff for the party.

Canadian Airlines International paid about $5,000 to fly two women in from Argentina and Brazil. Why? "My wife twisted my arm a lot," says Ed Grauvogl, the airline's general manager in Beijing. "And I respect her."

◆◆◆◆

Tracy Mickens has found inspiration at the conference, in both the sung and unsung heroines of the international women's movement.

In addition to Mrs. Clinton, high-profile Americans attending the conference have included Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, Jane Fonda and former Congresswoman Bella Abzug. But Ms. Mickens says her most memorable discussion was with a sociologist from Zambia who got pregnant to debunk a popular belief in her country that talismans and herbal medicines are effective contraceptives.

"It made my mission real again," says Ms. Mickens. "It's not just handing out some papers to the press. That's what I'll take away from this conference."

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

First lady's criticisms unfounded, China says

China broke its silence on first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's salvo against its family planning and human rights record, saying Thursday that such remarks were unwarranted. It warned Washington not to create more troubles. "Some people from some countries made some unwarranted remarks or criticisms of other countries," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian. Clinton left the U.N. Women's Conference in China Thursday for a visit to Mongolia.

FRENCH BOMBING: A tardy bell is credited with saving dozens of lives when a car bomb exploded in front of a Jewish school in Villeurbanne, France. Fourteen people were slightly injured. The bomb was timed to go off at the moment the children left the school, but the faulty school bell kept 700 children inside. The explosion was the sixth in a series of bombings or attempted bombings in France since late July and the first car bomb since 1982.

IRAQI DISCLOSURE: The case for maintaining U.N. sanctions against Iraq has been strengthened by an "incredible array" of new disclosures on Iraqi weapons programs, the State Department said Thursday, on the eve of what is expected to be a routine U.N. Security Council extension of sanctions against Iraq. Among the new disclosures was a biological warfare program that targeted soldiers and civilians for blindness, gangrene and bleeding lungs, the *Los Angeles Times* reported this week.

TOMB DISCOVERY: A 4,500-year-old tomb uncovered in Syria could help unlock secrets of ancient Mesopotamian civilization. The circular tomb held remains of 10 bodies, possibly members of the same family, says Richard Zettler, associate curator of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. The tomb hasn't been looted like some in the area, Zettler says.



By Win McNamee, Reuters

IN MONGOLIA: First lady Hillary Clinton drinks fermented mare's milk while visiting a nomadic family.

ALSO . . . **SKIRMISHES BROKE OUT** between riot police and anti-nuclear demonstrators Thursday in Papeete, Tahiti. Police fired tear gas and stun grenades. Anti-nuclear activists and independence leaders blamed the rioting on France's resumption of nuclear testing in French Polynesia on Tuesday. ... **A PARCEL BOMB** exploded in the Kashmir office of the British Broadcasting Corp. and the Reuters news agency, wounding three people. Al-Faran militants holding four Western tourists are suspected. ... **RELIEF SUPPLIES** were airlifted to survivors of flash floods that killed about 20 people and left 400 missing from villages surrounding Mount Parker in the southern Philippines. A landslide triggered the floods.

★★ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 199

The Washington Times



Reuters

When in Mongolia ...

Hillary Rodham Clinton drinks fermented mare's milk, a traditional offering, while visiting a nomadic family near Ulan Bator, Mongolia. On another stop, she praised the country's reforms. Story, A13.

First lady praises Mongolia's reforms

Hillary gets a taste of local customs

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP) — In the land once ruled by Genghis Khan, Hillary Rodham Clinton stepped back in time yesterday, gamely sipping fermented mare's milk in a nomad's tent on a remote hillside and nibbling boiled cheese curds.

"It tastes like what we call yogurt," Mrs. Clinton said with a diplomatic smile.

Most Westerners disdain the taste of the traditional mare's drink, often comparing it to something between warm beer and buttermilk.

It was a foreign policy mission that brought the first lady to the rolling, green fields roamed by nomads for hundreds if not thousands of years in search of water and pastures for their livestock.

Mrs. Clinton's assignment was to show U.S. support for the first communist country in Asia to break toward freedom. Wedged between Russia and China, Mongolia has embarked on a bold — but painful — path of economic reform and democracy.

Stripped of economic help from Moscow, Mongolia's economy went into a free fall. Inflation reached 400 percent a year but now is on the downturn.

The first lady praised the country's courage in a speech at the National University of Mongolia.

"There are those who claim that freedom and democracy are Western concepts and that Asians prefer authoritarian rule," Mrs. Clinton told 200 students and faculty. "I say: Let them come to Mongolia."

Calling Mongolia an inspiration to the world, she said, "I am here to tell you, on behalf of the president of the United States and the American people, that the United States will stand by you as you continue your democratic journey."

Wearing a shawl and suede cowboy boots, Mrs. Clinton went to the nomadic countryside on the first stop of her overnight visit here. She arrived in Mongolia from China, where she spoke out on human rights at the U.N. women's conference. She will return to Washington today after visiting a center for homeless children.

The first lady sat in a domed, canvas tent, known as a "ger," with three generations of a nomadic family, including eight pink-cheeked children.

An autographed picture of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, hung on the north side of the ger, the traditional place of honor. In the center of the small room was the fireplace, the central feature of the ger and an object of respect.

"Have you had a good summer here?" the first lady asked the family. Told through a translator that the summer went well, she said, "So, the cattle are fat." Following a time-honored ritual, she was passed a snuff bottle and raised it to her nose before passing it back.

Members of Mrs. Clinton's entourage got two pages of tips about proper etiquette in a ger. If you have to go to the bathroom, for example, you tell the host you're going to take a look at the horses.

Usually, the only sign of life at the settlement are the horses, yaks, goats and other livestock. The tranquil scene was transformed by an invasion of 20 cars and trucks and a horde of cameramen and reporters accompanying Mrs. Clinton.

Few tourists ever visit this vast, sparsely populated nation of desert wastelands and pastures. The warrior Genghis Khan ruled here nearly 800 years ago. He and his immediate successors conquered nearly all of Asia and European Russia.

White House officials said the first lady was the highest-ranking American to visit Mongolia since Vice President Henry Wallace in 1944. Secretary of State James A. Baker III visited twice during the Bush administration, but he's outranked in diplomatic terms by the first lady.

The Washington Times ★ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1995

China returns Hillary's fire

Criticizes remarks of 'some people from some countries'

By Jane Macartney
REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

BEIJING — China broke its silence yesterday on Hillary Rodham Clinton's attacks against its record on family planning and human rights, saying such remarks were unwarranted and warning Washington not to create more trouble.

"Some people from some countries made some unwarranted remarks or criticisms of other countries," Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian told a news briefing when asked about Mrs. Clinton's speech to the U.N. women's conference this week.

"That is something that goes against the major theme of this conference," he said.

He suggested that those countries, which he did not name, pay more attention to their domestic problems.

Diplomats said Mr. Chen's remarks were relatively restrained and appeared to indicate Beijing does not want Mrs. Clinton's criticism to cause a further deterioration in strained ties.

Beijing had been eager to have the first lady attend the meeting, believing her appearance would help guarantee the success of the largest U.N. gathering ever.

Mrs. Clinton delivered her surprise broadside Tuesday to a plenary session of the Fourth World Conference on Women. She said China's bid to limit debate at the conference was "indefensible" and, without naming China, attacked abortion policies like Beijing's.

"It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will," she said.

Mrs. Clinton also lambasted her hosts for restricting attendance at a grass-roots women's forum near the Chinese capital.

China had kept a stony silence on her criticism. The official media did not report the remarks and mentioned Mrs. Clinton's presence in Beijing only to take a dig at her for arriving late for a speech at the grass-roots forum.

Asked how Mrs. Clinton's remarks would affect ties between the two Pacific giants, Mr. Chen said: "The key issue standing in the way of current Sino-U.S. relations is how to remove the serious consequences brought by the Lee Teng-hui visit to the relations.

"We hope the U.S. side will take concrete and effective measures instead of making fresh troubles and putting new obstacles in the way of Sino-U.S. relations."

Relations between the countries plunged to their lowest point since they were set up 16 years ago after Washington enraged Beijing by allowing a private visit by Mr. Lee, Taiwan's president, to the United States in June.

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of a civil war in 1949 and does not believe it has the right to independent foreign relations.

Beijing's Communist rulers and Taiwan's Nationalist government both say they want reunification, but on very different terms.

Beijing has been enraged by what it sees as the attempt by Taipei to emerge from its international diplomatic isolation.

The Washington Times ★ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1995

CONNIE MORELLA

Cultivating common ground

What happens when 50,000 women get together to talk about their children, their health, and their jobs? Lively discussion, heated debate, and new ideas. And that is what those of us attending the U.N. Fourth World Conference on women this week are counting on.

Conference Secretary Gertrude Mongello of Tanzania has said, "The problems [of women] are not different from country to country. They only differ in intensity." And she is exactly right. Women the world over are concerned about the prevalence of violence in their lives, the quality of their children's schooling, the challenges of pregnancy and childbirth, and economic security for themselves and their families.

This conference presents an important opportunity to strengthen the world's families, to increase the numbers of women in decision-making positions in government and business, and to ensure access for girls and women to education and health care.

This conference is not about adding genders, redefining families, denigrating motherhood, or tearing down capitalism. And it is certainly not about ignoring China's dismal record on human rights — if anything, the conference has focused the world's attention on the terror the Chinese people, particularly women, suffer day in and day out.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's Nobel laureate, said it well in a videotaped message to the conference: "For millennia, women have dedicated themselves almost exclusively to the task of nurturing, protecting, and caring for the young and the old, striving for conditions of peace that favor life as a whole. It is time to apply in the arena of the world [this] wisdom and experience."

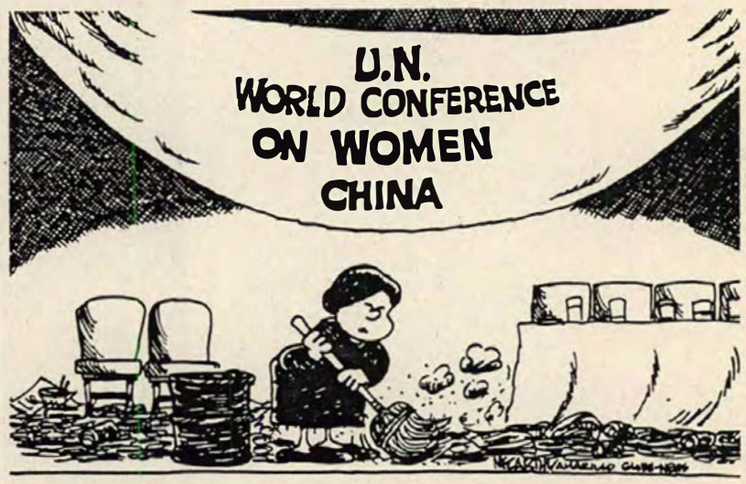
Before that can happen effectively, however, there are many challenges to overcome. Take, for example, crimes of violence against women. Domestic violence is the leading cause of death worldwide for women between the ages of 14 and 44. But, according to a report just issued by Human Rights Watch, "it is typically ignored by the state or only erratically punished."

The study, The Human Rights Watch Global Report on Women's Human Rights, states that the types of violence women face — murder, rape, assault and battery — are "condemned by the criminal laws of virtually all countries." Yet, these laws are not always enforced and in too many instances the perpetrators — when they are husbands or boyfriends — are rarely punished. Human Rights Watch offers up a disturbing and long list of examples.

For example, in Brazil, where 70 percent of the violence against women is domestic violence, courts routinely refuse to convict men who kill their unfaithful wives or lovers. The men are exonerated because they acted to protect their "honor" and did so in the heat of passion.

In the United States, where every eight seconds a woman is physically abused, we have evidence that the "heat of passion/honor" defense is alive and well right here. Sentencing a man who killed his wife after he found her in bed with her lover, a Maryland judge said last year. "I seriously wonder how many married men . . . would have the strength to walk away without inflicting some corporal punishment."

In Russia, where one in five murder victims is killed by a spouse and most of those killed are women, battered women who call the police for help are ignored because domestic violence is a private matter.



Rape is prohibited under every national law and under all international laws regarding international and internal conflicts. Yet, the rape of women and girls as a consequence of warfare and as a tool of political repression is an accepted fact of life in many parts of the world. Combatants in such places as the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Peru, and Kashmir have routinely used rape to terrorize civilian populations, to expedite "ethnic cleansing," or to reward mercenary soldiers.

Human Rights Watch has documented rape by security forces and prison guards to get information or confessions or simply to abuse incarcerated women in many nations including Haiti, Pakistan, and even in the United States.

Other issues also will be high on the conference's agenda. The education of girls and the advancement of health care for women will be discussed and debated this week. Two-thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women and two-thirds of the 130 million children who go without primary school education are girls.

Women's health worldwide is often precarious, especially in developing countries. Of particular concern is the HIV-AIDS epidemic among women. Today, women represent 40 percent of HIV-infected adults; by 2000, it is predicted that 15 million women will become infected. During the 1990s, 2.9 million women around the globe will die from AIDS.

All of us in the U.S. delegation — from the first lady to members of Congress to Sister Ann Kelly, president of the College of New Rochelle — are here in Beijing because we want a world for for our children that is free of hate and terror, poverty and disease, a world where they will be free to develop their gifts and talents unhindered by bias and discrimination. Some may deride these goals as unattainable and perhaps naive, but engage the effort we must.

Whether the issue is advancing human rights, promoting sustainable development, or mediating issues of war and peace, women will take an active role in their countries and around the world. The U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women is charting their course.

Connie Morella is a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland.

The Washington Times
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1995

No sex please, we're in Genderland

By April L. Lassiter

"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam and he slept; and He took five ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the five ribs which the LORD God had taken from man, He made into heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual and He brought them to the man."

According to the Declaration on Women at the Beijing Conference, God got it wrong. Or at least, when he created Adam and Eve, he forgot other possibilities. Apparently, the notion of defining individuals by sex is passe. In fact, the document suggests that the story of Genesis is reductive and might have been intellectually on point had it explained that gender is the defining characteristic, not the antiquated understanding of "sex."

According to the declaration, "in many countries, the difference between women's and men's achievements and activities are still not recognized as the consequences of socially-constructed gender roles rather than immutable biological differences."

This liberal coup is one more step towards an already besieged concept in our society — sexual identity. A whole cadre of women have noted, and rightly so, that the feminist movement has outlived its usefulness in promoting the health and well-being of women. Camille Paglia says of feminism in "Sexual Personae," "Feminism has exceeded its proper mission of seeking political equality for women and has ended by rejecting contingency, that is, human limitation by nature or fate."

This rejection of difference in male and female terms is further reflected in the fact that the traditional term "sex" is forfeited for the more ambitious term "gender." A word count shows that "Gender" is used over 200 times in the document. It is as though using "gender" to replace the traditional understanding of "sex" as male and female somehow liberates the individual from the reality of inherent biological determination. Ironically, if linguistics are instructive, at least three of the foreign nations represented in the conference have only one term to describe occurrences in mother nature, and that is "sex." Funny how that is.

The reality is that biology plays a large role in constructing both ability and limitations for men and women. The reason women bear children is because they can — not because they choose a particular sexual lifestyle. The reason men are employed by the military to throw hand grenades out of harm's way is because they can. Differences aren't evil — and they don't have to be eradicated from our vocabulary or defied to provide equity.

This is not to mention the anti-male sentiment that infiltrates the conference. For instance, the women's conference opened with women martial arts experts fighting off other women dressed up in costumes as men. Another of my favorite efforts to widen — er, I mean, eliminate — the chasm between men and women is the language on health and education. Apparently, science curricula are gender-biased, because they do not relate to the daily experience of women and girls.

Personally, I never found that as a female, my soft drinks got fizzier instead of flat, or that my school books dropped up instead of down. And to push to "equalize" the disproportionate health of men and women would make you think they were on a mission to abolish menstrual cramps by the year 2000. Is it impossible to separate the empowerment of women from isolation and antagonism towards men?

The stated goals of the conference — development, empowerment and sustainability — are noble and should be pursued by men and women. But the idea that they will come from breaking down and deconstructing roles for men and women is, at best, a faulty conclusion, and at worst, destructive.

As long as we continue to subjugate "human rights" to "women's rights," both men and women will be the losers. Instead of addressing the most glaring injustices within the conference and the liberals have seized the opportunity to mollify traditional family structure and forced an unfortunate debate over how one defines sexual behavior that has dominated the conversation. Once again, the facile equation of the feminist movement is uncovered: Human rights plus feminism does not equal advancement for woman.

The ideals promulgated at the Beijing conference will be influential in shaping future generations of men and women. We cannot simply look the other way and hope that these ideas will be rejected. We must reject the efforts of a few women who claim to speak for the majority of women as they sacrifice lives on the altar of legislative linguistics.

If one thing is clearly exposed by the Women's conference in Beijing, it's that the feminist movement not only fails to be pro-woman but is on a destructive mission to eliminate normalcy between the sexes. If this is what it means to be a feminist, then I am a self-hater. I concur with the Independent Women's Forum, which has been circulating a button around town that states, correctly, "Sex is better than gender."

April L. Lassiter works on Capitol Hill.

The Washington Times
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1995

R. EMMETT TYRRELL JR.

Political rebuilding props that don't wash

The other day I was having an out-of-body experience with Hillary Rodham Clinton just as Sen. Bob Dole was disparaging her husband's economic achievements.

We were en route to China for the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women. She was preparing her speech on the infamies committed against women. As her list made clear, they were basically committed in the Third World, and I thought the list skimpy. Surely life in some African hell-holes and Asian boondocks is even more ghastly than she claims.

So I asked the first lady what she would have us do about these enormities. The United States has no jurisdiction over Phnom Penh. She mentioned the power of the United Nations and "world opinion." Frankly, a more effective way to improve the condition of women in places where slavery, forced prostitution, mutilation and infanticide are practiced would be to reconvene the European Empires. How about giving the French and the British back their old colonies? Mrs. Clinton became impatient. She favored more conferences and speeches.

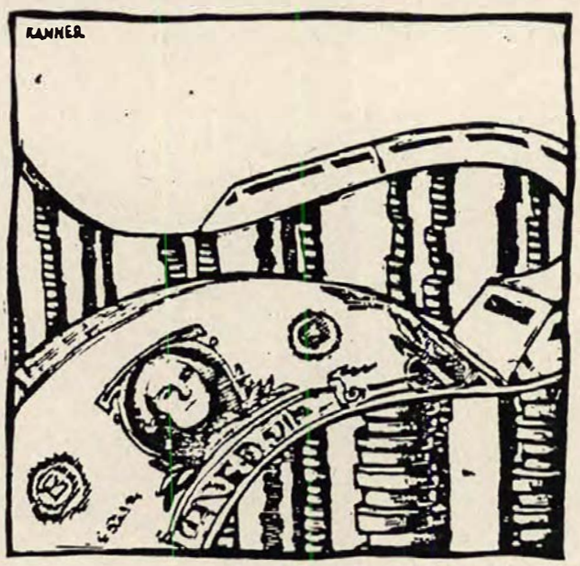


Illustration by Catherine Kanner/ Los Angeles Times

Nor did she like Mr. Dole's outburst against her husband. I got the impression it was disloyal for Mr. Dole to be so critical when she was out of the country. Mr. Dole was so rude as to mention that the present economic recovery is "one of the weakest" since World War II. He also observed that the economy's second quarter was slowing to an annual growth rate of 1 percent. That made Mrs. Clinton very angry.

I tried to be helpful. "Remind the cad Dole about your husband's fast train," said I, "and the bridges. Remind him of your husband's promise to get the tired Bush economy going by building roads, bridges, infrastructure." I fear Mrs. Clinton thought I was mocking her. Those eyes of hers narrowed. Her right hand moved toward a vase nearby, and whamo: My out-of-body experience ended. I hope that was not an expensive vase.

Infrastructure — that was the key to our salvation from the Bush Recession. Do you remember candidate Clinton singing dithyrambs to Infrastructure the length and breadth of America in the summer of 1992? He was alarmed by the Republicans' shocking deficit, but he would solve the economic problem by heaving up $20 billion to rebuild the nation. "To create millions of high-wage jobs and smooth our transition from a defense- to a commercial-based economy, we will rebuild America and develop the world's best communication, transportation and environmental systems," is how Mr. Clinton put it in his June 1992 economic proposal "Putting People First." It was as simple as that.

Of course, the country did not need a drastic rebuilding. Mr. Clinton claimed the Infrastructure had been in decline for two decades. Actually, from the early 1980s on the problem was disappearing. "I think the proposal is a little out of date," said Barry Bosworth, an economist at the Brookings Institution. "The federal data showed substantial deterioration of the highways in the early 1980s. ... Now deterioration is strictly a local phenomenon." Mr. Bosworth thought that the project Mr. Clinton envisaged would only "overload the system." And Mr. Bosworth was a Clinton supporter.

Infrastructure is one of the trendy words from the 1960s, the decade during which the Clintons' intellectual development began and ended. Their idea for getting the economy to grow faster than the rate in 1992 was to take money from private investment and to put it into government construction — the least economically sound construction known to man. It was the old liberal idea that we take from the taxpayer's left pocket and put it into his right pocket after government services get a cut of it. The Clinton economy has never matched his promises in 1992 and will not while he is president. In fact, his economic slowdown looks more dismal than George Bush's.

Another idea that the Clintons have preserved from 30 years ago is that social problems can be solved by waving placards, holding conferences, and issuing demands to those who are impervious to demands. The first thing Mr. Clinton did upon election was hold his "Economic Summit." There passe figures who believed as he did prescribed the obsolete economic solutions the Clintons still have faith in. Unnoticed by the press during that Little Rock summit was that across town Arkansas' new governor had to convene a special session of the legislature to bail out a Medicaid program bankrupted by Mr. Clinton. Now Mrs. Clinton is off at her own feminist conference producing hot air and the preposterous hope that tribal peoples in Central Africa, and herders in Kyrgyzstan, will live like graduates of Wellesley. Well, Mrs. Clinton, the world is not in need of more neurotics.

R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr. is editor-in-chief of the American Spectator.

What's in a Word? In Beijing, Lots

■ Conference: Delegates at women's forum interpret key phrases in a variety of ways. Final document will require consensus.

By MAGGIE FARLEY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

BEIJING—Thousands of governmental delegates opened debate on human rights, sexual rights and female victims of war on the fourth day of the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women, following the departure of high-profile visitors such as First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

With headsets tucked under turbans and hidden in *hijabs*, the head scarves of devout Muslim women, delegates listened in six languages to talks on the proposed "Platform for Action," the document they will take home to their governments as a guideline for improving women's status.

Subcommittees wrangled all day over single words or phrases that can symbolize much larger issues.

The phrase *sexual rights*, for example—a key subject of Thursday's debate—bristles with different meanings for different people. To the Iranians cloaked in black *burkas*, *sexual rights* suggests unacceptable sexual license. To the representative from Nigeria, it means the right to ask a truck-driver husband, who may bring AIDS home from the road, to wear a condom.

To a lesbian activist, the term may mean freedom from discrimination based on sexual orientation. To an American advocate, it's about being able to say *no* to sex within marriage, or *yes* to it outside matrimony.

With so many interpretations and implications, reaching consensus can be a struggle. "We must look at what could be possible misinterpretations as well as what could be possible interpretations," said John Mathiason, a U.N. spokesman. "No doubt we will work through the weekend."

To prevent misunderstandings, fresh translators are flying in today. But the delegates—and the grassroots activists hoping to influence them—get no relief. On the fourth day of nonstop efforts at persuasion, lobbyists had bloodshot eyes and were grabbing quick naps on couches. One woman pillowed her head on a stack of the "Platform for Action."

One U.S.-based group still had the energy to spread its message that women must have the freedom to plan when to have families and how large they will be. Like a SWAT team, the group staked out key positions in the conference hall, armed with cellular phones and bundles of pamphlets as its members waited for key delegates. One ran up the down escalator to catch a passing target.

"The Americans and Europeans here are so well organized," sighed a woman from Ghana. "We can't compete with that."

"Sister, it's another losing battle," said her friend.

But the battle is not as difficult as preliminary meetings had promised. In New York in April, several countries objected to the word *gender*, claiming it legitimized homosexuality. The Vatican had suggested it would reopen agreements made at a 1994 Cairo population conference that contraception and abortion should be legally available.

Before the Beijing meeting began, about two-thirds of the document was in brackets, signifying passages over which there was disagreement.

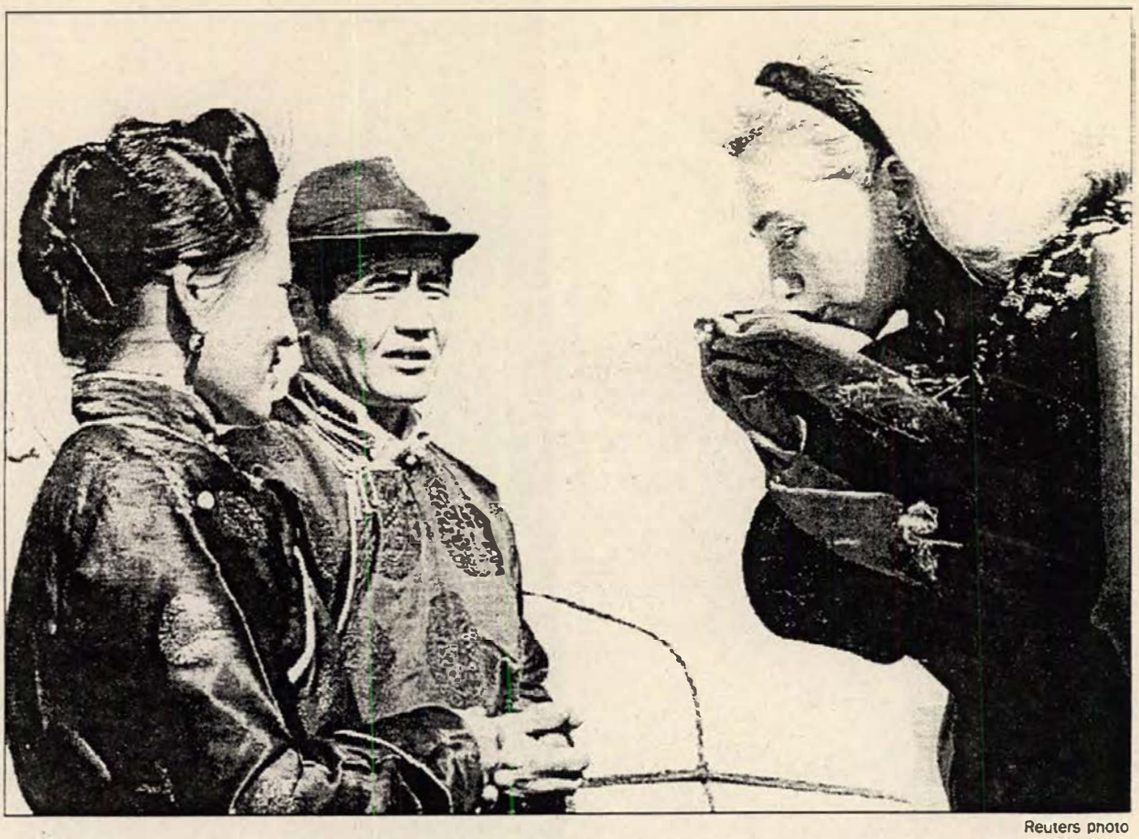
Brackets dropped quickly, though, when a working group dispensed with the *gender* argument, stating the word had no hidden meanings, and the Vatican's representatives reaffirmed they would let earlier agreements stand. "It's moving much faster than expected," said Dottie Lamm, a U.S. delegate from Denver. At the New York preparatory meeting, she recalled, "every time we thought something was solved, something else got nixed. So you never know."

Almost all sides insist that they are here to move forward. "This document is intended to protect and defend the rights of women," said Geraldine Ferraro, vice chair of the U.S. delegation. "We don't want to go back. We don't want to reopen it."

The United Nations will monitor signatories on how well they follow through on commitments to equal opportunities for women, even though the document is not legally binding.

Meanwhile, as Mrs. Clinton headed for Mongolia on Tuesday after implicitly condemning China's family planning programs earlier in the week, Beijing suggested that the First Lady mind her own business.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian, without naming Mrs. Clinton, urged critics to "clean their own courtyards." Noting that "some people from some countries made some indiscreet remarks or criticisms," Chen said: "We would like to caution these people to pay more attention to the problems prevalent within their own countries."



Reuters photo

Hillary Clinton tastes mare's milk while visiting a nomadic family near Ulan Bator Thursday. Offering the drink is a traditional form of greeting in Mongolia. "It tastes like what we call yogurt," she said.

Women delegates clash on words

UN Conference erupts in a battle over final document

By Uli Schmetzer
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

BEIJING—Christian and Muslim fundamentalists battled to substitute the word "equity" with "equality" in the crucial final document at the 4th UN Conference on Women here Thursday.

Conservative Islamic nations want to substitute the word "equity" for "equality" to define women's gender rights. They believe "equity" will give them more leeway to argue about inheritance and divorce laws, which discriminate against women in the Muslim world.

"We must fight this. We must become the No. 1 enemy of the fundamentalists," said Soheila Sadegh of a progressive Muslim coalition.

Elsewhere on the semantics front, talk of "sex," an echo of machismo and archaic symbolism, is now on the trash heap of UN Speak. On Thursday it was officially replaced in all future references by the word "gender."

Loans are now "micro-credits," cottage industries are "micro-enterprises" and women are no longer "emancipated" but "empowered."

A few anachronisms remain.

There is the famous footnote known as Strategic Objective C1, which switched the word "universal"—used in the last conference in Cairo—to the word "universally" in Beijing. Irate reaction to the switch resulted in a strange concord among the Vatican, Iran and Sudan—known as "The Unholy Alliance."

The three want a return to the word "universal" used in the Cairo document, which grants women the right to decide their own family planning methods, including abortions.

The same document, however, gives each country the prerogative to apply the Women's Conference directives according to its own national laws, ethics, culture and religion and "according to universal recognized human rights."

"This one word has given the Muslim countries a loophole for all kinds of discriminations against women by simply saying our religion does not tolerate this," complained Maryam Martins-Daftary, the Iranian-born leader of a coalition of progressive Muslim women in exile.

But by substituting the word "universally" for "universal," critics said, the Beijing document is a betrayal of the Cairo accord.

"They are trying to go beyond Cairo," complained Olivia Gans from the National Right to Life Committee. "By supporting this, the U.S. delegation has violated its congressional mandate and will have to go before a congressional hearing," she warned.

Chicago Tribune. Friday. September 8. 1995

China goes low key in criticism of first lady

By Uli Schmetzer
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

BEIJING—Hours after First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton left his country to visit Mongolia. a Chinese government spokesman said she should have minded her own business at home instead of criticizing Beijing for its human rights record.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian said he hoped Mrs. Clinton's rebukes were not intended as a U.S. strategy to further derail Sino-U.S. relations. which he said were still trying to recover from Washington's permission to allow Taiwan President Lee Tenghui to visit the U.S.

The relatively low-key response to the first lady's criticism was seen by U.S. diplomats as a positive sign that China's leadership has decided they did not want a further deterioration of a bilateral relationship that has been on the skids for the last year.

In her key address to the 4th UN Conference on Women Tuesday. Mrs. Clinton said it was "indefensible" that China had refused access to many women delegates.

She also lashed out against forced abortions and female infanticide. both prevalent in China.

China had ignored her visit and remarks.

Asked to comment during a regular weekly press briefing. Chen said. "We also take note of the fact that some people from some countries made some indiscreet remarks or criticisms. We would like to caution these people to pay more attention to the problems prevalent within their own countries."

But he pointed out that "the key issue" between his country and the U.S. remained Lee's visit.

"China hopes that the U.S. side will take concrete and effective actions in this regard instead of making fresh troubles or creating obstacles in the way of Sino-U.S. relations," he said.

Away from politics. Mrs. Clinton tasted the nomadic life that still dominates Mongolia.

After arriving at the half-built Ouyant Ukhaa Airport and waving to a few dozen construction workers who seemed to be the only people around. Mrs. Clinton headed about 20 miles into the Mongolian grasslands.

There. Mrs. Clinton visited the musty-smelling yurt of a man named Zanabaatar and his wife. Haliun.

She stepped carefully past the silver pail of cow dung used as fuel and gamely tasted the offered mare's milk and horse cheese.

Tribune wire services contributed to this report.

AM-Women-Money
,0751
Small Is Not Always Beautiful When It Comes To Money
Eds: Also moving on general news wires.
By EDITH M. LEDERER= Associated Press Writer=

BEIJING (AP) The new buzz word in Beijing is ``micro-credit'' and the bank on everyone's lips is the one that started it all, Grameen of Bangladesh. Hillary Clinton talked about it. So did Jane Fonda.

But some at the U.N. women's conference think that ``micro-credit'' is about as liberating as the micro-mini.

``What I look forward to is seeing women handling millions,'' says Ugandan Vice President Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe.

With the ranks of the world's poor dominated by women, suddenly Western governments and lending institutions have fallen in love with ``micro-credit.'' The mini-loans of anywhere from $25-$100 help women start their own businesses and escape the poverty trap.

But with women pushing against the glass ceiling and trying to make it into presidential suites and boardrooms, the focus on tiny loans wasn't entirely welcome.

``It's a little something,'' former New York congresswoman Bella Abzug, who heads the Women's Environment and Development Organization, said Thursday.

``But it's got to be a lot bigger,'' she said. ``I want macro.''

So does Kazibwe, one of the highest ranking African women in government who describes herself as ``a product of affirmative action.''

In a speech on the first day of the conference, she said ending discrimination against women requires a lot of money, ``not micro-credit'' which leaves women better off but still poor.

``Money is power,'' she said, ``and those with economic power control national and international'' affairs.

``Micro-credit'' has been around since 1976 when economics professor Muhammad Yunus started the Grameen Bank to give Bangladesh's landless poor small amounts of capital to help them earn more on their own.

The bank now serves more than 2 million people who could never get credit before, 94 percent of them women. They borrow an average of about $100 to build homes, buy cattle or start small businesses and 98 percent of them repay their loans.

Yunus has been feted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and appeared on the same panel Wednesday as Mrs. Clinton, who praised his inventiveness. ``When we help these women to sow, we all reap,'' she said.

Grameen was so successful pioneering small loans that more than 40 countries have copied the idea.

Dato Seri Datin Paduka, the Malaysian first lady, told a news conference Thursday that her country had successfully adopted the Bangladesh model and 99 percent of women were repaying their loans.

``They are very proud to have their own capital without any hassle from their husbands,'' she said. Some Malaysian women used the money to go into business selling banana fritters, others making envelopes.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Melinda Kimble called ``micro-credit'' one of the most powerful tools to expand economic opportunities for the poor. ``I think this is going to be the crux of future development,'' she said.

Two months ago, the World Bank, which normally lends only to governments, helped set up a $200 million fund to make small loans through private organizations and special banks for the poor.

Actress and feminist Jane Fonda told a news conference Thursday that the fact that the World Bank got on the ``micro-credit'' bandwagon ``was a huge, big deal'' because it showed a real commitment to helping the poorest women.

But even the bank acknowledges the program's limits.

The $200 million earmarked for ``micro-credit'' is ``really peanuts compared to the need,'' said Minh Chau Nguyen, the bank's manager of gender

analysis and policy. ``But we thought we would do that in order to demonstrate to governments that it works.''

Today, about $5 billion of the bank's $20 billion annual lending addresses specific women's concerns, and this figure is expected to increase, she said Thursday.

Minh said she was very sympathetic to women like Uganda's Kazibwe who were thinking big, because it is important that women in big business generate employment for poor women.

``But the point is ... the women who apply for medium loans and big loans don't really need any special help because they do have collateral. They have their jewelry. They have their houses. They have wealth,'' she said.

**** filed by:APE-() on 09/07/95 at 15:51EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:12EDT ****

Wu lauds first lady

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (UPI) Chinese-American activist Harry Wu praised first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Thursday for delivering a stern speech on human rights during a U.N. conference in Beijing.

Wu, who has documented heinous rights abuse in the Chinese prison system, was arrested by authorities there June 19 while attempting to legally enter that country from neighboring Kazakhstan and released two weeks ago.

``I want to applaud Mrs. Clinton...She deserves my praise,'' Wu said during a news conference. ``The first lady stood up and affirmed the principles of the United States.''

Wu's release from a Chinese jail cleared the way for Hillary Clinton to attend the Fourth U.N. conference on women in Beijing, a move the naturalized American initially criticized.

But he praised the first lady's speech in Beijing this week, which criticized China for stifling open discussion at the conference and for its coercive birth control tactics.

**** filed by:UPI-(--) on 09/07/95 at 18:26EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:11EDT ****

BC-CHINA-CLINTON-SIGNAL (SCHEDULED, NEWS ANALYSIS)

Clinton visit to China signals new approach

By Laurence McQuillan

BEIJING, Sept 7 (Reuter) - Hillary Clinton, making one of the most high-profile visits abroad by a U.S. first lady, came to China to talk about women's issues but ended up signalling a surprisingly tough new American stance on Beijing.

During two days of speeches to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, President Clinton's wife ventured into diplomatic issues she usually avoids and served notice Washington wants some new thinking out of Beijing.

Relations between the United States and China were badly strained after a visa was given to Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui in June so he could attend his class reunion at Cornell University.

Beijing has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the end of the Chinese civil war, and it reacted to Lee's private visit by cutting off high-level contacts with Washington and recalling its ambassador.

But recent diplomatic efforts have indicated a stabilising of relations, particularly after Beijing decided to expel Chinese-American human rights campaigner Harry Wu late last month rather than jail him after convicting him of spying.

There has even been talk of a fence-mending summit between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin in October.

That is why Hillary Clinton's harsh assessment of China's policies on abortion and her charge that Beijing had sought to limit a free exchange of ideas at the U.N. conference came as a diplomatic bombshell that exploded in the faces of the Chinese.

Hillary Clinton is no loose cannon. Her words were carefully chosen and in fact were uttered only after she had discussed them with her husband, aides say.

President Clinton made it clear that he backed his wife's actions when he told reporters in Washington: ``What she said is what we've both said many, many times on issues that affect China.''

And White House spokesman Mike McCurry revealed Clinton himself had helped polish his wife's speech.

``I knew what I wanted to say and I got a lot of advice and suggestions from people,'' Hillary Clinton said in assessing her comments.

She said it was time for the leaders in Beijing to make more of an effort to understand Washington's views.

``We are trying hard to understand their point of view and we want them as well to understand the way the American system operates and our point of view,'' she said.

``We think that will make over time for the kind of engagement and relationship that will stand the test of time.''

For years, since President Richard Nixon opened a new era in relations with China, U.S. diplomatic efforts have been driven by a desire to understand Beijing.

When Americans were horrified by the 1989 crushing of human rights protests in Tiananmen Square, then-President George Bush said it was necessary to understand the Chinese mind.

A few days later Bush gave Most Favoured Nation trade status to China on the grounds it would help integrate the country into the world community.

When Clinton had to decide whether or not to renew the trade policy, which gives low tariffs to Chinese goods sold in the United States, he extended it for one year and set demands for improvement in human rights within one year.

Twelve months later, in 1994, Clinton dropped the strategy and said trade would not be linked to human rights.

The latest comments by Hillary Clinton, which were echoed at the U.N. conference by Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright, suggest a change in strategy to require China to understand better the rest of the world.

There was no indication as Hillary Clinton headed for Mongolia on Thursday that the message had been received.

During her visit, the government ignored her criticism and barely acknowledged her presence.

The official silence signalled that more diplomatic difficulties may lie ahead before the United States and China can have the ``honest'' relations that Hillary Clinton says are needed.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/06/95 at 23:32EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:13EDT ****

BC-HILLARY-CHINA (SCHEDULED)

China says Mrs. Clinton's criticism unwarranted

By Jane Macartney

BEIJING (Reuter) - China broke its silence on U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton's salvo against its family planning and human rights record Thursday, saying such remarks were unwarranted and warned Washington not to create more troubles.

``We ... take note of the fact that some people from some countries made some unwarranted remarks or criticisms of other countries,'' Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian told a news briefing when asked about Clinton's speech to the United Nations women's conference this week.

``That is something that goes against the major theme of this conference,'' he said.

He suggested those countries, which he did not name, pay more attention to their own domestic problems.

However, diplomats said Chen's remarks were relatively restrained and appeared to indicate that Beijing did not want Clinton's criticism to cause a further deterioration in already strained ties.

Beijing had been eager to have her attend the meeting, believing it would help guarantee the success of the largest United Nations gathering in history.

Clinton delivered her surprise broadside to a plenary session of the U.N. Fourth World Women's Conference Tuesday.

In her speech, Clinton said China's bid to limit debate at a U.N. conference on women was ``indefensible'' and attacked Beijing's abortion policies as a violation of human rights.

``It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will,'' she told the conference.

She also said, ``If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights.''

Clinton also lambasted her Beijing hosts for restricting attendance at a grassroots women's forum near the Chinese capital.

China had kept a stony silence on her sharp criticism with the official media not reporting the remarks and mentioning Clinton's presence in Beijing only to take a dig at her for arriving late to make a speech at the grassroots forum.

Asked how Clinton's speech would affect troubled ties between the two Asia-Pacific giants, Chen said: ``The key issue standing in the way of current Sino-U.S. relations is how to remove the serious consequences brought by the (Taiwan President) Lee Teng-hui visit to the relations.

``We hope the U.S. side will take concrete and effective measures instead of making fresh troubles and putting new obstacles in the way of Sino-U.S. relations,'' he said.

Relations between the two countries have plunged to their lowest point since they were set up 16 years ago after Washington enraged Beijing by allowing a landmark private visit by Taiwan's Lee to the United States last June.

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of a civil war in 1949 and does not believe it has the right to independent foreign relations.

Beijing's communist rulers and Taiwan's nationalist government both say they want reunification, but on very different terms.

Beijing has been enraged by what it sees as the attempt by Taiwan to try to emerge from its international diplomatic isolation.

China said last week Washington had recognized the significance of Taiwan in relations with China but has said repeatedly the United States must take tangible steps if Sino-U.S. relations were to return to normal.

A meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen due to take place at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in late September would ``prove useful,'' Chen said.

REUTER

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/07/95 at 12:49EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:12EDT ****

BC-CHINA-HILLARY-WU (SCHEDULED)

Chinese-American activist praises Hillary Clinton

By Carol Giacomo

WASHINGTON, Sept 7 (Reuter) - Chinese-American activist Harry Wu on Thursday praised U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton for her hard-hitting speech on human rights at a U.N. conference on women in Beijing.

``I want to applaud Mrs. Clinton ... She deserves my praise,'' he told a news conference at the National Press Club. ``All Americans should be proud their First Lady stood up and affirmed the principles of the United States.''

Wu, who has worked to expose the Chinese prison system, was arrested in China on June 19 and charged with disclosing state secrets.

The incident inflamed already deteriorating Sino-American relations until Wu was released two weeks ago under pressure from the United States and other countries.

After Wu's release, Hillary Clinton announced plans to attend the United Nations' fourth world conference on women in Beijing, a decision Wu initially criticised.

But he praised Clinton's speech in Beijing this week that faulted China for repressing open discussion at the conference and for its practice of forced abortions. She also more generally affirmed human rights in China and elsewhere.

At the news conference, Wu said he was determined to continue exposing the Chinese gulag, where he spent 19 years of his life in China.

But he said he was unlikely to make further investigative trips to China as Beijing had made clear a 15-year prison term imposed before he was expelled last month would be enforced.

He said the Chinese may have viewed him as a bargaining chip in ties with the United States and one of the most troubling things about his incarceration was when guards took his wedding ring, which was returned on his release.

Wu spoke out strongly against Israel and other countries who pursue military ties with China. He said other benign kinds of economic cooperation could boost the Chinese regime.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/07/95 at 19:35EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:11EDT ****

BC-wu-press
Wu Hails First Lady's Attack on Chinese Human Rights Abuses

Washington, Sept. 7 (Bloomberg) -- Chinese-American dissident Harry Wu praised First Lady Hillary Clinton's outspoken address to the Beijing Women's Conference and admitted his release was probably tied to her attendance at the United Nations Women's Conference underway in Beijing.

Wu was arrested by Chinese authorities June 19 and accused of spying and passing on state secrets to ``hostile organizations.'' His detention stressed already tense relations between the U.S. and China. However, just days before the Women's Conference began, Wu was suddenly expelled from China after being sentenced to 15 years in prison and expulsion.

``I want to applaud Mrs Clinton, she deserves my praise,'' Wu told a press briefing at the National Press Club. ``All Americans should be proud of their First Lady.''

Wu said the First Lady's outspoken address to the conference, where she said it was time to break the silence of human rights abuse in China, ``Made him proud to be an American.''

Hillary Clinton's attendance at the Beijing Women's Conference was considered to be out of the question while Wu remained detained by Chinese authorities. However, within 24 hours of his release, the White House announced the First Lady would indeed attend the conference.

``I think those who decided (on my imprisonment) miscalculated how much press attention there would be,'' Wu said. ``You in the press saved my life.''

Urging foreign companies and governments to become more educated about the vastness and depth of human rights abuses in China, Wu said extension of Most Favored Nation trading status with China was ``illogical but based on capitalism.''

``The Soviets never received MFN, the U.S. boycotted South Africa for human rights abuses, why not China?'' Wu asked. ``The reason is capitalism, which many people confuse with democracy. They are not the same.''

Wu acknowledged foreign investment in China was helping the Chinese people become more affluent and thereby fueling economic growth. However, he said it was ``also benefiting those in government, prolonging their stay.''

Wu also blasted Israel for selling military equipment to China.

``The Israel government and their people have much experience of German prison camps in World War 11, why do they forget so soon,'' Wu said.

Wu said he didn't anticipate returning to China ``in the near future''. He said he would continue to work from change in China ``from the outside.''

``I am part of China, I was born there and I want to die there,'' Wu said. ``However, I will not risk returning because if I do I will be sent to jail for 15 years.''

-- Jenny Tomkins in the Washington newsroom (202) 434-1867/ge

(For more news on China: NI CHINA; on Congress: NI CNG; on the administration: NI EXE; on trade: NI TRD)

-0- (BBN) Sep/07/95 17:39 EOS (BBN) Sep/07/95 17:39 86

**** filed by:BB-F(--) on 09/07/95 at 17:56EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:11EDT ****

BC-china-clinton
China Advises Washington to ``Clean Up its Own Courtyard''

Beijing, Sept. 7 (Bloomberg) -- China criticized the U.S. after First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said suppression of free speech at the two international women's conferences in Beijing was ``indefensible.''

When asked to react to these comments, Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian said other countries should ``clean up their own courtyards'' before criticizing China.

``Some people from some countries made some unwarranted remarks or criticisms about other countries,'' Chen said.

``We'd like to caution these people to pay more attention to problems within their own countries,'' he said.

Mrs Clinton emerged as one of the most prominent delegates at the 4th World Conference on Women and the parallel non-governmental organization Forum outside Beijing.

Despite her comments, the Chinese media has virtually ignored her. The official Xinhua news agency's first mention of Mrs. Clinton came yesterday when it criticized American organizers for switching the venue of Mrs. Clinton's speech.

Chen said China hoped the U.S. would take concrete steps to improve bilateral relations ``instead of making fresh troubles.''

Mrs. Clinton left China for a one-day visit to Mongolia.

During the women's conference, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Madeleine Albright met foreign minister Qian Qichen.

-- Peter Hannam in the Beijing bureau (8610) 532-4492
through the Hong Kong Newsroom (852) 2521-4500 rm

(For more news see NI codes: EXE for Administration news; CHINA; HK for Hong Kong; LDC for emerging markets; ASIAX for Asian news excluding Japan, New Zealand and Australia.) -0- (BBN) Sep/07/95 6:29 EOS (BBN) Sep/07/95 06:29 86

**** filed by:BB-F(--) on 09/07/95 at 06:44EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:13EDT ****

BC-HILLARY-EDITORIAL op-ed:OC
Mrs. Clinton delivers
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service
(c) 1995, Orange County Register
The following editorial appeared in the Orange County Register on Thursday, 9-7.

X X X

Like most international conferences, especially those held under the aegis of the United Nations, the women's conference in Beijing this week will endorse a good deal of balderdash and ignore many of the real problems women around the world face. Moreover, it will pay scant attention to the constructive efforts of countless women to improve their lives and the lives of their families through individual effort unhelped (and unhampered) by government bureaus devoted to ``gender sensitivity.''

But the most enduring image likely to remain from this mixed bag of a conference will be that of Hillary Rodham Clinton delighting most observers with her indirect yet forceful criticism of mainland China, the conference's host country. In her 15-minute speech to the assembled delegates, Mrs. Clinton declined to thank the host country and chronicled some of the abuses against human rights especially the human rights of women that are part of the Chinese government's record. She didn't mention China by name, but everyone knew what she meant.

``It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organizations who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend,'' said Mrs. Clinton. It is reasonably well-known that representatives of women's groups from Taiwan and Tibet were denied visas by the Chinese government and that many of those attending an auxiliary conference in a Beijing suburb have complained of heavy-handed government control. In some cases the interference came close to outright censorship.

Mrs. Clinton insisted that ``freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize, and debate openly. It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments.'' And she touched on one of the most sensitive issues in mainland China when she asserted that ``it is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will.''

China's ``one child per family'' policy has led to many forced abortions and sterilizations and to the outright killing of female babies, through abortion or infanticide, a sadly predictable outcome of a one-child policy in a country whose culture lays such heavy stress on male children.

In truth, it didn't take a tremendous amount of courage for Mrs. Clinton to criticize mainland China's policies. But many people, believing that China had bought a de factosilence on its human-rights policies by releasing Chinese-American dissident Harry Wu, didn't expect her to say anything. It is to Mrs. Clinton's credit that she thought it important enough to raise human-rights issues.

The fact that it seemed necessary to address China's one-child policy to retain credibility on the subject of human rights is a tribute to thousands of activists and writers notably including Claremont Institute scholar Steven Mosher, who endured official scorn and is unlikely to be allowed back into China after exposing the dark side of family planning in several books who stayed at the often thankless task of documenting and exposing Chinese abuses year after year. Though their work often seemed fruitless, they persisted until the ``international community'' had to take notice.

The international community, such as it is, will doubtless endorse much foolishness at this conference and in the future. But for a few moments during Mrs. Clinton's speech, it basked in moral purpose and a measure of nobility.

**** filed by:KR-F(--) on 09/07/95 at 08:18EDT ****

Chinese Jostle Thousands Of Women At Forum

By SETH FAISON

HUAIROU, China, Sept. 6 — In a scene that verged on pandemonium, hundreds of Chinese security officers jostled thousands of women eager to see Hillary Rodham Clinton at the temporary center of worldwide women's activism here today, but did not stop Mrs. Clinton from speaking forcefully on human rights for a second day in a row.

Frustrated by a driving rain, more than 1,500 women had to fight their way past security officers to get into a converted movie theater where Mrs. Clinton spoke. Yet thousands more were left outside soaking in the rain, angry and complaining that China had demeaned their forum of nongovernmental groups by setting it in a small town ill-equipped to handle the meeting.

The Chinese authorities said the Americans made a last-minute demand to move the speech from an outdoor parade ground because of the rain and were thus to blame for the confusion.

An American official agreed that the switch had been made at 8 A.M., less than two hours before Mrs. Clinton was to speak. But he added that the problem arose because the authorities had insisted on Huairou as the forum site, apparently to keep the 30,000 participants far from Beijing, 35 miles away, the site of the official United Nations conference. He also said that the rain was no justification for the chaos.

Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State, were each gruffly shoved aside by a crush of security officers before making their way inside.

"What's going on here?" shouted Betty Freidan, one of the founders of the modern women's movement, who was slammed against a wall by Chinese police. She was left in the rain, unable to enter.

It was not clear how much the rough manner of the police had to do with official irritation over a speech Mrs. Clinton gave in Beijing Tuesday that criticized China for its heavy handed security at the forum here and forcefully defended human rights, and how much was simply a result of poor accommodations and inadequate planning.

The Tuesday speech was made to the Fourth World Conference on Women, a United Nations-sponsored event. The meeting in Huairou is a parallel gathering whose participants come not from Government delegations but from independent groups.

Beyond the recriminations over today's events, deeper differences between the United States and China were evident in Mrs. Clinton's criticisms of China's human rights record and in a biting speech by Madeleine K. Albright, the United States representative to the United Nations and the head of the American delegation to the Beijing conference.

"Freedom to participate in the political process of our countries is the inalienable right of every woman and man. Deny that, and you deny everything," said Ms. Albright, referring to the universality of human rights but not sparing China. Ms. Albright met with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen shortly before she spoke and informed him of what she would discuss. She said she was deeply troubled by forced abortions, which often occur as a result of China's one-child family policy, and urged China to treat its women with respect.

Mr. Qian did not raise the issue of Mrs. Clinton's criticism of Beijing, an American official said. But the Chinese delegation apparently boycotted Ms. Albright's speech.

A senior administration official said the Americans were still waiting for a formal response to Mrs. Clinton's speech, which some feared could derail the recent progress made in repairing strained relations between the two countries.

In a 15-minute address, Mrs. Clinton expressed her sympathy for the troubles that forum participants had experienced in meeting in Huairou and urged the private groups to continue their work toward the goals being discussed at the Beijing conference.

"You will be the key players in determining whether this conference goes beyond rhetoric and actually does something to improve the lives of women," Mrs. Clinton said. "What will be important is that you hold Governments to the commitments that they make."

Despite the widespread frustration when they couldn't get in, some women tried a generous approach.

Seeing many of the young security officers shivering in the cold rain without coats or hats, an elderly woman in a pink floral skirt and sandals walked over and stood next to one, holding her umbrella over his head. Her example encouraged several other women to follow suit.

"I am a mother and I have a heart for them," said the woman, Harrieta Jack from Papua New Guinea. "There is always time to help."

Police Block U.S. Officials at China Forum

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Foreign Service

HUAIROU, China, Sept. 7 (Thursday)—Cordons of Chinese soldiers and police locked arm in arm kept some U.S. officials and other delegates stranded in the rain Wednesday as they tried to get into a theater to hear Hillary Rodham Clinton address a forum of nongovernmental organizations dealing with women's rights.

"I want to pay tribute to your perseverance," Clinton said, referring both to those who braved a driving morning rain to hear her speech and those who have braved harassment and surveillance by Chinese security officials over the past week at this partially completed meeting site.

For Cabinet members, as well as for hundreds of angry women who wanted to hear the speech, it took some doing to get through the ranks of Chinese soldiers and police. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala pushed through like a fullback going for short yardage on fourth down before gaining entry as U.S. Secret Service agents shoved against Chinese security men.

"The women's movement has been through tougher things than this," Shalala said as rain ran down her face.

Entering with her were drenched and jostled members of the first lady's entourage, including Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, former New Jersey governor Thomas Kean and former congresswoman Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky. But Clinton's press secretary, Lisa Caputo, missed the speech because she was unable to push her way through.

Women delegates started lining up at 4:30 Wednesday morning to get into a renovated movie theater to hear the first lady speak. Later, more than 2,000 of them crammed into the theater and sang songs as they waited, swaying with hands held aloft. When Clinton finally arrived at mid-morning, the delegates rose to their feet to applaud.

It was the second day of Clinton's visit to China. On Tuesday, she addressed government delegations to the U.N. Fourth World Conference of Women in the well-appointed Beijing convention center. On Wednesday, she made a 30-mile road trip to this small town to address a boisterous crowd of women from around the

See CHINA, A29, Col. 1



REUTER

A young member of the White House delegation is escorted through crowds.

1/2

Chinese Police Block U.S. Officials Before First Lady's Speech at Forum

CHINA, From A27

world at the Nongovernmental Organizations Forum on Women, which is running in parallel with the official U.N. gathering. Early this morning, the first lady left China and will make an overnight visit to Mongolia before returning to Washington.

In her speech at the U.N. conference Tuesday, Clinton condemned the Chinese handling of the forum in Huairou as "indefensible." So when rain forced Clinton to switch the site of her forum speech from an outdoor venue to the theater, thus creating a crush of people wishing to hear it, Chinese officials immediately took to the public address system to blame the chaos on the first lady. A U.S. official said later that if China had provided an adequate facility as it had pledged to, there would have been enough room for everyone.

It was only the latest in a string of controversies involving the forum, whose delegates have chafed against Chinese attempts to restrict rallies and demonstrations, and distribution of newspapers and leaflets.

The government was largely silent about Clinton's speech Tuesday, in which she chastised Beijing for its treatment of forum delegates in Huairou and condemned human rights abuses of women. A report in the Chicago Tribune quoted a Chinese Foreign Ministry official as saying: "There are places for her type of criticism, but this was not one of them; you don't insult your hosts." In Washington, President Clinton declared that the first lady was not singling China out for criticism and that many of the abuses she cited apply to other countries as well.

Clinton's appearance here sent a welcome message to the forum delegates, who have struggled with difficult conditions here, including a cramped main meeting hall, another main building that is only partly finished and tent-covered secondary meeting sites that rain has turned into fields of mud.

"You will be the key players who determine whether this conference goes beyond rhetoric and actually does something," Clinton told forum participants.

While government delegations in Beijing ponder the language of a conference "Platform for Action," the most energetic contingent of women's rights activists has been in Huairou, where for the past week a vast array of grass-roots groups have overcome obstacles and gathered to network, argue, hug and exchange views and business cards. "I've been making a lot of amazing connections that I think will last a lifetime," said Rita Valent, a Seattle woman who teaches in Beijing.

The groups have ranged from women's banking organizations to lesbian groups, from Sudanese women in exile seeking to promote a more liberal version of Islam to Tibetan exiles struggling for independence from China, from family-planning groups to a political circus troupe from Australia, from the Boston Tradeswomen's Network to the Society of Azerbaijani Oilers.

The conference subject matter also ranged widely, from health care reform and economic empowerment to "O.J. Simpson: Black Women Speak on Black Men, Violence and Interracial Relationships," from a workshop on women's rights and international law to one on flirting techniques for lesbians.

"It's like a bargain basement," said Jill Martin, a young American. "You've got to sift through a lot of crummy clothes to find something nice."

Many of the browsers felt that the search has been worthwhile. A woman from British Columbia who uses a wheelchair recounted how she has been assigned a room on the sixth floor of a building with no elevator. But the young Chinese people assisting foreign guests take her up and down piggyback. And she met, among other people, someone from the same Lapland village of reindeer herders where she had lived for 10 years.

After the U.N. meeting, it will be these nongovernmental groups that will help carry out the platform and lobby governments to make needed legislative and funding changes.

"The meeting itself is the message—the large number of women who came to Huairou, though pushed out of Beijing by the Chinese government," said American feminist Betty Friedan. The woman's movement veteran seemed to be everywhere, and people from around the world stopped to listen and have their photos taken with her.

When Clinton attended a health care workshop, Jane Fonda was sitting in the first row. Other luminaries included actress Sally Field and Bernadette Chirac, the wife of the French president.

Many of the participants have been complaining that the news articles on the forum have been dominated by headlines about logistics, distracting from the substance of the gathering. Now that the U.N. conference has started, many key nongovernmental groups have moved people to the spiffier conference site in Beijing to lobby government delegates. For many it is a rare opportunity.

Amnesty International has been able to get people into China for the first time. Pierre Sane, an Amnesty official, has been moving around the convention center with plainclothes Chinese security men following at a respectful distance. The security men were wearing passes that read "Liaison Committee Local Staff."



REUTER

Clinton congratulates women at the NGO Forum for their perseverance.

The forum delegates' perseverance has been striking. As the crowd in the cinema waited for Clinton Wednesday, American singer Shirley Mae Stringer-Stratton of the group Sweet Honey in the Rock entertained with song and monologue.

"I'm going to run for mayor of Huairou," said Stringer-Stratton, who has been working with forum organizers since July. A black woman, she said that Chinese people have stared at her as she walked down the street. "I decided then and there the I'd run for mayor of this fair town," she said.

When people shouted approval, she said: "I have really moved up. I'm from the cotton fields of Georgia, and look where I am."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For updates throughout the day on what is happening at the conference, see Digital Ink, The Post's on-line service. To learn about Digital Ink, call 1-800-510-5104, ext. 9000.

212

First lady's words speak for thousands

By Charles Hutzler
The Associated Press

HUAIROU, China — The rain fell steadily, and the tent city housing a global women's gathering was a sea of mud. But that wasn't going to stop the women who came to hear first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Thousands of activists from around the world, clad in ponchos or clutching umbrellas, waited outside a crumbling cinema-turned-conference hall Wednesday, hoping to hear the first lady speak, or just catch a glimpse of her.

"Give 'em hell, Hillary!" a group of about 20 shouted.

Clinton had done just that the previous day, using her speech to the U.N. women's conference in Beijing to issue a ringing call for respecting human rights and to indirectly rebuke the Chinese for heavy-handed treatment of activists at the private forum here.

White House officials said Wednesday that President Clinton had helped polish the first lady's speech and that the text had been reviewed by pertinent foreign policy agencies, giving even further weight to the first lady's remarks.

But the president denied that the speech was specifically targeted at Beijing.



By Doug Mills, AP

EMOTION: Crowds broke into song in honor of the first lady.

"What she said was what we have both said many, many times on the issues that affect China, and much of her speech pertained to conditions in other countries, not China," Clinton said. "Some of it related to conditions in our country as well."

The gathering of non-governmental organizations, which activists say the Chinese have tried to muzzle by staging it in a remote locale 30 miles away from the U.N. conference site in Beijing, has been plagued by logistical problems. Wednesday was no exception.

Clinton's scheduled speech began more than an hour and a half late. Hundreds were turned away despite waiting for hours in the rain. Even Betty Friedan, godmother of the U.S. women's movement, couldn't get in.

Even so, the conference hall designed to hold 1,500 people was packed with a crowd of more than 3,000, nearly all women, who sat in the aisles, packed a small balcony and jammed into doorways.

Outside the building, Chinese security broadcast announcements blaming the United States for the crowd-control problems by moving the speech indoors.

The crowd waiting to get inside passed through metal detectors, creating a huge backup. The tight security initially prevented Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala from entering, though they entered, soaked, through a side door.

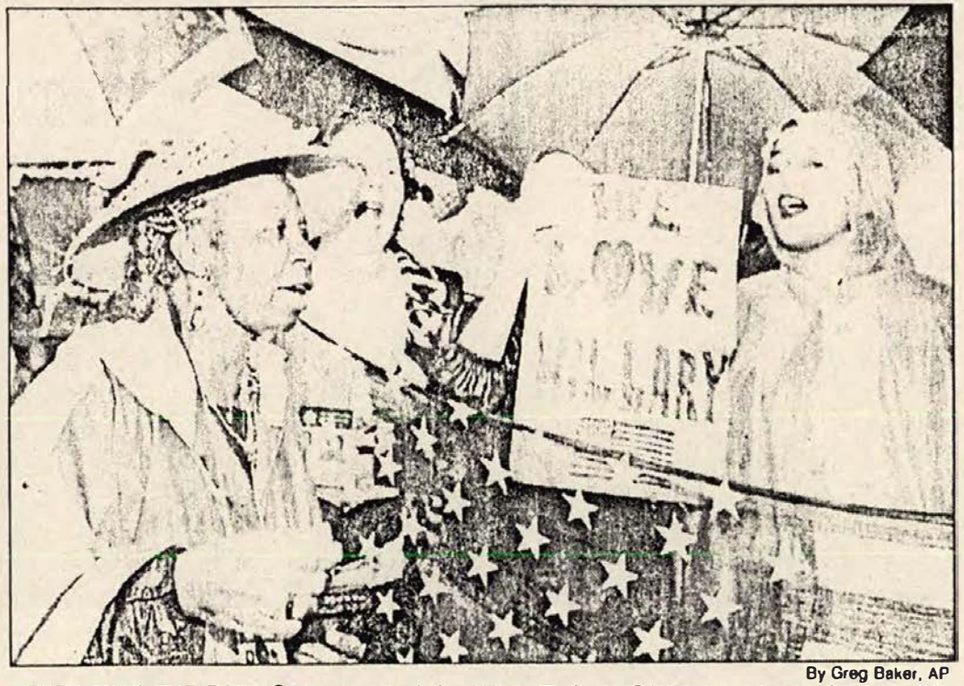
Shalala later said China "will never get another international event again."

Inside, the expectant crowd broke into gospel songs, including one tune with a refrain unfortunate under the circumstances: "People pushing forward, never turning back!"

They were still singing when Hillary Clinton finally stepped to the stage after having been brought in by a back entrance. A roar went up.

Before she was introduced, the singing started up again. She clapped her hands in time, then plunged into a spirited speech praising the private activists for doing the real work to change women's lives.

Afterward, before leaving China to fly to Mongolia for a visit, she walked off the stage and shook hands with women in the front row. The crowd broke into song again.



By Greg Baker, AP

NEVER MIND THE RAIN: Supporters wait for Hillary Rodham Clinton to arrive at the women's forum Wednesday at Huairou, China. Hundreds were turned away from the crowded hall.

First lady keeps up tough talk in China

Guards get rough with U.S. officials

From combined dispatches

HUAIROU, China — Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke out for the second day while Chinese security forces shoved around U.S. officials stranded in a rain-soaked crowd that had gathered to hear the first lady speak yesterday.

The tough talk by Mrs. Clinton and other U.S. officials here was tempered by the White House, where President Clinton insisted his wife's remarks were not intended to single out China or any other country.

A day after delivering a blunt and well-received speech on a litany of human rights abuses affecting women, Mrs. Clinton got VIP treatment on her arrival for a speech inside a theater-turned-conference center at the forum of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Huairou.

But other members of her party — including Donna Shalala, the health and human services secretary, and Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state — were left waiting in a chilly rain for a half-hour.

see CHINA, page A17

CHINA

From page A1

"We're going to keep on moving forward," Mrs. Clinton told activists yesterday. "You will be the key players in determining whether or not this conference goes beyond rhetoric and actually does something to improve the lives of women and families."

Mrs. Clinton thanked those who came to the conference for their perseverance. "You did not give up. You did not stay away. You are playing an important role in this conference."

Outside, Chinese security officials broadcast announcements blaming the United States for the crowd-control problems by moving the speech indoors during the downpour.

During Tuesday's speech in Beijing at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Mrs. Clinton called the Chinese security forces' rough treatment of women at the NGO forum "indefensible." Her speech also included a broad critique of human rights abuses in China and other countries.

But while the forceful and direct comments in her address were applauded by forum delegates, Mr. Clinton yesterday said the speech was not aimed specifically at China.

"There was no attempt to single any country out," he said in an apparent bid to defuse any negative Chinese reaction during a time of difficult bilateral ties.

Mr. Clinton, at a picture-taking session in the Oval Office, said he did not expect his wife's remarks to hurt the process of repairing ties first strained by the U.S. visit in June of Taiwan's president, Lee Teng-hui.

"What she said is what we've both said many, many times on issues that affect China," Mr. Clinton said. "Much of her speech pertained to conditions in other countries, not China, and some of it pertained to conditions in our country as well."

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said Mr. Clinton had helped polish his wife's speech. He said the text went through an "interagency process," meaning it was drafted by relevant foreign policy agencies, before the president and first lady put finishing touches on it.

Tuesday's speech seemed to make Mrs. Clinton a bigger draw yesterday.

Chinese officials said that because of a steady rain, her appearance in Huairou, a Beijing suburb, was moved inside from a field that could have accommodated a larger crowd. Hundreds of women, clad in ponchos or clutching umbrellas, struggled to get through the theater gates and a crush of people at metal detectors.

Miss Shalala and Mr. Lord, riding on a press bus in Mrs. Clinton's motorcade, were deposited at the outside edge of the crowd and had to push their way forward. When they reached the front, Chinese security forces shoved them away.

After repeated attempts, Miss Shalala and Mr. Lord were admitted through a side door, their clothes soaked and their hair plastered on their heads. Mrs. Clinton's press secretary, Lisa Caputo, was kept out until after the first lady spoke.

"The women's movement has been through tougher things than this," Miss Shalala said.

The theater was packed with more than 3,000 women, twice the building's capacity.

The Washington Times ★ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995 /

U.S. program aims to empower women

AID money eyed for worldwide plan

By George Archibald
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BEIJING — The U.S. delegation to the U.N. women's conference announced yesterday that the Clinton administration will spearhead a new training and legal services program to advance women's political "empowerment" around the world.

The proposal would use money from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) to encourage more women in foreign countries to join political parties and support female candidates, officials said.

"We want to get more women elected," Sally Shelton-Colby, assistant AID administrator and member of the delegation, said at a press briefing yesterday.

Mrs. Shelton-Colby said AID would give the "highest priority" to funding projects in foreign lands and to provide "legal rights" to women in their dealings with governments and private institutions.

The U.S.-funded legal services operation would include "programmatic interventions" with foreign government agencies, legislatures and development organizations, she said.

A spokesman in Washington said AID money already was being used through its democracy programs to increase women's participation in the political process in developing countries. But he and other officials stressed that did not involve supporting specific candidates or political parties.

"AID does spend a certain amount of its democracy budget in increasing women's political participation, so this is not an unusual development," said AID spokesman Jay Byrne.

The AID program is part of a six-point agenda unveiled yesterday by Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright to demonstrate U.S. commitment to the Platform of Action of the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women.

Mrs. Albright said the program would promote more political involvement by women in foreign countries and "promote the enforcement of women's legal rights."

Meanwhile, other U.S. negotiators lost their first effort to adopt a homosexual rights measure into the U.N. platform.

Geraldine Ferraro, U.S. negotiator for the platform's human rights section, failed to convince delegates from Jordan, the Sudan and the Vatican that "sexual orientation" is a human right that should be guaranteed as part of a U.N. effort to break down cultural and religious barriers to homosexuality and other sexual practices.

Mrs. Ferraro told delegates of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that "there's not a real favorable environment" for expanding the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights to prohibit all forms of discrimination against people on the grounds of sexual orientation. She said the other delegates did not view homosexuality as "a human right."

Mary Ann Glendon, the Holy See's representative at the conference, said she saw no need to include a special provision guaranteeing human rights for homosexuals.

Other initiatives in the U.S. plan offered yesterday include:

- A $1.6 billion, six-year Justice Department anti-crime program focusing on violence against women.
- "A healthy, comprehensive assault" by the Department of Health and Human Services to promote healthy behavior of women, including an anti-smoking campaign, increased AIDS awareness and efforts to cure breast cancer.
- A "grass-roots campaign" led by the Department of Labor for more equitable pay for women and to "promote the twin responsibilities of family and work."
- A Treasury Department campaign to promote financial credit for women.
- A new White House Council on Women to coordinate federal actions and work with NGOs.

The Washington Times ★ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

Travels with Shalala

HUAIROU, CHINA

Nights of rain, days of mud. Security checks, long boring bus and taxi rides to reach the forum on women in Huairou. Donna Shalala, the secretary of Health and Human Services, invites me and Josette Shiner, my managing editor at The Washington Times, to join her on a trip out to the tents.

"Schlep with Shalala," she says. Her staff is less enthusiastic, but here at a woman's conference on women's rights, the boss gets her way.



Suzanne Fields

Ms. Shalala wears practical, sensible (you might say) running shoes and a stylish silky pants suit that rise three inches above the ankle. No flies or mud on the secretarial ankles. She wants to see first hand the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) without the hindrance of official appointments. The omnipresent guards stop her to question the identity cards she wears around her neck, and a translator in our entourage yells (in Chinese) "Minister, minister." Persuaded that she's important, albeit female, the soldiers guarding the entrances to the tents let us through.

Security is considerably lighter than during the early days of the forum. We still go through "safety" doors, whose buzzers and bells continually sound alarms, but the guards no longer pay much attention. In fact, Ms. Shalala can't imagine why so many delegates and reporters had fussed about Chinese official harassment. This is fun, like walking through a crowded college campus with the dean.

We tell her that it was slightly more difficult when we didn't have a translator and a bona fide minister from America with us. Luckily, we aren't from Tibet or Taiwan.

On a stroll, Secretary Shalala confronts a wide spectrum of attitudes. She talks with African women in brightly colored robes with matching headdresses who look like tribal queens, Muslim women hidden dramatically in chodors. Indian women are draped in graceful silk saris, with a flash of flesh at the belly line. Many of these women earned money for their trip to China by selling crafts and posters. They have some left to sell in booths in the tents.

These are earnest women, touching in their determination, who represent grass roots organizations from villages, towns and cities in scattered parts of the world, trying against many obstacles to elevate themselves (and their families). Other women here, typically Western and white, hold workshops to celebrate the lesbian lifestyle. Their cottage industry is bashing men, whether husbands or heads of state. Their rhetoric is lost on the ears of the women of the global underclass.

The most inspiring women are in wheelchairs, who tell Madam Secretary they want her to make sure they're perceived as "healthy" women so their lives and accomplishments are honored in the final version of the "U.N. Platform for Action." Disabled women worry that they are twice threatened when women choose to abort female fetuses, fearing the slide down a slippery slope; devaluing life, one of them says, "makes babies 'like us' with birth defects especially vulnerable."

At their best, these conferences are about women getting together to enjoy friendships, exchange information and set up networks to make better lives for themselves (and their families). They also focus the world's attention on the oppression of women in certain countries, the government forcing abortions and sterilization, the culture forcing genital mutilation.

But many of these women, especially white Western women in a minority, have a hidden agenda of eliminating the influence of traditional families, religion and morality. One of their catch — all terrors, as presented in the program book, is "the rise of conservatism in its various forms — religious, nationalist, racial/ethnic and homophobic." They seek a global affirmative action program, to create an "equality of results" rather than an "equality of opportunity." This in turn frightens the rest of us.

Critics of the first lady's appearance here — I'm one of them — think her visit sets a bad precedent, casting her as a pawn of her husband's foreign policy. But once her husband sent her on her way, she delivered a powerful and passionate speech, linking women's rights with human rights, bravely saying these things in the belly of the beast. Or rather the belly of the boar.

Before Secretary Shalala leaves the village of Huairou, she stops to visit with Maureen Reagan, who headed the U.S. delegation to the first women's conference in Nairobi when her father was the president. The secretary and Miss Reagan speculated, this being on the eve of the first lady's arrival, about what she should say.

Maureen Reagan said it should be a speech for the folks back home. Donna Shalala said she should speak to — and for — women of the world. To the first lady's credit, she did both.

Suzanne Fields, a columnist for The Washington Times, is nationally syndicated. Her column appears here Monday and Thursday.

LOS ANGELES TIMES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

Vatican's Voice for Women

U.S. Lawyer Brings Balanced Approach to Beijing Forum

By RONE TEMPEST
TIMES STAFF WRITER

BEIJING—When Mary Ann Glendon first met Pope John Paul II last November, she was struck speechless.

"He has that effect on people," said Glendon, a Harvard University law professor and a prolific author of books on social justice who is not normally at a loss for words.

Speechless in Rome, Glendon has become the Pope's voice in Beijing only 10 months after her first audience with him. The American heads the Vatican delegation to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women, one of the most important missions ever assigned a woman by the male Roman Catholic hierarchy.

Given the Vatican's active participation in previous conferences on women's issues, Glendon, 56, is likely to play a key role in the debate over the "Platform for Action" that will be issued at the end of the 11-day conference on Sept. 15. Recognizing this, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday invited Glendon for a private discussion of the document with senior members of the U.S. delegation.

Glendon is an unusual choice for the Vatican role in two respects—political and personal.

Her extensive writings on comparative international abortion law indicate a flexibility and appreciation of compromise not evident in many official church positions. For example, she has written favorably about legislation in Germany and other countries that permits abortion under certain conditions in the first trimester of pregnancy.

"I am 100% against abortion," she explained when asked about her writings that compare European policy on abortion favorably to that of the United States. "But the Catholic Church has [a] teaching about the relationship between the divine law and the human law that is in the works of Saint Thomas Aquinas and other theologians."

Generally, Glendon said, she is opposed to the criminalization of abortion because of its "punitiveness toward women."

And Glendon's personal life does not fit the mold of a typical papal envoy. Her first marriage, to an African American attorney she met in the civil-rights movement, ended in divorce after producing one child.

She is extremely uncomfortable discussing the early marriage, saying, "That took place nearly 30 years ago." She explains that it was a "civil marriage" not recognized by the church.

But one result was that she spent three years as a single parent that made her more sympathetic to the plight of women attempting to work and raise children on their own. "I know what single parents are talking about when they describe their difficulties," she said.



Associated Press

Vatican delegate Mary Ann Glendon at women's forum.

Glendon also talks about discrimination she faced as a young lawyer attempting to get a start in Chicago.

Her second marriage, to attorney Edward Lev, took place in the Roman Catholic Church. Lev, with whom she has one daughter, is Jewish. She said Lev has kept his own religion but dutifully trudged off to Mass each Sunday so that their children could have a Catholic religious upbringing. The couple recently celebrated their 25th anniversary.

Glendon, fair-skinned and blonde, with small hands that dance in front of her as she talks, spent her childhood in western Massachusetts, where her father was a reporter for the Berkshire Eagle. An accomplished student, she graduated from the University of Chicago Law School, where she was editor of the law review at 22.

Later, she spent two years studying European civil law, including a year at the Free University of Brussels. For five years, she worked as a general corporate attorney with a Chicago firm, taking breaks to participate in the civil rights movement as a pro bono lawyer for the National Lawyers Guild.

Before joining the Harvard Law School faculty in 1986, she taught 18 years at Boston College's Law School. An expert on property law, which she still teaches at Harvard, Glendon has written several books on a broad range of social issues from abortion to what she sees as the degradation of the nation's legal system.

However, the book most relevant to her role as chief negotiator for the Vatican in Beijing is her 1988 work "Abortion and Divorce in Western Law." The book reserves its harshest criticism for American abortion practices since the landmark Roe vs. Wade case in 1973.

"Only in America," she wrote, "has a vast profit-making industry grown up around abortion."

She describes the last two decades in the United States as an "abortion holocaust." But in a 1988 interview with public broadcasting's Bill Moyers, Glendon said she saw "a dark side to both the pro-choice and the pro-life movements."

"I think that pro-choice has some silent support among some men who don't want to take responsibility for fatherhood, among persons involved in the profit-making abortion industry and, maybe saddest of all, among taxpayers who see abortion as a way of keeping down the size of an underclass," Glendon told Moyers.

"Pro-life has this dark side of punitiveness toward women that I find absolutely incomprehensible, but it seems to be there."

This lawyer's ability to see both sides may help avoid confrontations between the Vatican and other countries, particularly the United States, that have marked previous world conferences. Last year's International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo featured bitter fights over abortion-related issues.

At one point in the Cairo conference, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls accused the U.S. delegation of being "anti-family" and "pro-abortion."

But this year, particularly in the wake of conservative victories in last November's elections in the United States, the mood in both camps appears aimed at conciliation. Speeches by American officials stress many of the same issues found in the Vatican position, including a campaign against forced abortion and sterilization.

On Wednesday, the Vatican delegation retreated from an expected battle over abortion. And Mrs. Clinton, in her centerpiece speech at the conference on Tuesday, condemned the use of abortion as a birth-control technique while dwelling on motherhood as an occupation with its own economic value—both positions taken by the Catholic Church.

Glendon commented that Mrs. Clinton's speech was one she could have easily delivered herself.

As Glendon enters negotiations over the complex and controversial wording of the U.N. action plan for women for the rest of this century, she appears ready to pledge the Vatican to a final consensus, providing that the issues of last year's Cairo meeting are not reopened.

"This conference is about action," said Glendon. "After all the conferences that have been held since the 1950s, this conference is not about any new commitments. It is about action on the ones that exist."

LOS ANGELES TIMES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

U.S. Presses China on Rights; Abortion Battle Averted

■ Conference: Albright meets with Beijing foreign minister. Vatican softens its stance at U.N. forum.

From Times Wire Services

BEIJING—On the third day of the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women, the United States unleashed a fresh attack on human rights abuses in China, and the Vatican backed away from an expected battle over abortion.

Following up First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's outspoken attack on rights violations, Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and chair of the American delegation at the conference, raised human rights with China's foreign minister, Qian Qichen.

"He took it on board," Albright told reporters. She described the session as "a particularly good meeting."

Later, in an address to delegates, Albright criticized China's practices of forced abortion and sterilization.

She also repeated Mrs. Clinton's condemnation of China's heavy-handed policing and crackdown on free expression at a private women's forum being held in Huairou, a suburb 35 miles north of Beijing.

In Washington, President Clinton told reporters Wednesday that his wife did not mean to single out China for criticism when she made her ringing call for human rights at the conference.

"There was no attempt to single any country out," he said in an apparent bid to defuse any negative Chinese reaction at a time when he is trying to mend frayed bilateral ties.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said Clinton had helped polish his wife's speech.

Also on Wednesday, the Vatican surprised many delegates to the Beijing conference by announcing that it does not plan to reopen the battle over reproductive issues that it waged at last September's U.N. population conference in Cairo.

Negotiator Janne Halland Matlary said the Vatican wants "to protect what was achieved in Cairo."

In Cairo, the Vatican dominated the headlines and agenda with its fight to keep references to abortion, contraception and sex education out of the final document. The Vatican ended up supporting only about 70% of the document, which supports women's rights to decide when and whether to have children and to have access to family planning information and contraception.

Organizers of the Beijing conference had feared that another prolonged debate over abortion would take the spotlight off women's issues such as poverty, educational imbalances and discrimination.

Abortion rights groups and others who came here prepared for a fight were wary of the Vatican about-face.

"They want to be perceived as champions of women," said Frances Kissling, president of the U.S. advocacy group Catholics for a Free Choice. "That's going to be a hard sell, and the conference isn't over."

Controversy continued Wednesday over the handling of security at the private forum in Huairou where Mrs. Clinton spoke.

Members of the First Lady's party, including U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, and Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, were left waiting outside in a chilly rain for half an hour.

Shalala and Lord, riding to Huairou on a press bus in Mrs. Clinton's motorcade, were deposited at the outside edge of the crowd waiting to get into a theater to hear her speech. The two officials had to push their way forward. When they reached the front, Chinese security forces shoved them away.

After repeated attempts, Shalala and Lord were finally admitted through a side door.

Officially, China ignores Mrs. Clinton's blunt talk

By Ull Schmetzer
Tribune Staff Writer

BEIJING China's government, peeved by Hillary Rodham Clinton's rebukes over human rights, has snubbed America's first lady with a news blackout of her presence in China and her fiery speech to the UN Conference on Women here.

Mrs. Clinton flew to Mongolia early Thursday after a two-day visit to the UN conference, where she was hailed as a champion of women's rights. But she left the host nation feeling it had lost face before the world. She also left Sino-U.S. relations, already strained, in a state of heightened uncertainty.

"There are places for her type of criticism, but this was not one of them. You don't insult your hosts," said a Chinese Foreign Ministry official.

In Washington, President Clinton sought Wednesday to minimize the impact on U.S.-China relations, saying, "There was no attempt to single any country out" for criticism by Mrs. Clinton.

In the portion of her speech Tuesday aimed most directly at Beijing, the first lady said it was "indefensible" that many women had been denied visas to travel to China for the conference.

"What she said is what we've both said many, many times on issues that affect China," the president said. "Much of her speech pertained to conditions in other countries, not China, and some of it pertained to conditions in our country as well. So I thought it was a balanced speech."

Though her hosts were peeved, fellow delegates hailed Mrs. Clinton as "the voice of women" and applauded her remarks Wednesday when she pleaded for bankers and financial institutions to increase lending to poor women and give them a chance at economic independence.

"It takes just a few dollars to take a woman out of poverty," she told a panel of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. "Give a woman a seed and she will plant it. She will water it, nurture it, then reap it, share its fruit and finally she will replant it."

Meanwhile, most of China's 1.2 billion people were unaware that Mrs. Clinton was even in the country. No Chinese newspaper, radio or TV station made any reference to her. Officials pulled the plug on closed-circuit television broadcasts to hotel rooms, blacking out her speech.

Chinese officials said privately the blackout order came from the ruling Politburo.

U.S. diplomats believe Beijing's silence over Mrs. Clinton's visit might be a positive sign. Rather than further sour relations with the U.S., which is China's most important export market, the government may have decided to simply ignore her criticism.

The first lady's visit Wednesday to Huairou, site of the related nongovernmental Women's Forum, was turned into chaos by China's formidable security apparatus. Bogus Chinese delegates tried to interrupt seminars and workshops to complain about "American lies."

"They'll never get another international event again," said Donna Shalala, U.S. secretary of health and human services.

Shalala and Winston Lord, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for the Far East and a former ambassador to China, stood in the rain for 45 minutes trying to persuade Chinese security to let them into a Huairou hall where Mrs. Clinton was about to speak.

Standing nearby, also being denied entry into the hall, were Bernadette Chirac, wife of French President Jacques Chirac; actress Jane Fonda and author Betty Friedan, one of the founders of the women's movement in the U.S. Of the small group, only Friedan was unable to eventually squeeze inside amid shoves and shouts.

"Give 'em hell, Hillary," hollered some of the women waiting outside.

In her remarks, Mrs. Clinton repeated her criticism of Chinese treatment of the thousands of women activists who have flooded into the country for a meeting held only once every 10 years.

Many women said that, besides having trouble getting visas, they were harassed and put under police surveillance on arriving.

"I know that you have had to endure severe frustrations here as you do your work," Mrs. Clinton said to cheers.

Bluntness in her speeches encouraged others to follow her lead.

On Wednesday, delegates from the tiny Pacific island of Nauru circulated a petition to the estimated 30,000 women delegates demanding an apology from the UN for allowing China to shift the Women's Forum to the farming town of Huairou, more than an hour's drive from the capital.

"The UN was fully aware the town's facilities and conditions were inadequate," said the petition, referring to the tent city now covered in a sea of mud where workshops and seminars are being held.

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, added more fuel to the fire when she told the conference plenary session Wednesday: "The right to free expression has been called into question right here at a conference conducted under the auspices of the UN and whose very purpose is the free and open discussion of women's rights."



Reuters photo

A sea of umbrellas shields delegates to the non-governmental organizations' Women's Forum in rainy Huairou, China, on Wednesday. There were more delegates than could fit inside the convention hall to hear a rousing speech by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Chicago Tribune, Thursday, September 7, 1995

Speaking for the rights of women worldwide

The following is an excerpt from Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech before the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Women comprise more than half the world's population, 70 percent of the world's poor, and two thirds of those who are not taught to read and write. We are the primary caretakers for most of the world's children and elderly. Yet, much of the work we do is not valued, not by economists, not by historians, not by popular culture, not by government leaders. At this very moment, as we sit here, women around the world are giving birth, raising children, cooking meals, washing clothes, cleaning houses, planting crops, working on assembly lines, running companies and running countries.

Women also are dying from diseases that should have been prevented or treated. They are watching their children succumb to malnutrition caused by poverty and economic deprivation. They are being barred from the bank lending offices and banned from the ballot box. Those of us who have the opportunity to be here, have the responsibility to speak for those who could not.

The truth is that most women around the world work both inside and outside the home, usually by necessity. We need to understand there is no one formula for how women should lead our lives, that is why we must respect the choices that each woman makes for herself and her family.

But we must recognize that women will never gain full dignity until their human rights are respected and protected. Our goals for this conference, to strengthen families and societies by empowering women to take greater control over their own destinies, cannot be fully achieved unless all governments here and around the world accept their responsibility to protect and promote internationally recognized human rights.

Tragically, woman are most often the ones whose human rights are violated. Even in the late 20th Century, the rape of women continues to be used as an instrument of armed conflict. Women and children make up a large majority of the world's refugees. And when women are excluded from the political process, they become even more vulnerable to abuse.

I believe that, on the eve of a new millennium it is time to break our silence.

The voices of this conference and of women at Hairou must be heard loud and clear:

- It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls.
- It is a violation of human rights when women and girls are sold into the slavery of prostitution.
- It is a violation of human rights when women are doused with gasoline, set on fire, and burned to death because their marriage dowries are deemed too small.
- It is a violation of human rights when individual women are raped in their own communities and when thousands of women are subjected to rape as a tactic or prize of war.
- It is a violation of human rights when a leading cause of death worldwide among women ages 14 to 44 is the violence they are subjected to in their own homes.
- It is a violation of human rights when young girls are brutalized by the painful and degrading practice of genital mutilation.

It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will.

If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, it is that human rights are women's rights. And women's rights are human rights.

Let us not forget that among those rights are the right to speak freely and the right to be heard. Women must enjoy the right to participate fully in the social and political lives of their countries if we want freedom and democracy to thrive and endure.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is first lady of the United States.

PM-Women-Mrs Clinton, 3rd Ld-Writethru, a0522,820
U.S. First Lady Calls for Translating Goals to Reality
EDs: To UPDATE with White House reax, INSERTS 2 grafs after 6th graf ``The women's... and SUBS 25th graf pvs, President Clinton, with 2 new grafs; minor editing to tighten
By TERENCE HUNT= AP White House Correspondent=

HUAIROU, China (AP) In a theater jammed with women singing, ``We're going to keep on moving forward,'' Hillary Rodham Clinton today urged activists from around the world to make sure that the high-minded goals of a U.N. conference on women become a reality.

On a rain-drenched morning, senior American officials accompanying the first lady got a taste of the heavy-handed treatment that women activists have complained about for days in this village 30 miles outside of Beijing.

Grim-faced security forces, posted at entrances with their arms locked together, shoved away Donna Shalala, the diminutive secretary of Health and Human Services, and Winston Lord, the assistant secretary of State for the Far East.

The two officials were in a crush of hundreds of people struggling to get in the gates and then through a huge backup at metal detectors at the main entrance. Even Betty Friedan, godmother of the U.S. women's movement, couldn't get in.

After a half hour of trying, Shalala and Lord were finally admitted through a side door, their clothes soaked and their hair plastered on their heads. Mrs. Clinton's press secretary, Lisa Caputo, was kept out until after the first lady spoke.

``The women's movement has been through tougher things than this,'' Shalala said good-naturedly. Mrs. Clinton got VIP treatment and did not encounter any problems. Lord and Shalala, though, rode to Huairou on a bus with the press and several other members of Mrs. Clinton's delegation, and everyone encountered problems.

The White House downplayed any political significance to the hassles.

``I don't know that it's directed at the United States. It's consistent with the performance of Chinese security officials toward delegations from around the world,'' press secretary Mike McCurry told reporters at the White House.

Inside the theater, now turned into a conference hall, women filled every seat, sat in the aisles, packed a small balcony and jammed the doorways. There were more than 3,000 people, twice the building's capacity.

``We're going to keep on moving forward, never turning back,'' they sang as Mrs. Clinton took the stage. ``We're going to work for women's freedom, never turning back.''

There was a smattering of protest. Several women held up a sheet with the words, ``Stop U.S. Imperialism.'' Another sign said, ``Stop the rape in Bosnia.''

The activists here are trying to shape the outcome of the women's conference in Beijing, and Mrs. Clinton assured them that their voices are being heard.

``You will be the key players in determining whether or not this conference goes beyond rhetoric and actually does something to improve the lives of women and families,'' declared Mrs. Clinton, a crusader for women's rights for 25 years.

``It will be (the activists) that will hold governments to the commitments they make,'' she said.

Many of the women here encountered obstacles in getting visas to enter China and then faced problems in housing and transportation and had to dig deep into their purses to pay for expenses.

Mrs. Clinton thanked them for their perseverance. ``You did not give up. You did not stay away. You are playing an important role in this conference.''

Outside, Chinese security officials broadcast announcements blaming the United States for the crowd-control problems by moving the speech indoors

despite the downpour.

The government also maintained a stony silence about Mrs. Clinton's speech Tuesday, in which she chastised Beijing for its treatment of women in Huairou and said it was time to stop the silence about human rights abuses of women. The China Daily newspaper, for example, made no mention of Mrs. Clinton's address.

American officials took that as a positive sign, suggesting that China would rather ignore her remarks rather than raise a fuss.

Activist Harry Wu, interviewed by APTV overnight, praised Mrs. Clinton for her hard-hitting criticism of China's human rights practices.

``I think all Americans should be proud ... because she ... bravely and publicly, forcefully, directly expressed the message: condemn Chinese human rights abuses.''

President Clinton was said to be delighted with the first lady's speech, calling her with congratulations from Air Force One as he returned to Washington from California.

``They worked on the text together,'' McCurry said. ``The president was very satisfied that she made a significant contribution to the conference.''

Wednesday's foul weather forced Mrs. Clinton, a first-time visitor to China, to cancel a sightseeing trip to the Great Wall. Nevertheless, the first lady won't go home empty-handed. She stopped at a gift shop Tuesday and bought a silver-encrusted porcelain box.

On Thursday, the first lady will leave China for an overnight visit to Mongolia, where her visit will include meetings with nomadic women and homeless children. She will return to Washington on Friday.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/06/95 at 11:40EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:15EDT ****

AM-Women's Conference,0758
U.S. Attacks Human Rights, Vatican Backs Away From Abortion Fight
With AM-Women-Mrs Clinton, Bjt
AP Photos NGO104,110-111,113
By EDITH M. LEDERER= Associated Press Writer=

BEIJING (AP) The United States unleashed a fresh attack on human rights abuses in China. The Vatican backed away from an expected battle over abortion. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton pushed for more bank credit to bring women out of poverty.

It was all part of Day Four at the U.N. women's conference. But the real business of drafting a wide-ranging agenda to improve the lives of women was going on behind closed doors, and progress reportedly was slow.

Following up Mrs. Clinton's outspoken attack on human rights violations, U.S. delegation chief Madeleine Albright raised human rights with China's foreign minister, Qian Qichen.

``He took it on board,'' Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told The Associated Press. She described the session as ``a particularly good meeting.''

Later, in an address to delegates, Albright criticized China's practice of forced abortion and sterilization and repeated the first lady's condemnation of China's heavy-handed policing and crackdown on free expression at a private women's forum outside Beijing.

Speaker after speaker demanded human rights for women. Some, like Danish Social Affairs Minister Karen Jespersen, supported the Western view that human rights should be universal, not dependent on a country's religion or culture.

But British delegation leader Baroness Lynda Chalker criticized Mrs. Clinton's ``full frontal attack'' on her communist hosts, and suggested she was playing to her domestic audience. ``I don't think that helps to change things. We work by quiet diplomacy,'' Chalker said in a BBC radio interview.

More than 5,000 delegates are debating some of the most divisive issues before the conference reproductive, sexual and human rights.

The Vatican surprised many delegates by announcing it does not plan to reopen the battle over reproductive issues that it waged at last September's U.N. population conference in Cairo.

Organizers of the Beijing conference had feared that another prolonged debate over abortion would take the spotlight off women's issues such as poverty, educational imbalances and discrimination.

In Cairo, the Vatican dominated the headlines and agenda with its fight to keep references to abortion, contraception and sex education out of the final document.

The Vatican ended up supporting only about 70 percent of the document. But on Wednesday, negotiator Janne Halland Matlary said the Vatican wants ``to protect what was achieved in Cairo.''

In Cairo, delegates for the first time agreed that women have a right to decide when and whether to have children, and to have access to family planning information and contraception.

Matlary said some countries are trying to backslide on the Cairo accord and warned that a battle over reproductive issues could ``sidetrack this conference and this will be very unfortunate indeed.''

Abortion rights groups and others that came here prepared for a fight were wary of the Vatican about-face.

``They want to be perceived as champions of women,'' said Frances Kissling, president of the U.S. advocacy group Catholics for a Free Choice. ``That's going to be a hard sell, and the conference isn't over.''

Matlary did not identify the countries trying to reopen the reproductive rights issue, but some predominantly Catholic and Islamic nations have already sought to water down Cairo language in the 120-page Beijing platform.

About one-third of the text is ``bracketed,'' meaning the language is disputed by one or more of the 181 countries represented at the conference.

One conference goal is to get women into jobs and Mrs. Clinton had a proposal: more small loans to poor women by small banks.

``The fact is, give a woman a seed and she will plant it, water it, nurture it, then reap it, share its fruits and finally she will replant it,'' she told about 200 people, mainly women, during a panel discussion.

With loans of as little as $10, women in Third World countries could start a small business, she said.

``In this way, step by step, the world's poorest women are leading their families, their communities and their countries to a better future,'' Mrs. Clinton said. ``When we help these women to sow, we all reap.''

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/06/95 at 14:11EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:14EDT ****

AM-Women-Mrs Clinton, Bjt,700
U.S. Officials With Mrs. Clinton Jostled, Soaked in China
With AM-Women's Conference
By TERENCE HUNT= AP White House Correspondent=

HUAIROU, China (AP) American officials stranded in a rain-soaked crowd were shoved around by Chinese security forces Wednesday, marring Hillary Rodham Clinton's trip to show solidarity with women activists in this village outside Beijing.

The first lady got VIP treatment on her arrival for a speech at a theater-turned-conference center. But other members of her party including Donna Shalala, the secretary of health and human services, and Winston Lord, the assistant secretary of state for the Far East were left waiting outside in a chilly rain for a half hour.

The scene spotlighted some of the logistical problems and harassment that have affected thousands of women, meeting separately from the Fourth World Conference of Women 30 miles away in Beijing. Mrs. Clinton, in a speech a day earlier, had said China's treatment of the women was ``indefensible.''

Mrs. Clinton thanked them Wednesday for their perseverance. ``You did not give up. You did not stay away. You are playing an important role in this conference,'' she said.

The rain resulted in Mrs. Clinton's appearance being moved inside from a field that could have accommodated a large crowd. Hundreds of women, clad in ponchos or clutching umbrellas, struggled to get in the theater gates and through a crush of people at metal detectors.

Shalala and Lord, riding to Huairou on a press bus in Mrs. Clinton's motorcade, were deposited at the outside edge of the crowd and had to push their way forward. When they reached the front, Chinese security forces shoved them away.

After repeated attempts, Shalala and Lord were finally admitted through a side door, their clothes soaked and their hair plastered on their heads. Mrs. Clinton's press secretary, Lisa Caputo, was kept out until after the first lady spoke.

``The women's movement has been through tougher things than this,'' Shalala said good-naturedly.

Outside, Chinese security officials broadcast announcements blaming the United States for causing the crowd-control problems by moving the speech indoors.

Inside, the theater was packed with more than 3,000 women, twice the building's capacity.

``We're going to keep on moving forward, never turning back,'' the women sang, holding hands and swaying side to side in their seats. ``We're going to work for women's freedom, never turning back.''

The activists here are trying to shape the outcome of the women's conference in Beijing, and Mrs. Clinton assured them that their voices are being heard.

``You will be the key players in determining whether or not this conference goes beyond rhetoric and actually does something to improve the lives of women and families,'' declared Mrs. Clinton, a crusader for women's rights for 25 years.

``It will be (the activists) that will hold governments to the commitments they make,'' she said.

The government maintained a stony silence about Mrs. Clinton's speech Tuesday, in which she chastised Beijing for its treatment of women in Huairou and said it was time to stop the silence about human rights abuses of women.

American officials took that as a positive sign, suggesting that China would rather ignore her remarks than raise a fuss.

Chinese-American activist Harry Wu, interviewed by APTV overnight, praised Mrs. Clinton for her criticism of China's human rights practices.

``I think all Americans should be proud ... because she ... bravely and publicly, forcefully, directly expressed the message: Condemn Chinese human rights abuses.''

Mrs. Clinton also spoke at a panel in Beijing, where she extolled lending programs for poor people most of them women who otherwise could not get credit to build homes, buy cattle or start small businesses.

``As one woman told me, many great ideas die in the parking lots of banks because women get only so far,'' Mrs. Clinton said.

On Thursday, the first lady will leave China for an overnight visit to Mongolia, including meetings with nomadic women and homeless children. She will return to Washington on Friday.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/06/95 at 15:04EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:14EDT ****

(ED: refiling to some points)
Thousands shut out of Hillary speech

HUAIROU, China, Sept. 6 (UPI) Tempers flared Wednesday as Chinese security police locked thousands of delegates out of the venue where U. S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton addressed the Non-Governmental Ogranizations Forum on Women.

Standing in pouring rain, an estimated 2,000 people, many arriving three hours before Clinton was due to speak, were turned away from the meeting hall by hundreds of plainclothes police.

Hundreds of journalists also were barred from the hall, which Chinese authorities said was able to accomodate only 2,500 of the 19,000 forum participants.

The dispute followed by one day a surprisingly forceful attack on China and its heavy-handed tactics by Clinton as she addressed the conference plenary Tuesday.

Bernadette Chirac, wife of French President Jacques Chirac, was delayed by police for more than 30 minutes before finally being allowed to enter the forum site in Huairou, witnesses said outside the hall.

A scuffle broke out between police and aides to Winston Lord, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, as he tried to enter the hall, said witnesses.

Lord, who is accompanying Clinton, is to meet separately for talks with his counterparts in China's Foreign Ministry, a U.S. official said.

After Clinton's departure from the site, Chinese authorites blamed the confusion on the United States, saying it had demanded a different venue. The speech originally was to have taken place at an outdoor sports ground.

The organizers issued a statement, broadcast over the forum site's loudspeakers, saying, ``The Chinese authorities here again and again negotiated with the U.S. side about changing the site, but they insisted on meeting in this center instead of the original site.''

NGO Facilitating Committee member Salamo Fulivai, who is also Pacific director of the YWCA, called the announcement ``rubbish.''

``The sports ground was unfit for any meeting or speech. That's why they had to move it inside,'' she said.

The NGO Forum, running parallel with the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women, has been beset with troubles since it opened one week ago. Delegates have complained loudly about harassment and surveillance by Chinese security police despite a pledge to end those tactics Saturday.

Although 36,000 registered to attend the forum, only 19,000 made it to Huairou, with women defiantly supporting independence for Tibet and greater international stature for Taiwan among those denied visas.

On Tuesday, Clinton condemned a long list of abuses against women in China but her strongest blast was reserved for China barring of groups and individuals from the forum, an act she described as ``indefensible.''

``Let me be clear,'' Clinton told government delegates at the conference Tuesday. ``Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize and debate openly. It means respecting the views of those who disagree with the views of their governments.''

The Chinese government did not immmediately respond to Clinton's remarks.

The entire state-run media, including newspapers, radio and television has not mentioned her visit. The official government-run Xinhua news agency, which has reported the speeches of all important participants at the conference, was also silent, failing to report one word of her speech.

A Western diplomat in Beijing called Clinton's speech Tuesday ``courageous but potentially dangerous'' for Sino-U.S. relations.

``The Chinese will almost certainly take offense,'' he said. ``For the first lady to say what she did means Washington believes it is dealing with China out of strength.''

**** filed by:UPI-(--) on 09/06/95 at 13:57EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:15EDT ****

(Ed: updating, more details on outside scuffles)
Hillary Clinton praises grassroots activists
By RUTH YOUNGBLOOD=

HUAIROU, China, Sept. 6 (UPI) U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday praised grassroots activists for enduring ``great frustrations'' in China and urged them to turn the outcome of the Fourth U.N. Conference on Women into ``action that counts.''

``Despite the difficulties of coming here and being here,'' she exhorted participants in the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum to assure that the final action plan goes beyond rhetoric.

``What we are attempting to do requires faith and commitment,'' she said to cheers and a standing ovation from the 2,000 packed into the convention center, a converted cinema in the Beijing suburb.

With a downpour forcing the relocation of the speech from a large middle school field to the theater, pandemonium erupted when Chinese security police barred participants, press and even some members of Mrs. Clinton's staff from entering.

Women standing in ankle-deep mud screamed they were being crushed, including those carrying babies. Chinese police still refused to allow any more than one person in at a time to undergo a rigorous security check although most had been waiting for at least two hours.

It was only when the crowd of 3,000 threatened to smash the glass doors that two were opened, and about 2,000 cascaded inside.

At least 1,000 drenched women, including actress Jane Fonda, U.N. Under Secretary-General Elizabeth Dowdeswell, and key members of the First Lady's entourage, were left outside. Soldiers surrounded the building.

Bernadette Chirac was refused entry for 30 minutes until a French security guard pushed her through, explaining she was the wife of Jacques Chirac, the president of France.

A scuffle broke out between police and aids to Winston Lord, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, witnesses said.

Those left in the rain were prevented from leaving the site by guards locking the outside gate, triggering demonstrations against the Chinese security tactics.

``We want freedom! We want freedom!'' the protestors chanted.

Mrs. Clinton, the honorary head of the U.S. delegation, was given a heroine's welcome inside despite more than an hour's delay with the delegates singing, ``Keep on Moving Forward.'' She gamely joined right in and clapped along with the cheering crowd.

``For many of you who did get here, getting here was far from easy,'' she said in her second attack in two days on China for refusing to grant visas to all 36,000 who registered to come to the forum.

``Many were kept from attending,'' she said, but lauded those who made it. ``You did not give up. You did not stay away. You will be the key players in determining whether this conference actually goes beyond rhetoric.''

Beijing excluded groups favoring independence for Tibet, greater international stature for Taiwan and others deemed security risks.

The NGOs ``have had to endure great frustrations,'' she said. ``I salute you for your dedication to a great cause.''

The 10-day forum ending Friday coincides with the conference in Beijing running through Sept. 15.

Huairou has been hounded by harassment and surveillance of delegates by police despite China's pledge to end the scrutiny Saturday.

While Mrs. Clinton was speaking, conference organizers issued a statement broadcast over loudspeakers blaming the decision to move the speech indoors on the Americans.

``They insisted on meeting in the center instead of the original site,'' the Chinese organizers said.

After expressing regrets that rain forced the switch, Mrs. Clinton

stressed the ``important role'' of the NGOS.

``It is the NGOs who are responsible for making progress,'' Mrs. Clinton said. ``It will be the NGOs who hold governments'' responsible for honoring the commitments they make.

She reiterated her Tuesday call for all governments to take action to protect and promote internationally recognized human rights.

Mrs. Clinton's two-day visit comes amid gradually improving Sino-U.S. relations. After China released U.S. human rights activist Harry Wu last month, the first lady said she would attend the conference.

**** filed by:UPI-(--) on 09/06/95 at 06:27EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:17EDT ****

BC-WOMEN-HILLARY

Hillary Clinton ends controversial China visit

By Laurence McQuillan

BEIJING, Sept 7 (Reuter) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton ended a controversial visit to China for the world women's conference on Thursday that was marked by her sharp attacks on Beijing's human rights record and population policies.

As Clinton headed for Mongolia, China maintained its cold silence in the official media about her remarks during the three-day visit which came at a time of strained U.S.-China relations.

On Tuesday, Clinton found out at first hand about complaints of heavy-handed security during the conference when Chinese guards briefly locked her top aides out of one of her speeches forcing the Americans to stand in the rain.

Speaking to the grassroots U.N.-affiliated forum on the outskirts of Beijing, Clinton praised activists for overcoming visa problems and over-zealous Chinese security to attend the meeting.

But while activists applauded Clinton, other U.S. officials, including Assistant Under Secretary of State Winston Lord, a former ambassador to China, were getting soaked as they tried to fight past security checkpoints into the building.

Many activists who wanted to participate in the forum, held every 10 years, said they had been denied visas while others said they had been harassed by police and were under surveillance when they reached the event in Huairou.

``I know that you have had to endure severe frustrations here as you do your work,'' Clinton said to cheers from women who have endured stiff security at the Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) forum that runs parallel to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

About 3,000 delegates turned out in the rain to hear Clinton's speech.

But the steady downpour forced Clinton to move her planned outdoor address inside, leaving thousands disappointed as Chinese authorities locked arms to turn them away.

The situation deteriorated when guards refused to permit members of the U.S. delegation who arrived with the first lady to enter the building.

Donna Shalala, the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary and co-chair of the American delegation, and Lord were caught in the surging crowd of people clutching umbrellas.

After more than 30 minutes of jostling with authorities and the crowd, most members of Clinton's party were able to shove their way past security into the building.

Shalala, her wet hair lying flat on head, joked about the ordeal. ``The women's movement has been through tougher times than this.''

China used the incident to edge up the curtain in its virtual news blackout on Clinton's visit, finding space in its state-run media to take a dig at her for being late for the speech and blaming chaos at the site on the United States.

``The U.S. side suddenly switched the venue for Mrs Hillary Clinton's speech... many participants could not enter the hall and were dissatisfied,'' the official Xinhua news agency said.

It said the government made repeated appeals for her to speak in the rain but the U.S. side insisted that the speech would be cancelled if it had to be held outdoors.

``Under these circumstances, the Chinese side immediately took emergency measures, and made the centre ready in a very short period of time,'' it said.

``Many participants said that they were indignant at the act of the U.S. side,'' Xinhua said, adding that the first lady arrived about 90 minutes late.

NGO participants who did manage to enter the auditorium welcomed the U.S. first lady as a heroine, with one woman holding up a sign declaring: ``We will lead like you tomorrow.''

BC-CHINA-USA-RIGHTS

Clinton says Hillary was not singling out China

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - President Clinton said on Wednesday that Hillary Rodham Clinton was not singling out China for criticism when she spoke out about human rights at a women's conference in Beijing.

``There was no attempt to single any country out,'' Clinton told reporters when asked about the first lady's speech on Tuesday at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

MORE

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/06/95 at 14:36EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:14EDT ****

BC-WOMEN-GLANCE

Women's conference at a glance

BEIJING (Reuter) - A rain-soaked tussle between U.S. officials and Chinese security, civil rights ballads from a gospel singer and more attacks on China marked twin international women's conferences Wednesday.

RAIN-DRENCHED LOCKOUT: U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Assistant Under Secretary of State Winston Lord jostled with Chinese guards in pouring rain and ankle-deep mud when refused entry to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech to the Non-Governmental Womens (NGO) forum.

After more than 30 minutes most members of the U.S. party were able to shove past security. Shalala, with her wet hair laying flat on head, joked about the ordeal saying, ``The women's movement has been through tougher times than this.''

GOSPEL SINGING: Gospel singer Shirley May Staten led the crowd in an hour of civil rights ballads to put delegates back in a mood to hear Clinton after rain forced the venue to be switched from a giant arena to a much smaller converted cinema.

When one woman asked where Clinton was, Staten cajoled her. ``'Where's Mrs Clinton? You don't look like Mrs. Clinton.' Well! Mrs. Clinton just got a suntan, honey,'' the black singer teased to gales of laughter. ``Just chill, mama. Chill!''

HERO'S WELCOME: When she did finally speak after arriving one hour late, Clinton received a hero's welcome, with one woman holding up a sign declaring: ``We will lead like you tomorrow.''

Clinton told them, ``Thanks to your tenacity ... you will be the key players in determining whether or not this conference goes beyond rhetoric and actually does something.''

CHINA AGAIN: The United States attacked Beijing for a second day at the Fourth World Conference on Women when Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright said no woman should be forced to abort her child.

``No women -- whether in Birminghan, Bombay, Beirut or Beijing -- should be forcibly sterilized or forced to have an abortion,'' she said, following up on Clinton's attack Tuesday.

ANIMAL CAPERS: In what Beijing may see as a further dig, Albright quoted an old Chinese poem to illustrate the need for sexual equality.

``We keep a dog to watch the house, a pig is useful too,

``We keep a cat to catch a mouse, but what can we do

``With a girl like you?''

Then she said: ``Fellow delegates, let us make sure that question never needs to be asked again, in China, or anywhere else around the world.''

SABOTAGE PLOT: Human rights group Amnesty International said governments determined to roll back women's freedoms were attempting to sabotage the conference.

Amnesty executive secretary Pierre Sane declined to single out any country but said the biggest danger came from nations seeking to thwart women's attempts to have the same rights as men. ``We all hope it makes it. But we know there are some governments that are out to break the conference,'' he said.

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/06/95 at 13:16EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:15EDT ****

BC-WOMEN-ALBRIGHT 1STLD
China under U.S. verbal attack for second day
(Recasts, adds further Albright comments)
By Mure Dickie

BEIJING (Reuter) - China came under fire from the United States for a second day Wednesday when Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright told a U.N. women's conference that no woman in Beijing should be forced to abort her child.

``No women -- whether in Birminghan, Bombay, Beirut or Beijing -- should be forcibly sterilized or forced to have an abortion,'' she told a plenary session of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

Albright also criticized conference host China on human rights in a speech likely to embarrass and infuriate Beijing, which has yet to respond publicly to similar tough remarks made by U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Tuesday.

``It is unconscionable ... that the right to free expression has been called into question right here, at a conference conducted under the auspices of the U.N. and whose very purpose is the free and open discussion of women's rights,'' she said.

At a news conference after her speech, Albright declined to comment on the effect of Clinton's speech on Sino-U.S. relations, saying a meeting earlier with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen had focused on U.N. reform, not bilateral relations.

``That was not the subject of our discussions,'' said Albright, who leads Washington's delegation to the 12-day conference that intends to chart a course to full equality for the world's women into the next century.

China's media has yet to comment on Clinton's speech to the conference in which she slammed Chinese attempts to limit debate at a parallel women's grassroots forum as indefensible.

Many women who wanted to participate in the decennial forum said they had been denied visas, while others said they were harassed by police and kept under surveillance at the event in a satellite town near Beijing.

Signalling that Washington would press China and other countries on human rights, Albright said the United States would continue to seek talks with governments that deny their citizens rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

``It is a challenge to us all that so many countries in so many parts of the world -- north, south, west and east -- fall far short of the noble objectives outlined in the (conference) Platform for Action,'' she said.

In what Beijing leaders may see as a further dig at their policies, Albright quoted from an old Chinese poem about a father's talk to his daughter to illustrate the need for sexual equality.

``We keep a dog to watch the house, a pig is useful too,
``We keep a cat to catch a mouse, but what can we do
``With a girl like you?''

Then she said: ``Fellow delegates, let us make sure that question never needs to be asked again, in China, or anywhere else around the world.''

China maintains a strict one-couple, one-child policy, especially in urban areas, and has been frequently accused of forcing women to abort a second pregnancy or to undergo sterilization.

Critics say the policy has also led many parents desperate for sons to abort the female fetus or resort to female infanticide.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/06/95 at 12:25EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:15EDT ****

BC-WOMEN-HILLARY-CHINA

China mentions Hillary Clinton -- in U.S. criticism

BEIJING, Sept 6 (Reuter) - China edged up the curtain in its virtual news blackout on visiting U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton, finding space in its media on Wednesday to take a dig at her for being late for a speech and blaming chaos at the site on the United States.

``As the U.S. side suddenly switched the venue for Mrs. Hillary Clinton's speech to the Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) forum in Huairou this morning, many participants could not enter the hall and were dissatisfied,'' the official Xinhua news agency said.

Because of rain, the U.S. side had requested the site switch from a playground capable of holding 10,000 people in the forum site to a cinema that could accommodate only 1,500 -- despite repeated appeals from Chinese officials, it said.

``But the U.S. side insisted that the speech would be cancelled if it was still arranged at the playground,'' Xinhua said.

``Under these circumstances, the Chinese side immediately took emergency measures, and made the centre ready in a very short period of time,'' it said.

The limited space and large attendance meant many people were turned away disappointed, it said.

``Many participants said that they were indignant at the act of the U.S. side,'' Xinhua said, adding that Mrs. Clinton arrived about 1&1/2 hours late.

The article made no mention of an incident outside the hall in which police halted and briefly scuffled with U.S. Health Secretary Donna Shalala and Assistant Secretary of State Wintston Lord, who finally managed to push their way in through
a side door.

Tempers flared as thousands of women from around the world had to brave hours in a chill rain, a dangerous mass crush into
a single doorway and frustrating encounters with dour police for the chance to hear Clinton address the grassroots women's forum.

Several women held up banners welcoming Mrs. Clinton. Xinhua mentioned one that read: ``Stop U.S. imperialism.''

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/06/95 at 09:41EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:16EDT ****

BC-WOMEN (SCHEDULED, PICTURE)
China tries to ignore Hillary Clinton visit
By Benjamin Kang Lim
BEIJING, Sept 6 (Reuter) - China tried on Wednesday to ignore Hillary Clinton's visit, even making her aides stand briefly in the rain as bad weather added more torment to Beijing's hosting of a huge international women's meeting.

While the diplomatic tussle between the outspoken U.S. first lady and Chinese authorities went on, horsetrading became more heated over the final document the United Nations Fourth Womens Conference will issue next week.

The main spotlight remained on Clinton, a virtual non-person in the official Chinese media since she arrived in Beijing on Tuesday and slammed her hosts for alleged human rights and population control abuses.

However, while Clinton appeared clearly out of favour with Chinese authorities, she was the woman of the hour with the 25,000 women activists gathered in Beijing for the United Nations' biggest ever meeting.

Clinton received a heroine's welcome on Wednesday morning when she spoke to the activists at the site of the parallel grassroots forum they are holding in a Beijing suburb.

Chinese guards made her top aides stand in the rain for much of the speech in an example of the heavy-handed security that has infuriated the activists.

``I know that you have had to endure severe frustrations here as you do your work,'' Clinton said.

About 3,000 delegates, double the expected number, turned out in rain and ankle-deep mud to hear the speech which had to be moved into a cinema turned conference hall because of the weather.

The situation deteriorated when guards refused to permit members of the U.S. delegation who arrived with Clinton to enter the building.

Donna Shalala, head of the Health and Human Services Department and co-chair of the American delegation, and Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, a former U.S. ambassador to China, had to argue in the rain for 30 minutes before getting in to the building.

Lisa Caputo, Clinton's press secretary, never did get past the guards. ``People were jammed up. I don't know why they wouldn't let people in,'' she said.

The grassroots participants who did manage to enter the auditorium welcomed Clinton as a heroine, with one woman holding up a sign declaring: ``We will lead like you tomorrow.''

The predominantly female audience took turns singing protest songs such as ``We Shall Overcome'' and ``Gunna Keep on Moving Forward'' before Clinton spoke.

``I want to thank you for your perseverance...It will make a difference in the days and months and years to come,'' she said.

One hour away in the comfort of the main convention in central Beijing, conference sources said a row appeared to be brewing over efforts by some delegations to roll back gains in women's rights made at previous meetings.

The sources did not name any nations but described them as ``spoilers'' who threatened to split the conference.

Some militant Islamic and deeply Catholic Central American states are widely seen as unhappy with some proposals to give women blanket rights equal to men and full control over their bodies.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/06/95 at 05:38EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:17EDT ****

BC-WOMEN-HILLARY-SCENE (SCHEDULED, PICTURE)

Humour, song soothe anger for Hillary forum speech

By Jeffrey Parker

HUAIROU, China, Sept 6 (Reuter) - When things were bleakest, it was some old-time gospel singing and a wry joke about Hillary Clinton with a deep suntan that put throngs of angry rain-soaked women back in a mood to hear the U.S. first lady speak on Wednesday.

Tempers flared as thousands of women from around the world had to brave hours in a chill rain, a dangerous mass crush into a single doorway and frustrating encounters with dour police for the chance to hear Clinton address a grassroots women's forum outside Beijing.

Screams rose from the centre of the crush as people tried to push their way into the cinema-turned-conference hall in rural Huairou, to which Clinton's address was moved at the last minute from a huge outdoor site because of the rain.

``Let her through! She has a baby,'' cried one woman as another carrying an infant struggled to keep her footing.

Police halted and briefly scuffled with U.S. Health Secretary Donna Shalala and Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, who finally managed to push their way in through a side door.

By the time the first 1,500 had squeezed into the hall, most were soaked to the bone and the mood of exuberance about Clinton's visit to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) forum site had turned to anger and resentment.

Many hundreds who failed to get in fumed in the rain outside, including some who had gathered at dawn in the outdoor venue.

``Open the door! Open the door!'' they chanted. ``We love Hillary!''

If there was a hero, it was gospel singer Shirley May Staten, who took to the stage to lead the crowd in an hour of civil rights ballads. When one frustrated woman demanded to know where Clinton was, Staten calmed her with humour.

``Where's Mrs Clinton? You don't look like Mrs Clinton. Well! Mrs Clinton just got a suntan, honey,'' the black singer teased to gales of laughter. ``Just chill, mama. Chill!''

A great cheer arose when one of several rows of policemen were rousted from their seats, allowing more women to enter.

``This was quite astonishing -- as bad as anything I've ever seen,'' a British woman said afterward. ``These were peasant workers, barely literate, taking up whole rows of seats when hundreds of women were stranded outside.''

Shalala appeared on stage with more words of support and encouragement.

``All of you have been through worse than this and there are more mountains to climb,'' she said, then joined a roaring chorus of the U.S. civil rights anthem ``We Shall Overcome.''

Once Clinton arrived, with apologies for the change of venue and her tardiness by one hour, the assembly was back in soaring spirits.

Yet even as Clinton spoke, the mood outside was dark.

Some pounded in frustration on the cinema doors, demanding to be let in. Many more disappointed latecomers milled outside the courtyard gates, which also had been pulled shut.

A phalanx of plainclothes security guards swept in and formed a human wall at the top of the stairs, then surged forward to sweep hundreds of rain-soaked women out of the cinema courtyard.

Ayten Gunduz of Turkey, an amputee with two prosthetic legs who walks only with difficulty, sat in disgust in the courtyard having also been turned away.

``The facilities here are no good,'' she said.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/06/95 at 05:16EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:17EDT ****

BC-hilary-clinton-china
Hilary Rodham Clinton Praises `Micro-Credit's Role in Aid

Beijing, Sept. 6 (Bloomberg) -- U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton praised the emerging role of small-scale lending programs as ``a fire racing through the development world.''

Clinton was speaking as a panelist on ``Economic Empowerment'' at the 4th World Conference on Women being held in Beijing.

`It's called ``micro,'' but its impact on people is gigantic,'' Clinton said, referring the micro-credit schemes increasingly the focus of international aid efforts aimed at alleviating poverty.

Micro-credit banks typically provide credit to people without collateral, particularly poor women in developing countries.

Many of the innovative credit programs pass the responsibility of loan repayment to a small group of people who assist the borrower to repay.

Clinton drew attention to the now famous Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, which she visited last year.

The bank has lent more than $1 billion dollars since 1983 and will lend another $500 million this year. It has maintained a repayment rate around 97 percent.

``The fact is, give a woman a seed and she will plant it,'' Clinton said. ``She will water it, nurture it, then reap it, share its fruits and finally, she will replant it.''

Clinton outlined areas where the U.S. plans to develop micro economic programs.

The Small Business Adminstration will make more loans to assist women starting in business.

The U.S. Treasury Department will help establish and run a new Presidential Awards program to honor outstanding micro-lending organizations.

The Treasury Department will also act to coordinate Federal agencies' programs to ensure a coherent policy of support.

The U.S. Agency for International Aid will help implement a $125 million Microenterprise Innovation Project established by a consortium of donors convened by the World Bank.

``It's not a hand-out,'' Clinton said. ``It's a helping hand.''

Packed House

Clinton has emerged as the center of attention during the official conference and the unofficial non-government organizational meeting taking place outside Beijing.

Earlier in the day, heavy rain forced organizers to change the venue of Clinton's talk to the NGO Forum some 70 kilometers from the capital.

Participants complained that Chinese officials made no effort to allow people into the changed indoor venue, resulting in near riotous conditions.

The official Xinhua news agency later issued a terse report blaming delegates' ``dissatisfaction'' on the Americans, and noting some NGO participants carried a banner reading ``Stop U.S. Imperialism.''

Beijing authorities are still smarting from Clinton's outspoken criticism yesterday of China's heavy-handed suppression of free speech at the NGO meeting as ``indefensible.''

Mrs Clinton leaves tomorrow for Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

-- Peter Hannam in the Beijing bureau (8610) 532-4492 through the London newsroom (44-171) 374 2080/js

(For more news see NI codes: BNK for banking news; CHINA; BANGLA for Bangladesh; MONGOL for Mongolia; HK for Hong Kong; LDC for emerging markets; ASIAX for Asian news excluding Japan, New Zealand and Australia.)

14:47 -0- (BBN) Sep/06/95 9:45 EOS (BBN) Sep/06/95 09:45 86

BC-GRADY-COLUMN op-ed:PD

Hillary out-Eleanored Eleanor in China

By Sandy Grady
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON She came, she saw, she gave them hell.

Now the Chinese understand how crotchety American critics feel about Hillary Clinton.

They too wish she'd stick to baking cookies and working on her hairstyle.

Maybe her Beijing hosts were hoping Mrs. Clinton would stay with the softer, wifely image she's adopted lately. Or at least talk in genteel diplomatese.

Instead, she tongue-lashed the last communist superpower like a schoolmarm bullying a mob of muggers and misfits.

It was risky, overseas stardom no first lady since Eleanor Roosevelt could have performed. And for direct, in-your-face anger at tyranny toward women, Clinton out-Eleanored Eleanor.

China's deal makers must second-guess their swap: Did they spring Harry Wu only to get dissed by Hillary?

Oddly, it seemed nobody in the United States wanted Hillary to go to the U.N.'s World Conference on Women except Hillary.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., the '96 hopeful, argued she should stay away from ``this misguided conference with its radical, left-wing agenda.''

Other Republicans growled Hillary would do for foreign policy what she did for Whitewater and health-care reform another catastrophe.

Harry Wu, fresh from a Chinese prison, grumped that Hillary would be used as a propaganda pawn.

State Department stuffed shirts, nervous about upsetting Bill Clinton's summit with Chinese premier Deng Xiaoping, were jittery Mrs. Clinton might gasp speak the truth.

``If she insults them,'' one warned, ``they'll go ballistic.''

Even the prez, although mum, had to wince at his First Spouse invading the Beijing tumult. Chinese ``security forces'' who hassled delegates, videotaped protesters and shook down their rooms seemed to be as imitating as Mayor Daley's cops at the '68 convention.

Could FDR muzzle Eleanor?

Nothing short of a missile exchange could stop the Chinese journey of Hillary, who has a suffragette's intensity about women's rights and a mother's outrage about abused kids.

Despite 13-hour jet lag and bickering with U.S. diplomats who wanted her tone defanged, Clinton scalded the Chinese with blunt ferocity.

Her dress was soft pink but her words were brickbats.

Hillary hit hardest at China's notorious system of controlling its population by abandoning, starving or outright killing thousands of female infants.

``It is a violation of human rights,'' she said bitterly, ``when babies are denied food or drowned or suffocated or their spines broken simply because they are born girls.''

No names. But everyone knew China was the main target when Mrs. Clinton savaged countries where ``women are forced to have abortions or be sterilized.''

``Let me be clear,'' said Mrs. Clinton. ``Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize, debate openly. No one should be forced to remain silent for fear of religious or political persecution, arrest or torture.''

She was scathing on Chinese harassment of women delegates. But her words could have won ghostly cheers from students shot or jailed for facing the Tiananmen Square tanks.

When Hillary finished ``Women's rights are HUMAN rights'' 1,500 women from Africa, Europe and Latin America stood and wept and clapped.

They shouted, ``Yes, yes, yes!'' roaring support Hillary rarely hears at home.

``She made me proud to be an American,'' Philadelphian Bonnie Squires told a Knight-Ridder reporter.

Her impassioned speech changed the skepticism of Harry Wu. ``She rattled the bars of prison cells all over China,'' said Wu.

Her trashing of China won't smooth the president's October session with Deng Xiaoping. Even before Hillary's blast, her husband had a rough agenda China's sale of missiles to Pakistan, saber-rattling toward Taiwan, a $35 billion U.S. trade deficit.

Will Clinton shrug, ``Oh, that's just Hillary,'' or stand by his woman?

He could be consoled that Hillary's Beijing bombshell should win approving nods from feminists and young, working women pivotal to Democrats' base and Clinton's '96 hopes.

But exultation over a China triumph hardly redresses Mrs. Clinton's dreary year. Her Arkansas real estate, stock market and law deals haunt her. She's watched ex-partners Susan and Jim McDougal indicted and legal pal Webb Hubbell shuffle off to prison.

Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., tried to paint her as lady villain at Whitewater's heart. While friends and aides were grilled by Congress, even allies wondered, ``Why doesn't Hillary stand up for them?''

She had to go 8,000 miles to stand up to tyranny.

In her first column a no-pay, syndicated effort that hasn't caught fire Mrs. Clinton wrote, ``Sometimes it is hard for me to recognize the Hillary Clinton other people see.''

Critics should grudgingly admit she was brave and eloquent in the Chinese dragon den.

Hillary of Beijing was the real thing.

Somewhere Mrs. Roosevelt must have said, ``Yes, yes, yes.''

X X X

(Sandy Grady is Washington columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.)

**** filed by:KR-F(--) on 09/06/95 at 07:25EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/08/95 at 19:16EDT ****

HILLARY CLINTON, IN CHINA, DETAILS ABUSE OF WOMEN

BLUNT SPEECH ON RIGHTS

She Attacks Beijing for Trying to Limit the Free Flow of Ideas at U.N. Forum

By PATRICK E. TYLER

BEIJING, Sept. 5 — Speaking more forcefully on human rights than any American dignitary has on Chinese soil, Hillary Rodham Clinton catalogued a devastating litany of abuse that has afflicted women around the world today and criticized China for seeking to limit free and open discussion of women's issues here.

"It is time for us to say here in Beijing, and the world to hear, that it is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights," Mrs. Clinton told the Fourth World Conference on Women assembled here.

"It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls," Mrs. Clinton said, or "when women and girls are sold into slavery or prostitution for human greed.

"It is a violation of human rights when women are doused with gasoline, set on fire and burned to death because their marriage dowries are deemed too small" she continued, or "when thousands of women are raped in their own communities and when thousands of women are subjected to rape as a tactic or prize of war."

While her comments concerned abuses that have taken place around the world — the burning of brides occurs in India for example, and rape has most recently been a tactic of war in Bosnia — her words took on a special resonance here in China, where the Administration has muted its public criticism of human rights abuses and is struggling to patch up frayed political relations.

China has been widely criticized for forcing women to be sterilized or have abortions as part of its one-child family policy, and there are wide reports of female infanticide by

Continued on Page A10, Column 1



Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton speaking at a panel on women's health and security at a conference in Beijing yesterday. Later, her pointed address to delegates evoked cheers, applause and pounding on tables.

Hillary Clinton Details Abuse At Beijing Forum on Women

1/2

Continued From Page A1

parents who want a son.

China's reaction was uncertain tonight. Beijing's relations with Washington have been strained by a summer of tumult over the visit to the United States in June by the president of Taiwan, Lee Teng-hui.

Mrs. Clinton's gravity and directness seemed to please both Democratic and Republican members of the United States delegation here, and thus the speech may trump the political disputes that have plagued both Mrs. Clinton's decision to travel here and the Administration's approach to China.

She delivered her remarks after joining hundreds of delegates in a morning workshop on "women and health security."

Addressing the full conference in the afternoon, Mrs. Clinton expanded on a theme that Pakistan's Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, raised on Monday when she told the delegates that violence against women thrives when there is a "crisis of silence and acquiescence."

As Mrs. Clinton recited her litany from the podium, many delegates applauded, some cheered and others pounded the tables.

Continuing with references to domestic violence, genital mutilation, coercive abortions and sterilizations, Mrs. Clinton told the delegates from more than 180 countries, "If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, once and for all."

A senior Administration official traveling with Mrs. Clinton was at pains after the address to explain that it did not mark a return to a more vocal confrontation with China over its poor human rights record. In recent months, Washington has sought to tone down its public remarks on human rights abuses in favor of a more private dialogue that had few results.

"There is nothing in her speech that in any way deviates from our approach on China," the official said, "or on our desire to get the relationship stabilized and to get some momentum going. This is a United Nations conference and she was speaking out on a global problem."

One of the Democratic Congresswomen here, Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, said she believed Mrs. Clinton spoke from personal conviction after she became acquainted firsthand with some problems of women in the third world on a tour of Pakistan and India earlier this year.

"I don't think she cleared this speech with the State Department," Ms. Maloney said, "I think she spoke from the heart and she spoke with great power."

Representative Christopher H. Smith, Republican of New Jersey, who had called on Mrs. Clinton to speak out against "barbaric and egregious" human rights abuses in China during this trip, said he was satisfied to a great extent with her speech, but believed she could have been even more specific in criticizing China's abuses. He called her speech "eloquent" and praised her for "raising the issue" in China.

Still, the impact of the speech seemed to reverberate through the hall.

"She talked so eloquently about human rights, and I thought it was very effective, because all of the women here will know that the wife of the President of the United States also thinks about these things," said Maria Kamm, a delegate from Tanzania and member of Parliament there.

In the section of her speech aimed most directly at China, Mrs. Clinton seemed to betray frustration over China's intolerance for dissenting views.

"It is indefensible," she said, "that many women" who had been promised visas to travel to China this week to take part in the conference "have not been able to attend" and others "have been prohibited from fully taking part."

A number of delegates, including exiles from Tibet and leaders from Taiwan, were denied visas to attend this meeting and a parallel gathering of private women's organizations.

"Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize, and debate openly," Mrs. Clinton admonished her Chinese hosts. "It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments. It means not taking citizens away from their loved ones and jailing them, mistreating them, or denying them their freedom or dignity because of peaceful expression of their ideas and opinions."

Ordinary Chinese citizens did not see or hear Mrs. Clinton's speech, which was blacked out on official radio and television. There are 5,000 Chinese delegates, all selected by the Communist Party and all with strong ties to the party or the Government. Others were restricted from even coming near the conference site. Their news was limited to a carefully scripted menu, featuring a blizzard of ethusiastic propaganda on the enormous progrss of Chinese women under the party's guidance.

The senior party official in attendance today, Chen Muhua, refused later to take any questions on the speech. "I'm sorry, I'm very busy," she said. The official Chinese press was under instructions to ignore Mrs. Clinton's remarks until an official reaction had been considered.

Afterward, Mrs. Clinton said she hoped the Chinese had gotten the message of her speech. "I think it is important that all governments which in any way infringe on human rights know that this conference takes a strong stand and that this conference is trying to move toward the realization of human rights," she told a news conference.

She said President Clinton's goal is to remain "engaged" with China in a broad and comprehensive relationship, but added, "we are trying to have an honest relationship."

212

'A Picture of Human Suffering and Pain'

Following are excerpts from Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women as provided by the Associated Press.

At long last, people and their governments everywhere are beginning to understand that investing in the health of women and girls is as important to the prosperity of nations as investing in the development of open markets and trade. The health of women and girls cannot be divorced from progress on other economic and social issues.

Scientists, doctors, nurses, community leaders and women themselves are working to improve and safeguard the health of women and families all over the world. If we join together as a global community, we can lift up the health and dignity of all women and their families in the remaining years of the 20th century and on into the next millennium.

Yet, for all the promise the future holds, we also know that many barriers lie in our way. For too long, women have been denied access to health care, education, economic opportunities, legal protection and human rights—all of which are used as building blocks for a healthy and productive life.

In too many places today, the health of women and families is compromised by inadequate, inaccessible and unaffordable medical care, lack of sanitation, unsafe drinking water, poor nutrition, insufficient research and education about women's health issues, and coercive and abusive sexual practices.

In too many places, the status of women's health is a picture of human suffering and pain. The faces in that picture are of girls and women who, but for the grace of God or the accident of birth, could be us or one of our sisters, mothers or daughters.

Today, at least 15 percent of pregnant women suffer life-threatening complications and more than one-half million women around the world die in childbirth. Most of those deaths could be prevented with basic primary, reproductive and emergency obstetric health care.

In some places, there are 175,000 motherless children for every 1 million families. Many of those children don't survive. And of those who do, many are recruited into a life of exploitation on the streets of our world's cities, subjected daily to abuse, indignity, disease and the specter of early death. There must be a renewed commitment to improving maternal health. . . .

=

One hundred million women cannot obtain or are not using family planning services because they are poor, uneducated or lack access to care. Twenty million of these women will seek unsafe abortions—some will die, some will be disabled for life. A growing number of unwanted pregnancies are occurring among young women, barely beyond childhood themselves. As we know, when children have children, the chance of schooling, jobs and good health is reduced for both parent and child. And our progress as a human family takes another step back. . . .

=

Women should have the right to health care that will enable them to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide them with the best chance of having a healthy infant.

Women and men must also have the right to make those most intimate of all decisions free of discrimination, coercion and violence, particularly any coercive practices that force women into abortions or sterilizations. . . .

=

Violence against girls and women goes beyond the beatings, rape, killings and forced prostitution that arise from poverty, wars and domestic conflicts. Every day, more than 5,000 young girls are forced to endure the brutal practice of genital mutilation. The procedure is painful and life-threatening. It is degrading. And it is a violation of the physical integrity of a woman's body, leaving a lifetime of physical and emotional scars.

HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases threaten more and more women—and experts predict that by the end of this decade more than half the people in the world with HIV will be women. AIDS, which threatens whole families and regions, demands the strongest possible response. Governments and the international community must address head-on the growing number of women who are being infected.

More than 700,000 women worldwide face breast cancer each year—and over 300,000 die of it. It's the leading cause of death for women in their prime in the developed world. In the time I speak to you today, 25 women around the world will die of breast cancer. In my own country, it is hard to find a family, an office or a neighborhood that has not been touched by this disease. . . .

=

When health care systems around the world don't work for women, when our mothers, daughters, sisters, friends and co-workers are denied access to quality care because they are poor, do not have health insurance or simply because they are women, it is not just their health that is put at risk. It is the health of their families and communities as well. . . .

=

So let us join together to ensure that every little boy and girl that comes into our world is healthy and wanted, that every young woman has the education and economic opportunity to live a healthy life and that every woman has access to the health care she needs throughout her life to fulfill her potential in her family, her work and her community.

If we care about the futures of our daughters, our sons and the generations that will follow them, we can do nothing less.

U.N. WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

First lady's speech sends blunt message

From wire reports

BEIJING — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton got a standing ovation Tuesday for remarks at the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, when she pointedly criticized human rights and family planning policies of the host country, China.

With U.S.-China relations at a low ebb over the detention of American citizen Harry Wu, over China's missile-testing and over a U.S. visit by Taiwan's president, Clinton's appearance was in question until a few days before the conference opened last week.

Officials then debated whether she should speak out on China's coercive population-control policies and detention of political activists.

Clinton cleared the air with a straight-shooting speech that made clear her views.

Without naming China, Clinton criticized the Beijing government for the "indefensible" act of preventing many women, including the Tibet delegation, from attending.

Talking to reporters later, Clinton said she hoped China got her message.

"All governments which in any way infringe upon human rights know that this conference is taking a strong stand and that the entire world is trying to move toward realization of human rights," she said.

Her speech will be taken as a vindication by those who said the first lady should attend the conference. Others may see it as a sign she should have stayed away.

"We're very pleased she made a such a strong statement," said delegate Dorothy Thomas of New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Shahin Gobari of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the main group fighting the Islamic regime, also welcomed it, saying, "The more emphasis is put on women's rights, the more it will encourage the women of Iran who are living under pressure."

But Thomas said, "Words are not enough. There are women suffering human rights abuses. They can't wait for there to be another conference."

Homeira Yeganeh, an Iranian covering the conference for Tehran's state-run news agency, said, "Mrs. Clinton was only talking, and talking is very nice ... but I can't understand what is meant by human rights."

Human rights "must be according to the culture and customs" of each nation, said Yeganeh, dressed in a black chador from head to ankle.

She criticized the conference platform under debate for being based on "Western culture, not on Eastern or Islamic culture."

Her remark encapsulates the debate between the West, which argues that human rights are universal, and countries such as Iran, China and others in Asia, which say human rights vary according to each country's social and economic circumstances.

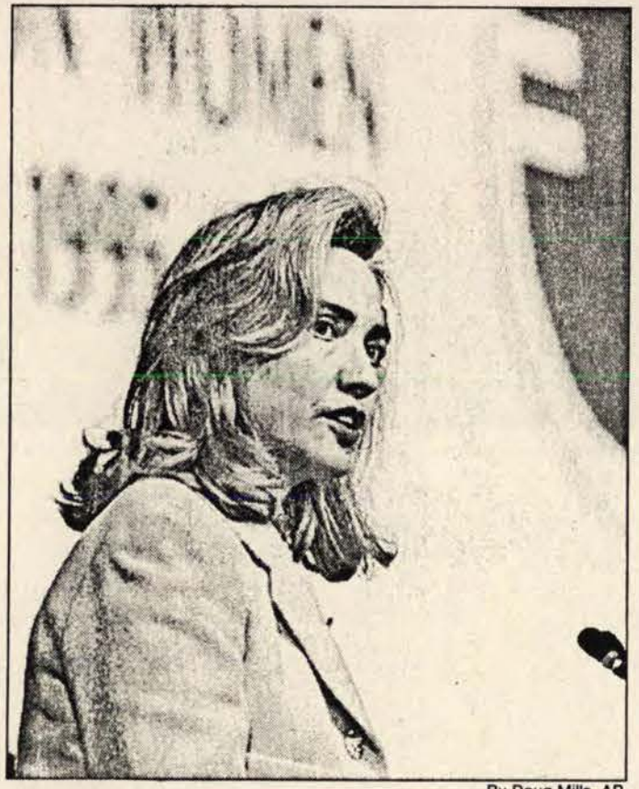
Early today, Clinton traveled to Huairou, 38 miles outside Beijing, where a private forum is being held in concert with the official U.N. event.

She told 4,000 female activists that they were the ones who could make the far-reaching goals of a United Nations conference a reality.

The women in the crowd, many of whom had waited in the rain for hours to get in, interrupted the first lady's 15-minute speech repeatedly with enthusiastic applause.

"This conference is about making sure that women, their children and families have the opportunities for ... internationally recognized human rights no matter who they are or where they live," she said.

▶ First lady's speech, 1A



By Doug Mills, AP

IN BEIJING: In her women's conference speech, Hillary Rodham Clinton alluded to human rights violations in China and Bosnia.

China's population policy in spotlight

By Marilyn Greene
USA TODAY

What first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton sees as human rights abuses — and said so Tuesday in Beijing — China sees as a key to providing its people with adequate food, shelter, education and economic opportunity.

Maintaining a strict one-couple, one-child policy as part of its population control policies, China has been accused of forcing women to abort second pregnancies.

Yet in China, keeping the population under control is viewed as a matter of survival.

The country has 1.2 billion people, one-fifth of the world's population. That's more than Europe and North and South America combined. Chinese officials insist their population-control policies are voluntary and accepted by a majority of citizens, once they understand the importance of limiting family size. The numbers:

▶ Demographers say world population, now at 5.7 billion, will climb to more than 7 billion in the next 15 years and double in 45 years if the current rate of growth continues.

▶ China has 20% of world population, but only 7% of Earth's arable land to feed those people. With 94% of China's population living on 46% of its total territory, the eastern region, China is projected to have a shortfall of 18 million cubic feet of water a day.

▶ About 70 million Chinese live below the poverty line. That may help explain China's policy that "food is the first necessity of the people."

A number of experts agree, while differing with China on how to address the issue.

"There is a very reasonable explanation of why China has pursued the population policies it has," says Nancy Bernkopf Tucker, China expert at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. "Its population is enormous, and growing rapidly."

Says Sharon Pickett, spokeswoman for the group Zero Population Growth: "We're adding another Mexico to the planet every year; another China every 10 years. All the problems we're trying to address in our society, the environment, crime, hunger, housing, all of them are related to population."

As with most central government decrees, enforcement depends on local authorities.

Despite stories of forced sterilization and abortion, Beijing insists it is "against promoting induced abortion as a means of family planning" and says the one-child policy is maintained by "voluntary participation."

Belief that men are more likely to support parents in old age means a preference for male babies, Tucker says. "It's not that the government tells people to kill baby girls."

Hillary Clinton Uses Beijing Speech To Slam China, Though Not by Name

By HILARY STOUT
And MARCUS W. BRAUCHLI
Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

BEIJING – Hillary Rodham Clinton indirectly slammed China's human-rights record in a rousing speech to a United Nations women's conference in the Chinese capital.

Mrs. Clinton never mentioned China by name, but she left no doubt that her criticisms of state repression of dissent and reproductive rights applied to the host country. Her most pointed remarks sought to quiet critics who felt she shouldn't participate in the conference because of China's human-rights record and its refusal to allow some groups to attend a grass-roots forum running in tandem with the Fourth World Conference on Women.



Hillary Clinton

"It is indefensible that many women in nongovernmental organizations who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend, or have been prohibited from taking part," Mrs. Clinton said, referring to reports the Chinese denied and delayed visas for some of the 27,000 non-governmental participants and harassed others once they arrived.

"Let me be clear. Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize and debate openly. It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments," she told many of the 5,000 official delegates from more than 180 countries. Even as she spoke, police were keeping close tabs on a march by lesbians at the grass-roots meeting an hour's drive away, though without the shoving matches and confrontations that punctuated earlier events.

China had no immediate response to Mrs. Clinton's rebukes, which were broadcast live internationally and excerpted on Beijing's main news programs. Relations between the U.S. and China have been strained over such issues as Chinese nuclear tests and weapons proliferation, and the U.S. decision in May to grant a visa to Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui to visit his alma mater, Cornell University. China considers Taiwan a breakaway province, and won't rule out force to get it back.

Mrs. Clinton also used her speech to call attention to serious problems affecting women in many other parts of the world.

Senior U.S. officials said Mrs. Clinton's speech wasn't intended to send a signal to Beijing, but to address crucial issues that affect many countries, including China, and to "energize" the conference. It did that. Delegates repeatedly interrupted her half-hour speech with applause. Some called her gutsy, but human-rights activists said she should have cited specific human-rights abuses in China.

Still, by addressing sensitive issues, Mrs. Clinton helped to defuse a controversy over her attendance at the conference. She raised many hot-button issues for China's authoritarian regime, such as female infanticide, forced abortions and sterilizations, restrictions on family size, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

Nicholas Lardy, a China expert at the Brookings Institution said Mrs. Clinton's remarks probably would "contribute to an already bad atmosphere, but I don't see it as a fundamental setback. It certainly can't be a surprise [to Beijing] that U.S. officials are critical of China's human-rights practices." The Chinese, he predicted, would issue "a blustery counter-statement" and then get back to the to "coldhearted and cold-headed" bargaining over whether there will be a Sino-U.S. summit this fall.

Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana called Mrs. Clinton's speech "a strong and powerful statement" on human rights, but ill-timed and ill-sited and certain to further strain the U.S.-China relationship.

"We have so many issues we have to settle with the Chinese . . . nuclear issues, missile sales, Taiwan's security . . . this is still another in a [series] of mixed signals" that will make progress on these issues difficult, he said.

Administration officials insisted there had been no disagreement over whether Mrs. Clinton should speak out. They suggested the first lady had a moral imperative to do so. "To me it was important to express how I felt," Mrs. Clinton said. "I felt good about what I said."

In Washington, a senior administration official said Mrs. Clinton's tough words were "part of the script, part of the package when it was decided that she'd attend. . . . It would be weird for her to go to a conference like this and not speak out."

—Carla Anne Robbins in Washington contributed to this article.

The Washington Times ★ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1995 /

First lady rips Chinese policies on rights

But blunt speech fails to name target

By George Archibald
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BEIJING — Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday scorched China — but not by name — and other nations for abusing women and children.

"Our goals ... cannot be fully achieved unless all governments — here and around the world — accept their responsibility to protect and promote internationally recognized human rights," Mrs. Clinton said, in a clear but indirect reference to the country hosting the delegates at the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women.

With a pointed reference to China's one-child-per-family policy — enforced through forced abortions, sterilizations and the reported killing of female babies — Mrs. Clinton told the conference:

"It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food or drowned or suffocated or their spines broken simply because they are born girls.

"It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will.

"It is time for us to say here in Beijing, and the world to hear, that it is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights."

In another remark directed at the Chinese, the first lady called "indefensible" the tight security

see **CHINA**, *page A8*

1/2

CHINA

From page A1

that has prevented nongovernmental representatives and organizations at a conference in nearby Huairou from meeting freely and holding political demonstrations and religious activities.

"Let me be clear: Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize and debate openly," she told the delegates. "It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments. It means not taking citizens away from their loved ones and jailing them, or denying them their freedom and dignity because of the peaceful expression of their ideas and opinions."

The Chinese government issued no response to Mrs. Clinton's address. Her visit has received little mention in the government-controlled media, even though Chinese officials had lobbied hard for her to come here.

Mrs. Clinton lashed out at a number of other human rights abuses involving women. They include:

- The sale of women and girls into the slavery of prostitution in [illegible] countries.
- [illegible] rape of women "as a tactic or p[illegible] of war," a reference to the fighting in the former Yugoslavia.
- The brutalization of young girls by genital mutilation, a practice that takes place in many parts of Asia and Africa.

Mrs. Clinton's blunt remarks both surprised and pleased conference delegates.

U.S. Rep. Constance A. Morella, Maryland Republican, called the speech "superlative."

"I think there was total agreement," Mrs. Morella said.

Although Mrs. Clinton didn't mention China by name, "it's pretty obvious," Mrs. Morella said.

Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and U.S. delegation chairman, called the first lady's speech a "clarion call to the people of the world" and said she does not believe that Mrs. Clinton's strong remarks will worsen delicate Sino-American relations.

"The United States, as the beacon of freedom and democracy, has a policy of pursuing human rights," Mrs. Albright said. "Our policy is to engage with China across the board and have an open dialogue."

U.S. Rep. Christopher H. Smith of New Jersey, Republican chairman of the House International Relations subcommittee on human rights, brought a congressional delegation to Beijing Sunday and called on the first lady to denounce China's coercive family-planning policies and religious repression.

He said Mrs. Clinton did not go far enough yesterday.

"She raised some of the egregious abuses women suffer throughout the world, but she still left it to the ears and the mind of the hearer to decipher who she was talking about," he said.

"Hundreds of millions of Chinese women suffer brutality, forced abortion, incarceration for their religious beliefs, forced incarceration on a horrendous scale, and yet a human rights conference dedicated to candor has yet to mention them by name by anyone except men, and that's unfortunate because it is a missed opportunity," Mr. Smith said.

Mrs. Clinton, in her 30-minute address, also spoke of women's needs for more affordable health care, better education for themselves and their children, more anti-poverty initiatives, and equality with men in obtaining economic advancement and decision-making roles in business and government.

Those messages were also well received by many delegates.

"I thought it was objective, elegant and well-crafted," said U.S. Rep. Jane Harman, California Democrat. "It delivered the right message, and the audience appreciated it."

"Many of the other problems are taken care of when women are empowered through education and the ability to earn a living," said U.S. Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, New York Democrat. "It was a very strong, focused speech."

Conference honors Abzug as global feminism leader

By George Archibald
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BEIJING — Feminist leader Bella Abzug basked in the limelight yesterday as she was honored for her role in leading the global women's movement in its efforts to achieve full equality with men.

"Our goal is to ... make women be the future in their leadership," Mrs. Abzug said in a lecture at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women, where she outlined her recipe for "power feminism."

Speaking immediately before first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Mrs. Abzug said the U.N. Development Program, which funds her Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), "has helped liberate women from the tyranny and complete economic and political control over their lives.

"We will not have freedom, justice, liberty or equality unless we can eradicate sexism, racism, homophobia, poverty and institutional violence worldwide," she said.

"Our unfinished agenda has been for so long denied because those who control the economics and politics of the sex roles traditionally have resisted social change because it would weaken their power."

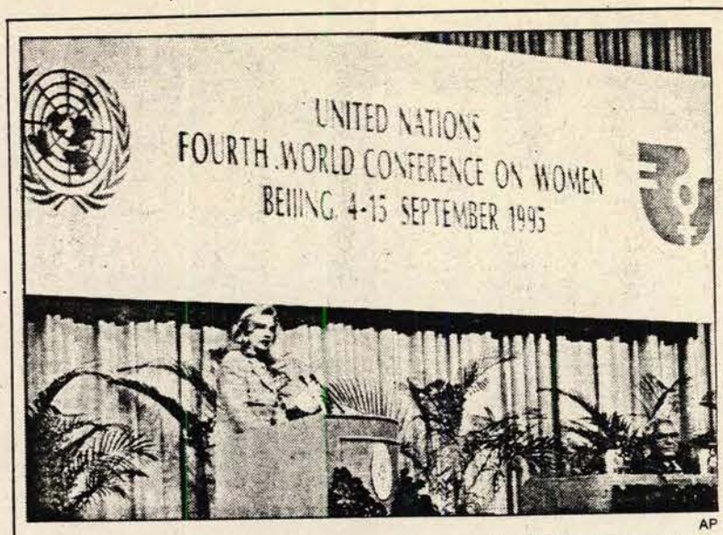
Mrs. Abzug said 388 of the world's richest men own more wealth than 2.5 million people.

Mrs. Abzug said 388 of the world's richest men — "I couldn't find any women among them" — own more wealth than 2.5 million people. "They, their corporations, their governments, continue to plunder the economy for the benefit of the few," she said.

"Power feminists" are not seeking "power for power's sake," she said.

"It's not that at all. It's not about simply mainstreaming women [into all occupations, professions, and government positions]."

2 of 2



AP

Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. She will also address a conference in Huairou.

First lady's speech is lesson on rights

Excerpts from Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the Fourth World Conference on Women:

It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls. . . . It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will. . . .

Let me be clear: Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize and debate openly. . . . It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments. It means not taking citizens away from their loved ones and jailing them, mistreating them or denying them their freedom and dignity because of the peaceful expression of their ideas and opinions. . . .

At long last, people and their governments everywhere are beginning to understand that investing in the health of women and girls is as important to the prosperity of nations as investing in the development of open markets and trade. The health of women and girls cannot be divorced from progress on other economic and social issues. . . .

Yet, for all the promise the future holds, we also know that many barriers lie in our way. For too long, women have been denied access to health care, education, economic opportunities, legal protection and human rights — all of which are used as building blocks for a healthy and productive life. . . .

In too many places today, the health of women and families is compromised by inadequate, inaccessible and unaffordable medical care, lack of sanitation, unsafe drinking water, poor nutrition, insufficient research and education about women's health issues, and coercive and abusive sexual practices.

Today, at least 15 percent of pregnant women suffer life-threatening complications and more than one-half million women around the world die in childbirth. Most of those deaths could be prevented with basic primary, reproductive and emergency obstetric health care. . . .

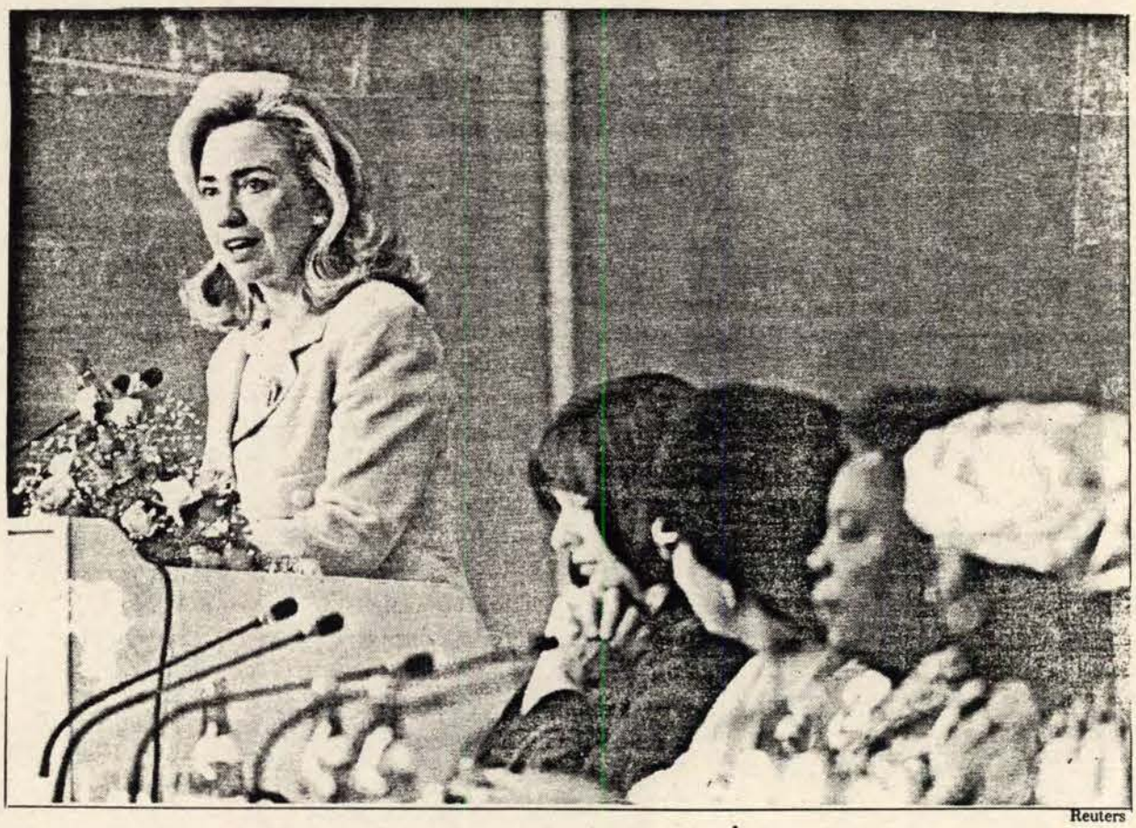
One hundred million women cannot obtain or are not using family planning services because they are poor, uneducated or lack access to care. Twenty million of these women will seek unsafe abortions — some will die, some will be disabled for life. A growing number of unwanted pregnancies are occurring among young women, barely beyond childhood themselves. As we know, when children have children, the chance of schooling, jobs and good health is reduced for both parent and child. And our progress as a human family takes another step back. . . .

Violence against girls and women goes beyond the beatings, rape, killings and forced prostitution that arise from poverty, wars and domestic conflicts. Every day, more than 5,000 young girls are forced to endure the brutal practice of genital mutilation. The procedure is painful and life-threatening. It is degrading. And it is a violation of the physical integrity of a woman's body, leaving a lifetime of physical and emotional scars.

HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases threaten more and more women — and experts predict that by the end of this decade more than half of the people in the world with HIV will be women. AIDS, which threatens whole families and regions, demands the strongest possible response. . . .

So let us join together to ensure that every little boy and girl that comes into our world is healthy and wanted; that every young woman has the education and economic opportunity to live a healthy life; and that every woman has access to the health care she needs throughout her life to fulfill her potential in her family, her work and her community.

FORUM: First Lady Stresses Women's 'Human Rights'



Reuters

'It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will. . . . It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organizations who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend—or have been prohibited from fully taking part.'

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

First Lady, in Blunt Talk, Stresses Rights

By MAGGIE FARLEY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

BEIJING—First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton answered criticism of her trip to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women here with a rousing speech Tuesday that indirectly condemned China's population control policies while emphasizing the importance of family.

Appearing before 1,500 delegates from around the world despite objections from both human rights advocates—who urged a boycott because of China's coercive birth control mea-

Please see FORUM, A6

Continued from A1

sures, among other issues—and American conservatives who called the U.N. meeting radical and anti-family, Mrs. Clinton cut to the basic issue of the international gathering.

"If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference," she declared, "let it be that human rights are women's rights. And women's rights are human rights, once and for all."

In her second public address here—she spoke earlier at a forum on women's health—Mrs. Clinton listed crimes against women that have not been considered human rights violations because of persistent cultural legacies, from bride burning and genital mutilation to wartime rape and female infanticide.

Although the First Lady did not mention China or any other country by name, her references to China's strictly enforced one-child policy were clear as she again sounded themes she had raised at the women's health forum.

"It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will," she said to applause.

She did, however, name China directly in her criticism of the treatment of participants in both the U.N.-sponsored meeting and the gathering of 23,000 members of non-governmental organizations tied to it.

"It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organizations who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend—or have been prohibited from fully taking part," she said, speaking slowly and forcefully to the international

1 of 2

Her blunt remarks surprised some observers, who expected her to take a low-key stance in a time of precarious U.S.-China relations.

"I thought she would have to take a more politically correct position, since she is a politician," said Phuntsok Dolma, an exiled Tibetan living in Massachusetts who has been a target of police surveillance and intimidation while at the conference. "But what she said was very courageous, and meant a lot to our people."

Human Rights Watch/Asia, one of the groups that had urged Mrs. Clinton to stay away from Beijing, applauded her "powerful defense of human rights" but expressed reservations about their effect.

Mrs. Clinton also appeared to have deflected, at least for now, critics who condemn the conference itself as anti-family; they object to language in the proposed Platform for Action to come out of the conference that advocates birth control and recognition of the value of women's work outside the home.

If women are healthy, free from violence and have an equal chance to work, families will flourish, she said. "And when families flourish, communities and nations will flourish. That is why every woman, every man, every child, every family and every nation on our planet has a stake in the discussion that takes place here."

Even the Vatican, which has strongly contested references to reproductive health and family planning in the proposed platform, endorsed the address. Mary Ann Glendon, head of the Holy See delegation, said that she was pleased by the speech, particularly the sections that spoke of the protection of motherhood.

"When I heard the speech, I wondered if she [Mrs. Clinton] had somehow discovered what we were going to say," Glendon said.

The Chinese government did not immediately react to the speech, giving it a mere two-second mention on the national evening news. Her remarks, including a succinct civics lesson on the virtues of democracy, will likely not be reported in the state-run press here.

With U.S.-Chinese relations still delicate after a summer of conflict over Taiwanese president Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States and the detention of U.S. human rights activist Harry Wu, some worry that Mrs. Clinton's straightforward remarks might damage recent diplomatic fence-mending efforts. Preparations are under way for a possible meeting between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin in October at the U.N. General Assembly.

But Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and the chair of the American delegation at the conference, said the U.S. relationship with China is "very broad," suggesting that economic and other ties will help keep the relationship intact.

"Our argument for having come in the first place is that the United States stands for human rights and everyone knows that," Albright said. "That is an issue that needed stating in a compact way, and Mrs. Clinton did that very well."

2 of 2

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1995

Back to Basics at Beijing Meeting

Hillary Clinton returns focus to true issues

"If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights." With that, Hillary Rodham Clinton crystallized the issues that have brought tens of thousands of women to Beijing for the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women. Her speech on Tuesday helped to refocus attention on conference matters: education, health care, reproductive rights, violence against women and girls and denial of human rights.

At the same time, the First Lady put Beijing on notice that its human rights record and other repressive policies have not gone unnoticed during the U.N.-sponsored gathering. In doing so, she dispelled much of the controversy surrounding her decision to attend the conference at a time when Sino-U.S. relations are at a low.

HITTING A NERVE: A sign that her words hit a nerve among Chinese authorities was that it was given only a two-second mention on the national evening news and was not likely to be reported in the state-run press. The Vatican, which has been critical of some of the reproductive and family planning issues to be discussed at the conference, endorsed the address.

Mrs. Clinton was careful not to overtly criticize China, but she indirectly condemned its coercive one-couple, one-child population control policy. In lashing out against harsh population policies in general, she said, "It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will."

The First Lady also gave a voice to the frustration of delegates of Non-Governmental Organizations, whose meetings have been confined to an area 30 miles north of Beijing and stifled by heavy and intrusive Chinese security. Mrs. Clinton complained that it is indefensible that many NGO delegates who wished to participate in the U.N. conference have not been able to attend—or have been prohibited from fully taking part. "Let me be clear," she told a plenary session. "Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize and debate openly. It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments."

RARE OPPORTUNITY: The U.N. conference provides a once-in-a-decade opportunity for women from around the world to empower themselves by devising and directing policies that address their needs. Until Mrs. Clinton's speech, the issues were obscured by Beijing's heavy-handed tactics, which included barring South African representative Winnie Mandela from opening ceremonies because she was late.

In highlighting abuse and violence against women, the First Lady cited many instances, including the thousands of women who are subject to rape as a tactic of terror or prize of war, as in Bosnia. This is one of the many reasons why women's rights are human rights.

ON CHINESE SECURITY

'Let me be clear: Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize and debate openly. No one should be forced to remain silent for fear of religious or political persecution, arrest, abuse or torture.'



ON HUMAN RIGHTS

'If there is any message that echoes forth from this conference, it is that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights.'

First lady scolds China on rights

By Uli Schmetzer
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

BEIJING — In a blunt address aimed at her Chinese hosts and at critics at home, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Tuesday sharply criticized China for its violations of human rights and its heavy-handed tactics in holding an international women's conference.

Mincing few words, Clinton lambasted China's government for refusing visas to thousands of participants, for using its secret police to harass those who did attend and for the nation's forced abortion programs.

"It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organizations who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend, or have been prohibited from fully taking part," she said.

"Let me be clear: Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize and debate openly," she added, in a clear reference to China and other nations that tolerate neither freedom of expression nor dissent. "No one should be forced to remain silent for fear of religious or political persecution, arrest, abuse or torture."

Her impassioned speech in Beijing to the fourth United Nations Conference on Women appeared to give new impetus to the delegates, as she assailed countries committing "intolerable" human rights violations against women.

"If there is any message that echoes forth from this conference, it is that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights," she said.

Thousands of African, Asian, European and Latin American women wiped away tears and stood to cheer in the corridors and meeting halls at Beijing's Congress Hall. Only 1,500 delegates were able to cram into the conference room; the others watched Clinton on television monitors.

Afterward, one Western diplomat described Clinton's speech as "a nightmare" for her Chinese hosts and "a cold shower" for Republican critics at home who argued her visit to Beijing would be turned into a Chinese progaganda coup.

In her address, Clinton made

SEE CHINA, PAGE 11

1/2

China

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

few diplomatic concessions to the Chinese government, though she didn't mention the host nation by name in her criticisms. Later she told reporters she hoped China "got the message." There was no immediate reaction from Chinese authorities.

Clinton traveled on Wednesday morning to Huairou, 30 miles north of Beijing, to show her solidarity with the 23,000 participants from so-called NGOs, or non-governmental organizations, who are holding seminars and workshops under the rigid surveillance of a Chinese security force.

Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the UN and the head of the American delegation to the conference, described Clinton's Beijing speech as a "home run."

"Mrs. Clinton is no Johnny-come-lately to these issues," Albright told a news conference.

"She has been working on women's and children's rights all her life."

When asked whether the U.S. fears negative Chinese reaction to the speech, the ambassador replied: "When you tell the truth, that's the only way to go about this business. She has come here not to mince words but to get down to brass tacks."

Without mentioning specific countries, Clinton included female infanticide as a human rights violation. The practice is a scourge in China, where parents kill infant girls because they prefer to have boys.

"It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls," she said.

Clinton also singled out the burning of brides in India by husbands or in-laws seeking new dowries, and the raping of women amid political conflicts in Rwanda, Algeria and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

She said 5,000 girls a day are subjected to genital mutilations, and she also spoke out forcefully for reproductive rights: "It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will."

Hours later, Harvard University professor Mary Ann Glendon, who heads the Vatican's delegation to the UN conference, served notice that she would try to dilute a proposed conference statement demanding that women be given access to family-planning methods, including abortion.

Glendon said men must have a say in decisions about birth control and families.

Delegates saw this as an opening salvo in the battle over the drafting of a 147-page action plan to culminate the UN conference. The Vatican is backing issues such as the protection of women from violence, more financial loans for enterprises headed by women and a more proportional representation in governments.

Glendon in her speech called for greater emphasis at the conference on traditional family values and motherhood.

She called for official recognition as professionals those mothers who dedicate their time to raising children and for financial assistance to them, perhaps in the form of a government stipend.



Reuters photo

Hillary Clinton shares a light moment with UN conference leader Gertrude Mongella in Beijing on Tuesday just prior to the first lady's speech. In Huairou, a Bangladeshi delegate (right) to the Women's Forum holds a silent protest against population control.

"Mrs. Clinton's powerful defense of women's human rights will be undercut if the U.S. government and governments around the world fail to take this opportunity to forcefully condemn blatant human rights violations occurring on the very doorsteps of this conference," reflected Human Rights Watch director Dorothy Thomas.

Clinton's visit to the UN conference Tuesday ran smoothly.

But her trip to the Women's Forum in Huairou on Wednesday was raucous and rainsoaked.

A driving rain drenched 10,000 forum participants unable to push their way in as Clinton urged the 1,500 women inside the crammed hall to continue their contributions toward women's rights. Their efforts as non-governmental activists, she said, will determine whether the UN conference "goes beyond rhetoric and achieves something."

The forum's convener, Supartra Masdit, introduced Clinton as "this courageous woman who has not always been given full credit because there are people around who feel threatened by a smart and capable woman."

Among the thousands of women in the pushing-and-shoving crowd outside the hall was Bernadette Chirac, wife of the president of France. Unrecognized and unable to enter, she stood in the downpour for an hour.

Rallies in Huairou have been curtailed by Chinese police, but many activists saw Clinton's visit as a golden opportunity to publicize their causes.

For days the small town has been blanketed by security agents, many of them posing as official Chinese participants, interpreters and monitors. They have shouted down Tibetan exiles and other critics of China, and have interrupted seminars by demanding access to microphones, only to spout official Chinese propaganda.

212

PM-Women's Conference, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0473,0750
Mrs. Clinton Champions Human Rights; Family Issues Spark Debate
Eds: RECASTS to raise reference to general conference issues; ADDS more comment from Mrs. Clinton, Bella Abzug and Jane Fonda; no comment from Chinese on first lady's rebuke. ADDS new photos.
AP Photos BEJ107,109-110;NGO101,106
With PM-China-Mrs Clinton, Bjt
By CHARLENE L. FU= Associated Press Writer=

BEIJING (AP) Human rights took center stage at a global women's gathering today with an impassioned speech by Hillary Rodham Clinton, while the Vatican complained that the conference platform doesn't give due credit to marriage and motherhood.

In a rousing address on the second day of the U.N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women, the first lady drew cheers and loud applause with a wide-ranging denunciation of human rights abuses worldwide.

And in a surprise move, Mrs. Clinton who had been expected to tread carefully on subjects that might offend the gathering's Chinese hosts rebuked Beijing for its treatment of private activists at a parallel forum that began last week.

Participants in the gathering of 23,000 private activists in Huairou, an hour's drive outside Beijing, have complained of harassment by Chinese authorities ranging from surveillance to too-tight security.

``The voices of this conference and of the women at Huairou must be heard loud and clear,'' Mrs. Clinton said. ``It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organizations who wish to participate in this conference have not been able to attend or have been prohibited from fully taking part.''

There was no immediate response from Chinese officials.

In her address, Mrs. Clinton said many human rights violations, from female infanticide to domestic violence, hurt women the most.

``Even in the late 20th century, the rape of women continues to be used as an instrument of armed conflict,'' she said, in an apparent reference to reports by systematic rape of Bosnian Muslim women by Serb forces.

A day after an opening marked by calls for unity in the struggle for gender equality, the nearly 5,000 official delegates were splitting into working groups on the conference's proposed platform.

The document, to be debated over the next 10 days, calls for steps to alleviate women's poverty and improve health care, education and job opportunities for women.

In the opening salvo of what is expected to be a major battle, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro told reporters in Beijing the document's ``imbalance'' was illustrated by only four references to the word ``family.'' But a check of the document turned up many such mentions.

Even so, the issue is likely to dominate debate. Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, too, said she hoped to see more in the document about the traditional family.

``The more close-knit the family is, the more close-knit society itself will be,'' she said in an interview with The Associated Press.

However, she said it was important for the conference to focus on areas of agreement, such as the need for more job and educational opportunities for women.

The forum drew a range of Hollywood celebrities, including actresses Sally Field and Jane Fonda. Fonda lent her voice today to the cause of improving women's health, urging governments to give women greater power over decisions that affect their health.

Also today, former U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug received a United Nations award for activism in women's rights and against war and violence. She said women must lead the fight to rise above violence and poverty.

``In my heart, I believe that women will change the nature of power, rather than power change the nature of women,'' she said.

At the parallel forum in Huairou, meanwhile, lesbian activists staged a noisy march, their biggest and most visible demonstration to date.

The lesbian contingent has complained that Chinese authorities have confiscated literature and photographed them with telephoto lenses. There were no major run-ins with Chinese security at today's demonstration, however.

Mrs. Clinton was to visit the Huairou site on Wednesday, and activists say they will seek a share of the attention accorded the visit. Members of Amnesty International, a leading critic of Chinese human rights policies, planned to unfurl a 25-by-25 foot banner, said spokesman Casey Kelso.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/05/95 at 06:55EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/05/95 at 08:29EDT ****

PM-China-Mrs Clinton, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0484,790
First Lady Rebukes Chinese Hosts for Harassment of Activists
EDs: New grafs 10-15, beginning ``Human rights groups xxx with first lady interview after speech; minor editing
By TERENCE HUNT= AP White House Correspondent=

BEIJING (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton declared today ``it is time to break the silence'' about the abuse of women around the world, and she sternly rebuked China for harassing activists here for an international conference.

Addressing 1,500 delegates to the U.N.-sponsored Fourth World Conference on Women, Mrs. Clinton said, `It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organizations who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend or have been prohibited from fully taking part.''

The first lady's criticism drew loud cheers. She also was applauded when she declared that women's rights are inseparable from human rights, and then listed a long string of violations.

Without directly mentioning China, she said, ``It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will.''

Referring to practices in India, she said, ``It is a violation of human rights when women are doused with gasoline, set on fire and burned to death because their marriage dowries are deemed too small.''

And she said it is a violation of human rights when babies are killed because they are girls, when women are sold into prostitution or raped as prizes in war or subjected to violence in their own homes.

``Tragically, women are most often the ones whose human rights are violated,'' Mrs. Clinton said. ``I believe that, on the eve of a new millennium, it is time to break the silence.''

``If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference,'' Mrs. Clinton said, ``let it be that human rights are women's rights. And women's rights are human rights, once and for all.''

The first lady's appearance had been sharply criticized in advance by conservatives who view the conference as a radical, anti-family gathering.

Human rights groups had complained her appearance was a propaganda victory for China, stung by criticism of its human rights record. In criticizing China for harassing activists at the conference, Mrs. Clinton defied White House predictions that she would not single out any country by name.

Speaking with reporters after her speech, Mrs. Clinton said she hoped China would get the message.

``Everyone knows that our government has spoken out on behalf of human rights with respect to China and other countries, that there have been disagreements leading up to this conference,'' she said.

She said it's important ``that we try to have an honest relationship.''

The pointed criticism could complicate U.S. efforts to repair strained relations with Beijing. On the other hand, a strong defense of human rights rather than a conspicuous silence is sure to be more politically popular at home.

Mrs. Clinton said China was not alone in imposing population controls. ``Any country that practices forced abortions and sterilizations, I think, should be criticized for violations of human rights,'' she said.

She spoke both at the U.N. conference and at a separate forum on women's health, where she cataloged a graphic list of abuses: from rape, killings and forced prostitution to genital mutilation of 5,000 girls every day.

The first lady decried that 100 million women cannot obtain or are not using family planning services because they are poor, uneducated or lack access to care.

She said the United States supports the position taken at a U.N. conference in Cairo asserting ``the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so.'' The

Vatican and some Islamic countries are seeking to dilute that language, saying it promotes abortion.

On another politically sensitive issue, Mrs. Clinton won applause by saying that tobacco use ``is the No. 1 preventable'' cause of death.

Despite U.S. efforts to repair frayed relations with China, Mrs. Clinton pointedly steered clear of any contact with government officials.

``In too many places, the status of women is a picture of human suffering and pain,'' the first lady said.

Condemning violence against women, Mrs. Clinton said it is the leading cause of death among girls and women between the ages of 14 and 44. Aside from rape, killings and force prostitution, more than 5,000 young girls are forced to endure the practice of genital mutilation, she said.

``If we join together as a global community, we can lift up the health and dignity of all women,'' the first lady said.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/05/95 at 06:17EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/05/95 at 08:30EDT ****

(ED: complete writethru adds Huairou demonstrations)
Hillary Clinton criticizes China
By RUTH YOUNGBLOOD=

BEIJING, Sept. 5 (UPI) U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday China's barring of many groups from the fourth U.N. World Conference on Women was ``indefensible'' and slammed detentions of those who peacefully express their ideas.

``Women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights once and for all,'' Clinton, the honorary head of the U.S. delegation, told a special plenary session.

In an unexpected attack on Beijing for refusing to grant visas to non-governmental organizations deemed threats to security, Clinton said, ``The voices of this conference and of the women at Huairou must be heard loud and clear.''

The NGO Forum running parallel with the conference in suburban Huairou has been wracked by harassment and unwarranted surveillance of participants by Chinese security personnel despite China's pledge to end the scrutiny Saturday.

Although 36,000 registered to attend the forum, only 19,000 made it to Huairou, with women supporting independence for Tibet and greater international stature for Taiwan among those turned down. Others were victims of bureaucratic delays in issuing visas.

``It is indefensible that many women in NGOs who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend or have been prohibited from fully taking part,'' Clinton said.

With the first lady set to address the NGOs Wednesday, demonstrations rocked the site Tuesday. Nervous police filmed protesters shouting, ``Free Tibet, China Out, Out Out,'' and prevented them from leaving the forum venue.

``Let me be clear,'' Clinton said. ``Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize, and debate openly. It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments.

``It means not taking citizens away from their loved ones and jailing them, mistreating them, or denying them their freedom or dignity because of the peaceful expression of their ideas and opinions.''

Earlier, Clinton called for an end to health care barriers and abusive sexual practices, saying they prevent women from achieving ``their God-given potential.''

``Without healthy women, the world's potential can never be realized, '' she said, but stressed recognition of the problem is not enough.

Rhetoric and recognition must be ``combined with a commitment to specific action,'' she said, triggering a standing ovation.

The United States brings to this conference a ``serious commitment to assure affordable, quality health care is available for every citizen,'' she said.

The honorary head of the U.S. delegation to the 12-day conference refrained from any direct attacks on China, although the first lady denounced ``any coercive practices that force abortions or sterilizations'' practices used in China.

Republican members of the U.S. Congress and human rights groups have demanded that Clinton speak out specifically against forced abortions and sterilizations of Chinese and Tibetan women that are part of China's single-child-per-family policy.

China insists force is not part of the communist government's mandate in seeking to halt the escalating numbers in the world's most populous nation.

Clinton's portrayal of ``human suffering and pain'' covered a litany of global problems including AIDS, deaths from breast cancer, the health toll from smoking and inadequate care during pregnancy and childbirth.

``Investing in the development of girls is as important as investing in open markets and trade,'' she said.

An estimated 100 million women lack family planning services, and 20 million of them will seek unsafe abortions, Clinton said.

Conflicts between nations, crime in the street and brutality in homes produce ``lives of unrelenting physical and emotional pain,'' the first lady said.

Each year ``more than 5,000 girls undergo genital mutilation'' resulting in ``a lifetime of physical and emotional scars,'' Clinton said.

**** filed by:UPI-(--) on 09/05/95 at 07:26EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/05/95 at 08:29EDT ****

BC-WOMEN (SCHEDULED, PICTURE)
Battle lines drawn quickly at women's conference
By Benjamin Kang Lim
BEIJING, Sept 5 (Reuter) - Host China swiftly came under indirect attack for its tough population policies on Tuesday when the world women's conference started its first full day of debate on the plight of women.
U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Vatican lined up against the world's most populous nation, indirectly denouncing forced abortion and sterilisation which China carries out in the name of population control.
Just as bickering was dying down over China's heavy-handed security for the meeting, Mrs Clinton's presence and comments at the biggest-ever United Nations conference turned a new diplomatic spotlight on the gathering -- and China --in the Great Hall of the People.
The conference, held every 10 years, runs until September 15 and deals with a broad range of issues affecting women, including health, education, domestic violence, rape and denial of human rights.
Addressing a forum on health care issues at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Mrs Clinton made no direct mention of China, but had harsh words for some of its policies.
She told several hundred delegates that women had the right to health care that gave them the best chance of having a healthy infant.''
``Women and men must also have the right to make those most intimate of all decisions free of discrimination, coercion and violence -- particulary any coercive practices that force women into abortion or s lisations,'' she said.
China imposes strict measures to control its popula on of more than one billion people which limit the number of children
a woman may have, depending on whether she lives in a city or in
a rural area. In some cases it requires forced sterilisations.
The tone of the speech by the U.S. first lady, who has headed President Clinton's health care reform efforts, indicated she decided not to hold back on her beliefs even though China-U.S. ties are going through a period of strain.
She said Washington strongly supports the position taken last year at a U.N. conference on population, which declared ``the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children.''
While calling for stronger language in the conference's final document on sexual permissiveness, Professor Mary Ann Glendon, head of the Vatican delegation, said it was up to parents only to decide the number of children they wanted.
``The Holy See joins with all participants in the conference in the condemnation of coercion in population policies,'' she said.
REUTER
**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/05/95 at 04:58EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/05/95 at 08:30EDT ****

BC-WOMEN-HILLARY 1STLD (SCHEDULED, PICTURE)
Hillary Clinton slams China on forum restrictions
(Updates with attack on China's forum restrictions)
By Laurence McQuillan

BEIJING, Sept 5 (Reuter) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attacked host China on Tuesday, saying restrictions on women at a grassroots forum were indefensible and its policies on abortion were a violation of human rights.

Clinton, addressing the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, drew prolonged applause from the mostly female delegates when she complained about the treatment of women attending the non-government forum that is part of the U.N.-sponsored event.

Many who wanted to participate in the sessions, held once every 10 years, said they had been denied visas, while others said they had been harassed by police and were under surveillance when they reached the event in suburban Beijing.

``It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organisations who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend -- or have been prohibited from fully taking part,'' Clinton said to the cheers of the crowd.

``Let me be clear,'' she told several thousand people at a plenary session. ``Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organise, and debate openly. It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments.''

Her hard-hitting speech, clearly directed at China, came as Sino-U.S. relations have plunged to what Beijing has called their lowest point since they were established 16 years ago, chiefly over disputes about U.S. policy towards Taiwan.

In her formal remarks to the conference, and earlier at a forum on health care, Clinton lashed out at China and other governments that use abortions and forced sterilisations to control the size of their populations.

``It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilised against their will,'' she told the conference.

China maintains a strict one-couple, one-child policy, especially in urban areas, and has been frequently accused of forcing women to abort a second pregnancy.

Clinton told reporters she did not know what impact her remarks would have on relations between Beijing and Washington.

Buy she defended her comments, much stronger than expected. ``For me it was important to express how I felt and to do so as clearly as I could,'' she said.

She has been criticised by some human rights activists and by conservatives in the United States for attending the conference because it was held in China, whose human rights record is frequently attacked for its detention of dissidents.

In her speech, Clinton said: ``If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights.''

The conference runs until September 15 and deals with a broad range of issues affecting women, including health, education, domestic violence and denial of human rights.

Clinton was scheduled to speak to the U.N.-affiliated grassroots forum in suburban Huairou, about one hour's drive north of Beijing, on Wednesday.

She visits Mongolia on Thursday and Friday before returning to Washington.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/05/95 at 07:37EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/05/95 at 08:29EDT ****

BC-WOMEN-FORUM-HILLARY

Hillary Clinton seen as positive force for change

By Jeffrey Parker

HUAIROU, China, Sept 5 (Reuter) - Hillary Rodham Clinton may not know how long the White House is her home, but in this tent village of international women activists on the outskirts of Beijing the welcome mat is out for her.

Less than 24 hours after arriving at the Fourth Women's Conference in Beijing, the biggest event ever staged by the United Nations, the U.S. First Lady is the talk of the town.

In two hard-hitting speeches, Clinton struck all the right notes with activists who for days had sought a champion to defend them from overzealous Chinese security and present the views of the modern woman.

She told Chinese organisers of the event forthrightly they had no right to trample on women with a point of view and told the world to respect the choice each woman made for herself and her family.

``She is a woman who is going to appear in the 21st century as the kind of first lady who understands the issues and can be of great assistance in outlining and projecting women's problems and needs,'' Jean Sankes of Guyana said.

The wife of the U.S. president was in Beijing to lead the U.S. delegation to the conference, which opened in the Chinese capital on Monday.

One hour's drive from Beijing in Huairou, 25,000 women are attending a parallel forum of non-governmental organisations discussing the same issues such as abortion, health care and education wh the main meeting will debate.

Many women in Huairou are pinning their hopes for the future on Hillary Clinton emerging as a powerful voice for the progress of the international women's movement.

``If she is talking about children, she is talking about our future,'' said Teava Strickland, from the Cook Islands in the South Pacific.

``We are trying to stop the nuclear testing in the Pacific, it must stop. It will ruin the children's lives if the explosion happens,'' she said, referring to plans by France to conduct nuclear testing, starting this month, on Mururoa Atoll. ``Children are the future.''

Rhozina Mpofu, who organises rural women's collectives in Zimbabwe, said she was anxious to hear what Mrs Clinton had to say.

``I understand she is a woman who has other women at heart,'' Mpofu said. ``I am hoping that what she is going to say will be meaningful, that she will show leadership for women the world over.''

Clinton addresses the activists on Wednesday and her presence at the mud-trampled site is expected to be the event of the conference.

Extra security will be on hand for her visit and on this occasion no one is complaining.

``I wouldn't miss her speech for the world,'' said an Australian woman.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/05/95 at 08:17EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/05/95 at 08:29EDT ****

Hillary Clinton in Beijing as Women's Conference Open

First Session Hears Plea on Infanticide

By PATRICK E. TYLER

BEIJING, Tuesday, Sept. 5 — Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived early today to a Chinese capital under tight security for the Fourth World Conference on Women, the largest ever gathering of its kind.

During a stopover in Guam, she expressed hope that her participation would focus world attention on improving the condition of women, children and families.

"I have very high hopes that this will not be just a lot of talk, but will enable us to learn from one another," she said at a reception.

The conference opened here Monday with a special ceremony at the Great Hall of the People, featuring speeches, entertainment and the pomp of the Chinese imperial court of old. The 10-day meeting of more than 4,000 government delegates will seek to produce a "platform for action" to influence the policies of world governments on women's rights in health, education, business and politics.

President Jiang Zemin and the Communist Party leadership welcomed the official delegations from 185 countries at the Great Hall of the People, where dancers in gilded costumes entertained an audience of 10,000 and where the secretary general of the conference, Gertrude Mongella of Tanzania, said: "A revolution has begun. There is no going back. There is no going back."

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan cut to the core of issues that have attracted more than 30,000 women here when she addressed the opening session of the conference on Monday, raising her voice against violence directed at women.

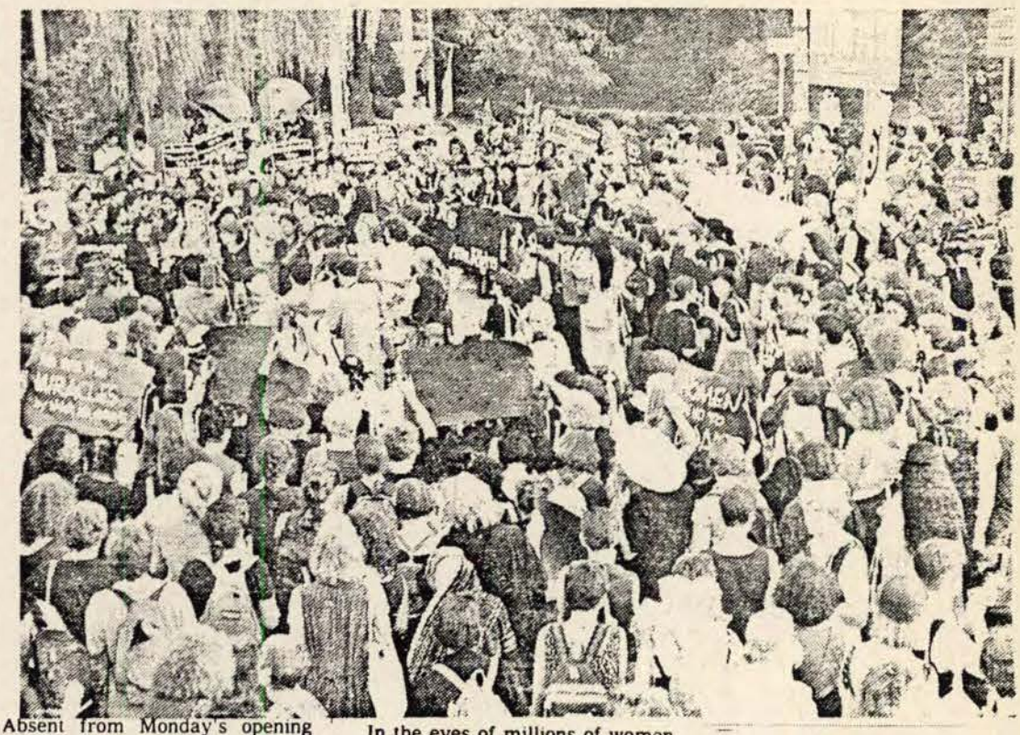
Wearing a white veil as she addressed the delegates, she condemned the cultural traditions of Asian nations, including China, that have led to the death of millions of baby girls.

"How tragic it is that the pre-Islamic practice of female infanticide still haunts a world we regard as modern and civilized," she said. "Girl children are often abandoned or aborted. Statistics show that men now increasingly outnumber women in more than 15 Asian nations."

Ms. Bhutto said the preference for boys among Asian men had created pressure to abort "innocent, perfectly formed" baby girls.

"As we gather here today, the cries of the girl child reach out to us," she said. "This conference needs to chart a course that can create a climate where the girl child is as welcome and valued as the boy child."

Ms. Bhutto's remarks demonstrated that the most forceful demand for action that may emerge from here in 10 days time is a demand for urgent, international protections for women against violence — whether it is the rape and terror of "ethnic cleansing" and armed conflict or the battering of women in domestic life.



Absent from Monday's opening ceremony was United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, whose address was delivered by Ismat Kittani, the Under Secretary General. "You have invited the world to your capital and the world is grateful," Mr. Kittani said.

With Beijing under a virtual state of martial law for several weeks, one of the victims of the pervasive security on Monday was Winnie Mandela, the estranged wife of the South African President, Nelson Mandela, and about 20 other South African delegates. Arriving late in Chinese-provided buses, they were barred at the door to the hall, and when they began chanting, "Let us in, let us in," they were surrounded by Chinese police officers.

After a vigorous shoving match that lasted for several minutes, Mrs. Mandela and the group was forced to retreat and abandon the Great Hall.

Inside, the Chinese President, who made no reference to the many complaints about the intrusions of Chinese security forces at a related meeting of 30,000 women outside Beijing over the last week, said, "Such a propitious assembly of outstanding women has added luster to the city that radiates with the colors of the golden autumn."

"Women hold up half of the sky in human society," Mr. Jiang said, using a Chinese metaphor. But "over a long period of time," prejudice against women "like an invisible chain, fettered the hearts and mind of millions."

As the first such conference since the end of the cold war, it will raise uncomfortable issues arising from the collapse of Communist governments and the rise of ethnic conflicts that have brought enormous suffering to women and broadened their impoverishment in the third world.

In the eyes of millions of women, the "victory" of market-oriented democracies has remained indifferent to their transitional problems in the old Communist states, especially where women are heads of households and care for children.

"Empowerment" is the watchword of this conference, reflecting new organizational efforts to get more women trained and ready for the political process in their countries and win for them economic and educational rights that will raise them from their disproportional weight in poverty statistics.

Of 1.3 billion people living in absolute poverty in the world, 70 percent are women.

For many of them, the importance of this conference, the most ambitious one of its kind since the first such meeting dedicated to women was held in Mexico City in 1975, is that it will again take up the issue that has sundered the national politics of many nations of the world: the reproductive rights of women and the issue of abortion. The forum met last in Nairobi in 1985.

In part, this meeting appears doomed to debate again policy statements and recommendations that were reached last year at the United Nations conference on population in Cairo, which formed what, at the time, seemed a strong international consensus that the most effective strategy for limiting population was providing women better access to education and reproductive health care, including contraception and safe abortion.

Thus armed, or "empowered," many women chose to plan smaller families to balance the number of children against family resources, the conference found.

"For those of us in this field," said Dr. Fred Sai of Ghana, the president of the International Planned Parenthood Association, "we have learned the importance of teaching the balance of human numbers, with human resources and human aspirations."

The debate will again pit the delegations of many national governments, including those of the United States and most of Europe, against the Vatican and an assortment of Islamic and conservative Governments.

"The majority of nations have made it perfectly clear that they are not going to backslide and lose ground from Cairo," said Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, a former Congresswoman and deputy chairwoman of the 45-member United States delegation.

As if to weaken the Vatican's impact here, a coalition of women's groups are circulating a petition calling on the United Nations to remove the Vatican's special status as the only religious organization with permanent observer rights in the body.

But the Vatican and other anti-abortion forces are expected to make a strong showing here.

In a letter to Mrs. Margolies-Mezvinsky, the president of the American Life League, Mrs. Judie Brown said, "On behalf of the 300,000 families supporting the work of the American Life League, I want to express my outrage at the insidious deceptive manner in which the U.S. delegation" to the conference "continues to promote abortion, contraception and population control, all under the guise of human rights."

'Women in Black' Defy China's Police

By SETH FAISON

HUAIROU, China, Sept. 4 — The women wore black, and stood in silence.

Yet even they, in a peaceful vigil against violence, would soon come face to face with Chinese officialdom in an confrontation over the right to demonstrate.

An Englishwoman with gray hair and granny glasses, a black cotton shawl draped over head and shoulders, looked downward as if in solemn prayer. In one hand, she held a white candle, tipping it forward slightly so that dripping wax would not burn her fingers. In the other, she helped hold a sign that said: "Violence Against Women Must Be Stopped."

Next to her, a Brazilian woman in a straw hat gazed into the distance, where the setting sun had turned clouds along the horizon into a vivid pastiche of orange and vermilion. She held another sign aloft: "Poverty Has a Woman's Face."

More than 1,000 women stood around them in an overgrown circle, bringing silence to a normally busy intersection at the edge of the site for the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum on Women, which has been meeting here since last Wednesday and runs until Friday. The forum is being held in tandem with the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, which opened today about 35 miles away in Beijing.

The clicking of camera shutters and the soft whir of videocameras held by television crews and Chinese security forces jostling for an angle were the only sounds that could be heard.

"Women in Black," as the participants called their demonstration, commemorated the victims of violence against women, one of the central themes of the United Nations Conference and an issue that seems to unite women from across the political spectrum.

Delegates to the non-governmental forum had originally planned to demonstrate in Tiananmen Square in the center of Beijing, the focal point of student protests that ended in a massacre in June 1989. But those plans were canceled when it became clear that Chinese security officials would never permit such a demonstration in Beijing.

"Women in Black" originated in Israel, where Palestinian and Israeli women opposing the violence of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation that began in 1987, chose moments to stand silently in public places to protest violence. It then spread to Russia, to Serbia, to Australia and elsewhere.

Violence against women, their common target, includes the ravages of war, but also such practices as bride-burning, female genital mutilation and forced prostitution, as well as domestic abuse.

For all the tragic nature of the subject, today's demonstration was not morose. Many participants seemed to be uplifted by the heartfelt show of concern.

"I decided not to wear black, because I am black," said Wangari Maathai, of Kenya, who wore a yellow-and-black dress. "No matter how much we fail, we must recognize that there is hope. Especially in my region, with all the recent slaughter in Rwanda, for even there, the sun will rise, and we continue to hope that we can overcome our suffering."

> Silently, 1,000 protesters oppose violence.

After the silent vigil, and another half-hour of speeches, the women turned away from the forum site and cheerfully marched down one of Huairou's main streets toward an intersection where a statue of a woman with outstretched arms seems to mark the center of town.

Chinese authorities had warned that they would not tolerate any demonstrations outside the forum site. Yet Chinese and United Nations officials never agreed on exactly where, in the site's unwieldy collection of buildings and open-air tents, the United Nations territory ends.

After a week of frustration from intrusive security agents and disorganized accommodations, some women seemed eager for a confrontation.

About halfway down the street, the crowd of more than 1,000 reached a small row of plainclothes police, headed by a tall, stern-faced officer. He pointed at the ground as if trying to bring a dog to heel, and asked the women at the head of the demonstration to stop.

"You listen to me," said the officer, Liu Jianyu, sporting a crewcut and a white Adidas polo shirt with blue stripes on the sleeves. "You must stop here. If you go any further you will violate Chinese law."

"We will be silent," said a woman leading the march, Indial Lourdes Sajor of the Philippines. "We will stay right here."

With the march halted, many women began softly singing "We Shall Overcome" and most sat down in the street, still holding candles in their hands.

"You said you would be silent!" objected Mr. Liu. "Tell them to be quiet!"

Ms. Sajor smiled and shrugged, as if to say that she alone could not control the crowd. An elderly woman fought her way to the head of the crowd and argued that the women should retreat. Other women in the crowd shouted: "Let's Go! Let's Go!"

Ms. Sajor turned to the policeman and suggested: "Maybe you should let us go another 10 yards."

As they debated, delayed by the imprecise translation of a young police interpreter, a group of Thai women broke off from the crowd and began marching down the sidewalk on one side of the street, singing "A Brave Woman" and carrying a banner that said "Stop Violence Against Women."

The police officers were badly outnumbered, and their efforts to stop the group were frustrated as the women dissolved into small groups and stepped past them to continue the march.

It was stopped again by Mr. Liu and his colleagues, who regrouped at the corner, only a few dozen yards from the statue, where several hundred townspeople had gathered to watch the confrontation. With the march again stalled, Ms. Sajor finally turned to the crowd and persuaded them to retreat in peace.

"We have had a good day," she told them. "We have shown them our power."

THE WASHINGTON POST TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995

Women's Conference Opens With Fanfare

But Key Issues Remain Unresolved

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIJING, Sept. 4—The battle to draw up an international document promoting the rights and roles of women has reignited debates over abortion, the family and financial commitments as the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women opened here today with lavish ceremony and continuing security problems.

Delegations from more than 180 governments have arrived to draw up a Platform for Action that women's groups who support it hope will help boost women's economic standing, protect them from violence and promote women's "reproductive health" as well as their "empowerment."

But between 15 percent and 30 percent of the 120-page draft text of the proposed platform remains in brackets, indicating that those passages are still open to debate during the 12-day conference despite months of preparatory meetings in New York.

A coalition of the Vatican, Muslim fundamentalist states and American conservative groups is trying to alter some of the language in the proposed document that they say promotes a "social minority philosophy" that denigrates the value of motherhood.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls said that the underlying tension is between those women who want to honor the role of the family and those promoting a feminism that presents "a negative attitude toward the family, uncritical support for abortion and an angry anthropology in which feminine

See CONFERENCE, A14, Col. 1



REUTER

A helium-filled "dove of peace" floats above the auditorium of Beijing's Great Hall of the People at welcoming ceremonies for the U.N. Conference on Women.

1/2

CONFERENCE. From A1

problems are linked solely to sexuality and contraception."

The overwhelming majority of the government delegations denied that the platform is anti-family and said they are trying to protect compromise language on birth control and human rights that was agreed upon during earlier U.N. conferences in Cairo and Vienna, while stressing new measures regarding violence at home and in wartime.

"It saddens me that a historic event like this is being misconstrued by a small but vocal group of critics trying to spread the notion that the U.N. gathering is really the work of radicals and atheists bent on destroying our families," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton wrote in a column on the eve of the meeting.

"We've said over and over again that the family is the basic unit of our society and we want to reinforce that," said Timothy E. Wirth, undersecretary of state for global affairs and co-chair of the U.S. delegation.

For much of today, delegates laid aside document substance for pomp and circumstance.

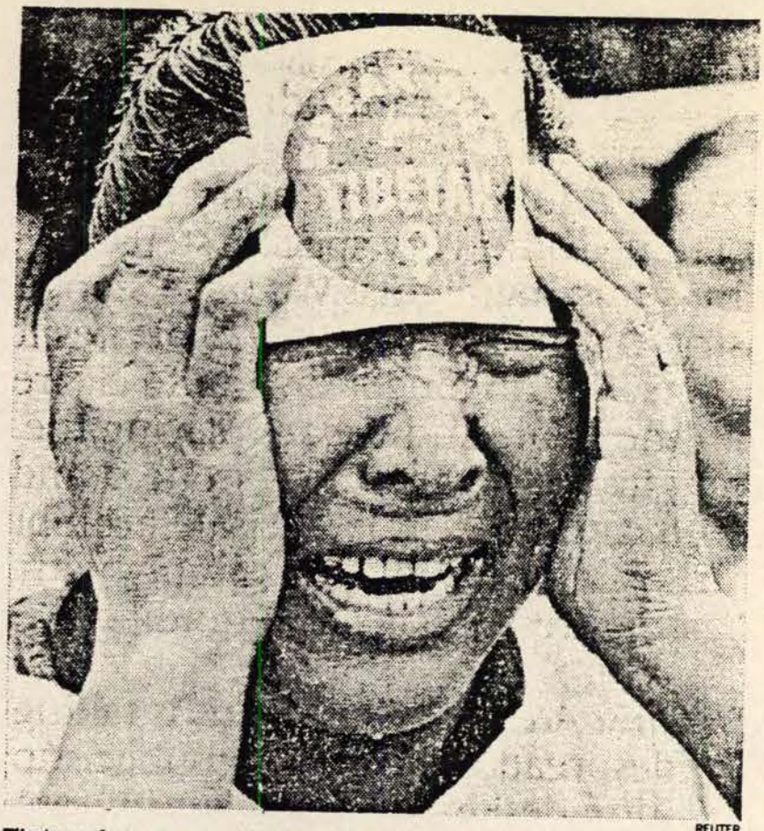
This morning, the Chinese government held a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square that featured a helium-filled, 20-foot-long "dove of peace" with an olive branch dangling from its red beak. Women martial arts experts fought off male attackers with kicks and punches, and a troupe of acrobats in sparkling spandex leotards did somersaults. A workers' choir sang Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

"A revolution has begun," conference leader Gertrude Mongel

la declared to applause from the delegates. "There's no going back."

The fanfare and protocol were a change of pace for the Chinese government, which has been accused of harassing the women attending a Nongovernmental Organizations Forum that started last week with the goal of influencing the U.N. meeting. Formal protests were lodged after Chinese security officials videotaped meetings, searched hotel rooms, restricted people's movements, disrupted meetings and scuffled with participants.

Today, however, U.N. Undersecretary General Ismat Kittani, representing the flu-stricken U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, said to Chinese leaders that "your citizens have enriched the activities of the United Nations Secretariat in diverse fields. . . . You have invited the world to your capital, and the world is grateful."



REUTER

Tibetan refugee weeps at hunger strike at U.N. office in New Delhi protesting China's refusal to issue visas to Tibetan delegates for Beijing conference.

Against a backdrop decorated with a picture of the Great Wall, Chinese President Jiang Zemin declared that the assembly "added luster to the city that radiates with the colors of the golden autumn."

Yet even this event was marred by a confrontation. Winnie Mandela, head of the African National Congress Women's League, was involved in a shoving match with Chinese security men after she arrived late for the welcoming ceremony and guards barred her from entering the hall. Her entourage tried unsuccessfully to force its way inside as other security guards came running to the scene.

At the Huairou meeting site of the NGO Forum, another protest took place, with women walking through a police-designated line limiting a demonstration area.

This afternoon at the U.N. Conference site, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto condemned female infanticide in her keynote speech, but she did not mention China, where the practice of aborting female babies is reported to be widespread.

"The cries of the girl child reach out to us," Bhutto told delegates. "This conference needs to create a climate where a girl child is as welcome and valued as a boy child."

In a news conference, Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), chairman of the House subcommittee on international operations and human rights, said, "China has embarked on a Nazi-like eugenics program. People are being destroyed because they don't measure up to a certain standard of the government's."

Although the platform drawn up here will have no binding authority, Wirth said it can later be used to "help hold governments accountable."

"Having spent more or less two years haggling over the wording of reproductive rights and reproductive health" in the population conference in Cairo last September, said Fred Sai of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, "the important thing is to figure out how to implement them. To debate the wording again is not a very good use of national delegates' time."

A couple of words have acquired significance here far beyond their dictionary definitions.

■ Gender: Citing feminist literature, conservative groups say the word is shorthand for "five sexes": men, women, gays, lesbians and bisexuals. "Some gay and lesbian groups want that ambiguity in order to promote that lifestyle," Smith said.

Women's groups here say the word simply implies the socially and

242

Clinton urges human rights in China speech

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Hillary Rodham Clinton named no names Tuesday, but everyone knew about whom she was talking.

Her emphasis on human rights, delivered in unadorned language, electrified the 1,500 delegates to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women.

She denounced burning wives, prevalent in India; mutilating girls' genitals, common in some African and Muslim societies; and rape as a prize of war, as in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Clinton did not mention China when she criticized sterilization and forced abortion, a custom that experts say has led to a population deficit of 100 million females in Asia.

But she prefaced no fewer than seven successive sentences with, "It is a violation of *human* rights . . ."

Her message: "Human rights are women's rights. And women's rights are human rights."

The loudest applause came when she criticized China, again without naming it, for keeping many women from attending or participating fully.

China did not immediately comment. The state-run news agency ignored her speech.

▸ Population controversy, 6A



By Greg Baker, AP

IN BEIJING: U.N. and Chinese flags hang in the Great Hall of the People, where delegates met to open their conference.

'No going back' for world's women, conferees declare

By Jessica Lee
USA TODAY

BEIJING — From heads of state to heads of households, women talked of revolution Monday as the fourth U.N. Conference on Women

NOTEBOOK

opened here.

"Women are no longer guests on this planet. A revolution has begun. There's no going back," Tanzania's Gertrude Mongella, the conference head, declared in opening the 12-day meeting.

The gathering of more than 4,750 delegates from 181 countries is the first of its kind in a decade.

The election of women as heads of state and heads of government, suggested Pakistani President Benazir Bhutto, has strengthened women's recognition that "it is socially correct for a woman to work and for a woman to be a mother."

While speculation buzzed Monday about what U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will say to the U.N. delegates and Chinese hosts, Winnie Mandela, estranged wife of South African President Nelson Mandela, was shoved and refused entry by security guards when she arrived late for a welcoming ceremony.

Hillary Clinton, who arrived early today, is honorary head of the U.S. delegation and scheduled to make three speeches.

"Why is a capable woman like her . . . coming as a president's wife and not as a woman leader?" said Sui Hui, deputy director of American and Oceanic Affairs in China's trade ministry.

In scores of workshops, seminars and plenary lectures, the estimated 25,000 women who are gathered for a parallel private forum out-



By Doug Mills, AP

CLINTON ARRIVES: First lady greeted today in Beijing

with Sui's questions: Why are women being held back?

▶ One answer: The effect of organized religion.

The world's 500 million Islamic women are poor, illiterate villagers, said professor Riffat Hassan of the University of Louisville.

Most, she said, are being held back by the belief that the Koran, Islam's sacred scripture, teaches that woman was created from man.

"The Koran has 30 creation stories. They all say God created all people equal. So where did this belief come from?"

▶ Another reason, expressed as a conference theme, is the rise of conservatism and fundamentalism.

"Women are bearing the brunt of conservatism" as critics attack efforts at equality as anti-family, said Bisi Adelaye Fayema of England.

Timothy Wirth, a U.S. undersecretary of State and conference delegate, agreed. He described those who attacked the women's movement as hiding behind "a front because they don't want to give up any power."

USA TODAY reporter Jessica Lee is attending the Beijing conference on a grant from the journalism organi-

World's women convene



AP

eaceful process? An inflatable dove flies above delegates in attendance at the Great Hall of the People.



AP

eijing: First lady Hillary nam Clinton is to address the ien's conference today.

Squabbles break out on opening day in Beijing over language in platform

By George Archibald
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BEIJING — Pomp and ceremony at yesterday's opening of the World Conference of Women at the Great Hall of the People at Tiananmen Square quickly gave way to controversy over hot-button social and religious issues.

Outside the hall, delegates argued over the language in the conference's "Platform for Action."

Saudi Arabia and Iran declared yesterday that the women's conference has been hijacked by anti-Islamic forces, and that some delegates were promoting adultery and free sex.

A senior Iranian official said stances on women's issues propounded by some "pro-American and Zionist" elements at the conference were aimed at promoting immoral acts.

"How can we tolerate young boys and girls being allowed to have sex without being married?" said Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, Iran's deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance.

Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority called on Muslims to oppose the conclave's draft declaration calling for equal rights for women.

see WOMEN, *page A18*

1/2

WOMEN

From page A1

Gertrude Mongella, secretary-general for the women's conference, told delegates: "We are now faced with a final test of our commitment for action. . . . The platform is a document for the world. But for women it is their document, since it embodies the aspirations, hopes and actions which will guide us all into the 21st century.

A colorful performance of music, dance, springboard and martial arts by Chinese artists and children captivated the audience from 181 nations with a mosaic of the world's cultural offerings.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin defended Beijing's human-rights record, which has been widely criticized. He also endorsed the conference goal of full equality of women in the workplace, government and economic sector in every country.

Mr. Jiang said, "The Chinese government has always regarded gender equality as an important measure of civility. . . . We are resolutely against any forms of discrimination against women and have taken concrete steps to maintain and protect the equal status and rights of women in the country's political, economic and social life."

"At present, poverty remains a serious obstacle to the improvement of women's status in many countries, developing countries in particular," the Chinese president said.

"This is due to the prolonged colonialist domination and the existing irrational and inequitable world economic order. The developed countries and the international community at large have an unshirkable responsiblity to help the people in the developing world to achieve economic growth, eradicate poverty and improve living standards."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who said illness prevented his attendance, sent a message saying: "China has the resources, natural and human, to contribute significantly to global programs. China has the ability to take an active and enthusiastic part in the [United Nations'] work toward sustainable development, particularly in Africa."

But work on health, education and economic betterment for women is taking the media back seat to a rematch of the divisive debate over abortion, birth control and family values which dominated the 1994 Cairo U.N. conference on Population and Development.

Delegates from the Vatican, some Latin American and Islamic nations and U.S. conservatives such as Rep. Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey Republican, hope to block adoption of language in the final document that would endorse a woman's right to abortion. They also oppose language that would grant legal protection to homosexuals and unmarried persons engaging in sexual relations.

Mr. Smith, chairman of the House International Relations international operations and human rights subcommittee, called on first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, to publicly condemn China's forced abortions and sterilization of women.

Mrs. Clinton arrived in Beijing with Mrs. Albright early today to address both the U.N. conference and the nongovernmental organizations forum in Huairou, about 40 miles away.

Timothy Wirth, undersecretary of state for global affairs, said at a news briefing that he believes "there is no need for coercive programs" of birth control in China and that "in fact, they are counterproductive in every way."

"We all agree that many of the hard practices should be stopped," Mr. Wirth said. "The question is, what is the process for doing that? This is a U.N. conference, and one of the purposes . . . is to develop a document to which nations sign up and then to which they are held accountable by the citizens in that country."

Mr. Smith said at a news conference that the first lady, who is honorary chairman of the U.S. delegation, and other U.S. delegates should "use every public and private forum afforded by this conference to oppose and seek an end to the pervasive reliance by the government of China on forced abortion and forced sterilization to implement its 'one-child-per-family' policy.

"This should not be construed as an attack on China," he said. "Rather, we must remember that China is not the Chinese government. It is the Chinese people. It is out of deep respect and concern for the women and girls of China that we should refrain from muting our criticism of these gruesome practices."

Donna Shalala, health and human services secretary and No. 3 official on the U.S. delegation, said Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Albright both "have long histories on issues of human rights and have enormous credibility around the world on those issues."



Gertrude Mongella

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, in one of the first conference addresses, said the draft "Platform for Action" the conference is expected to adopt "is notably weak on the role of [illegible] traditional family."

"This can lead to distortion of the women's agenda," she said.

"I'm surprised at that statement," Miss Shalala said, "because I think our reading of the document is that it is very much a mild document and in support of the family."

Mrs. Bhutto, however, did not endorse a key conservative demand that women not be encouraged to work outside of the house.

"Our election has destroyed the myth built by social taboo that a women's place is in the house, that it is shameful or dishonorable or socially unacceptable for a Muslim woman to work," Mrs. Bhutto said.

Conservatives have said that the document's references to gender, sexual practice outside marriage and sexual orientation will undermine support for traditional families.

"What is more supportive of families than the elimination of poverty, investments in the economy of countries that provide opportunities for work, the micro-enterprise parts of the family?" asked Miss Shalala. "What is more in support of the family than health care for women and children?"

• *This article is based in part on wire service reports.*

2/2

Pruden on Politics
By Wesley Pruden



The Washington Times
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995

A cozy roost among Szechuan chickens

China's a long way from Arkansas, but Hillary Rodham Clinton, who arrives in Beijing today for the U.N. Conference on Women, imagines that the land of the Szechuan chicken was made just for her.

Nobody who understands anything about China, or about the delicate dance steps all presidents must master, wanted Miss Hillary to attend Rush Week in Beijing, where every wink and nod is measured and weighed twice, but the first lady was determined.

It's not hard to imagine why. Perhaps she can recapture the thrill of lounging around the dorm with the girls late at night, hair in curlers, raiding the ice box and talking about boys, how dreadful they are, and how to get and keep one.

The cruelest jest making the rounds in Hong Kong, where China watching is more than mere sport, is that, in the wake of the first round of Whitewater hearings, she checked out which countries have extradition treaties with the United States, and which don't.

Miss Hillary was so determined not to miss Rush Week that Harry Wu became Harry Who. The White House insists there was no deal to release Mr. Wu in time for the first lady to get to China, but you can't find many people who believe that, except those who are paid to believe it. Her friends insist that she can visit China without "playing presidential politics," but this ignores the iron reality that by going to Beijing at all she plays "presidential politics."

Says one wry Chinese observer in Hong Kong (which is as close to Huairou and Beijing as any prudent man wants to be this week): "It appears to us that Mrs. Clinton is playing presidential politics because the president himself does not know how, and defers to her."

Miss Hillary is paddling about in water far, far over her head. This is not Rose Law Firm stuff, where she merely used her connections to cook deals to the taste of clients with business with her husband's administration. This is the grown-up world.



Power broker

You can't blame the Clintons for being fascinated by the surface similarities between China and home. In Beijing and in Little Rock, the power brokers have feathered cozy nests, tucked away in boxes within boxes within boxes like the walls within walls within walls of the Forbidden City, making the nexus of illicit power and selfish pleasure all but impenetrable to foreigners. You could ask Ken Starr.

The subtleties embraced in the differences between Beijing and Little Rock may be beyond Bubba, who is still trying to master the differences between Boys Nation and the Oval Office, but Miss Hillary arrives in China knowing exactly what she wants and how to get it.

Like the addled old men hanging on to power in Beijing, she's determined to do what she wants no matter how much it costs someone else. Pleasure, perks and privilege, in both Beijing and Little Rock, are what the fun of having power is all about. One of the attitudes Miss Hillary understood at once when she arrived in the South as a young bride was summed up in a cruel but familiar aphorism (herewith cleaned up a little) from the bad old days): "What's the point of having field hands if you can't kick 'em around?" (Don't cry for me, Arkansas.)

The cloddish insensitivity of both Bubba and ss Hillary to the demands of statecraft — that interests of others have to be put ahead of rsonal whims and wishes, and no pouting — terrifies some of the rare adults in the Clinton administration, who are still trying to figure out where, exactly, to locate that distant and unfamiliar planet called Arkansas, whose customs and behavior, as Bubba and Miss Hillary practice them, seem far less scrutable than those of the remotest province of ancient Cathay.

Bubba is thrashing about in deep water, too. The Chinese are mightily exercised over the visa that Washington granted to President Lee of Taiwan, enabling him to attend his class reunion in June at Cornell. But the anger is not over the visa itself. Says one Chinese official: "We could have lived with that. We wouldn't have liked it, but we could have lived with it. We were told for weeks that the visa would not be granted, then without explanation, it was. This is puzzling."

If you're the secretary of state, and see the relations between the world's only superpower and the largest nation in the world suddenly going south, how do you explain that the only thing at work here is the amiable incompetence of good ol' Bubba? And even if you would say such a thing, who in China would believe it?

And now arrives Miss Hillary at Rush Week in Beijing in the wake of the Harry Wu episode and the consequent worldwide furor over Chinese abuses of humans, male and female. How do you make the Chinese understand that Miss Hillary's visit is not a signal to keep on trucking, but merely the cry and whisper of an impressionable housewife from a small town in Arkansas?

knowing of a reporter's interest in the Des Moines events, called recently to volunteer that his candidate was more sincerely committed to combatting the ''gay agenda'' than either Gramm or Dole.

Women's Conference Opens with Rally for 'Revolution' By Maggie Farley and Rone Tempest= (c) 1995, Los Angeles Times=

BEIJING Declaring that women are ''no longer guests on this planet,'' Tanzanian political leader Gertrude Mongella opened the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women here Monday amid continuing controversy over pervasive Chinese security and hopes for an international consensus to reduce the specter of domestic and state violence against women.

In a lavish welcoming ceremony held in the capital's Great Hall of the People, Mongella, the conference's secretary-general, announced to cheers and trills from thousands of women: ''This planet belongs to them (women) too. A revolution has begun.''

But despite the enthusiasm, this week's conference heralds less a revolution than a holding pattern. International delegates are digging in to preserve positions on abortion and sex education that were agreed on last year at the U.N. Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt. ''There will be no unraveling of commitments neither today's nor last year's, and certainly not this decade's commitments,'' said Mongella. ''This revolution is too just, too important and certainly long overdue.''

As Mongella and others spoke inside the hall, South African representative Winnie Mandela and her entourage had been turned away from the ceremony because they arrived late. An ensuing clash with guards who shoved them from the steps of the building heightened tensions between hypercautious security forces and activist women who have filled the capital for the conference.

Some participants at the parallel Non-Governmental Organizations Forum on Women an hour north of Beijing have complained of being harassed, followed and intimidated by police who fear the women are hurting the interests of the country.

On Monday, nearly 1,000 women dressed in black and carrying candles scuffled with police three times as they marched to the edges of the forum site to protest the United Nations' failure to back up their right to demonstrate without interference there.

Although prominent delegates have urged that women refocus on the issues of the conference and not on its host, China's human-rights record and strict family-planning policies constitute an electric undercurrent in conference discussions.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto emphatically condemned female infanticide, a practice reportedly still common in China, in her opening-day address.

''As we gather here today, the cries of the girl child reach out to us,'' Bhutto said. ''This conference needs to chart a course that can create a climate where the girl child is as welcomed and valued as a boy child, that the girl child is considered as worthy as a boy child.''

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, official spokesman for the Vatican delegation to the conference, commented: ''I find it sad that people at the conference are talking about the problems of female (infanticide) in Africa but do not mention it here in China, where the practice is most widespread.''

Joining the official American delegation to the conference Friday was Rep Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., a leading anti-abortion member of Congress who has accused the Chinese of conducting thousands of ''forced abortions and forced sterilizations'' as part of the country's strict family-planning program.

In the congressional debate leading up to the women's conference, Smith led an unsuccessful effort to cut off funding for the American delegation. After failing, he decided to join a four-member congressional delegation to the conference and has seized the opportunity to loudly condemn Chinese family-planning policy.

(Begin optional trim)

Smith urged first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who arrived in Beijing late Monday night, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright, who chairs the 44-member American delegation, to speak out against the Chinese record on human rights.

''The Chinese coercive population-control program,'' Smith said at a news conference here, ''has destroyed more than 150 million babies since 1979. An overwhelming majority of these were baby girls, and many millions of these babies were destroyed against the will of their mothers. To attend a women's rights conference in Beijing without commenting on this would be like attending a human-rights conference in South Africa 10 years ago without condemning apartheid.''

However, the three other members of Congress visiting the conference all women urged a more moderate approach. ''I came here to listen and learn, not to lecture,'' said Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif., in a pointed reference to Smith's position.

(End optional trim)

Hillary Clinton is scheduled to make two speeches during her two days in Beijing. Tuesday afternoon she is slated to address a special session of the women's conference. Wednesday she will travel to the Beijing suburb of Huairou, 40 miles north of the capital, to deliver an outdoor speech to the more than 20,000 delegates to the non-governmental organizations conference.

In addition she will attend a colloquium on ''women and health security'' and a panel on ''economic empowerment.''

'War Council' Convened After Deadline to Serbs Passes By Tracy Wilkinson= (c) 1995, Los Angeles Times=

ZAGREB, Croatia, Sept. 5 NATO warplanes roared over Bosnian Serb strongholds early Tuesday as Western military commanders convened a ''war council'' to decide whether to resume bombing the separatist rebels.

As the deadline for Bosnian Serbs to ease their 40-month siege of Sarajevo passed, there were signs of movement of heavy weapons into collection points in Serb-held suburbs, U.N. officials said. But it was not clear whether that movement was enough.

Under the NATO gun, Bosnian Serb politicians offered to comply with NATO and U.N. demands. Bosnian Serb army commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, however, remained defiant and rejected the West's ultimatum.

Around Sarajevo and the Serb stronghold of Pale, nine miles to the southeast, the darkened horizon lit up with yellow and orange bursts in what U.N. officials said was probably anti-aircraft fire launched by the Serbs against NATO aircraft.

NATO demanded that the Serbs move their artillery from within a 12-mile exclusion zone around Sarajevo, allow access on roads into the capital and reopen its airport. Failure to comply, NATO said, would mean a resumption of the punishing air campaign first launched Wednesday in retaliation for a lethal shelling of Sarajevo and then suspended Friday to wait for Serb concessions.

''If they don't play ball, they will be hit very, very hard,'' U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said in Sarajevo.

Despite Mladic's tough talk, U.N. officials reported ''highly

Hillary Clinton in China as gripes mount at forum

By Uli Schmetzer
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

BEIJING—Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived here Tuesday morning amid indignant charges that her Chinese hosts had been muzzling delegates to the 4th UN Conference on Women with heavy-handed policing and surveillance.

The allegation that China has violated its UN mandate as host nation has added a new controversy to the U.S. first lady's two-day visit, which U.S. critics view as an inappropriate way to help mend shaky Sino-American relations.

Mrs. Clinton will walk a tightrope between her solemn pledge to help with the abolition of discrimination and violence against women and her obligations to U.S. diplomacy. She has insisted the visit is an act of solidarity with women's aspirations and not a gesture of approval for China and its sorry record on human rights.

In her first appearance at the conference Tuesday morning, Mrs. Clinton made an impassioned plea for universal access to health and education for all women.

She told a colloquium on women and health that "people and their governments everywhere are beginning to understand that investing in the health of women and girls is as important to the prosperity of nations as investing in the development of open markets and trade."

Women have been denied access to health care, education, economic opportunites, legal protection

SEE WOMEN, PAGE 9

Women

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and human rights "for too long," Mrs. Clinton said.

She said that by the end of this decade, more than half of the people in the world with HIV would be women.

"AIDS, which threatens whole families and regions, demands the strongest possible response. Governments and the international community must address head-on the growing number of women who are being infected."

The first lady flew into Beijing the day after a spectacular welcome ceremony for conference delegates at the Great Hall of the People. Cheers rose from thousands of delegates when Gertrude Mongella, the Tanzanian secretary general of the women's conference, shouted: "A revolution has begun. There is no going back."

Despite excessive security, the majority of the 30,000 delegates from 185 nations were confident that the UN's largest-ever conference will be a turning point in centuries-old discrimination against women and that a 120-page Action Platform will become the blueprint for gender equality and mutual respect.

But in the U.S., Hillary Clinton has been harshly criticized for attending a conference that conservatives see as a shindig by radical feminists, and that many Catholics denounce as an "anti-family" rally and human rights advocates consider an endorsement of China's repressive system.

Her presence, however, has added weight to a conference with aspirations that may exceed expectations but which began Monday with a stirring speech by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.



AP photo

Hillary Rodham Clinton is greeted early Tuesday at the Beijing airport. She was to address the UN Conference on Women later in the day.

She told the opening assembly it is time to eradicate the practice of female infanticide, a crime common in nations like China, where parents are permitted one child and want a boy.

"The cries of the girl child reach out to us," Bhutto said. "This conference needs to create a climate where a girl child is as welcome and valued as a boy child."

On Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Clinton will deliver her keynote speech to the assembly. It is expected to dwell on global abuses against women and government efforts to provide them better health care. U.S. officials did not expect her to single out China for its policy of forced abortions.

On Wednesday she intends to visit the controversial Women's Forum at Huairou, an hour's drive from Beijing, where some groups have hinted they may use the spotlight on her visit to publicize their own causes and embarrass Chinese security forces.

The small farming town has become a beehive of 5,000 workshops and seminars attended by 23,000 delegates from global grass-roots non-governmental organizations. Among the organizations are lesbian and prostitute lobbying groups, Tibetan exiles who denounce China for human rights abuses in the Himalayan kingdom, abused wives, and the rape victims of past and current wars.

Only a few hours before Mrs. Clinton's plane landed, 2,000 women at Huairou defied Chinese authorities and demonstrated in silence for peace.

The women were dressed in black robes and carried lighted candles and lamps. At least 150 of the demonstrators spilled into the street, despite police warnings to confine their protests to the restricted space allotted them. Police did not interfere.

Earlier, British delegation leader Baroness Chalker spoke bluntly, telling reporters: "This is a UN conference, not a Chinese conference. If they invite the UN they should keep to UN rules."

Chinese authorities, afraid the forum's talks may infect Chinese citizens, have broken up meetings, confiscated literature and harassed and shadowed delegates.

On Monday, a phalanx of Chinese security personnel stopped South Africa's Winnie Mandela and dozens of African delegates from gaining access to the Great Hall of the People, where China's leader Jiang Zemin was opening the conference with a speech during which he said: "Women have made a special contribution to the reproduction of the human race."

Mandela, chairwoman of the African Women's League, and her African entourage remained at the entrance of the Great Hall for an hour while, inside, three orchestras played Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," followed by a Chinese song titled, "Guests from far away please stay."

"They made me wait two hours at the airport and now they barred me from going to the opening ceremony," complained Mandela, the estranged wife of South African President Nelson Mandela. There was no explanation why Mandela was kept out of the hall.

After a football-style huddle, about 40 security men pushed

1/2

Mandela and her delegates down the stairs of the Great Hall. A limousine whisked her away.

Inside the hall, the spectacle continued. The orchestra played "The Fallen Woman," an aria from Giuseppe Verdi's opera "La Traviata." It is the story of a loose woman who sacrifices herself for a man.

U.S. officials said they were worried the growing rift between host and guests was creating what U.S. Undersecretary for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth called an "unpredictable atmosphere."

In Washington, White House spokesman Michael McCurry said: "We regret the restrictions on free expression and association which have been occurring in Beijing. The first lady hopes those matters will be cleared up prior to her arrival."

China's government, whose priority remains domestic stability, refused to compromise after UN officials issued a 24-hour ultimatum, a deadline UN representatives later withdrew with the excuse it had been "misinterpreted."

The ruckus over excess policing has overshadowed a conference whose main slogan was to promote peace and equality. Its principal aim was to raise global awareness of the plight of women who comprise the bulk of the world's illiterate and poor.

212

Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, September 5, 1995

Conference brings China's dirty little secret to forefront

Ellen Goodman

BOSTON—For weeks, you might have assumed the entire conference hinged on one woman's travel plans. The itinerary of Hillary Clinton—would she or wouldn't she go to Beijing?—dominated the early news about the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women.

You might have thought the only real issue was the relationship between China and the United States. The China question—should we or shouldn't we "reward" them with our presence?—dominated the Sunday talk shows.

For that matter you might have believed that the gathering of 30,000 women from some 180 countries was of importance only for its effect on American presidential politics. Journeying ever-rightward, Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said the whole event was about inflicting a "left-wing ideological agenda" on the world.

It wasn't until the activist women finally arrived into the chaos of China, until the opening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum, that the relationship between the world and its women became more than a political footnote.

The People's Republic of China is as awkward a backdrop for a women's conference as the exploding city of Cairo was for last year's population conference. Geraldine Ferraro, vice-chair of the American delegation, says that when China volunteered to host the meeting, "they thought it would be like the Olympic Games. We'd go in, run our races, and leave."

Instead, for all their ham-handed acts to stifle activists, the Chinese have learned how hard it is to control the message when you have democratic "guests." While the government released a thousand doves in welcome, a thousand stories soared across the world about female infanticide, forced abortions and work inequality in a country that holds one-fifth of the world's women.

Nevertheless, the dirty little secret is that China ranks smack in the middle of the UN's index of gender equality, just between Guyana and Syria, well below Sweden and well above Afghanistan. On this list are countries where women can't vote, where wife-murder is barely a misdemeanor, where rape is a booty of war and girls are ritually mutilated.

Across the globe, women make up 70 percent of the poor and two-thirds of the illiterate. There are few enough nations where women are equally educated, none where the political structure is made up of equal numbers of men and women. In the UN itself, Madeleine Albright is one of only five women ambassadors.

So the "left-wing, ideological agenda" of this two-part conference of grassroots activists and governments is to try and push this man's world another revolution or two on its axis, making it a fairer, safer, place for women.

Officially, the UN goal will be to produce a document signed by government delegates that affirms universal rights and goals for all women—no small thing for nations where gender equality is still a dangerous, modern notion. This process of change through consensus can seem agonizingly slow and cumbersome. Yet over time the interaction between activists and governments can make a difference.

Two years ago in Vienna, the UN recognized women's rights as human rights for the first time and violence against women was defined a violation of human rights. Just last year, the world agreed that a plan to control population depended on educating women.

Now in Beijing, amid the wrestling over diplomatic words, the subjects range across women's lives. The talk is about violence, about human rights abuses, about access to education and credit and medical care, about legally recognizing women as equals to men before the law, even in divorce and child custody.

No document can overhaul a culture where the right of inheritance is regarded as an assault on religious teaching or where genital mutilation is defended as a tradition. But it becomes a lever for change, a signed flag to wave before a recalcitrant government. The activists return to their grass roots carrying proof of the world's support in their suitcases like a combustible souvenir. So do the 7,000 Chinese "observers."

"This conference," says Ambassador Albright, head of the American delegation, "deals with a woman as an actor in her own life. . . . It's about having the education she wants and marrying whom she wants and planning her family and her work. . . . It's about the whole picture of women and what we can do in the world when our talents are freed up."

Today in China, a baby girl may still be a cause for disappointment or infanticide. Meanwhile, even in America, the most high-profile woman in political life is still the wife of a president. Everywhere you look, the "whole picture" of women is due for enlargement.

Struggling 'Through Hell and High Water'

China: Shutting out critics at the women's forum

CHINA WAS READY FOR THE feminists of the world. Taxi drivers were advised not to pick up any naked females who might try to flag them down. Hotels were issued cloaks to throw over the legions of strippers who were expected to arrive. Security guards, many of them fresh from the farm, were issued bug spray so that they wouldn't catch insect-borne AIDS from visiting lesbians. Welcome to China, ladies.

Delegates to the unofficial women's forum, which opened last week, knew they were in for a hard time. "We're expecting bad conditions—no work space, no computers," Isabel Stramwasser, a Canadian delegate, said before the conference began. "But we're also expecting 40,000 women who've gone through hell and high water to get there." As it turned out, there were plenty of difficulties at the conference site in Huairou, 90 minutes outside Beijing (when the promised buses were running, which wasn't often), and lots of high water, caused by torrential rain. But thousands of women never got there. With a combination of bureaucratic paralysis and deliberate political suppression, the Chinese government managed to exclude many women whose views it found inconvenient.



AFP

Beyond the confines of the official 'Parade Ground': *Exiled Tibetan women wear gags to protest Beijing's repression of their homeland*

Western diplomats estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 delegates had been shut out. Many never received hotel confirmations, without which they were not allowed to pick up their visas. "This is more than a bureaucratic accident," charged Bella Abzug, a former congresswoman from New York who was allowed to attend. "This is an intentional, indirect way to limit our numbers."

The Huairou conference was the one China didn't want, an eclectic gathering of nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs. The other meeting, which starts this week, is the official United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, a plum for the Chinese, who campaigned hard for the right to host it. That meeting starts on a happier note. Hillary Rodham Clinton leads the U.S. delegation, reflecting a slight warming of relations between Washington and Beijing. Agreeing to disagree on the many issues that divide them—human rights, nuclear testing, arms sales, the status of Taiwan—the United States and China were at least talking to each other again. Beijing promised to send back its ambassador, who was withdrawn two months ago when Washington allowed the president of Taiwan to make an unofficial visit. A summit was in the works for President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, probably next month at the United Nations.

But there was nothing the Americans could do to get China to open its doors to all of the NGO women. "We can only cajole and plead," said a State Department official. China excluded the entire delegation from Niger, one of the few countries to have formal relations with Taiwan. More than 20 Taiwanese and Tibetan groups were denied access to the conference. American actresses Jane Fonda and Sally Field reportedly were unable to get visas.

Low turnout: So many delegates were kept away from the conference that many seminars and workshops had to be canceled for lack of participants. (The most popular discussion group appeared to be one on the O. J. Simpson case, held in a crowded tent.) The delegates who made it to Huairou found the Chinese imposing rules to restrict the expression of unwelcome opinions. Demonstrations were officially confined to an area grandly described as the "Parade Ground," an asphalt slab smaller than a basketball court.

But the women refused to be put in their place. One group showed a videotape about Tibet, and when Chinese security men seized the cassette, enraged members of the audience took it back by force and spirited it away. The opening keynote address was another videotape, brought into China by stealth, containing a message from Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese dissident who has stood up to a military regime that is fast friends with Beijing. "It is not the prerogative of men alone to bring light to this world," she told the delegates. Defying their Chinese overlords, nine exiled Tibetan women staged a protest in Huairou, their mouths gagged with scarves to represent the repression of their homeland. Dozens of delegates chanted their support. Posters appeared honoring Phuntsog Nyidron, a Tibetan Buddhist nun imprisoned for her support of the exiled Dalai Lama. WANTED: FREEDOM, it said—an idea China's leaders apparently could neither grasp nor stamp out.

RUSSELL WATSON *with* KATHARINE CHUBBUCK *in Huairou and* CHARLES S. LEE *in Washington*

upon receipt of "yet another Czech unit chemical report," the U.S. Central Command told the Allied Air Force command center "to disregard any reports coming from the Czechs." Asked about that exchange, a Pentagon spokesman said he had no immediate explanation for that log entry; other officials say there were probably thousands of chemical alarms in the war zone, all spurious. But not everyone agreed. On Feb. 4, 1991, a French military spokesman said the allied bombings had produced nerve-agent fallout "a little bit everywhere."

Still more chemical-agent alerts sounded when the U.S. Marines invaded Kuwait. In one location, they detected blister agents. In another, two marines were burned on the arms by mustard gas, possibly from a land mine. Other marines reported finding chemical rounds marked with skull and crossbones and apparent mustard gas in drums in a bunker near Kuwait City. Marine Capt. Michael Johnson disputes Pentagon assertions that there were no chemical weapons in the war zone by pointing out that he got a medal for identifying a 250-gallon container of Iraqi blister agent and phosgene.

Low-level, sporadic exposures. All of this, says Tuite, points not to concerted chemical attacks by Iraq but to low-level, sporadic exposures. How well U.S. troops were prepared for such exposure is unclear. Recently declassified data show that the best U.S. detectors were able to recognize some types of nerve gas at concentrations 1,000 times above their hazard level. A 1990 Pentagon report called the Army's automatic chemical alarm "not sufficiently sensitive." CIA documents say U.S. troops deployed no detectors for biological agents.

That's what concerns gulf-war veterans, some 50,000 of whom believe they suffer symptoms that could have come from low-level exposure to Iraq's chemical agents. Last year, a Defense Science Board Task Force found "no evidence" that U.S. troops were exposed to chemical or biological agents. A National Academy of Sciences panel agreed. President Clinton has since formed a blue-ribbon commission to study the problem anew. Suffering veterans hope the Clinton commission will carefully examine the gulf-war detections in the light of new information coming out of Iraq. "The national security aspects are real," says Tuite, the Senate investigator. "Publicly denying it is not the way to overcome it." ■

BY STEPHEN J. HEDGES, PETER CARY AND LINDA FASULO AT THE UNITED NATIONS

■ WORLD REPORT

Drawing battle lines in Beijing

Sharp disagreements over women's rights mark a United Nations conference

ANAT GIVON—AP



Their goal: female empowerment. *Delegates at opening ceremonies in Beijing*

As Amnesty International activists held up portraits of female prisoners of conscience outside the opening session of the world women's forum in Huairou near Beijing last week, dozens of Chinese gathered round: not police, but giggling participants who took turns posing for photographs with their arms around the protesters. "Every kind of person is here. We want something to remember this by," a woman from southern China explained.

The atmosphere won't be so relaxed this week in the back rooms of Beijing, where delegates to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women will be hammering out a 129-page Platform for Action, or in the muddy lanes of suburban Huairou, where 20,000 grassroots activists are finding common cause. Although the Platform for Action is little more than a patchwork of prescriptions lifted from previous U.N. declarations, a third of the text is still in dispute. Battle lines drawn at the Human Rights Conference in Vienna in 1993 and at the Population Conference in Cairo in 1994 have been drawn all over again, with most of the same antagonists fighting the same fights over human rights and reproductive rights.

Vatican challenge. Iran and Sudan are leading the conservative charge. They oppose defining women's rights as an "indivisible part of universal human rights," as past conferences have done. They have an ally in the Vatican, whose main interest is to block the recognition of sexual and reproductive rights. A respected Harvard law professor, Mary Ann Glendon, will lead the Vatican drive in Beijing to regain lost ground.

The Vatican is challenging language agreed to not only in Cairo but at the last women's conference in Nairobi a decade ago. Among words it wants excised from the draft Beijing document: unsafe abortion, unwanted pregnancy, contraception, sex education and reproductive health. Lesbianism does not even appear

in the draft: "sexual orientation" does but is unlikely to survive. Feminism goes unmentioned. Other semantic struggles include efforts by Iran and some other Islamic states to replace references to "equality" with the less threatening "equity." African delegations are among the strongest defenders of the equality principle, quietly backed by the West.

The Beijing Platform includes some new proposals. Developing countries inserted a demand for governments to combat domestic violence and to punish agents of the state who perpetrate violence against women. Refugee-receiving countries accepted a proposal to take gender issues into account in granting asylum. For the first time, a section is devoted to the needs of the girl child.

High-profile guests. Beijing is drawing a host of powerful women: three prime ministers (Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto, Bangladesh's Khaleda Zia and Norway's Gro Harlem Brundtland), a president (Iceland's Vigdis Finnbogadottir), three queens and 18 other consorts. The highest profile visitor will be Hillary Rodham Clinton, who confirmed her two-day visit only after Beijing sent home Harry Wu, the Chinese-American who was arrested in June and then convicted of spying.

Mrs. Clinton will be giving speeches in both Beijing and Huairou and will be showcasing one of her favorite themes in a panel on micro-lending with her friend



Beijing bound. *Harvard's Glendon (left) heads the Vatican delegation; Hillary Rodham Clinton*

Muhammad Yunus of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. The Platform for Action endorses micro-lending as one of a series of measures to rectify women's lack of access to economic resources from bank credit to land, inheritance and education. "The empowerment of women," the document asserts, "is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty."

Women in Huairou do not need to be told. Lu Xiaoxia, chief of the Women's Federation in the Chinese city of Tangshan, was scouring the forum site for South Koreans to buy her sweaters. Women in her district knit for export, she explains, but a Tianjin trading company takes a big share of the profits. She wants to help the women get a better deal. Lu's colleague from the neighboring city of Cangzhou carries a stack of glossy brochures introducing Cangzhou's pears and dates and its shipping container factory, a joint venture with South Korea. "We have excellent opportunities for investors," she says. In a less ambitious venture, a Nepalese writer peddles feminist poems for $10 each and a Saudi Arabian, with only her eyes uncovered, hawks T-shirts with the slogan, "We welcome women's liberation and renounce permissiveness."

So far, China's omnipresent police have turned a blind eye to modest expressions of protest: a silent vigil by Tibetan exiles; a Japanese demonstration against nuclear testing; a Korean dance in memory of "comfort women." By Chinese standards, security around the conference is relaxed. But China remains inordinately fearful of feminist overspill, and as edgy Chinese police encounter assertive foreign women, sparks are bound to fly.

If Beijing is not a breakthrough document, it does bring together the strongest commitments to women that the international community has undertaken over a decade. Yet, commitments come cheap. The Platform for Action concedes that most of the goals laid down in Nairobi 10 years ago have yet to be achieved. And this time there will be no new money to ease the way. Instead, governments have been urged to make concrete pledges to improve the lot of their own women. Bill Clinton is offering an interagency council to push implementation of the Beijing plan.

The energized women at Huairou are in no mood to leave things to politicians. A University of Southern California workshop offers a how-to course, "Monitoring and Enforcing the Plan of Action." The 3,000 other panels range from "Black Women and O. J. Simpson" to "Banning Beauty Pageants in Japan." But they share a single theme: womanpower. ■



I. ROBYN BECK – AFP

"Every kind of woman is here." *A member of Amnesty International demonstrates in Huairou.*

BY SUSAN V. LAWRENCE AND EMILY MACFARQUHAR IN BEIJING

PHOTOS: (LEFT) B. KRAFT – SYGMA; (RIGHT) CHICK HARRITY – USN&WR

PM-Women's Conference, Bjt,0646
China Casts Wary Eye As U.N. Women's Conference Formally Starts
AP Photos planned
With PM-Women's Conference-China, Bjt, PM Hillary Clinton-China, PM-UN Women
Eds: Will be led with start of formal opening session at 3 a.m. EDT
By RENEE SCHOOF= Associated Press Writer=

BEIJING (AP) With the rallying cry that ``a revolution has begun,'' housands gathered today for a global conference on women overshadowed even efore its start by complaints about heavy-handed Chinese policing.

The latest confrontation came only hours before the formal opening of the .N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women, when Winnie Mandela was turned away rom a Chinese welcoming ceremony after arriving late.

Chinese security men used coats to try to block cameras' view of their ltercation with Mrs. Mandela, estranged wife of South African President elson Mandela, and her bodyguards. An aide said the bus carrying the South frican party lost its way.

At the Chinese welcoming gala in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, rganizers sought to turn the spotlight to the U.N. gathering's goals and away rom complaints from private activists about scrambled logistics and too-tight hinese security.

U.N. envoy Ismat Kittani, representing Secretary-General Boutros outros-Ghali, made a point of thanking the Chinese for their hospitality, ithout mentioning the difficulties encountered by private groups whose athering outside Beijing began six days ago.

Chinese authorities have closely watched and o[illegible]sionally harassed artic[illegible]nts at the private forum, especially Tib[illegible]n exiles seeking ndep[illegible]ce for the Chinese-ruled Himalayan regio[illegible].

The [illegible]nference's secretary-general, Gertrude Mongella, won cheers and pplaus[illegible] when she told delegates and Chinese dignitaries that women are no onger ``guests on this planet.''

``This planet belongs to them, too,'' she said. ``A revolution has begun here's no going back.''

China's ambivalence about hosting the conference it badly wants the restige, but has sought to stamp out the debate and dissent that accompanied he gathering came through clearly again today.

In a gesture of liberality, Chinese authorities allowed publication today f the Earth Times, a newspaper for the private gathering in Huairou, 30 miles est of Beijing. Until now, the publication has been suppressed on the grounds t was unlicensed.

Chinese dignitaries including President Jiang Zemin sought to affiliate hemselves with women's struggle for equality, with Jiang calling women's iberation ``part and parcel of national independence and people's iberation.''

In a telling touch, however, a female member of China's state council pened the welcoming ceremony with the salutation: ``Dear sirs and riends...''

A conference highlight is expected to be the attendance of First Lady illary Rodham Clinton, who will serve as honorary chief of the U.S. elegation.

Her attendance was in doubt until recently because of China's arrest last nth of Chinese-American human rights activist Harry Wu, but his expulsion rom China helped to pave the way for her visit.

The White House has criticized China's treatment of delegates to the eeting of private groups, and Mrs. Clinton's schedule reflects support for hat forum, which hopes to influence the U.N. conference. After addressing the .N. conference on Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton is to speak to the private gathering.

According to the United Nations, 3,000 delegates from 181 member-states ave registered for the official 12-day conference.

Delegates will begin debate Tuesday on a proposed 120-page platform, which ncludes calls for steps to alleviate women's poverty and improve health care.

ducation and job opportunities for women.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/04/95 at 02:21EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/04/95 at 09:12EDT ****

AM-Women-Hillary,540
First Lady Arrives In Beijing For Women's Conference
By TERENCE HUNT= AP White House Correspondent=

BEIJING (AP) After sharp criticism about her participation, Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived Tuesday for a global conference to make the case that treating women as second-class citizens undercuts economic and social progress around the world.

``It is important that America play a leadership role at this conference,'' the first lady said in a speech at a refueling stop in Guam.

``Issues of concern to women are crucial not only to the economic and social progress of our nation, but of every other nation,'' Mrs. Clinton said.

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the United States will make clear where it stands on human rights, even though Mrs. Clinton is not expected to single out China for its abuses.

``I don't think anybody's going to be in doubt'' about the U.S. position, Albright told reporters on Mrs. Clinton's plane.

Albright also fired back at criticism that the conference is pursuing a radical agenda. She said that was ``a deliberate misunderstanding of what this conference is about. I think, basically, there are people that would prefer to have women do something else.''

In her Guam speech, Mrs. Clinton said the 45-member U.S. delegation was comprised of Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives who speak with one voice in trying to advance the causes of women.

``The main goal of the United States' delegation,'' she said, ``will be to promote policies around the world including in our own country that improve the status of women, children and family and enable all women to fulfill their God-given potential by making the choices that are right for them.

``There is no preordained choice,'' she said.

The conference will focus world attention on issues ``that matter most to women, children and families,'' Mrs. Clinton said, naming education, health care, economic opportunity, freedom from violence and the protection of human rights.

In Beijing, Mrs. Clinton was greeted by two Chinese protocol officers and U.S. embassy employees, then went to her hotel. The highway into the city and the downtown streets were empty of cars or people in the early morning hours following a 13-hour flight from Hawaii and the refueling stop in Guam.

An acrid haze of pollution hung over the airport as Mrs. Clinton's Air Force jet landed.

On Tuesday afternoon, she will address the U.N.-sponsored Fourth World Conference on Women as honorary head of the American delegation. Representatives of 181 nations are attending the meeting.

U.S. officials fear pressure groups will demonstrate during her visit Wednesday to the Beijing suburb of Huairou to speak to a parallel meeting of unofficial women's groups called the NGO Forum.

Members of Amnesty International, which has condemned the Chinese tactics, scouted out the site where Mrs. Clinton is to give a speech.

They will unfurl a 25-square-foot banner for human rights signed by nearly 1,000 women from around the world, said spokesman Casey Kelso.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/04/95 at 14:48EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/05/95 at 08:32EDT ****

PM Hillary Clinton-China, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0424,670
Hillary Clinton Strikes Back at Critics of U.N. Women's Conference
EDs: Tops with 9 grafs, picks up 8th graf pvs, Meanwhile; editing to tighten
Precede HONOLULU
By TERENCE HUNT= AP White House Correspondent=

TUMON BAY, Guam (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton today struck back at conservative critics of an international women's conference in Beijing, saying that its primary goal is to improve the lives of women, children and families around the world.

``It is important that America play a leadership role at this conference,'' the first lady said. ``Issues of concern to women are crucial not only to the economic and social progress of our nation, but of every other nation.''

Conservatives have portrayed the conference as a radical, anti-family event that will endorse liberal stands on issues such as abortion. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., seeking the GOP presidential nomination, has deemed it ``misguided'' and a ``genuine waste of the taxpayers' money.''

The women's conference has become enmeshed in a broader political debate over the best approach to promote family values, a particularly popular theme in presidential politics.

Mrs. Clinton, in a newspaper column released Sunday, said she was saddened that ``a small but vocal band of critics (is) trying to spread the notion that the U.N. gathering is really the work of radicals and atheists bent on destroying our families.''

She said the U.S. delegation was ``a broad-based, family-oriented group committed to the mainstream agenda of the conference.''

Renewing that theme today during a refueling stop en route to China, Mrs. Clinton said the delegation is comprised of Democrats and Republicans, liberal and conservatives who speak with one voice in trying to advance the causes of women.

``The main goal of the United States' delegation ... will be to promote policies around the world including in our own country that improve the status of women, children and family and enable all women to fulfill their God-given potential by making the choices that are right for them.

``There is no preordained choice,'' she said.

Meanwhile, the White House chastised China for its harassment of delegates to a parallel meeting of women's advocacy groups.

``We very much regret the restrictions on free expressions and association which have been occurring in Beijing,'' said White House press secretary Mike McCurry. ``We believe those are wrong and they are counterproductive to the work of a very important international conference.''

McCurry said it was the responsibility of China and the United Nations, the sponsor of the women's conference, to clear up the problem.

``We've been making clear to Chinese officials for some time that there should not be limits on freedom of expression and association during the course of the international women's conference,'' McCurry said.

Women have complained of Chinese security guards shadowing and photographing delegates, harassing Tibetans and human rights campaigners, confiscating video tapes and breaking up meetings.

McCurry said U.S. officials have been talking to Chinese and U.N. officials about the problems. ``And the first lady, especially, hopes that those matters will be cleared up prior to her arrival,'' he said.

The first lady is expected to argue on women's behalf for adequate health care, political rights and economic opportunity.

``The women's conference is about making the world a better place by helping women live up to their God-given potential at home, in school, on the job, in their communities and as mothers, wives, learners, workers and citizens,'' she said.

After addressing the U.N. conference, Mrs. Clinton is to speak to a gathering of women's advocacy groups on Wednesday in Huairou, about 30 miles north of Beijing. Later that day, she may visit the Great Wall.

Before returning home, Mrs. Clinton will fly to Mongolia on Thursday for an overnight stay. Officials said the visit is intended to nurture the fledgling democracy in the nation, sandwiched between Russia and China.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 09/04/95 at 06:50EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 09/04/95 at 09:11EDT ****

CHINA

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1995

WOMEN'S MEETING AGREES ON RIGHT TO SAY NO TO SEX

A SPOUSE'S PREROGATIVE

Draft Wording Asserts Right to Make Sexual Decisions Free From Coercion

By SETH FAISON

BEIJING, Sept. 10 — Asserting a woman's right to make sexual decisions free of coercion or violence, delegates to an international conference here agreed tonight to declare for the first time in a United Nations document that a woman has the right to say no.

With the Vatican acquiescing for the time being, a consensus of delegates from nations on every continent attending the Fourth World Conference on Women made what many considered to be their greatest stride yet, agreeing to expand the definition of human rights in their final document.

The agreement is expected to be approved in some form later this week.

"This is a major step forward in defining human rights," said Sally Ethelston, a spokeswoman for Population Action International, a group lobbying the conference. 'It is a recognition that a woman is not just a reproductive machine, but is a sexual being with rights."

While the document is nonbinding, it is influential, and although there is a huge gap between reality and what is put on paper at a conference, the draft is still seen as ultimately having both a political impact as well as an effect on the lives of women.

For women who live in counfries where husbands can legally force a wife to have sex even, for example, when a husband is infected with the virus that causes AIDS, the agreement can be used as a social and legal tool to ensure greater protection for women, advocates said.

For women in nations where rape within marriage is already considered a crime, the agreement may also serve to improve understanding among women that they can have greater control over whom they choose as sexual partners.

The agreement tonight also appeared to eliminate a major element in a simmering dispute between delegates from the Vatican, who had opposed the wording, and from the European Union, who pushed for more progressive terminology.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, a spokesman for the Vatican, said that Roman Catholic leaders may still voice opposition to the agreement, but had decided not to block the drafting of the document.

Continued on Page A8, Column 1

Continued From Page A1

"We are not going to block the deliberations," Dr. Navarro-Valls said. "But at the appropriate moment, we will make our comment."

The Vatican has taken a lower-key approach to contentious issues at the conference than it did at a United Nations conference on population last year in Cairo, several participants said.

"I am thrilled and relieved beyond my wildest dreams," said Joan B. Dunlop, president of the International Women's Health Coalition, a New York-based group lobbying in favor of the provision. "We came in here with our backs to the wall to defend Cairo, and we have achieved more than we thought was possible."

In one significant change from the Cairo conference, the Vatican last week dropped its active opposition to the use of condoms as a method for preventing infection with the virus that causes AIDS.

While that did not by any means signify an acceptance of condoms by the Vatican, which still formally opposes all forms of birth control, it meant that its delegates here decided not to fight a battle in which they are badly outnumbered.

The key sentence in tonight's agreement sounds innocuous enough: "The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence."

But it represents a compromise between delegates uncomfortable with the term "sexual rights," and others who insisted that the issue be addressed in the conference platform. After days of debate the drafting committee agreed to omit that term but to define what it means.

Delegates assert that women should be free to choose without coercion.

"The words 'sexual rights' are not in here, but the substance is," said Ellen Marshall, a member of the United States delegation. "We're starting to talk about it before we call it something."

Mrs. Dunlop said that, although the language adopted tonight is not yet final, it would likely stand in the conference's final document.

Ms. Ethelston added that the agreement was reached with the participation of women from developing nations in every continent, as well as from the United States and Europe.

"I'm sure the Vatican will try to paint this as another example of Western feminists pushing something on the rest of the world, but that's not accurate," she said. "We had women from the Caribbean, from Africa, from Asia, from Latin American countries — we were all there."

Other women described the agreement as a victory for common sense.

"I think it's one more step toward recognition of life's realities, which this conference is adding each day," said Bella Abzug, the former member of Congress who is now co-chairman of the New York-based Women's Environment and Development Organization. "It shows that a small voice that opposed facing reality in a consensus conference cannot succeed.

"These people didn't want to acknowledge that there is sex, much less that there are sexual rights."

Ms. Marshall, the American delegate, added: "What we're trying to do is ensure that a women has the right to say 'no.' That is good for everyone. It's not bad for anyone."

Several participants said that although they had made more progress in reaching agreement on various aspects of the document than they expected by the conference's halfway mark, other issues remain unresolved and need to be ironed out by Thursday, when a full document is scheduled to be approved.

"There is still a lot of work to be done, I must admit, in terms of negotiation of language," said Thérèse Gastaut, a spokeswoman for the conference.

Ms. Ethelston also described the agreement as the committee's second significant advance over the weekend. The first was an agreement to urge countries not to punish a woman who has had a illegal abortion.

One principal remaining issue is parental rights. The Vatican has expressed its concern about what it sees as attempts to roll back parental rights, belittle motherhood and undermine religious faith.

Despite the Vatican's relatively soft approach at the conference, Dr. Navarro-Valls sharply criticized the European Union on Saturday for its progressive approach on a host of issues.

"At Beijing, the draft document casts marriage and the family negatively as impediments to women's self-realization," Dr. Navarro-Valls said in a statement.

Dr. Navarro-Valls also said the Vatican opposed attempts to replace the word "family" in the document with "families," which would accommodate nontraditional families including single-parent, polygamous families and families headed by same-sex partners.

Merwat Tallawy of Egypt, chairwoman of the conference's health committee, said today that the committee also is close to agreeing on language recommending how much control parents should have over teen-agers' access to sex education and contraception. She also said that almost all the 189 nations at the conference were ready to urge a review of laws that punish women for having abortions.

Between U.N. Meeting And Chinese, a Wall

Little News of Debates Reaches Outside

By PATRICK E. TYLER

BEIJING, Sept. 10 — As the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women was approaching, China's Ministry of Public Security made Wang Zhihong an irresistible offer.

She could have a rare, extended visit with her ailing husband, the pro-democracy dissident Chen Ziming, on one condition: that she enter Beijing No. 2 Prison, where he is serving a 13-year sentence.

For Ms. Wang, it wasn't even a close call.

"Ms. Wang is in prison; how could she refuse?" one of her friends said this weekend.

In this way, China's security apparatus got another educated, free-thinking Chinese woman off the streets of Beijing.

A determined advocate of human rights and democracy in China, Ms. Wang is not the kind of woman China's Communist Party leaders wanted to expose to the women of the world gathered here.

With thousands of dissidents jailed or under house arrest this month and with security around the conference extremely tight, the most striking thing about the United Nations conference, which is entering its final week here, is how sealed off it is from the rest of China, where nearly a quarter of the world's women live.

"The only connection between this conference and China is that if the conference runs smoothly, it is good for China, it helps our international reputation," said a 56-year-old scientist at China's Academy of Sciences. "Chinese television has been telling us how foreigners are very pleased with our hospitality."

China's reputation might not have been well served had Ms. Wang been free to speak out this month. In June, her husband was thrown back in jail after a year of medical parole that was won largely because of pressure from President Clinton and more than 50 members of the Senate.

Since then she has appealed to the United Nations for help. Had she tried to show up at the gates of the conference, it would have been deeply embarrassing to China.

Even for women able to pay attention to the conference, China's censors have blacked out most of the substantive news. It is impossible to obtain a draft of the "Platform for Action," which is freely available as an official United Nations document inside the hall.

The document, when approved, will spell out a bill of rights for women in language that could become an influential standard for all governments.

But the debate, at times so eloquent inside the hall, is swallowed by a gulf of enforced silence outside.

Shortwave broadcasts from the Voice of America and the British Broadcasting Corporation reach only a limited audience of intellectuals. CNN, which is carrying daily special reports on the conference, is becoming less available in China because of new controls.

This weekend, as Beijingers were enjoying cool, sunny weather and a Moon Festival holiday, few women strolling or bicycling through the city admitted to any knowledge about the fundamental rights this conference is seeking to enshrine for women in matters of sex and health, power and politics, labor and economics.

And many of them did not even know that Hillary Rodham Clinton was here last week to deliver a forceful address equating women's rights with human rights.

"Hillary Clinton was here in Beijing?" a young woman who works at a Beijing television station asked in surprise. "I haven't heard anything. I guess she must have said something bad about China, otherwise she would have been on Chinese TV."

But in dozens of conversations, the curiosity and interest of Chinese women in the conference was palpable.

Though few can attend — and even fewer can hear — the speeches that ring through the halls of the sealed convention center site, the issues that are being debated in the United Nations forum seem important to Chinese women, which makes their isolation all the more poignant.

For 16-year-old Fang Na, a music student at Beijing No. 3 Normal College, discrimination against women in China's job market is an issue in her life.

"When a female university graduate goes looking for a job, she meets a lot of obstacles that the men do not have," she said.

There is a Chinese delegation to this women's conference, led by Chen Muhua, a Communist Party stalwart. Its members are carefully selected party loyalists chosen for their enthusiasm to defend the party line.

For 61-year-old Guo Ruiyun, an illiterate vendor selling sodas under a circular umbrella, girls' access to education is an issue she relates to. Growing up in poverty in the mountains north of Beijing, Mrs. Guo never attended primary school.

While her four children in Beijing all have attended universities, millions of girls in poor regions of China are kept at home to work while boys are more likely to go to school.

If China's political system ever opens up to allow women to run for office, Mrs. Guo said, "I would be very glad for them to participate in politics."

Maybe they could even reach the level of China's ruling Politburo, where all 20 members are male.

Wang Zhe, age 23, is a senior in hydraulic engineering at Qinghua University and after she and two of her classmates dismounted their bicycles to speak to a reporter, a plain-clothes policeman walked up and pointed a shoulder bag with a video-camera lens opening at its base in their direction.

> China's women are unable to follow proceedings in their own capital.

Ms. Wang, not oblivious to the intrusion, prefaced her remarks by saying, "I am very proud of China to be the host of this conference."

"Of course I would like to attend or participate," she continued, "maybe it is a kind of sadness for ordinary Chinese women that they cannot participate."

As she spoke, four other plain-clothes policemen, who are assigned to follow foreign reporters for the duration of the conference, positioned themselves to observe and record casual contact with ordinary Chinese.

Down the street from Mrs. Guo's stand, Jiang Sufang, 28, was busy repairing shoes on her cobbler's bench.

"I really don't know much about this women's conference," she said, "but actually, if I had the opportunity, I would really like to go and see it, but we are not allowed to go there."

Asked how she knew she was barred from the conference area, she said, "No one told us, but right now we can tell that the law is very strict and many of my friends who do business on the street have been forced to go home."

Ms. Jiang has a single child, a 2-year-old daughter, and would like to have another child, like many Chinese women who feel the pressure of Chinese tradition to bear a son. She had not heard that Mrs. Clinton, in her speech, criticized the practice of forced abortion and forced sterilization in China's family planning program.

Thinking this over for a moment, Mrs. Jiang just smiled and said, "Not bad."

THE WASHINGTON POST
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1995

INS Debates Female Mutilation as Basis for Asylum

By Pamela Constable
Washington Post Staff Writer

[redacted]wo African women, both from Si[redacted]one, endured almost identical or[redacted]at the hands of secret tribal societ[redacted]. They were abducted, gagged and [redacted]ound; their sexual organs were partly cut away with a knife; and they were forced to swear they would never reveal what been done to them or face death by witchcraft.

Yet, two area immigration judges recently issued strikingly different rulings on the women's requests for political asylum in the United States. In Arlington, a judge declared that one woman had suffered "an atrocious form of persecution" and granted her asylum. In Baltimore, a judge denied the other woman's request, suggesting that she could choose to support the practice, which he called important for maintaining tribal unity.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service recently embraced the issue, making this the second country, after Canada, to include abuse of women as possible grounds for granting political asylum. But in both legal cases, the INS argued in court against the women's claims. And 10 days ago, INS lawyers appealed the Arlington ruling, saying the woman was not credible and the judge had "abused his discretion."

Human-rights groups, while hailing the Arlington ruling as a breakthrough for foreign-born victims of female genital mutilation, expressed dismay at the INS's opposition to the women's claims, especially in light of the agency's high-profile efforts to make its staff aware of such abuse.

The Arlington ruling "does exactly what the INS guidelines called on judges to do—recognize that women can be persecuted because of sex. For them to appeal, it seems like a direct contradiction," said Regan Ralph, director of the women's rights project of Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit advocacy group.

Immigration officials said they could not comment on individual asylum cases but stressed that requirements for proving persecution remain very strict and that many cases of sexual abuse do not qualify as persecution. They said the new guidelines were aimed at sensitizing immigration officers to sexual persecution, not at encouraging abused women to seek asylum. In their appeal of the Arlington case, INS lawyers said the woman had not mentioned mutilation in her initial asylum application.

"There is no formula, no exact answer. We have had a very limited number of cases, and the guidelines are very new," said Rosemary Melville, director of asylum at the INS. "A woman still has to show she has a well-founded fear of persecution based on being a member of a social group, and simply having personal problems with a husband who beats her is not going to qualify her."

In a separate statement, an INS spokesman said that the agency is "striving to be fair and consistent" but that "not every applicant who makes a gender-based claim qualifies as a refugee."

Female genital mutilation is performed in more than 40 African countries. U.S. doctors have decried the procedure, in which a girl's genitals are partly removed and/or sewn shut, as barbaric and medically dangerous. Many African governments tolerate but do not endorse the practice, which tribal elders say keeps girls pure for their weddings and wives faithful to their husbands.

The contrasting U.S. court rulings come at a time when female genital mutilation has captured the West's attention. The U.N. General Assembly has de-

See ASYLUM, D4, Col. 1

ASYLUM, From D1

nounced it; the State Department has included it in its annual report on human rights. This week, most U.S. specialists on the issue are participating in the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, where sexual violence against women is a major theme.

Last year, the INS Resource Information Center published an "alert" paper on female genital mutilation for asylum officers, describing it as extremely painful, with "serious, often fatal consequences." In many societies, the paper said, a woman's resistence to social pressure to undergo mutilation "can have dire consequences," including being viewed as someone who "deserves to be killed."

Yet, in a few test cases, U.S. immigration judges have tended to rule very cautiously as to whether the practice constitutes persecution. In Oregon last year, a judge ruled that a Nigerian woman could keep her two daughters in the United States to protect them from undergoing the procedure, but he sidestepped the issue of whether the mother deserved political asylum because she feared reprisal for trying to spare her children.

In the Baltimore case, Judge John F. Gossart Jr. ruled this summer that a 37-year-old woman from Sierra Leone, identified only as D.J., did not qualify for asylum and could be deported because her visa had expired. In court, the woman described how she had been kidnapped at 13 and held down by her female relatives while her clitoris was cut off, then threatened with death if she ever spoke about it.

Last week, the woman, a resident of Hyattsville, repeated her story for a reporter while the woman's 13-year-old daughter squirmed in a chair, covering her ears. The woman asked that neither be identified and said she feared the girl and her two younger sisters also would be mutilated if they were forced to return to Sierra Leone.

"This is a very wrong thing to do to someone. They beat the drums so no one can hear the screaming. There is nothing you can do about it, because even the wives of high officials in my country believe in it," she said. "They say they will harm me with witchcraft if I tell, but I say let me die. People have to speak out."

In his decision, Gossart described female genital mutilation as an "important ritual" that "binds the tribe" in many African countries. He said the Hyattsville woman's concern about retribution against her or about the forcible circumcision of her daughters did not amount to "fear of political persecution." The woman "cannot change the fact that she's a female, but she can change her mind with regards to her position" toward mutilation, he wrote. "It is not beyond [her] control to acquiesce to the tribal position."

So far, the only U.S. immigration judge to take a strong stand against the practice is Paul A. Nejelski, who ruled in the Arlington case last month. Nejelski found that a 29-year-old Sierra Leone woman identified as M.K. had been persecuted for trying to resist the procedure as well as for defying her abusive husband. He also ruled that she had a "well-founded fear" of being persecuted if forced to return home.

"In recognizing gender-based asylum claims, the United States courts are . . . creating the standard by which this country will serve as a refuge for women who are being persecuted because of their gender," Nejelski wrote. "Forced female genital mutilation clearly merits being recognized as a form of persecution."

In this case, the woman, who lives in Northern Virginia, was ordered deported last year after her visa expired and she then applied for asylum. She testified that at age 23, she was abducted and forcibly circumcised by members of the secret Bundo Society. She also said she often was beaten by her husband for refusing to be subservient. Through her attorneys, she declined to be interviewed.

"She feels very strongly about this issue, but it is extremely difficult for her to talk about," said John Linarelli, her attorney. "She was elated at the judge's decision, but now she is very scared of what might happen to her" if the INS wins its appeal and she is sent home.

Neither of the Sierra Leone women faces imminent deportation. Attorneys for both said the cases probably will be sent to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which could grant the women asylum, allow them to remain in the United States for humanitarian reasons, ask them to leave the country voluntarily or possibly order them deported.

...'s Rimsat, Russian Space Agency Go Around and Around Over Satellites

By Claudia Rosett
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

MOSCOW – If all goes as threatened, a Russian space organization called Intersputnik today will pull the plug for a few hours on satellite broadcasting into parts of Asia—just to show who's the boss.

The reason: a $130 million business deal gone sour between the Russian space industry and an American-run company called **Rimsat**, headquartered in Fort Wayne, Ind. As the Russians tell it, Rimsat has bilked them of promised funds and damaged Russia's satellite program. As the Americans tell it, the Russian Space Agency has swiped their business.

Dubbed the "Rimsat soap opera" by space-industry insiders, this satellite spat is a cautionary tale of the high risks tied to some of the low costs on Russia's often lawless business frontier.

Satellite Ownership Disputed

At issue is who owns current rights to two Russian-built Gorizont satellites now in stationary orbits transmitting signals for about a dozen television and cellular phone networks in Asia. Caught in the middle are the Asian users of these satellites, who signed leases – many at low rates – with Rimsat, but were notified recently by the Russians that they must sign new contracts to start paying Intersputnik, or risk having service cut.

It all began in 1992, when Rimsat, a small new firm with big plans, came to Russia looking for a cheap way to lease and launch satellites that could then be released to serve Asia's emerging markets. The Soviet Union had just collapsed, leaving the Russian space industry rich in high technology but starved for funds.

Rimsat signed a contract with Informcosmos, a general contractor for Russian space projects. Rimsat was to lease seven Russian satellites, paying up front to fund their construction. Informcosmos would handle satellite assembly and launch. Rimsat would get to use each satellite for a few years, after which rights would revert to the Russians.

Rimsat pieced together the logistics world-wide, registering in the tax haven of Nevis, a tiny volcanic island in the British West Indies. A Malaysian tycoon, Tajudin bin Ramli, in exchange for a minority interest in Rimsat put up $38 million to get satellite construction rolling. Rights to a satellite orbit slot were leased from Tongasat, an agent for the Pacific island Kingdom of Tonga.

By May 1994, two satellites had been put into service for Asian customers signed up by Rimsat. Rimsat had transferred to Informcosmos $6.7 million toward construction of the third satellite.

But Rimsat's managers and directors had begun fighting with each other for control of the company. Rimsat's legal officer, Carl Hilliard, got himself appointed as receiver by a court on Nevis. Managing Director James Simon and Chief Operating Officer Michael Sternberg counterattacked by persuading an Indiana court to declare Rimsat technically bankrupt. Mr. Tajudin, the Malaysian investor, sued all of them.

Rimsat suspended payments to Informcosmos, charging that the Russians had fallen behind schedule and hadn't accounted for funds for the third satellite. Lacking a final $2 million to finish it, Informcosmos's contractors in Russia ground to a halt.

Bankruptcy, Russian-Style

Finally, last month, the Russians declared their own version of a bankruptcy reorganization – effectively confiscating Rimsat's investment without bothering to go through a court. With the consent of Informcosmos, the Russian Space Agency revoked the license for the deal and handed control of the two orbiting satellites to Intersputnik, an organization of former Soviet bloc countries including North Korea and Cuba, run out of Moscow by a former Soviet minister of communications, Gennady Kudryatsev.

Today, Informcosmos claims it owns the third, unfinished satellite, in which Rimsat had invested $6.7 million. Rimsat's Mr. Simon charges that his company has been stripped by the Russians of a $40 million investment and is seeking arbitration in Sweden. And Intersputnik's Mr. Kudryatsev is inviting Rimsat's Asian customers to tear up their Rimsat leases and come negotiate new contracts in Moscow—or have their service cut off.

Wish List at Women's Forum Confronts Reality of Tight Government Budgets

By Kathy Chen
And Marcus W. Brauchli
Staff Reporters of The Wall Street Journal

BEIJING – The world's largest conference on women may be generating great enthusiasm for the cause of women, but it's falling short in a crucial area: funding.

With the Fourth World Conference on Women in its final week, more and more delegates are wondering how the ambitious programs under discussion will be implemented. Even as donor countries and lending organizations acknowledge the importance of bolstering financial commitments to women, many are tightening their belts.

The resulting shortfall will push some nations to find creative ways to stretch existing funds. For many, though, plans to improve women's lives could remain just that—plans.

"There's no question that the gap between what is being discussed here and what [funding] is available is enormous," says Peter H. Sullivan, a vice president of the Asian Development Bank. And that gap, adds Linda Tarr-Whelan, president of the Center for Policy Alternatives in Washington and a U.S. delegate, "feeds the general cynicism that people make promises they can't keep."

Partly for that reason, organizers avoided putting a price on implementing the goals of the conference platform, which – when it's adopted this week – will call for measures to eradicate poverty, for universal health care for women and for more funds to educate girls. Costs are hard to calculate, but experts say they could add up to hundreds of billions of dollars a year.

So far, about 50 countries have offered firm commitments of policy or legislative actions to support the conference goals. But funding has been thin. The U.S. leads the pack, having promised to reallocate $1.6 billion to fight domestic violence and crime against women, among other things. It and Japan also each gave $1 million to the United Nations Development Fund for Women, known as Unifem. The World Bank plans to announce soon a new program aimed at bolstering girls' education over the next decade.

But for many donor nations and organizations, the trend is to trim – not increase – foreign-aid packages. The U.S. Agency for International Development may lose one-third of its program funding to budget cutbacks. Congress is considering slashing by half its annual contribution to the World Bank's concessionary loan program.

The key word at this conference is reallocation. That means multilateral banks and nations should ensure their loans are gender-sensitive—so that structural-adjustment programs, for instance, don't render a disproportionate number of women jobless, or so that women get benefits from loans, too.

"If you spend money on education, make darn sure the program is impacting girls, not just guys," says Sally A. Shelton, AID's assistant administrator. "It's how you design the program."

That's easier said than done for governments that have barely enough money to cover the basic costs of running their countries.

"I don't see where we'll get resources when our economy is collapsing," complains Dr. Z.A. Berege, a member of the Tanzanian delegation. "We don't have any money to spare for women's issues."

Mariam Sirelkhatim, Sudan's state minister for social planning, says the African country is carrying out a program to provide women with sewing machines and other means of earning money, with a target to set up two million "productive families" by 2002. Ms. Sirelkhatim says it will require foreign aid if it is to improve the livelihoods of Sudanese women in the spirit of the conference.

"You can't just have a platform for action and tell a country to do this or do that without money," she says. "Without additional resources, there will never be development for women."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1995

rogress in forcing the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their eavy weapons from a 12&1/2-mile exclusion zone around this besieged capital, a demand that the Western alliance says must be met before the air war is called off.

It followed a meeting in Serbia between Bosnian Serb army commander Gen. Ratko Mladic and French Gen. Bernard Janvier, the commander of U.N. forces in the Balkans, apparently to try to work out an agreement on the weapons. The results of the meeting were not announced.

(Optional add end)

Janvier has been known to be willing to compromise with the Serbs, an attitude that has on occasion put him at odds with the more aggressive NATO. He tried to have the air campaign stopped last week but was overruled by NATO's political command.

Earlier Sunday, French President Jacques Chirac went on national television in Paris to announce that the airstrikes would be suspended for a few hours to allow the two military commanders to talk. Neither U.N. nor NATO officials could confirm that a pause had in fact been ordered.

The day before, Mladic had told Russian officials that he would not withdraw his heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, saying they are needed to protect Serbian civilians living in Serb-held suburbs. But Mladic offered to discuss a cease-fire and lifting the siege of Sarajevo, according to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, who met Mladic in Belgrade, the Serbian and Yugoslav capital.

Russia is an ally of the Serbs and opposes the U.S.-led air campaign against them, which was put on hold for 60 hours last week to give the Serbs time to comply with the demands. They refused then, as now.

Conference Delegates Seek to Decriminalize Abortion By Rone Tempest= (c) 1995, Los Angeles Times=

BEIJING Delegates to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women drafted a controversial provision Sunday calling on governments to review laws that penalize women for having illegal abortions.

The delegates, members of a key subcommittee representing more than 70 countries, also approved a hotly debated measure that defines the right of a woman to make decisions about her own sexual and reproductive health as a basic human right.

Both measures are still subject to review by a final drafting committee representing all 181 national delegations at the conference. But their approval Sunday by the health contact subcommittee was considered by most experts as tantamount to including them in the conference's final ``Platform for Action."

Women's health advocacy organizations celebrated the approval of the abortion provision as a significant step toward decriminalizing abortions and preventing clandestine, unsafe ones.

``It is an incremental step forward in really acting on the fact that unsafe abortion is a threat to the health of women," said Sally Ethelston, spokeswoman for the Washington-based Population Action International. ``It is especially important for poor women. The poor are the ones who end up suffering most for unsafe abortions."

The draft language, bitterly fought to the end by a handful of countries from the Middle East, Central America and South America, calls on all U.N. member states to ``review laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortions."

``The point is that it starts to cut through the stigma of abortion," said Joan Dunlop, president of New York-based International Women's Health Coalition. ``It is a tool to open public debate around the world."

But after the provision was approved, a delegate from Guatemala spoke out angrily, saying, ``I just want you to know that I disagree with the way this has been railroaded."

Perhaps even more controversial was the approval of the other provision, which codifies women's ``right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence."

In its original form, the measure was the so-called ``sexual rights" provision opposed by the Vatican and some Muslim countries because it included the sexual rights of women outside of marriage and, according to some interpretations, opened the door to acceptance of lesbianism and bisexuality.

``We don't like this word `sexuality' because it includes sexual relations," said Dr. Attiat Mustafa Abdelhalim, a female pediatrician who is a delegate from Sudan.

The version of the provision finally approved Sunday does not include the words `sexual rights,' although there was a last-minute effort by the European Union to insert it into the text. The European Union representative withdrew the proposed amendment under pressure from subcommittee Chairwoman Merwat Tallawy, who is Egypt's ambassador to Japan and was widely praised for her deft handling of sensitive reproductive health issues.

When the Platform for Action is adopted Friday, several countries are expected to register reservations about different portions of it. The final declaration is not binding on any country although its drafters hope it carries a ``social force" that will influence international behavior.

(Optional add end)

The rights provision approved Sunday also includes what some participants call the ``right to say `no' clause."

In the approved version it states:

``Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behavior and its consequences."

One underlying theme of the provision is a woman's right to protect herself from infection by the AIDS virus. The strongest sponsors of the provision are from South Africa and other African states that have been hit by the AIDS pandemic. African women attending the conference have told of instances in which men with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, have insisted on having unprotected sex with their wives or lovers.

Most of the language in the Platform for Action is based on a report from last November's International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. Delegates came to the Beijing meeting hoping to preserve the gains made in Cairo.

But after Sunday's actions, some contended that the Beijing conference will exceed Cairo on several fronts on reproductive health issues.

``We came here to defend Cairo," Dunlop said. ``We are going away with a beyond-Cairo agenda that is almost beyond our expectations."

China Limiting Domestic News Coverage of Women's Meeting By Rone Tempest= (c) 1995, Los Angeles Times=

BEIJING When first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gave a major speech at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women here last week, it rated only one line at the bottom of an inside-page story in the People's Daily.

``The wife of the American president also spoke," the official Communist Party newspaper reported.

Women Play Political Scrabble to Spell Out the Issues

By Marcus W. Brauchli
And Kathy Chen
Staff Reporters of The Wall Street Journal

Are the girls of today the women of tomorrow?

The answer to that question may seem self-evident, but until delegates to the U.N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women last week agreed that today's girls are indeed tomorrow's women, that phrase was in a thicket of 438 semantic disputes in the action platform that is the conference's focus. Most of the disagreements over wording appear innocuous, and indeed more than half so far have been settled by negotiators.

What remains are the thorniest issues, semantic brambles that could decide whether governments are committed to allot new funds to women's initiatives, whether sexual freedom and sexual orientation constitute rights, what responsibility parents bear for daughters and whether "families" should include households headed by lesbian couples.

How such issues are resolved will affect not only the spirit of the United Nations' stand on women's rights, as it adopts the Beijing plan for action and a parallel declaration by the end of this week, but life for millions of women around the world.

With more than 3,000 delegates from 181 countries attending the conference, talks on removing so-called bracketed language—those sections of the 120-page platform that are under dispute — are mired in cultural, religious and national differences. On one wall of the U.S. delegation's office at the conference site is a handwritten list of hot-button phrases: gender, new and additional resources, unwaged work, universality, equality, motherhood, diversity, commitments. The goal in this game of political Scrabble is to deploy such phrases with as much useful ambiguity—and maneuverability — as possible. Or to resist them.

Take the once-straightforward concept of "equality." Some Islamic nations want to replace that word with "equity," to give them room to apply religious strictures from the Koran that may limit strictly equal economic rights in such areas as inheritance. Equity would allow subjective judgment of balance between men and women, without strict equality. No go, says the U.S.: "Equity is not a substitute for equality," declares Geraldine Ferraro, vice chairwoman of the U.S. delegation.

Another contentious, if elemental, phrase: "human rights." Ensconced in international law since World War II, its meaning has been clouded by an effort to tack onto it "universally recognized." That could limit rights to those already "recognized," discouraging any expansion of its meaning. The compromise likely to emerge: "universal human rights."

Many wording issues may remain unresolved, in which case they will be dropped, or countries may take "reservations" from the final document, which will be known as the Beijing Declaration and Plan for Action. Almost all of the most contentious issues are outstanding: the question of whether sexual rights — the right for a woman to decide what to do with her own body — constitute human rights; a review of laws punishing women who have had illegal abortions; the right of a couple to plan the number and spacing of their children and a policy of nondiscrimination regardless of a woman's sexual orientation.

In many such cases, as with the issues of abortion and contraceptives, the conference is likely to revert to language approved at last year's U.N. conference on population and development in Cairo. The phrasings that were thrashed out there, according to U.S. Undersecretary of State Timothy Wirth, already were "almost revolutionary;" education for girls, for example, was endorsed as essential, but wasn't broadened to include sex education, which some countries now want but which many Islamic countries believe is tantamount to encouraging premarital sex.

"Cairo already was a huge new house," Mr. Wirth says. "You don't add on until you learn how to live in the new house."

But it's not a happy household. The biggest rift has opened between the European Union, which takes what is certainly the most liberal stand on most wording choices—it even wants to delete references to women as mothers because of concerns that such wording limits women's choices—and conservative delegations like those from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sudan, the Vatican and some largely Catholic countries such as Malta and Ecuador.

Mary Ann Glendon, a Harvard University law professor and head of the Holy See delegation, says the Vatican came to Beijing prepared to accept the fragile consensus reached at the Cairo conference over sensitive issues like abortion. She now believes a minority coalition, especially some E.U. figures, "would like to go beyond Cairo."

Adds Monsignor Peter Elliott, an official of the Pontifical Council for Family: "The whole problem goes back to who drafted the document. It was put together by North American and European feminists with ideas from the 1970s. . . . That explains its preoccupation with the pelvic zone."

Miriam Sirelkhatim, Sudan's state minister for social planning and head of its delegation to the conference, agrees. "The U.S. and other Western countries are trying to run the conference," she says. "We won't accept that."

In the past couple of days, the Vatican delegation has launched a public show of dissent, issuing news releases condemning what it calls a minority coalition for blocking efforts to bring the action plat-

Please Turn to Page B6, Column 1

Continued From Page B1

form into conformity with earlier documents. It notes, for instance, that some negotiators are pushing to change "family" to "families," "which lends itself to the interpretation that any group of unrelated people may call itself a family."

The Vatican is also part of the fray over the use of the word mother, which has the U.S. siding with Iran in arguing that women should be described "not only as mothers but as managers and entrepreneurs;" the E.U., which is against descriptions of women as mothers, opposed them.

The Vatican complained in a statement from Pope John Paul II: "At Beijing, the draft document casts marriage and the family negatively as impediments to women's self-realization."

Contentious Phrases

A glossary of terms at the U.N. Women's Conference

ADEQUATE vs. NEW AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Is current funding for women's programs adequate but perhaps badly allocated, or is new and additional funding needed? Conference participants can't agree.

EQUALITY vs. EQUITY

'Equality' refers to absolute equivalence between men and women; 'equity' entails a judgment that would permit separate but equitable treatment of men and women. Some Islamic countries favor the use of 'equity'; the U.S. is adamant about 'equality.'

FAMILY vs. FAMILIES

'Family' has meant the traditional family headed by a mother and father. 'Families,' some conference participants say, would include nontraditional families, including those headed by gay or lesbian couples.

FEMALE FOETICIDE vs. SEX SELECTION

In many countries, baby girls are aborted by parents preferring boys. The Vatican and conservative groups call that 'foeticide'; countries where it's practiced call it 'sex selection.'

GENDER vs. SEX

Some delegates say 'gender' connotes cultural as well as sexual differences —and could include homosexuals—and insist 'sex' is a more neutral word for describing male or female. The conference disagrees and uses 'gender.'

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

This phrase is controversial because it implies the acceptance of homosexuality. It's unlikely to be included in the final document.

SEXUAL RIGHTS

The right of a woman to decide when and with whom to have sex; the right of a couple to decide when to have children.

UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS vs. UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS

'Universally recognized human rights' include those rights previously identified by governments, treaties or conventions. 'Universal human rights' include all human rights, even those not yet identified.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1995