

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. resume	Re: Sigridur Duna Kristmundsdottir (partial) (1 page)	ca. 1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20037

FOLDER TITLE:

Iceland [2]

2013-0534-S

rv1578

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

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

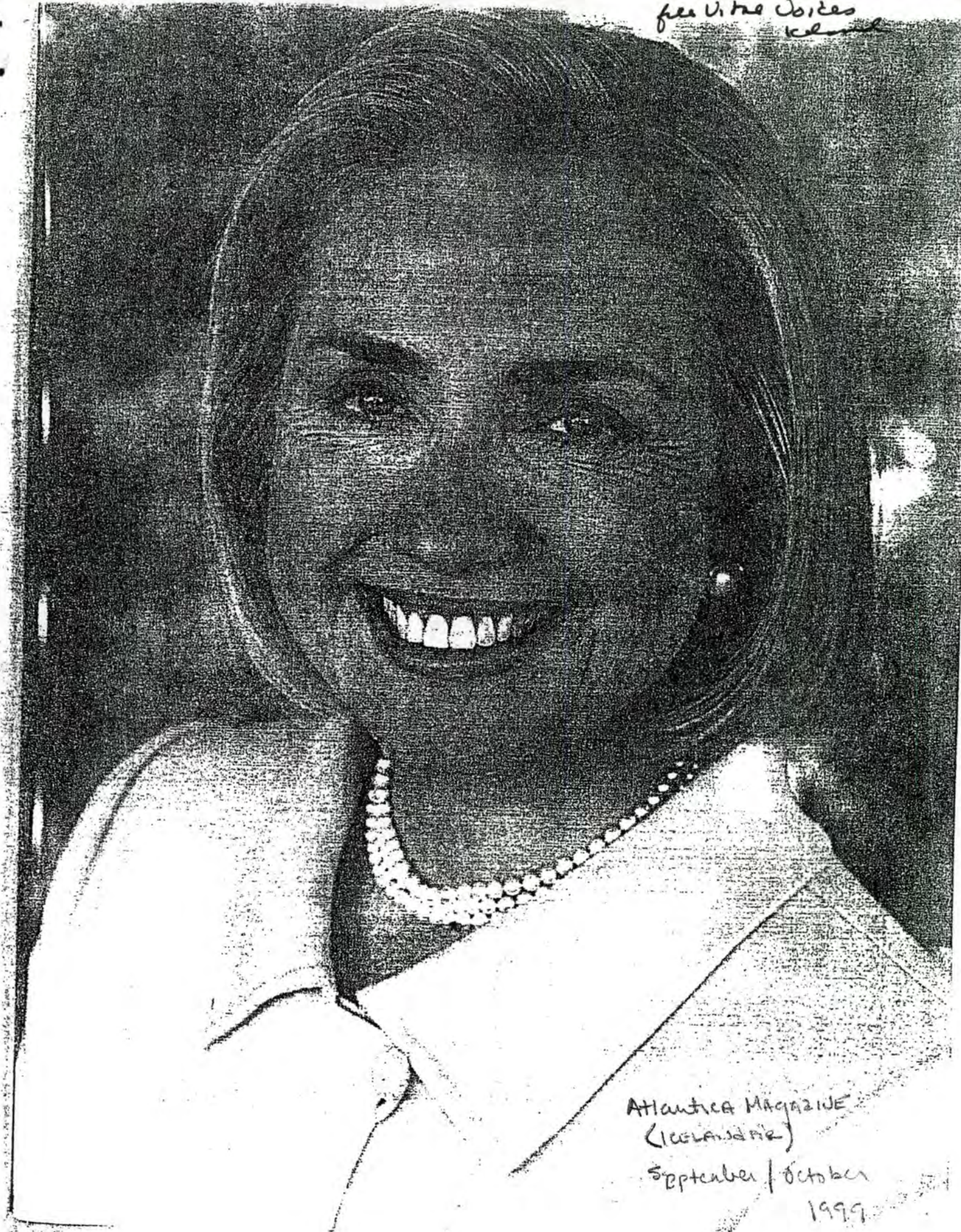
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

→ ^{for}
iceland
Githe Jorées

iceland

free Vibe Voices
Kalamazoo



Atlantica Magazine
(Icelandic)

September / October
1999

A VITAL VOICE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

First Lady of the United States

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON is one of the world's best known advocates of equal rights.

She will deliver the keynote address at a conference on "Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium" in Reykjavik, Iceland, on October 10, 1999. The First Lady shared her vision and expectations for the conference with

MARGRÉT BJÖRGÚLFSDÓTTIR.

THROUGHOUT HER LIFE, Hillary Rodham Clinton has been a champion for the advancement of women's issues. Most recently, since coming to the White House, she has taken this cause abroad, using her powerful presence, energy and dynamism to lead the "Vital Voices: Women in Democracy" initiative. Established in Vienna, Austria, just over two years ago, the initiative has been incorporated into American foreign policy as part of an ongoing process that aims at highlighting women's issues through public-private partnerships.

Mrs Clinton is looking forward to participating in the Reykjavik conference, her fourth Vital Voices gathering. "I am very excited about this conference. It provides an opportunity for women in the region to come together, to exchange ideas and work together. And it gives women the chance to have their voices heard on the role of women and their participation in the democratic process into the next century."

During the first conference in Austria in July of 1997, the First Lady made it clear that the purpose of these gatherings is to advance the cause of women and promote democratic principles, making the point that the two are absolutely inseparable. "There cannot be true democracy unless women are given the opportunity to take responsibility for their own lives."

An important issue to be addressed at the conference in Reykjavik will be the challenges facing working women. The agenda will include the need to foster regional co-operation as a means to strengthen democratic institutions and promote economic prosperity. A year ago Mrs Clinton made this the focal point of a speech she gave at a Vital Voices conference in Northern Ireland: "Economic progress depends on women's progress. Democratic progress depends on women's progress. Human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights. And this conference is part of an ongoing, global initiative that is making these points over and over again and in the process transforming women's lives and societies."

ICELAND IS VIEWED BY MANY AS A NATURAL CHOICE for such a gathering, providing a bridge between East and West. Mrs Clinton obviously agrees: "I am particularly pleased that Iceland is the host country. It has a long democratic tradition and a strong history of women's participation in all aspects of society. In many ways it serves as an example for women around the world."

Both the President and Mrs Clinton are deeply involved with the White House Millennium Council. The Council has adopted the theme "Honor the Past - Imagine the Future." "This is exactly what we will do at the conference in Iceland," says the First Lady, adding: "We will honor the pioneers in the field and imagine the future we want for ourselves. In this regard it is important to look at the new millennium as a milestone for determining what kind of a future we want to build. There is no better time to do this than now, at the brink of change, right before the dawn of the new century."

AS FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE REYKJAVÍK CONFERENCE, Mrs Clinton is optimistic that it will transcend conversation and lead to concrete results that will affect the lives of women for years to come. "At the previous Vital Voices conferences a number of proposals for action were presented in various fields, such as creating special websites by women and for women, launching outreach and educational programmes and providing credit or financial support for

women to establish small businesses. And I hope this conference, as well, will lead to similar results."

Asked how best to get women to participate more actively in the democratic process, Mrs Clinton was clear: "We have to start early, when women are young girls. We as mothers and caregivers must build their confidence. One way to do so is by involving them in various local activities and getting them to participate on the community level." Mrs Clinton also believes that education is indispensable. "Throughout life, education is the key element, not only formal education but also education on the way in which the world works. For example, political parties should encourage women to participate. They should make the extra effort to have them feel welcome and show them that their contributions are valued. This is an ongoing process which we must pursue vigorously, but we should also keep in mind that truly we are only limited by our imagination."

REYKJAVÍK IS ACCUSTOMED TO HOSTING CONFERENCES, but not since the 1986 Reagan-Gorbachev summit has there been such an international gathering. Again the press will arrive in hordes. Only this time, as a clear sign of how far we have come since the end of the Cold War, the focus is on building a better future for women in northeast Europe.

The conference's director, Sigríður Dúna Kristmundsdóttir, faces an exciting challenge as she works with the Government of Iceland, and in co-operation with the US government and the Nordic Council of Ministers, to host hundreds of women and high-level representatives from the



Looking ahead, at the dawn of the new millennium, we are only limited by our imagination.

Nordic Countries, the Baltic States, Russia and the US. Behind the scenes, a tight logistical network will be hard at work to make sure that everything proceeds smoothly. Kristmundsdóttir explains how the action-oriented approach, adopted by the organisers, has as its core the long-term aim of achieving tangible results.

Women in Western countries have made tremendous strides towards equality at work, at home and in society as a whole during this century. Yet it is evident that much remains to be done in order for women to fully participate in shaping their own lives and the world they live in. These are the underlying themes for the conference in Reykjavik. Kristmundsdóttir has been the chief architect for creating the concept and agenda for what is shaping up to be an impressive gathering.



PHOTO PALL STEFANSSON

The conference's director Sigríður Dúna Kristmundsdóttir is adamant that its agenda is relevant to all citizens, men and women, seeking to promote democracies and economic prosperity in their countries.

"Never before in history have women enjoyed as extensive rights as they do today in the western world. It is important to defend these achievements and prevent a backlash against the foundation we have worked so hard to build. At the same time we must plan the next steps and look for new opportunities as we enter the new millennium," says Kristmundsdóttir, pointing out that both the timing and the location of the conference is well suited for attracting world-wide attention.

Letters were sent out to 700 individuals and institutions in the participating countries inviting submissions for proposals. Kristmundsdóttir wanted to be inclusive. She felt that reaching out to such a large group, and incorporating their ideas into the conference agenda, would ensure their active participation and increase the likelihood of adopting successful strategies for implementing any proposed changes. The main objective is to develop ways to strengthen the roles of women as democracy-builders in the key areas of politics and public life as well as economics and business. Ten working groups will tackle these issues based on suggestions from the prospective participants. Out of several hundred responses, nearly 300 people were selected from the public and private sectors and non-governmental organisations. Among those who have expressed interest in attending is US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. It is also expected that there will be high-level Russian representation. The highlight, no doubt, will be the First Lady's keynote address.

While most of the participants are women, the issues are not limited to "women's issues." Kristmundsdóttir is adamant that "these topics are relevant to all citizens, men and women, seeking to build democracies and promote

economic prosperity in their countries. We are simply putting women first, because by educating women and making them financially independent we also promote democracy."

An associate professor of anthropology at the University of Iceland and a former member of parliament representing the Women's Alliance, Kristmundsdóttir is well aware of the pitfalls of too much talk and not enough action. "We want to take a practical approach to the various topics on the agenda and we would like to draw from the experience of the participants and implement changes that are meaningful for the daily lives of women." The conference, therefore, will be action-oriented with an emphasis on developing people-to-people initiatives and public-private partnerships throughout the region. The exchange of ideas and proposals generated in the workshops will later be channelled into programmes in the participating countries. The expectation is that these programmes will then be implemented with assistance from governments, organisations and private businesses.

The three full days in early October are only the tip of the iceberg. By hosting this conference the Icelandic government wants to begin a process. Already Kristmundsdóttir and her staff have received high praise from the First Lady and the Millennium Council for their enthusiasm, commitment and excellent co-operation. The conclusions reached at the conference will be published and distributed widely. The organisers hope that there will be a follow-up conference in one of the other participating countries in 2001 to maintain the momentum set in motion in Reykjavik.

Margrét Björgúlfssdóttir is a staff writer and a firm believer in equal rights.

Draft

September 20, 1999

PROGRAMME
FOR
MRS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON'S
VISIT TO ICELAND
OCTOBER 8-10, 1999

Friday, October 8

Bef. 11:00 hrs. Arrival in Iceland

Immediate departure for Reykjavík city

11:45 hrs. Arrival at Radisson SAS Hotel Saga
approx.

13:00 hrs. Conference on Women and Democracy at the Dawn of a New Millenium.
- 14:30/15:00 Opening ceremony
 Location: Borgarleikhúsið (Reykjavík City Theater)

15:00 hrs. Health care – children
- 17:00 hrs. *(e.g. a visit to some of the following: The Cancer Society, Decode*
approx. *Genetics Inc. and/or a kindergarten)*

Rest

19:30 hrs. Dinner at the invitation of the Prime Minister Mr. Davíð Oddsson
 and his wife Mrs. Ástríður Thorarensen
 (Approx. 150 invitees, incl. members of Cabinet and the Althing,
 conference participants, high-level officials and executives from the
 private sector)
 Location: Restaurant Perlan
 Dress: Dark suit.

Saturday, October 9

10:30 hrs. Exhibition of old Icelandic manuscripts
 Location: The Árni Magnússon Institute, University of Iceland

11:00 hrs. Visit to the Viking Ship "Íslendingur"
 Location: Suðurbugt (Reykjavík Harbor)

12:15 hrs. Lunch at the invitation of the President of Iceland,
- 14:00 hrs. H.E. Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson
 Location: Bessastaðir (Presidential Residence)

14:30 hrs. "Ferðir Guðríðar" (The Saga of Guðríður, first European/Icelandic woman to make a settlement in North-America and give birth there)
A play written and directed by Brynja Benediktsdóttir
Location: Actor's Studio, Laufásvegur 22
Duration: 1 hour

Rest

16:30 hrs. Excursion to Thingvellir, site of the ancient Icelandic parliament, with stop at the geothermal power-plant at Nesjavellir

19:30 hrs. Informal dinner at the invitation of the Prime Minister, Mr. Davíð Oddsson, and his wife, Mrs. Ástríður Thorarensen
Location: Prime Minister's official summer house at Thingvellir (max. 16 persons)

Sunday, October 10

Morning free

11:30 hrs. Meeting with the Prime Minister and organizers of the conference
– 12:30 hrs. *Location: Government Guest House, Tjarnargata 32*

13:30 hrs. Conference on Women and Democracy
Location: Borgarleikhúsið (Reykjavik City Theater)

Conclusions of workshops and implementation

Summing up and closing by Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton

18:00 hrs. Reception at the invitation of the Minister of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Mrs. Sólveig Pétursdóttir
Location: Listasafn Íslands (National Art Gallery)

Departure from Iceland

↓
Not
speaking
until 2:30 or
3:00pm

Saturday, October 9

Workshops

- 10:00 First session of all workshops
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Round Table
- 14:00 Second session of all workshops
- 16:00 Coffee
- 16:30 Third Session of all workshops

19:30

Dinner

Honorary Speech:
Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, Former President of Iceland

Sunday, October 10

8:30-12:00 Excursion

13:30

Plenum

Conclusions of workshops and implementation
Speakers:
Chairs of workshops

Summing up and closing:
Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton

18:00

Reception
Hosted by the Minister of Justice,
Sólveig Pétursdóttir

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 05

PRT: FLOTUS

SIT: NORLAND

SIT: NSC

<PREC> PRIORITY <CLAS> UNCLASSIFIED <DTG> 230855Z AUG 99

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2948

RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC

RUEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

INFO ////

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 REYKJAVIK 000820

WHITE HOUSE FOR FIRST LADY'S OFFICE

NSC FOR NORLAND

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR ASMUS, EUR/NB, EUR/EX, S/PICW

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR EUR/USIA

E.O. 12598: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, IC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EVENTS FOR FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO ICELAND

REF: AMB. MOUNT FAX OF JULY 1 TO MS. MELANNE VERVEER
(NOTAL)

1. REFERENCED FAX PROVIDED POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIRST LADY AS SUGGESTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING LIST PROVIDES ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FIRST LADY'S PROGRAM. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE EVENTS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE CONFERENCE.

2. AMERICAN COMMUNITY EVENTS

A. KEFLAVIK BASE. THE FIRST LADY WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART HERE. THE BASE IS HOME TO NEARLY 5,000 AMERICAN SERVICE PERSONNEL, CIVILIANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS. A TOUR AND MEETING WITH PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES AT THE BASE WOULD BE MOST WELCOMED. THE BASE IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A FULL RANGE OF OPTIONS FOR THE FIRST LADY. ALL COULD BE SCHEDULED EITHER UPON ARRIVAL OR AT TIME OF DEPARTURE.

B. THE EMBASSY. THE EMBASSY COMMUNITY IS SMALL (ABOUT 25 PERSONS INCLUDING FSNS AND AMERICAN DEPENDENTS). THE RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY ARE CO-LOCATED. A SHORT MEET AND GREET EVENT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND COULD BE ORGANIZED IN THE RESIDENCE. ESTIMATED TIME FOR THE EVENT: 15 MINUTES.

3. OUTSIDE GREATER REYKJAVIK

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A. THINGVELLIR: ICELAND'S PARLIAMENT WAS ESTABLISHED HERE IN 930 AND TODAY IS THE NATIONAL SHRINE. THINGVELLIR IS A SYMBOL OF ICELAND'S UNIQUE MEDIEVAL EXPERIMENT IN SELF-GOVERNMENT (NO EXECUTIVE--LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIARY ONLY) DURING THE VIKING AGE. IT FIGURES PROMINENTLY IN THE ICELANDIC SAGAS. THE AREA IS STRIKING IN ITS BEAUTY WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN TECTONIC PLATES MEETING AT THIS SPOT, PROVIDING MANY LEVELS OF SYMBOLISM. THE PRIME MINISTER INVITED THE FIRST LADY FOR A LUNCH AT HIS OFFICIAL SUMMER RESIDENCE AT THE SITE. THE LUNCH WOULD BE INTIMATE, AS THE HOUSE IS SMALL. TRAVEL TIME FROM REYKJAVIK IS 50 MINUTES BY CAR. VISIT WOULD TAKE 45 MINUTES TO TOUR SITE AND ONE HOUR FOR LUNCH.

B. BYOCK ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE IN MOSFAELL.
UCLA PROFESSOR JESSE BYOCK IS LEADING A JOINT U.S.-ICELANDIC TEAM IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER IN EXCAVATING WHAT COULD BE THE GREATEST VIKING ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE EVER UNCOVERED. THIS SITE IS EXPECTED TO BE THE FORTIFIED FARM OF EGIL, THE HERO OF EGIL'S SAGA. BYOCK IS LEADING A TEAM OF 11 AMERICANS AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF ICELANDERS WITH BOTH U.S. (NSF) AND ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT FUNDING. THE GRAVE OF 1955 NOBEL PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR HALDOR LAXNESS (1902-1998), WHO WROTE "INDEPENDENT PEOPLE," IS LOCATED NEXT TO THE SITE. THE FIRST LADY COULD PLACE FLOWERS AT HIS TOMBSTONE. TRAVEL TIME FROM REYKJAVIK IS 25 MINUTES. THE SITE IS ON THE ROAD TO THINGVELLIR AND COULD BE A HALF-WAY STOP. TIME TO TOUR SITE WITH BYOCK AND ICELANDIC ARCHEOLOGIST AND VISIT LAXNESS GRAVE IS 50 MINUTES.

C. VISIT TO WESTMANN ISLANDS.
THE WESTMANN ISLANDS HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEART OF ICELANDERS. THIS IS DUE TO THE TENACITY AND STRENGTH OF CHARACTER OF THE INHABITANTS AS WELL AS THE BEAUTY OF THE AREA. A VISIT TO THE WESTMANNIS WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT THE GLOBE PROGRAM, AS WELL AS THE SCIENTIFIC EFFORT THAT IS UNDERWAY TO RETURN THE KILLER WHALE "KEIKO" OF FREE WILLY FAME TO THE WILD. WHILE THE FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT HAVE COME FROM PRIVATE DONATIONS, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE AS WITNESSED BY THE USE OF A U.S. AIR FORCE C-17 TO TRANSPORT THE WHALE FROM OREGON TO ICELAND SEPTEMBER 1998. AN EVENT HIGHLIGHTING THE GLOBE PROGRAM, A VISIT TO KEIKO'S SEA PEN AND A SHORT TOUR OF THE AREA COULD BE CONDUCTED WITHIN 3 HOURS INCLUDING US MILITARY HELICOPTER TRANSPORT (PROVIDED BY U.S. ASSETS AT KEFLAVIK BASE).

4. GREATER REYKJAVIK AREA EVENTS

A. FULBRIGHT/ICELAND-AMERICA SOCIETY RECEPTION.
THE FIRST LADY COULD SPEAK AT A FULBRIGHT/ICELAND-AMERICA

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SOCIETY RECEPTION WITH ICELANDIC AND AMERICAN ALUMNI. THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM BEGAN IN ICELAND IN 1957. MINISTER OF EDUCATION BJORN BJARNASON, WHO WAS AT THE VIKING EXHIBIT ANNOUNCEMENT WITH THE FIRST LADY IN WASHINGTON, IS AN HONORARY CHAIRMAN ALONG WITH THE U.S. AMBASSADOR. THE FIRST LADY COULD SPEAK ABOUT SENATOR FULBRIGHT PERSONALLY (FROM HER ARKANSAS DAYS) AND HOW HIS ORIGINAL VISION CONTINUES TO DRIVE THE PROGRAM. INCLUDING THE ICELAND-AMERICA SOCIETY IN THE EVENT WOULD WIDEN ITS SCOPE. EACH YEAR THE SOCIETY PROVIDES GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ICELANDERS AND UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 REYKJAVIK 000820

WHITE HOUSE FOR FIRST LADY'S OFFICE
NSC FOR NORLAND
DEPARTMENT FOR EUR ASMUS, EUR/NB, EUR/EX, S/PICW
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR EUR/USIA

E.O. 12598: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, IC
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EVENTS FOR FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO ICELAND

AMERICANS TO PURSUE VARIOUS ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. THIS WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET A BROADER RANGE OF THE ICELANDIC PUBLIC. THE RECEPTION WOULD BE IN REYKJAVIK AND WOULD TAKE 30-60 MINUTES.

B. DRUG FREE ICELAND/HAZELTON DRUG FREE TASK FORCE EVENT. TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GREATER HAZELTON (PA.) AREA DRUG FREE TASK FORCE ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT ICELAND AROUND THE TIME OF THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT. A PROGRAM IS BEING DEVELOPED INVOLVING A GRASSROOTS PARENTS' ORGANIZATION PROMOTING A DRUG FREE ICELAND AND THE HAZELTON DRUG FREE TASK FORCE. AS PART OF THIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT, A SYMPOSIUM TO BRING TOGETHER INTERESTED PARENTS AND AND THE HAZELTON GROUP IS BEING PLANNED IN KOPAVOGUR (A TOWN NEXT TO REYKJAVIK). IT IS ENVISIONED THAT SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM THROUGHOUT ICELAND WILL ATTEND. PARTICIPATION OF THE FIRST LADY, EITHER IN ADDRESSING THE CONFERENCE OR BY LEADING A DISCUSSION ON BEST PRACTICES FOR COMBATING DRUG USE WOULD BE MOST WELCOMED. DATE AND TIME OF CONFERENCE AN BE ADJUSTED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THE FIRSTLADY. ESTIMATED TIME AT EVENT: 30-45 MINUTES.

C. U.S.-ICELANDIC COOPERATION IN MEDICAL RESEARC. NIH IS ABOUT TO GIVE A \$10 MILLION GRANT TO TH ICELANDIC HEART ASSOCIATION FOR CONTINUING LONGTERM STUDIES OF HEART DISEASE. THE FIRST LADY CULD PARTICIPATE IN A CEREMONY PUBLICLY ANNOUNCING THE GRANT. NIH IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE. THE CREMONY COULD BE HELD AT THE ICELANDIC HEART ASSOATION'S RESEARCH FACILITY/OFFICES IN REYKJAVIK. ICELANDIC HEALTH MIN.

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PARTICIPATE AS WELL. THE FIRST LADY COULD MAKE BRIEF REMARKS AWARDED THE GRANT, NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESEARCH AND ACKNOWLEDGING U.S. - ICELANDIC SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. THE FIRST LADY COULD ALSO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT US-ICELANDIC COOPERATION AND SUPPORT IN THE AREA OF BREAST CANCER RESEARCH. WE ARE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING A JOINT EVENT WITH BOTH THE ICELANDIC HEART ASSOCIATION AND CANCER SOCIETY.

D. VIKING SHIP/ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT EVENT

AN ICELANDIC SHIPBUILDER HAS CONSTRUCTED A REPLICA OF A VIKING LONGBOAT, NAMED THE ISLENDINGAR. THE ISLENDINGAR WILL SAIL TO THE U.S. NEXT YEAR BY WAY OF GREENLAND AND CANADA AS PART OF THE MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION OF LEIFUR ERIKSSON'S VOYAGE TO NORTH AMERICA. AN EVENT COULD BE HELD AT THE SHIP PROMOTING THE SHIP'S VOYAGE NEXT YEAR. ITS LOCATION IN THE CITY'S HARBOR WITH MOUNT ESJA IN THE BACKGROUND WOULD PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT PHOTO OPPORTUNITY. IF POSSIBLE, THE EVENT COULD BE SCHEDULED ON OCTOBER 9, WHICH IS LEIFUR ERIKSSON DAY. THE ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT (ALTHINGI) IS A SHORT WALK FROM ISLENDINGAR. WHILE THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING DATES FROM THE 19TH CENTURY, ICELANDERS CONSIDER THE ALTHINGI AS THE OLDEST PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTION IN THE WORLD (ESTABLISHED 930 AD). A VISIT TO THE ALTHINGI WOULD TIE DIRECTLY TO THE CONFERENCE'S CENTRAL THEME. WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS COULD LEAD A TOUR OF THE ALTHINGI. NO FORMAL REMARKS WOULD NEED TO BE MADE AT THE ALTHINGI. ESTIMATED TIME FOR THE EVENT: VIKING SHIP, 30 MINUTES; ALTHINGI 40 MINUTES. WALKING TIME, 10 MINUTES.

E. VISIT TO ICELAND'S CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTER.

ICELAND'S CENTER FOLLOWS THE MODEL FIRST DEVELOPED IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA IN ASSESSING CHILDREN WHO MAY HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL CRIMES. A VISIT TO THIS CENTER WOULD SPOTLIGHT THE USE OF AN AMERICAN MODEL IN DEALING WITH CRIME VICTIMS. ELLEN T. COKINOS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSTON CENTER, IS FAMILIAR WITH THE ICELANDIC CENTER AND ITS DIRECTOR. INTEREST IN THE ICELANDIC CENTER IS GROWING AMONGST NORDIC COUNTRIES AND THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO THE CENTER WOULD HELP FOCUS ADDITIONAL ATTENTION. A TOUR AND EXPLANATION OF THE CENTER'S ACTIVITIES COULD BE FOLLOWED BY SOME IMPROMPTU COMMENTS TO THE MEDIA. THE CENTER IS LOCATED IN REYKJAVIK. ESTIMATED TIME FOR THE EVENT, 30 MINUTES.

F. VISIT TO THE ARNI MAGNUSSON INSTITUTE (ARNAGARDUR).

HERE THE FIRST LADY COULD VIEW THE SAGAS, WHICH ARE ICELAND'S PRIMARY CULTURAL TREASURE. THE DIRECTOR WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ALL THE PRINCIPAL MANUSCRIPTS. A VISIT HERE COULD TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO VIEWING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE AT MOSFAELL (SEE 3.B.). ESTIMATED LENGTH OF TIME: 30 MINUTES.

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5. ENTHUSIASM FOR THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT IS VERY HIGH AND GROWING. WE EXPECT ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE FIRST LADY MAY DEVELOP IN THE COMING WEEKS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REFINE THE POSSIBILITIES AND COMMUNICATE THEM AS APPROPRIATE.

SORENSEN

<^SECT>SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SSN>0820

<MSGID> M4013158

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Conference on Women and Democracy in Conjunction with Vital Voices

Status of Preparations and Issues for Discussion

Action	Responsibility
1) Overview of Conference Preparations	Theresa Loar and Ron Asmus
2) Pre-Advance including Kathy Button- week of 8/22 including SecState rep or Early Advance in September	MV
3) Outreach VV A. To key supporters who are lining up implementing partners - week of 8/16: Sally Painter - <i>internships - form commitments.</i> → Wendy Luers Craig Johnston Sarah Carey <i>exec Dir - Eurasia Found'n</i> → Pat Lewis <i>Tony Podesta</i> Rozanne Ridgeway - <i>Bretton Woods Entrep. Fund.</i> Yvon Huang <i>Jane Hickory</i> [Nancy Reagin] B. Outreach to USG Funding and Support Team - week of	MV
• Don Pressley, AID • George Ingraham • Bill Taylor, S/NIS/C • Larry Napper, SEED • Bill Bader, USIA • Ralph Ruedy, USIA • Carlos Pasquale, NSC • Dick Norlund, NSC	
C. To Private Sector Implementing Partners:	MV
• Need special recognition for implementing partners, e.g. meeting with FLOTUS in Reykjavik • Possible FLOTUS Drop-by	yes Responsibility for

Nordic Council
of ministers -
follow up

9/8
2pm

9/2
2pm

for meeting with key implementing partners in Washington early to mid-September • Nordic Council of Ministers will host similar meeting in mid-September for major European implementing partners D) To foundations and NGOs active in Russia and Baltics - Strobe Talbott EURASIA Foundation U.S.- Russia Enterprise Fund U.S.-Baltic Foundation Soros' Open Society Kennan Institute NED 4) U.S. Participants' List includes discussion leaders and persons responsible for implementing actions - need to ensure political balance and transparency 5) Public Affairs: • Preparing Brochure, Fact Sheet • USIA has some preliminary ideas for public diplomacy • Need definition of FLOTUS press needs and expected press accompanying • Pre-departure press and media plan should include interview with Icelandic TV 6) Annotated Agenda, list of initiatives and implementing partners actions 7) Funding for U.S. Participants:	organizing meeting in Washington ? In draft, will be completed week of 8/16, along with list of invitees to be personally contacted In draft, outline attached
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• <i>Need help, perhaps from PRM and INL</i> • <i>Need to work on Icelandic airlines</i>	<i>Ron Asmus with Icelandic Ambassador, Theresa Loar</i>
--	--

US PARTICIPANTS

*Indicates proposal submitted

P= Participant IP = Implementing Partner

<u>Name/Title/Organization</u>	<u>List</u>	<u>Workshop</u>	<u>IP/P</u>
1. *Judith Addington President Gazelle Productions, Ltd PO Box 1102 Darien, CT 06820 Tel: 203 857 4280 Fax: 203 857 4790	VV	Leadership	IP
2. Leonardo Bernardo Deputy Regional Director for Russia Open Society 400 West 59th Street New York, NY 10019 212 548 0656			
3. Rachel Bennet Freeman Economic Development Specialist (Volkov Bus Incubator Project) Department of Housing and Urban Development Chicago, Ill	EUR		
4. Natalia Bourjaily The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law 733 15th Street, N.W., Suite 420 Washington, DC 20005 (expert on NGO law in NIS countries)	S/NIS/C	Legislation	P
5. *Lea Browning President W.E.A.R.E for Human Rights 7204 Central Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912-6451 Tel: 301 270 0436 Fax: 301 270 0321	VV	NGO Effect.	P
6. Martha Burke - <i>women's policy - ngo net</i>			P
7. *Iris Burnett Chairman of the Board Broad Confidence in Women		Media	IP
8. Mary Beth Cahill	VV		P

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?

yes

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DRAFT

Conference on Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium In Conjunction with the Vital Voices Global Initiative

Notional Outline of Workshops and Possible Implementing Partners

Workshop	Discussion Topics	Initiatives
1. Learning Skills for the 21st Century	- Changing Educational Needs and Curriculum - Applying Research to Public Policy - Educational Networking and Building Bridges to Business	- Scholarships, Research Grants - Fund development of innovative curriculum and its introduction into schools - Fund /Organize University -to- University or Business School Exchanges - Sponsor Mentoring Summer Camp ("Camp CEO") -- Sponsor retraining/continuing education programs
2. Developing Leadership Skills (Political and Economic)	- Qualities for pol and eco leadership in 21st Century: Experience of Women in Political Office, and Getting started in Politics - Climbing the Corporate Ladder - Negotiating Skills Workshop	- Sponsor Internships in Parliament, Office holders' offices --Sponsor Familiarization Visits (USIA, other Govts.) -- Establish scholarships for business school/other professional training
3. Making the Most of Mentoring and Networking	- Presentation on Existing Networks - Discussion of Nordic Mentoring Programs	- Set up Web site for each country and maintain it (Yahoo? Microsoft?) -- Provide computers and training to community centers -- Compile directory of resources, participants and implementing partners

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4. Participating in Public Life	--Getting Involved in Politics: Organizing Political Campaigns, developing platforms, fundraising, etc. -- Attaining Executive Office -- Involving Women in Political Action -- Public Speaking <i>Holding off accountable How to affect policy, agenda</i>	- Sponsor internships in elected officials' offices -- Sponsor/organize familiarization visits -- Support/organize regional seminars on political organizing, fundraising, etc. -- Fund public speaking training -- Sponsor professional training at universities or specialized institutions
5. Energizing Entrepreneurship	- Developing A Business Plan: How to Get Started and Networking - How to Get Credit: Sources and Presenting the Best Case - Innovative Approaches to Entrepreneurship: Business Incubator Programs and Business Associations	--SBABusiness Plan (translate into Russian) - Nordic Investment Bank/U.S. Grant for credit to small business -- Presentation on how to apply for credit, alternative sources of credit for small businesses -- Organizing and Networking for Entrepreneurship -- Support/contribute legal or financial advice and services -- Internships, training and familiarization
6. Creating A Quality Workplace	-- Panel on Best Business Practices: Operating in the Global Economy -- Addressing Unemployment and Retraining Needs -- Creating a Women-Friendly Workplace -- addressing violence against women	-- Internships in multinational companies -- AFL-CIO and other labor internships -- Funding programs to combat violence against women -- Sponsor and support retraining and job location services -- Support and participate in regional women's fora

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7. Increasing NGO Effectiveness	Finding and Using Channels of Influence NGO/Govt Relations	-- Sponsor/Fund Internships with NGOs -- Provide computers and training to NGOs or community centers -- Support NGO networking through technical advice -- Support NGO Exchanges: "Sister NGOs" -- Fund NGO activities and/or publications
8. Promoting Equality through Legislation and Practice	--Discussion of Equality Legislation- Experience of different countries --Panel on Strategies to Achieve Equality in Practice -- Dealing with Corruption -- Negotiating Skills	-- Sponsor parliamentary exchanges -- Contribute pro bono legal expertise - ABA -- Sponsor workshops, conferences to exchange experiences -- Fund training programs - - Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service -- Support regional and international programs to address corruption
9. Mastering Info Technology and the Media	Using Media to Achieve Women's Goals Taking Advantage of New Technology Public Speaking Skills	-- Sponsor journalists exchanges/familiarization visits -- Support media programming on women's issues -- Sponsor public speaking workshops/training -- Provide computers and computer training to community centers
10. Changing Roles of Men and Women	-- Panel on Changing Attitudes and their Impact on Women's Political and Economic Role; dealing with gender stereotypes -- Addressing Domestic Challenges (childcare, domestic chores, etc.) -- Legislative and public initiatives to address women's issues (family leave, domestic relations, elder care, etc.)	-- Sponsor publication of relevant research -- Support innovative childcare programs and exchanges to share solutions -- Provide legal and technical expertise -- Support regional conferences to exchange information and share results of innovative approaches



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 21, 1999

UNCLASSIFIED
MEMORANDUM

TO: Ellen Lovell

FROM: EUR - Judyt Mandel

Subject: Vital Voices Conference in Iceland: Possible call
from Albert Jonsson to Melanne Vermeer

Per our conversation this morning I am attaching a copy of a FAX, dated April 20, from Ambassador to Iceland Day Mount to Melanne Vermeer, concerning a possible request for a meeting with Albert Jonsson, the Icelandic Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Advisor. Also attached is a memorandum from the Icelandic organizers of the Vital Voices Conference outlining questions about the First Lady's participation to which they need answers soon.

Albert Jonsson will be in Washington April 22 - 25, as part of the Icelandic delegation to the NATO Summit. He is likely to raise the matter of the U.S. side's slowness in providing answers to organizational questions needed to prepare for the Conference, which is to be held in Reykjavik October 8-10. Those of us in State working on the Conference met with the Icelandic organizers in Reykjavik on March 12, and looked at possible sites for the Conference, hotels, etc. We also agreed on a process for completing preparations, which we are following for the most part. A key difference in our respective approaches concerns the title, and related logo for the Conference. Briefly, the Icelandic side wants to call this the **"Conference on Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium** in conjunction with the Vital Voices Global Initiative." They resist calling this a Vital Voices conference per se because that would put a largely U.S. stamp on it when Iceland is providing most of the organizational and financial support. We agreed to use the Icelandic formulation as the working title for the time being. A related issue Jonsson may raise is how the various Conference sponsors are reflected in the logo.

- Nordic Council of Ministers on board
- Council of Europe -
etc. to Sec. Gen. of Council from PM.

Following are other key points Jonsson is likely to raise, and where we stand on them:

- **First Lady's participation:** The Icelanders want to pin down the date of her address to the Conference. We have informally discussed the possibility of a closing address on October 10, but an opening address on October 8 would also work well. The Icelandic President and Prime Minister, Foreign Ministers of the Nordic Council of Ministers and other VIPs from the participating Nordic and Baltic countries and Russia will be present. If at all possible, we should confirm the date.
- **Site Survey/Venue for the First Lady's address:** The Icelanders want a commitment for an early survey or pre-advance to determine both the site for the Conference, and the venue for the First Lady's address. We looked at a number of hotels, conference halls, etc. Among the best for the Conference itself is the **City Theater**, which can hold about 530 in its main hall. We also looked at the **University Cinema**, which can hold about 1,000 people, as a possible site for the First Lady's address. There is a substantial cost difference if the First Lady's address is held in the University Cinema. Since the Icelanders are paying for the Conference site, they want to pin this down as soon as possible since they need to reserve well in advance. If possible, we should aim to do a pre-advance in May. You may also want to give the Icelanders a rough estimate of the hotel and other requirements for the First Lady.
- **Possible SecState participation:** we have raised the possibility that the Secretary or Deputy Secretary may be interested in participating in the Conference. The Icelanders are very pleased, but there has been no decision yet here, and such participation would, of course be coordinated with the First Lady's plans.
- **List of potential U.S. participants.** We have just provided the Icelanders with a list of suggested U.S. participants who might make presentations, conduct workshops, etc. (We previously gave them suggestions for participants from the Baltic countries and Russia, drawn up by our Embassies in those countries.) The Icelanders are responsible for sending out letters soliciting presentations and ideas for the Conference. The responses are due by May 10, and will be reviewed by a Consultative Committee made up of representatives of the participating countries to determine the final shape of the Conference. A copy of the

solicitation letter and overview is attached for your information.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 647 2966 if you have any questions or comments.

Attachments:

FAX from Ambassador Day Mount to Melanne Verveer
Memorandum from Icelandic Conference Organizers
Copy of letter of solicitation and Conference overview

Cc: Katy Button
Caroline Croft



RÁÐSTEFNAN
KONUR OG LYÐRÆÐI

Conference on Women and Democracy
at the Dawn of the New Millennium
in conjunction with the Vital Voices Global Initiative

Reykjavik, April 20, 1999.

Memorandum

Preparations for the conference are well under way. The Prime Minister of Iceland has sent his colleagues in the participating countries a letter inviting them to designate a minister to represent the government of their country as well as appointing a senior official to represent their country in a consultative committee. Co-sponsorship of the Nordic Council of Ministers has been ascertained and the co-operation of the Council of Europe. Letters have been sent out to possible participants in all the participating countries, except the United States, with an Overview describing the structure and the aims of the conference, a list of Key Issues giving ideas on subject matters, as well as a Provisional Agenda of the conference.

Matters urgently needing attention from the United States are the following:

1. **List of possible participants from the United States**
Letters of invitation have been sent out to possible participants in all the participating countries, except the United States, as a list of names has not yet been received. Possible participants are invited to respond before May 10, which in the case of the United States is becoming unrealistic.
2. **Confirmation of October 10 as the date of the First Lady's speech.**
Confirmation from the White House has not been received.
3. **Location of Conference**
Decision pending arrival of a US security team. Possible locations cannot be kept unconfirmed much longer.
4. **US Government insignia in logo of conference**
Agreement needed from the US.
5. **Key Speakers**
Suggestion of a Key Speaker at opening of conference needed from the US.

AMERICAN EMBASSY
REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Ms. Melanne Vervecr	FROM:	Ambassador Day Mount
COMPANY:	Chief of Staff to The First Lady	DATE:	04/21/99
FAX NUMBER:	202-456-6244	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	Two
PHONE NUMBER:		SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:	011-3: 4-562-9118
RE:	Vital Voices Conference	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:	

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Dear Melanne:

I called yesterday while you were in New York and then thought I would send this fax so that you would have it when you returned to Washington and your office today.

As you know, the Prime Minister of Iceland will be in Washington for the NATO Summit. His Foreign Policy Advisor, Albert Jonsson, will be calling you and requesting a short meeting with you on Thursday, to informally share thoughts on how the planning for the Women's Conference is going. When we met just yesterday with Sigurdur Duna she did express some frustrations but I will be passing those to the appropriate people today and believe that by the time you might ask for an update, they would have been addressed.

One question that she raised was that of an appropriate American speaker at the beginning of the conference. We have learned that the Secretary herself is interested in coming to the Conference and if she is able to come, that would be a wonderful answer.

In short, I would recommend that you agree to see Albert informally. The meeting would not be more than about 20 minutes.

Respectfully,
Day Mount

LAUFASVEGUR 21
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RADSTEFNAN
KONUR OG LEBRÆÐI

Conference on Women and Democracy
at the Dawn of the New Millennium
in conjunction with the Vital Voices Global Initiative

Reykjavik, April, 1999.

The Government of Iceland, in co-operation with the Government of the United States and the Nordic Council of Ministers, will host a conference on Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium planned for 8-10 October 1999. The participating countries are the Nordic Countries, United States, Russia and the Baltic States. First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, will address the conference, in keeping with her strong support of efforts to promote the status of women through the Vital Voices Global Initiative.

Your name has been brought to our attention and we would like to invite you to submit a proposal as a possible speaker/contributor to the conference.

Enclosed are:

- An overview of conference.
- Key-issues to be addressed at the conference.
- Provisional agenda of the conference.

We ask you to consider the concept and the key-notes with a possible contribution in mind. The key-notes are intended to aid you in clarifying where your expertise might fit in, but they are by no means exhaustive. If you have a different perception of the subject and its key elements do not hesitate to say so.

The conference is action oriented, focusing on how to implement the changes needed where women and democracy are concerned. Specific strategies/projects and the means to their implementation are to be discussed at the conference, decided upon and put into motion. Towards that end we ask you to describe how you envisage implementing the changes you perceive as necessary in the area you choose to address, or, alternatively, describe already successful projects. If you have suggestions about implementing partners, be it government, NGO's, or private companies, please submit them as well. In about a year after the conference it is anticipated that a follow-up conference will be arranged where the results of the strategies/projects will be assessed.

With this letter we invite you to submit a page or two describing what area you would like to address and how you would do it, as well as your ideas for strategies to implement the changes you perceive as necessary. Suggestions for implementing partners and your CV would be appreciated. If you are not comfortable working in English please indicate what language you prefer to work in.

The final date for the submission of your proposal is May 10, 1999. A Consultative Committee, made up of representatives from the participating countries, will then meet to decide on which proposals to accept. Those who have submitted proposals will be informed accordingly. Should you require further information please contact the above address.

I hope you will join us in creating a conference that makes a difference to women and democracy in the participating countries, and by implication everywhere. At the turn of the millennium there is both much to lose and much to be achieved in this respect.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sigríður Dúna Kristmundsdóttir
Director and Chairman of the Conference Executive Board



RÁÐSTEFNAN
KONUR OG LIÐRÆÐI

Conference on Women and Democracy
at the Dawn of the New Millennium
in conjunction with the Vital Voices Global Initiative

Overview

In October 1999 the Government of Iceland in co-operation with the Government of the United States and the Nordic Council of Ministers will host a conference on Women and Democracy in Reykjavik. First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton will address the conference which is being undertaken in partnership with the Vital Voice ongoing global democracy initiative. Its purpose is to draw attention to the importance of women's full participation in democracy and economic prosperity at this point in time.

As the present century, and with it the millennium, draws to a close we find ourselves in a world of rapid social and cultural change. Developments in technology and communication, new scientific discoveries, the globalisation of economic relations and changing political boundaries are creating a new world community, with new perspectives, new needs and new opportunities for its members. Women and men should be able to share this new world in equal measure, tackle its problems jointly and reap its benefits equally.

Yet we know that women and men are not equally situated to participate in the creative task of shaping the world. The social and cultural reality of gender is bound to influence the degree and nature of their participation. The century now drawing to a close is one in which women have fought for and gained unprecedented civil rights. At its turn it is therefore highly appropriate to examine women's civil rights and the conditions that affect how women are able to use their rights to create the future awaiting them and their children. Democracy is the common heritage of the western world and of direct interest in this respect is the role played by democracy in defining, conferring and preserving the rights in question. For this we need to reflect on our past, take stock of our achievements and visualise the future we want to create.

The objective of the conference is to define the challenges we all face where women's participation in democracy is concerned, and to explore concrete policy initiatives to meet those challenges; to define the strategies to tackle these challenges and energise and equip women leaders to assert their influence in their home countries and in the world community; to establish a wider network of women leaders in support of democracy-building efforts; and to increase public understanding about the economic, political, and social contributions of women to a democratic society. The approximately 300 participants will be drawn from the public and private sectors and NGO's, in the United States, the five Nordic Countries, the Three Baltic States and Russia. They will explore ways to strengthen the roles of women as democracy-builders and contributors to economic prosperity through two key areas: Politics and Public Life, and Economics and Business.

Suggestions for issues to be addressed in the area of Politics and Public Life include strategies for overcoming obstacles and strengthening the role of women in areas such as legal discrimination, legal literacy, the role of tradition, political participation, leadership styles, governing in a changing society, women's movements and other social movements, women's parties, forums of women leaders, NGO's as a force of change, the media.

Suggestions for issues to be addressed in the area of Economics and Business include wage policies, labour practices and law, social service policies, training and education, strategies for microenterprise, marketing skills and strategies, corporate networking, communication and commerce through the internet, **and promoting women's access to business and financial management and ownership.**

The objectives of the conference are to stimulate participants to develop and share with each other pragmatic strategies to meeting common challenges to building democracy. To meet these objectives ideas and strategies presented at the conference will be channelled into follow-up programs in the participating countries. Co-operation from governments, NGO's and private businesses is sought for implementation.

While it is expected that most of the conference participants will be women, the issues of this conference are not limited to "women's issues". They are relevant to all citizens seeking to build democracies and promote economic prosperity in their countries. It is hoped that a follow-up conference can be held in one of the participating countries in about a year from the Reykjavik conference to assess the results of the strategies put into motion in Reykjavik.



**RÁÐSTEFNAN
KONUR OG LÍDRÆÐI**

Conference on Women and Democracy
at the Dawn of the New Millennium
in conjunction with the Vital Voices Global Initiative

Key Issues

POLITICS

How Can Women Most Effectively Participate in the Political Process?

What are the strategies for overcoming the following obstacles?

- Legal discrimination?
- Tradition?
- Prejudice?
- Culture?
- Stereotypes?
- Legal literacy?
- Confidence - or lack thereof?
- Knowledge of channels of influence?
- Economic independence?
- Education? What kind?
- Political training?
- Belonging to a minority group?
- Others

Instruments for Affecting Change:

What are the most effective methods to increase women's participation in political/public decision-making?

- Women's movements?
- Other social movements
- Forums of women's leaders
- NGO's?
- Political parties?
- Women's parties?
- Building bridges between grassroots movements and formal political structure?
- Effective Strategies vis-à-vis the Media?
- The Internet?
- Independent publishing?
- Educating women?
- Educating the media?
- Others?

Securing Elected Office and Political Appointments:

What strategies and structures can be developed to improve women's chances of running for office; getting elected; and increasing their staying-power once in office?

- Same as above
- Inherent in the constitution of western democracy? How?
- Image of leadership?
- Image and reality of politics?
- Others?

How to use new technologies to better connect and form effective networks for political participation?

- Information exchange
- Resource sharing
- Mutual support

Why do women not vote? How can women's voting be strengthened? How can effective co-operation between women and men in politics and public life be strengthened? How can young women be reached and impressed with the importance of leadership and their own potential for it?

What other issues have to be addressed and how?

ECONOMICS

**Strengthening the Economic Role and Status of Women
Overcoming obstacles to women's economic empowerment**

- Discrimination and exploitation in the workplace?
- Gender segregated labour markets?
- Union wage policies?
- Other labour practices and law?
- Lack of supportive social services e.g. maternity/paternity leave?
- Double workload?
- Lack of training and education?
- Women are not in leadership positions?
- Others?

What strategic approaches can be adopted to deal with these challenges?

What are the skills, resources and tools needed to begin and develop businesses and other economic power bases?

- Training?
- Access to start-capital?
- Positive influence from the private sector and Chambers of Commerce
- Local business networks aimed at supporting women?
- Marketing skills?
- Contacts outside country?
- Access and training in the use of technology?
- Corporate networking?
- Contact with media?
- The Internet?
- Others?

How can Women Strengthen Their Role in the Workplace?

What networking strategies can be used to bring together women in business, NGOs, policy groups, venture capital, lending institutions and other support groups?

What other issues have to be addressed and how?

AMERICAN EMBASSY
REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
Ms. Melanne Verveer	Ambassador Day Mount
COMPANY:	DATE:
Chief of Staff to the First Lady	07/01/99
FAX NUMBER:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
202-456-6244	One
PHONE NUMBER:	SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:
	Fax: 354-562-9118
RE:	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:
Visit of First Lady to Iceland	

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Dear Melanne:

Attached is the input you asked for regarding ideas for excursions or visits outside the Conference itself, for the First Lady when she is here in October.

I think it is an excellent list. I would only stress the importance of doing a Millennium Event, most likely on October 9th (Leif Eriksson Day). The one idea we have had is to do something with the Viking Ship which will be in Reykjavik Harbor.

If the First Lady does go to see the Vatnajokull, she might like to meet with refugees from former Yugoslavia in the town of Hofn (the take off/landing point). Kathie and I have met with them and it is an inspiring experience.

Despite concerns about possible bad weather, I have made no secret here of my personal favorite, the trip to the Westmann Islands. I favor it because of the many experiences it offers to the First Lady, in one location. The Prime Minister remarked that the potential for excellent publicity, because of the many interesting stories (described in the attached), was wonderful.



LAUFÁSVEGUR 21
101 REYKJAVIK



30 June 1999.

FORSÆTISRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Prime Minister's Office

IS-150 Reykjavík Iceland

tel.: + (354) 560 9400 fax: + (354) 562 4014

e-mail: postur@for.sigr.is

Ambassador Day Mount
U.S. Embassy
Laufásvegi 21
101 Reykjavík.

Dear Day,

The following are the options we have been discussing for the First Lady's visit to Iceland in connection with the conference on Women and Democracy 8-10 October, and as the options stand after I have consulted with my colleagues. Please forward them to Mrs. Verveer along with the enclosed video cassette "Iceland in a Nutshell".

Option 1. Historic Þingvellir and nearby natural attractions

Þingvellir was until 1845 the site of Iceland's parliament which was established in 930 and is the oldest parliament in the world. Þingvellir was also the site of the peaceful adoption of Christianity in the year 1000, and the place where the most important events in Iceland's history are celebrated. The last such occasion was the celebration in 1994 of the fiftieth anniversary of the republic and next year a thousand years of Christianity in Iceland will be celebrated there. Þingvellir is a lava area with numerous crevasses and is geologically where the North American and European tectonic plates meet. Þingvellir is therefore important historically, culturally and geographically. At a nearby mountain is the Nesjavellir geothermal powerplant which is a major part of the system which heats all houses in the Reykjavík area.

The tour to Þingvellir can be extended to include the Geysir hot spring area, the Gullfoss waterfalls and the country in between, which are typical of Iceland's sub-arctic landscape. A trip to the nearby glacier Langjökull by helicopter from Gullfoss waterfalls could also be added.

The Prime Minister would be delighted to host a small lunch or dinner in his official summer house at Þingvellir, depending on what works best in the schedule. That could be along with this option or in addition to the other options below since it is proposed that a visit to Þingvellir, which is close to Reykjavík, should be always be included.

Option 2. Westman Islands

The Westman Islands, just off the south coast of Iceland, are home to the fishing community of Heimaey, and hold a number of natural attractions, including Surtsey Island which was created by a volcanic eruption on the sea bed in 1963. A volcanic eruption occurred in 1973 on Heimaey causing evacuation, threatened closure of the only harbor, fighting the advance of the lava (with U.S. Navy assistance), and subsequent rebuilding. The lava flow stopped inside the town where remnants of buildings can be seen under its edge.

Heimaey is home to two new GLOBE schools, and the orca whale Keiko (of Free Willy fame). Keiko was relocated last year to Iceland off the coast where it was captured twenty years ago the intention being to hopefully release the whale back into the ocean after an adaption process. As Keiko's sea pen is enlarged this September as a first step toward freedom, the plan is to interest thousands of young people around the world in their environment by connecting his story with Vice President Gore's GLOBE Program.

Option 3. The Vatnajökull Glacier

The Vatnajökull Glacier is Europe's largest glacier. This is an enormous reminder of the ice ages past and it houses a volcano which was last active in both 1996 and 1998. The black sands area south of the glacier results from massive amounts of glacial water from the ice melted by the volcano. Volcanic fire and glacial ice are forces of nature which through history have had dramatic effect on the lives of Icelanders.

Trips on to the glacier commence from Höfn in Hornafjörður on the southeast corner of the country.

Option 4. Snæfellsnes Glacier and birthplace of Leifur Eiríksson

Snæfellsnes Glacier, an extinct volcano, was the inspiration for Jules Verne's "Journey to the Center of the Earth". It is on a peninsula in the western part of Iceland which made it one of the landmarks for viking voyagers to and from Greenland and the glacier has beautiful surroundings. In good weather the view

from the summit is spectacular. The nearby area at Búðir where white sand dunes nestle within walls of lava is particularly unusual.

To the north is Eiríksstaðir í Dölum, the birth place of Leifur Eiríksson. Leifur Eiríksson Day is on October 9th.

In the Reykjavík area possibilities include visits to:

- A children assessment center in Reykjavík which is a counterpart to the Center in Houston;
- home for mentally handicapped children in Mosfellssveit - can be done en route to Þingvellir;
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- Árnastofnun which houses medieval manuscripts coupled with a visit to a viking ship which in connection with the celebration of Leifur Eiríksson discovery of America will in the year 2000 sail to Canada and the USA (Leifur Eiríksson Day is, as pointed out above, on October 9th);
- University of Iceland with a possibility that the First Lady would give a lecture in the Faculty of Law on womens rights for example.



Albert Jónsson.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

THE AMBASSADOR

July 14, 1999

The Vice President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I don't know if you will remember me, but my name might be familiar as the Foreign Service Officer who has supported your GLOBE Program from its very beginnings and who has thoroughly enjoyed promoting it ever since.

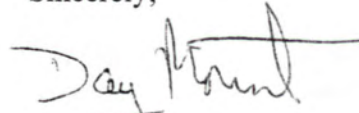
During my time as Ambassador to Iceland, Tom Pyke and I have had the pleasure of signing a GLOBE Agreement and working to get more and more schools involved. Tom recently informed you of our success in getting GLOBE into the two schools in the Westmann Islands, leading to a connection to the killer whale Keiko (of Free Willy fame). What excites us about this connection is that the story of Keiko can greatly enhance the interest of young people involved in GLOBE in marine science and the environment.

In early October of this year, the First Lady will be traveling to Iceland to address the Conference on Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium, in conjunction with the "Vital Voices Initiative." It will take place in Reykjavík and will bring women from the U.S., Iceland and other Nordic countries, together with women from the Baltic countries and Russia to promote the role of women in the development of civic societies.

In addition to the conference, the First Lady has been invited by Iceland's Prime Minister to see Iceland. Among the options he supports is a trip to the Westmann Islands. There she could visit the GLOBE schools and Keiko. This would be a wonderful opportunity to feature her interest on the GLOBE network.

I am writing in hopes that you might let the First Lady know how much a visit by her would utilize this unique opportunity for the further development of GLOBE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Day Mount", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Day O. Mount
Ambassador

cc: Tom Pike
Melanne Verveer



Office of the Ambassador

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

July 2, 1999

Melanne,

We have enclosed the
video mentioned in the attached
letter. The Prime Minister's
office felt it was a good one.
(I haven't seen it.)

as Kathie and I warn
all of our guests to Iceland,
the weather is unpredictable.
Videos and pictures are usually
in the sun but we get lots of
rain! and wind!

(P.T.O.)

For clothing, gore tex was made for Iceland. Wind breakers with hoods, which can be worn over a sweater or fleece are good. Rubber-soled shoes, slacks - informal dress is the order of the day for excursions.

The landscape has a unique, sub-arctic, volcanic beauty in any weather but the saying here is, "there is no bad weather, only bad clothes." Regards, Day



30 June 1999.

FORSÆTISRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Prime Minister's Office

IS-150 Reykjavík Iceland

tel.: + (354) 560 9400 fax: + (354) 562 4014

e-mail: post@for.stjr.is

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U.S. Embassy
Laufásvegi 21
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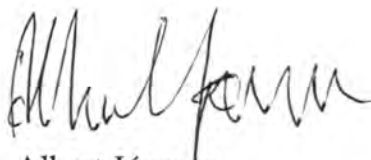
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Albert Jónsson.

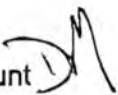


Fax

**American Embassy
Reykjavik, Iceland
tel: (354) 562-9100
fax: (354) 562-9118**

To: Ms. Theresa Loar
Director, The President's Interagency Council on Women

FAX:202-647-5337

FROM: Ambassador Day Mount 

SUBJECT: Vital Voices in Iceland
NO OF PAGES: Two
DATE: 11 January 1999

We met with the Icelanders who will be responsible for organizing the Vital Voices Conference in Reykjavik in October, to which the First Lady has been invited. By the time that you receive this, I think you will have heard from Melanne Vermeer that I am planning to accompany two of the Icelanders on a trip to Washington for a meeting on the morning of January 19th, to take our first step together. I wanted to give you a preliminary readout of what we discussed before that meeting takes place.

As proposed, the Conference on "Women and Democracy" will take place here in Reykjavik in October. (Per my conversation today with Melanne, the best conference dates now appear to be October 7th or 8th through the 10th.) The Icelanders and in particular the person now in charge for Iceland, Sigridur Duna Kristmundsdottir, want to meet Melanne Vermeer and you (as the U.S. principal contact person for the Conference), and discuss the exact focus of the Conference. It was suggested in our meeting that the U.S. and Iceland need to take this first step together and then bring the other Nordics, the Baltics and the Russians, into the picture.

This approach will give the First Lady and you a large role in setting the agenda. I shared information on the previous Vital Voices conferences with Sigridur Duna and made it clear that there was a need for strong follow-on programs after the conference. I also indicated that while I understood that the principles of previous conferences needed to remain intact (such as addressing the three key areas of public policy, economics and civic society), as well as undertaking activities for which there could be action and follow-up, each conference had its own special *raison d'être*.

I was pleased to hear Sigridur Duna excited about this opportunity to help women in less fortunate circumstances but also beginning to take hold of the practical implications of doing

this in a relatively short period of time. One of the things she observed was that to get many of the participants, we would have to be asking them to change things already on their schedules. She thought that that was certainly possible but that it would be the First Lady's name on the invitation that would make the difference. The Icelanders hope that there can be an early decision by the First Lady, which would allow her participation to be made public.

In sum, it was a good meeting and the Icelanders willingness to travel to Washington now gives us a good opportunity to start together. The more substantive we can make this meeting the better. For example, it would be good to have at least have examples of the kinds of organizations with which we could work in the Baltics and Russia and also to have examples of the kinds of activities that have worked for women in other parts of the world, that might work in this case. Perhaps you will be able to help us with your experience so that our discussion can be as pragmatic as possible.

Although the Icelanders have not posed any concerns, I also think that we will need to be sensitive to their capabilities as we "size" this event.

Please let me know if there is anything that I might be doing to prepare for our meeting.

Cc: Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First lady

Mr. Andrew Silski
EUR/NB



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

OFFICE OF NORDIC AND BALTIC AFFAIRS

2201 C Street, NW; Room 5229

phone: (202) 647-8378

fax: (202) 736-4170

e-mail: EUR.EUR/NB@dos.us-state.gov

TO: Melanne Verveer Assistant to the President & Chief of Staff to the FLOTUS
(name) (agency)

456-6244
(fax number)

456-6266
(phone number)

FROM: Andrew L. Silski
Foreign Affairs Specialist for Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

SUBJECT: draft cable on status of US-Icelandic millennium projects

COMMENTS: Please see para 11 for clearance/revision.

The subject of the First Lady's visit is sure to arise during our January 15 meeting with the Icelanders. Most of the cable is for the U.S. Embassy's background, since most of what it receives from Washington on the topic of millennium cooperation is oral conversation. How would you like us to draft this? Thanks!

V. Del Valle -
pr person
Sigau (thru)
Duma
Christmas daughter
Amb. Berned
Jan. 19th

number of pages to follow: 6

DRAFT

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INITIALS		
APPR:	RDA	...
DRAFT:	ALS	...
CLR 1:	GAM	...
CLR 2:	JHU	...
CLR 3:	RDS	...
CLR 4:	JVA	...
CLR 5:	CCR	...
CLR 6:	LWE	...
CLR 7:	ADI	...
CLR 8:	JLO	...
CLR 9:	TLO	...
CLR10:	LVE	...

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EUR/NB:GAMILOVANOVIC DOD/OUSD/ISA/EUR:JHURSCH S/PICW:TLOAR
SI:RDSULLIVAN/WFITZHUGH LOC:JVANOUDENAREN NSCS:LVERVEER
WHMC:CCROFT USPS:LWEINER NASA:ADIAZ HBC:JLOPEZ

ROUTINE REYKJAVIK

ROUTINE OTTAWA, NEURI, +

DOD FOR OUSD/ISA/EUR (JHURSCH)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, SCUL, IC, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF US-ICELANDIC MILLENNIUM PROJECTS

1. Early this year, the White House formed a binational working group (BWG) composed of governmental and private sector appointees who volunteer to help organize, coordinate, and promote Year 2000 activities with Iceland. These initiatives, primarily in the fields of culture, scholarship, pioneer legacy, defense relationships, and scientific discovery and exploration, particularly honor the millennial anniversary of Leifur Eiriksson and the Vikings' voyage to, and settlement in, America. The BWG already has achieved much progress in organizing a number of projects, but much more needs to be done to ensure that these and other projects reach fruition. Below is a summary of those projects already underway, which posts may share with host country officials. To follow up on the previous meeting of October 8, and to prepare better for the next meeting, the Department asks that Embassy Reykjavik follow up on the status of these projects with Icelandic Millennium Commission CEO Einar Benediktsson and/or other appropriate GOI officials and deliver a response to EUR/NB prior to the January 15 BWG meeting in Washington.

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2. SMITHSONIAN PROJECTS: The Smithsonian Institution (SI) is creating a uniquely millennial exhibition entitled, "West-Viking: The North Atlantic Saga." This unprecedented display is scheduled to open in Washington DC on April 15, 2000 and then travel over a two year period to eight North American venues where there are large Nordic communities -- including New York, Chicago, and Ottawa. To increase the impact of the exhibition, the Museum will produce smaller illustrated panel versions of "West-Viking" that will travel to libraries, community centers, and other non-traditional venues. Also in concert with private sector interest, the Smithsonian will develop an exhibition catalogue, an interactive website, symposia, educational materials, and translations of existing literature. "West-Viking" will feature spectacular Viking ship replicas, gold treasures, church art, armor, saga books, runestones, and archeological artifacts from Viking settlements and contacts in North America. Because few of these materials have ever been seen in North America, information about these new discoveries will add an important chapter to public understanding of North American history. These activities are a highly visible means to showcase U.S. - Nordic achievements by highlighting our shared pioneer heritage and promoting our cooperation in culture, trade, scholarship, as well as scientific discovery and exploration. The initiative will cost about \$4 million; Volvo USA and the Nordic Council contributed \$1 million apiece, and the Nordics and US are responsible to raise another \$1 million each. The US side likely will reach its target from US investors by early spring.

Action: What is the status of the remaining \$1 million in Nordic fundraising?

3. Library of Congress (LOC) projects: The LOC is working with Princeton and Dartmouth universities to sponsor an academic symposium, "Saga Literature and the Shaping of Icelandic Culture" in late spring, 2000. The cybercast symposium would cover five thematic sessions and 15 papers covering such fields as law, politics, arts and literature, status of women, etc. In conjunction with holding several workshops featuring living authors, the LOC also will create an exhibit, "Reliving the Sagas," which would travel to Reykjavik, Ithaca NY (Cornell University, which through

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its "Saganet" program has put the sagas on the Internet), Washington DC, Winnipeg, Chicago (Newberry Library), and Minneapolis. The exhibit would display books, maps, and drawings relating to the Sagas. The USG would love to receive on loan the ancient Saga manuscripts but realizes that the Icelandic parliament might be ambivalent about authorizing approval for their temporary release.

Action: Post should inquire whether the GOI would be willing to put the Saga manuscripts on loan to the LOC, assuring the GOI that the LOC employs the world's most sophisticated preservation technology and would ensure that the manuscripts are well cared for. Should the GOI be willing to loan these manuscripts, the LOC would receive them on the GOI's terms.

4. Coin: Iceland's Central Bank and the U.S. Mint have agreed to issue a commemorative silver coin, similar in size to a silver dollar. The House of Representatives has passed the legislation, which now awaits Senate approval. The University of Virginia (UVA) will administer the U.S. proceeds from the sale of the coin (which will be used to fund scholarship and research), and UVA Icelandic scholar Bob Kellogg will co-chair the venture with retired Icelandic Bank Chair Stefan Hermansson.

Action: ?

5. Philatelic cooperation: Although the US Postal Service (USPS) regrets that it has not been authorized to issue a joint commemorative stamp, during the October 8 BWG meeting it proposed to sponsor a limited "cancellation" program.

Action: Does the GOI support this request? If so, what design/s does the GOI offer?

6. DOD COOPERATION: The US Air Force intends to send the "Thunderbirds" precision-flying squadron to Reykjavik sometime in spring, 1999. In 2000, Iceland has accepted the responsibility to organize Norfolk, Virginia's annual Azalea Festival, to host a major NATO workshop, and to sponsor US-Russian ship exercises. DOD also is working on a number of potential high-level ship visits to Iceland.

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Action: Does the GOI accept the USAF offer? What is the status of GOI efforts on the Azalea Festival, NATO workshop, and ship exercises?

7. Family History/pioneer memorabilia cooperation: Per the Icelandic Ambassador's request and given its reputation as a world leader in genealogical research, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints extended an open-ended offer to cooperate with Iceland on family history and on loaning and/or replicating Icelandic Mormon pioneer journals, photos, artifacts, and other memorabilia to Icelandic museums. Logistical material required for organizing pioneer reenactment treks of various lengths also could be made available to entrepreneurial Icelanders for organizing similar reenactments either in Iceland and/or near one of Icelandair's North American destinations for history-minded tourists. (In 1997 the Church celebrated the 150th anniversary of the crossing of the Plains by reenacting the journey; although most Icelandic Mormons did not cross the Plains by handcart or wagon, 20% of Iceland's population immigrated to America and 20% of those were Mormons.)

Action: Is the GOI interested in such cooperation? If so, how does it propose to proceed?

8. NASA: Iceland is rather proud of its Icelandic-Canadian astronaut, Bjarni Trygvason, who has flown on one of NASA's space shuttles. While NASA cannot re-name a space shuttle for "Leif Eriksson" now, for a Year 2000 shuttle launch it is willing to allow Iceland to co-sponsor an experiment in space, place memorabilia in the shuttle, and host the astronauts on a VIP tour of Iceland.

Action: What is the GOI's response? If it responds positively, the GOI must be prepared to discuss a proposed experiment by the January 15 BWG meeting.

9. The GOI, including President Grimsson, have encouraged the USG to engage Russia in US-Icelandic millennium events. One suggested opportunity was a Reykjavik-based conference on Russia's "Viking" heritage, which fits in the USG's Northern European Initiative (NEI) to promote the 'northern dimension to Russia's cultural and historical self-image.

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Action: The SI, LOC, NGOs, and private academic institutions have expressed interest in supporting and participating in such an event, which also could be cybercast, and the Government of Russia and Russian academicians have responded favorably in principle to the proposal per the Department's inquiry. How does the GOI propose to move forward?

10. Status of other cultural cooperative initiatives: Iceland was interested in arranging a number of cultural events in the United States (Icelandic Symphony Orchestra, film festivals, plays, etc.) and hosting U.S. men's and women's professional sporting events in Reykjavik.

Action: Please alert the GOI that the US members of the BWG continue to be willing to help arrange these if the GOI makes specific proposals.

11. VIP Visit. In response to the Icelandic President and Prime Minister's letters, the First Lady has agreed to visit Iceland October 6-10 (tentative dates) in order to participate in Millennium events and to chair a "NEI" initiative, possibly along the lines of "vital voices," in Reykjavik. We are proposing that Iceland's organizer, Dr. Sigridur Duna Kristmundsdottir, come to Washington DC in January to discuss preparations with S/PICW, FLOTUS staff and other former and future US organizers of similar conferences.

Action: What has the GOI done to prepare for these events, and where does it need help?

12. Other activities: We understand that among other institutions, "National Geographic" and "Discovery Channel" are planning articles and documentaries, and that like the United States, Canada also is helping Iceland commemorate the millennium.

Action: Please provides us an update on these and other activities.

YY

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RUCBACM/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J5/POLAD//
XMT TALLINN, RIGA, VILNIUS

UNCLASSIFIED



Day Clin Mount
Ambassador of the United States of America

December 18, 1998

To: Ms. Melanne Vermeer
Chief of Staff for the First Lady

From: Ambassador Day O. Mount 
American Embassy
Reykjavik, Iceland

Subject: Vital Voices Conference in Reykjavik

- A Vital Voices Conference has been proposed in Reykjavik, Iceland for October 6 - 10, 1999.
- Women from the U.S. and the five Nordic countries would join women from the three Baltic countries and Russia, on the theme, "Women in Democracy." The goal is to assist women in emerging democracies by sharing the experience of women from established democracies.
- The idea originated as part of the Millennium Celebrations between Iceland and the U.S. As it matured, State saw an opportunity to meet Foreign Policy goals of the Northern European Initiative (NEI) through a Vital Voices Conference.>
- Ellen McCulloch-Lovell and Caroline Croft have been involved in planning from the beginning.
- The Government of Iceland has picked an outstanding woman (Sigridur duna Kristmundsdottir), to lead their preparations. Her first draft proposal is attached.
- Theresa Loar was briefed on Wednesday and she suggested that I meet with you while I am here in Washington to share first thoughts.

LEIFUR
EIRIKSSON



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LANDAFUNDANEFND
THE LEIFUR EIRIKSSON
MILLENNIUM COMMISSION OF ICELAND
Adalstræti 6, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

Reykjavík, December 14, 1998

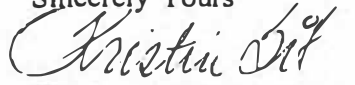
TELEFAX

To: Caroline Croft, Director International Program
White House Millennium Council
From: Kristín Sif Sigurðardóttir
Subject: Women and Democracy Conference

Dear Caroline Croft,

Following the telephone conversation with Einar Benediktsson we are sending you via fax the First Draft for the Conference on Women and Democracy and Sigridur Duna Kristmundsdóttir's CV.

Sincerely Yours


Kristín Sif Sigurðardóttir

First draft

**Conference on
Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium
Held at the Invitation of the Prime Minister of Iceland
Chaired by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Reykjavik, Iceland, October 1999**

Concept

As the present century, and with it the millennium, draws to a close we find ourselves in a world of rapid social and cultural change. Developments like new technology in communication, new scientific discoveries, the globalisation of economic relations and changing political boundaries are creating a new world community, with new perspectives, new needs and new opportunities for its members. Women and men should be able to share this new world in equal measure, tackle its problems jointly and reap its benefits equally.

Yet we know that women and men are not equally situated to participate in the creative task of shaping the world. The social and cultural reality of gender is bound to influence the degree and nature of their participation. The century now drawing to a close is one that has given women unprecedented civil rights. At its turn it is therefore highly appropriate to examine women's civil rights and the conditions that determine how women are able to use their rights to create the future awaiting their children. Democracy is the common heritage of the western world and of direct interest in this respect is the role played by democracy in defining, conferring and preserving the rights in question. For this we need to reflect on our past, take stock of our achievements and visualise the future we want to create.

At this historical point in time it is proposed to host a conference dedicated to women and democracy. Its focus will be women's rights and women's citizenship at the dawn of the new millennium, and the role democracy plays in securing their full participation, particularly as regards Russia and the Baltic States. The United States and the Nordic countries have demonstrated a strong interest in the ongoing process of transition in the Baltic region and the conference would be a further contribution in this

context. Iceland, where democracy has ancient roots, is a most suitable country to host such a conference. An appropriate attention will be given to Thingvellir, where the Icelandic national assembly, the Althing, was created in AD 930. Moreover, Iceland has a long history of women's rights activities and Icelandic women have repeatedly made world headlines in their efforts towards the equality of men and women. Also on that count Iceland qualifies well as host for a conference such as this one.

Aim

The intention is to cooperate in organizing a high level conference worthy of First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton and her commitment to women's rights and to democracy. By this we hope to reiterate the commitment of the world community to these issues and thus make a contribution to the strengthening of democracy and the equality of women and men in the world in general and in the Baltic States and Russia in particular. That is the gift we offer our children and the future with this conference. At the same time we wish to emphasize at this historical date the close bonds between our respective countries, bonds that are at once historical, cultural and political. Among the things to be considered is how the conference communicates its findings.

Working methods

This first draft is a working document subject to review and discussion between The United States and Iceland. The Prime Minister has nominated Dr. Sigríður Döna Kristmundsdóttir as the lead person on the Icelandic side (see enclosed CV). All necessary bookings in Iceland, i.e. conference venue, hotels, media facilities, etc. will be arranged by Iceland. Further formulation of working methods awaits consultation with the White House.

Participants in the conference

It is proposed that participation in the conference will be by invitation only. No names are suggested at this stage but it seems that participants should be drawn from scholars, politicians, church, business and the professions principally from the United States, the five Nordic Countries, the three Baltic States and Russia.

Further notes on the subject of the conference

For further drafting of the subject and form of the conference we await the views of the White House. Perspectives relating to the subject of the conference that we have discussed include the importance of cultural heritage, Christian morality and cultural diversity where women and democracy are concerned. Women and the shared responsibility in the home and the workplace is another important perspective, as well as a number of other significant issues relating to women's life.

However, we would like to emphasize that we do not want to attempt to cover too many of the numerous issues relating to women and democracy. We think a selective choice of issues and perspectives makes for a better defined conference. We would like to stress that we wish the conference to have a very clear focus, with a limited number of high level speakers. We aim at a strong profile capable of giving a clear and powerful message to the world on women and democracy, a message that makes a difference.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. resume	Re: Sigridur Duna Kristmundsdottir (partial) (1 page)	ca. 1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20037

FOLDER TITLE:

Iceland [2]

2013-0534-S
ry1578

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

VITAE 1998

Sigríður Dúna Kristmundsdóttir

Date of birth:

(b)(6)

[001]

Marital Status:

Married, two children

Home address:

Bjarkargata 10, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland
Phone: 354-552-3604

Office address:

Faculty of Social Science, Oddi, University of Iceland, 101
Reykjavík, Iceland
Phone: 354-525-4508, Fax: 354-552-6806
e-mail: sduna@rhi.hi.is

Position:

Associate Professor of Social Anthropology

Education:

1975

B.Sc. in Social Anthropology, The London School of
Economics and Political Science

1976-1977

Studied social anthropology at L'Université de Paris VII,
Maitrise level

1979

M.A. in Social Anthropology, University of Rochester, New
York

1990

Ph.D. in Social Anthropology, University of Rochester, New
York

Fieldwork:

1984

The Republic of Cape Verde, women in Cape Verdean
fishing communities

1980-

Iceland, social and cultural processes, position of women and
women's movements

Fellowships and grants:

1982, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1998 The Icelandic Science Foundation

1983

Nordic Africa Institute

1987, 1988

Women's Studies Fund, University of Iceland

1989	Susan B. Anthony Fellowship in Women's Studies, University of Rochester
1994, 1998	University of Iceland Research Fund

Professional Societies:

The Royal Anthropological Institute
The European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association of Social Anthropologists

Employment and positions:

1975-1976	Teacher in anthropology, English, and Icelandic literature at Ísafjörður Grammar School
1980-1984	Part-time Lecturer in Anthropology, University of Iceland
1983-1987	Member of Parliament, Women's Party
1990-	Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Iceland

Activities:

1985-1987	Parliamentary Council of the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland
1985-1992	Constitution Committee of the Republic of Iceland
1987-1990	Board of the Greenland Fund
1989-1993	Board of the Icelandic International Development Agency, ICEIDA
1989-	Board of the Icelandic Anthropological Institute, Chairman from 1997
1989-1991	Chairman, The Icelandic Film Fund Awards Committee, again 1996
1991	Chairman, The Icelandic Literature Prize
1991-1995	Editorial Board of NORA, Nordic Journal of Women's Studies
1991-1998	Expert Committee on Social Science Research of Environmental Policy Issues, The Nordic Environmental Research Programme
1991-1993	Chairman, University of Iceland Public Relations Committee
1994-1997	UNESCO's Consultative Committee on Women, member in personal capacity
1996-	Board of the Institute for Gender Studies, University of Iceland

1997-1998	Head of Gender Studies, University of Iceland
1997-	Icelandic Research Council Awards Committee
1998-	Chair of the Department of Anthropology, University of Iceland

Publications and papers not in Icelandic:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1984 | Cape Verdean Fishing Communities , with G. Pálsson, Reykjavík, University of Iceland |
| 1986 | "Women, Fishing and Development Policy in Cape Verde" , Conference on Social Science Research on Contemporary Cape Verde, Praia, Oct.1986, Development Studies Association Conference, Manchester, Sept.,1987 |
| 1989 | "Outside, Muted and Different: Icelandic Women's Movements and their Notions of Authority and Cultural Separateness, in The Anthropology of Iceland , eds. E.P.Durrenberger and G. Pálsson, Iowa City, University of Iowa Press: 80-98 |
| 1990 | "Time to Act", in Premier Sommet Mondial: Femmes et multidimensionnalité du pouvoir , Québec, Premier Sommet Mondial, 390-392 |
| 1992 | "Being a Mother: Nationalist Thought in Women's Rights Ideology in Iceland", Nordisk Forskarkurs: Utforming av könsidentitet i olika historiska og sociala sammanhang, Skálholt, June 1992 |
| 1994 | "Le Parti féministe islandais". Femmes: Moitié de la terre, moitié du pouvoir , ed. Gisèle Halimi, Paris,Gallimard: 151-159. |
| 1995 | "Purity and Defilement: Essentialism and Punishment in the Icelandic Women's Movement", with Inga Dóra Björnsdóttir. The European Journal of Women's Studies , Vol.2: 171-183. |
| 1995 | "Women in a Changing Europe". European Meeting on Women's Issues in UNESCO's Programme , Reykjavík, 21. - 22. April. |

- 1996 "Culture Theory and the Anthropology of Modern Iceland", **Social Anthropology**. 4, 1 :61-73.
- 1997 **Doing and Becoming: Women's Movements and Women's Personhood in Iceland 1870-1990**, Reykjavik, University Press.
- 1997 "Cultural Tangles: The Ambiguities of Promoting Culture" **The Cultural Image of Small Countries in Europe**, Tallinn, 27. 28. sept.
- 1998 "Father Did Not Answer That Question: Power, Gender and Globalization in Europe" in A. Cheater ed. **The Anthropology of Power**, Routledge, forthcoming.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

OFFICE OF NORDIC AND BALTIC AFFAIRS

2201 C Street, NW; Room 5229

phone: (202) 647-8378

fax: (202) 736-4170

e-mail: EUR.EUR/NB@dos.us-state.gov

TO: Melanne Verveer FLOTUS Chief of Staff
(name) (agency)

456-6244 456-6266
(fax number) (phone number)

FROM: Andrew L. Silski
Foreign Affairs Specialist for Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

SUBJECT: Iceland's invitation to the FLOTUS

COMMENTS: This is background FYI,
per the Icelandic Ambassador's recent
phone call to you.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions,
We are, indeed, planning a women's rights conference
for Northern Europe and Russia, but details remain
sketchy,

number of pages to follow: 12

ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EUROPEAN AFFAIRSPAGE 01 REYKJA 00334 021602Z 028408 S095272
ACTION: IC (02)INFO: NB (01) PMD (01) PM (01) PMC (01) PMP (01) PMS (01) PA (01)
EUR (05) PP (01)
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ACTION EUR-00INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 ACO-00 CIAE-00
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AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TALLINN
AMEMBASSY RIGA
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 000334

DEPT FOR EUR -- DAS BON ASMUS FROM AMBASSADOR MOUNT
NSC FOR LARRY BUTLER

WHITE HOUSE FOR MILLENNIUM COUNCIL-ELLEN MCCULLOCH-LOVELL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, OVIP, IC
SUBJECT: FIRST LADY INVITED TO ICELAND

1. SUMMARY: AS DISCUSSED DURING THE ASMUS/MOUNT MEETING IN WASHINGTON MARCH 18, THE FIRST LADY RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO COME TO ICELAND FROM ICELANDIC PRESIDENT OLAFUR RAGNAR GRIMSSON. PRESIDENT GRIMSSON PRESENTED THE INVITATION TO ELLEN MCCULLOCH-LOVELL, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND ADVISOR TO THE FIRST LADY ON THE MILLENNIUM. THE LETTER OF INVITATION (COPY BEING FAKED TO EUR/NB), HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF WOMEN IN MEDIEVAL ICELAND AND IN PARTICULAR, THE REMARKABLE STORY OF GUDRID THORBJARNARDOTTIR, THE SISTER-IN-LAW OF LEIF THE LUCKY. WHILE THE INVITATION DOES NOT SPECIFY ANY TIMING FOR THE VISIT NOR ANY DETAILS, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT A VISIT OF THE FIRST LADY BE LINKED TO A CONFERENCE IN REYKJAVIK ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS, AS PART OF THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVE (NEI). SUCH A CONFERENCE COULD THEN INVOLVE WOMEN FROM THE NORDIC AND BALTIC COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS RUSSIA AND OTHER KEY COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, SUCH AS POLAND AND GERMANY. THE FIRST REACTION TO SUCH A LINKAGE, TO THE NEI FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ICELAND'S MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE WAS POSITIVE. FIRST INFORMED THOUGHTS FROM HERE ON TMLNG, WERE THAT SUCH A VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1999. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 18, ICELAND'S PRESIDENT PRESENTED ELLEN

MCCULLOCH-LOVELL OF THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL, A LETTER OF INVITATION ADDRESSED TO FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON. THE INVITATION REQUESTS THAT THE FIRST

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LADY (AND HER DAUGHTER IF SHE WOULD LIKE TO COME), VISIT ICELAND AS GUESTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE MILLENNIUM. IT NOTES THAT THE CELEBRATIONS IN THE YEAR 2000 WILL MARK THE FACT THAT 1000 YEARS WILL HAVE PASSED SINCE LEIF EIRIKSSON AND OTHER ICELANDIC EXPLORERS DISCOVERED AMERICA, PROVIDING A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN A NEW VISION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CULTURAL WORLD DESCRIBED IN THE SAGAS OF ICELANDERS AND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND THE SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY.

3. THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER ADDS THAT ONE OF THE ICELANDIC DISCOVERERS OF THE NEW WORLD WAS GUDRID THORBJARNARDOTTIR, WHO WAS FIRST LEIF EIRIKSSON'S SISTER-IN-LAW AND LATER MARRIED THE VIKING EXPLORER THORFINN KARLSEFNI. THE SAGAS TELL US THAT GUDRID WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE EXPLORATIONS IN THE NEW WORLD, OWNING ONE OF THE SHIPS. SHE ALSO GAVE BIRTH THERE TO A BOY NAMED SNORRI, THE FIRST CHILD OF EUROPEAN ORIGIN TO BE BORN IN NORTH AMERICA. A SUBSEQUENT PILGRIMAGE TO HOME, ADDED TO HER REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THAT ERA. PRESIDENT GRIMSSON NOTES THAT THE PERSONAL STORY OF GUDRID, AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER VIKING WOMEN, WOULD OFFER A UNIQUE BACKDROP FOR A MEETING HERE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES.

4. COMMENT: THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVE, WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BALTIC STATES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING RUSSIA INTO A

POSITIVE DIALOGUE ON THESE MATTERS, WOULD BRING SPECIAL ADDED VALUE TO A TRIP HERE, SHOULD THE FIRST LADY ACCEPT PRESIDENT GRIMSSON'S INVITATION. IT IS AN OBVIOUS SUBJECT FOR THE UPCOMING POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS PLANNED BETWEEN DAS ASMUS AND ICELANDIC OFFICIALS NOW PROPOSED FOR JUNE 29 IN REYKJAVIK. IN ADDITION, ELLEN MCCULLOCH-LOVELL HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE ICELANDIC MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE TO COME TO ICELAND AND EXPLORE THIS AND OTHER IDEAS IN GREATER DETAIL. IN SHORT, THE STORY OF GUDRID IS A FASCINATING TALE THAT HIGHLIGHTS HER UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS 1000 YEARS AGO. WHILE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS, SUCH AS FUNDING, NEED TO BE ADDRESSED, IT IS A MARVELOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE OPENING OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY, THAT CAN BE DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED TO THE FIRST LADY FOR HER CONSIDERATION. END COMMENT

MOUNT

UNCLASSIFIED

IMMEDIATE

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OUTGOING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EUROPEAN AFFAIRSPAGE 01 OF 02 STATE 075061 271455Z 019537 S038787
ORIGIN: IC (02)INFO: NB (01) PMD (01) PM (01) PMC (01) PMP (01) PMS (01) PA (01)
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	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	ADS-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	NSF-01	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	P-00	CIO-00	SMIN-01	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
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SOURCE: KODAKA.027002

DRAFTED BY: EUR/NB:ALSILSKI:ALS -- 04/27/98 7-8378

APPROVED BY: EUR:RDASMUS

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CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA

UNCLAS STATE 075061

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, MARR, SCUL, SENV, IC, US

SUBJECT: ACTING SECRETARY PICKERING'S APRIL 17 MEETING WITH
ICELANDIC FM HALDOR ASGRIMSSON

1. (U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. (U) SUMMARY: ACTING SECRETARY PICKERING AND FOREIGN MINISTER HALDOR ASGRIMSSON HELD A PRODUCTIVE APRIL 17 DISCUSSION REGARDING ICELAND'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE NORTHEASTERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVE (NEI), ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, AND STRONG BILATERAL COOPERATION IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, INCLUDING THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP AND YEAR 2000 ACTIVITIES. OTHER ATTENDEES INCLUDED ICELAND'S U.S. AMBASSADOR, JON BALDVIN HANNIBALSSON; MFA POLITICAL ADVISER HILMAR HILMARSSON; AMB. MARK HAMBLEY, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; P STAFFER BARBARA STEPHENSON, AND EUR/NB COUNTRY OFFICER. END SUMMARY

3. (SBU) NEI. EMPHASIZING ICELAND'S PIVOTAL ROLE IN PROMOTING BALTIC INDEPENDENCE AND ITS POTENTIAL IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEI, THE ACTING SECRETARY OPENED BY COMMENTING THAT "THE BALTIC SEA ENDS AT REYKJAVIK." PICKERING PRAISED THE STRONG, EXCELLENT BILATERAL SECURITY

RELATIONSHIP AND NOTED THAT ICELAND HAD STOOD WITH THE US FOR MANY YEARS IN TOUGH TIMES. NOW, ICELAND WAS UNIQUELY POISED TO WORK WITH THE OTHER NORDICS AND US TO PROMOTE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS IN THE INTEGRATION OF THE BALTICS AND NORTHWEST RUSSIA INTO EUROPE. CALLING ICELAND'S NATO POLICY "WISE," THE ACTING SECRETARY WELCOMED ICELAND'S

INTEREST IN PROVIDING COAST GUARD AND SEARCH AND RESCUE EXPERTISE TO THE BALTIC NAVAL SQUADRON (BALTRON) AND AIR

TRAFFIC CONTROL TRAINING TO THE BALTICS UNDER THE REGIONAL AIRSPACE INITIATIVE (BALNET). PICKERING HAILED ICELAND'S "COOPERATIVE SAFEGUARD" AS THE ONLY MULTILATERAL PEP EXERCISE SO FAR IN WHICH RUSSIA HAS PARTICIPATED AND WELCOMED ICELAND'S DESIRE TO HOST ANOTHER MAJOR MULTILATERAL PEP EXERCISE INVOLVING RUSSIA IN THE YEAR 2000. HE ALSO SUPPORTED ICELAND'S OFFER TO PROMOTE U.S.-RUSSIAN SHIP EXERCISES IN ICELANDIC WATERS AND TO HOST A CONFERENCE ON RUSSIA'S NORDIC OR "VIKING" HERITAGE.

4. (SBU) REFLECTING ON ICELAND'S UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BALTIC STATES, THE MINISTER REPLIED THAT "WE GOT OUR INDEPENDENCE WHEN THEY LOST THEIRS." ALTHOUGH MOST OF ICELAND'S COOPERATION WITH THE BALTIC STATES TO DATE IS IN A MORE GENERAL NORDIC CONTEXT, ASGRIMSSON AGREED THAT "THAT'S NOT ENOUGH. - WE NEED TO DO MORE." GIVEN THAT ICELAND IS A MEMBER OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL, BARENTS COUNCIL, AND COUNCIL OF BALTIC SEA STATES, THE MINISTER WANTED ICELAND TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN FACILITATING US-RUSSIAN COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE ENVIRONMENT, AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO INVOLVE THE EU IN THIS PROCESS. HE FURTHER WELCOMED PICKERING'S SPECIFIC INVITATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR ICELAND'S ROLE IN THE REGION AND SAID THAT PEP INDEED WAS A MEANS FOR ICELAND TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE. AS EVENTUAL NATO/EU MEMBERS, THE BALTICS ARE A GATEWAY TO RUSSIA. CONCOMITANTLY, THE ALLIANCE NEEDS TO HELP RUSSIA UNDERSTAND THAT ENLARGEMENT IS A CHALLENGE AND NOT A THREAT, AND TO HELP THE ESTONIANS AND LATVIANS SOLVE THEIR "MINORITY PROBLEMS." BOTH PRINCIPALS AGREED THAT THERE NOW

IS A POSITIVE MINDSET CHANGE IN THE BALTIC STATES REGARDING HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE.

5. (SBU) YEAR 2000. THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE THAT THE USC AND GOL HAD AGREED TO FORM A JOINT WORKING GROUP TO PURSUE PROJECTS COMMEMORATING THE MILLENNIAL ANNIVERSARY IN THE YEAR 2000 OF LEIF EIRIKSSON'S DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT OF AMERICA. HOWEVER, HE WAS CONCERNED THAT ANY WORKING GROUP SHOULD INCLUDE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF SENIOR "HONORARY" MEMBERS WHO COULD FACILITATE PROGRESS ON PARTICULAR PROJECTS. THE ACTING SECRETARY

REPLIED THAT THAT COULD BE WORKED OUT. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEI AND YEAR 2000 ACTIVITIES (IN WHAT HE LATER TOLD THE PRESS WAS HIS "MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE") THE MINISTER REMARKED THAT ICELAND WANTS TO HOST A "HANSEATIC" WOMEN'S CONFERENCE THAT BRINGS TOGETHER WOMEN FROM THE BALTIC SEA REGION AND UNITED STATES AND INVOLVES THE FIRST LADY AS CHAIRMAN. PICKERING SUGGESTED THAT THE ICELANDIC EMBASSY CONTACT THE FLOTUS' CHIEF OF STAFF AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD KEEP THE WHITE HOUSE INFORMED. ASGRIMSSON ALSO WAS WORRIED BY REPORTS THAT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WAS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY FINDING \$2 MILLION IN MATCHING FUNDING WITH THE NORDIC COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A PROPOSED "WEST VIKING" EXHIBIT IN THE UNITED STATES. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS REASSURED THE MINISTER THAT THE RUMOR WAS UNFOUNDED.

6. (SBU) KYOTO AND BEYOND. THE PRINCIPALS EXCHANGED APPRECIATION FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP AT KYOTO, AND NOTED THAT THE "FINE PRINT" STILL NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED. ASGRIMSSON POINTED OUT THAT ICELAND NEEDED TO

DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMY AND TO MAKE BETTER USE OF ITS ABUNDANT AND RENEWABLE GEOTHERMAL AND HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY. THE GOL WAS INTERESTED IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ALUMINUM AND PERHAPS MAGNESIUM PLANTS. ASGRIMSSON NOTED AN AMERICAN COMPANY'S ROLE IN THESE ACTIVITIES, WHICH PICKERING APPLAUDED. BY 1990 ICELAND ALREADY HAD ACHIEVED A 40 PERCENT REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS BY CONVERTING MOST OF THE COUNTRY'S HEATING TO THESE ENERGY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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SOURCES, AND OTHER NATIONS NEEDED TO REALIZE THAT ICELAND HAD FEW OTHER ALTERNATIVES. EMISSIONS TRADING COULD HELP, BUT WAS NOT A SOLUTION. AMB. HAMBLEY MENTIONED THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN THE REYKJAVIK CONFERENCES FOR THE POST-KYOTO "UMBRELLA GROUP" IN MAY AND ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE IN SEPTEMBER. ASGRIMSSON NOTED THAT SINCE PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS AND LAND-BASED MARINE POLLUTION ARE OF DIRECT CONCERN TO ICELAND AND SINCE THE UN RECOGNIZED 1998 AS THE "YEAR OF THE OCEANS," IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT ICELAND HOST A WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE ON THESE ISSUES.

7. (SBU) TURNING TO THE BILATERAL DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP, THE PRINCIPALS AFFIRMED THEIR MUTUAL SATISFACTION WITH THE 1996 "AGREED MINUTE" AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING COSTS OF RUNNING THE BASE AT KEFLAVIK. PICKERING RECONFIRMED OUR FIRM AND UNCHANGING COMMITMENT TO ICELAND'S DEFENSE, TO OUR LONG-TERM PRESENCE AT THE KEFLAVIK BASE, AND TO THE TERMS OF THE 1951 DEFENSE AGREEMENT, WHICH THE MINISTER WELCOMED. PICKERING ALSO THANKED THE MINISTER FOR HIS STRONG PERSONAL SUPPORT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES, AND RECOGNIZED

THAT ICELAND'S PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTIONS TO SEOR, IPTF, AND

BOSNIAN RELIEF EFFORTS INDEED WERE VERY SIGNIFICANT. ASGRIMSSON EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THAT SUPPORT AND REITERATED ICELAND'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE USG AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

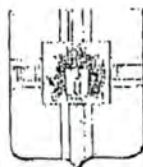
8. (SBU) OCEANIC NATURAL RESOURCE UTILIZATION. RESPONDING TO A QUERY, ASGRIMSSON GAVE HIS ASSESSMENT OF GREENLAND'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND EXPLAINED THE STRUCTURE OF ICELAND'S SCIENTIFIC, EFFICIENT, AND TRANSFERABLE QUOTA-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. FOR CONSERVATION REASONS, ICELAND WAS A PARTY TO THE ATLANTIC SALMON AGREEMENT AND EVEN HAD BANNED OUTRIGHT SALMON FISHING IN THE OCEANS, FOR EXAMPLE. MARINE RESOURCES ACCOUNTED FOR 60-80 PERCENT OF ICELAND'S EXPORT EARNINGS, AND ICELAND COULD NOT AFFORD TO MISMANAGE ITS RESOURCES. ASGRIMSSON POINTED TO THE DISASTROUS OVERFISHING OF HERRING STOCKS BY ICELAND, NORWAY, AND RUSSIA, WHICH THEN TOOK OVER TWENTY YEARS TO REBUILD. FM PRIMAKOV HAD PROMISED TO VISIT REYKJAVIK IN SEPTEMBER, AND RUSSIA WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN TAPPING INTO ICELAND'S TECHNOLOGY AND MARKETING SKILLS IN THESE AREAS. IN AN ASIDE, WHEN ASKED ABOUT ICELAND'S INTENTIONS REGARDING A RESUMPTION OF WHALING AND OF IWC MEMBERSHIP, ASGRIMSSON REPLIED THAT ICELAND EVENTUALLY WOULD HAVE TO UTILIZE WHALING STOCKS, LIKE OTHER STOCKS, SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE, BUT ONLY BASED UPON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THE ACTING SECRETARY EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THIS VIEW BUT NOTED THAT IT WAS AN EMOTIONAL AND CONTENTIOUS ISSUE.

9. (U) ASGRIMSSON CLOSED BY EXTENDING AN OPEN INVITATION FOR PICKERING, THE SECRETARY, AND OTHER USG OFFICIALS TO VISIT ICELAND IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OF THEIR OTHER

EUROPEAN TRIPS, PARTICULARLY TO USE THE KEFLAVIK NAS AS AN ALTERNATE REFUELING STOP TO THE BASE IN SHANNON.
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*Bernadine
March 9th 1998*

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

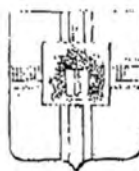
Dear First Lady

I would like to start by describing my particular delight, which is shared by everyone in Iceland, about the cooperation that has been established between the White House Millennium Council and the Leifur Eiriksson Millennium Commission of Iceland.

The celebrations in the year 2000, to mark the fact that 1000 years will have passed then since Leif Eiriksson and other Icelandic explorers discovered to America, provide a unique opportunity to open up a new vision of the democratic cultural world described in the Sagas of Icelanders, and to use this heritage shared by Iceland and the United States of America to underline, when we enter the new millennium, the deep-rooted connection between democracy and the spirit of discovery.

The culture that created the Viking explorations, so colourfully described in the Sagas of the Icelanders – which now for the first time have been published in a complete English translation; all 40 of them! – was a profoundly democratic culture. One of its achievements was the establishment of the Icelandic parliament, the Althing, on the splendid lava rift valley of Thingvellir in the year 930 – thereby making the Icelandic parliament the oldest democratic institution in the world today.

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Before setting out on their journeys the explorers had attended the legislative sessions of the parliament at Thingvellir – a globally unique place. Thingvellir is the only place on Earth where you can literally walk



from the American Continent to the European Continent in less than an hour! Only there does the Atlantic Ridge join the two continents on land. Perhaps there is a symbolic message that democracy and the spirit of discovery should have been fostered in such a place.

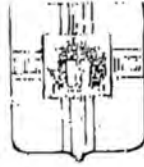
At the meeting Guðrún Katrín and I had with President Clinton last summer I mentioned that it would give us great pleasure to present the Complete Sagas of the Icelanders to the Clinton family so that the two of you and your daughter could read about the discovery of America and the democratic cultural community that produced great discoverers.

One of those discoverers was Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir who was first Leif Eiriksson's sister-in-law, and later married the great explorer Thorfinn Karlsefni.

Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir was arguably the most outstanding woman discoverer of all times. She was certainly the most prominent woman explorer of America, the only woman at the last millennium milestone to have visited both America and Rome. For the first 500 years of this millennium she remained the only woman to have done so. While in the New World, shortly after the year 1000, Gudrid gave birth to a boy, Snorri, the first child of European origin to be born in America.

With this letter I am sending to you a brief description of Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir's outstanding and historic life – together with a brief analysis of the importance of independent women in the ancient Icelandic democratic commonwealth.

I believe that during the millennium celebrations Gudrid deserves great attention and the highest place of respect and honour. Also because males have for so long dominated the history of explorers in all parts of the world. Many people in America might find it interesting to get to know Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir, this unique heroine whom America shares with Iceland.



It would give Guðrún Katrín and me great pleasure to invite you to be our guest in Iceland. A visit to our country could provide you with an opportunity to see for yourself the historic places where the discoverers of America, men and women, originated 1000 years ago.

Modern Iceland also offers an interesting case study in how one of the most outstanding welfare systems in the world, with equal opportunities for all in education and health services, has been developed with one of the lowest tax rates in the Western World.

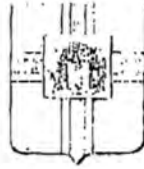
Active volcanoes, glaciers, geysers, rugged, ever-changing rivers and lakes furthermore provide a magnificent demonstration of the fact that in Iceland the creation of the world is still going on. Despite the advances of modern technology, man has not yet mastered the Earth.

In addition to our common historical heritage, a visit to Iceland provides an interesting vision of how to advance in modern times into an environmentally sound and socially balanced community.

If you felt it appropriate, we would be very happy if your daughter joined you on your visit to Iceland.

May I finally mention a personal memory that Guðrún Katrín and I treasure highly. When we were guests at the Democratic Convention in New York in 1992 we attended a meeting of the Black Caucus at the Hilton Hotel where you gave a speech which we will never forget. That moment was for us the greatest emotional experience of our days at the Convention.

We would be honoured to host you in our country.



Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir – A Woman Discoverer of America

*

Independent Women in the Medieval Democratic Commonwealth in Iceland

**A memorandum
from Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson President of Iceland
to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
9th March 1998**

Around the year 1000, Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir was surely the most widely travelled woman in the world – and would remain so for another five hundred years. She was in every way the equal of the discoverers who crossed the seas in their swift viking ships and explored the Western hemisphere. She was the first woman in world history to set foot both in America and Rome and the only woman to do so during the first 500 years of this millennium.

Gudrid was born in Iceland, married in Greenland, gave birth to a son in North America, the first child of European parents to be born there, travelled to Norway, set up a farm in Iceland and made a pilgrimage on foot to Rome, then ended her days as a nun and anchoress in Iceland. Her life spanned almost the whole known western world at that time. She was an independent woman and architect of her own fate, who with characteristic modesty took her place among the great female heroes of history.

Gudrid's story is recounted in the two Icelandic Sagas, *Eirik the Red's Saga* and *The Saga of the Greenlanders*. These unique accounts were written down on calfskin manuscripts around the year 1200 and describe the sailings by Icelandic men and women to Greenland more than two centuries before, their settlement and life there, and their voyages onwards to the west, to the shores of North America where they spent varying lengths of time exploring and travelling, without establishing a permanent settlement. Although the two sagas'

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accounts differ in details, the basic outlines of Gudrid's life and powerful character are the same.

When Gudrid is introduced she was young and living in Iceland, "the most attractive of women and one to be reckoned with in all her dealings." Young men found her impressive, attractive and a good match, but the sagas add that she was "choosy about her husband," meaning that she would not let her father or any other men dictate her marriage to her. Her father moved to Greenland and the next time we see Gudrid she is there, in an episode featuring a heathen prophetess who goes from house to house, foretelling people's futures. At first Gudrid wants nothing to do with her, calling herself "a Christian woman" and refusing to take part in heathen acts. Eventually she is persuaded to chant the ancient "ward song" which is necessary to intensify the seeress' gift of prophecy, and all the women form a circle around her. This is female lore and no male is included in the scene: "Gudrid spoke the chant so well and so beautifully that people there said they had never before heard anyone recite it in a fairer voice." The heathen seeress rewards her performance with a beautiful prophecy: "from you will be descended a long and worthy line. Over all the branches of that family a bright ray will shine." The account in the Saga of the Greenlanders is somewhat different – there it is her first husband who predicts her momentous future on his death-bed.

Gudrid later marries Thorstein Eiriksson, who was the son of Eirik the Red, the first settler of Greenland, and the brother of Leif the Lucky, the explorer who became the first European to set foot in North America in the year 1000. But Gudrid's joy is short-lived, for Thorstein dies of an illness during their first year of marriage, and she goes to live with her father-in-law. Another seafarer arrives there, Thorfinn Karlsefni, and he and Gudrid marry. Then they set off on a great expedition to Vinland (North America) and spend the winter there, during which time Gudrid gives birth to her son Snorri, the first European born in the New World. The couple and their followers have various dealings with the native inhabitants of America, trading and bartering. In the end, Gudrid, Thorfinn and their band return to Greenland.

After spending some time there, Gudrid and her husband and her son Snorri head for Norway, where they trade articles they had brought back from Greenland and the New World. On Thorfinn's death Gudrid sets off on her travels once more, walking on a pilgrimage to Rome to do penance and receive absolution. She ends her life in Iceland near her American-born son, as a nun and anchoress in the church he had built on their farm, in the northern part of Iceland, a farm which to this very day has been actively cultivated. The descendants of Gudrid can still be found in modern Iceland.

Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir led an extraordinary life, her transatlantic travels testifying to an independent and inquisitive character, an unswerving determination to explore the unknown. She was Christian, contented, modest and unassuming.

Her antithesis in the two Vinland sagas is her sister-in-law Freydis, Leif the Lucky's sister. Freydis also went to North America with her husband, but unlike both Gudrid and Leif she was heathen and cruel-hearted. Motivated purely by lust and greed, she tricked her husband into turning on their companions and killing them, and when he refused to attack the women, she took an axe and killed five of them herself. The scenario is essentially that of Paradise Lost. Freydis represents evil and heathendom, and her offspring are never mentioned, while Gudrid is bathed in the bright light of Christian virtue, her expedition to the New World, to the Paradise in the west, is a mission of good fortune and from her are descended three well-known medieval Icelandic bishops.

*

Strong and Independent Women in the Icelandic Culture of Discoverers

Most readers of the Sagas of Icelanders and other medieval Icelandic literature gain an immediate impression that Icelandic women were more "liberated" and stronger than their contemporaries elsewhere in Europe, and less subject to the will of men. Strong, clever women play a key role in the action of the sagas, they are elegant and beautiful, resourceful and resolute, and do not shy from taking their life into their own hands and engineering the fates of others.

Although men are invariably in the foreground of this narrative world, it is also strongly shaped by women: by mothers who instil their sons with ancient heroic values and urge them to noble deeds, by beautiful young women over whose favours poets fight, by women of firm character who rebel against male power and refuse to accept the limitations imposed on them by customs and laws.

Women play a prominent role in, for example, *The Saga of the People of Laxardal*. The central character is a woman who marries four times and ends her life as a nun. The probing descriptions of female experience and the lot of women, their rebellions and defeats, are so striking in this saga that some scholars have attributed it to a woman author. The women of the sagas are far from being the blushing damsels waiting for a knight in shining armour who typify so many other medieval narratives. Rather, many of them are more akin to Antigone and Medea from classical Greek tragedy in their dramatic strength, their firmness and endurance, their human shortcomings.

Some women claimed land for themselves with the first settlers of Iceland in the late ninth century. None is mentioned more often than Aud (Unn) the Deep-minded, whose life effectively encapsulates the whole Viking Age, and is described in *The Saga of the People of Laxardal* too. The daughter of a well-born Norwegian, Ketil Flat-nose, she married the Viking warrior king Oleif the White, who ruled

Dublin. When he was killed in battle in Ireland, Aud went to the Hebrides with their son Thorstein, who later became a warrior king like his father and won control of half of Scotland, until he was betrayed and killed in battle at Caithness. Aud then went to Orkney and arranged a marriage for his daughter Groa, "from whom all the earls of Orkney are descended." From there Aud went to the Faroe Islands and arranged the marriage of another of his daughters whose line became "the most prominent family in that country."

After establishing her honour in four countries Aud went to Iceland, where "she took as much land as she wished" in the Breidafjord valleys. Her right to this claim was never doubted, even though technically the law discriminated against women, since they were only allowed to take as much land as they could lead a heifer around in a single day, while a man could claim the whole area he could carry fire across in a single day.

Aud was the unquestioned head of her family, and in no way overshadowed by the male settlers who feature prominently in other sagas. She was a woman of strong character who was steadfast and determined in the arrangements she made; she shared out the land she had claimed among her descendants and supporters, decided their marriages and futures for them, male and female alike. Her word was law, and peace reigned in her part of Iceland during her lifetime.

Aud brought a large number of slaves with her to Iceland, many of them people of noble birth who had been taken into captivity in the British Isles. Once in Iceland she systematically granted freedom to many of them; slavery never seems to have been an important feature of Icelandic society.

One of the men that Aud released from slavery was a well-born slave called Vifil. His granddaughter would turn out to be one of the most remarkable women in the history of the world: Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir, explorer of America.

A selection of recent works about the status of women in Viking and medieval Icelandic society:

- Judith Jesch. *Women in the Viking Age*. Woodbridge (England). Boydell Press 1991.
Jenny Jochens. *Women in Old Norse Society*. Cornell University Press 1995.
— *Old Norse Images of Women*. University of Pennsylvania Press 1996.
— Old Norse Motherhood. *Medieval Mothering*. Ed. Bonnie Wheeler and John C. Parson, 1-22. *Feminea Medievalia* 4. Garland Press 1996.

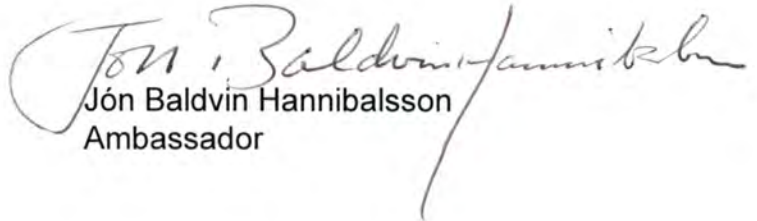


EMBASSY OF ICELAND
1156 15TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 May 20, 1998

Dear Madame Verver,

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Halldór Ásgrímsson, has asked me to forward a copy of the enclosed letter dated May 14, 1998 to you with his very best personal regards.

Sincerely,


Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson
Ambassador

M. Melanne Verver
Chief of Staff
of the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500



Reykjavik, 14 May 1998

Dear Mr. Pickering

Further to our discussion in Washington on 17 April I wish to inform you that the Government of Iceland has decided to host a conference under the auspices of the North East European Initiative on the "Role of Women in Northern Europe", including the Baltic countries, Nordic countries, Russia and other northeastern European countries as appropriate.

While we are in the early stages of planning we are hoping to hold the conference in October 1999. If the year 2000 would provide a more convenient time, we are prepared to consider rescheduling.

The Government of Iceland would like to extend an invitation to the First Lady, Hilary Rodham Clinton and would be honored and delighted if she were able to attend in a prominent capacity.

We view this as an important event that serves to advance democratic principles, particularly the rights of women, as we head into the new millenium.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Thomas R. Pickering
Under Secretary for Political Affairs

Copy to:
Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Ms. Ellen McCulloch-Lovell
Deputy Assistant to the President and Advisor to the First Lady
for the Millennium



- Vague event
- names
- Iceland

The President's Interagency Council on Women

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
Chair

Secretary of Health and Human Services
Donna Shalala, Immediate Past Chair

DATE: 8/9/99

TO: Melanne Vermeer

ORGANIZATION: Wt

PHONE: _____ FAX: 456-6244

FROM: Andi Zatti / Theresa Haar

PHONE: (202) 647 - FAX: (202) 647 - 5337

MESSAGE:

Draft list of potential participants
and partners for UU/Iceland.

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): (11)

Botti, Anita L.

From: Mandel, Judy L
Sent: Monday, August 09, 1999 12:37 PM
To: Botti, Anita L.
Subject: American Participants Draft



US participants.doc

My intern combined your two lists in alphabetical order, and removed the notations (e.g. mayor of Orlando). This is a rough draft, and does not include the "official" U.S.del, nor all of Sally's potential names.

Plus Frank Lay's Suggestions

Suzie Turnbull

301/469-7810

Suzie Cobb

305/665-5579

US PARTICIPANTS

*Indicates proposal submitted

P= Participant IP = Implementing Partner

<u>Name/Title/Organization</u>	<u>List</u>	<u>Workshop</u>	<u>IP/P</u>
1. *Judith Addington President Gazelle Productions, Ltd PO Box 1102 Darien, CT 06820 Tel: 203 857 4280 Fax: 203 857 4790	VV	Leadership	IP
2. *Layli Miller Bashir Arnold & Porter 555 12th Street, NW Washington, DC 20004 Tel: 202 942 5000 Fax: 202 942 5999	VV	Legislation	P
3. Leonard Benardo Deputy Regional Director for Russia Open Society 400 West 59th Street New York, NY 10019 Tel: 212 548 0656	EUR		IP
4. Rachel Bennet Freeman Economic Development Specialist Department of Housing and Urban Development Chicago, Ill	EUR	(Volkov Bus Incubator Project)	
5. Natalia Bourjaily The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law 733 15th Street, N.W., Suite 420 Washington, DC 20005	S/NIS/C	Legislation	P
6. *Lea Browning President W.E.A.R.E for Human Rights 7204 Central Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912-6451 Tel: 301 270 0436 Fax: 301 270 0321	VV	NGO Effect.	P
7. Martha Burke			P

8. *Iris Burnett Chairman of the Board Broad Confidence in Women		Media	IP
9. Mary Beth Cahill Special Assistant and Director The White House	VV	Public Liasion	P
10. Bonnie Campbell Department of Justice	VV		P
11. Susanne Campbell Executive Director UC Berkeley-St. Petersburg University Program Walter Haas School of Business Berkeley, CA 94720-1930 Tel: (510) 643-8854 Fax: (510) 642-2826 <i>Scampbel@haas.berkeley.edu</i>	S/NIS/C		IP
12. *Lisa Caputo Disney Publishing, Worldwide 114 5th Avenue New York, NY 10011 Tel: 212 633 4434 Fax: 212 633 5944	VV	Media	P
13. Sarah Carey Chair of the Board EurAsia Foundation 1350 Connecticut Ave, Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20036 Tel: 202 234 7370	S/NIS/C		IP
14. Barbara Casey (?)			IP
15. *Peggy Curlin President Centre for Development and Population Activities 1400 16th St NW, Suite 100 Washington, DC 20036 Tel: 202 667 1142 Fax: 202 332 4496	VV	Cultural	IP
16. Lisa Davis	EUR	21stC Skills	P

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17. Paula J. Dobriansky
 George F. Kennan Senior Fellow
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 Council on Foreign Relations
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IP

20. *Catherine A. Fitzpatrick

VV

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21. Rep of Ford Foundation

EUR

IP

22. Stephanie Foster (?)

P

23. Toby Gati
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24. Juliana Geran Pilon
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25. *Ruth Y. Goldway

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