

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. report	[Re: background and proposal] (1 page)	n.d.	P1/b(1)
002. schedule	Schedule of the President for Wednesday, December 10, 1997 (partial) (9 pages)	12/10/1997	b(7)(C), b(7)(E), b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20036

FOLDER TITLE:

Human Rights : Civil Society Democracy Building [1]

2013-0534-S

ry1567

RESTRICTION CODES

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

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

*File
Human
rights*

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A man once asked me what I meant when I said, "Women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights."

I asked him to think of all the rights he as a man enjoyed and apply them to women. What would it be like if his rights were taken away? What if he were not allowed to vote? Or inherit property? Or go to school? Or drive? Or hold a job outside his home? In America, it's easy to lose sight of the importance of human rights, because our freedoms are guaranteed for both men and women.

When I listen to the stories of women around the world, I am haunted by the sights, sounds and emotions of those who have been left out of the circle of human rights. A young woman forced into prostitution, dying of AIDS. A woman in a refugee camp, holding her children as they die in her arms. Women raped as a tactic of war or the victims of domestic abuse in their own homes. Women forced to have children in some countries, forced to abort them in others.

These women understand the importance of human rights because they've lived without them. They believe human rights are as essential to life as air or water. They know, in spite of everything they are told by culture and tradition, that these are the rights of the children of God.

This week marks the beginning of a year-long observation of these rights -- an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the cause of equal rights for all humanity.

It was on Dec. 10, 1948, in the aftermath of the unspeakable horrors of World War II, that the United Nations General Assembly, prodded in large measure by Eleanor Roosevelt, chair of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It defines basic human rights, from life, liberty and security to freedom from slavery and torture.

In a controversial decision, historic for its time, the Declaration stated that all of the enumerated rights belong to men and women equally. Yet, even today -- 50 years later -- full economic, social and political opportunities for women remain too often an elusive goal.

To be sure, we have made progress. Yet, in many places, the suffering of women continues, explained away as a "cultural phenomenon." Inheritance rights for women fall behind those of men. Access by women to equal

TALKING IT OVER 12/9/97

Page 2

educational opportunities is limited, and illiteracy rates remain disproportionately high. In some countries, only men enjoy the right to vote, and women are trafficked as domestic servants, sweatshop workers and prostitutes.

There is no easy answer that will suddenly free women from these conditions. But, as we embark on this commemorative year, and as we approach the new century, it's time to bring all human beings into the full protection of this extraordinary promise.

How can we expect to make progress when women make up half of the world's population yet remain disproportionately poor? Women and children are 80 percent of the world's 23 million refugees. Two-thirds of the 130 million children not in school are girls.

Still too often, we fail to see the connection between women's rights and human rights. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press, the rights to petition the government and to assemble -- all these are essential. But think how much weaker these rights are in a nation where the majority of young women are illiterate. Rights on paper that can't be realized in practice are not really rights at all.

The full protection of the rights of women is the unfinished business of this turbulent century.

The beliefs inscribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were not invented 50 years ago. They are not the work of a single woman or culture or country. Some of humanity's bravest lessons emerge only after its deepest tragedies. This Declaration took shape in a world ravaged by the horrors of militarism and fascism -- in the wake of the most violent revelation of the depths to which human beings can dehumanize one another. But these rights have been with us since civilization's first light.

It is time for the global community to embrace human rights and especially women's rights once and for all. Now, while we stand at the threshold of a new millennium, we must rededicate ourselves to completing the work that farsighted men and women started 50 years ago. We owe it to every woman who is not living in freedom and security. Women's rights, after all, are human rights, and human rights are women's rights.

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December 9, 1997



SUNTUM M @ A1
12/09/97 09:42:00 PM

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human
rights

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject: 1997-12/9 remarks by President at Human Rights Event

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

For Immediate Release

December 9, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN HONOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

The Museum Of Jewish Heritage
New York, New York

8:55 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Gay, for your introduction and for your superlative work. Thank you, Ambassador Richardson, for your distinguished representation of our country and for the campaign speech you gave for Gay -- (laughter) -- proving that diplomacy and politics can never be fully separated and shouldn't be.

Thank you, Mr. Morgenthau, for all you have done for the people of New York and for the contributions that you and your family have made, which are memorialized in this wonderful place. And I thank you and David Althshuler for the tour I had before we started tonight.

I'd like to thank the others who are here in our administration who have worked on areas of human rights: OAS Ambassador Victor Marrero, ECOSOC Ambassador Betty King, Ambassador Nancy Rubin, our representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission. And I'd like to say a special word of thanks to John Shattuck, the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, who has really worked hard for a very long time under enormously adverse circumstances -- sometimes when his President couldn't do everything he wanted him to do. Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

I thank Congresswoman Nita Lowey for being here and for her alert leadership on so many issues, and we thank the President of the General Assembly and all the members of the Diplomatic Corps who are here as we launch the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As human rights advocates, defenders, and educators,

more than anyone else, the people in this room and those whom you represent give life to the words of the Universal Declaration: you shine the light of freedom on oppression, speak on behalf of the voiceless, spark the conscience of the world. Again I want to thank Gay for her tireless commitment to justice and equality.

But I thank all of you for the work you do every day to make human rights a human reality.

The idea of a global declaration of rights emerged from the trauma of global war -- in which human rights were the first casualty. Here at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, we remember the evil of the Holocaust. But thanks to the marvelous conception of this unique place, we can also celebrate the strength of the human spirit, the will to endure and to preserve human dignity.

Under the wise, compassionate leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, half a century ago 18 delegates from China to Lebanon, Chile to Ukraine forged the first international agreement on the rights of humankind. On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration without a single dissenting vote. I am very proud that the First Lady, who has traveled the world to advance human rights, especially for women and young girls, will take part in tomorrow's United Nations commemoration.

Over the past half-century, the Declaration's 30 articles have formed a constellation of principles to which all people can aspire. They have entered the consciousness of people all around the world. They're now invoked routinely in constitutions and courts. They set a yardstick of humanity's "best practices" against which we must all now measure ourselves.

But as Eleanor Roosevelt said, words on paper bring no guarantees, and I quote: unless the people know them, unless the people understand them, unless the people demand that they be lived. Promoting respect for human rights is a fulfilling -- but never fulfilled -- obligation. Fifty years since the charter was forged, communism has been discredited, but threats to freedom and human rights still persist. Human rights are still at risk from Burma to Nigeria, from Belarus to China. Although more than half the world's people now live under governments of their own choosing, democracy's roots are still fragile in some countries;

others are besieged by forces ranging from drug cartels to organized crime. And even in democracies, human rights, which so often mean minority rights, are not guaranteed.

And while we celebrate the end of communism and the fact that it has enabled so many people to affirm their special differences -- religious, ethnic, and cultural -- we have also seen from Bosnia to Rwanda that old hatreds can become the newest human rights abuses. And let us remember in this museum that having a people who are well-educated and prosperous, even having a government that is popularly elected are not in themselves sufficient to guarantee human rights. But let us also remember that being educated by Western standards and prosperous are not necessary conditions for human rights or for people who want them.

Men and women from Cambodia to Romania, Argentina, South Africa, and Russia have shown that, regardless of the economic condition of a nation, freedom is not, contrary to what the critics of the Declaration say, an American or a Western or a wealthy nation right; it is a human right and a universal aspiration.

Advancing human rights must always be a central pillar of America's foreign policy. Looking back over the last five years, we see notable achievements; we also see missed opportunities. And looking ahead, we see an enormous amount of work still to be done.

I am proud that we stood down a brutal dictatorship and restored Haiti's destiny to its own people, but there is more to be done there if democracy and economic prosperity and basic human rights are to be safeguarded.

I am proud of the role of the United States in stopping the unspeakable slaughter in Bosnia, the bloodiest conflict in Europe since World War II, a veritable case of human rights abuses. But now we have to persevere in strengthening Bosnia's democratic institutions, promoting its reconstruction, enabling refugees to return to their homes, helping those who can't, building institutions of democracy that have real integrity and durability. This year, the United States resettled 22,000 Bosnians. Next year, there will be more.

We also have to keep striving to bring to justice to those who caused the bloodshed -- not only because it's right, but because it is necessary for full reconciliation. Our nation is now the major contributor to the international war crimes tribunals. We'll increase our support next year. We must bring Bosnia's war criminals to justice. And I believe strongly that before this decade and this century end, we should establish a permanent international court to prosecute crimes against

humanity. This week delegates from many nations are meeting to undertake that task. The United States strongly supports them.

We have led in strengthening international institutions, including the creation of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. Now, we have to ensure that Mary Robinson has the resources to do her job -- and I am committed to increasing substantially America's support for that effort. (Applause.)

We've put the promotion of women's rights in the mainstream of American foreign policy, and I am very proud of that. (Applause.) This was highlighted, of course, by the First Lady's speech in Beijing, but I want to emphasize its major elements. We want to lead the world's efforts in combatting trafficking in women. We want to steer more of our assistance to women and young girls. We want to recognize women's roles as

democracy builders by encouraging full political participation.

Now, as I urged a year ago, I call on the Senate to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. (Applause.) Surely, this is not an issue of party but of principle. It is time to show the world that America joins those 161 countries which have gone on record to oppose discrimination and violence against women around the world.

We continue speaking out for human rights without arrogance or apology, through our annual human rights reports, in meetings with foreign officials, and intensified advocacy for religious freedom around the world. As long as America is determined to stand for human rights, then free people all around the world will choose to stand with America.

But for all our efforts to prevent abuses, promote accountability, and push for reform, enduring progress must come from changes within the nations themselves. Democracy, the rule of law, civil society -- those things are the best guarantees of human rights over the long run. We have helped democracies on every continent solidify their reforms. We are working with China to promote the rule of law and institutions which will regularize it. We're helping post-conflict societies like El Salvador, Bosnia, Rwanda, Mozambique, to build a durable foundation for peace. We support NGOs working to support human rights and political liberalization. And we want to expand these efforts.

Supporting the spread of democracy, with respect for human rights, advances the values that make life worth living. It also helps nations in the Information Age to achieve their true wealth, for it lies now in people's ability to create, to communicate, to innovate. Fully developing those kinds of human

resources requires people who are free to speak, free to associate, free to worship, and feel free to do those things. It requires, therefore, accountable, open, consistent governments that earn people's trust.

The key to progress on all these issues is for government and civic groups to work together. The NGO community is a vital source of knowledge and inspiration and action. We will keep faith with those working around the world, often at tremendous personal risk, for change within their societies. And in this 50th anniversary year, Amnesty International has asked world leaders to affirm that we will do all we can to uphold the principles of the Universal Declaration. I make that pledge to you today. (Applause.)

Finally, I commend the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation for their efforts to teach a new generation of Americans that the future of human rights is "in their hands." Eleanor Roosevelt understood that our greatest strength abroad

was the power of our example at home, our commitment to work together across the divides to create one from many and opportunity for all.

I believe our Founding Fathers knew a long time ago that their dedication to form a more perfect union was an intentional statement of the English language. That is, they knew that there would never be a perfect union, but that we would always have opportunities to make it more perfect in every age and time. And so let us here who are citizens of the United States honor this 50th anniversary by promising ourselves that we will always strive to make a more perfect union here at home; to be a better model of liberty and justice; to be living proof to the cynics and the tyrants of the world that economic growth and constitutional democracy not only can go together, but in the end must go together; to prove that diversity is a source not of weakness, but a source of strength and joy; to prove that out of harmony of different views there can be a coherence of loyalty to a nation stronger than anything that can ever be enforced from above.

America has its own challenges today. We have our hate crimes; we have continuing discrimination. But we also see across party lines and across the region broader support for the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, a new determination to eliminate all last vestiges of discrimination against women, a genuine depth of popular interest in resolving the racial divides which continue to bedevil us, and a genuine interest and understanding in the increasing racial diversity that is shaping our country for the 21st century in ways that present not only racial, but cultural and religious challenges and opportunities we have never known before.

There is plenty for us to do. And it is our responsibility to do it -- to dedicate ourselves, in other words, to the eternal quest of a more perfect union and the lasting goals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

END

9:10 P.M. EST

Message Sent To: _____



Franklin & Eleanor

ROOSEVELT
INSTITUTE

711 Fifth Avenue, Suite 900
New York, New York 10022

Phone 212-339-2579 • Fax 212-832-1175

[illegible]

October 24, 1997

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Hillary:

December 10th is Human Rights Day in the world of the United Nations because it marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the UDHR, the Roosevelt Institute has been working for a year to organize the American human rights community in support of an agenda that would give meaning to the 50th anniversary celebration. Our original intention was to ask whether it would be possible to have a reception at the White House marking December 10th and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and inviting the leaders of the 75 human rights organizations that have joined together in the coalition to prepare for the 50th anniversary. We have now learned that you plan to be in New York City on December 10th. I wonder, therefore, whether your schedule would permit you to be the guest of honor at a meeting/discussion/reception -- whatever you may wish -- at a time during the day that would not be in conflict with the events planned at the United Nations. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, will also be in New York on that day. An event could be organized at the United Nations or at another site in New York as your preference and schedule may allow.

One of the primary purposes of our agenda for the 50th anniversary of the UDHR is to support the President's proposal for an International Court for Criminal Justice. Another major point would be to seek public support for the covenants relating to the rights of women and the rights of children. Secretary of State Albright made an eloquent defense of the UDHR on her recent visit to Malaysia. Taking up on her message, we believe that we can help educate our country as to why Eleanor Roosevelt regarded the UDHR as her "greatest public achievement."

Travis W. Leeds
Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.
Co-Chair

William J. Campbell (b. 1948)
Portland

Schuyler C. Cluett
Chair, Executive Committee

Robert L. New
Frederica S. Cunningham
Louis Harris
Raymond A. Cunningham
Anne Russell
Mrs. Frank W. Russell, Jr.
Miss Frances

Nicholas J. Lavengren
Sept-4-27

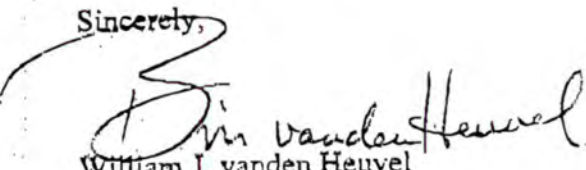
Rivington & Wells
THURSDAY

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
October 24, 1997
Page Two

We are always so grateful to you for your leadership, eloquence and encouragement in the continuing struggle to protect and enhance human rights. I hope very much that your schedule on December 10th will permit you to participate as an honored guest in an event that will advance that cause.

With great admiration and esteem, I am

Sincerely,



William J. vanden Heuvel
President

WJvH/jr

November 20, 1997

President Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500



The Universal
Declaration
of Human Rights
1948-1998

RE: Invitation to participate in the launch of a national campaign for the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Mr. President,

On December 10, our coalition of more than eighty national organizations representing more than 90 million Americans will launch a yearlong campaign leading up to the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The campaign theme - **IN YOUR HANDS** - echoes Eleanor Roosevelt's statement that "the destiny of human rights is in the hands of all our citizens in all our communities." I ask you to participate in launching the IN YOUR HANDS campaign and sounding a national call to action for the Declaration's 50th anniversary. I hope you will embrace this campaign as an important opportunity to:

- Expand support for key human rights objectives already identified and advanced during your administration.
- Highlight your administration's leadership in promoting human rights internationally - including initiatives to secure human rights in Burma, create the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, promote model business principles, end religious persecution, establish War Crimes Tribunals, and create an International Criminal Court.
- Highlight your administration's leadership in promoting human rights domestically - including initiatives to confront racial discrimination, eliminate domestic sweatshops, advance labor rights, advance ratification of the women's treaty, and expand access to healthcare (especially for children), to education, and to information (through the Internet).
- Inspire a fast growing coalition of more than eighty national organizations (human rights groups, labor unions, religious groups, children, women and service organizations including the American Association of Retired Persons, YWCA, National Council of La Raza and Girl Scouts) representing a total constituency of over 90 million Americans.
- Amplify the spirit of optimism driving the organizations and individuals committed to this important work - motivating them to redouble their efforts for what Mary Robinson will promote globally as *Human Rights Year*.
- Reinforce the universality of the Declaration - emphasizing the document's enduring relevance despite the Asian challenge, and inspiring courageous leaders around the world to speak out against repression.
- Magnify the effect of the US Human Rights Day celebration by helping to launch an energizing, high-visibility kick-off of a nationwide effort that will grow in strength throughout 1998 and beyond.

William J. vanden Heuvel
Chair, National Coordinating
Committee for UDHR50
Felice D. Cass
Chair, Steering Committee
for UDHR50
John F. Sears
Executive Director,
Franklin and Eleanor
Roosevelt Institute
Michael D. Cooper
Director,
Human Rights Office

Franklin and Eleanor
Roosevelt Institute
801 Second Avenue, 2nd fl.
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212 907 1332
Fax: 212 682 9185
E-mail: udhr50@unusa.org
<http://www.udhr50.org>

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home ..." Eleanor Roosevelt

- Engage a new generation of Americans in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Reaffirm the significance of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* for all Americans, recalling America's leadership (and Eleanor Roosevelt's role) in drafting and adopting the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.
- Connect Americans with the promotion of freedom, justice and democracy in the larger world, advancing support for American engagement in multilateral institutions and demonstrating the important role of the United Nations in promoting human rights worldwide.

This initiative is timely – the **IN YOUR HANDS** campaign is at a critical stage and your support is urgently needed. Important groundwork has already been laid. With your crucial assistance, we believe that the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* will mark real progress. On behalf of our coalition, thanks in advance for your leadership.

Sincerely,



Michael Cooper
Director, Human Rights Office

cc: Nancy Rubin
William vanden Heuvel
Felice Gaer

file Human Rts Day

Carnegie Corporation of New York

437 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 371-3200 • Fax: (212) 207-6342

David A. Hamburg, M.D.
President Emeritus

December 19, 1997

Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Hillary:

Since our wonderful meeting with you last week, there has been a mad whirl of events, chiefly related to unveiling of our commission report and stimulating various organizations to take up the challenge of preventing deadly conflict. So far, this whole process has gone exceedingly well and we are greatly encouraged.

The highlight, indeed the unforgettable moment, was the meeting with you at the White House. Your deep interest in the subject, your analytical insights, your grasp of priorities, your candor, and your personal warmth made a profound impression on all of us. Indeed, the commissioners from different parts of the world were speaking in superlatives about your response. I need hardly add that we are deeply grateful for your stimulation, encouragement and wise counsel. I have since had an excellent talk with Melanne and will follow up with her on the points you raised early in 1998.

Congratulations on your superb speech at the UN! It meant a great deal that you referred to our commission.

I hope you will have a splendid holiday season and an excellent year ahead.

With every good wish,

As always,



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CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEWYORK

REFERENCE:

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
FAX NO: (212) 963-1186
TEL NO: (212) 963-6877

DATE : 17 November 1997

TO : Ms. Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
Washington, D.C.

FAX : (202) 456-6244

FROM : Marian B. Awwad, Chief
Development & Human Rights Section
Department of Public Information

PAGES : (1)

Dear Ms. Verveer,

Further to my discussion with Ms. Peggy Kerry of the United States Mission to the United Nations at New York, I am writing to invite Hillary Rodham Clinton to be the keynote speaker at the United Nations Special Event to launch the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December.

I have just learned that Mrs. Clinton will be in New York on that day. The Event, in the ECOSOC Chamber, will be well attended by 400-500 NGO representatives, the media and diplomats. The Secretary-General will be on mission at that time, and today it was confirmed that Mrs. Mary Robinson will also be on mission. So both, unfortunately, cannot join us at this historic event.

Among the other speakers invited are His Excellency, the Ambassador of India, Mr. Kamallesh Sharma; Mr. Philip Alston, Chairman of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Ms. Sylvia Alexander, Director of the Human Rights Program of the Fund for Peace; and Mr. Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize Winner. We are awaiting confirmations now.

.../

- 2 -

Following the Event, the UN Department of Public Information will open an historic Human Rights Exhibit in the General Assembly Public Lobby, to which Mrs. Clinton would also be invited.

I can be reached at tel: (212) 963-6877, fax: (212) 963-1886.

It would be an honour for us to welcome Mrs. Clinton as the keynote speaker on Human Rights Day.

Best wishes.

cc: Ms. Peggy Kerry
Fax: 415-4053

10/30
1:20 PM

Katy -
I left this on MVS
chair. Figs

October 30, 1996

File
Human
rights

TO: HRC

FROM: Theresa Lear

SUBJECT: Update on Women's Human Rights

Thank you for your nice note and words of support on the September 28 photo. I know these issues are close to your heart, so I thought I'd pass along info on my efforts over the past few weeks to shine some light on the human rights of women. I am trying to establish a high profile and defined structure for this position in the building so that its effectiveness will not depend on one person or WH or senior State support. I must say though, that its nice to have both now.

Afghanistan

o We continue to have good strong statements calling for respect for the human rights of women from US principals: Nick Burns (State Department spokesman), Madeleine Albright, Phyllis Oakley, and earlier this week at the UN, Linda Tarr-Whelan. I have faxed these statements out to NGOs for distribution around the world. Some have put them up on the Internet and report a strong response to US leadership. The EU is also saying the right things.

o Re: continued humanitarian assistance. Our view is that since the political/military situation is so fluid and winter is fast approaching, the UN should not cut off critical humanitarian assistance, i.e. food. UNICEF has cranked down non-critical programs such as education. We will assess the food flows regularly, keeping in mind that we do not want to set up new patterns of humanitarian assistance which exclude women and are difficult to change.

FGM

o This Friday I will have a meeting to reactivate a working group at State on FGM. I'm expanding it to include USAID, USIS, Peace Corp and HHS. I've brought in representatives from Strobe's and Peter Tarnoff's offices as well to broaden the commitment and involvement within the building. The focus is on assessing what programs we have in place now and what further we should be doing. The NYTimes articles and Secretary Christopher's recent trip to Africa have generated a lot of discussion.

Human Rights Award

o Nick Burns announced at the press briefing the other day the first winner of the State Dept. award in the field of democracy and human rights: Louis Mazel, a political officer in Windhoek, Namibia who reported on the multi-media campaign to attack the problem of violence against women in Namibia. This officer also mobilized indigenous women's groups, national government agencies, and other public and private sector players to more fully protect women and secure their human rights. A note of congratulations from you to Louis via Secretary Christopher would send a signal about your continued interest.

APEC

o Canada's AID has funded the formation of a Senior APEC Women Leader's Network to help women NGOs and elected officials from primarily Asian countries get gender issues on the APEC agenda. Reportedly President Ramos will make some reference to the importance of examining the impact of trade liberalization on women workers. Canada started this project to lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive NGO role in the 1997 APEC ministerial to be held in Vancouver. US NGOs were not plugged in to this network. I've suggested to Linda Tarr-Whelan that she look into this for the Vancouver meeting. She could make a real contribution given that she wears two hats, NGO and USG, both relevant to APEC issues.

1998 Human Rights Campaign

- o At a Stanley Foundation conference I attended last weekend at beautiful Airlie House in Virginia, human rights and civil rights groups talked about ways to work together. (By the way, as a USG representative, I felt like a right wing ultraconservative. Some of these guys made Bella's NGO gatherings look mainstream.) One idea that emerged is to use the 50th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights in 1998 to launch a national and international campaign promoting awareness of and respect for human rights. I met with John Shattuck on this today. He had heard from the government of Austria, which will be the chair of the EU in '98, about their interest in a similar project.
- o I will help John's bureau organize a workplan for USG involvement. I envision an interagency working group (no, definitely not an Interagency Council) to include NSC, State, USIS, and AID (in whatever forms they exist in '98). This campaign and the process building up to it will be helpful in integrating women's issues and human rights issues and in educating the public and the USG about our human rights policies.
- o I think your involvement, as well as the President's, will be very important. The women in the human rights community still feel dissed by their male colleagues and would greatly appreciate your support and interest.
- o I think we can pull in the Hill from both sides of the aisle, conduct extensive national public outreach, and develop programs for our embassies abroad. Similar to the Beijing preparations, the process of preparing for this campaign will leave footprints and result in institutional change.

Your Upcoming Trip to Asia

o Your trip has given me a good entree to the East Asia bureau here at State, much like the Taliban's takeover of Kabul opened the door to the South Asia bureau. I am working with front office folks and desk officers to be sure your briefing papers reflect the full range of post-Beijing successes and continuing challenges.

o I am supplying info to the front office that they should be getting via reporting cables from post. They are sending my notes out to post to ask for more info and confirmation. In the process, posts are alerted to Washington's need for more information on the status of women.

o re the "60 Minutes" show last weekend on child prostitution and trafficking, DoJustice is on the case, literally. The American citizen who organizes, via Internet, sex tours in Cambodia and Thailand involving young girls is the subject of a Justice investigation. CBS knew this, the American scumbag does not, and CBS did not refer to any violation of US law. If all goes well, we will see a "60 Minutes" follow-up reporting on this guy's arrest.

Women Leaders Documentary

o Laura Liswood did a terrific short film just before Beijing interviewing all women who are or where heads of state. They talk about their leadership styles, tactics and challenges.

o I am working to set up a building-wide Open Forum here at State to show this film and generate a discussion about the US role in promoting the political participation of women around the world. Maybe you'd like to participate? If you haven't seen this film yet, let me know. It made me want to quit my job and run for office.

o Speaking of women leaders, I am attaching a Washington Post piece you might have missed in praise of Gro Brundtland. We should find a way to work with her somehow, given her new civilian status.

A21
Jessica Mathews

Norway's Woman of Influence

When she's in a lighthearted mood, she explains her impact on her country by recounting the story of a young Norwegian boy who asked his mother whether a man could be prime minister.

It could be true. Gro Harlem Brundtland, who stunned Norway last week by resigning at the peak of her popularity and power, has been chief of state for all but one year of the last 10.

She has racked up public approval ratings of 90 percent, carved out a high-profile international role and dominated Norwegian politics as no one has before, all as leader of a minority party throughout her tenure.

So great is her personal authority and appeal that she emerged unscathed when Norwegians in 1994 rejected her passionately argued view that the country should join the European Union. Her determination to make the best of what the voters had decided made her more popular than ever.

It wasn't an easy ride. The economy was rocked in 1986 when oil prices crashed. Brundtland has capped wages, devalued the currency and forced tight fiscal discipline—tough medicine for a country enjoying new-found oil wealth. She leaves office with a budget surplus, low unemployment, an intact social safety net and the highest growth rate on the continent.

Only three other women, all far better known, have achieved comparable political power: Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi and Margaret Thatcher. What none of them had, or sought, was a shadow of Brundtland's influence on the lives of women.

Brundtland entered politics at a time when years of women's pressure for a greater political role was coming to a head. In 1983, under her leadership, the Labor Party adopted a quota requiring that at least 40 percent of its candidates for office be women.

Other parties (not all) followed Labor's lead. Brundtland did her part by naming eight women and nine men to her first cabinet and nine women among 19 members to her second. Today the parliament is 40 percent women.

In this extraordinary transformation—Norway's legislature was 10 percent female in the 1950s, as Congress remains today—there has been no backlash against quotas and no sense that merit has had to be compromised. There is no gender gap in Norwegian voting.

To the contrary, Norway's pride in its prime minister, and her unapologetic advocacy for what she saw as both natural and right, sparked a Scandinavia-wide competition. Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark now openly vie for leadership in achieving balance between the sexes. Women's political power in these four countries is unrivaled anywhere in the world.

This is not to say that quotas are the best tool for achieving greater fairness, or even a useful one in other cultures and political systems; only that Norway provides what mathematicians call an existence proof of how they can be used. As always, whether in a country or a company, leadership from the top has been the necessary ingredient.

Brundtland's résumé is a litany of achievement: doctor of medicine, master of public health from Harvard, first woman prime minister in Norway, youngest (at 41) to hold the office.

But unlike so many others, she has managed to carve out a full personal life—a long, strong marriage and four children. Privately as well as publicly, the message of her career has been that you can be a woman, especially concerned about women, and no less whatever else you may be—businessperson, professional, national leader.

Brundtland has refused to explain her resignation, beyond saying that she is in good health and plans to run for parliament next year. Presumably, after three stints as prime minister and 12 years as head of her party, she sees no domestic mountains left to climb and is turning her attention to an international role, most obviously the possibility of becoming U.N. secretary general. Candidates for that job must be advanced by their own government. As head of state she could not promote herself.

Her independence and habit of frank speaking are no asset. But Brundtland has formidable strengths. She has been a steady advocate of the United Nations and of U.N. reform and has credentials as a manager and fiscal disciplinarian that few will match. She is among the world's experts on environmental issues and their links to population and economic growth. The landmark study that laid the basis for the Rio Summit and introduced the concept of sustainable development is known as the Brundtland Report.

Her preoccupation is the connections among these issues, women's political and economic opportunity, the need for international collaboration and the future of democracy. If she wants the U.N. job, it is for the reason she spelled out in a 1992 Harvard commencement speech: "If we maintain the illusion that nations can act in isolation, we not only risk postponing critical decisions which can only be made effective when states act in cooperation: We risk an increase in the growing skepticism and lack of respect for democracy, politics and politicians because they seemingly can't do what is in reality beyond the reach of their present powers."

The U.N. job will go to an African if the continent can agree on a candidate. Even if not, the odds are against a Scandinavian: They have held the post for more than their fair share of years. Only if gender trumps geography this time does Brundtland have a chance. If that happens, she's sitting pretty.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

USIS Washington File

Read

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501 TRANSCRIPT: FIRST LADY, SECRETARY OF STATE IN SAN JOSE (Special attention focused on women's rights) (7400)

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA -- Citizens in a free society cannot afford to "let up on our vigilance about the importance of human rights," says First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Speaking at a May 8 roundtable discussion of human rights in San Jose, Costa Rica, Clinton joined Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in stressing the need to transform "insufficient democracies" into "sufficient" ones.

Clinton paid tribute to the efforts of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, which began its campaign when human rights violations were widespread in the hemisphere. "Secretary Albright and I particularly wanted to come here to honor the role that the Institute has played in defending human rights at times when that took enormous courage," she said.

"We know that many of your colleagues put themselves in harm's way when they spoke out against human rights abuses," Clinton added, "but we also know that their courage has saved countless lives and hastened the end of repressive regimes."

She reiterated her well-known interest in the plight of women and children, emphasizing that she was especially "concerned about any limits that are placed -- either by law or by practice or by repression -- on women's political participation."

Clinton concluded her remarks by pointing out that "the presence of the United States secretary of state at a meeting such as this sends, I hope, a very strong statement, as it is intended to send." She noted that the United States government is "working to make human rights and, in particular, women's rights, more of a centerpiece of our foreign policy."

Both Clinton and Albright pointedly made the connection between human rights and women's rights, with Albright forcefully rejecting arguments that repression of women can sometimes be explained -- and dismissed -- as a cultural issue.

In a brief statement, Albright made her views clear on the subject of rights violations, with no concessions to the perpetrators. "It really is important to end impunity for those who abuse women," she said. "Some people say that such abuse is cultural. I think we all know that it is criminal, and therefore it is important for us to speak out together on those subjects."

Albright, underscoring the need to send "a signal of where the United States stands on women's rights and human rights," declared that U.S. priorities are straightforward: "The United States will continue to belong on the side of those striving for justice, human rights, and dignity."

Following is a transcript of the discussion:

(begin transcript)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IIHR MENDEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Juan Mendez and I am the executive director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this house. We recognize and appreciate the presence of the First Lady of Costa Rica, Madam Figueres; Vice President Rebeca Grynspan; Ambassador Sonia Picado, the Costa Rican Ambassador to the United States, who is also vice chair of the board of directors of this Institute and my predecessor as executive director of this institution. We are also very happy to have with us Ambassador Harriett Babbitt, the Ambassador of the United States Mission before the OAS, and Mark Schneider, our good friend, director for Latin America for USAID. We are also privileged to count with the presence of four dear friends and colleagues who have come to Costa Rica for this occasion: Madam Victoria

USIS Washington File

Marina de Aviles, the Human Rights Ombudswoman for El Salvador; Sonia Cansino, also from El Salvador and a specialist on women and citizenship; Patricia Rios Herrera, coordinator of a Nicaraguan network of women and health rights; and Maria Eugenia Mijangos of Guatemala, a women's rights attorney at the Center for Legal Action on Human Rights.

Joining us in this colloquium also will be Ms. Gilda Pacheco, program officer at this Institute for gender-based rights. Madam First Lady, let me express my admiration and that of the whole staff and board of the Institute for your outstanding contributions to the rights of women and children and on universal availability of health care. Contributions with which we have long been familiar and have admired. Madam Secretary of State, we also wish to commend you for your leadership at the United Nations and beyond the United Nations in the effort to pursue peace and settle conflicts by recognizing a significant place for human rights, and particularly for establishing truth and justice in response to atrocities as an integral part to peace-making and peace-building. This Institute was founded in 1980 as the research and educational arm of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In those years it took upon itself the task of promoting human rights and democracy at a time when most Latin American countries were governed by military dictatorship that also engaged in massive systematic violations of the most basic rights. In time, the Institute assisted our societies in dealing with the traumatic legacies of those abuses in the period that we have generally known as our transitions to democracy.

But right now our region is experiencing a well-deserved and welcome period of constitutional governments. Although the struggle for human rights in our region is far from over, this new context undoubtedly presents us with new challenges, but also offers us great opportunities for human rights work. In most of our countries we suffer from what we call "insufficient democracy," by which we mean that authoritarian attitudes often coexist with elected and representative government. For example, the independence of spontaneous organizations of civil society and their efforts to solve society's problems are not always valued and recognized. Freedom of expression is vigorously exercised, but not always respected for its key role in fostering informed debate in a democratic society, and much less encouraged.

Vast sectors of society are increasingly marginalized. Not only from the economy, but also from participation in the decisions that affect their lives and from obtaining redress from the courts when their rights are violated. Our Institute believes that the principal task confronting our region is the need to make our democracies not only more stable, but also more meaningful in content and inclusive of the underprivileged and the victims of invidious discrimination. We also feel very strongly that what makes a system democratic is that public officials are accountable to the rule of law and to their constituents. In that sense, we strive to make courts more accessible, but also more independent and impartial, so that acts of torture, murder and other abuse committed by members of the armed and security forces do not go unpunished.

The civil societies of our countries have produced some remarkable experiments in accountability as we moved from dictatorship to democracy. We are moving again towards policies that favor truth and justice as well as reconciliation, and that reject oblivion and impunity as the answer to those atrocities. Those Latin American lessons can also be used by the international community in tackling hard problems of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We pursue these objectives at the Institute by a combination of programs and advisory service. We make available to governmental institutions, as well as to independent organizations of civil society, those programs. For example, our Center for Educational Resources prepares materials to teach human rights and values of peace and democracy directed mainly to the elementary-school level. These materials have been incorporated into the official curriculum of some public schools in our region and widely disseminated in the hemisphere.

We think of this as our long-term strategy to foster a culture of tolerance and of peace, since we believe such a culture will ultimately replace our presently insufficient democracies with more meaningful, comprehensive, inclusive democracies. Some of those materials are included in the packages that we have prepared for you. There is a video game that teaches human rights values through high-tech play, a book of children's drawings commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and a video that is now permanently in exhibition at the children's museum in San Jose, Costa Rica, and soon will be at a similar museum in Lima, Peru. There is also a CD ROM with international documents in two languages for human rights protection, and the latest issue of our scholarly publication, including articles by Latin American scholars on the promotion of

USIS Washington File

an international criminal court.

Madam First Lady, let me turn the floor to you, and then, after your presentation, we will engage in a discussion. Thank you very much.

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Director Mendez. Thank you very much for arranging this opportunity for the Secretary of State and others in our party to meet with you to discuss issues pertaining to human rights. We are obviously at a point in history, particularly in this region, where we can be thankful that the massive human rights violations of the past are at least behind us. That does not mean that we can let up on our vigilance about the importance of human rights or the need to make insufficient democracies sufficient democracies.

Secretary Albright and I particularly wanted to come here to honor the role that the Institute has played in defending human rights at times when that took enormous courage. We know that many of your colleagues put themselves in harm's way when they spoke out against human rights abuses, but we also know that their courage has saved countless lives and hastened the end of repressive regimes. We want to hear about the work you are doing now and particularly how we can make human rights the centerpiece of both domestic and foreign policy in our countries and around the world.

I personally am very much in favor of your initiative to have a permanent war crimes tribunal. I visited the tribunal in Arusha (Tanzania) and received a briefing about the work they are doing there. Much of what they have had to contend with is the necessary start-up problems that you will always confront when you are beginning an enterprise with such importance, trying to get it staffed and putting into place the necessary steps.

We are also interested in hearing about the remaining human rights problems in this region, particularly those that affect women and children. I appreciate your having expertise represented here from around the region on those particular issues. We also would like to know what is being done to address these challenges. I am particularly concerned about any limits that are placed -- either by law or by practice or by repression -- on women's political participation.

Today I think it is fair to say that this Institute remains a leader in defending basic human rights. I appreciate greatly the way in which you are expanding the definition of your work to include the commitment that many of us made in Beijing to the proposition that women's rights are human rights as well. We know that democracy, insufficient or otherwise, is not sustained by free and fair elections alone. It depends on the internalization of values, on the change of attitudes, on the commitment of people to live a democratic life. The questions and concerns that we bring to this table are not unique to Central America, but you have led the way in addressing those concerns and we hope that you will share the lessons that you have learned with us.

Finally, I want to close by just recognizing what may be obvious to all of you, and that is that the presence of the United States Secretary of State at a meeting such as this sends, I hope, a very strong statement, as it is intended to send. Secretary Albright is here in two capacities: as an individual who cares deeply about human rights and who has spent a great part of her career advocating and articulating that concern, and as a representative of the United States Government, where we are working to make human rights and, in particular, women's rights more of a centerpiece of our foreign policy. I am delighted to be here and look forward to hearing from all of you. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IHR MENDEZ: Thank you very much, Madam First Lady, for those kind words. We'll open up the discussion and I will try and make sure that everybody has a chance to participate. I will also reserve the last part for a presentation by Madam Secretary of State, if that is OK with you. Let me start with Gilda Pacheco.

MS. GILDA PACHECO, IHR: Thank you and welcome to all of you. In January of 1991 the Gender and Human Rights Program was established, thanks to the support and vision of Dr. Sohia Picado, who at the time was executive director of the Institute. Currently it provides advising, technical assistance, and training to organizations of civil society and to other human rights groups that work to eliminate gender inequalities in the theory and

USIS Washington File

practice of human rights. This program coordinates with other branches of the institution to include this perspective in their work.

To achieve this it has been necessary to create new concepts and methods that provide the basis for a broader interpretation of human rights that incorporates the specific experiences and needs of women. Although there have been significant advances in this regard, it is still necessary to define a typology of violations to women's rights that are attributable to their being women, and being a women in Latin America, as you know, can have dangers all its own.

One of the main goals of our program is to get more groups of civil society involved in the protection of human rights. That is a task for specialists in the legal field, but women's groups, non-governmental human rights organizations, organizations for the advancement of women's rights, and national and international networks should also be engaged. As examples of how we tackle these challenges, we mention the award of 50 scholarships to women's organizations from 26 Latin American countries that were very active in the conference in which you participated, the recent Workshop on International Protection of the Rights of Women, that was attended by 30 woman lawyers from 20 Latin America and Caribbean countries, as well as the dissemination of articles about this subject in Latin America.

The mission of the Gender and Human Rights Program over the next few years will be the national, regional, and international protection of women's rights. One of the main objectives is to increase protection by means of technical training and assistance to community groups, legal firms, non-governmental organizations, and defense offices on the use of national and international laws that address the protection of women's rights -- and here we want to stress our interest in training women lawyers and paralegals in this struggle -- also, support to organizations that work to advance human rights education and protection at the adolescent level by producing educational materials and designing methodologies. In addition, we are advising that all Latin American and Caribbean governments approve the Protocol for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Like you, we feel this is not an easy path, but it is encouraging to see how much more social awareness there is about the importance of securing women's rights. This is a necessary task that involves both men and women if our goal is to attain peace in all aspects of human life. Thank you.

VICTORIA de AVILES, HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSWOMAN FOR EL SALVADOR: Distinguished government representatives, let me start this very short address speaking to one of our special guests, Mrs. Hillary Clinton. You have said on numerous occasions that democracy, liberty and justice must be addressed jointly and that government action should be effective as well as ethical. I subscribe completely to this approach, and, bearing it in mind, I would like to express to you some ideas from the human rights perspective.

I believe that Central American nations must address human rights in their bilateral relationships, not as an isolated subject but as an integral part of the central political themes, alongside trade, immigration, drugs, etc. In Central America and in all of Latin America, human rights must be understood as a subject that is beyond individual relationships with other nations. Let me explain: the possibility of democracy for Latin America is not just a matter of achieving political rights, fundamental liberties, economic rights, cultural rights and a respect for the democratic state of law. I believe it is essential to have open economies, but it is also indispensable to fight poverty and maintain national social welfare policies.

In other words, I think that the development of democracy and open market economies in Latin America should be accompanied by human rights concerns, where the government respects the citizen, the judicial system is independent, and the state and society maintain a minimum commitment to the poor. To that end, it behooves the United States to maintain respect for human rights as a mainstay of its policy in the region.

Along the same line, the institution of ombudsman represents a state institution that defends the public interest. This institution must take on the difficult task, especially when it comes to women, of investigating violations to human rights by the government, of prosecuting those responsible and ensuring the victim's rights. We confront the arbitrary use of power and this, in Latin America, has meant big trouble for us, even a threat to our lives. As a watchdog entity, we must emphasize particularly the protection and promotion of women's rights, as we fight to

USIS Washington File

eliminate all forms of discrimination. We want to bring to life the resolutions of Beijing, so that they may become behavioral norms for all of us, whether male or female. And, regarding children -- who are a vulnerable population in our societies -- their rights must be protected to ensure the future of our people.

Finally, I wish to convey to you, as ombudsman, my deep concern regarding Central American immigrants in the United States. I recognize that your government has the right to take the necessary legal measures -- which I am convinced must reflect the principles of respect for human dignity -- to protect sovereignty. I further recognize your dedication to democracy on behalf of a population that today faces times of agony, uncertainty and distress. But I ask you to seek flexibility in those laws and I ask that respect for human rights be guaranteed, considering the social, economic and political realities that our countries face today. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IHR MENDEZ: Let us now go on to Sonia Cansino.

SONIA CANSINO, EL SALVADOR, A SPECIALIST ON WOMEN AND CITIZENSHIP: Good afternoon to all. In post-war El Salvador, scarred by extreme poverty and by political authoritarianism, the women's movement has been a leader with its proposals. During the 1994 elections, the first elections following the war, the women's movement got together to prepare a political platform, characterized by an independence from political parties. In the post-Beijing era we have been able to put on the national agenda those themes important to us. Due to time restrictions, I will mention only a few achievements. Among the achievements: the recognition of violence against women as a crime; the dedication of 30 percent of the ex-husband's Christmas bonus to women receiving child-support payments; and, recently, for the March election, a decree that requires successful congressional candidates to pay any unpaid child support payments prior to being accredited to their elected seats. Also, it is important to highlight that in the most recent election, women, despite opposition from their fellow male party members, increased their representation in the legislature from 10.7 percent to 16.6 percent of the members.

The post-Beijing environment has forced the government to create the Institute for the Development of Women, a step toward obtaining female representation and participation in the formulation of the National Women's Policy, which, to date, has not yet been approved by our President.

Despite our accomplishments and our undisputed political skill, conservative ideals have been made law in El Salvador. Last April 25, outgoing male and female legislators legitimized the inequality of women when they amended Article 137 of our penal code to make abortion a crime, even in cases of rape, fetal defects and situations in which the life of the mother is at risk. Abortion has now been absolutely penalized. This act makes it clear that female citizens are considered good citizens only in their role as mothers, and it ignores the violence and discrimination which is implicit in this kind of legislation. Salvadoran women, in this case, need women like you who take stands against these acts which legitimize our subordination. If this is not stopped, Beijing will have been an unnecessary effort, and women cannot afford this.

Thank you very much.

MARIA EUGENIA MIJANGOS, GUATEMALAN CENTER FOR LEGAL ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS: Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to express some ideas about women and the Guatemalan legal system. Our legal system, based on western law, written and formalistic in the law as well as in the judicial practice, makes us "invisible," protects and subordinates us, condemning us to minority status and supporting the prevailing culture very effectively. Fortunately, our participation in the Fourth International Conference on Women facilitated, as we will see later, the development of the women's movement in Guatemala.

Regarding the current situation: we see it as promising but complex. The fulfillment of the peace agreements -- which include achievements for women's organizations -- is complicated by the combination of different factors: citizen insecurity, which has prompted the government to adopt strong positions, including back-pedaling in the field of human rights; economic policies that cut state services; and a lack of dialogue between the government and civil society. These factors, and the delay in the fulfillment of the peace accords, have made us women participate very actively in this post-war period. For us, peace is synonymous with full social participation.

USIS Washington File

The Guatemalan women's movement at this moment proposes creative and diverse alternatives. In the legal field, it makes evident the discrimination of the law, challenging the constitutionality of Articles 232 through 235 of the penal code, which dealt with the crimes of adultery and which -- as in most Latin American law -- severely penalized a woman's infidelity while going easy on a man's infidelity. It was a way to legalize the society's hypocrisy. A constitutional court decision abolished these articles and opened the door to activism and participation of women's organizations, envisioning us women as citizens. For the first time in our country, a court decision favored international law, human rights for women, over the internal law, serving as a base for future development.

Now we have the satisfaction of having two legal groups that are recognized and consulted. We work on legal reforms, court cases and new laws. We were able to promulgate a new Family Violence Law this year and we are now pushing an overall women's rights law that combines concepts from the peace agreements with the action plans of Cairo and Beijing. The initiative has been presented to the Congress and was co-sponsored by all the women legislators. This law is the fruit of many years of demands.

Now, on the principal deficiencies and urgent necessities that we women see at the legal level: First of all, the socio-economic level, but because the judicial system is riddled with corruption, ritualism and, on top of everything, an unreal, sexist view of the world.

Second, many women fail to get legal assistance with their family violence problems because they are unable to exercise their basic rights. There are also great problems resulting from paternal irresponsibility. Finally, we see a great need for training for women in basic citizen rights so that we can keep building on this new citizen participation.

Many thanks.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IIHR MENDEZ: I'd like to tell you that I think we have a little time for some additional questions and comments aside from the ones prepared earlier. Please ask me the question, and, with great pleasure, I will give you the floor.

PATRICIA ROJAS, COORDINATOR OF A NICARAGUAN NETWORK OF WOMEN'S AND HEALTH RIGHTS: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for letting me participate so I can talk a little bit about what is going on in Nicaragua. The Maria Cavallieri Network of Women for Health was founded in the year 1992, and there are now 48 groups working on women's health issues. We have defined health for women as a dynamic process in which emotional, social, political, psychological, spiritual and environmental aspects interact. The aim is for women to be in harmony with ourselves and with the world surrounding us. It is having work, education, land and housing. Having daughters and sons when each one of us wishes, and being able to share the responsibility. It is having female and male friends, having free time and enjoying our sexuality. Having access to information. Being respected and not being objects of violence. Wishing for a world of equal rights and opportunities.

From our initiative, we have participated in the Guatemala Conference for Risk-Free Pregnancy, the International Conference on Population and Development, and in the Fourth World Women's Conference in Beijing. We have made valuable contributions to the country of Nicaragua with proposals for the defense of human rights, particularly to improve the health of women and their quality of life. Though these contributions have been in the area of public policy, our participation did not come easily. It became a reality with great difficulty during the previous government, and there is little hope that our measures will be adopted by the new government. By not looking at the health situation in an integral way, by ignoring the socio-economic and cultural aspects, the government says "the woman died of an hemorrhage" and never explores the socio-economic aspects that brought that woman to her death.

Another fact that we can mention in Nicaragua is that of a doctor from PROVIDA who accused the Pan-American Health Organization of distributing tetanus vaccine with a dangerous virus. According to a bad rumor, this virus sterilizes women. As a consequence of this irresponsible rumor, the Ministry of Health of Nicaragua stopped the vaccine campaign after an order from the Catholic Church. With scientific arguments, and as a result of the

USIS Washington File

insistence of the Women's Health Movement, we were able to restart the vaccine campaign.

What do we seek? We seek respect for women's right to holistic health and the recognition of the sexual and reproductive rights in all stages of a woman's life. We seek fulfillment of international agreements signed in Cairo and Beijing. We seek to participate jointly with the government in developing policies for health, education, population and development.

We want women to live, but to live healthy and happy and for many years.

Thank you very much, Mrs. Clinton, for your genuine interest.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IHR MENDEZ: Mrs. First Lady of Costa Rica, would you please give us your words?

COSTA RICAN FIRST LADY JOSETTE FIGUERES: Friends, I would briefly like to review the actions we have taken over the three years of our administration regarding human rights and women. The Figueres administration began one year prior to the Beijing World Conference on Women. We began by making an exhaustive study of the human rights situation for women in our country. This study indicated that although legal protections of the rights of women are in place, there remains work to be done. One main area for concern is the way in which processes are carried out. It doesn't do much good to have extensive legal protections if people are not aware of their rights or if there are problems in the administration of justice.

To this end, we set out to define the conceptual framework in which we would work. We set out to define the list of human rights and freedoms that citizens should enjoy. They are: civil rights to liberty and equality; social rights to health, education, housing and recreation; economic rights to work, property and productive resources; a right to a life without violence; political rights to freedom of thought, expression and association, to elect and be elected; as well as the right to participate in decision-making regarding national development. All of these are human rights, which, together, define the condition of an active citizen. That is to say, for us citizenship is the right to have rights.

To put these goals in practice, the government developed three national plans, whereby for the first time in Costa Rican history we have strategic public policies to promote the human rights of women. They are strategic plans because they are directed at all women, not just women's groups, and because they call on the civil society to work together with the government. These plans are: the National Plan for Equal Opportunity, which has resulted in 190 actions over three years taken by 34 presidential institutions in eight areas; legislation, health, education, labor, environment, culture and media, family and in decision-making.

We have the National Plan for the Prevention of Family Violence. This is a multi-sector plan to stop and prevent family violence by combining governmental responsibility and participation of NGOs that work in this area. The work is based on annual plans and is coordinated between the legislature and the court system. We have been able to adopt two laws dealing with family violence, and we have organized training courses for judicial officials.

And, finally, we have the National Anti-Poverty Plan in the Area of Women. This has two principal targets: women head of households and teenage pregnancies. For both, there are national programs in progress. We have launched information campaigns and have trained more than 20,000 women. And we have programs for young mothers in the Women's and Family Center.

In the area of human rights and legislation, we have four major achievements. The executive branch, working with the legislature, has proposed judicial reforms aimed at eliminating discriminatory practices. To eliminate discrimination, we have made a review of criminal, civil, family, labor and election laws, as well as the constitution itself. Also, to improve the administration of justice, we have worked extensively with the court system, especially on the topic of violence against women. We have supported research and training. We have also sponsored ample public education campaigns regarding the rights of women.

In the area of citizen participation for women, we have launched a program that we call FORCAM, which is the Strengthening of Women's Citizen Participation, which aims to increase the participation of women in their

USIS Washington File

communities, in social movements, in political parties, in public administration, and in government. The objective is to strengthen women leadership in the public and private life of the country, at the local, national and international levels. I think that in this sense, the work that I have as First Lady is as a facilitator, because, speaking with Mrs. Clinton, we agreed that the fact that the institution of First Lady does not exist in constitutions, at times, weakens the effectiveness of our efforts. We have to act as facilitator to institutionalize our programs via public policies and government institutions. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IIHR MENDEZ: Thank you First Lady. We now have time for a few minutes for a discussion before we ask the Secretary of State to speak to us. I'd like to interrupt at this time to ask her to sign our "Visitor's Book" and continue with the discussion. Obviously, the non-existence of the First Lady in our constitutions is an obstacle and, at times, a fault, especially when these 10 A few minutes

more?

MRS. CLINTON: I would like to hear from several of the people who have not yet spoken. Our Second Vice President, our very accomplished Ambassador to the United States, because I know that both of them have been very active in these issues and related concerns, and I would like to have a sense of what they see as the overall condition of human rights in Costa Rica, but also in the region generally.

COSTA RICAN SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REBECA GRYNSPAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mrs. Clinton, and thank you Madam Secretary of State and those who are with us today. I was thinking while listening to you that, though Central America is no longer divided by war and authoritarianism and has become a society of peace and democracy, perhaps the most important challenge facing us in the future is poverty and discrimination, and, in the case of gender, become societies integrated by opportunities. And I was thinking about the time in Latin America when there was this great debate about what the state should do and what private society should do, and this debate was largely carried out regarding property rights: the debate over government and social responsibilities was one over property.

When we talk about the rights of women and children, we go in the opposite direction. We talk of taking the debate from private and placing it into the public. Many of the problems have been hidden, kept in secret, kept in private. When we talk about violence against women or against children, we talk of bringing it out into the open from private.

It made me think of Mrs. Clinton's book, "It Takes a Village." We need a community, an organized society, in favor of women's and children's rights, to gain victory over the obstacles that women have suffered for a long time. I think that all the women who have spoken today have taught us to realize that seeing a single robin does not mean the spring has arrived. That really, working together, women, and men -- we shouldn't forget men -- that we can really go beyond the discrimination, not only for ethical reasons, but for important social development reasons.

Briefly, I remember when, with a straight face, researchers had to visit agricultural ministers in Central America to inform them that they were ignoring an important labor force by leaving women outside. It was as if a manager completely ignored 25 percent of his employees, and this is what they were doing. This is what happens in our societies. The ethical problem of discrimination against women is also an economic problem. There is no way our societies can develop strongly if 50 percent of the population does not receive the same opportunities that the other 50 percent receives, integrating them into the mainstream of development.

It has been good to hear about the experiences taking place in Central America, and, on behalf of Costa Rica, I'd like to say that we have made great progress in the law, but as the First Lady said, the programs that she and the Women's and Family Center have developed allow the realities to go beyond the words of the law. And that is the battle that we all face today. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IIHR MENDEZ: Do you have another question?

MS. CANSINO: I would like to comment. Laws and legislation are somewhat complicated when they produce a paradox when public laws intervene in this private area, especially dealing with the woman's body. For instance, in

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the case of rape, where the product of the crime is a human being, and the state intervenes, like in the case of El Salvador, to say, 'watch out,' citizenship for you, woman, has its limit, and this limit is determined by us so that we can continue controlling your body. So, the current legislation legitimizes hypocrisy, because it is not true, in the case of my country, that the quality of life for these babies is really a priority for the government of El Salvador. You see the children begging in the street; it is simply not enough to speak out for conception and for life. You have to guarantee a quality of life for those who come into the world and guarantee that the woman's citizenship is not negated by this hypocrisy.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IHR MENDEZ: Thank you very much. Madam Secretary of State, can we give the floor to you?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Well, thank you very much, I must say this has been a tremendous discussion, and I know that I speak on behalf of Mrs. Clinton when I say how much we have enjoyed hearing from all of you. Let me say that I really commend Mr. Mendez for your direction of this institute and for everything that you have done for the cause of human rights, and I thank you very much for getting together this remarkable group of women so that we could have this kind of discussion. I would very much also like to thank the First Lady of Costa Rica for being here for us and taking such a part, such an active part in issues that are so important. I know how important it is to Americans to have a first lady that is so active, because were it not for Hillary Clinton, many of us would not be able to exercise the kind of rights that we want to exercise and for her leadership in Beijing and throughout the world, I can tell you she is our very best ambassador. When she speaks out for women's rights and human rights it makes a difference, so I know Mrs. Figueres also in your case it must be very important to the people of Costa Rica.

I think that what I have seen here, and, knowing of your work previously, you are really a beacon of justice in law and I commend you for all the work that you have done, not only in terms of women's issues, but in terms of fair elections and human rights training for police. I think those are very important issues as we move forward with eras of democracy throughout the world. I think the work that all of you have done and that you have been talking about is also very courageous and innovative and I applaud all of you for the roles that you have taken in your own countries. I must say, and I think I am sure that I speak on behalf of Mrs. Clinton, that whenever we travel abroad and meet with other women I think we are struck by the fact that in various degrees the situation is the same. There are various levels of things that the discussion, you could come in from Mars to any country in the world and I think you have women's groups where the issues are exactly the same. Also, I must say as Ambassador Babbitt and the Second Vice President and I got up from our lunch with all those men and came here, they wondered what we were doing.

But I am gratified by the fact that we can have this kind of discussion wherever we go and feel as if we are working on a common goal. But I must say, the greatest pleasure at the moment is that we are at this moment facing a new challenge that is changed from protecting citizens against the violations of human rights perpetrated by government agencies to now working with elected governments to protect against violations committed by individuals. That is a big difference. And I think one that is really showing the great advances that have been made and yet how much work there still is to do. It really is important to end impunity for those who abuse women. I think an issue that I have spoken out against whether I was Ambassador at the United Nations or other places, some people say that such abuse is cultural. I think we all know that it is criminal, and therefore it is important for us to speak out together on those subjects.

I must say I am also very gratified that the United States Agency for International Development has been supportive and, barring a crisis, the support will continue as long as I am Secretary of State, and the United States will continue to belong on the side of those striving for justice, human rights, and dignity. We, too, are carrying out Beijing within the United States government following up in all kind of ways to make sure that the standards we set out in Beijing will continue. And as Mrs. Clinton said, we have made women's rights a part of our overall foreign policy. I have made it a point as I travel abroad to always meet with women's groups. I think it is very important. It is very important for what we learn from each other, but I think also a signal of where the United States stands on women's rights and human rights.

I also do believe that as countries go through their second wave of democratization there is a great euphoria in the

USIS Washington File

first wave. In the second wave you come upon the issues that all of you have discussed: social issues, economic issues, the kind of issues that really are the basis of society and require a great deal of work. I can just assure you that the United States will continue to be very interested in making sure that there is an integration of democratic principals and human rights. It will be a part of our foreign policy because it is what we stand for as a country.

I must take a minute on this immigration issue. I know that it is one of great concern. It was discussed at the presidents' conference. I am an immigrant myself. I came to the United States when I was 10 years old. So I know about the opportunities that the United States offers. It is the most open country in the world, with the greatest opportunities for immigrants. But every country does have a right to protect its borders and needs to have legal immigrants, not illegal immigrants. Therefore our new legislation is trying very hard to make it possible for there to be more legal immigrants so the problems that are created by many illegal immigrants are dealt with so that there is a law, and I think all of you have talked about the importance of the rule of law.

President Clinton has just finished a conference with his colleagues, his fellow presidents, and has made it clear that he will do everything he can to mitigate some of the harsher aspects of some of the legislation; there will be no mass deportations, and I hope that is passed back through all of you.

Let me just tell you how much I admire all the work that you are doing. I hope very much that we can all continue to work together, because I believe that the kinds of issues that all of you have discussed are the basis of society, and, as you have said, we are the resource of our societies. And, while there are many divisions in societies, it is up to the women to knit the societies back together. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IIHR MENDEZ: Madam Secretary, I thank you very much for your substantive statement of policy of the United States, which we appreciate. And we appreciate your pledge, your commitment, to maintaining human rights as a centerpiece of foreign policy of the United States. I, too, have lived in the United States, and I appreciate the generosity of the United States people in welcoming among themselves people from other lands, especially those fleeing persecution. I think, in fact, the concern expressed here about policies on immigration is a concern for treatment with dignity, and I think you have really reassured us that that is the commitment of the Clinton Administration.

(end transcript)

GUATEMALA
HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION/USA

Post-It* Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages
To	Ms. Clinton	From	Sr. Dianna Ortiz
Co./Dept.		Co.	GHRC
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

PRESS RELEASE

May 21, 1997

**Inter-American Commission On Human Rights
Holds Government of Guatemala Responsible
for the Torture of Sister Dianna Ortiz**

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, in its annual report, announced its findings in the case of U.S. citizen Sister Dianna Ortiz. According to the Commission, "Sister Ortiz was placed under surveillance and threatened, then kidnapped and tortured" and "agents of the Government of Guatemala were responsible for these crimes against Sister Ortiz."

The Commission found that "Sister Ortiz is a credible witness and that her consistent statements support a finding that she was kidnapped and taken to a clandestine detention center where she was tortured." The Commission concluded that the State of Guatemala is responsible for violating Dianna Ortiz's rights "to humane treatment, personal liberty, a fair trial, privacy, freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of association and judicial protection," protected in Articles 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, and 25 of the American Convention. In addition, Guatemala failed to uphold its obligation established in Article 1.

On September 6, 1996, in accordance with the wishes of Sr. Ortiz, the Commission decided against sending the case to the Inter-American Court. Sister Ortiz had indicated to the Commission that, although she continued to want the government of Guatemala to be held accountable for its abuses against her, the effort to achieve justice had taken a very heavy personal toll. Testifying about her abduction and torture has been a painful and

terrifying ordeal that has forced her to relive the trauma she suffered, opening again the emotional and psychological wounds that had only begun to heal.

The Commission made the following recommendations to the Government of Guatemala:

- a. undertake a prompt, impartial, and effective investigation to detail the circumstances of Sister Ortiz's ordeal and those responsible for it in an official report;
- b. place the individuals responsible in the appropriate judicial process; and
- c. redress the consequences of the violation of the rights of Sister Ortiz, "including the payment of an adequate and fair compensation for the harm caused" to her.

Upon learning of the decision of the Commission, Sister Ortiz stated, "I am extremely grateful for the work of the Commission and the decision which it reached and I hope that the Guatemalan Government will follow the Commission's recommendations. From the very beginning I have attempted to speak out not only for myself but on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Guatemalans who have suffered human rights abuses and whose voices never were heard. I hope that the truth will be proclaimed for them as it has for me and that the Guatemalan government finally accepts responsibility for the suffering it has caused to so many and for so long."

For more information contact:

Michele Arington, Attorney: (202) 783-0800

Patricia Davis: (202) 529-6599 (English and Spanish)

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12/10/97 REVISE

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
THE UNITED NATIONS
DECEMBER 10, 1997**

Acknowledgments: From advance.

The year-long commemoration we begin today is not just a commemoration of the universality of human rights -- it is a celebration of the United Nations. I am especially pleased that we are able to gather this morning in the Economic and Social Council, which at its first session in February of 1946 established the Commission on Human Rights.

Forty-nine winters ago, the world acknowledged a new, common standard for human dignity -- a code for the peoples of the world to live by.

One of the people who labored to create that code was Eleanor Roosevelt, then the United States Representative to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. The place was Paris. The delegates who came together to craft the language hailed from countries as diverse as Lebanon, Chile, France, China and Ukraine. And the dream was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- the first international agreement on the rights of humankind.

Some of humanity's bravest lessons emerge only after the deepest tragedies. This Declaration took shape in a world ravaged by the horrors of militarism and fascism. In the wake of the most violent revelation of the depths to which human beings can dehumanize one another, the world as a whole was ready at last to ~~accept an~~ ^a ~~agreed-upon~~ standard for human rights.

Let me read a passage from that document: "Disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind...The advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want have been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people. Therefore, the General Assembly proclaims this Universal Declaration of human rights as a common standard of achievement for all people and nations."

The document goes on to state what should be obvious, but too often is not: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

How radically idealistic an act it was at first for the nations of the world to ascribe publicly to this Declaration. That act did not, however, take place in a vacuum. It was a response to evil -- and I use that word deliberately.

Those who study the Holocaust know that the Nazis were able to pursue their crimes precisely because they were able progressively to constrict the circle of those defined as human. From the moment they came to power they proceeded, step-by-step, to dehumanize, through laws and propaganda, the mentally ill, the infirm, Gypsies, homosexuals, Jews -- those whom they identified as "life unworthy of life."

 This dark, cold region of the human soul -- where people withdraw first understanding, then empathy, and finally even the designation of personhood, from another human-being -- is not, of course, unique to Nazi Germany. This human vice, this ability to dehumanize, has been witnessed in all times and places. And it is precisely this vice that the Declaration sets itself up to resist.

Thankfully, in the half-century since the birth of the Declaration, we have as a global people managed progressively to **expand** the circle of full human dignity.

Because of this document, individuals and nations alike have a standard by which to measure fundamental rights. Many of the countries that have emerged in the last 50 years have drawn inspiration from the Declaration in their ^{own} Constitutions. Courts of law look to the Declaration; it has laid the groundwork for the world's war crimes tribunals; and it has prompted governments to set up their own commissions ~~devoted~~ to safeguarding ^{these} basic liberties.

At the United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, it was the power of the Declaration that inspired the establishment of a High Commissioner on Human Rights. And let me add how lucky the U.N. -- and indeed the world is -- that Mary Robinson fills that post. At the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women in 1995, it was the strength of this Declaration that enabled us to say, for all the world to hear, that human rights are women's rights and that women's rights are human rights.

And yet. And yet in spite of this half century of progress, we have not expanded the circle of human dignity far enough.

There are still too many of our fellow men and women excluded from the fundamental rights proclaimed in the Declaration; too many whom we have hardened our hearts against -- those whose human suffering we fail fully to see; to hear; and to feel.

Any look back at history shows that every nation has had its blind spots that have kept people out of the promised circle of full humanity. Take the example of my own country. We in the United States have had our own difficult experiences with the selective or unequal application of the rights established in the American Constitution. Even the Founding Fathers, whose ideas of human dignity were so far ahead of their time -- proclaiming that "all men are created equal" in the Declaration of Independence -- inscribed slavery in ^{our} the Constitution. It has taken most of our 220 years, some of them bloody, few of them easy, to extend the benefits of citizenship to African Americans, those without property -- and women. Eleanor Roosevelt herself was 35 years old before she could vote.

Even today, we circumscribe the circle through what we choose not to see. Black South Africans describe what it was like to work all day in white environments in which one was literally not seen. In the Balkans, people have willed themselves not to see the humanity of those whose heritage is different from their own. We ourselves in the industrialized world often choose not to see the child labor that goes into our beautiful carpets or our comfortable shoes.

And in too many places today, what we fail to see are the injustices done to women.

We choose not to see the injustice of legal systems around the world that continue to treat women as less than complete citizens. In too many places, female heirs receive less inheritance than male heirs. Inequitable divorce laws compel women to remain in cruel marriages. And courts of law require the testimony of two women to equal that of a solitary man.

Our vision is limited in other areas, as well. We choose not to see the contribution of women to the economic lives of ^{their families &} our countries. In too many places, women are discriminated against for bank loans, first jobs, and promotions. They are denied pay equal to that of men -- or any pay at all. And they live disproportionately in poverty, making up 70 percent of the world's poor.

We also circumscribe the circle through what we choose not to hear. Freedom and equality for all depend first on whether a citizen truly has a voice.

It is telling that even in the drafting of the Universal Declaration there was a debate about women's voices. The initial version of the first article stated, "All men are created equal." It took women members of the Commission, led by Mrs. Hansa Mehta of India, to point out that "all men" might be interpreted to exclude women. Only after long debate was the language changed to say, "All human beings are born free and equal."

Today, we still choose not to hear the voices of many women. In too many places, women are blocked from participating in the political lives of their countries. Just nine days ago in Sudan, 36 women were arrested while attempting to deliver a petition to the U.N. office there in protest of human rights violations in their country. They were arrested, fined, and at least one woman received 40 lashes.

In too many places, girls and women never even learn to project their voices. Two-thirds of the 130 million children out of school are girls. Two-thirds of the 96 million people worldwide who can neither read nor write are women. Even now, the Taliban in Afghanistan are blocking girls from attending school. Not only that -- they are blocking those, like Emma Bonino, European Union Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, who would speak out on behalf of this injustice.

Freedom of speech and freedom of the press -- the rights to petition the government and to assemble -- all these are essential. But think how much weaker these rights are in a nation where the majority of young women are illiterate? Rights on paper that are not protected and implemented are not really rights at all.

criminal
We further ~~circumscribe~~ the circle of human rights through what we choose not to feel. As Eleanor Roosevelt put it, "When will our conscience grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?" In too many places, the suffering of women is defined as trivial; explained away as a "cultural phenomenon." Perhaps it is for this reason that women do not receive proper health care, including access to family planning. Perhaps that is why genital cutting, which in some countries more than 90 percent of women have undergone, continues.

Perhaps that is why domestic and sexual violence remain the most serious, under-reported and widespread human rights violations in the world. In almost every country in the world, domestic violence is one of the leading causes of injury to women. In my country, 30 percent of female murder victims are killed by a current or former partner. As Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has said, domestic violence can never again be dismissed, as it ~~so~~ often has, ^{in the past} as part of a country's norm, or as a set of private assumptions about family life. Let us say it ~~so~~ loudly that the entire world can hear us: We do not believe that violence against women is simply cultural; we believe it is simply criminal.

And perhaps that is why rape and sexual assault continue to be tactics of war. It is the cruelest injustice, ~~I should add~~, that so many wars end not in peace for women and their families, but in refugee crises that trap women and children in lives that go from bad to worse. Women and children make up 80 percent of the world's 23 million refugees.

The full enfranchisement of the rights of women is unfinished business in this turbulent century.

What meaning can the language of freedom and human rights have for a young woman forced into prostitution and trafficked in the commercial sex trade? What meaning can it have for women forced into involuntary servitude as sweatshop workers or domestic servants? What meaning can it have for a woman forced to bear a child or forced to abort one? What about the very ingrained practices that undermine the growth and development of girls from their very first years -- such as the common practice of feeding them last or less?

As I have been privileged to travel around the world, I have met countless women who know nothing of this Declaration and its promises, but ^{they} are eloquent in their belief that they deserve respect and better treatment in their families, workplaces and societies.

And yet, some critics continue to dismiss women's sufferings as minor. ^{But} Are they? In 1958, Eleanor Roosevelt wrote, "Where do human rights begin? In small places, close to home -- so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual persons; the neighborhood he lives in...; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere."

Other critics dismiss human rights violations as harmless. A report released this week by the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict proves otherwise. According to the report, "An upsurge of egregious human rights violations is almost always a powerful warning of dire events to come, including massive refugee flows and civil wars."

Still others say that human rights are a Western luxury -- not inalienable, but alien. But I believe -- and the women I've listened to believe -- that human rights are as essential to life as air or water, and that they are felt, beyond culture and tradition, as innate. The women I have met do not feel that human rights are a foreign concept invented by theorists. Rather, they know, in spite of everything they are told by culture and tradition, in their very hearts and souls, that these are God-given rights that they were born with as surely as they were born into the human family.

For if they are not innate, how have people throughout history known to fight for them so valiantly?

Paradoxically, the proof of universality lies with the perpetrators of human rights violations themselves. Why have those who have dishonored humanity run to cover their tracks were it not for the knowledge that wrong had been done? The Nazis tried to hide their concentration camps. Communism kept its terrors in the shadow of the Iron Curtain. Scores of bodies are hidden in the hard ground of Bosnia and in the deep forests of Rwanda. Throughout my hemisphere, people and ideas have "disappeared."

Why go to the trouble?

Because human rights transcend individual regimes and customs. The beliefs inscribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were not invented 50 years ago. They are not the work of a single culture or country. They have been with us forever, from civilization's first light. Sophocles wrote about them 2,500 years ago when he had Antigone declare that there were ethical laws higher than the laws of Theban kings. P.C. Chang, who helped draft the Universal Declaration, pointed out that Confucius articulated them in ancient China. The belief that we must respect our neighbors as we would respect ourselves resides at the core of the teachings of all the major faiths of the world.

The principles inscribed in the document whose birth we mark today are not constructed but revealed; every great religion exposed and taught their truths.

If I were to tear up this declaration, its values would abide.

If I were to burn this document, its meaning would remain.

If I were to forbid someone from hearing its words, they would still ring as
loud as ever in the hearts of men and women.

It is because every era has its blind spots that we must see our own unfinished
business -- now, while we stand at the threshold of a new millennium. We must
rededicate ourselves to completing the circle of human rights once and for all. We
must challenge ourselves to see more sharply, to hear more clearly, to feel more
fully.

And we must do something else. We must support democracies -- new and
old -- that work to fulfill the aspirations of this Declaration. As the President said
last night, "Democracy, the rule of law, civil society -- those things are the best
guarantees of human rights over the long run."

It is time for us as a global community to commit ourselves ~~once and for all~~:
We have run out of excuses not to. Here we are, at the very close of the 20th
century, a century that has been scorched by war time and time again. If the history
of this century teaches us anything, it is that whenever the dignity of any individual
or group is compromised by the derogation of who they are, of some essential
attribute they possess, then we will ^{all} leave ourselves open to nightmares. ^{to come}

Conversely, if the century has a lesson for us that is redeeming, it is that by
extending the circle of citizenship and human dignity to include everyone -- without
exception -- then we have the basis for new worlds of hope to flourish.

^{in this 70th anniversary}
So let us walk toward ^{these} worlds. And let us do so knowing that the path
^{is} will never be easy. These rights are eternal, but so, too, is the struggle to attain
them. Though the darkness in the human heart may recede, it will never go away. It
must be with realistic eyes that we look toward human rights. And it must be with
clean hands and open hearts that in this -- the 50th anniversary of the Universal
Declaration on Human Rights -- we ^{should?} rededicate ourselves to their fulfillment.

Thank you.



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
1948-1998 *all human rights for all*



The United Nations Department of Public Information cordially invites you to

Human Rights Day Special Events
to Launch the Fiftieth Anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Wednesday, 10 December 1997

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PROGRAMME

ECOSOC Chamber, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Moderator: **Mr. Samir Sanbar**, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information

Opening Remarks: **Mr. Hennadiy Udovenko**, President of the General Assembly

Video Message of **Mr. Kofi Annan**, United Nations Secretary-General

First Keynote Speaker: **Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton**, First Lady of the United States

Second Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Nafis Sadik**, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund

Message of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: **Dr. Purificación Quisumbing**, Director,
New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Panel

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights: individual rights versus collective rights
- Human rights education, a step towards strengthening respect for human rights

Mr. Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature

H.E. Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

Professor Philip Alston, Chairman of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Mr. Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Impact
of Armed Conflict on Children

- Question and Answer Period

OPENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EXHIBIT

Public Lobby, 1 p.m.

Presiding: **Mr. Samir Sanbar**, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information

Musical programme: **Ms. Rachel Lee**, Violinist, Korean-American child prodigy

For more information please contact:

Ms. Danielle Loff
Development and Human Rights Section
Department of Public Information
tel: (212) 963-0352
fax: (212) 963-1186

Ms. Lilli Schindler
DPI NGO Section
tel: (212) 963-1361
fax: (212) 963-6914



UNITED NATIONS

PROGRAMME AS OF 9 DEC. 1997

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1997

Grand Jury Hears From First Lady's Chief of Staff Aide Declines to Comment on Testimony Before Whitewater Panel

Associated Press

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's chief of staff, Melanne Verveer, testified yesterday before the grand jury investigating possible obstruction of the Whitewater probe.

Verveer, who served as Hillary Clinton's deputy chief of staff during the first four years of the Clinton administration before being promoted, is not a major player in various investigations of the White House.

But her former boss and predecessor as chief of staff, Margaret A. Williams, has been questioned by

congressional committees about a variety of matters, including the handling of Vincent W. Foster Jr.'s papers after the deputy White House counsel committed suicide in 1993.

Williams, who stepped down from her post last spring, also has been questioned by the Whitewater grand jury, which was impaneled by independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr.

Before she entered the grand jury room, Verveer said she did not know why she had been called to testify. Later she declined to comment, saying, "We don't have anything to say."

In 1996, Verveer was questioned by the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee about the Whitewater affair.

During that two-hour deposition, Verveer said she had no knowledge of the handling of Foster's papers by then-White House counsel Bernard Nussbaum. She also said she did not recall seeing billing records from Hillary Clinton's Little Rock law firm, which mysteriously reappeared in a room in the White House residence in 1995.

Starr is investigating why those records were not produced until long after they were first subpoenaed.

GOP Leaders Continue to Press Issue of Ambassador's Burial at Arlington Cemetery

By Terry M. Neal and Stephen Barr
Washington Post Staff Writers

Republican leaders yesterday pressed to keep pushing for an answer into why M. Larry Lawrence, the late ambassador to Switzerland, was allowed to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, even though his widow said Monday she plans to remove his body.

Also, congressional leaders of both parties were preparing a formal request to the General Accounting Office to review the process for granting waivers for burial at the cemetery, the nation's most hallowed ground for military burials, a congressional staff aide said.

Lawrence, a major Democratic donor, was one of 69 people in the last five years granted special waivers to be

buried at the cemetery. The waiver was based in part on his claim that he served heroically on a Merchant Marine ship during World War II. But last week, Republicans produced documents showing it was a fabrication.

Despite acknowledgment by Arlington's superintendent that Lawrence's status as an ambassador allowed his burial there, Lawrence's widow, Sheila Davis Lawrence, asked President Clinton to allow that his body be removed from the cemetery in hopes of ending the public controversy.

But Rep. Terry Everett (R-Ala.), chairman of the House Veterans Affairs oversight and investigations subcommittee, said, "The subcommittee still has an interest in questions concerning the State Department's ac-

tions in the granting of the waiver for Mr. Lawrence."

Typical of the confusion surrounding the waiver issue were revelations made yesterday by a former aide to Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.). The aide, who asked not to be identified, said in an interview that Burton had used his influence to obtain a waiver for a young man who worked for him in the 1980s.

The man, John F. Mooney, died of cancer at age 25 in 1989. Mooney did not serve in the military, but his father was a retired Army master sergeant. Burton's office confirmed yesterday he assisted the family in getting a waiver for Mooney to be buried at the future burial site of his father.

The former Burton aide, a Republican now in the private sector, revealed

the information to make the point that political favoritism at Arlington is a bipartisan issue. "I'm just sickened by the politics of Washington," the aide said. "I think it's just time to stop all of this vindictive stuff and get down to the important business of this country."

A spokesman said Burton, who last month vowed to call for hearings if necessary on whether the White House traded plots at Arlington for political favors or donations, made no apologies for his action and said no comparison can be made to the Lawrence case.

"The guy worked for him for three years, and [Burton] watched him die," said spokesman John Williams. "[Mooney's] father wanted to be buried there with him and [Burton] helped him."

Army officials said they would not

discuss the Mooney waiver or any of the other 68 burials that were authorized by the Army secretary or Clinton.

But Burton's intervention underscored what congressional aides said was widespread confusion over the use of waivers at Arlington.

It also underscored the political atmosphere in Congress. "The 'gotcha' mentality pervading Washington this year is all about partisan politics and nothing to do with honoring our veterans, which should be the issue we're focusing on," said Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II (D-Mass.), a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

American Legion commander Anthony G. Jordan said burial at the cemetery "should be restricted to people who die on active duty, to our most

decorated veterans, to people who spent full careers in uniform and to those who left military service with lifelong disabilities."

He said the Legion, the nation's largest veterans group, would work with Congress to reexamine eligibility rules for Arlington, particularly the issue of when exceptions should be made.

Army officials, asked yesterday whether any ambassadors had been denied a waiver for burial at Arlington, gave two examples and said their cases differed from Lawrence's because they did not die while serving in office. Lawrence died of cancer in 1996 at his official residence in Bern, Switzerland.

Army officials said no date had been set for the removal of Lawrence's body.

Iran's Top Leaders Differ On Relations With West

Clashing Views Aired as Islamic Summit Opens

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Foreign Service

TEHRAN, Dec. 9—Iran opened an Islamic summit meeting today designed to promote unity among the world's 1 billion Muslims. But the host country's leaders offered starkly contrasting views on relations between Islam and the West, underscoring deep divisions within Iran itself.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's supreme leader, lashed out at Western powers in a fiery opening speech, targeting in particular the United States, which he accused of "global arrogance" and assorted sins against Islam. He denounced what he called the "global Zionist media," blasted the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process as "unjust, arrogant, contemptuous and finally illogical," and warned the United States to pull its warships out of the Persian Gulf, which he described as "an Islamic sea."

But President Mohammed Khatami, a moderate cleric elected last May in an unexpected landslide, made an entirely different impression, speaking of the need for tolerance and understanding among people of different faiths. He emphasized the need for civil society and rule of law, called for the protection of religious minorities and, perhaps most surprising, urged his fellow Islamic leaders to learn from the West if not to emulate it.

"Our era is an era of preponderance of Western culture and civilization, whose understanding is imperative," said Khatami, a turbaned

See TEHRAN, A28, Col. 3

TEHRAN, From A1

mullah and architect of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution who lived for a time in Germany. "Undoubtedly, we will only succeed in moving forward ... if we ... utilize the positive scientific, technological and social accomplishments of Western civilization, a stage we must inevitably go through to reach the future."

The two opening speeches were symptomatic of a deepening power struggle in Iran between religious hard-liners and moderates, led by Khatami, whose advocacy of greater cultural and personal freedom has won him wide support among women, young people and educated elites.

Rarely, however, have those differences been aired in such a public manner. The two men spoke on the opening day of the eighth summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which brings together ministers, princes, heads of state and other dignitaries from 55 Islamic countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The presence of so many foreign leaders, many of them close allies of the West, has, in the view of observers here, significantly boosted Iran's international prestige at the expense of the United States, which accuses Iran of sponsoring international terrorism and has sought to isolate the Islamic republic through a trade embargo and diplomatic means.

Iran is also seeking to use the three-day summit to improve relations with neighboring Arab countries, which have long accused its clerical leaders of packaging their revolution for export. Among the Arab leaders in attendance today were Syrian President Hafez Assad, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah. He is the highest-ranking Saudi official to visit Iran since the fall of the American-backed shah in 1979.

Arab turnout was much higher than for the U.S.-sponsored economic conference last month in Doha, Qatar, in the Persian Gulf, with the aim of forging ties between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Most Arab countries boycotted that conference to protest what they regard as the failure of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to carry out peace accords signed with the Palestinians.

Iran has sought to make the most of the international spotlight, welcoming guests in a vast new conference hall overflowing with flowers and ringed with the flags of participating nations.

Despite the broad cross-section of participants, Khamenei made no effort to temper his views, blaming the West for most of the ills afflicting the Muslim world. "The Western materialistic civilization is directing everyone toward materiality, while money, gluttony, and carnal desires are made the greatest aspirations," he declared. "As in the past, today Islam is the only remedial, curative and savior angel."

He accused the United States, in particular, of doing everything it could to undermine Iran's revolution and poison its relations with its neighbors.

"For 18 years now, the political designers of arrogance are breathing their poisonous breath to make our neighbors in the Persian Gulf fearful of Islamic Iran," he said, adding pointedly, "I declare that Islamic Iran poses no threat to any Islamic country."

Describing the presence of U.S.

warships in the gulf as a major source of insecurity in the region. Khamenei called on the Islamic organization to make its own security arrangements that could include deployment of joint military forces to the region. He also proposed that the organization—"as the representative of 55 Islamic countries and 1 billion and several million people"—be granted a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

President Khatami, who theoretically ranks second in the government hierarchy and spoke after the supreme leader, did not shy away from criticism of the "ostentatious" West. And he scorned "the Zionist regime" in Israel as "hegemonic, racist, aggressive and violent."

But in substance as well as tone, his message was generally one of moderation. Repeating themes that played well here during his presidential campaign, Khatami emphasized the need for "accountability" among clerical leaders who typically have stressed piety over performance.

And while Khamenei emphasized confrontation with the West, Khatami spoke of cooperation. "We should never be oblivious to judicious acquisition of the positive accomplishments of the Western civil society," he said.

Concern about an emphasis on confrontation also was expressed by Saudi Arabia's Abdullah, in a statement released before Khamenei's speech, news agencies reported. Abdullah urged Muslim leaders to reject violence by militants who invoke religion. "The slogans raised by these militants are outrageous and have nothing in common with Islam and its spirit of justice and tolerance," he said.

The Washington Post
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1997

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

**SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1997
FINAL SCHEDULE**

SCHEDULING DIRECTOR:

STEPHANIE STREETT
HOME: 202-332-5651
OFFICE: 202-456-2823

EVENT COORDINATOR:

LAURA GRAHAM
HOME: 703-212-7642
OFFICE: 202-456-2349
WHCA PAGER: 4809

PRESS DESK:

JEREMY GAINES
HOME: 202-362-5475
OFFICE: 202-456-5771
WHCA PAGER: 4194

ADVANCE:
(New York)

MWITU NDUGU
STAFF OFFICE: 212-421-7790
CELL PHONE: 202-757-9388

ADVANCE:
(Miami)

SAM MYERS, SR
STAFF OFFICE: 212-421-7790
CELL PHONE: 202-757-9388

WEATHER:

WASHINGTON, D.C.
*Mostly cloudy with periods of rain. Wind
northeast to north at 10 to 15 knots.
Low 37 to 42. High 43 to 48.*

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK
*Mostly cloudy with periods of rain. Wind
northeast to north at 10 to 15 knots.
Low 35 to 40. High 42 to 47.*

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. schedule	Schedule of the President for Wednesday, December 10, 1997 (partial) (9 pages)	12/10/1997	b(7)(C), b(7)(E), b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20036

FOLDER TITLE:

Human Rights : Civil Society Democracy Building [1]

2013-0534-S
ry1567

RESTRICTION CODES

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

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

**SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1997
FINAL SCHEDULE**

NOTE: The First Lady departs at 7:40 am for an independent schedule. The First Lady is scheduled to address a United Nations Human Rights Event at 10:30 am.

**ELEVATOR MANIFEST
(9)**

(b)(7)e, (b)(7)c, (b)(6)

**ELEVATOR MANIFEST
(9)**

(b)(7)e, (b)(7)c, (b)(6)

[002]

Note: Police Photos will be taken prior to a departure from the Waldorf Astoria Hotel

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

10:15 am

THE PRESIDENT departs Waldorf Astoria Hotel via motorcade en route Charlotte Gardens, Bronx, New York
[drive time: 15 minutes]

MOTORCADE MANIFEST

(b)(7)e, (b)(7)c, (b)(6)

10:30 am

THE PRESIDENT arrives Charlotte Street, Bronx, New York

Greeters: Ralph Porter, President, Mid Bronx Desperados (tour guide)

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

10:35 am-
11:00 am

**TOUR OF CHARLOTTE GARDENS
CHARLOTTE GARDENS NEIGHBORHOOD
Staff Contact: Gene Sperling, Maria Echaveste
Event Coordinator: Laura Graham
POOL PRESS**

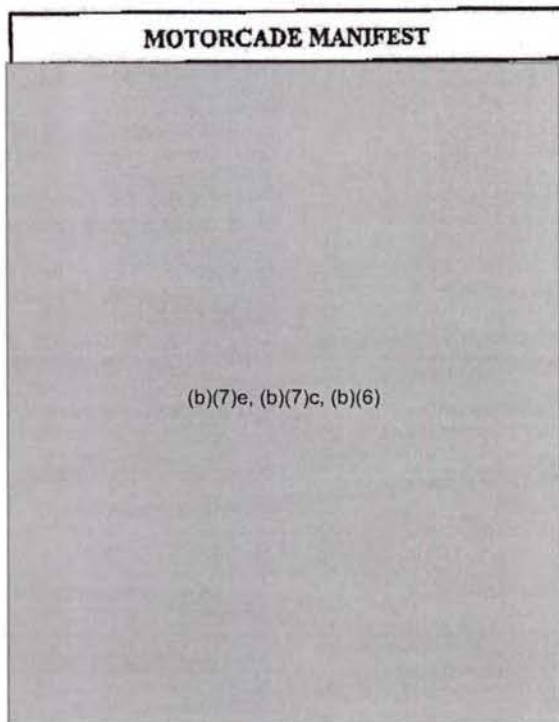
- **The President** led by Ralph Porter is escorted down the street of the Charlotte Gardens Neighborhood and pauses for a photo opportunity.
(Pool Press)
- **The President** continues down the street where he is then joined by the following elected officials: Secretary Andrew Cuomo, Administrator Aida Alvarez, Representative Elliot Engel (T), Lieutenant Governor Betsy McCaughey, Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, City Council Speaker Peter Vallone, and Advocate Mark Green, Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr, and State Senator David Rosado.
- **The President**, accompanied by the elected officials, continues down the street and concludes the street tour.
(Pool Press)

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

11:05 am

THE PRESIDENT proceeds via motorcade to the Boys and Girls Club
[drive time: 5 minutes]



11:10 am

THE PRESIDENT arrives the Boys and Girls Club

Greeters: Leroy Branch, Director, Boys and Girls Club
Milfred Lisk, Deputy Board Member, Madison Boys and Girls Club

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

11:15 am-
12:15 pm

**REMARKS TO COMMUNITY
GYMNASIUM**

Boys and Girls Club

Remarks: Jordan Tamagni

Staff Contact: Gene Sperling, Maria Echaveste

Event Coordinator: Laura Graham

OPEN PRESS

Note: There will be approximately 300 people in attendance.

- Off-stage announcement of the **President** accompanied by Secretary Andrew Cuomo, Administrator Aida Alvarez, Genevieve Brooks, Paul Grogan, and Carmen Ceballo to "Ruffles and Flourishes" and "Hail to the Chief."
- Genevieve Brooks makes brief remarks and introduces Paul Grogan, President, LISC.
- Paul Grogan makes brief remarks and introduces Carmen Ceballo, Local Resident.
- Carmen Ceballo makes brief remarks and introduces the **President**.
- **The President** makes remarks, works ropeline, and departs

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

12:20 pm-

THE PRESIDENT departs the Gymnasium of the Boys and Girls club via motorcade en route site tbd
[drive time: 30 minutes]

MOTORCADE MANIFEST

(b)(7)c, (b)(7)e, (b)(6)

12:50 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives site tbd12:55 pm-
2:15 pm**HOLD**
SITE TBD

NOTE: THE FIRST LADY'S DOWN TIME BEGINS AT 2:30 PM.

2:30 pm-
5:45 pm**DOWN TIME**
Waldorf Astoria Hotel

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

5:50 pm-
6:15 pm

MEET AND GREET
ROOM 35 H
Waldorf Astoria Hotel
Staff Contact: Craig Smith
Event Coordinator: Laura Graham
CLOSED PRESS

-- The President and the First Lady meet and greet briefly with 15 guests.

NOTE: AT THIS TIME, THE FIRST LADY DEPARTS FOR HER INDEPENDENT SCHEDULE.

6:20 pm

THE PRESIDENT proceeds to Room 37A

6:25 pm-
6:50 pm

PHOTO RECEIVING LINE
ROOM 37 A
Waldorf Astoria Hotel
Staff Contact: Craig Smith
Event Coordinator: Laura Graham
CLOSED PRESS

-- The President greets 40 guests for photographs.

6:55 pm-
7:00 pm

DRIVER PHOTOGRAPHS
HALLWAY
Waldorf Astoria Hotel

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

7:05 pm-
8:00 pm

**DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
DINNER
EMPIRE ROOM
Waldorf Astoria Hotel
Remarks: Paul Tuchmann
Staff Contact: Craig Smith
Event Coordinator: Laura Graham
POOL PRESS (Entertainment and Speaking Program)**

Note: Approximately 200 guests in attendance.

- The President enters the room and proceeds to his seat at the head table.
- James Taylor performs as dinner is served.
- Representative Martin Frost makes brief remarks and introduces Representative Richard Gephardt.
- Representative Richard Gephardt makes brief remarks and introduces the President.
- The President makes remarks.
- The President departs.

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

8:05 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Waldorf Astoria Hotel via motorcade en route the Rainbow Room
[drive time: 5 minutes]

MOTORCADE MANIFEST

(b)(7)c, (b)(7)e, (b)(6)

8:10 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives the Rockefeller Center

Greeters: Geoff Wharton, Managing Director, Rockefeller Center
Thomas Madden, Executive Director, Rockefeller Center

8:15 pm

THE PRESIDENT proceeds to the Rainbow Room

Note: The First Lady will re-join the President at this time.

Greeters: Arthur Emil, Co-owner, Rainbow Room
David Emil, Co-owner, Rainbow Room
Joe Baum, Co-owner, Rainbow Room

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

**ELEVATOR MANIFEST
(15)**

(b)(7)c, (b)(7)e, (b)(6)

8:20 pm-
8:45 pm

**PHOTO RECEIVING LINE
THE RAINBOW ROOM
Staff Contact: Craig Smith
Event Coordinator: Laura Graham
CLOSED PRESS**

- **The President and the First Lady do a photo receiving line with 50 guests.**

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

8:50 pm-
9:45 pm

**DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE HISPANIC GALA
DINNER**

THE RAINBOW ROOM

Remarks: Paul Tuchmann

Staff Contact: Craig Smith

Event Coordinator: Laura Graham

POOL PRESS (SPEAKING PROGRAM ONLY)

**Note: >> Approximately 250 guests in attendance.
>> There is a pre-program.**

- **The President and the First Lady, accompanied by Dennis Rivera, Event Chair, Democratic National Committee; Marife Hernandez, Event Chair, Democratic National Committee; and Miguel Lausel, Event Chair, Democratic National Committee, are announced into the room by Rita Moreno and proceed to their seats at different tables.**
- **Dinner is served and entertainment begins.**
- **Marife Hernandez makes welcoming remarks and introduces Dennis Rivera.**
- **Dennis Rivera makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.**
- **The First Lady makes remarks and introduces the President.**
- **The President makes remarks, works a ropeline, and departs.**

Note: The First Lady will remain in New York

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

9:50 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs the Rainbow Room via motorcade en route Wall Street Landing Zone
[drive time: 15 minutes]

MOTORCADE MANIFEST

(b)(7)c, (b)(7)e, (b)(6)

10:05 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Wall Street Landing Zone

10:15 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Wall Street Landing Zone via Marine One en route JFK International Airport
[flight time: 15 minutes]

PLEASE CONSULT THE BACK OF THE TRIP BOOK FOR ALL AIRCRAFT MANIFESTS.

10:30 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives JFK International Airport

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

10:40 pm **THE PRESIDENT** departs JFK International Airport via Air Force
One en route Miami International Airport
[flight time: 2 hours, 30 minutes]
[time change: none]

1:10 am **THE PRESIDENT** arrives Miami International Airport
CLOSED PUBLIC
OPEN PRESS

Greeters: Jay Sedell, Miami International Airport
 Natasha Millan, Chairperson, Committee on aviation
 Planning and Operations
 Gary Dellapa, Airport Director
 Juliana Walsh

1:20 am **THE PRESIDENT** departs Miami International Airport via
motorcade en route the Biltmore Hotel
[drive time: 20 minutes]

MOTORCADE MANIFEST

(b)(7)c, (b)(7)e, (b)(6)

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK ~ MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 11 1997

1:40 am

THE PRESIDENT arrives the Biltmore Hotel

Greeters: Tony Rodham
Gene Prescott, Owner, Biltmore Hotel

ELEVATOR MANIFEST
(b)(7)e, (b)(7)c, (b)(6)

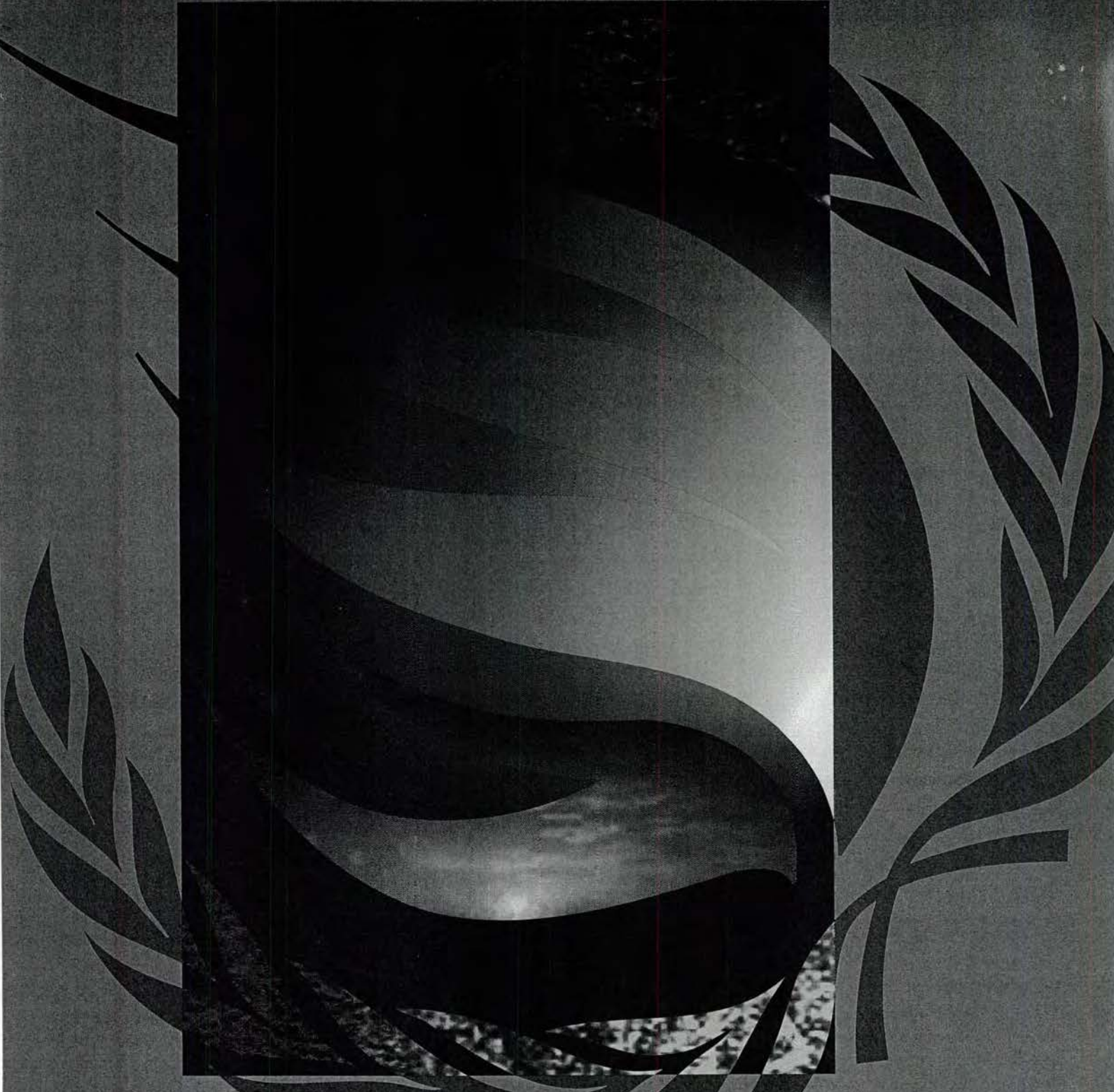
RON

THE BILTMORE HOTEL
MIAMI, FLORIDA

HRC RON

WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

December 9, 1997 (9:27pm)



all human rights for all

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1948-1998



UNITED NATIONS



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Room S-1040
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New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel. (212) 963-3771, 963-1786
Fax: (212) 963-1186
e-mail: vasic@un.org

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FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
1948-1998
all human rights for all



The United Nations Department of Public Information cordially invites you to

Human Rights Day Special Events

to Launch the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Wednesday, 10 December 1997

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PROGRAMME

ECOSOC Chamber, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Moderator: **Mr. Samir Sanbar**, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information

Opening Remarks: **Mr. Hennadiy Udovenko**, President of the General Assembly

Video Message of **Mr. Kofi Annan**, United Nations Secretary-General

First Keynote Speaker: **Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton**, First Lady of the United States

Second Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Nafis Sadik**, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund

Message of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: **Dr. Purificación Quisumbing**, Director,
New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Panel

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights: individual rights versus collective rights
- Human rights education, a step towards strengthening respect for human rights

Mr. Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature

H.E. Ambassador Kamallesh Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

Professor Philip Alston, Chairman of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Mr. Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Impact
of Armed Conflict on Children

- Question and Answer Period

OPENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EXHIBIT

Public Lobby, 1 p.m.

Presiding: **Mr. Samir Sanbar**, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information

Musical programme: **Ms. Rachel Lee**, Violinist, Korean-American child prodigy



For more information please contact:

Ms. Danielle Loff

Development and Human Rights Section

Department of Public Information

tel: (212) 963-0352

fax: (212) 963-1186

Ms. Lilli Schindler

DPI NGO Section

tel: (212) 963-1361

fax: (212) 963-6914

PROGRAMME AS OF 9 DEC. 1997



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
1948-1998 *all human rights for all*



PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Launches Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

New York, 5 December 1997 — The observance of Human Rights Day this year will mark the launch of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948, at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris. Since then, Human Rights Day has been commemorated on 10 December each year to mark the adoption of this landmark document.

The tragedies and horrors endured by people during the Second World War prompted the international community to adopt a document that would foster respect for fundamental rights and freedoms as well as recognize the importance of the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of human rights.

The Declaration was one of the first major achievements of the United Nations in the field of human rights. Its principles have been enshrined in and continue to inspire national legislation and the constitutions of many newly independent states. References to the Declaration have been made in charters and resolutions of regional intergovernmental organizations as well as in treaties and resolutions adopted by the United Nations system. Although the Declaration, which comprises a broad range of rights, is not a legally binding document, it has inspired more than 60 United Nations human rights instruments which together constitute an international standard of human rights.

The year 1998 marks the fiftieth anniversary of this historic document. The theme "All Human Rights for All" reinforces the idea that human rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social — should be taken in their totality and not disassociated from one another. All activities planned for the year will culminate with the actual anniversary on 10 December 1998.

The year 1998 also marks the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna (Austria) in June 1993. There, 171 countries reiterated the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, and reaffirmed their commitment to the Universal Declaration.

The anniversary year is a time for peoples and societies around the world to:

- commemorate the adoption of this "Magna Carta for all humanity".
- promote public awareness of the meaning of the Universal Declaration and its relevance to our daily lives.
- mobilize in a reinvigorated and broad-based human rights movement.



UNITED NATIONS

It is a time for Governments to:

- ratify the basic international human rights treaties, if they have not yet done so.
- ensure that the rights set forth in the Declaration are reflected in their national legislation.
- formulate and implement a pro-active strategy in favour of the promotion of and respect for human rights through adoption of national plans of action to advance human rights and foster human rights education.
- condemn blatant violations of human rights and take action to break the cycle of impunity whenever human rights are violated.

Human rights cut across all the work of the United Nations, from peacekeeping, child rights and health to the rights of women and indigenous peoples. It includes the right to education as well as to social and economic development. It is all the more important because it falls during the Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004).

At United Nations Headquarters, a special event will launch the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on 10 December 1997. Opening remarks will be presented by Hennadiy Udovenko, President of the General Assembly. Keynote addresses will be given by Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady of the United States of America, and Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund.

Presentations by other eminent speakers will be on the themes: "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: individual rights versus collective rights" and "Human rights education campaign, a step towards strengthening respect for human rights". Speakers include Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature; Kamallesh Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations; and Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children. Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, will serve as moderator for the event. The video message of the Secretary-General on the occasion of Human Rights Day will be shown. There will also be a message from the High Commissioner for Human Rights.



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
1948-1998 *all human rights for all*



**The Message of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Beginning
of the 50th Anniversary Year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

10 December 1997

Today we mark the beginning of the 50th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In every part of the world, men, women and children of every colour and creed will gather to embrace our common human rights.

Human rights are the foundation of human existence and co-existence. Human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. Human rights are what make us human. They are the principles by which we create the sacred home for human dignity.

When we speak of the right to life, or development, or to dissent and diversity, we are speaking of tolerance. Tolerance promoted, protected and enshrined will ensure all freedoms. Without it, we can be certain of none.

Human rights are the expression of those traditions of tolerance in all religions and cultures that are the basis of peace and progress. Human rights are foreign to no culture and native to all nations. Tolerance and mercy have always and in all cultures been ideals of government rule and human behaviour. Today, we call these ideals human rights.

It is the universality of human rights that gives them their strength. It endows them with the power to cross any border, climb any wall, defy any force.

The struggle for universal human rights has always and everywhere been the struggle against all forms of tyranny and injustice: against slavery, against colonialism, against apartheid. It is nothing less and nothing different today.

Young friends all over the world,

You are the ones who must realize these rights, now and for all time. Their fate and future is in your hands. Human rights are your rights. Seize them. Defend them. Promote them. Understand them and insist on them. Nourish and enrich them.

They are the best in us. Give them life.



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High Commissioner for Human Rights Encouraged by African Efforts to Address Human Rights Challenges

The following is a message from Mrs. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1997. The theme of Human Rights Year is "All Human Rights for All".

I am sending this message from Africa where I am visiting Uganda, Rwanda and South Africa — three countries in a region which has suffered greatly and where the full enjoyment of human rights remains a constant struggle.

What is encouraging is that there are now efforts throughout the region, with support from the international community, to address past wrongs, tackle current challenges and prepare the ground for a better future.

The problems described to me in the past days were also found in other regions of the world: murderous violence and rape, ethnic tensions, discrimination, inequality of economic opportunity, the legacies of abusive regimes, pervasive poverty and denial of basic rights to women. The currency of these violations is a sobering reminder that we have no basis for self-satisfaction or complacency.

With this in mind, I urge that Human Rights Day be an occasion to re-affirm our commitment to work for change and to demonstrate that the principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are not theoretical or abstract. This must be given practical effect with the results measured by the improved well being of individuals around the world.

This Human Rights Day begins the year-long review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, a time when the United Nations system and all Governments seriously assess their successes and shortcomings in living up to the solemn obligations made at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. I look forward to this year of review leading up to the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It should be a year of discussion and debate on the continuing relevance of international human rights standards in the international system, in national administration and the work of civil society.

Human rights commitments are dynamic—developing with new understanding and awareness. I would especially encourage purposeful debate on economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development in ways which open up better understanding on how these human rights can be implemented in international and national programmes.

As High Commissioner for Human Rights, I draw strength from being part of a broad human rights community encompassing organizations and individuals, representing all cultures, traditions and backgrounds. The Universal Declaration is the well-spring, the inspiration for our efforts and the standard by which we measure our achievement.

My Office is dedicated to working in support of all whose work is guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its opening lines:

"recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world".



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Mary Robinson— Biographical Note

Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced on 12 June 1997 the appointment of Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, as the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In that capacity, she assumes principal responsibility for the human rights activities of the Organization, including the tasks of streamlining the human rights machinery throughout the United Nations system and supervising the human rights programme in Geneva.

Mrs. Robinson, President of Ireland since 1990, has outstanding legal qualifications and has worked in the area of human rights with special expertise in constitutional and European human rights law. She became a member of the English Bar (Middle Temple) in 1973. She served as a member of the International Commission of Jurists (1987-1990) and of the Advisory Commission of Inter-Rights (1984-1990).

Among the numerous international activities relating to human rights in which she participated, Mrs. Robinson served as Special Rapporteur to the Interregional Meeting organized in 1993 by the Council of Europe on the theme "Human rights at the Dawn of the 21st Century", as part of its preparation for the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights. She delivered the keynote address at the Council of Europe preparatory meeting for the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women.

Mrs. Robinson was the first Head of State to visit Rwanda in the aftermath of the genocide there and made two further visits, the most recent to address the Pan-African Conference on "Peace, Gender and Development". While in Rwanda she met representatives of, and was briefed by, agencies on the ground, as well as by the United Nations

Human Rights Monitors. She was also the first Head of State to visit the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, as well as the first Head of State to visit Somalia following the crisis there in 1992. Mrs. Robinson received the Special CARE Humanitarian Award in recognition of her efforts for Somalia.

As Ireland's Head of State, Mrs. Robinson represented her country internationally, developing a new sense of Ireland's economic, political and cultural links with other countries and cultures. She placed special emphasis during her Presidency on the needs of developing countries, linking the history of the Great Irish Famine to today's nutrition, poverty and policy issues, thus creating a bridge of partnership between developed and developing countries.

Mrs. Robinson has supported the work of international non-governmental organizations responding to humanitarian crises, notably in Somalia and Rwanda, as well as those engaged in community self-help projects, such as GOAL/Children in Need Institute project in Calcutta, India.

Mrs. Robinson served as a Senator from 1969 to 1989. She was a member of the Irish Joint Parliamentary Committee on the European Community Secondary Legislation from 1973 to 1989, Chairman of the Parliamentary Social Affairs Subcommittee from 1977 to 1987 and Chairman of its Legal Affairs Subcommittee from 1987 to 1989. She was a member of the Dublin City Council from 1979 to 1983, and a member of the Irish Parliamentary Joint Committee on Marital Breakdown from 1983 to 1985. From 1973 to 1990, she was President of CHERISH, the Irish association of single parents.



UNITED NATIONS

She was called to the bar in 1967, becoming a Senior Counsel in 1980. Later, she founded and was Director of the Irish Centre for European Law (1988-1990).

Mrs. Robinson was Reid Professor of Constitutional and Criminal Law at Trinity College, Dublin, from 1969 to 1975. She was also a Lecturer in European Community Law at Trinity College. She was a member of the editorial board of the Irish Current Law Statutes Annotated from 1984 to 1990.

Educated at Trinity College, Dublin University, she received a bachelor's degree in 1967, and a Master of Arts degree in 1970. Also in 1967, she received a Barrister-at-Law degree from the King's Inns, in Dublin. She was a fellow at Harvard University in 1967, where she earned a Master of Law degree in 1968.

Born on 21 May 1944 in Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland, Mrs. Robinson is married and has three children.



(HUR:OFF:*)

PORTRAIT OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS

UN 196277C

United Nations, New York
ES 1273

17 November 1997

Portrait of Mary ROBINSON, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

(PMB) Credit must read: UN/DPI Photo by Evan Schneider



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Realizing Human Rights: "Take hold of it boldly and duly....."

Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Romanes Lecture 1997, Oxford University, 11th November 1997

On the morning I left Dublin, just two months ago, to begin my work as U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Seamus Heaney gave me a beautifully bound copy of 'The Golden Bough' inscribed with those encouraging words

"Take hold of it boldly and duly....."

It seems fitting to repeat them here at Oxford and to do so as I avail of this first opportunity to reflect publicly on my new responsibilities. Until now I have been preoccupied with learning and doing, while recognizing that there was insufficient time to step back a little and think. The honour of delivering the Romanes Lecture for 1997 deprived me of any further excuse to postpone thinking.

It is a particular pleasure to return to this University and to follow in the footsteps of your distinguished Chancellor who described himself to me as "last year's man". I would like to borrow from his Romanes Lecture the following reminder:

"Oxford, both as a geographical entity and as one of the great academic communities of the world, is an irreplaceable national (and international) asset, and it is a duty upon us all to handle it carefully as well as imaginatively".

Thank you for placing this asset at my disposal at a very early stage of what I have described as a daunting challenge.

The deep sense of loss felt internationally on the death of Sir Isaiah Berlin reminds us of the true strengths of this academic community. I invoke his name too because he was, as Bernard Crick reminded us, in the words Berlin himself applied to Pasternak, "a soldier in the battle for human freedom."

Human freedom is that precious space secured by standards, laws and procedures which defend, protect and enhance human rights. We are all custodians of those standards. As the Vienna Declaration in 1993 stated, "Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings". I do not propose to detail here the range of international instruments and mechanisms developed since 1948, but that body of substantive international human rights law is there because domestic protection of vulnerable individuals or groups is either absent or insufficient. Today, news reaches us faster than ever and much of it concerns human rights violations. I chose the title "Realizing Human Rights" to put the emphasis on the problem confronting the international community, and for which I now bear some responsibility, of making human rights protection work.

The task is not easy, particularly because the expression "human rights" carries different meanings, resonates differently in various parts of the world and within countries depending on political preferences, ethnic association, religious views and, importantly, economic status.



UNITED NATIONS

My own approach to human rights is based on an inner sense of justice. Perhaps because I am from Ireland and have my roots in a past of struggle for freedom, of famine and of dispersal of a people. Perhaps also from my experiences as a lawyer and politician and, more recently, as a President privileged to visit and be a witness to profound suffering and deprivation in countries such as Somalia and Rwanda.

I have been in listening mode over the past two months. In Geneva, and subsequently in New York, I met the Permanent Representatives of Governments in the five regional groups and had opportunities for bilateral discussion with senior members of a number of Governments. I have also interacted with representatives of non-governmental organizations and with the academic community as part of the wider civil society engaged in human rights issues. As I listened I learned that the gap in perceptions of what we mean by human rights is even wider than I had thought. It is a gap that must be narrowed if there is to be a shared commitment at the international level to further the promotion and protection of human rights.

The broad mandate of my office, created by the General Assembly resolution of 20 December 1993, entrusts me, I believe, with a particular responsibility to bridge that gap. The means at my disposal are modest, the tools being mainly advocacy and persuasion. Nonetheless, I take the very breath of the mandate as the starting point, because it is clear that the gap in perceptions is widest when the term "human rights" focuses specifically on civil and political rights on the one hand or, at the other end of the spectrum, emphasizes the importance of the right to development. My responsibility as UN High Commissioner is to adopt and to foster a rights-based approach across the whole spectrum of "civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights", to promote and protect the realization of the right to development and specifically to include women's rights as human rights, as we were reminded by the Beijing Conference. It is useful to have a timely opportunity for an open and, I hope, frank debate on all of this. That opportunity presents itself.

Next year we mark the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This Declaration, I believe, ranks as one of the great aspirational documents of our human history. It embodies the hopes and even dreams of people still scarred from two World wars, newly fearful of the Cold War and just beginning the great liberation of peoples which came about with the dismantling of the European empires.

The Universal Declaration proclaims the fundamental freedoms of thought, opinion, expression and belief and enshrines the core right of participatory and representative government. But just as firmly and with equal emphasis, it proclaims economic, social and cultural rights and the right to equal opportunity. It was to be "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", and the rights and freedoms set forth therein were to be enjoyed by all without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Twenty years after its adoption the basic tenets of the Declaration were endorsed in the Teheran Proclamation of 1968. These rights and freedoms were developed in greater detail in two United Nations Covenants—the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which entered into force in 1976.

The Universal Declaration is a living document. To commemorate it in the closing years of this millenium, the debate must give more priority to current complex human rights issues: the right to development, the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples, the rights and empowerment of people with disabilities, gender mainstreaming and issues of benchmarks and accountability in furtherance of these and other rights. There are now many more participating Governments than were present on 10 December 1948 and also many more voices from the wider civil society. The challenge will be to engender a similar commitment to a shared vision that these rights are encompassed in the opening words of the preamble to the Universal Declaration:

"Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world..." And that they form part of a renewal in our time of that vision.

The international system's achievements to date in implementing human rights standards cry out for fresh approaches. As we prepare for the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration, I have told my colleagues that I do not see this as an occasion for celebration. Count up the results of 50 years of human rights mechanisms, 30 years of multi-billion dollar development programmes and endless high-level rhetoric, and the global impact is quite underwhelming.

We still have widespread discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religious belief or sexual orientation and there is still genocide — twice in this decade alone. There are 48 countries with more than one fifth of the population living in what we have grown used to calling “absolute poverty”.

This is a failure of implementation on a scale which shames us all. So much effort, money and hopes have produced such modest results. It is no longer enough to hide behind the impact of the Cold War and other factors limiting international action in the past. It's time instead for a lessons-learned exercise.

One lesson we need to learn, and to reflect in our approach, is that the essence of rights is that they are empowering. Poverty itself is a violation of numerous basic human rights. Furthermore, the increased recognition of the feminization of poverty makes it vital to link into the international protection of human rights the energies and approaches of the thousands of international and national networks of women's groups. This link between rights and empowerment is very much in my mind as I begin to identify my own priorities. One of these must be to respond to the directions of Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his reform package last July asking me as the High Commissioner to undertake an analysis of technical assistance provided by the United Nations entities in areas related to human rights and to formulate proposals for improving complementarity of action”. What the Secretary-General had in mind were the various United Nations programmes that, for example, assist democratic processes, strengthen good governance and the rule of law, support the reform of the judiciary and legal system, and train security forces. In addition, many United Nations programmes affect economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of the child. The report notes: “The Office of the High Commissioner should be able to provide its advice for the design of technical assistance projects and participate in needs assessment missions”.

This overall analysis has been initiated by my colleagues. It will respond to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which “... urges all United Nations organs, bodies and specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights to co-operate in order to strengthen, rationalize and streamline their activities, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication”.

Which brings me to the other international event we will mark next year: the five year review of the World Conference on Human Rights convened in Vienna in the summer of 1993. The Conference concluded by adopting an Action Programme, which identified particularly vulnerable individuals and highlighted the need for continual review of subsequent measures taken to ensure adequate protection of the rights of these groups. Women, minorities, indigenous peoples, children, persons with disabilities, refugees, migrant workers and prisoners were seen as particularly vulnerable. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action was endorsed by a resolution of the General Assembly, which also established the post I now occupy.

One of the prime movers in building the consensus in Vienna for that post was Ecuador's Ambassador and now Foreign Minister, José Ayala Lasso, who was then handed the challenge of being the first High Commissioner. He moved prudently — building a more solid and durable consensus for the role of the post, beginning reform of the human rights secretariat in Geneva and enlarging the activities of the new Office to include substantial field presences in post-genocide Rwanda, in Cambodia and elsewhere. When the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education was proclaimed by the General Assembly to begin in 1995, he initiated a plan of action for its implementation which I propose to build upon. My predecessor also saw the need to link more effectively with non-governmental organizations.

And what of the role of civil society in all this?

In his reform proposals last July, the Secretary-General noted that “civil society constitutes a major and increasingly important force in international life”, but, he continued, “... Yet despite these growing manifestations of an ever more robust global civil society, the United Nations is at present inadequately equipped to engage civil society and make it a true partner in its work”. He urged “all United Nations entities to be open to and work closely with civil society organizations that are active in their respective sectors....”

I feel a particular responsibility, as the person charged through my mandate both “to enhance international co-operation for the promotion and protection of human rights” and “to co-ordinate the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system”, to give leadership with my colleagues in forging partnerships with and shaping the energies and effectiveness of the broad constituency of the human rights community worldwide.

It will not be easy to achieve. Commentators have noted that the High Commissioner’s mandate was carefully worded and balanced — reflecting the concern of a number of Governments that they were creating a post which might shine an unwelcome light on some neglect of their citizens’ rights. Professor Philip Alston, in a recent article in the *European Journal of International Law*, described the quest to define the role of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as “neither fish nor fowl”. He points out that whereas the tasks given to the High Commissioner have continued to expand, including significant field operations, it has been necessary to supplement the inadequate resources from the regular UN budget by seeking voluntary special purpose contributions. I share the broad thrust of his analysis. Indeed, recognizing that voluntary contributions from Governments will continue to be an important source of funding for programmes and activities, I am taking the step of writing to all Governments so that support for our activities will be as inclusive as possible. I am also very conscious of the difficult task of developing an appropriate balance between the use of consensual diplomacy and the moral voice on behalf of victims, which speaks out in defence of human rights. It helps to have only one agenda, the fulfilment of my mandate, and to recognise that there are many friends in the international human rights community ready and willing to help in meeting the challenge.

I would like to focus briefly on the co-ordinating role which has been given new impetus in the reform package proposals of last July.

Let me begin by noting an oft-cited quote attributed to Ian Martin — the former Secretary-General of Amnesty International — who said that the High Commissioner for Human Rights should wake up each morning thinking how best to protect human rights.

I agree with him but would go further. The protection of human rights requires that every United Nations staff member should wake with the same thought and work committed to that end.

Almost by definition and certainly according to its Charter, the United Nations exists to promote human rights. Somewhere along the way, many in the United Nations have lost the plot and allowed their work to answer to other imperatives.

This is the root cause of much of the criticism that is levelled at the Organization — you hear it couched in terms of complacency, of bureaucracy, of being out of touch and, certainly, of being resistant to change.

There is an opportunity now to recapture the lost purpose of the United Nations. I hope to contribute to this work, under the leadership of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, by helping to shape a framework for action which will result in an Organization driven by human rights standards.

I believe profoundly in the relevance to our global community of the human rights standards built up over more than fifty years. Not only are all human rights universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent, they are inherent in human nature and pertain to the individual. Realizing and implementing these human rights

standards is a core value of the reform proposals of last July. The language is explicit: and I quote: "Human rights are integral to the promotion of peace and security, economic prosperity and social equity..." and again "A major task for the United Nations, therefore, is to enhance its human rights programme and fully integrate it into the broad range of the Organization's activities...."

The first step has already been taken by assigning each entity in the UN system, with the exception of my Office, to one of four Executive Committees. These committees are the central tool in ensuring coordination in the system, focused on peace and security; humanitarian affairs, economic and social issues, and development operations. The Secretary-General has asked me to participate in each of the four committees and to assess, in due course, whether this is a more effective way to "mainstream" human rights rather than having a fifth executive committee.

In a practical way, human rights has become, as it always was intended to be, a core value in the work of the UN—human rights imperatives can and should be injected into every aspect of the Organization's work. It will require an integrated approach, for example, working with our colleagues in political affairs and peacekeeping, to understand that today's human rights violations are the causes of tomorrow's conflicts. And so on through the web of agencies tackling economic development, population activities, health, women and children, education, refugees and displaced persons. And I do not exclude those agencies which appear purely technical. The International Telecommunications Union has a crucial role in ensuring that people in the least developed countries can join the information revolution. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration anticipates the Internet, enunciating the right to "receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers".

As High Commissioner, I have the responsibility to act as a catalyst by stimulating and coordinating action for human rights throughout the UN system, and to provide education, information, advisory services and technical assistance in the area of human rights. The task, I am convinced, requires more than structural and organizational changes: it requires an approach of education and heightened awareness among the UN's most important resource, its staff. They need to become familiar with human rights standards and how these standards are applied in their own areas of responsibility. They need to understand the principles and ethics underlying these human rights standards and feel a sense of identification with this ethos. They should have a commitment to promote human rights and the ability to communicate and implement human rights standards in their daily work.

Changes are occurring. I have been impressed with new thinking and approaches on the need to develop the concept of a "strategic framework" in how we work in each country. This is a collegiate effort to encourage disparate elements of the UN to accept common goals and to coordinate their actions in order to achieve those goals. What human rights can bring to this discussion is a unifying set of standards — common reference points for setting the objectives, assessing the value of possible interventions and then for evaluating the impact of the actions which are agreed. It will undoubtedly help me in fitting into and contributing to this integrated approach that my office is small and my resources modest. There is every incentive to coordinate.

The internal process, of what amounts to building up a culture of human rights throughout the UN system, will be our contribution to the review after five years of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. That review requires a stocktaking by Governments of the extent to which they have implemented the international human rights standards. It will also engage regional and national human rights institutions and the process will involve a reporting procedure to the Commission on Human Rights meeting in Geneva in spring and to the General Assembly in autumn. I am conscious of the time-scale because in recent days I have written to Foreign Ministers and to regional and national institutions to remind them of their contribution to this process.

The timing is right. The five-year review of the Vienna Conference will give us reference points by which to assess what is working and what might work better. Clarence Dias and James Paul coined the expression "lawless development" as a succinct indictment of the shortcomings of international interventions over the past 30 years

and as a broad hint that some solutions might be found in the application of international law, in references to international human rights standards.

In my introduction, I hope I made clear my commitment to treat economic and social rights with the same priority as civil and political rights. They must be treated as interdependent and indivisible if either set is to be realized. I mention this because I fear that those who work in development agencies may not yet be sufficiently aware of their role in the realization of human rights.

A few weeks ago, colleagues in my Office met with an Australian NGO which — in conjunction with counterparts in South East Asia — is formulating guidelines for the implementation of what it calls the “Rights Way to Development”. Their ideas are challenging.

This group is asking the right questions. For example — what are the real objectives of a World Bank loan for an infrastructure project or an intervention by the International Monetary Fund to stabilize a currency? For too long the objectives and the success or failure of interventions has been measured narrowly — according to the criteria of macro-economics. I suggest tonight — as I suggested to the Bank and Fund recently in Washington — that their real purpose is to contribute to the realization of a number of human rights. In many ways, both institutions are adapting to this broad objective using terms such as “human development”, “human well-being”, “human security”, “basic needs” and “good governance”. I prefer the language of the Universal Declaration and the two Covenants. The language there, unlike these surrogate terms, has the force of treaty law and directly empowers people. It tells people at the grassroots level that they have rights ... rights to security, dignity, economic opportunity and a better life for their children — not any vague and undefined entitlement to a favour of some kind, bestowed by a government or an international agency.

Let me stress that I am advancing nothing that is new nor is it the agenda of any particular ideology. I am simply advocating the implementation — in a consistent, coordinated and coherent manner — of well-established legal obligations.

Rosalyn Higgins — one of this country’s great international jurists and now a member of the International Court of Justice at the Hague, described international law as “a normative system, harnessed to the achievement of common values — values that speak to us all, whether we are rich or poor, black or white, of any religion or none, or come from countries that are industrialized or developing.”

The normative work is largely done. The international human rights standards are in place. The task for us all, given new impetus by the focus of next year, will be to implement them. And to implement them in a “Rights” based way.

Let me return, in conclusion, to *The Golden Bough*:

**“If fate has called you, The bough will come easily, and of its own accord.
Otherwise, no matter how much strength you muster, you never will
Manage to quell it or cut it down with the toughest of blades.”**

As I wake up each morning thinking how best to protect human rights, I must also, and with modesty, rely on fate.



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1948-1998 *all human rights for all*



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: A Magna Carta for all humanity

Some 50 years have elapsed since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations on 10 December 1948. The Declaration was one of the first major achievements of the United Nations, and after 50 years remains a powerful instrument which continues to exert an enormous effect on people's lives all over the world. This was the first time in history that a document considered to have universal value was adopted by an international organization. It was also the first time that human rights and fundamental freedoms were set forth in such detail. There was broad-based international support for the Declaration when it was adopted. It represented "a world milestone in the long struggle for human rights", in the words of a UN General Assembly representative from France.

The adoption of the Universal Declaration stems in large part from the strong desire for peace in the aftermath of the Second World War. Although the 58 Member States which formed the United Nations at that time varied in their ideologies, political systems and religious and cultural backgrounds and had different patterns of socioeconomic development, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights represented a common statement of goals and aspirations — a vision of the world as the international community would want it to become.

Since 1948, the Universal Declaration has been translated into more than 200 languages and remains one of the best known and most often cited human rights documents in the world. Over the years, the Declaration has been used in the defense and advancement of people's rights. Its principles have been enshrined in and continue to inspire national legislation and the constitutions

of many newly independent states. References to the Declaration have been made in charters and resolutions of regional intergovernmental organizations as well as in treaties and resolutions adopted by the United Nations system.

The year 1998 marks the fiftieth anniversary of this "Magna Carta for all humanity." The theme of the fiftieth anniversary — "All Human Rights for All" — highlights the universality, the indivisibility and the interrelationship of all human rights. It reinforces the idea that human rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social — should be taken in their totality and not disassociated from one another.

Drafting and adopting the Declaration, a long and arduous task

When created in 1946, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights was composed of 18 Member States. During its first sessions, the main item on the agenda was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Commission set up a drafting committee which devoted itself exclusively to preparing the draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The drafting committee was composed of eight persons, from Australia, Chile, China, France, Lebanon, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The United Nations Secretariat, under the guidance of John Humphrey, drafted the outline (400 pages in length) to serve as the basic working paper of the Committee.

During the two-year drafting process of the Universal Declaration, the drafters maintained a common ground for discussions and a common goal: respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.



Despite their conflicting views on certain questions, they agreed to include in the document the principles of non-discrimination, civil and political rights, and social and economic rights. They also agreed that the Declaration had to be universal.

Personally dedicated to the task of preparing this Declaration, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who chaired the Human Rights Commission in its first years, asked, "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home — so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

On 10 December 1948, at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, the 58 Member States of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with 48 states in favour and eight abstentions (two countries were not present at the time of the voting). The General Assembly proclaimed the Declaration as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", towards which individuals and societies should "strive by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance".

The Declaration,

a vision of what the world should be

Although the Declaration, which comprises a broad range of rights, is not a legally binding document, it has inspired more than 60 human rights instruments which together constitute an international standard of human rights. These instruments include the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which are legally binding treaties. Together with the Universal Declaration, they constitute the International Bill of Rights.

The Declaration recognizes that the "inherent dignity of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world" and is linked to the recognition of fundamental rights towards which every human being aspires, namely the right to life, liberty and security of person; the right to an adequate standard of living; the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution; the right to own property; the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the right to education, freedom of thought, conscience and religion; and the right to freedom from torture and degrading treatment, among others. These are inherent rights to be enjoyed by all human beings of the global village — men, women and children, as well as by any group of society, disadvantaged or not — and not "gifts" to be withdrawn, withheld or granted at someone's whim or will.

Mary Robinson, who became the second United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in September 1997, expressed this opinion when she declared that "human rights belong to people, human rights are about people on the ground and their rights". She has stated that she would take a "bottom-up" approach in promoting human rights, an approach which reflects the first words of the United Nations Charter, "We the Peoples".

The rights contained in the Declaration and the two covenants were further elaborated in such legal documents as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which declares dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred as being punishable by law; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, covering measures to be taken for eliminating discrimination against women in political and public life, education, employment, health, marriage and family; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which lays down guarantees in terms of the child's human rights.

International mobilization in favour of the Declaration: Government commitment

At the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna (Austria) in June 1993, 171 countries reiterated the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of

human rights, and reaffirmed their commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They adopted the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which provides the new "framework of planning, dialogue and cooperation", to enable a holistic approach to promoting human rights and involving actors at the local, national and international levels. The five-year review of the Vienna Programme of Action will also take place in 1998. This review provides a substantive dimension to the fiftieth anniversary, which many human rights activists and professionals see as a time for States to renew their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

It is a time for Governments to ensure that the rights set forth in the Declaration are reflected in their national legislation and to move to ratify those international human rights treaties that are still pending. Governments could consider formulating and implementing a pro-active strategy in favour of the promotion of and respect for human rights. This could be translated into action by adopting national plans of action for advancing human rights and fostering human rights education. This anniversary also provides the opportunity for more countries not only to condemn blatant violations of human rights but also to take responsibility and action to break the cycle of impunity whenever human rights are violated.

Public awareness campaign

The fiftieth anniversary is a time to promote public awareness of the meaning of the Universal Declaration and its relevance to our daily lives. Providing information about human rights in the languages understood by peoples everywhere is one aspect of a global public awareness campaign. Falling during the Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), the anniversary also provides another focus for education and action. In addition to the 200 language versions already available, a number of other local language translations are to be released for the fiftieth anniversary.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration is an opportunity for people worldwide to commemorate the adoption of this landmark document. It also represents an opportunity to mobilize

all strata of society in a reinvigorated and broad-based human rights movement. The involvement of civil society and non-governmental organizations in fighting for and demanding recognition of basic rights has played a central role in the advancement and promotion of human rights around the world. National Committees have already been set up in many countries, with the aim of undertaking activities to mark the Anniversary.

Grass-roots movements to encourage entire communities to know, demand and defend their rights will send a positive and strong message: that people everywhere are adamant that human rights should be respected. At local level, concerned citizens can approach their congressional or parliamentary representatives and ask their Governments to ratify international human rights treaties if they have yet not done so.

The United Nations

In accordance with the recommendations made at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights for increased coordination within the United Nations system, Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated, "I will be a champion of human rights and will ensure that human rights are fully integrated in the action of the Organization in all other domains". Human rights, indeed, cut across all the work of the United Nations, from peacekeeping, child rights, health and development to the rights of indigenous peoples to education, social development and the eradication of poverty. Consultations have already taken place among all agencies and programmes of the United Nations, leading to strategies and campaigns being devised.

Challenges

Since the inception of the United Nations, the promotion and protection of human rights have been at its very core. Reference to the promotion of and respect for human rights was made in Article 1 of the United Nations Charter and in the establishment of a commission for the promotion of human rights, mentioned in Article 68 of the Charter. Over the years, the United Nations has created a wide range of mechanisms for

monitoring human rights violations. Conventional mechanisms (treaty bodies) and extra-conventional mechanisms (UN special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups) have been established in order to monitor compliance of States parties with the various human rights instruments and to investigate allegations of human rights abuses. In recent years, a number of field offices have been opened at the request of Governments, *inter alia*, to assist in the development of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and to conduct education campaigns on human rights.

Challenges still lie ahead, despite many accomplishments in the field of human rights. Many in the international community believe that human rights, democracy and development are intertwined. Unless

human rights are respected, the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development cannot be achieved. The world is still plagued with incidents of ethnic hatred and acts of genocide. People are still victims of xenophobic attitudes, are subjected to discrimination because of religion or gender and suffer from exclusion. Around the world, millions of people are still denied food, shelter, access to medical care, education and work, and too many live in extreme poverty. Their inherent humanity and dignity are not recognized.

The future of human rights lies in our hands. We must all act when human rights are violated. States as well as the individual must take responsibility for the realization and effective protection of human rights.



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1948-1998

all human rights for all



Human Rights in Action: Monitoring Compliance through Treaty Bodies and Special Rapporteurs

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, an elaborate system of mechanisms has been created to ensure the advancement of universal human rights, as well as to deal with violations of human rights as they occur. At the centre of this system are two types of mechanisms: formal monitoring of States' compliance with international treaties, and extra-conventional mechanisms or special procedures — working groups, special rapporteurs and special representatives of the Secretary-General — which deal with burning issues as they arise.

The treaty bodies

Once the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted, the Commission on Human Rights set out to turn the principles that it defined into international treaties. When States ratify international treaties, they agree to engage in a review process of their human rights legislation and practice by groups of independent experts.

The first human rights instrument to establish an international monitoring system was the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, adopted by the General Assembly in 1965. This convention not only defined and condemned racial discrimination, but also committed States to amend policy which creates or perpetuates racial discrimination. It was also revolutionary in its provision for national measures towards the advancement of specific racial or ethnic groups. Today, the convention has 148 States parties.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was established in 1969 when the Convention went into force. It consists of 18 independent experts, nominated and elected by States parties to the convention. States submit to the Committee periodic reports on their legislation and practices relevant to the convention's provisions. The Committee can also investigate and attempt to reconcile complaints made by one State against another, as well as communications from individuals.

In 1966, after two decades of debate, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were adopted. The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights addresses the right to work, to form trade unions, to have social security, to protection of the family, and to a standard of living, health and education. The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights defends the right to life — that no one can be subjected to torture, enslavement, forced labour, arbitrary detention — and such freedoms as movement, expression and association. These two treaties, which entered into force in 1976, today have 137 and 140 States parties, respectively.

Much of the long debate focused on the question of one treaty versus two. The prevailing belief was that civil and political rights were already legislatively defined in most countries and could therefore be reviewed by a monitoring body. Economic, social and cultural rights at the time were considered goals and less enforceable, even though the Universal Declaration itself had identified the two sets of rights as equally important. Thus, only the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulated creation of a monitoring body — the Human Rights Committee — which was mandated to study reports from States parties, to



UNITED NATIONS

make comments and recommendations, to consider complaints from one State against another and to consider complaints from individuals.

It was not until 1985 that a Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was created as a treaty body by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Unlike the other committees, whose members are elected by States parties to the conventions, the members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are elected by all members of the Economic and Social Council.

Three subsequent conventions also established treaty bodies: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (161 ratifications), which entered into force and established the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 1981; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (104 ratifications), which entered into force and established the Committee against Torture in 1987; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (191 ratifications), which entered into force and established the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 1990.

A Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty, was adopted in 1989 and is monitored by the Human Rights Committee.

Monitoring compliance with treaties

In ratifying any of these treaties, States willingly subject their legislations and policy to international monitoring, which is based on a dialogue and cooperation between the relevant United Nations committee and participating States.

All of the committees are made up of independent, non-governmental experts. Following ratification, each country submits an initial comprehensive report on legislation which relates to the principles of the convention. Periodic reports are subsequently required. To review reports, as well as any additional information provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), specialized agencies, special rapporteurs or working groups, the Committee meets with the representatives of the State, generally high-level delegations. Formal comments are subsequently forwarded to Governments.

In reviewing the reports, the different committees use additional sources of information to varying degrees. The input of non-governmental organizations is central to the operation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, says Dr. Philip Alston, the Committee's Chairman. "NGOs are essential in providing details and case studies which would not be available from Government sources. In the case of economic rights, we need to know what is happening in practice because legislation is marginal. Therefore, we are dependent on information from the field. We were the first committee to make NGOs a full partner in the sense that we devote a part of our session at the beginning to information from NGOs, which we use in debate with Government representatives."

In addition to these functions, committees play a significant part in the mobilization of public awareness through special activities organized for UN international years, decades and world conferences.

Getting results

The relationships which Committee members have developed with States' representatives have proven to be an important factor in the advancement of human rights on the national level. Committees guide States over the long term in the revision of law and policy which impact human rights, especially as international debate focuses on more and more broadly defined rights.

According to Dr. Alston, who has chaired the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights since 1991, "The main development of recent years is the mainstreaming of economic and social rights. We have been able to persuade other actors to see economic rights as human rights, in particular bringing the right to housing to the top of the agenda of the Habitat Conference (Istanbul)." Based on Government reports and United Nations estimates of 100 million homeless worldwide and 1 billion people inadequately housed, the Committee adopted General Recommendation No. 4 on the right to adequate housing. In response, several Governments have

abandoned forced eviction plans and are focusing on guaranteed housing. "The Dominican Republic, for example, which had been criticized for six years for inadequate housing, invited us to do an on-the spot survey and meet with non-governmental agencies," says Dr. Alston.

The Government of the Philippines recently reported to the Committee about its new programmes to relocate and house evicted and homeless people and to increase the amount of public spending on new housing. Since 1990 the Committee had been expressing concern about reports of massive homelessness and forced eviction in Panama. In 1996, a Committee mission was invited by the Government to analyze the country's serious housing shortage. "The mission was a tremendous success", says Dr. Alston, "resulting in a much stronger dialogue about housing, amendment of legislation and new housing policy, including commitment to restraint from further forced evictions and bulldozing of existing housing."

In addition to housing, efforts are aimed toward universal recognition of the rights to food, health and education as human rights. The Committee recently persuaded Zimbabwe to abandon the charging of fees for primary education, a policy incompatible with the Covenant.

The newest of the treaties, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, is the most universally ratified human rights convention (only two United Nations Member States — the United States and Somalia — are not parties) and it has enjoyed great momentum in a very short time. According to UNICEF, reports from more than 40 countries have been reviewed. Of these, 14 States have incorporated the Convention into their constitutions and 35 have passed new laws or amendments conforming with the Convention. These have taken the form of laws to protect children in general; revisions of laws related to child abuse, child labour and adoption; extensions of the length of compulsory education; protection of child refugees and minority children; and reform of juvenile justice systems.

The committees, however, are hindered in their work by two major factors: their reliance on States for submission of reports, which are sometimes delayed by years. A recent breakthrough, says Dr. Alston, is that two treaty bodies — the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination — have adopted a policy that non-reporting cannot be permitted to have its own rewards. "If a country reported once, it is appropriate for the committee to step in proactively as long as the problem can be dealt with in an orderly dialogue."

Individual communications

Three of the six treaties that established monitoring committees also stipulated a procedure — which States parties have the option to ratify — for the consideration of individual complaints. According to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (which has 84 ratifications of the optional protocol), the Conventions on Racial Discrimination (14 ratifications) and on Torture (28 ratifications), individuals may submit complaints pertaining to a ratifying State directly to the United Nations. Efforts are under way to finalize an optional protocol creating such a mechanism for the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Consensus at the Vienna Conference in 1993 also prompted the drafting of an Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Political Rights.

If an individual communication concerning a violation of civil or political rights is considered admissible by the Human Rights Committee, it is brought to the attention of the State involved, which is then obligated to submit an explanation. Any final decision on whether or not the Covenant has been violated is made public.

In respect of the principle of non-interference in States' internal affairs, it was several years before the United Nations was compelled to act on the many individual complaints it received outside the purviews described above. Traditionally, these were forwarded to non-governmental organizations. As of 1959, confidential lists cataloguing complaints, but not intended for action, were circulated to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities.

In 1970, resolution 1503 of the Economic and Social Council established a confidential procedure involving the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission, to examine communications received from individuals and groups alleging systematic and gross violations of human rights. If reasonable evidence of a consistent pattern of gross violations is identified, the matter is forwarded to the Commission. But, as with all other mechanisms, the procedure is designed to promote, as a primary course of action, dialogue with States. In the framework of this procedure, the Government concerned has the option to present its views.

"Non-conventional" mechanisms

During the last two decades, individual complaints have generally come to be taken up by the United Nations network of thematic working groups and special rapporteurs, as well as country rapporteurs, put in place to take more vigorous steps toward elimination of heinous human rights violations. Today, special rapporteurs are on the front lines, investigating and intervening as necessary in individual cases and emergencies.

"Historically, the United Nations did not consider it its role to call on Member States to account for human violations in the absence of the treaty body mechanisms, which offered clear standards and mechanisms," says Nigel Rodley, the Special Rapporteur on Torture. "These inhibitions began to erode when the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, established in 1980, began to take up individual complaints and to seek visits to States."

Blatant violations of human rights taking place in crisis situations around the world often prompt States to call for a more aggressive response by the United Nations. The Commission on Human Rights will then appoint a special rapporteur or working group to investigate.

Rapporteurs work in such areas as extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; torture; the independence and impartiality of the judiciary; jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers; religious intolerance; the use of mercenaries; freedom of opinion and expression; racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia; the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the elimination of violence against women; and the effects of toxic and dangerous products on enjoyment of human rights. There are also special rapporteurs assigned to specific countries: among them Afghanistan, Burundi, Congo, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Nigeria, occupied Palestine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sudan.

Special rapporteurs are free to use all resources, including individual communications and reports from non-governmental organizations, in the preparation of their reports. Much of their research is done in the field, conducting interviews with both authorities and victims, and gathering on-site evidence whenever possible. Special rapporteurs can also avail an urgent action procedure to intercede with Governments at the highest level. From 1992 to 1996, the Special Rapporteur on Summary and Arbitrary executions, for example, made 818 urgent appeals on behalf of more than 6,500 persons to 91 different countries and received replies in roughly half of the instances. The reports of the special rapporteur are made public by the Commission on Human Rights and thus contribute to publicizing violations and the responsibility of Governments.

In 1995-1996, the Special Rapporteur on Torture sent 68 letters to 61 Governments regarding 669 cases, as well as 130 urgent appeals on behalf of nearly 500 people. Forty-two countries responded on 459 of those cases. Among those responses, for example, were the prosecution by Chile of persons responsible for criminal excesses, and reform of the country's penal code and of its code of criminal procedure. Following an extensive visit to Pakistan and cooperation with authorities there, the special rapporteur was able to report abolition of corporal punishment and the use of fetters in prisons.

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar is to address the human rights situation in the country, follow the question of transferring power to a civilian government, drafting a new constitution, lifting restrictions on personal freedoms and the restoration of human rights. Such a mandate is very sensitive, as it relates to the nature of a Member State's administration, and is difficult to carry out in the face of Government non-com-

pliance. In effect, the Special Rapporteur brings violations and recommendations regarding that State to the attention of the United Nations, which by adopting a resolution can then attempt to coerce cooperation.

Special rapporteurs submit annual reports to the Commission on Human Rights. These reports are also used by committees in the preparation of their discussions with States.

The changing practice

Naturally, as mandates have been created or revised to respond to crises, overlaps exist. According to Dr. Alston, "There has been considerable blurring of the distinctions, particularly in the sense of involving treaty bodies in emergency situations which require dramatic responses not suitable to the means at committees' disposal. Calling in the representatives of Bosnia and Rwanda is questionable because methods of operation are not of the sort that are going to change the situation. Special rapporteurs are in a better position to respond proactively in relation to violations. They can expose and raise the stakes on violating Governments."

In response to a changing world, greater demands from States and the universal recognition of more comprehensively defined rights, the mechanisms established to guarantee the rights defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — in practice as well as in law — have become increasingly complex. These mechanisms were created as needs arose rather than as part of an overall plan. All efforts were put toward the resolution of human rights crises resulting from war, poverty and oppression. In recent years, the mandates of peace-keeping operations increasingly have included a human rights component, which has frequently been critical to a mission's success. Virtually every United Nations body and specialized agency is involved to some degree in the protection of human rights.

When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted 50 years ago, it was not legally binding, but had a tremendous impact on subsequent debate at the international level, as well as frequently the national level. In some parliaments the Declaration is still cited in the enactment of new legislation. Now, as then, the United Nations is providing an environment for debate, negotiation and study. It has been effective when engaged with States in long-term efforts to incorporate human rights into national law, in giving voice to non-governmental organizations and in elevating universal awareness about human rights.



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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Indigenous people: Challenges facing the international community

Growing public interest in indigenous people and a long process of international negotiations involving indigenous organizations prompted the international community to proclaim 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, and then the period 1995-2004 as the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, to focus on issues of concern to indigenous people. In addition, 9 August has since 1995 been celebrated as the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

Each of these steps has been important in the struggle for the recognition of the rights of indigenous people. These steps are all the more meaningful with the forthcoming anniversary of a landmark human rights document adopted by the United Nations 50 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Declaration recognizes the inherent dignity of every human being and sets forth in detail the rights to be enjoyed by all "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status". Within the framework of the World Public Information Campaign, launched by the United Nations in 1988, the Universal Declaration has been translated into more than 40 indigenous languages and widely disseminated among indigenous communities.

The United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) also focuses attention on the importance of human rights education for all, including indigenous people, in view of the problems encountered by indigenous communities.

The United Nations officially acknowledged indigenous people in 1982, when the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, a special forum of human rights experts, was established in Geneva for representatives of indigenous organizations and Governments to exchange views on a wide range of issues.

The main areas of concern to indigenous people are reflected in the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people now being discussed in a special working group especially set up for this purpose. The drafting process, begun in 1985, has yet to yield a final document by the international community. Participants in this process have included indigenous people from the world over, as well as government representatives.

Marginalization and exclusion from the mainstream political, economic and social spheres prompted indigenous people to lobby and have their concerns included in the final documents of recent United Nations Conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1-12 June 1992, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), the World Conference on Human Rights (14-25 June 1993, Vienna, Austria), the International Conference on Population and Development (5-13 September 1994, Cairo, Egypt), the World Summit for Social Development (6-12 March 1995, Copenhagen, Denmark) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (4-15 September 1995, Beijing, China). At all of these global meetings, issues of importance to indigenous people around the world were discussed. In all of the final documents adopted at the Conferences, Governments were requested to

implement recommendations relating to indigenous people and to adopt national legislation to protect and promote their rights. Educational and awareness-raising programmes were also stressed.

Achieving significant improvements in the lives of peoples who have endured centuries of exploitation and marginalization is a tremendous challenge facing Governments and the international community. The International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is to serve as a time-frame to assess indigenous people's needs and to accelerate the correction of situations in which indigenous people are at a disadvantage. The Decade also offers a framework for the launching of activities and the promotion of progress for indigenous people. It is an opportunity to bring about tangible improvements in the daily lives of indigenous communities.

The Decade: An opportunity to redress the situation

The International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, launched on 9 December 1994, was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993. Under the theme "Indigenous People: Partnership in Action", the Decade offers an opportunity to strengthen further the partnership established between indigenous people and the international community, and between indigenous people and States. This is expected to be a time to mobilize action to redress negative aspects introduced into indigenous communities by years of colonization and marginalization.

The main goal of the Decade is the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, health, culture and education.

The International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is an opportunity to take up the challenge of alleviating the situation of indigenous populations and to intensify efforts to respond to their legitimate demands and needs. In this respect, it is important to achieve the following goals:

- ◆ Raise international awareness of the contribution of, and problems faced by, indigenous people throughout the world;
- ◆ Promote and protect the rights of indigenous people;
- ◆ Empower indigenous people to make choices and enable them to retain their cultural identity while participating in national economic and social life, with full respect for their cultural values, languages, traditions and forms of social organization;
- ◆ Educate indigenous and non-indigenous communities on the situation, cultures, languages, rights and aspirations of indigenous people;
- ◆ Consult and cooperate with indigenous people in taking decisions that affect their lives;
- ◆ Acknowledge the value and diversity of the cultures and the forms of social organization of the world's indigenous people;
- ◆ Train and provide technical assistance to indigenous people as well as support to indigenous initiatives;
- ◆ Improve the socio-economic conditions of indigenous populations as well as their political participation in national decision-making.

Indigenous people and issues

Poverty: Poverty tends to have a disproportionately severe effect on indigenous people. They tend to be among the poorest of the poor, the most vulnerable and the most deprived groups of society.

◆ A recent report published by the Centro Latinoamericano de Demografia (CELADE) in Chile gave a dim view of the conditions of indigenous peo-

Poverty among indigenous communities in four Latin American countries		
<i>Percentage of population below the poverty line</i>		
Country	Indigenous populations	Non-indigenous populations
Bolivia	64.3	48.1
Guatemala	86.6	53.9
Mexico	80.6	17.9
Peru	79.0	49.7
<i>Source: Centro Latinoamericano de Demografia (CELADE)</i>		

ple in South America. It states that 79 per cent of the indigenous people in Peru are poor, and more than half live in extreme poverty.

◆ In Guatemala, 87 per cent of indigenous people are below the poverty line and 61 per cent are below the line of extreme poverty. People in Guatemala whose monthly income is below US\$ 60 are considered poor by national standards. The extreme poverty line corresponds to a monthly income of \$30 per capita. In Guatemala, most indigenous people do not have access to safe drinking water, sanitation or electricity. Less than one third of indigenous homes have running water, compared to half of non-indigenous homes.

Lack of basic health services: Indigenous communities are often deprived of basic health infrastructures.

◆ In Ecuador, a high proportion of indigenous children die of malnutrition or of respiratory and intestinal infections that are easily curable diseases.

◆ In Central Australia, 40 per cent of Aboriginal children are hospitalized with acute respiratory illness in the first two years of their lives. The rate of infant mortality in Australian indigenous communities is about three times the national average. According to a report published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, diabetes is directly responsible for 5 per cent of all Aboriginal deaths, as opposed to 2 per cent for non-Aboriginals.

◆ According to the World Health Organization, in the indigenous populations of Australia, North America and Oceania there is a high prevalence of obesity and non-communicable diseases, especially cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

◆ In New Zealand, Maori males are twice as likely as non-Maori males to be affected by heart disease, pneumonia and influenza, chronic respiratory disease and infections of the skin.

◆ In many countries, uncontrolled industrial development has taken a serious toll on the health of indigenous people and has caused severe environmental problems. As a consequence of industry, water is highly polluted, fish are scarce and indigenous people suffer from malnutrition and various diseases.

Low level of education: Most educational systems available to indigenous children do not take into

account the traditional and cultural values of indigenous people. This has contributed to very high illiteracy rates among indigenous communities. Moreover, in general indigenous people have less access to mainstream education than does the population at large.

◆ In Bolivia, schooling levels of indigenous people are three years less than for the non-indigenous population.

◆ In Australia, school participation rates for Aboriginals decline significantly after age 14, going from 98 per cent at 14 to 31 per cent at 17. Nearly half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and older have had no formal education or have not reached year 10 grade levels (US tenth grade).

◆ An estimated 43 per cent of Mexican Indians can neither read nor write, and 58 per cent of their five-year-olds do not go to school.

Non-protection of intellectual and cultural property rights: Indigenous people have expressed concern that the knowledge they have gathered over centuries has been exploited commercially without their agreement.

◆ They enjoy hardly any of the huge profits made by companies in the selling of pharmaceutical products derived from medicinal plants discovered by indigenous people.

◆ Cultural artifacts have been taken without permission from indigenous people and displayed in museums, in violation of their beliefs. One recent controversy arose with the display at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., of the preserved remains of a teenage Incan girl, who had been sacrificed on an Andean mountain top in Peru 500 years ago.

Unemployment: Indigenous communities generally suffer from a high rate of unemployment.

◆ According to the International Labour Organization, unemployment among Canadian indigenous people ranges from 35 to 75 per cent, and even reaches 100 per cent in some communities.

◆ In Australia, according to a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survey, unemployment rates of indigenous communities in 1994 were well above national averages: nearly 38 per cent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander labour

force was unemployed, compared to 9 per cent of the overall labour force.

Human rights: For centuries, the basic human rights of indigenous people have been violated in many ways.

- ◆ Indigenous people's rights were violated when they were forcibly removed from their lands, and when they were subjected to cultural genocide.

- ◆ In various parts of the world a policy of assimilation was imposed on them. This was the case in Australia, where mixed-race children were taken away from their native families and put in foster homes or orphanages where western culture was imposed on them.

- ◆ In the United States, many native Americans have been living on impoverished reservations for decades. In Brazil, greed for the rich mines located on indigenous lands drove gold-miners to invade Yanomami territory, killing many of the Indians and exposing them to diseases which proved fatal because the Yanomami were not immune to them.

- ◆ During the Chiapas uprising in Mexico, indigenous people were indiscriminately the victims of human rights abuses on the part of both the military and the rebels.

Land and resources: Indigenous people have a particular relationship to the land and have been resisting relocation in some countries.

- ◆ In most cases, the rich mineral deposits on their lands have been exploited and depleted of their wealth by Governments and multinational corporations.

- ◆ Indigenous people have been trying to negotiate with national authorities in order to regain possession of their ancestral lands and sacred sites. In some cases successful agreements have been reached. After more than 20 years of negotiations, the Nisga'a of British Columbia signed a treaty with the Canadian Government that would transfer land and resource rights to them.

- ◆ In Argentina, Indian leaders signed an agreement with the Government which guarantees legal transfer of 600,000 hectares of land to Indians in the Chaco area of northern Argentina.

- ◆ In other cases, efforts are under way to address the issue of land claims and secure the land rights of indigenous people. According to a repre-

sentative of the Brazilian Government, demarcation of indigenous land has been the Government's main priority as a means of guaranteeing land rights of indigenous people.

Self-determination: Indigenous populations argue that they have the right to self-determination, to be able to determine freely their political status and consequently to pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

- ◆ Constructive dialogue between the Danish Government and indigenous representatives led to the adoption, in 1979, of the Home Rule Act, which granted the Inuit of Greenland important autonomy for domestic issues without disintegrating the territorial unity of Denmark.

- ◆ However, many States are reluctant to deal with calls for self-determination and fear that demands of autonomy on the part of indigenous groups might lead to national disintegration. In some parts of the world these calls are pressing and have led to uprising. This was the case in Chiapas, Mexico, where autonomy was the battle cry of the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

Draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and despite all the achievements by the United Nations in the field of human rights, much remains to be done to address human rights violations that are still taking place around the world. The indigenous people feel that their rights should be addressed in a document that will take into consideration their particular condition. All of the concerns and aspirations of indigenous people are presently being articulated in the draft declaration of the rights of indigenous people. The Working Group on Indigenous Populations, composed of five experts, has been working on this draft since 1985. In 1993, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations completed its elaboration of the draft declaration, and the following year sent it to Governments for comments.

The draft is now being discussed in an open-ended inter-sessional working group, set up by Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995. The working group on the draft declaration has

held three meetings: the first meeting took place in Geneva from 20 November to 1 December 1995, the second from 21 October to 1 November 1996, and the third from 27 October to 7 November 1997. As was the case in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, this working group provides government representatives and representatives of indigenous and non-governmental organizations with an opportunity openly to present their views and engage in consultations and deliberations over the different articles of the draft declaration.

The draft declaration acknowledges the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and asks States to respect and honour any legal instrument agreed upon by both parties. The draft declaration emphasizes, among other things:

- ◆ The right of indigenous people to be free and equal to all other individuals and peoples in dignity and rights;
- ◆ The right to self-determination and to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;
- ◆ The right to practise and revitalize their cultural tradition and customs and also the right to develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions;
- ◆ The right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages;
- ◆ The right to participate fully at all levels of decision-making in matters which may affect their rights, lives and destinies;
- ◆ The right of indigenous people to their lands, territories and resources.

Major accomplishments of the International Decade would be the adoption of the draft declaration by the United Nations General Assembly and, as reiterated in General Assembly resolution 50/157, the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations. The recommendation of such a forum was made in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993. Discussions are still under way to determine the mandate of the permanent forum, its membership, structure and funding. The purpose of the forum would be to create a permanent arena where indigenous people

could raise and discuss with Governments matters of interest to them.

Programme of activities to be undertaken by the major actors

A programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was adopted by the General Assembly to allow different actors involved — including the United Nations system, Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other interested parties — to plan activities in order to raise awareness of the issues of concern to indigenous people. These activities were to be carried out in different ways.

Activities of the Coordinator for the Decade and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at Geneva

- ◆ Encourage the development of partnership projects in association with Governments to address specific regional or thematic issues bringing together Governments, indigenous people and appropriate United Nations agencies;
- ◆ Create a fellowship programme, in collaboration with the Advisory Services of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Governments, to assist indigenous people wishing to gain experience in the different branches of the Office and in other parts of the United Nations system;
- ◆ Organize meetings on relevant themes of concern to indigenous people with indigenous participation;
- ◆ Develop, in collaboration with Governments, training programmes on human rights for indigenous people, including the preparation of relevant training materials, when possible in indigenous languages;
- ◆ Encourage the development of projects and programmes, in collaboration with Governments, and taking into account the views of indigenous people and the appropriate United Nations agencies, for support by the Voluntary Fund for the Decade.

United Nations public information activities

- ◆ Publish in indigenous languages the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights conventions and, upon its adoption, the

United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous people. Consider the use of audio-visual material for this purpose. Consider also the involvement of indigenous experts and their own information networks to disseminate information about the International Decade;

- ◆ Prepare, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, information about indigenous people for distribution to the general public.

Operational activities of the United Nations system

- ◆ Establish focal points for indigenous issues in all appropriate organizations of the United Nations system;

- ◆ Urge Governments to ensure that the programmes and budgets of relevant intergovernmental organizations give priority and devote sufficient resources to further the aims of the Decade, and request that regular reports on the action taken be submitted to the governing body or executive council of each organization.

- ◆ Prepare, publish and disseminate a manual containing practical information for indigenous people on the operations and procedures of United Nations agencies;

- ◆ Encourage Governments to establish appropriate mechanisms and practices to ensure the participation of indigenous people in the design and implementation of national and regional programmes of concern to them;

- ◆ Hold consultations with Governments to examine, with national committees and development agencies, possibilities of cooperation in the activities of the Decade;

- ◆ Hold consultations of all interested parties on the themes of human rights, development, the environment, health and education, and culture, with a view to elaborating programmes in these areas.

Activities of regional organizations

- ◆ Hold regional meetings on indigenous issues with existing regional organizations with a view to strengthening coordination, taking advantage of the machinery of the United Nations system and promoting the direct and active participation of indigenous

people of the different regions in collaboration with Governments;

- ◆ Develop training courses and technical assistance programmes for indigenous people in areas such as project design and management, environment, health and education, and promote the exchange of skills and experiences of indigenous people from different regions;

- ◆ Encourage regional organizations to draw up regional instruments for the promotion and protection of indigenous people in the framework of their own structures, and promote existing regional instruments.

Activities of Member States

- ◆ Establish national committees for the Decade or similar mechanisms, to include indigenous people, all relevant departments and other interested parties duly convened by Governments, to mobilize public support for the various activities connected with the Decade;

- ◆ Intensify coordination and communication at the national level between relevant ministries, agencies and regional and local authorities by establishing focal points or other mechanisms for coordination and dissemination of information;

- ◆ Develop, in collaboration with indigenous communities, national plans for the Decade, including main objectives and targets, fixing quantitative outcomes and taking into account the need for resources and possible sources of financing;

- ◆ Consider ratification and implementation of the International Labour Organization Convention (No. 169) on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and other international and regional instruments in close consultation with the indigenous organizations of each country;

- ◆ Recognize the existence, identity and rights of indigenous people through constitutional reforms or the adoption of new laws, when appropriate, to improve their legal status and guarantee their economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights.

Activities of organizations of indigenous people

- ◆ Establish an information network which can be linked to the Coordinator for the Decade and facilitate communications between the United Nations system, relevant government departments and indigenous communities;

- ◆ Establish and support indigenous schools and university-level institutions and collaborate with the relevant United Nations agencies; participate in the revision of school texts and the contents of programmes of study in order to eliminate discriminatory content and promote the development of indigenous cultures and, where appropriate, in indigenous languages and scripts; develop indigenous curricula for schools and research institutions;

- ◆ Establish and promote networks of indigenous journalists and launch indigenous periodicals at the regional and international levels.

Activities of non-governmental organizations and other interested parties, including educational establishments, the media and business

- ◆ Cooperate with indigenous organizations, communities and people in the planning of activities for the Decade;

- ◆ Create radio and television centres in indigenous regions when appropriate and in accordance with national legislation to provide information on the problems and proposals of indigenous people and to improve communications between indigenous communities;

- ◆ Promote indigenous cultures with due respect for intellectual property rights through the publication of books, the production of compact discs and the organization of various artistic and cultural events which enhance knowledge of and serve to develop indigenous cultures and establish indigenous cultural and documentation centres.

The challenge

The success of the International Decade will depend on the means made available for the implementation of national development programmes directed at these improvements. This requires the willingness of national authorities to improve cooperation on indigenous issues and to adopt national legislation recognizing the rights of indigenous people and the participation of indigenous people in the planning and implementation of national activities to promote the goals of the Decade.

As Rigoberta Menchú of Guatemala, a Mayan Indian who won the Nobel Peace Prize for promoting the human rights of indigenous people, declared: "The Decade is the hope that it is possible to establish new relationships based on mutual respect and recognition."

The fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides a special opportunity for the international community to reflect on the progress made in order to improve the lives of the disadvantaged and to take effective measures to face the challenges lying ahead. Special efforts could be made to improve the well-being of the indigenous populations and to bring into reality the basic rights and fundamental freedoms spelt out in the Universal Declaration, to be enjoyed by all humanity and not only by a few of us. In this regard, the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights are of utmost importance.

