

**Files of Melanne Verveer, Assistant to the President and Chief of
Staff to the First Lady
Box 9: Books and Files**

Archived from OEOB 102 by Eric Woodard on April 7, 2000

- HRC Briefing book for South America 1995
- Middle East Peace Process 1994
- Europe 1994
- Mexico, Costa Rica, & Barbados 1997

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS

15623

NAM 13102

**TRIP OF THE FIRST LADY TO
MEXICO, COSTA RICA & BARBADOS
MAY 4-12, 1997**

BACKGROUND ON MEXICO

- Background notes
- Education
- Women's Issues
- Involvement in the Fourth World Conference on Women
- Population and Family Planning
- Children's Issues
- Health Issues
- USAID Assistance
- U.S./Country Relations
- Poverty
- Press Q&A's
- CONCAUSA Accomplishments

Bios

Events in Merida

Welcoming Event
Uxmal Pyramids
Lunch with Archeologists
Discussion with Women from Merida

Events in Mexico City

Coffee with Mrs. Zedillo
MEXFAM Tour and Roundtable
Women's Roundtable and Luncheon
National Museum of Anthropology
Templo Mayor

BACKGROUND ON COSTA RICA

- Background notes
- U.S./Country Relations
- Political and Social Overview
- Economic overview
- Education
- Women's Issues
- Involvement in the Fourth World Conference on Women
- Population and Family Planning
- Children's Issues
- Health Issues
- Human Rights
- USAID Assistance
- Environment
- U.S. Embassy
- Etiquette

Bios

Events in Costa Rica

Meet and Greet with Summit Spouses
Microcredit Tour and Testimonials
Spousal Luncheon
Microcredit Conference Speech
Inter-American Institute of Human Rights

BACKGROUND ON BARBADOS

- Background notes
- U.S./Country Relations
- Political and Social Overview
- Economic overview
- Education
- Women's Issues
- Involvement in the Fourth World Conference on Women
- Population and Family Planning
- Children's Issues
- Health Issues
- Human Rights
- USAID Assistance
- Environment
- U.S. Embassy
- Etiquette

Bios

Events in Barbados

Spousal Luncheon with Mrs. Arthur
USAID Announcement

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

BACKGROUND ON MEXICO

Divider Title: _____



U.S. Department of State

Background Notes: Mexico, April 1997

Released by the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs.

OFFICIAL NAME: United Mexican States

PROFILE

GEOGRAPHY

Area: 1,972,500 sq. km. (761,600 sq. mi.); about three times the size of Texas.

Cities: Capital--Mexico City (15 million, 1990 census). Other cities--Guadalajara, Monterrey, Puebla, Leon.

Terrain: Coastal lowlands, central high plateaus, and mountains up to 5,400 m. (18,000 ft.).

Climate: Tropical to desert.

PEOPLE

Nationality: Noun and adjective--Mexican(s).

Population (1997 est.): 95 million. Annual growth rate (net): 1.8%.

Ethnic groups: Indian-Spanish (mestizo) 60%, Indian 30%, Caucasian 9%, other 1%.

Religions: Roman Catholic 89%, Protestant 6%, other 5%.

Language: Spanish.

Education: Years compulsory--12. Literacy--89%.

Health (1996 est.): Infant mortality rate--30/1,000.

Life expectancy--male 70 yrs., female 76 yrs.

Labor force (33 million): Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing--26%. Services--24%. Commerce--24%.

Manufacturing--15%. Construction--6%. Transportation and communication--4%. Mining and quarrying--1%.

GOVERNMENT

Type: Federal republic.

Independence: First proclaimed September 16, 1810; republic established 1824.

Constitution: February 5, 1917.

Branches: Executive--president (chief of state and head of government). Legislative--bicameral.

Judicial--Supreme Court, local and federal systems.

Political parties: Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), National Action Party (PAN), Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), Labor Party (PT), and several small parties.

Suffrage: Universal at 18.

Administrative subdivisions: 31 states and a federal district.

ECONOMY

GDP (1997, proj.): \$370 billion.

Per capita GDP (1997, proj.): \$3,911.

Annual real GDP growth (1997, proj.): 4.5%; (1996): 5.1%; (1995): -6.2%

Avg. annual real GDP growth (1989-94): 3%.

Inflation rate (1997, proj): 18%; (1996): 28%.

Natural resources: Petroleum, silver, copper, gold, lead, zinc, natural gas, timber.

Agriculture (5.8% of GDP): Products--corn, beans, oilseeds, feedgrains, fruit, cotton, coffee, sugarcane, winter vegetables.

Industry: Types--manufacturing (22% of GDP), services, commerce, transportation and communications, petroleum and mining.

Trade: (1996, Bank of Mexico): Exports--\$96 billion: manufacturing 84%, petroleum and derivatives 10%, agriculture 5%, other 1%. Major markets: U.S. (84%), Europe (4%), South America (4%), Canada (2%).

Imports--\$89.5 billion: intermediate goods 80%, capital goods 10%, consumer goods 7%, other 3%.

Major sources: U.S. (76%), Europe (9%), Japan (5%), Canada (2%) (1996, U.S. Department of Commerce). Imports from U.S.--\$56.8 billion. Exports to U.S.-- \$73 billion.

Average exchange rate (1996): 7.60 pesos = U.S. \$1.

PEOPLE

Mexico is the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world and the second-most populous country in Latin America after Portuguese-speaking Brazil. About 70% of the people live in urban areas. Many Mexicans emigrate from rural areas that lack job opportunities--such as the underdeveloped southern states and the crowded central plateau--to the industrialized urban centers and the developing areas along the U.S.-Mexico border. According to some estimates, the population of the area around Mexico City is about 20 million, which would make it the largest concentration of population in the world. Cities bordering on the United States, such as Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez, and cities in the interior, such as Guadalajara, Monterrey, and Puebla, have undergone sharp rises in population.

HISTORY

Highly advanced cultures, including those of the Olmecs, Mayas, Toltecs, and Aztecs, existed long before the Spanish conquest. Hernando Cortes conquered Mexico during the period 1519-21 and founded a Spanish colony that lasted nearly 300 years. Independence from Spain was proclaimed by Father Miguel Hidalgo on September 16, 1810; this launched a war for independence. An 1821 treaty recognized Mexican independence from Spain and called for a constitutional monarchy. The planned monarchy failed; a republic was proclaimed in December 1822 and established in 1824.

Prominent figures in Mexico's war for independence were Father Jose Maria Morelos; Gen. Augustin de Iturbide, who defeated the Spaniards and ruled as Mexican emperor from 1822-23; and Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, who went on to control Mexican politics from 1833 to 1855.

Santa Ana was Mexico's leader during the conflict with Texas, which declared itself independent from Mexico in 1836, and during Mexico's war with the United States (1846-48). The presidential terms of Benito Juarez (1858-71) were interrupted by the Hapsburg monarchy's rule of Mexico (1864-1867). Archduke Maximilian of Austria, whom Napoleon III of France established as Emperor of Mexico, was deposed by Juarez and executed in 1867. General Porfirio Diaz was President during most of the period between 1877 and 1911.

Mexico's severe social and economic problems erupted in a revolution that lasted from 1910-20 and gave rise to the 1917 constitution. Prominent leaders in this period -- some were rivals for power -- were Francisco I. Madero, Venustiano Carranza, Pancho Villa, Alvaro Obregon, Victoriano Huerta, and Emiliano Zapata.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), formed in 1929 under a different name, continues to be the most important political force in the nation. It emerged as a coalition of interests after the chaos of the Revolution as a vehicle for keeping political competition in peaceful channels. For almost 70 years, Mexico's national government has been controlled by the PRI, which has won every presidential race and most gubernatorial races.

GOVERNMENT

The 1917 constitution provides for a federal republic with powers separated into independent executive, legislative, and judicial branches. In practice, the executive is the dominant branch, with power vested in the president, who promulgates and executes the laws of the Congress. The president also legislates by executive decree in certain economic and financial fields, using powers delegated from the Congress. The president is elected by universal adult suffrage for a six-year term and may not hold office a second time. There is no vice president; in the event of the removal or death of the president, a provisional president is elected by the Congress.

The Congress is composed of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies. Consecutive re-election is prohibited. Senators are elected to six-year terms. Implementing constitutional changes made in 1996, for the first time on July 6, 1997, 32 of the 128 seats in the Senate will be elected by proportional representation from party lists on a national basis. With this change, some states may have more Senators than others. The 32 Senators elected in 1997 will only serve three-year terms, in order to bring the entire Senate back into the same cycle in the year 2000. Deputies serve three-year terms. In the lower chamber, 300 Deputies are directly elected to represent single-member districts, and 200 are selected by a modified form of proportional representation from five electoral regions created for this purpose across the country. The 200 proportional representation seats were created to help smaller parties gain access to the Chamber.

The judiciary is divided into federal and state court systems, with federal courts having jurisdiction over most civil cases and those involving major felonies. Under the constitution, trial and sentencing must be completed within 12 months of arrest for crimes that would carry at least a two-year sentence. Practice often does not meet this requirement. Trial is by judge, not jury, in most criminal cases. Defendants have a right to counsel, and public defenders are available. Other rights include defense against self-incrimination, the right to confront one's accusers, and the right to a public trial. Supreme Court Justices are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate.

National Security

Mexico's armed forces in 1995 numbered about 175,000. The army makes up about three-fourths of the total. One year of limited training is required of all males at age 18. Principal military roles include national defense, narcotics control, and civic action assignments such as road-building, search and rescue, and disaster relief.

Principal Government Officials

President--Ernesto ZEDILLO Ponce de Leon

Foreign Minister--Jose Angel GURRIA Trevino

Ambassador to the U.S.--Jesus SILVA-HERZOG Flores

Ambassador to the United Nations--Manuel TELLO Macias

Ambassador to the OAS--Carmen MORENO de del Cueto

Mexico maintains an embassy in the United States at 1911 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006 (tel. 202-728-1600). Consular offices are located at 2827 16th St. NW, 20009 (tel. 202-736-1012), and the trade office is co-located at the embassy (tel. 202-728-1686).

Consulates general are located in Chicago, Dallas, Denver, El Paso, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, San Antonio, San Diego, and San Francisco; consulates are (partial listing) in Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Philadelphia, Seattle, St. Louis, and Tucson.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon was sworn in on December 1, 1994, as the President of Mexico. A trained economist with degrees from Yale, Zedillo served as Secretary of Programming and Budget and Secretary of Education in the Salinas Administration prior to being elected.

President Zedillo continued the process already underway of opening Mexico's political system,

reforming the justice system, curtailing corruption, strengthening the fight against narcotics trafficking, and furthering Mexico's market-oriented economic policies. A severe financial crisis occupied much of the Zedillo Administration's attention in 1995-96, creating a need for difficult emergency economic stabilization policies and intensified longer-term economic restructuring. Significant progress has been achieved in some areas.

Political Scene

Unexpected and traumatic events in early 1994 convulsed the Mexican political scene. In January 1994, peasants in the state of Chiapas briefly took up arms against the government, protesting alleged oppression and governmental indifference to poverty. The government and the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) have negotiated on topics such as granting greater autonomy to indigenous peoples since then, reaching several partial accords. There have been no clashes since the government's unilaterally declared cease-fire in 1994, and the two sides remain committed to a negotiated peace settlement.

In March 1994, PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio was assassinated. In September 1994, PRI Secretary General Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu was also assassinated. Although the gunmen in both murders and co-conspirators in the Ruiz Massieu murder were tried and convicted, the Mexican public is not satisfied that all the truth behind these crimes has been uncovered.

Investigations into the murders resulted in the apprehensions in February 1995 of a second gunman in the Colosio murder, the arrest of the brother of former president Carlos Salinas as a suspected mastermind behind the second crime, and the filing of charges in March 1995 against the brother of Ruiz Massieu for obstructing investigations into the murder. Additional charges, including illegal enrichment for amassing multi-million dollar fortunes in overseas bank accounts, were filed against both men and investigations were widened to include their associates.

This has led to a flurry of public scandals regarding supposed attempts at obstruction of justice and allegations of major corruption in police, judicial, military and other authorities, as well as big business, including allegations of ties to narcotics trafficking. The atmosphere of scandal around former President Carlos Salinas has turned him into something of an arch-villain in the popular mind.

A new group of uncertain origin and size, the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR), made its appearance in southern Mexico on June 28, 1996. The Government considers the EPR a terrorist organization and has vowed to bring the group to justice. This and the assassination of senior law enforcement officers by suspected drug traffickers in northern Mexico also has contributed to increased attention and concern over public safety.

Recent Elections and Electoral Reform

A record 78% of registered voters cast ballots in the August 21, 1994, elections. Election officials declared Zedillo of the PRI the winner with 49% of the vote, followed by National Action Party (PAN) candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos with 26% and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) with 17%. Despite isolated incidents of irregularities and problems, there was no evidence of systematic attempts to manipulate the elections or their results, and critics concluded that the irregularities which did occur did not alter the outcome of the presidential vote. Civic organizations fielded more than 80,000 trained electoral observers; foreigners -- many from the United States -- were invited to witness the process, and numerous independent "quick count" operations and exit polls validated the official vote tabulation.

These extraordinary electoral observation measures were needed to overcome public suspicions that electoral fraud might be committed. Over the years, the PRI has relied on extensive patronage and massive government and party organizational resources to maintain its continuance in power. In many cases, the party has been accused of fraud. However, as numerous electoral reforms implemented since 1989 have aided in the further opening of the Mexican political system, opposition parties have made historic gains in elections at all levels. Most of the concerns shifted from fraud to campaign fairness issues.

In 1989, the PAN became the first opposition party to win a state governorship (in Baja California.) The PAN now governs four states: Guanajuato, Baja California, Jalisco, and Chihuahua. The party has also won a number of mayoral races, especially in urban areas. In recent years, however, controversies regarding state electoral results and/or campaign practices in Yucatan, Tabasco and elsewhere have pointed out the need for electoral practices to catch up with reformed electoral laws in some areas of the country.

During 1995-96 the political parties negotiated constitutional amendments to address electoral campaign fairness issues, which passed unanimously. In these negotiations, the parties were supported by consultations with civic organizations. It proved a disappointment when implementing legislation could not also be passed by consensus due primarily to disagreements over levels of public funding for political parties. The package of laws passed by the PRI majority in congress did include, however, major points of consensus that had been worked out with the opposition parties. The thrust of the new laws is to have public financing predominate over private contributions to political parties, to tighten procedures for auditing the political parties, and to strengthen the authority and independence of electoral institutions.

Even before the new electoral law was passed, opposition parties have obtained an increasing voice in Mexico's political system. While the ruling PRI still has substantial majorities in both houses of the Mexican Congress, 40% of its Chamber of Deputies and 33 of 128 senators were members of opposition parties. The PAN -- the largest opposition group -- rules over 37% of the country at the state and local levels.

The court system was also given greatly expanded authority to hear civil rights cases on electoral matters brought by individuals or groups. In short, a serious effort was made to "level the playing field" for the parties.

On July 6, 1997, all 500 members of the Chamber of Deputies and 32 members of the 128-member Senate will be elected. Also, an election will be held for the first time to choose the Mayor of Mexico City (to be known as the "Chief of Government of the Federal District"). This official was previously appointed by the president. Elections for state governors, state congresses, and/or for town mayors will be held in 11 states.

Other Reforms

To help reorganize the Mexican justice system, President Zedillo appointed as Attorney General a respected member of the opposition PAN party, the first time an opposition member has held a cabinet post in Mexico. (Attorney General Antonio Lozano was dismissed in late 1996 amid controversy regarding investigations into prominent murder and corruption cases.) Constitutional and legal changes were adopted to improve the performance and accountability of the Supreme Court and the Office of the Attorney General and the administration of federal courts. The Supreme Court, relieved of administrative duties for lower courts, was given responsibilities for judicial review of certain categories of law and legislation. A variety of laws was also passed in 1995-96 to help control organized crime.

Although the constitution provides for three branches of government, the Mexican presidency traditionally occupies a dominant position. In order to overcome this "presidentialism," the Zedillo Administration has sought to develop a greater role for the Congress, notably by inviting the participation of a multi-party legislative commission in the Chiapas peace negotiations and seeking congressional approval of the financial assistance package signed by the U.S. and Mexico in February 1995. The judicial reforms mentioned above are in part designed to allow the judicial branch of government to become a more effective counter-weight to the other two branches. The Zedillo Administration has also promoted a "New Federalism" to devolve more power to state and local governments, starting with pilot programs in education and health.

Education

Although educational levels in Mexico have improved substantially in recent decades, the country still faces daunting problems. Education is one of the Government of Mexico's highest priorities and it has increased the education budget 7.2% over 1996 to \$15 billion for 1997 -- one-fourth of the total budget.

Education in Mexico is also being decentralized from federal to state authority in order to improve accountability.

Education is mandatory from ages six through 18. The increase in school enrollments during the past two decades has been dramatic. By 1994, an estimated 59% of the population between the ages of six and 18 were enrolled in school. Primary (including preschool) enrollment in public schools from 1970 through 1994 increased from less than 10 million to 17.5 million. Enrollment at the secondary public school level rose from 1.4 million in 1972 to as many as 4.5 million in 1994. A rapid rise also occurred in higher education. Between 1959 and 1994, college enrollments rose from 62,000 to more than 1.2 million.

Although education spending has risen dramatically, given increased enrollment, a net decline occurred in per student expenditures. The Mexican Government concedes that despite this progress, 2 million children still do not have access to basic education, and hopes to provide access to half of those children by the year 2000.

ECONOMY

Sustained economic growth is vital to Mexico's prospects for a successful evolution to a more competitive democracy. Mexico's level of economic prosperity has a direct, though proportionally smaller impact on the U.S. as it affects trade and migration. In recent years Mexico has sought economic prosperity through liberalization of its trade regime. In January 1994, Mexico joined Canada and the United States in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which will phase out all tariffs over a 15-year period. Four months later, in April 1994, Mexico joined the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Mexico was the first Latin American member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), joining in 1993, and in January 1996, became a founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Mexico's NAFTA membership helped the Mexican economy grow by 3.5% in 1994. Following the December 1994 devaluation of the peso, however, Mexico experienced a severe financial crisis that also threatened the stability of other emerging market economies, especially in Latin America.

The United States responded by leading a group of international lenders in making available to Mexico over \$40 billion in international financial assistance, including \$20 billion from the United States. This action helped stabilize the Mexican economy, allowing Mexico to repay the loans to the United States more than three years ahead of schedule and with \$580 million in interest.

In 1996, Mexico's economy grew over 5%, recovering from the recession more briskly than anticipated. Inflation fell, unemployment fell and the peso stabilized. Mexican real GDP is expected to grow about 4% in 1997.

Although the 1995 recession was severe, with real GDP falling 6.2%, tough stabilization measures averted an even more serious collapse and brought about a rapid recovery. NAFTA contributed to the process of adjustment by enabling Mexico to reduce its current account deficit through increased exports rather than through slashing imports from the United States, as it had following the 1982 debt crisis.

Trade

Mexico was the United States third-ranked trading partner in 1996, accounting for 9% of U.S. trade. In 1996, U.S. \$56.8 billion in exports to Mexico were almost equal to our exports to Japan, even though the Mexican economy is just one-seventh the size of Japan's. The United States was Mexico's predominant trading partner, accounting for 84% of Mexican exports and 76% of Mexican imports. The chief U.S. exports to Mexico were motor vehicle parts, office equipment, and agricultural products; the top imports from Mexico included petroleum, cars and coffee. The United States in 1996 was the source of 60% of all direct foreign investment in Mexico.

U.S.-Mexico trade increased during NAFTA's first three years. In 1996, U.S. exports to Mexico were up 36% and U.S. imports from Mexico were up 80% over 1993 levels. Cyclical economic factors, rather

than NAFTA, caused a trade deficit in 1995 and 1996; strong growth in U.S. demand, along with the Mexican recession and devaluation of the peso, increased U.S. imports while slowing growth in U.S. exports.

NAFTA eliminates restrictions on the flow of goods, services, and investment in North America. In addition to phasing out tariffs, NAFTA eliminates, as far as possible, non-tariff barriers and promotes safeguards for intellectual property rights -- patents, copyrights, and trademarks. The pact also includes provisions on trade rules and dispute settlement, and its parallel labor agreement seeks to ensure full protection of workers' rights.

Through its supplemental environmental cooperation agreement, NAFTA marked the first time in the history of U.S. trade policy that environmental concerns have been addressed in a comprehensive trade agreement. The pact also serves as a basis for enhancing ongoing U.S.-Mexico cooperation on a host of other issues that do not respect national borders.

Agriculture

Mexico's agrarian reform program began in 1917, when the government began distribution of land to farmers. Extended further in the 1930s, this cooperative agrarian reform, which guaranteed small farmers a means of subsistence livelihood, also caused land fragmentation and lack of capital investment, since commonly held land could not be used as collateral. This, combined with poor soil, several recent years of low rainfall, and rural population growth, has made it difficult to raise the productivity and living standards of Mexico's subsistence farmers.

Mexico's agricultural sector continues to experience heavy debt problems, even as the government seeks to foster a shift to a market-oriented and competitive farming industry. High interest rates for loans have compounded the difficulty for producers, and the 1994 peso crisis exacerbated the decline in productivity. According to the Mexican Government's office of statistics, agriculture accounted for 5.8% of GDP in 1996.

In an effort to raise rural productivity and living standards, Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution was amended in 1992 to allow for the transfer of communal land to the farmers cultivating it. They then could rent or sell it, opening the way for larger farms and economies of scale. By early 1996, however, only six farmers' cooperatives had voted to disincorporate. Since communal land use is formally reviewed only every two years, privatization of these communal lands may continue to be very slow.

In the past, the government encouraged production of basic crops such as corn and beans by maintaining support prices. In order to rationalize its agricultural sector, Mexico is phasing out its support price scheme. Corn production dropped in 1995 and 1996 as more was imported. The government in 1996 crafted federal-to-state agreements targeted at each state's most urgent needs, with the goal of increasing the use of modern equipment and technology in order to increase per-acre productivity.

In addition to this new initiative, the government is continuing PROCAMPO, the rural support program which provides the approximately 3.5 million farmers who produce basic commodities - about 64% of all farmers - with a fixed payment per hectare of cropland.

Manufacturing and Foreign Investment

Mexico's manufacturing sector in 1996 accounted for 22% of the GDP and 21% of employment in the formal urban economy. Manufacturing grew 11% after having declined 5% during Mexico's recession in 1995.

The industrial sector as a whole, which along with manufacturing includes construction, electricity and mining, grew 10% in 1996, following a drop of 8% in 1995. Construction rebounded with 11% growth after declining 23% in 1996.

In December 1993, Mexico passed a new foreign investment law which promotes competitiveness and established clear rules for the entry of international capital into productive activities. The law also permits foreigners to own non-residential property in the "restricted zones" - within 100 kilometers (62

miles) of the border and 50 kilometers of the coasts. Residential property in these zones still must be acquired via a trust through a Mexican financial institution. Total new direct foreign investment in 1995 was \$7 billion, down from \$11 billion in 1994. Direct foreign investment of at least \$8 billion is widely expected to have taken place in 1996, although the final tallies have not been released.

Transportation and Communications

The Zedillo Administration is continuing the previous government's modernization of infrastructure and services, deregulation and development of more efficient transport systems, and increased privatization. Mexico's land transportation network is one of the most extensive in Latin America. More than 4,000 kilometers (2,400 miles) of four-lane highway have been built through government concessions to private sector contractors since 1989. The 36,000 kilometers (22,000 miles) of government-owned railroads in Mexico are currently being privatized through sale of 50-year operating concessions. The Northeast railroad, Mexico's primary freight carrier, was privatized early in 1997 for \$1.4 billion. Another significant section, the Northwest railroad, will be privatized by mid-1997.

Tampico and Veracruz, on the Gulf of Mexico, are Mexico's two primary seaports. Recognizing that the low productivity of Mexico's 79 ports poses a threat to trade development, the government has steadily been privatizing port operations to improve their efficiency.

A number of international airlines serve Mexico, with direct or connecting flights from most major cities in the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, and Latin America. Most Mexican regional capitals and resorts have direct air service to Mexico City or the United States. Airport privatization, based on the successful experience with ports, should begin by the end of 1997.

Mexico has taken significant steps to modernize its telecommunications system. A key element was the privatization in 1990 of the national telephone company, Telefonos de Mexico (TELMEX), which was sold to a consortium of Mexican investors, Southwestern Bell, and France Telcom. This privatization has meant an increased rate of infrastructure enhancement. In addition, eight regional companies are providing cellular telephone service to various parts of Mexico, resulting in a dramatic expansion of cellular telephone users. Two larger communications satellites have been ordered to replace the two now in use. The government has also opened the telecommunications sector to greater foreign investment. Starting in 1997, long-distance telecommunications service will be a much more competitive industry in Mexico, with nine consortia (two of them having significant fiber optic systems of their own) giving Telmex strong competition for the customer base.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Government of Mexico has sought to maintain its interests abroad and project its influence largely through moral persuasion. In particular, Mexico champions the principles of non-intervention and self-determination. In its efforts to revitalize its economy and open up to international competition, Mexico has sought closer relations with the U.S., Western Europe, and the Pacific Basin. While the United States and Mexico are often in agreement on foreign policy issues, some differences remain--in particular, relations with Cuba. The U.S. and Mexico agree on the ultimate goal of establishing a democratic, free-market regime in Cuba but disagree on tactics to reach that goal.

Mexico actively participates in several international organizations. It is a supporter of the United Nations and Organization of American States systems and also pursues its interests through a number of ad hoc international bodies. Mexico has been selective in its membership in other international organizations. It declined, for example, to become a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Nevertheless, Mexico does seek to diversify its diplomatic and economic relations, as demonstrated by its accession to GATT in 1986; its joining APEC in 1993; becoming, in April 1994, the first Latin American member of the OECD; and a founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1996. Mexico attended the 1994 Summit of the Americas, held in Miami, and agreed to assume responsibility for coordination of the agenda item on education.

U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS

U.S. relations with Mexico are as important and complex as with any country in the world. A stable, democratic and economically prosperous Mexico is fundamental to U.S. interests. Our relations with Mexico have a direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans -- whether the issue is trade and economic reform, drug control, migration, or the promotion of democracy. The U.S. and Mexico are partners in NAFTA, and enjoy a rapidly developing trade relationship.

The scope of U.S.-Mexican relations goes far beyond diplomatic and official contacts; it entails extensive commercial, cultural, and educational ties, as demonstrated by the nearly 290 million legal crossings from Mexico to the United States in fiscal year 1995. In addition, more than half a million American citizens live in Mexico. More than 2,600 U.S. companies have operations there, and the U.S. accounts for 60% of all foreign direct investment in Mexico. Along the 2,000-mile shared border, state and local governments interact closely.

Since 1981, the management of the broad array of U.S.-Mexico issues has been formalized in the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission, composed of numerous U.S. cabinet members and their Mexican counterparts. The Commission holds annual plenary meetings, and many sub-groups meet during the course of the year to discuss trade and investment opportunities, financial cooperation, consular issues and migration, legal affairs and anti-narcotics cooperation, cultural relations, education, energy, border cooperation, environment, labor, agriculture, health, housing and urban development, transportation, fisheries, tourism, and science and technology.

A strong partnership with Mexico is critical to controlling the flow of illicit drugs into the United States. The U.S. has certified Mexico as fully cooperating in this effort based on an unprecedented level of cooperation on counternarcotics and Mexico's own initiatives in fighting drug trafficking. This is the best way to ensure that Mexico's cooperation and anti-drug efforts grow even stronger.

During 1996, the U.S. and Mexico established a High-Level Contact Group (HLCG) on narcotics control to explore joint solutions to the shared drug threat, to coordinate the full range of narcotics issues and to promote closer law enforcement coordination.

The United States and Mexico have a long history of cooperation on environmental and natural resources issues, particularly in the border area, where there are serious environmental problems caused by rapid population growth, urbanization, and industrialization. Cooperative activities between the U.S. and Mexico take place under a number of agreements such as:

A 1944 treaty creating the International Boundary and Water Commission, which has a wide range of responsibilities for solving U.S.-Mexico water and boundary problems such as distributing the waters of the Colorado River and the Rio Grande between the two countries; jointly operating international dams and other joint flood control works along boundary rivers; and solving border water quality control problems. Since the early 1980's the IBWC has focused on border sanitation and groundwater resources.

The 1983 La Paz Agreement to Protect and Improve the Border Environment.

The 1993 North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation, created under NAFTA by the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, to strengthen environmental laws and address common environmental concerns; and

A November 1993 agreement between the U.S. and Mexico, also under NAFTA, establishing the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) which works with local communities to build or upgrade environmental infrastructure such as wastewater treatment plants, drinking water systems, and solid waste disposal facilities; and the North American Development Bank (NADBANK), which leverages private sector capital to finance border environmental infrastructure projects certified by the BECC.

PRINCIPAL U.S. OFFICIALS

Ambassador--James R. Jones
Deputy Chief of Mission--Charles H. Brayshaw
Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs--Barbro A. Owens-Kirkpatrick
Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs--William Brew
Counselor for Labor Affairs--John Ritchie
Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs (USIS)--Donald R. Hamilton
Minister-Counselor for Consular Affairs--Bruce Beardsley
Consul General (Acting) --Richard Gonzalez
Counselor for Scientific and Technological Affairs--Paul Maxwell
Counselor for Commercial Affairs--Kevin C. Brennan

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico is located at Paseo de la Reforma 305, 06500 Mexico, DF. U.S. Mailing Address: Box 3087, Laredo, Texas 78044-3087. Telephone (from the U.S.): (011)(52-5) 211-0042. The Embassy and the 18 other U.S. Consulates General, Consulates, and consular agents provide a range of services to American students, tourists, business people, and residents throughout Mexico.

U.S. Consulates General and Consulates and Officials

Consulate General, Ciudad Juarez--Larry Colbert
Address: Avenida Lopez Mateos 924-N, 32000 Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua
Mailing Address: Box 10545, El Paso, Texas 79995-0545
Telephone (from the U.S.): (011)(52-16) 13-4048

Consulate General, Guadalajara--Danny B. Root
Address: Progreso 175, 44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco
Mailing Address: Box 3088, Laredo, Texas 78044-3088
Telephone (from the U.S.): (011)(52-38) 25-2998

Consulate General, Monterrey--Eileen M. Heaphy
Address: Avenida Constitution 411 Poniente, 64000 Monterrey, Nuevo Leon
Mailing Address: Box 3098, Laredo, Texas 78044-3098
Telephone (from the U.S.): (011)(52-83) 45-2120

Consulate General, Tijuana--Mirta Alvarez (Acting)
Address: Tapachula 96, 22420 Tijuana, Baja California Norte
Postal Address: P.O. Box 439039, San Diego, California 92143-9039
Telephone (from the U.S.): (011)(52-66) 81-7400

Consulate, Hermosillo--Sandra Salmon
Address: Calle Monterrey 141 Pte., 83260 Hermosillo, Sonora
Postal Address: Box 3598, Laredo, Texas 78044-3598
Telephone (from the U.S.): (011)(52-62) 17-2375

Consulate, Matamoros--Atim E. Ogunba
Address: Ave. Primera 2002, 87330 Matamoros, Tamaulipas
Postal Address: Box 633, Brownsville, Texas 78522-0633
Telephone (from the U.S.): (011)(52-88) 12-4402

Consulate, Merida--David R. Van Valkenberg
Address: Paseo Montejo 453, 97000 Merida, Yucatan
Postal Address: Box 3087, Laredo, Texas 78044-3087
Telephone (from the U.S.): (011)(52-99) 25-5011

Consulate, Nuevo Laredo--Isiah L. Parnell
Address: Calle Allende 3330, Col. Jardin, 88260 Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
Postal Address: Box 3089, Laredo, Texas 78044-3089
Telephone (from the U.S.): (011)(52-87) 14-0512

EDUCATION

Resolving Mexico's daunting problems in general education services for children and teens is one of the Mexican government's highest priorities.

Budget increases: The Mexican government has increased the education budget 7.2% over 1996. Total education expenditures will exceed 15 billion dollars for 1997, which is one-fourth of the total federal budget.

Education reforms: Beginning in the 1980's, major reforms included the transfer of school administration from the federal to the state level and transforming teacher training institutions into higher education institutions. The curriculum has also been updated, the school year increased to 200 days, and local and state boards of education have been created to increase participation.

Problems persist: The educational budget increase for 1997, however, does not make up for steep declines in per student expenditures from 1980-95, which fell 43% over that period. The government publicly concedes that two million children do not have access to basic education, and hopes to provide access to half of those disenfranchised children by the year 2000. In addition, of 15.5 million Mexicans between the ages of 15 and 24 in 1995, only one in five had access to high school and/or college.

Literacy and educational levels: About two-thirds of Mexican children drop out of school by age 15. As a result, only about 15% of the population has more than a high school education -- less than Ecuador, Bolivia, and Cuba (all around 20%), and only one-fifth the rate of the U.S. (76%). In smaller communities (less than 15,000 inhabitants), 24% of teenage and adult women are illiterate, as are 33% of indigenous children. Educational levels also suffer at the high end of the scale: there are only 5,868 research scientists in Mexico -- a mere 0.006% of the population -- and their number has declined in each of the last four years.

Talking Point:

- o I applaud the large increases made in the educational budget by the Zedillo administration.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

The Mexican Constitution establishes full equality between men and women but inequality between the sexes persists.

Evolving roles: Since the 1980's, women have been increasingly involved in the work force, higher education, and public life. Traditional groups claim, however, that this is eroding the family. Motherhood and family care are culturally perceived as women's primary roles, creating conflicts for and about women who are active outside the home. A more progressive position prevailed among the official Mexican delegates at the Beijing Conference.

According to a recent survey, 64% of Mexican women believe that inequality exists between the sexes. They identified "machismo" (the culture of male domination) as the biggest obstacle to equality, and named discrimination in the workplace as the biggest problem that women face.

Women hold 2 of the 19 Cabinet posts (Silvia Hernandez, Secretary of Tourism, and Julia Carabias, Secretary of the Environment); there have been 2 women governors in the 1990's (Dulce Maria Sauri, Yucatan, and Beatriz Paredes, Tlaxcala). There are 67 women in the 500-member federal Chamber of Deputies and 16 women in the 128-member federal Senate.

Work: Women's participation in the work force has increased significantly, from 18% in the 1970s to about 33% today. However, women tend to be concentrated in lower-level jobs: 96.6% of domestic workers are female, compared to 19% of managers and executives. Considerable attention has been focused on reports of discriminatory and abusive treatment of low-paid women workers in border maquiladora industries.

Education: Primary school enrollment is almost universal and there are no significant differences between girls and boys. From the age of 10, however, the school attendance of girls begins to decline compared with that of boys, and the differences become more accentuated the higher one goes on the educational ladder. Female post-secondary school enrollment was 83% that of males for the period of 1990-1993.

Health: Abortion is not legal in Mexico. It is the most divisive women's health issue confronting policymakers. In a recent poll, 43% of women surveyed accepted abortion only in some cases, 28% did not accept it under any circumstances, and 25% felt that it should be up to the woman involved to choose. Women represent 16.3% of the total of newly-reported AIDS cases.

Talking Point:

o I am pleased to see the advances made by Mexican women in their evolving roles in society, and your government's support for women's issues in international fora.

MEXICO AND THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Mexican participation: Mexico was an active and positive participant in the UN Fourth World Conference on Women. Silvia Hernandez, Minister of Tourism, led the delegation. Other prominent members included Olga Pellicer and Aida Gonzalez, former and current representatives, respectively, to the UN Commission on the Status of Women; and Dulce Maria Sauri, a former state governor and current head of Mexico's national program for women.

Amb. Pellicer chaired the contact group that drafted the Declaration that precedes the Platform for Action. (The U.S. was successful in ensuring that "women's rights are human rights" was included in the Declaration, and Mexico was supportive.)

Mexico played a key role in including progressive language in the Platform for Action on measuring and valuing unwaged work, on girls' education, and on ensuring that the Fourth World Conference on Women built upon the World Conference on Human Rights and the International Conference on Population and Development, particularly in regard to the universality of human rights, women's human rights, and reproductive rights.

Mexico had included NGOs on previous world conference delegations. However, at Beijing, for the first time, Mexico included both progressive and conservative NGOs on its delegation, which one delegate admitted was quite a challenge.

Follow-up: Although Mexico did not announce any commitments at the Conference, Mexico has instituted a follow-up mechanism to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. About a year ago (early 1996), Dulce Maria Sauri, was chosen to head a National Program for Women in the Ministry of the Interior, which, among other things, will help resolve cases of discrimination against women. The Ministry has just released a report on how national and state laws comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

TALKING POINTS:

- o We enjoyed working with Mexico at the Beijing Women's Conference. We appreciated Mexico's active and positive participation, particularly in the discussion on measuring and valuing unwaged work, and on women's human rights and reproductive health.
- o We are interested in the work of Mexico's National Program for Women, in the Ministry of the Interior. We hope that the U.S. and Mexico can work together in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 Inter Press Service
Inter Press Service

February 4, 1997, Tuesday

LENGTH: 749 words

HEADLINE: WOMEN-LATAM: SLOW HEADWAY TOWARD EQUALITY

BYLINE: By Zoraida Portillo

DATELINE: LIMA, Feb. 4

BODY:

Latin American women's groups have found it slow going coordinating with governments, official agencies and mainstream society their efforts to implement the agreements made at the 1995 Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing.

A recent gathering in Lima, sponsored by the Flora Tristan Center, analyzed the progress that had been made in Latin America and the Caribbean 15 months after Global Women's Conference. Delegates also discussed the ways in which the accords contained in the Global Action Platform were being implemented.

Ana Isabel Garcia, Costa Rican coordinator of the Offices of Latin American and Caribbean Women, said some progress had been made in gender initiatives in such areas as violence and the environment. But in the majority of cases these were limited to the populations of small areas and the initiatives lacked overall coordination.

Gloria Ayala, of the National Directorate for Equity for Colombian Women, said that not all governments and organizations from civil society pursued the goal of gender equality in the same way.

"There exists a widespread culture of discrimination and subordination. Many governmental ministries as well as public agencies do not properly value the central importance of gender issues and continue financing small scale projects as a means of 'helping' women," Ayala said. "Furthermore, the problematic human rights situation in each country restrains the implementation of the Global Action Platform."

Garcia explained that in order to overcome this situation it was necessary to devise strategies that did not merely reaffirm rights, but had a national scope that could be undertaken by governments, to united diverse political forces, mainstream society and non-governmental organizations.

Other delegates spoke of the need for women to proceed from participatory democracy to representative democracy.

"If we follow the current trend, half-a-century will pass before we achieve equity," declared Virginia Vargas from Peru, the former Latin American Coordinator of the Beijing Conference and current director of Flora Tristan Center. She deplored the low percentage of women who occupy positions of public rank in the Latin American region.

Arising from this situation was the suggestion to deepen efforts to achieve quotas that assured a minimum representation of women in governmental operations and in the various political parties.

According to U.N. statistics women occupy between four and nine percent of parliamentary and municipal positions in the Andean region. These percentages decline when the position of women is considered at the ministerial level.

Dulce Maria Sauri, of the National Program for Mexican Women, said that her country displayed one of the highest percentages of parliamentary representation by women: 14 percent. But, she added, since 1953 when women were given the vote, only six women have ever headed a government ministry.

Monica Munoz, a representative of United Nations' Office for Women for the Andean Region, said that her office pays special attention to women's access to political power in the area due to the fact that there is such scant participation in public life. The conference also heard that violence against women was still a grave problem throughout the region.

Munoz pointed out that in the Ecuadorean capital of Quito, where acts of aggression perpetrated on women filled police charge sheets, "some 17.5 percent of daily police charges are cases of aggression against women, 82 percent of which take place in the home. The perpetrators are either husbands or live-in partners."

Lilian Celiberti, from Uruguay, urged that the movement not to remain on a merely legal and political plane, but rather to go on to create genuine mechanisms to mobilize the women's movement and other grass-roots organizations.

Celiberti declared, "What must not happen is what has taken place in Uruguay, where the government and the political system together believe that the problems of women have been resolved, simply because they have their civil rights...these rights are manifest only at the legal level which, while important, isn't everything since the same rights get distorted in practice."

The Lima meeting set down guidelines for action that would enable organizations that work with women to make particular policy applications that "harmonize with the particular reality in each country."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 5, 1997

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 SOFTLINE INFORMATION, INC.
The Ethnic NewsWatch
Miami Times

January 23, 1997

SECTION: Vol. 74; No. 20; Pg. 8a

LENGTH: 619 words

HEADLINE: Women demand fair share of the economic pie at global summit

BYLINE: McClean, Marva

BODY:

Women demand fair share of the economic pie at global summit.

"Let's talk money. Let's talk big money," implored Vice President Speciosa Wandire-Kazibwe of Uganda in her opening address at the third Global Summit of Women which sought to bring together female leaders from around the world to consider new ways to promote economic empowerment.

The summit, held at the Hotel intercontinental Jan. 9-12, had the participation of such dignitaries as Daisy Avance-Fuentes, Member, House of Representatives, Philippines; Jeannine Horowitz, U.S. National Liaison, Program Bolivar, Japan; Barbara Blum, President, Adams National Bank, USA; Sen. Gwendolyn Tonge, Antigua; and Betty Freidan, Co-Founder and first president of the National organization for Women (NOW).

They spoke in strong, clear voices, their tones passionate, a symphony of accents and languages, on topics such as "Expanding Women's Access to Financing," "Opportunities of Women in International Trade," "Media Influence in Shaping Images of Women" and "The Global Economy: Trends and Challenges Facing Women."

Despite the need for interpreters, despite variations in the topics of presentation, the voices of change focused on one signal theme; how women can secure a fair share of economic and political power in the national and global economy.

The Uganda vice president offered one strategy: work in cooperation with men to promote affirmative action. She urged women not to ostracize the male in their pursuits but to recognize the benefits to be derived from having them as allies.

"Men, and indeed the world, are realizing now that it makes economic sense to promote women. Let's seize these opportunities and devise strategies to make this climate work on our behalf," she asserted.

She urged the audience to consider ways to push for global networking among themselves and to offer mentoring for women with potential to become leaders.

Those views were strongly echoed by Rebecca Grynspan, Vice President of Costa Rica, in her closing remarks on Sunday. She urged women to avoid confrontation in the workplace and, instead, use their creative energy to nurture a climate

of persuasion based on clear principles. Women, she said, should prepare themselves physically and intellectual for leadership.

She said that the pursuit of equality and empowerment should be a deliberate and concise plan incorporating five principles. Chief among them, she said is a commitment to education, including the use of technology which allows women to use time more creatively and, ultimately, to be more productive and competitive.

"We must prepare ourselves to move from grassroots involvement to the seat of power. Women must not fear politics but must become proactive in assuming a seat in the political framework," she said.

Through the summit, one question kept repeating itself: Why do men advance faster than women? Perhaps in answer to this question, the powerful gathering of women entrepreneurs, scholars and politicians was unanimous in recommending change. Recommendations included an audit of their intellectual resources, that they operate with a deliberate plan to meet the requirement for success.

As part of this strategy, Irene Ntividad, director of the summit, said, in closing that the group will set up a global network to continue to exchange ideas, do business among themselves and remain "habitually critical" of the world economic order, seizing all available opportunities to demand that women's contribution be recognized and fairly rewarded.

"We will move from volunteerism, from marginalization, to economic empowerment that we so rightly deserve," she declared to resounding applause from the audience.

ETHNIC-GROUP: African/Caribbean

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: April 7, 1997

POPULATION ISSUES

The Government of Mexico has supported population activities since the 1970's, and the current Zedillo administration has maintained that commitment despite the recent economic crisis.

Falling fertility rates: Mexico, with a population of approximately 95 million, has a total fertility rate of 2.8 children per woman. This has decreased from about 6 children per woman in the mid-1970's. Even so, the population is expected to double within 32 years. The contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 13% in 1973 to a current rate of 56% of all married women of childbearing age using modern methods of contraception.

Policy: The Mexican Constitution affirms that each person has the right to decide freely on the number and spacing of their children. Mexico's National Population Program supports a comprehensive reproductive health approach, birth spacing, gender equity, and strengthening of the family. Some 95% of family planning and reproductive health services are funded through the regular government budget.

U.S. assistance: The U.S. has historically been the major donor assisting Mexico's population program. In the past decade, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided an estimated \$10 million annually, representing 15.5% of the total funds for family planning in Mexico during this period. In 1996, USAID contributed \$12 million.

USAID assistance has focused on expansion and improvement of family planning services, including training, information, education, and communication activities, primarily in Mexico's poor southern states and marginal neighborhoods of Mexico City and its metropolitan areas. Informed consent concerns have been raised recently in both the Mexican and U.S. press regarding alleged coercive family planning practices. Each case is treated seriously, and steps are taken to solve this problem through medical arbitration, criminal punishment of offenders, and improved counseling and informed consent procedures.

Talking Points:

- o I commend Mexico for its long-standing commitment to reproductive health and family planning which helps Mexican women space births, prevent maternal deaths, avoid unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions, and protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases.
- o I am pleased to learn that Mexico is one of the world leaders in implementing the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action, with government institutions and NGOs providing family planning services within a reproductive health framework.

CHILDREN'S ISSUES

Children under the age of 18 make up over 40% of Mexico's population. Major children's issues are health, street children in Mexico City, and child labor.

Health: Mexico has been successful in improving children's health, but needs continued support of research and intervention programs to address problems in specific sectors of the society and in various regions of the country. From 1980 to 1995, overall infant mortality rates dropped about 56% -- due to almost universal vaccination coverage, improved health education and sanitation. Mortality from preventable diseases such as polio, measles, and diphtheria is now almost non-existent. Mortality from diarrhea diseases has been cut over the period by 85%.

However, infant and child health problems are still prevalent in indigenous communities. States with large indigenous populations have infant mortality rates double the national average. Infectious diseases in these communities continue to be an important cause of death, and diarrhea disease mortality rates are 74% higher than the national average.

Nutrition also continues to be a problem for infants and children of both the general and indigenous populations. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) classifies Mexico as "lacking adequate strategies" to combat malnutrition among children, and reports that 30,000 children die each year of causes related to malnutrition.

Street children: More than 13,000 children live on the streets of Mexico City, many the victims of family violence. The children themselves often become involved with alcohol, drugs, prostitution, and petty thievery. While the government and NGOs conduct a number of programs for street children, corrupt police exacerbate the problem by pressuring children to commit petty crimes and extorting profits from them. The National and Mexico City Human Rights Commissions have programs designed to protect children's rights, and Mexico City has expanded housing and services for homeless children.

Child labor: The International Labor Organization has reported that 18% of Mexican children 12 to 14-years-old work. This problem is worst in agriculture, small companies, and the informal economy. The Mexican government has increased obligatory schooling to nine years and made parents responsible for their children's attendance.

Talking Point:

- o I commend the efforts Mexico is making to improve the lot of its children in the face of economic stringency.

HEALTH ISSUES

Health statistics/risks: Infant mortality fell 55% between 1960 and 1995, with a current rate of 17.5 per 1,000 live births (U.S. rate: 8.0/1,000). The maternal mortality rate was 110 per 1,000 live births (1992) (U.S. rate: 7.9/1,000). Chronic and degenerative diseases displaced communicable diseases as a cause of death among Mexican adults; the three leading causes of death among men are heart disease, accidents, and cancer. The leading causes of death among preschool children in 1990 were intestinal infectious diseases, measles and accidents. Air pollution in the Mexico City area has reached alarmingly high levels, although lead levels in the air have been reduced.

U.S.-Mexico health cooperation: A Health Working Group under the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission (BNC) focuses on five priority areas: women's health, smoking (with an emphasis on adolescents), immunizations, migrant health and aging. Preferring to work through existing mechanisms, Mexico does not favor establishing a new border health commission as authorized in U.S. legislation.

Tobacco use prevention: Mexico is particularly interested in the President's tobacco initiative related to young people and the recent implementation of FDA regulations requiring identification for the sale of tobacco to adolescents (those under 18 years of age).

Immunization: The U.S. and Mexico are exploring joint sponsorship of national immunization weeks to focus attention on the need to immunize children.

Environmental health and migrant health: The U.S. and Mexico will initiate joint research to study the pesticide exposure and adverse health effects in young children. For the U.S., children of migrant farm workers who work in the fields along with their families are at highest risk.

Women's health issues: Following up on the Cairo Population Conference, Mexico is interested in cooperating with the United States on breast cancer awareness, domestic violence, life cycle changes, and smoking by adolescent girls.

Talking Point:

o For both our countries, children are our most precious resource. In partnership, we can better approach our public health challenges, including providing our children a choice "not to smoke," ensuring they are well immunized against disease, and protecting them against harmful environmental effects.

USAID ASSISTANCE

The USAID program in Mexico is focused on four general categories: health and family planning, the environment, economic growth, and development of democracy.

Health and family planning: This has been the largest component of USAID support, averaging \$10 million a year. Mexico's family planning program, with USAID assistance, is one of the success stories of the hemisphere, with the annual population growth rate dropping from 3% in the mid-1970's to the current 1.8% net population growth. Given the success of the Mexican population program, the present level of USAID assistance will not be needed by the end of 1998. USAID is expanding its support of HIV/AIDS prevention activities, with \$1.2 million projected for 1997.

Environment: The environmental sector is the second largest area of concentration for USAID, with \$5 million projected for 1997. Critical areas covered include mitigation of global climate change (GCC), forest and biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, energy conservation, and alternative energy sources. Current NAFTA-related environmental activities address international air and water pollution issues.

Economic growth: Current USAID programs are focused on activities which will help stimulate the Mexican economy from within. USAID will be collaborating with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to help increase effective grassroots citizen participation in the selection, design and implementation of \$15 million in IDB-financed microenterprise projects. These projects will create income and employment opportunities in low-income areas of Mexico that are a major source of illegal migration to the U.S.

Democracy and human rights: USAID provides assistance to NGOs for campaign and election observation activities. New activities will help Mexican NGOs in preventing pre-election fraud and voter coercion, and assist small municipalities with good governance initiatives. USAID will also support several Rule of Law activities which will strengthen Mexico's internal justice reform initiatives, including a judicial exchange program, development of a model alternative dispute resolution system, and improved court administration. In human rights, USAID assistance will help develop a program under which law students will provide legal services to the poor.

Talking Points:

o I am pleased that USAID assistance has made a difference in Mexico, especially in the population planning success story.

o We look forward to good results from microenterprise loans to generate growth where it is needed most, among the poorer segments of the population.

USAID: Family Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean

In Central America and the Dominican Republic countries, the average number of children per woman (total fertility rate) is about 3.4. Guatemala has the highest total fertility rate in the entire sub-region at 5.2. Costa Rican women have an average of 3.1 children in their lifetimes, representing the lowest fertility rate in Central America followed by the Dominican Republic with a fertility rate of 3.3.

For the Caribbean region, the average total fertility rate is 2.8 children. Haiti is the outlier in this region, with an average of 4.8 children born per woman on average. On the other end of the spectrum, Barbados has a total fertility rate of 1.6 children. Jamaica's rate is closer to the sub-regional average at 3.0 children.

On average, 61% of the Central American population use some form of contraception. The highest total contraceptive prevalence is found in Costa Rica at 76%. While Guatemala has the highest fertility rate noted above, it also has the lowest utilization of family planning methods for the entire sub-region at 31%. Approximately half of all Nicaraguans (in union) are using contraception (47%).

The average rate of contraceptive prevalence among the countries in the Caribbean is 60%--very close to Central America. Sixty-seven percent of Jamaicans are using contraceptives. On the other extreme, Haiti has a low rate of 18% of their population practicing family planning. However, this represents an increase from 7% in 1991. The Dominican Republic and Barbados have more than half of their population using contraception (56% and 54% respectively).

USAID programs in individual countries focus activities in counseling, education and training of health workers as well as providing contraceptives and support for management improvements for service delivery. In 1996, USAID provided contraceptives valued at approximately \$25 million for Central America and the Dominican Republic.

USAID provided approximately \$8 million worth of contraceptives to the countries of the Caribbean in 1996.

USAID/LAC Regional Population, Health and Nutrition Programming
The Health Services and Policy Interventions Program

This area of USAID's work is designed to address USAID's health priorities articulated in March 1994 (family planning, child survival, maternal health, and STDs/HIV). Budget and staffing realities have forced USAID/LAC to focus the program on four key components: vaccinations (including measles elimination), maternal mortality, integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) (diarrhea and acute respiratory infections), and health sector reform to foster equity of access to basic health services.

Using the successful approaches to regional activities of the two prior, five-year, LAC Regional Accelerated Immunization Projects (both implemented by PAHO), the present programs will provide resources for regional activities to assist LAC country programs to provide more effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions.

1. Vaccination Component
(including measles elimination)

The regional initiative to eliminate measles from the Hemisphere was approved at the Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 1994. PAHO has estimated that \$53 million in donor funds are needed for a 5-year regional effort, in addition to the funds countries will need to expend on their own programs. USAID plans to contribute up to \$8 million; PAHO will provide \$9.8 million; and PAHO has pledges of \$1 million from Spain and \$2.2 million from the IDB.

a. Related Country-specific Programming

USAID missions in 8 countries (Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru) include significant programming in support of vaccination activities designed to protect infants and children from 6 major immuno-preventable diseases: tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, polio, and measles. These programs are implemented through a variety of public and private service providers. USAID mission personnel participate actively in the country Interagency Coordinating Committees organized by Ministry of Health national program directors, comprised of all organizations implementing and supporting vaccination programs in the countries. PAHO serves as the Secretariat for the ICC in most countries.

b. Regional Programming

USAID/LAC awarded \$1.9 million in FY 96 to PAHO as the first installment of a 5-year grant of up to \$8 million to fund regional activities supporting country vaccination programs.

This follows 2 previous 5-year grants to PAHO in support of regional vaccination activities. Prior grants focused on polio eradication in the context of overall vaccination coverage improvements. This grant will focus on measles elimination in the context of sustaining vaccination coverage and programs.

The primary results of this component are:

- 1) improving the policy environment for vaccination activities, especially involving the private sector;
- 2) improving vaccination services delivered by public and private institutions; and
- 3) improving surveillance of measles in the region.

2. Maternal Mortality Component

The Ministers of Health of the Americas approved a Regional Plan for Maternal Mortality Reduction in the Americas in 1990. There has been some progress, but no significant improvement in the region overall. At the Miami Symposium, there was an agreement to draw attention to the problems of maternal mortality because of its strong linkage to the well-being of women and children.

The World Summit for Children established a goal of reducing maternal mortality by one-half from 1990 levels by the year 2000. This goal was re-iterated at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and at the Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994). This followed early efforts to draw attention to this problem by the World Bank's Safe Motherhood initiative in the late 1980's.

a. Country-specific USAID programming

USAID has an outstanding family planning program active in 13 of the 16 countries where we work in LAC (only Guyana, Columbia and Panama do NOT have USAID family planning programs among our presence countries). These strong family planning programs are a major contributor to reducing maternal mortality in the hemisphere, but more direct actions to reduce maternal mortality have been neglected until the last few years, when mission programs in a few countries (notably Bolivia and Guatemala) began incorporating them into their PHN programs.

b. LAC Regional programming

As a component of the Health Services and Policy Interventions Strategic Objective, LAC/W intends to provide a total of approximately \$2.5 million over the next five years to PAHO and Global Bureau cooperating agencies to reduce maternal mortality in LAC. The focus will be on regional actions to

support first-level emergency obstetric care in 11 target countries, the 10 countries with the highest maternal mortality ratios (Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay) plus the Dominican Republic.

These regional activities will maximize impact of our resources by reinforcing country programs using relatively simple technologies that can be administered at the lowest level of referral in the health systems in LAC.

Regional maternal mortality prevention activities will be implemented by a strategic alliance between PAHO, which has influence with political and technical decision makers in LAC, and USAID cooperating agencies, which are at the cutting edge of technical innovation in this relatively new intervention. The Maternal Mortality Grant was signed with PAHO during the Sixth Conference of First Ladies of the Americas on December 4, 1996. The partners for this initiative have begun the active process of jointly planning the first year's activities.

The results this component will achieve are:

- 1) increased capacity of FVO networks and Ministries of Health to identify and respond to community needs for emergency obstetric care;
- 2) improving emergency obstetric care through use of standards and protocols (not including transfusions and cesarean sections) at first level of referral health facilities¹, and
- 3) improving the policy environment for first-level emergency obstetric care (permitting nurse-midwives to administer oxytocin, for example).

3. Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Component

Worldwide, some 12 million children die each year before they reach their fifth birthday. Approximately 565,000 of those deaths occur in Latin America, and to a large extent are preventable. The majority of these deaths are attributable to diarrhea, pneumonia, measles, malaria, and malnutrition, or a combination of these conditions.

Building on past experience and lessons learned from disease-specific control programs, the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with UNICEF, has developed an integrated approach to the assessment, classification, treatment, and counseling of sick children and their caretakers. This approach

¹These are facilities with 24-hour care.

is known as Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), and forms the basis for new treatment guidelines at first-line health facilities. IMCI provides for integrated case management of the most common childhood illnesses (acute respiratory infections, diarrhea, malaria, measles, and malnutrition) which in the past were generally considered and treated separately. PAHO estimates that these conditions are responsible for the majority of child deaths in Latin America.

a. Country-specific USAID Programming

Country-specific programming for the IMCI strategy in the eight LAC child survival emphasis countries (Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Haiti) are in various stages of development. Country programs will be more fully defined as the strategy takes hold in the region and Mission programming is developed for supporting this technology.

b. LAC Regional Programming

In response to this challenge in Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives from PAHO, USAID, and the Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival (BASICS) Project collaborated on the design of a five-year, \$5 million Latin America regional strategy to improve health services in order to reduce child mortality and morbidity by attacking these main causes of disease.

The results this component will achieve are:

- 1) Country leaders have information for IMCI adoption;
- 2) Participating countries have plans and strategies in place for introduction and implementation of IMCI;
- 3) Countries capacity to implement IMCI is improved; and
- 4) Monitoring and evaluation used to adjust IMCI program plans.

4. Health Reform Component

a. Country-specific USAID Programming

Most USAID PHN programs in LAC already include some aspects of health sector reform, such as fostering an increased role for the private sector, improving financing of health care so that subsidies can serve the poorest, and improving effectiveness and efficiency of care.

b. LAC Regional Programming

This component has been collaboratively developed by PAHO and the USAID/Global Bureau's Partnerships for Health Reform and Data for Decisionmaking projects and is in the stage of final approval. It will focus on developing and testing tools and

methodologies; making information readily available; monitoring reform and results; and sharing of experiences between countries. Target countries will be the 13 countries where USAID has active PHN programs in LAC.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Regional and bilateral United States initiatives, led by USAID with the assistance of several other U.S. federal agencies, are working with Central American counterpart organizations in both the public and private sector to foster sustainable development. USG funding in Central America under both regional and bilateral assistance programs totals \$200 million in FY 1997 (\$46 million for regional and \$154 million for bilateral programs).

In the area of the environment, ongoing regional USAID sustainable development cooperation and activities are institutionalized in CONCAUSA, the U.S.-Central American Agreement, which was signed at the Miami Summit in December 1994. CONCAUSA seeks to conserve the region's rich biodiversity, strengthen environmental legislation and compliance, improve environmental protection standards, reduce environmental contamination, and promote clean efficient energy use. USG funding in support of CONCAUSA totals \$26.5 million over five years.

USAID also supports a number of other Central American regional programs focused on economic growth and trade, democracy and human rights, health, including HIV/AIDS prevention, and education policy. The distinctive feature of the regional programs is that they are carried out with regional Central American institutions and seek regional approaches and efficiencies to complement national and global activities.

USAID maintains bilateral economic assistance programs in five of the Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama; the programs in Costa Rica and Belize were closed last year). The USG, through USAID, has funded special peace and reconstruction programs in El Salvador and Nicaragua and now in Guatemala. In addition, ongoing sustainable development programs focus on alleviating poverty and promoting economic growth, fostering democracy and respect for human rights, increasing access to quality integrated health care services, and promoting effective and sustainable natural resources management.

Regional and bilateral efforts in environmental protection and sustainable natural resource utilization reinforce the objectives in other sectors (governance, health, economic development, education), as well as benefit from initiatives in those areas. The sustainable use of the region's agricultural, forest, and coastal resources, along with the conservation of its extensive biodiversity, contributes significantly to the region's economic development (including from exports and eco-based tourism). Strengthened environmental standards and enforcement, and the adoption of pollution prevention and energy efficient technologies in the region improves the competitiveness of CA industries, and contributes to improved health and the well being of the region's populations. The active engagement of civil

society in policy formulation, investment decisions, implementation of environmental programs, and the resolution of natural resource conflicts reinforces and builds upon democracy and governance programs. Environment and sustainable development themes are increasingly integrated into basic education programs.

Examples of bilateral environmental programs that have achieved significant development impact include: sustainable forest management (Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica), biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama), environmental education and awareness (El Salvador, Costa Rica), sustainable agriculture (El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala). Environmental efforts in Panama are helping to protect the Panama Canal Watershed in order to maintain the viability of the Panama Canal due to its crucial importance for international trade.

Regional Collaboration on Sustainable Development

Central America provides a unique and commendable model of effective regional collaboration on environmental protection, economic integration, and related development issues. The USG is proud to be a partner with the Central American countries in advancing sustainable development for the region's current populations and future generations.

Importance of Sustainable Development in Central America

- alleviates poverty and contributes to economic development by providing viable investment and employment opportunities
- reduces human health threats related to environmental contamination
- increases trade with the U.S. and provides investment opportunities for U.S. companies
- protects biodiversity that has regional and global importance
- contributes to a reduction in global warming
- enhances political and social stability within the region
- reduces prospects for illegal activities, including drug trafficking and illegal migration to the U.S.

doc: U:\drpub\ees\mcmahon\regpro.sj

Mexico and U.S. Development Cooperation

Program Scope: A small USAID Office was re-opened in Mexico in 1977 after discontinuation of the bilateral program in 1968. For greatest outreach and sustainability, USAID-funded activities are carried out through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Various U.S. Government agencies are partners in many activities. The USAID program is focused in four global categories which directly affect the future of both Mexico and the United States: health and family planning; environment (global warming and biodiversity preservations); economic growth; and democracy.

HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING: This has been the largest component of USAID support, averaging \$10 million a year. Mexico's family planning program, with USAID assistance, is one of the success stories of the Hemisphere, with the annual population growth rate dropping from 3 percent in the mid-1970s to the current 1.8 percent net population growth. Given the strong and continuous leadership and commitment by the Mexican government to its population program and its success in providing family planning services, the present level of USAID technical and programmatic assistance will not be needed by the end of 1998. Current USAID funding also is helping NGOs to prepare for full assumption of responsibility for self-sustaining programs after 1998. Recent support, focussed on expanding access to quality family planning services in rural and peri-urban areas, is being successfully undertaken by our Mexican partners. We are entering a new phase of collaboration, encouraging other developing countries to learn from Mexico's experience. Among the issues of immediate concern to the U.S. being addressed with USAID assistance are activities carried out in the poorest regions of Mexico, where the birth rate remains high. Education of Mexico's large adolescent population, many of whom will have to migrate to find work in order to support young families is emphasized. With USAID assistance, Mexico is reaching these young people to promote responsible family planning which, in turn reduces the economic necessity to seek work outside Mexico.

HIV/AIDs incidence among the 2 million workers who cross the U.S. border annually is an increasing concern. USAID is expanding its support of HIV/AIDs prevention activities, with \$1.2 million projected for 1997. These activities are concentrated in areas which receive the most transient labor migration from Central America (e.g., Chiapas, Oaxaca, Michoacan), and are providing education in the need for, and methods of, protecting against HIV/AIDs.

ENVIRONMENT: Mexico has been designated as a key climate change country by the U.S. Congress as well as a mega-biodiversity country, and the environmental sector is the second area of concentration for USAID, with \$5 million projected for 1997. Both "green" and "brown" issues are covering an array of activities in critical areas, such as mitigation of global climate change (GCC), forest and biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, energy conservation, and alternative, sustainable energy sources. The primary GCC emphasis has been on the reduction of CO2 emissions which contribute to global climate change; activities to reduce deforestation and to promote efficient use and conservation of energy resources. An integrated sustainable development approach is being implemented in protected areas and buffer zones to protect forests,

conserving natural resources and foster economically and environmentally sustainable development activities. Energy objectives are being accomplished through the promotion of demand-side management, integrated resource planning and the promotion of renewable energy technologies, trade and development. Current NAFTA-related environmental activities (implemented in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency and other U.S. agencies) address international, cross-border endangered species, air and water pollution issues. A Mexican Conservation Fund was established with \$20 million in funding from USAID and \$10 million from the GOM, to provide sustainable funding for biodiversity conservation. Activities under this fund are implemented by Mexican NGOs in partnership with major U.S. environmental NGOs, such as The Nature Conservancy.

ECONOMIC GROWTH: The presence or lack of broad-based economic opportunity for the citizens of Mexico will define the country's future and relations with the US for decades to come. Past USAID efforts have focused on efforts to harmonize rules and regulations to facilitate and expedite implementation of NAFTA; and provide technical assistance in specific areas, such as cooperation between the U.S. and Mexican Government agencies on general patent searches, violations of intellectual property rights laws and the sharing of data base materials to facilitate U.S.-Mexico trade. Current initiatives are focused on activities which will help stimulate the Mexican economy from within, including the creation of economic opportunities in the poorest areas of Mexico. To that end, USAID will be collaborating with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to help increase effective grass-roots citizen participation in the selection, design and implementation of \$15 million in IDB-financed microenterprise projects. These projects will create income and employment opportunities in low-income areas of Mexico, which are presently a major source of illegal migration to the US.

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: One of the Administration's top policy goals is successful democratization of Latin America. President Zedillo also has made democratic and Justice sector reform a centerpiece of his administration. Mexico is undergoing a major political opening which is greatly increasing pluralism, and providing a greater voice to citizens. Modest USAID assistance will help the Mexicans carry out their difficult and sensitive process of democratic reform. USAID's assistance to NGOs for campaign and election observation activities will continue. New activities will help Mexican NGOs develop techniques to prevent pre-election fraud and voter coercion, and assist small, poor municipalities assume greater responsibility for honest and transparent management of the public interest. USAID will support several Rule of Law activities which will strengthen the Mexican's own justice sector reform initiatives, and help meet priority U.S. objectives in criminal and counternarcotics law enforcement. A judicial exchange program is underway which will bring senior Mexican and U.S. jurists together to discuss issues of common priority, and help the each of them to identify elements of the others justice system which could be adapted to their own needs. Additional activities will include development of a model Alternative Dispute Resolution system, caseload management and improved court administration.

These will help the overburdened Mexican courts to handle serious criminal and counternarcotics cases more expeditiously, with far greater transparency than is presently possible. In the area of human rights, USAID assistance will help Mexican law schools and NGOs develop a program under which law students will provide legal aid services to the poor as part of their legal training.

Poverty

Mexico is characterized by widespread and extreme poverty. Before the most recent 1994 economic crisis, the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) estimated 36 percent of the population, 34 million people, lived in poverty. One-third, 11.3 million, lived in extreme poverty, with incomes less than the cost of an even minimally adequate diet. Mexico's reported per capita income (\$2,762 in 1995) is extremely misleading. It reflects a tiny band of export oriented activity, mostly confined to the maquila industries along the northern border. The majority of Mexicans do not benefit from this sector of the economy.

Most of Mexico's poor live in rural areas and are heavily concentrated in the four southern states of Chiapas, Oaxaca, Guerrero and Michoacan where 65 percent of the population is below the poverty line. This percentage has been rising. These states, which make up only 15 percent of the total population, contain over half the population living in extreme poverty. These states also have the highest concentrations of indigenous people and the poverty rate among the indigenous communities of these four states is an alarmingly high 80 percent. These states are the principal source of illegal migrants to the U.S., because they offer few opportunities for the impoverished majority.

The disastrous effects of the peso crisis of 1994 (during which an estimated one million jobs were lost) on many Mexicans live on. Wealth continues to be highly concentrated, some estimate just 5 percent of the population controls 90 percent of the wealth.

Pervasive poverty, particularly in the rural areas, has led to increasing urbanization of Mexico and increasing concentrations of the poor in urban areas, particularly in metropolitan Mexico City. Mexico now is 70 percent urban and even before the 1994 crisis the urban population below the poverty line had increased from 20 percent in 1970 to 30 percent in 1992.

The urban poor overwhelmingly earn their living in "informal sector" activities, with neither the legal protection nor the social services which come with formal employment. Most are self-employed working on the public streets. Thirty-five percent of informal workers in Mexico are women.

Mexico prides itself on an extensive social service system to help mitigate the consequences of poverty. But with a large population and a severely slashed public sector budget resulting from the 1994 financial crisis, social services are greatly reduced with devastating consequences for the poor. On average, adult Mexicans have 6.4 years of formal education; while the majority of people living below the poverty line receive only one to two years of schooling. Twenty-three percent of children are stunted due to nutritional growth retardation (as high as 35 to 40 percent in southern, mostly indigenous states), and one-third have diets deficient in micronutrients, making them susceptible to infectious diseases.

Press Qs & As

Q: Given the importance of Mexico to US foreign policy, why is USAID assistance so relatively modest?

A: First, USAID assistance to Mexico needs to be put into context. Our relationship with Mexico is a "mature partnership". Mexico manages and pays for most of its own development programs. What they cannot finance internally receives substantial loan support from large multilateral donors, e.g. the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Second, the Mexicans want a full working partnership with the United States, not a classic aid donor-aid beneficiary relationship. When USG assistance is perceived as useful, the Mexicans often pick up all funding responsibility as soon as possible, reducing the actual cost of our assistance programs.

One cannot judge from USAID's annual funding levels the actual extent and effectiveness of the program. Given the availability of other funds, and the Mexicans' own considerable management ability, the USAID role is neither that of financier, nor manager of major projects. Rather, it is one of introducing new ideas and American technology to provide a catalyst for highly capable Mexican organizations, e.g. NGOs, to develop and carry out their own programs. A case-in-point is the new democracy program under which USAID will provide very modest amounts annually, but achieve far-reaching impact and leverage substantial other donor resources to meet our objectives.

The funding mechanism selected also affects our bottom line. In 1996, for example, USAID provided a large, one-time contribution (\$19.5 million) to be matched by the Mexican Government, to create a self-sustaining trust fund for future environmental conservation. This will support years of activities without any recurring claims on US development assistance.

In the case of family planning, the USG contribution has been substantial (approximately \$10 million per year) over the past 2 decades. USAID resources have helped create one of the most successful population programs in the Hemisphere. But the Mexican Government and participating NGOs have reached the point where they can carry the programs without further USAID involvement, or they can purchase any further technical assistance necessary. Therefore, the USG will phase out of population funding in 1998.

Press Qs & As

What assistance is USAID providing in support of Mexico's electoral, judicial, legislative and/or decentralization reforms?

Mexico is going through an unprecedented process of democratic opening and reform. This is one of President Zedillo's top priorities, and considerable progress already has been made in areas such as electoral reform, decentralization of governing authority to the state and local levels, justice sector reform, and reducing the power of the Presidency in favor of strengthened checks and balances between the three branches of government.

USAID began support for Mexico's democratic opening by financing NGO training and deployment of election observers. The presence of observers has meant that elections in recent years have been generally open, free, and fair, and this is leading to a far more pluralistic system. USAID will continue support for election observation, and add support for Mexican NGOs to develop methods of preventing pre-election fraud and voter coercion.

In support of President Zedillo's justice sector reform, USAID has launched a judicial exchange program. This will bring together leading Mexican and US jurists to discuss topics of mutual priority, and some of the difficult issues confronting both justice systems, e.g. counternarcotics, criminal and commercial law enforcement. The exchange program will help Mexican and U.S. judges understand each other's legal system better, and will help the Mexicans to identify practices and procedures which could be adapted to improve their own system.

USAID also will help the Mexicans improve the efficiency of their court system. Under one activity, USAID will support development of a new Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism which could handle non-criminal cases through mediation, and reduce the current, overwhelming caseload backlog. Assistance will be provided to the Federal Judicial Council which was charged with streamlining and modernizing court administration. USAID's activities complement those of other U.S. agencies which are working to strengthen Mexico's counterdrug and criminal law enforcement by creating an efficient, effective court system to handle new and important cases.

The Mexican Government plans to issue a new policy decentralizing authorities and limited additional federal revenues from national government to the state and local levels. But many local governments (particularly in the poorest states to the south) are unprepared to handle their new responsibilities. USAID will support Mexican NGOs which train municipal officials in good governance, accountability and basic functions such as budgeting and programming for public works. USAID will also collaborate with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to strengthen local citizen participation in the selection, design and implementation of income-generating microenterprise projects in selected southern states.

Press Qs & As

What mechanisms does USAID have in place to assure support actually is received by the intended beneficiaries?

- USAID assistance is subject to all the reviews and oversight applicable to federal programs, e.g., internal financial analysis and review by the Inspector General and General Accounting Office. In addition all USAID assistance is channeled through U.S. federal agencies, and Mexican and U.S. nongovernmental organizations, all of whom must meet stringent management and financial safeguards before receive USAID resources and that must meet annual accounting and financial reporting requirements, i.e., no USAID funds go to Mexican government agencies or public officials."
- As indicated by the firing of 1,200 police and other officials over the past year, the recent dismissal of the director of Mexico's National Institute to Combat Drugs, Mexican authorities are starting to take measures to address their corruption problems.

CONCAUSA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

General:

- The USAID regional program is providing core support to CONCAUSA (Conjunto Centro America-USA) that has significantly reinforced the leadership of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) in environment and sustainable development initiatives. Positive change has been achieved in environmental legislation; six new protected areas have been created; a highly unique spirit of regional collaboration has resulted in the incorporation of environmental factors into important decisions in both the public and private sectors.

Biodiversity (\$ 1.8 million USAID funds spent to-date)

- Central American countries have ratified international and regional treaties on climate change (joint implementation), biodiversity, forestry, and transportation of hazardous waste.
- In March 1997 the C.A. Ministers of Environment achieved consensus on guidelines for definition of the C.A. Protected Area System. These will be submitted to C.A. leaders for their approval.
- CCAD and national governments are endorsing delegation of authority to indigenous groups for the control of coastal and other productive resource areas.
- 13 grants have been provided to NGOs and communities in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama for implementation of local environmental action plans and resolution of environmental problems in cross-border areas.
- Multi-lateral donors are coordinating for biodiversity activities under shared regional objectives, including the establishment of the C.A. Ecological Corridor ("Paseo Pantera").
- Electronic links with U.S. and C.A. biodiversity conservation organizations have been established to enhance information exchange, access and analysis among governments and NGOs.
- CCAD is leading the definition of a united C.A. position on climate change.
- Six new protected areas have been created.

Environmental Legislation and Pollution Prevention (\$ 1.6 million USAID funds spent to-date)

- The recently-established network of C.A. Environmental Law Organizations is training C.A. judges, advocates, NGOs and business associations in environmental law.
- Regional pollution prevention networks have been established to address solid waste and waste water management, and safe use of pesticides. These networks are resulting in environmentally-sound decisions, including investment in solid waste management. (For instance, as a result of USAID intervention with EPA technical assistance, the city of San Salvador decided not to invest in a municipal incinerator).

- National legislatures have begun passing environmental laws and regulations with the assistance of the CCAD Environmental Legislation program and the network for environmental law and enforcement comprised of government officials from all 7 C.A. countries.
- Waste water regulations have been approved in Belize, Honduras and Nicaragua, air contamination laws/regulations have been approved in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama, and several similar laws are in preparation.
- Pollution prevention and environmental action plans at the municipal level in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama are being achieved through technical assistance and community empowerment processes.
- Parameters and procedures for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are being established and standardized regionally. The use of EIAs is being increasingly mandated throughout the region.

Energy (\$1.2 million USAID funds spent to-date)

- Two regional seminars on "Preparation and Negotiation of Electric Power Purchases from the Private Sector" were held in Guatemala (June 1995) and Panama (February 1996).
- A regional workshop on Joint Implementation for reducing atmospheric carbon was held in June 1995 in Costa Rica.
- Technical assistance was provided for implementation of power sector regulatory reform in Guatemala (ongoing since early 1996), and in El Salvador and Nicaragua (ongoing since October 1996).
- Financial support has been provided for sixty renewable energy projects including hydro, wind, and biomass energy generation.
- The Environmental Enterprises Assistance Fund and its subsidiary partially funded by USAID, Empresas Ambientales de Centro America, were awarded a \$10 million multi-donor funded credit line to establish the Environmental Financing Corporation. The corporation will provide investments in environmental and energy businesses and projects in Central America.

doc: U:\drpub\ees\mcmahon\concau4

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

BIOS

Divider Title: _____

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Events in Merida

Divider Title: _____

**VISIT OF THE FIRST LADY
TO
MERIDA, YUCATAN, MEXICO
MAY 4TH-5TH**

EVENT: Airport Arrival

DATE: 8:20 pm, Sunday, May 4th

LOCATION: Aeropuerto Internacional Lic. Manuel Crescencio Rejon

ATTENDEES:

Greeters: 5 people- Mrs. Nilda Patricia Velasco de ZEDILLO/ First Lady of Mexico
Governor Victor CERVERA Pacheco- Yucatan State
Mrs. Amlra Hernandez Guerra de CERVERA/ Wife of Governor of the
State of Yucatan
Mrs. Olivia JONES/ Wife of U.S. Ambassador Jones
Dr. Lulu Ululani Quintana Pali de GURRIA/ Wife of Mexican Foreign Minister
Mrs. Hildegard Mehnert se SILVA HERZOG/ Wife of Mexican Ambassador to the U.S.

PRESS: OPEN

SCENARIO: THE FIRST LADY will deplane and be greeted by the aforementioned greeters. The arrival is closed to the public and open to the press. Mrs. ZEDILLO will accompany the FIRST LADY in the motorcade to the next site, Ermita.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Welcoming Event

Divider Title: _____

**VISIT OF THE FIRST LADY
TO
MERIDA, MEXICO
MAY 4-5, 1997**

EVENT: Welcome Event

DATE: May 4, 1997

LOCATION: La Ermita, in front of Saint Isabel church, 66th Street, between 77th and 79th streets

ATTENDEES: Governor Victor CERVERA Pacheco of Yucatan State;
Mrs. Amira Hernandez Guerra de CERVERA, wife of Yucatan State Governor;
Dr. Lulu Ululani Quintana Pali de GURRIA (GERR-EE-UH), wife of Mexican Foreign Minister;
Mrs. Hildegard Mehnert de SILVA HERZOG (HURTS-OG), wife of Mexican Ambassador to U.S.;
600-1700 invited guests

PRESS: Open Press

SCENARIO: THE FIRST LADY, accompanied by Mexican First Lady Nilda Patricia Velasco de ZEDILLO, arrives at the stage right of the event site, is greeted by the Director of the Yucatan Culture Institute, Jorge (HORE-HAY) EZMA Basan. The presence of the first ladies is announced. Mr. Ezma escorts them through a corridor lined with dancers and performers in Yucatecan traditional dress. Mr. Ezma will be explaining the performance and costumes as they walk through the corridor to their front row seats. Artistic program will proceed without interruptions. Upon conclusion of the artistic program, Governor CERVERA will escort Mrs. Clinton to the steps of the church (directly in front of her seat), welcome her to the state of Yucatan. Mrs. Clinton will thank the Governor and performers. Mrs. Clinton will then step back to stand in front of her seat to watch the fireworks over the church. Mrs. Clinton, accompanied by Mrs. Zedillo will proceed back to the motorcade and her car.

Welcoming Event - La Ermita Background

La Ermita was founded by Gaspar Gonzalez de Ledezma in approximately 1748. He constructed it as a hermitage and lived in it as a hermit. It was first known as Our Lady of the Good Voyage. Travellers to Campeche and other parts of Mexico would come to the church to be blessed.

The church was also used for funerals because it was close to the general cemetery. After the death of Gaspar Gonzalez, the church became known as the Church of Saint Isabel. The statue of Saint Isabel that is in the church today, originally had a small gold boat representing the traveller. Unfortunately, the boat has since been stolen.

In 1790, Governor Lucas de Galvez opened the royal road to Campeche and the church was then part of this path.

The inscription on the facade of the church reads :
"Devotion of the Illustrious (this is true)
Señor Texada, in the year of 1748."

Welcome to Consulate Merida

FACTS ON MERIDA AND THE YUCATAN

Many history books place the founding of Merida in 1542 when the Spanish explorer Francisco de Montejo organized the province's government. Actually, Merida's history is much older. It was once a part of the Mayan civilization that dominated the Yucatan Peninsula between 200 and 900 A.D. The city of Merida was established on the ancient Mayan site known as T'ho. The Spanish conquered the region in 1541. In 1565, Luis de Cespedes y Oviedo assumed the governorship and ruled until 1575. The Yucatan remained independent until 1821 when it was annexed by Mexico. For many years the lack of transportation routes to Mexico City kept the Yucatan more closely tied to the United States and Europe than to the country's governing region. Many Yucatecos traveled and were educated in Europe. This early connection is credited with giving Merida its European-styled architecture and city plan.

According to the 1990 Mexican Census Report, the Yucatan had a population of 1,362,940. Merida's population is listed as 556,819. The economy of the region is primarily agriculture-based with tourism playing an increasingly important role. The main items exported are fish, seafood, honey and concentrated orange juice. Merida has a thriving textile/garment industry with several U.S. companies operating sewing facilities just outside the city.

The climate is hot and humid with little variation most of the year. May is the hottest month and January is the coldest. The average daily temperature in Merida varies from 70°F to 96°F in June and 64°F to 82° in January. The humidity averages 72% year round.

Merida, the land of Troubadours and Poets, the White City: gateway to two cultures which coexist in friendly contrast. Founded by the Spanish in 1542, on a site steeped in the great tradition of the Maya, Merida is where two worlds converge and merge in a single language bestowed by time.

The Main Square is built of stones that used to adorn Maya temples. Around it spread the old quarters of the city, where during the evening people still come out to "take the air" on their porches, chatting and watching the horse-drawn buggies go by.

Lining the Paseo de Montejo, sumptuous neo-classical mansions testify to the prosperity of the henequen era. Among them is the Bancarios Sporting Club, which hosted lavish balls at the turn of the century, and whose design inspired that of the Fiesta Americana.

But little by little, as we move northward, the nostalgic past gives way to a new component, modernity. For Merida is no museum but a city in constant flux. and its blend of identities is too strong to be threatened by signs of progress.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Uxmal Pyramids

Divider Title: _____

**VISIT OF THE FIRST LADY
TO
MERIDA, YUCATAN, MEXICO
MAY 4TH-5TH**

EVENT: Visit of the FIRST LADY to Archeological Zone UXMAL (Oosh-mahl)
(Mayan Ruin)

DATE: Monday, May 5th, 8:00 am

LOCATION: Archeological Zone UXMAL (Oosh-mahl)

GREETERS: Archeologist Teresa Franco- National Director of The National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH)
Archeologist Alfredo Barrera- Director of the Yucatan INAH Center

Participants: THE FIRST LADY
Mrs. Nilda Patricia Velasco de ZEDILLO/ First Lady of Mexico
Donna MCLARTY
Mrs. Amira Hernandez Guerra de CERVERA/ Wife of Governor of the State of Yucatan
Mrs. Olivia JONES/ Wife of U.S. Ambassador Jones
Dr. Lulu Ululani Quintana Pali de GURRIA/ Wife of Mexican Foreign Minister
Mrs. Hildegard Mehnert se SILVA HERZOG/ Wife of Mexican Ambassador to the U.S.
Archeologist- Enrique NALDA

PRESS: OPEN PRESS in designated areas and POOL PRESS moving according to the tour route

SCENARIO: THE FIRST LADY, Mrs. Zedillo and participants, will receive a guided tour of Uxmal (2 hours). The tour will be led by Teresa Franco. The Staff tour will follow about 150 meters behind the FIRST LADY'S tour.

Staff will be guided by another archeologist TBD behind THE FIRST LADY

Pool press (American and Mexican) will be guided by two additional archeologists.

There are two available hold areas.

- 1.) School rooms at foot of first temple, across from the bathrooms. NO PHONE.
- 2.) A suite designated for HRC/ Staff across the street at "The Lodge" WITH PHONE. Room TBD

Although the tour is fairly early in the day, it gets very hot, and sometimes windy, so light clothes and hats that tie are recommended. Due to the nature of the site, all participants are strongly encouraged to wear shoes with good traction.

MEXICO: VISIT TO UXMAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Context:

Your visit to Uxmal (oosh-mahl), which is located approximately 45 miles south of Merida, will take place mid-day and include lunch.

The site at Uxmal is more compact than the more widely known Chichen Itza but is considered possibly Mexico's most beautiful. It was constructed during the Mayan "neo-classical" period in the 7th-9th centuries A.D. and features dominant horizontal lines.

Much of the site is unrestored, with three buildings forming the main attraction. The Magician's Pyramid rises 92 feet and has two small temples at the summit, and affords an excellent overall view of the site. (Note that the climb and especially descent are quite steep.) The Quadrangle of the Nuns consists of four buildings enclosing a central patio. And finally, one archaeologist called the large Governor's Palace one of the most impressive structures ever built in this hemisphere. There is also a partially preserved ball court at the site.

Objectives:

- o Demonstrate your personal interest in Mexico's rich cultural and archaeological heritage.
- o Expand the focus of your visit to encompass an important part of Mexico's diversity beyond the capital city.

Talking Points:

- o Sites as impressive and beautiful as Uxmal remind us of the wide variety of historical and cultural influences that combined to form the Mexico of today.
- o I am honored and pleased to have the opportunity to learn about this aspect of the richness and grandeur of Mexico's heritage.

Uxmal

The oldest pictures of Uxmal (pronounced OOSH mahl) as it appeared before study and restoration are the engravings of Frederick Catherwood, which accompanied texts by John Stephens, published in 1841 and 1843. Stephens and Catherwood, who have been called "the first tourists to visit the Yucatan," were gentlemen explorers from the United States and Britain, respectively.

Scientific study of the Uxmal site was begun in 1910 by Sylvanus G. Morley (University of Pennsylvania). Professor Morley continued to study and publish on the subject of Uxmal for six decades. Others who followed in Professor Morley's early footsteps include Frans Blom (Tulane University), Henry B. Roberts and Harry E.D. Pollock (Carnegie Institution) and Jeff Karl Kowalski (Yale).

Restoration of the site was begun in 1927 by the Mexican government's Department of Anthropology (today called the National Institute of Anthropology and History). The National Geographic Society and Professor Kowalski participated in 1992 restoration work by the National Institute of Anthropology and History.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF UXMAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Uxmal, according to most scholars of the Mayan Culture, is the most splendid archaeological site from the prehispanic era on the entire American Continent. A unique harmony is achieved through the eye-pleasing proportions of its massive constructions which blend exquisitely with its precisely and elegantly carved decorative embossments.

The beauty of Uxmal is all the more impressive because Mayan builders had neither metal tools nor effective means of transportation.

The exact date of Uxmal's founding is still undetermined, but archaeologists estimate it was built between the fifth and sixth centuries, A.D. The purity of its cultural and archaeological development is derived from the "Classic" Mayan Period and shows none of the Toltec influence so evident at the "sister" site of Chichen-Itzá.

Indigenous chronicles written after the Spanish Conquest name Ahkultok Tutul Xiu as Uxmal's founding leader.

Uxmal is divided into three sections, which are:

CENTRAL ZONE

- Water cistern
- Magician's pyramid
- Nuns' Quadrangle
- Ball Court
- Cemetery Group
- Temple of Monuments

SOUTH ZONE

- Quadrangle of the Doves
- Great Pyramid
- Governor's House
- House of the Turtles
- Old Lady's House
- Temple of the Phalli
- Chimez House

NORTH ZONE

Consisting of several, still unnamed, mounds.

Most place names were assigned to the various structures by the Spaniards. Even the present-day name "Uxmal" comes from the Mayans of a later period.

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 The Roanoke Times & World News
Roanoke Times & World News

March 30, 1997, SUNDAY, METRO EDITION

SECTION: TRAVEL, Pg. 8

UXMAL

LENGTH: 1235 words

HEADLINE: EXPLORE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEMS AT THE MYSTERIOUS, ACCESSIBLE RUTA PUUC

BYLINE: SUZANNE MURPHY-LARRONDE SPECIAL TO THE ROANOKE TIMES

BODY:

ABOUT AN hour's drive from the shaded colonial plazas of Merida, arrow-straight Route 261 makes its gentle ascent into the rolling, gray-green hill country of Mexico's southern Yucatan, and so begins the unassuming introduction to the spectacular Ruta Puuc (rhymes with duke).

A powerful and potently artistic civilization flourished here during the Mayan Late Classical period A.D. 500-900, but for unknown reasons, its inhabitants had scattered long before the Conquest of 1542. In their wake, they left a shimmering strand of crumbling cities resplendent with intricately carved temples linked through the dense scrub forest by a network of sacred white roads.

For years, the stunning, sophisticated capital city of Uxmal (pronounced oosh-MAL) was the best-known and most-visited of these Puuc complexes, but thanks to the Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia, that is changing. In a decade of restoration work by the organization has succeeded in focusing attention on the other archaeological gems in this unique collection, namely, Kabah, Sayil, tiny X'lapak and Labna. Now, as never before, these pre-Columbian beauties are accessible for exploration and appreciation over well-maintained roads and at modest entry fees of between \$ 3 and \$ 7.

Dramatic linguistic breakthroughs and ongoing investigations throughout Mesoamerica have netted archaeologists a wealth of fresh insights into the workings of the Mayan empire, but many other details await clarification, particularly in this isolated region of southern Yucatan. Just what attracted populations to settle the arid Puuc Hills in the first place and what brought about the area's abandonment are not yet fully understood.

Like the archaeologists, visitors are likely to gain their greatest understanding of this ancient civilization by way of its monumental architecture, set against the rounded karstic hills known to the Maya as "puuc." Common design elements link these five sites while distinguishing them from all other Mayan regions. Uxmal's massive Governors' Palace, from atop a three-tiered platform, epitomizes many of the Puuc's finest buildings with a wide, ornate ribbon of cut-stone mosaics etched boldly across the upper portion of its segmented facade.

Undulating serpents and geometric patterns mesh in its complex design trimmed with masks of Chaac, the hook-nosed rain deity, a dominant image throughout the region. In a trompe l'oeil twist attesting to the sophistication of these early builders, two arrowheaded-shaped porticoes (known as Mayan false arches) seem

to pierce the structure, separating its outer wings from the central body.

Another architectural standout of Uxmal is the Nuns' Quadrangle, a group of lavishly ornamented buildings poised at varying elevations around a central plaza. Their dozens of cell-like rooms reminded one early visitor of a convent, but today, archaeologists believe the complex may have been used as a school or military academy.

A stunning Mayan false arch in the South Building leads to the Ball Court. Nearby, layers of history are incorporated into the 114-foot Pyramid of the Magician, a composite of overlapping temples from at least five successive time periods. Other gems include the Great Pyramid, House of the Turtles and tantalizing Dovecoat Quadrangle, its lacy cornice barely visible through engulfing vegetation.

The neighboring complex of Kabah, second in importance among the Puuc sites, lies farther along Route 261. The focal point here is the bazaar Codz Poop or Palace of the Masks, an elevated temple bristling from top to bottom with hundreds of bulgy-eyed, elephant-trunked portraits of Chaac. Each face is painstakingly fashioned of more than two dozen cut stones and several of the larger ones double as staircases or entrances to inner chambers, making this one of the most original and visually arresting buildings of the Mayan world.

Work goes forward on a number of the 80 or more ruins scattered across this site including other temples, pyramids and palaces. Across the highway, visitors pass still more buried architectural treasure before arriving at the monumental Arch of Kabah, often compared to the triumphal arches of Roman times. It marked the beginning of a "sacbe" or sacred roadway which led directly to the Governor's Palace at Uxmal. At one time, networks of these elevated limestone paths crisscrossed the Yucatan, linking one Mayan stronghold to another like so many white ribbons.

Several miles away, the city of Sayil offers its exquisite Great Palace for admiration. The massive, sienna-hued structure incorporates 100 rooms into three tiers. Its second story is a special standout, with rows of distinctive columns filing across a facade punctuated by more than a dozen openings. Still other typical elements of Puuc design are to be found on the third floor with its serpent profiles and huge, stylized masks of the rain god, Chaac. With no natural water sources at hand, it's easy to understand why this grotesque character received so much attention. During the times when he did deign to deliver, enormous cisterns known as "chultunes" were at the ready. Several of these stone-lined receptacles can be seen from atop the Great Palace.

Few visitors take the time for tiny X'lapak, several minutes drive down the road, but this complex is worth the trip for a view of its compact, lavishly decorated palace, to date its only restored structure. Chaac receives his accustomed exposure among the columns and carved geometric latticework while numerous tree-covered mounds nearby await their rescue at the hands of archaeologists. From there, it's another short hop to Labna, last of the archaeological stops along the Ruta Puuc.

Like its other Puuc neighbors, Labna boasts an impressive and uncommonly long palace with one of the largest Chaac masks on record, but the real draw here is its Triumphal Arch. For sheer elegance and harmony of proportion, this well-admired structure is in a class by itself. Views of the unique gateway

are best along the elevated, rough-hewn sacbe that links it to the palace. Archaeologists theorize that the arch once served as a passageway between two triangular courtyards. Of special note, are the upper reaches of its western facade with their detailed carvings of latticework and the traditional Mayan huts still found in surrounding areas.

If you plan to go

Essentials: Dress for maximum protection against the searing sun of the Yucatan. A good hat and sun screen are de rigueur, as are sturdy walking shoes. Uxmal has a modern tourist center with a restaurant and bookstore. The other sites offer few amenities, so it's a wise idea to take along plenty of bottled water.

Picking a base: Merida, where Maya meets Spanish colonial, is the perfect spot to begin your Ruta Puuc expeditions. There is a range of comfortable, moderately priced hotels and the eating is varied, original and tasty. Take advantage of your stay in the big city to visit the Regional Museum of Anthropology and History in the Canton Palace, a fabulous Beaux Arts building on upscale Paseo de Montejo.

Planning your trip: You need about two days to complete the Ruta Puuc, one for the colonial Hacienda Yaxcopoil and Uxmal, including the evening sound-and-light show, and the other for the smaller centers, the Loltun Caves and some shopping in Ticul.

PHIC: PHOTO: 1. Hacienda Uxmal is among the impressive sights rising out of dense forest along Ruta Puuc. color, 2. & 3. Other attractions include ancient jewelry displays (above) at the Museum of Anthropology and History in Merida, and pottery for sale in Ticul (left). color

LOAD-DATE: April 2, 1997

10TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 The Baltimore Sun Company
The Sun (Baltimore)

February 2, 1997, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: TELEGRAPH (NEWS), Pg. 2A, SUN JOURNAL

LENGTH: 1190 words

HEADLINE: Walking with the Maya; Culture: These descendants of ancient rulers are found throughout Central America. But they move almost invisibly, trying to meld with the modern world while maintaining ties to their past.

BYLINE: Richard O'Mara, SUN STAFF

BODY:

~~REDACTED~~ The iguana clings to the temple wall. It is a spare building, called the House of Turtles, and its only resident is the iguana.

The temple obeys the Greek architectural strictures about size, proportion and ornamentation, though the building was created by a people unlearned in these. Uxmal is one of many sites uncovered throughout the nation of the Maya, encompassing more than 3 million people and extending through at least five modern republics. The Maya built 20,000 cities in the jungles of Central America and the riverless forests of Yucatan.

Atop the Mountain of Muna, the only natural elevation in the flatiron peninsula of the Yucatan, Braulio Rosales Dias, our driver, indicates a range of t appear to be sharp natural hills in the distance. "Ninety percent of those covered temples," he says.

"There's much work to do here."

But, still, the iguana is worth considering, for its ability to hide in plain sight. It is there in front of you and, yet, not seen. It disappears into its stillness. It is as unmoving as the stones of Uxmal. In this it is like the Maya: They are everywhere, in every city and village.

The men stare out through dark eyes seemingly without pupils. The women, always busier, go about in their chemises, trimmed in embroidery. Their language is thick in the air. Yet, they are not seen, not really. Many of them want it that way, though not all.

Years ago, in Guatemala, a Mayan woman told of the birth of male children often being concealed from the state's census takers. They were cocooned within the village to avoid conscription into Guatemala's army. The Maya, besieged, enslaved, feudalized and lately marginalized in the 400 years since the Spanish conquest, have always survived by adhering determinedly to old ways.

This has had two results: It has given them cohesion, the comfort of historical coherence; but it has also removed them from the rest of their countrymen. In more ways than one, they don't speak the same language.

The story of the ancient Maya is a mystery still unfolding. Modern men and women work assiduously at sites like Uxmal to uncover every clue. They pick up

The Sun (Baltimore), February 2, 1997

the fallen stones and put them back into place, virtually raising the thousand-year-old temples anew.

They read the steles. The stones of Uxmal, Chichen-Itza, Tikal, Kabah -- the edifices so magisterial and enormous, yet owing to the luminous limestone of their construction, seeming to float upon the undisturbed sea of the forest -- these are the codexes of their history. War and struggle always was a condition of the Mayan existence and remains so.

The world at large did not take much note of the formal end of the civil war in Guatemala. A peace accord was signed Dec. 29. The war had ground through the mountains and valleys for 36 years. More than 150,000 people died, almost three times the number of Americans lost in Vietnam, and this in a country of only 11 million people. Most of the victims were Mayan.

Rigoberta Menchu, the Nobel peace laureate, led thousands of Indians into Guatemala City to celebrate the peace. Guerrillas descended from the Lacandon Volcano in Quetzaltenango. The 36,000 refugees began to stir in their camps in Mexico and prepare to move back to the highlands of Guatemala, where their roots had sprouted before Rome was founded. It was a promising new year.

The same could not be said of the Maya in Mexico's Chiapas state. No peace treaty illuminated the day. Three years ago, an army of angry peasants emerged from the forest to make war on the Mexican state. The political establishment was shocked in far off Mexico City, stock markets in a dozen countries trembled.

The questions came quickly, as the creaky Mexican Army was mobilized. Who are these people? Where did they come from? The answers followed: They are the Maya. They have always been there, if not always seen.

Carlos Montemayor, at the national university in Mexico City, wrote in Proceso magazine of the "national schizophrenia" toward the Indians. From the end of the 16th century to the end of the 20th century, Mexico has tried to integrate these people into the national society by two means, he said: forcing them to cease living like Indians and recruiting them into the underclass, to hew the wood and draw the water for the modern state.

Those Mexicans of pure Spanish blood and the majority mestizos are more receptive to the idea of the Indian than to the Indian in the flesh, Montemayor wrote. They are proud of pre-Hispanic grandeur, but not so charmed by the heirs of those civilizations who live among them.

Today, the rebellion in Chiapas is arrested, but little has been done to ameliorate its causes. Such may be beyond the capability of a government as corrupt as Mexico's. There is no war in Chiapas; neither is there a confident peace.

The contemporary Mayan uprisings in Guatemala and southern Mexico were not the first. In 1847, the Maya of the Yucatan arose against their European overlords, and took back some 90 percent of their ancestral lands. These they held for 50 years before the Mexican Army finally regained them. A lot of people died, mostly the Maya.

The ambivalence among the Mexican overclass and bourgeoisie is evident not only in the everyday behavior of Mexicans toward the Indians among them

The Sun (Baltimore), February 2, 1997

(excessively solicitous or indifferent), but in the monuments that mark significant moments in the history of the country.

Today, in the charming city of Merida, is a house built by one of the conquerors of the region, Francisco de Montejo. It is a baroque glory, constructed between 1543 and 1551. On its facade are two conquistadors standing on the heads of two Indians, a blatant celebration of violent victory. It has been restored and serves as a bank.

Across the plaza is another exquisite colonial building, which houses the offices of the state government. Inside, immense paintings by Fernando Castro Pacheco celebrate the struggles of the Maya of the Yucatan. The Indian is portrayed as heroic, even lordly.

People of all sorts wander in and out: Mexicans, Germans, French, Americans. Occasionally an Indian family comes in to see the pictures. Usually the Indians are in modern dress, suggesting they have left the cocoon. What do they take from these pictures? What do they understand of the temples themselves rising nearby? That once rose right here, in the plaza opposite? Do they regard themselves as tourists, with the rest?

Do the Maya have the same uncertainty of attitude toward the other people of the states they live in, the descendants of the European? Do they ask themselves if it is necessary to cease being a Mayan to become a Mexican? Or a Guatemalan?

We drive through a tiny village on the road from Uxmal to Merida. Only a year ago, electricity was brought to it, says Braulio. He regards this as progress. He seems a little impatient. The Maya, he says, won't get anywhere until their language is taught in the schools, so children can grasp essential information on about the modern world.

He seems to pin his hopes on it.

Pub Date: 2/02/97

GRAPHIC: ILLUSTRATION 1, Illustrations by Frederick Catherwood, from "Incidents of Travel in Yucatan," by John L. Stephens., Keys to the past: Ruins, such as the House of Turtles at Uxmal, are still unraveling ancestral mysteries for the Maya, who read much about their past in the stones of the fallen monuments.; ILLUSTRATION 2, Illustrations by Frederick Catherwood, from "Incidents of Travel in Yucatan," by John L. Stephens., Two-headed lynx: Found under a six-foot mound of earth and rocks, this sculpture was carved from a single stone.; ILLUSTRATION 3, Illustrations by Frederick Catherwood, from "Incidents of Travel in Yucatan," by John L. Stephens., Mayapan ruins: This circular edifice stands on a mound 30 feet high at the site in the Yucatan.; ILLUSTRATION 4, Illustrations by Frederick Catherwood, from "Incidents of Travel in Yucatan," by John L. Stephens., Idol: Side and front views of an object of Mayan worship, part man, part beast.

TYPE: COLUMN

LOAD-DATE: February 4, 1997

Uxmal (Pronounce Oosh-MAHL)

This Classic/ post-Classic Mayan city is one of the great showpieces of Mayan architecture and artistic refinement. Uxmal means "thrice built" reflecting the city's many phases of development. Throughout you will see clean, uncluttered lines and symmetry, and purist examples of the ornate and whimsical "Puuc" style. The whole site has been expertly restored. The city's main temple is the Pyramid of the Magician, an unusual oval structure. The Nunnery is a exceptional example of Puuc ornamentation. The Governor's Palace is a majestic 322 foot long master-piece of intricate lattice-work and mosaics.

Located 48 miles south of Mérida, Uxmal is accessible via several escorted tours. Time permitting, do not miss the superb light and sound show performed in English and Spanish evenings during the winter months.

For those want to explore other area ruins, overnight lodging is available at the Hotel Hacienda Uxmal (tel. (99) 247142, Misión Uxmal (tel. (99) 17500), and the Villas Arqueológicas, operated by Club Med.

Nearby Uxmal are the sites to Sayil, Kabah, and Labná, each noted for its Baroque, ornamental "Puuc" style.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Divider Title: _____

**Lunch with
Archeologists**

**VISIT OF THE FIRST LADY
TO
MERIDA, MEXICO
MAY 4-5, 1997**

EVENT: Luncheon

DATE: May 5, 1997

LOCATION: Palacio Canton (PAH-LAH-SEE-OH CAN-TONE), Regional Anthropology Museum
Paseo de Montejo (PAH-SAY-OH DAY MONE-TAY-HOE), corner of 43 Street

ATTENDEES: Mrs. Nilda Patricia Velasco de ZEDILLO, First Lady of Mexico
Governor Victor CERVERA Pacheco, Governor of Yucatan state
Mrs. Amira Hernandez Guerra de CERVERA, wife of Governor of Yucatan state
Dr. Lulu Ululani Quintana Pali de GURRIA (GERR-EE-AH), wife of Mexican Foreign Minister
Mrs. Hildegard Mehnert de SILVA HERZOG (HURTS-OG), wife of Mexican Ambassador to the United States
??, Mexican Archeologist
??, Mexican Archeologist
??, American Archeologist
??, American Archeologist
??, Russian Archeologist
??, Russian Archeologist

PRESS: Closed Press

SCENARIO: The FIRST LADY arrives at the side entrance of the museum and walks up the steps to the entrance. MRS. ZEDILLO and Museum Director Agustin PENA (PAYN-YUH) Castillo (CAS-TEE-YOH) will welcome Mrs. Clinton in the foyer. Director PENA will escort the first ladies along the length of the gallery, stopping to explain various pieces. (He will be speaking in Spanish, to be interpreted by the first lady interpreter.) The Director will then escort the first ladies up a short U-shaped staircase to the gallery above. The first ladies will be seated in the middle of the table. Mrs. Zedillo will start the casual conversation over lunch. The archeologists will also participate in the informal discussion. Mrs. Zedillo (or Director Peña) will close the conversation. The Director will escort the first ladies back down the stairs and through the gallery to the motorcade.

LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF MRS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON OFFERED BY
MRS. NILDA PATRICIA VELASCO DE ZEDILLO

Mérida, Yucatán, May 5, 1997

MEXICO

MRS. AMIRA HERNANDEZ DE CERVERA
Wife of Governor of Yucatan

MRS. LULU QUINTANA DE GURRIA
Wife of Mexico's Minister of Foreign Affairs

MRS. HILDEGARD MEHNERT DE SILVA-HERZOG
Wife of Mexico's Ambassador to the United States

LIC. MARIA TERESA FRANCO
General Director of Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History

DR. ENRIQUE NALDA
Project director for Kohunlich and Dzibanche sites in the State of Quintana Roo

MR. ALFREDO BARRERA
Specialist regarding Uxmal and Eastern Coast of Yucatan

DR. MERCEDES DE LA GARZA
Specialist in Iconography of the Mayan Arch and Popol-Vuh

DR. MARICELA AYALA
Specialist in Mayan Epigraphy as it relates to Dynastic Succession in Tonina

MR. PETER SCHMIDT

MR. EFRAIN VILLANUEVA
Rector of the University of Quintana Roo

UNITED STATES

MRS. OLIVIA BARCLAY JONES

Wife of United States Ambassador to Mexico

MRS. MELANNE VERVEER

Head of Mrs. Clinton's office

MRS. DONNA McLARTY

Wife of Presidential Counselor and special correspondent for Latin America.

MR. MARK SCHNEIDER

Administrative Assistant for Latin American Agency for International Development

Buffet Menu

Shrimp with Pulque
Fried Chiles
Red Snapper Veracruz
Red Mole w/ chicken or beef
Green Pipian (a spicy sauce made with pumpkin)
Tlacoyos (tortillas with beans, cheese and green sauce)
Soft shell crabs
Crepes Huitlacoche (black mushrooms that grow on corn)
Chicken Breast
Cactus Salad
Hearts of Palm and Avocados
Rice and Beans
Huazontle (vegetable) with cheese
Mexican candies
Fruit-flavored water

Palacio Canton Regional Museum of Anthropology
Paseo Montejo between 41st and 43rd Streets

The Palacio Canton was built around the turn of the century by Francisco Canton, then Governor of Yucatan, who lived there until his death. The building was designed by the Italian architect Enrico Deserti and Yucatecan architect and engineer, Manuel G. Canton Ramos, oversaw the construction. Considered an eclectic masterpiece of Classic, neo-Classic and French Baroque details, the building makes use of stucco, various tones of marble, beautifully finished ceilings, Ionic and Doric columns, and a majestically carved white marble staircase.

In 1977 the Regional Museum of Anthropology moved into the lower floor of the building and by 1981 the museum expanded into its present arrangement. The museum documents the culture and history of the pre-hispanic Mayan civilization in a four room collection of exhibitions from Mayan ruins in the Yucatan peninsula.

Highlights: Architectural elements found at different archaeological sites are exhibited in the **Sculpture Hall**. There is an outstanding ceremonial seat formed by two jaguars found at Uxmal, 700-950 A.D.; the lid of an offering from the Temple of the Panels and a relief of Nohcacab (600-900 A.D.). The **Mural room** contains a mural brought from Mulchic, that portrays a battle and the taking of prisoners. A variety of ceramic pieces, tripod vases, and a clay incense burner from the Balancanche cave area are evidence of rituals during the post-Classic era, from 900 to 1200 A.D. **Jade from the sacred cenote** of Chichen Itza (800-1200 A.D.) is evidence of the mastery of Mayan artists and the enormous religious value attached to the sacred well. Other treasures in this room include a jade mask from a sacrificial victim from Uxmal, Yucatan. **Mayan Architecture** room offers examples of Mayan construction, from a modest house to sumptuous buildings, palaces and temples. This exhibition also explains the principles of Mayan architecture, public works, labor and production.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**Discussion with
Women from Merida**

Divider Title: _____

ENCOUNTER WITH PRODUCTIVE ORGANIZATIONS OF INDIGENOUS AND PEASANT WOMEN

MAY, 1997

I. OBJECTIVE

To assist the experience of indigenous and peasant women who have organized themselves into productive enterprises through dialogue, emphasizing community effort and the active role of women in the productive and social organization of their families and communities.

II. PLACE AND DATE

Yucatan Room No. 1 of the Fiesta Americana Hotel.

Product Exposition : School of Architecture of the National Autonomous University of Yucatan.

Monday, May 5th

III. INVITED COMMUNITIES

Organizations and community enterprises involved in indigenous development ; they will explain the types of activities and projects on which they are currently working. Please find attached a tentative list of organizations and their leaders.

IV. STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

1. Mrs. Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo will serve as moderator for the meeting. She will foster free-flowing, colloquial dialogue with the various indigenous and peasant groups attending. If so desired, additional information may be elicited of the various speakers.
2. The Presidium shall be occupied by Mrs. Velasco de Zedillo, Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Cervera Pacheco, Mrs. Silva Herzog, Mrs. Gurria and Mrs. Jones.
3. An exposition of the products and activities of the women and the organizations they represent will be set up in the patio areas of the School of Architecture. The walkabout will be guided by Mrs. Rosa Elena Montes de Oca, General Director of Micro-industry Funding.

V. ORDER OF THE DAY

1. Opening of the meeting by Mrs. Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo.
2. Address by Mrs. Abigail Uk Canche, President of the Women's' Agro-Industrial Unit at the Tepich Carrillo "Ejido" (collective farm), Acanceh Municipality, Yucatan.

This venture is comprised of 11 women. Its objective is to produce 36 varieties of decorative plants. The Women's Agro-Industrial Unit relies on the direct responsiveness and active participation of its members. There exists the possibility that its products can be exported, given that interest has been expressed by a Canadian company. If this opportunity becomes reality, on-staff assistance would be provided to assure quality control and compliance with export norms.

3. Address by Mrs. Felicitas Figueron Ruiz, Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Peasants United in Solidarity Credit Union of Manzanillo.

This Solidarity Credit Union was established in June, 1994 ; it currently has 546 members and has granted 557 loans. It is the largest financial organization of its kind in the state. Among its main accomplishments is having saved the largest amount in the State of Colima.

4. Address by Mrs. Marcia Contreras Lopez, Secretary of the Association of United Women of Sonora (AMUSAC).

This association was begun when women began organizing for the improvement of municipal services in poor parts of town ; they eventually formed chapters in 12 municipalities and today they total more than 5,000 women. The State of Sonora which shares a border with the State of Arizona has a high potential for economic development ; however, social gaps still remain, particularly in rural areas and among the indigenous Yaqui community. This association emphasizes programs oriented towards home improvement, health and education, supply of basic necessities, human rights, training and productive projects. It has a clothing factory and a fish farm.

5. Address by Mrs. Paulina Odilia Molina Capilla, representative of the Regional Indigenous Women's Fund of Michoacan.

This Regional Fund looks after 1,911 Purepecha Indian women which are grouped in 68 local organizations in nine municipalities of the State of Michoacan. The success of the projects undertaken by this organization is evidenced by the significant increase achieved in their initial capital investment, which has multiplied sixfold in just three years. Their projects are focused in four areas : Agro-industry (shoe outlets, tortilla factories, sewing and bread-baking) ; agricultural (tree farms and the production and selling of food grains) ; poultry (chickens) and artisan wares (vegetable fibers, wood and textiles).

Among the objectives of this Fund is the optimizing of indigenous women's participation at all levels of their society, the generation of greater opportunities for family income and the appreciation of work done by women. It also supports projects oriented to tourism and strives to place more meaningful value on indigenous culture and creations.

6. Address by Mrs. Rufina Edith Villa Hernandez, representative of the Union of Women Artisans of Cuetzalan, Puebla.

This organization operates in Cuetzalan, located in the North Sierras of Puebla where the Nahuatl, Totonaca and "Mestizo" cultures converge. It was created in 1985 with the objective of commercializing artisan wares at attractive prices as a means of overcoming the dire economic situation of artisan women. As of 1992, it began to diversify its activities and its work is presently focused on health maintenance work shops, the making and selling of artisan wares, the creation of micro-industries for the production of tortillas and the supply of basic necessities, as well as contributing to family income through the raising and fattening of pigs. It is also involved in an eco-tourism project related to hotel services.

7. Address by Mrs. Patricia Aracely Martinez Morales, representative for the Municipal Civil Alliance of San Jacinto Amilpas, Valles Centrales, Oaxaca.

This organization joins together 240 women whose main activity is the making of artisan wares from corn husks, known as Totomoxtle flowers, which has generated employment and cash returns due to the fact that demand for this type floral arrangement is rapidly growing. This group has been supported in their efforts to purchase raw materials which allowed it to significantly increase its production. Jobs and responsibilities are rotated among the women who also make decisions on a collective basis.

The major challenges facing this organization lie in training and technical assistance so as to foster the adoption of new designs and more attractive presentations of the product offered. This group has received invitations to participate in several shows and exhibitions which have resulted in increased sales and the establishment of contacts with other producers.

8. Address by Mrs. Minerva Osorio Cruz, president of the Social Solidarity Society of Tiaxochitl de Chicontepec, Veracruz.

For quite some time women of the municipality of Chicontepec have been working at textile artisan wares in the Nahuatl region, in order to supplement family income. They were selling their product at such low prices that they were unable to recoup their investment.

With the goal in mind of remedying this situation, five groups called Social Solidarity Societies were created with the participation of 240 women artisans. A training program to improve design quality was undertaken, embroidery techniques were enhanced, production lines were streamlined.

PROPUESTA DE ORGANIZACIONES Y DIRIGENTES

I. EMPRESAS SOCIALES

BALBINA HERNÁNDEZ ALARCÓN
Representante del FONAES.

VIRGINIA VÁZQUEZ CHABLE
Campeche,
UAIM, Lerma
Molino y Tortillería

**MARTHA DE LOURDES GARCÍA
GARCÍA**
Campeche
S.S.S. Cerámica Calkini
Producción de Cerámica

HILDA MARÍA CRUZ MOHA
Campeche
S.S.S. Nueva Esperanza de
Chuntakin
Acuacultura Rural

HILDA MARÍA ACOSTA CRUZ
Campeche
S.S.S. California y Cruz Ek
Acuacultura Rural

VERÓNICA FRÍAS ABREU
Campeche
Grupo de Trabajo La Salada
Acuacultura Rural

ZOILA MARÍA ACOSTA GARCÍA
Campeche
Grupo de Trabajo El Platanar
Acuacultura Rural

SARA GONZÁLEZ GUERRERO
San Jacinto Amilpas Oaxaca
Alianza Cívica Municipal de
San Jacinto Amilpas, A.C.
Elaboración de flor de
Totomoxtle

TERE CARMEN PÉREZ BRAVO
M.N. DTTO de Jamiltepec,
Oaxaca
S.S.S. Amato A.C. (Tixinda)
Textil Tradicional con diseño
moderno

ALFONSINA SÁNCHEZ CRUZ
M.N. DTTO de Jamiltepec,
Oaxaca
S.S.S. Amato A.C. (Tixinda)
Textil Tradicional con diseño
moderno

MARGARITA CABRERA OSORIO
Tehuantepec, Oaxaca
S.S.S. Tulabeños
Elaboración y Comercialización
de Huipiles

ZOILA SALINAS PINEDA
San Francisco del Mar, Oaxaca
S.S.S. Cerriteñas
Acopio y Comercialización del
Camarón

ZAIRA LÓPEZ MATUS
Santa María Xadani, Oaxaca
S.S.S. Primer Viernes
Comercialización de Totopos

ROMANA DIEGO MOTA
Ocotlán, Oaxaca
Arte y Tradición de San Juan,
Chilateca
SPR de IR
Artesanía de Textil Blando

MERCEDES TENORIO SOLANO
Jamiltepec, Oaxaca,
S.S.S. Grupo Productor de
Ganado La Nueva Esperanza
Ganado Bovino

OLIVIA ZAZUETA BOJORQUEZ
Huatabampo, Sonora
Fábrica de ropa El Triunfo, S.A.
de C.V.

**DEMETRIA LORENZA VARGAS
SALINAS**
Jamiltepec, Oaxaca
S.S.S. Grupo Productor de
Ganado La Nueva Esperanza
Ganado Bovino

PAULA SERRANO TORRES
Jamiltepec, Oaxaca
S.S.S. Grupo Productor de
Ganado La Nueva Esperanza
Ganado Bovino

ESPERANZA NONOAL RODRÍGUEZ
Huatlatlauca, Puebla
Grupo Copalcotitla

IMELDA XOPANATLA NONOAL
Huatlatlauca, Puebla
Grupo Copalcotitla

**SUSANA GREGORIA XOANCATL
ZACAMITZI**
Huatlatlauca, Puebla
Grupo Copalcotitla

AURELIA GUAMAYT
Puebla
Sociedad Cooperativa Tosepan
Titataniske

REYNA OCAMPO AYALA
Morelos
S.S.S. Unión de Mujeres
Activas

HILDA BEATRIZ NÚÑEZ GALICIA
D.F.
Sociedad Cooperativa Mixquiti

MARIANA NÚÑEZ SAN MIGUEL
D.F.
Sociedad Cooperativa Mixquiti

LORENA MEDINA ESPINOZA
D.F.
Sociedad Cooperativa
Sabarioco

BLANDINA NÚÑEZ LAGUNAS
D.F.
Visión Solidaria

ESTELLA TORRES
Chihuahua
Peñitas Madera

DINA MUÑOZ
Chihuahua
Peñitas Madera

AMALIA MARTÍNEZ MIRANDA
AMUSAC, Sonora

DEMETRIA GONZÁLEZ LEÓN
AMUSAC, Sonora

LUZ BERTHA GALLARDO
Sonora
SCPA, Unidad Femenil del Mar

MARÍA CANDELARIA GALLARDO
LEAL
Sonora
SCPA, Unidad Femenil del Mar

MINERVA OSORIO CRUZ Y
ZENAIDA DE LA CRUZ
Municipio de Chicontepec
Huasteca Veracruzana
Artesanas textiles nahuas

CECILIA MUNDO
Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas
S.S.S. Santo Domingo

PASCUALA HERNÁNDEZ
San Juan Chamula
S.S.S. Mujeres Artesanas
Azteca

JUANA PÉREZ
San Juan Chamula,
S.S.S. Mujeres Artesanas
Azteca

MACARIA ESPINOZA HERNÁNDEZ
Venustiano Carranza, Chiapas
S.S.S. Antzetic, Yaj,
TZITZIMAYIC, YU'UN

BLANCA ADELFA FERNÁNDEZ
ALONSO
S.P.R. Tierra Dorada, Chiapas

REBECA BÁEZ
Hidalgo, Tamaulipas
Uaimc, El Sauz

HERMINIA GARCÍA RODRÍGUEZ
Hidalgo, Tamaulipas
Uaimc, El Sauz

JUANA SALINAS DE CRUZ
S.P.R. Américo Villarreal
Guerra
Tamaulipas

FELÍCITAS FIGUEROA RUIZ
Tesorera del Consejo de
Adminsitración de
la Caja Solidaria Campesinos
Unidos de Manzanillo, S.C.
Manzanillo, Colima

ROSALBA RIVERA MAYA
Huimilpan, Querétaro
Caja Solidaria San Miguel
Huimilpan S.C.

MARÍA DE LA LUZ PULIDO NAVA
Poanas, Durango,
Caja Solidaria Poanas, S.C.,

JUVENTINA MORÁN NAVA
Poanas, Durango,
Caja Solidaria Poanas, S.C.,

MARÍA LUISA GARCÍA GONZÁLEZ
Estado de México
S.P.R. San Juan de los Jarros

MARBELLA LÓPEZ
Presidenta del Comité de
Crédito de la Caja Local
Ahuacatal Caja Solidaria
Esfuerzo Campesino, S.C.
Escárcega, Campeche.

**MARÍA TERESA FIGUEROA
VILLASEÑOR**
Puente de Ixtla, Morelos
Unión de Mujeres Activas,
S.S.S.
Producción de huaraches

MARIANA ORTEGA BENCOMO
Zona Norte de la Sierra
Tarahumara, Chihuahua
Hostales Paraíso Madera
Penitas, S.A. de C.V.
Turismo Ecológico

MERCEDES CHAL JIMÉNEZ
Yobain, Yucatán
U.A.I.M. "Chabihau"
Extracción, acopio y
comercialización de sal marina

EDILBERTA CHUC CAAN
Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo
UAIM X-Pichil
Artesanas textiles mayas

YOLANDA SALAZAR ARMENTA
Puerto Peñasco, Sonora
S.C.P.A. Unidad Femenil del
Mar, S.C.L.
Cultivo de ostión

ABIGAIL UK CANCHE
Acanceh, Yucatán
Presidenta de la UAIM en el
Ejido de Tepich Carrillo
Producción de plantas de
ornato

**SUSANA GREGORIO SOANCLAT
ZACAMITZI**
Huatlatlauca, Puebla.
Grupo de Trabajo de la
Comunidad de "Copalcotitla"
Fabricación y venta de
productos de palma

ALBERTA ESPINOSA HERNÁNDEZ
Venustiano Carranza, Chiapas.
S.S.S. Antzeetic Ya Tzizimajic
Yu'Yu
Elaboración a mano de
prendas de vestir

MARÍA GÓMEZ PÉREZ
San Juan Chamula, Chiapas.
Sociedad de Solidaridad Social
"Grupo de Mujeres Artesanas
Aztecas"
Producción de tapetes de alta
calidad

TERESA DE JESÚS PÉREZ CRUZ
Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas.
Flor de Nandambua, S.S.S.

PATRICIA ARACELI MARTÍNEZ
MEXICALTEPEC

Alianza Cívica Municipal de
San Jacinto Amilpas,
Valles Centrales, Oaxaca
Elaboración de flores de
Totomoxtle.

ARCELIA HERNÁNDEZ
HERNÁNDEZ
Tlalchichilco, Veracruz
Mexcatl, Jamazappinin, Llu-U y
Mestizas.
Elaboración de flores de
Totomoxtle.

HERMILA ANDRADE AVELINO
Citlaltepec, Veracruz
Organización de Mujeres de la
Sierra de Otontepec.
Artesanías en yute y cocumen.

ROSA SÁNCHEZ PÉREZ
San Francisco Ixhuatán,
Oaxaca.
S.S.S: Cerro de Las Brisas
Comercialización de Camarón

ROSALBA BALBUENA
Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas
Grupo Santo Domingo, S. de
R.L.M.
Artesanías de madera
laqueada

ELSA LUCÍA ÁVILA AZÚA
Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca
SPR XHA Vizende
Ganado vacuno y productos
derivados de la leche

EVANGELINA CARRANCO
NARVAEZ
Municipio de Hidalgo,
Tamaulipas
UAIMC Ejido El Sauz
Proyecto de Ganado bovino

MARÍA ELENA BARRERA
MENDÍVIL
Presidenta de AMUSAC

MARCIA CONTRERAS LÓPEZ
Secretaria de AMUSAC

GENOVEVA VALENZUELA SEGURA
Tesorera de AMUSAC

ALICIA GAYTÁN SÁNCHEZ
Apoderada Legal de AMUSAC

ADELA ARMENTA VEGA
Socia de AMUSAC

EMELIA HERNÁNDEZ FORTUNATA
Zontecomatlán, Veracruz
Huasteca Zontaña
Acopio y Comercialización de
Chile Chipotle

NOTA: Esta relación más el personal de apoyo suma 160 personas, el resto de los invitados
estarán a cargo del Gobierno del Estado.

2. FONDOS REGIONALES INDÍGENAS**VERACRUZ**

CANDELARIA APANECATL
TZANEHUA
Unión de Artesanas de la Zona
Cálida
Veracruz

CARMEN JOLIHUA
HUAUQUETZATICE
Unión de Artesanas de la Zona
Veracruz

TERESA TEZOCA TEPAHUA
Unión de Artesanas de la Zona
Cálida
Veracruz

VICTORIA LORENZO GARCÍA
Tunkunhini
Plan del Palmar, Papantla.

EVA JUÁREZ MÉNDEZ
HERNÁNDEZ
S.S.S. "Tajín"
Tajín, Papantla.

JUANA CUAQUEHUA VILLA
Cepanikitiqui
Tlaquilpa, Soledad Atzompa.

RUTILA MEJÍA
Unión de Artesanas de la
Sierra Fria de Zongolica
Soledad Atzompa.

CARMEN ROMERO ROSAS
Unión de Artesanas de la
Sierra Fria de Zongolica,
Soledad Atzompa

PUEBLA

RUFINA EDITH VILLA HERNÁNDEZ
Unión de Artesanas de
Cuetzalan.
Cuetzalan.

DAMIRA CONTRERAS SEGURA
Unión de Artesanas de
Cuetzalan.
Cuetzalan.

JUANA MARÍA NICOLASA CHEPE
Unión de Artesanas de
Cuetzalan
Cuetzalan.

ROSA CHEPE LUCAS
Unión de Artesanas de
Cuetzalan
Cuetzalan.

M I C H O A C Á N

PAULINA ODILIA MOLINA
CAPILLA,
Fondo Regional de la Mujer
Indígena,
Pátzcuaro.

HERMINIA DOMÍNGO MARIANO
Fondo Regional de la Mujer
Indígena
Cucuchucho, Tzintzuntzán.
Fibra Vegetal de Trigo.

SALUD GUADALUPE HUANOSTA
Fondo Regional de la Mujer
Indígena
Jarácuaro, Erongarícuaro.
Sombreros.

GUADALUPE CARMONA LUNA
Fondo Regional de la Mujer
Indígena
Pátzcuaro.

GUADALUPE HERNÁNDEZ DIMAS
Fondo Regional de la Mujer
Indígena
Santa Fé de la Laguna.
Alfareria.

MARGARITA ASCENCIO FLORES
Fondo Regional de la Mujer
Indígena
Puacuaro, Erongarícuaro.
Fibra Vegetal de chuspata.

C A M P E C H E

ROCÍO HERNÁNDEZ TUN
Consejo Regional de Artesanas
Indígenas de los Chenes
Santa Rita Becanchén,
Hopelchén.

ELVIA CHABLÉ PUC
II A I M
Konchén, Hopelchén.

VIRGINIA TZEC UCAN
Artesanas de la Montaña
X'Maben, Hopelchén.
Norma Cob Cem
Unión de Alfareras de Tepakán
Tepakán, Ténabo.

ELVA GARCÍA CUEVA
Conservas de Tinum
Tinim, Calquini.

SOFIA MAY DZIB

Consejo Indígena de Artesanas
del Camino Real Dzitbalche,
Calquini.

QUINTANA ROO

DOMINGA TUN EK

Juntas Bordamos el Mundo
Campo Kolche Nuevo Yaxley,
San José II.

TOMASA CEN CANCHE

80 artesanas de 12
comunidades
Melchor Ocampo, Santa Rosa.

JULIA CHUC DZUL

Chumpon, Chun Yah y
Kopchen.

TABASCO

**RUBICELA DE LOS SANTOS
RODRÍGUEZ**

Grupo de Costureras
Cuauhtémoc, Centrla.
Taller de Costura.

MARÍA HERNÁNDEZ GUTIÉRREZ

Fondo Regional para el
Desarrollo de los Pueblos
Indígenas
Adolfo López Mateos,
Tenosique
Transporte Rural.

MARÍA ALICIA ALEJO ESTEBAN

S.S.S. Grupo de Panaderas
Palomas, Macuspana.
Panadería.

NORBERTA MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA

Fondo Regional para el
Desarrollo de los Pueblos
Indígenas
Tapijulapa, Tacotalpa.
Alfabetización de Adultos.

O A X A C A

ROSA NICOLAS NICOLAS
F.R.S. Textil
San Juan Colorado.

IGNACIA TORRES SANCHEZ
F.R.S. Textil
Santa María Huazolotitlán.

DOROTEA MATEO SÁNCHEZ
Unión de Productoras Alfareras
San Marcos Tlapazola.

CATALINA SANTIAGO LÓPEZ
S.S.S. ORMIC
Santiago Yaitepec

TERESA CARRETERO A.
F.C.I. Textil
Jalapa de Díaz.

VICENTA AGUILAR GALAN
F.C.I. Barro Negro
San Bartolo Coyotepec.

LUCÍA CRUZ CRUZ
S.S.S. ORMIC
Santiago Yaitepec.

OTILIA MARTÍNEZ RAMÍREZ
Unión de Artesanas de Lana
San Sebastián Río Hondo.

Y U C A T Á N

ANA CHÁN MAY
San José
Sotuta

CARMÉN MÉX XEQUE
San José
Sotuta

LANDI ECHEVERRIA
Médicos Indígenas
Zavala

BLANDINA CAB CAB
Médicos Indígenas
Zavala

BERTHA SÁNCHEZ GURRUTIA
Fatima
Sotuta

ROSA M. VELÁZQUEZ CAUICH
Fatima
Sotuta

MA. CONCEPCIÓN MARTÍN CHÁN
Guadalupana
Sotuta

CANDELARIA MAY CAB
Guadalupana
Sotuta

NICOLASA COHUO
Albergue Holca
Canoabchén

WENDI GUADALUPE CHACÓN
Sutut Ha (Cultura)
Sotuta

NORA JIMÉNEZ
Radio Cabina
Tibolón

MARIA LUISA ELENA CHÁN EK
Kaán Lool
Mexcanu

YOLANDA DEL S. CHI COH
Kaán Lool
Mexcanu

YENI MA. COLLI TUCUCH.
Otzil Cuxtal
Siho

LUCY MA. COLLI KU
Otzil Cuxtal
Siho

VALERIA CHI CANUL
Omimpy
Halacho

ADELINA VÁZQUEZ CAHÚN
Omimpy
Halacho

MA. IRENE DZUL PUC
Com. De Padres de Fám.
Tetiz

JACINTA XOOL TEC
Com. De Padres de Fám.
Tetiz

ELIZABETH KU OJEDA
Amira Cervera
Sta. Ma. Acu

MANUELA CHÚN BAAS
Renacimiento
Maxcanu

MARIA POLANCO LÓPEZ
Renacimiento
Maxcanu

SILVIA CALAM MOO
Felipe Carrillo Pto.
Opichén

ANTONIA CAAMAL MENA
Felipe Carrillo Pto.
Opichén

PAULA MA. CARRILLO MENA
Chikin Ik
Samahil

ANTONIA BONNICHET BONT
Uaim Hotzuc
Hotzuc

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Events in Mexico City

Divider Title: _____

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY
TO
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
MAY 5, 1997

EVENT: Airport Arrival of the First Lady

DATE: Monday, May 5, 1997

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Mexico City International Airport-Marina Ramp

ATTENDEES: Greeter: Regan Burke, First Lady's Lead Advance

PRESS: Closed Press

REMARKS: None

SCENARIO: First Lady de-boards plane and proceeds via motorcade to the Presidente Inter-Continental Hotel.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Coffee with Mrs. Zedillo

Divider Title: _____

MEXICO: COFFEE WITH MRS. ZEDILLO

Context:

By her own choice, Mrs. Zedillo is not a broadly known public figure in Mexico. Naturally, people know who she is, but she has preferred to keep a rather low profile here, not picking up many of the public charitable and social events that some of her predecessors have supported.

Objectives:

- o To establish a personal relationship which will make the rest of the visit and any subsequent contacts smoother.

Talking Points:

Talking points will be developed when more is known of the schedule, and whether or not Mrs. Zedillo has been in Yucatan with Mrs. Clinton.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**MEXFAM Tour
and Roundtable**

Divider Title: _____

**THE TRIP OF THE FIRST LADY
TO
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
MAY 5-7, 1997**

EVENT: Visit to MEXFAM

DATE: Tuesday, May 6, 1997

TIME: 11:00 a. m. - 12:00 noon

LOCATION: "La Conchita" Juvenile Recreation Center

ATTENDEES: *Mrs. ZEDILLO*
Francisco Gonzales Salinas, 17 yrs. old (roundtable participant)
Dayana Manzano Hernandez, 15 yrs. old (roundtable participant)
Gabriela Mucino Hernandez, 16 yrs. old (roundtable participant)
Gabriela Diaz Navarrete, 15 yrs. old (roundtable participant)
Oswaldo Zenteno Jimenez, 15 yrs. old (roundtable participant)
Elizabeth Vargas Gonzalez, 16 yrs. old (roundtable participant)

GREETERS: *Ms. RAMONA PANDO DE COSIO*, President of the Board, MEXFAM
Mr. ALFONSO LOPEZ JUAREZ, Director, MEXFAM
Mr. MANUEL DIAZ INFANTE, Chief Deleate, Obregon Delegation (Municipal Government)
Mr. CARLOS MEJIA, Center Director, La Conchita
Ms. MARIA DEL CARMEN LEYTE GUERERO, Local Coordinator, MEXFAM
Mr. JEFF BOYER, USAID/Mexico Site Co-Coordinator
Ms. MARIE MCLEOD, USAID/Mexico Site Co-Coordinator

PRESS: Pool - Roundtable, Open - Outdoor skit

REMARKS: Brief remarks and "Thank Yous" upon conclusion of skit

SCENARIO:

- HRC is greeted curbside by Ms. Cosio, Mr. Juarez, Mr. Infante, Ms. Guerero, Mr. Mejia, Mr. Boyer, and Ms. McLeod.
- Greeters lead HRC and Mrs. Zedillo to outdoor skit venue. (HRC, Mrs. Zedillo, and greeters will have reserved seating in first row of audience).
- Upon conclusion of skit, Mrs. Zedillo will ascend the stage, stage right, and deliver remarks. Mrs. Zedillo will then introduce HRC.
- HRC ascends the stage, stage right, delivers brief remarks & thanks audience/participants from standing microphone on stage.
- HRC descends stage right with Mrs. Zedillo, HRC & Mrs. Zedillo meet Ms. Guerero at foot of stairs. Ms. Guerero escorts HRC and Mrs. Zedillo on tour of facility.
- (Mr. Juarez will lead the 6 (six) teenage participants from the skit venue into the Library for Roundtable Discussion with HRC and Mrs. Zedillo.)
- Upon conclusion of the tour, HRC and Mrs. Zedillo will enter the Library to commence the Roundtable Discussion. Mr. Juarez will moderate the discussion.
- Upon conclusion of Roundtable Discussion, HRC returns to motorcade arrival/departure point. HRC departs.

MEXICO: VISIT TO MEXFAM YOUTH CENTER, MEXICO CITY

Context:

MEXFAM is a Mexico associate of Planned Parenthood International and receives funding from USAID. The center you are visiting, called "La Conchita" (the little shell), is fundamentally a youth recreation center, but it also conducts outreach to the more than 1,000,000 people who live in the area. Aside from providing a recreational opportunity for youth, its purpose is to provide family planning information for secondary school students (in Mexico, secondary means essentially through the ninth grade; schooling after that is called preparatory). Although family planning is the fundamental purpose, apart from sports there are other activities as well, including training in mechanics, computers, and other vocational skills. The autonomous Federal Elections Institute also is operating an information center on the premises, up through the July 6 Mexico elections. Pending vetting of the script, there will likely be skits or sketches acted by young people affiliated with the school which they perform in neighborhoods outside the center to make people aware of family planning issues.

Objectives:

- o To get an appreciation for work that private organizations are doing to convey family planning information to young people in the lower and lower-middle class strata of greater Mexico City.
- o To get a feel for life in the lower urban echelons of Mexico.

Talking Points:

- o I'm really pleased to be here and see the valuable work that MEXFAM is carrying out to ensure that young people in this capital have the information that they need to make wise decisions.

MEXFAM - "La Conchita" Youth Recreation Center

MEXFAM, the Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar or the Mexican Family Planning Foundation, is a non-profit organization dedicated to social service and directed by volunteers. It was founded in 1965 and is a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). MEXFAM provides high quality family planning and health services, as well as sex education, in 26 states of Mexico and to over 400,000 families.

Location:

The site is approximately five kilometers from Los Pinos and travel time is roughly 15 minutes. The recreational facility is located on Calle "1st de Noviembre" off the road to Santa Fe, turning in front of the IMSS housing complex. Proceeding down the hill 300 yards, the recreation center is on the right. The First Lady's car can be parked just inside the gate entrance.

Background:

This community recreation center was built 10 years ago by the local delegation (Alvaro Obregón) of the Mexico Federal District Government. The area's population is approximately 1.2 million, made up of mostly lower income families. There are 7-8 centers of this type in the Obregón service area that provide important social support services to its population. The area is characterized as a "working class neighborhood", whose inhabitants have had limited educational opportunities, moderate to high unemployment, particularly among the youth, and have suffered the brunt of the economic recession that started in 1994. MEXFAM's La Conchita program has been in operation there for approximately 2 years, and 2,000 youth are served on a regular basis.

The "La Conchita" facility consists of a simple building, which houses administrative offices, library, dental clinic, seniors' meeting room, and classrooms for auto mechanics, handicrafts, hair dressing, sewing and computer training. Outside the Center is a large multipurpose use area, where the skit will be carried out, and active sport fields - two soccer fields, two basketball courts and a playground.

USAID Support to MEXFAM:

1. Overall Institutional Support

USAID has supported MEXFAM for over 9 years, providing funds for operating expenses and technical assistance in the areas of management, marketing, promotion, and evaluation. Its programs include:

- **Medical Services Centers:** Clients of these centers, located in both rural and urban areas, receive specialized medical attention in family planning, gynecology, urology, maternal and child health, and other medical specialties. Laboratory services are provided as well.
- **Community Doctors:** These MEXFAM doctors are placed in urban marginal areas where there is a consistent lack of medical care, and provide general medical and

family planning services.

- Industry Program: MEXFAM provides family planning information and services in the workplace.
- Community Health Promotion: MEXFAM trains and provides basic medical equipment to volunteer promoters in rural communities, who in turn offer information, and primary health and family planning services.
- "Gente Joven" (Adolescents) Program: Information and orientation for young people on human sexuality and family life.

2. Specific Support of the "La Conchita" Adolescents Program

MEXFAM has been working with local social workers from the delegation to supplement their efforts to provide the area's youth information and orientation on human sexuality and family life. This service includes the provision of a MEXFAM psychologist on-site during working hours (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) to provide reproductive health and family planning information to anyone requesting it. She also distributes both condoms and pills to young people requesting family planning. If the Center's clients have a need for any other methods or for further medical attention, the psychologist refers them to the closest MEXFAM community doctor or to a public sector health center/clinic.

MEXFAM also carries out group activities, including educational talks and community theater skits. Talks for community members and skits are given once a week at the Center and cover the following reproductive health topics: sexuality, family communication, gender, psychosexual development of children, puberty, pregnancy and childbirth, adolescent sexuality, sexually transmitted infections, AIDS, adolescent pregnancy, and family planning. Talks on drugs, alcohol, and nutrition are also given. MEXFAM personnel also train health service providers (public and private sector) in the same topics, and in attitudes of health professionals toward sexuality.

Specifically, USAID's technical and financial support has been instrumental in assisting MEXFAM to provide the La Conchita community youth between the ages of 12-20 years with educational materials (posters, pamphlets, and manuals). USAID has also provided support for the services of the psychologist and Gente Joven staff at the MEXFAM headquarters.

In the long-term, USAID's most important contribution to Gente Joven has been assisting MEXFAM centers to be sustainable since their survival depends on their ability to mobilize financial support for continued subsidizing of social programs for the poor and adolescents.

Expected Scenario of First Lady's Visit

Total time required on-site for the visit is 60 minutes. It is not clear right now if Mrs. Zedillo will accompany Mrs. Clinton to this site.

The first activity (5 minutes) would be a greeting at the Center's entrance by MEXFAM, Mrs. Ramona Pando de Cosío and Lic. Alfonso López Juárez, La Conchita representative Lic. Carlos Mejía, the Obregón Delegation representative Lic. Manuel Díaz Infante, and the USAID/Mexico Site Co-Coordiators, Marie McLeod and Jeff Boyer.

Mrs. Clinton would then tour the facility (10 minutes) to see the other activities taking place. The tour will be led by Lic. María del Carmen Leyte Guerrero, MEXFAM Local Coordinator.

Mrs. Clinton would then proceed to the Center's large meeting room where she will meet and have informal dialogue with a small group of six youth and two MEXFAM staff members for 15 minutes of discussion on adolescent reproductive health issues and the program's impact on their lives.

• *Possible questions/comments for the First Lady(ies) from the six Mexican teens:*

1. What are your principle concerns regarding young people?
2. What programs does the U.S. Government have for young people?
3. Since the First Lady of Mexico is also the President of Integrated Family Development (DIF, Desarrollo Integral de la Familia), we would like to know what programs the DIF has for young people.

• *Possible questions/comments for the Mexican teens from the First Lady:*

1. What are your most important challenges and concerns at this time in your lives?
2. What has been the impact of this program on your lives?
3. What are your plans for the future and has this program had any effect on those plans?
4. How could this program better respond to your needs?

Mrs. Clinton would then walk outside the Center to the stage and seating area where MEXFAM personnel will perform a skit (ten minutes) called "El Beso Que Embaraza", or "The Kiss that Gets You Pregnant" (see script below). The skit is about a young woman who thinks she is pregnant after kissing her boyfriend, and myths and rumors surrounding adolescent pregnancy. The skit will be participatory in that, besides the performers on the stage, other performers will be planted in the audience of 200 youth to ask questions for another 15 minutes.

Mrs. Clinton would then walk up onto the stage where she would give a very brief departing message (five minutes).

Principle Representatives at the "La Conchita" Site

USAID/Mexico Site Co-Coordiators:

Marie McLeod, Population Officer
Jeff Boyer, Program Officer

MEXFAM Representatives:

Sra. Ramona Pando de Cosío, President
Lic. Alfonso López Juárez, Director
Lic. Higinio Domínguez Mondragón, Coordinator, Metropolitan Area Program
Lic. María del Carmen Leyte Guerreño, Local Coordinator

La Conchita Representatives:

Lic. Carlos Mejía, Center Director
Lic. Arturo Baez, Area Director

Obregón Delegation:

Lic. Manuel Díaz Infante, Chief Delegate
Lic. Leticia Coello Garrido, Sub-Delegate

THE KISS THAT GETS YOU PREGNANT

Scene: Group of youth, in a Mexico City neighborhood

Marisela (M), Linda (L) and Ana (A)

M: Did you like today's class?

L: It was really boring. I wasn't paying attention. I was sleeping.

M: I liked it.

A: I wanted to leave the classroom because I don't like it when they talk about those things.

All: Oh, come on, you love it when they talk about those things.

Alma (Al) comes onto the stage:

All: What's wrong Alma? What happened?

Al: Nothing. Nothing's wrong.

A: You're full of baloney. We know you-something's wrong.

L: Come on. Tell us. We promise not to tell anybody. Not even the milkman, or the guy on the corner, or the kids who play football.

M: Don't be a pest. Alma will tell us when she's ready.

Al: I think I'm pregnant.

All: What? You think you're pregnant? But how can that be?

Al: Well, last night was a night of passion. I couldn't control myself.

L: OK, well you can say you fell and it's just a bump!

A: Oh, shut up. She needs our support and not to hear silly things from you. What do you think you'll do, Alma?

Al: I don't know.

A: Don't be a fool. You will have the baby because it's a gift from God.

M: You were so stupid, Alma. How many times have we told you that you have to take care of yourself. That's why there's condoms, pills, injectables...

Al: Why are you scolding me? I was just careless.

M: Careless? I would say irresponsible. What you need to do is to go to sex education courses.

A: Why should she go to those courses? They will just corrupt her there. Her husband will teach her those things when she gets married.

L: Hey Marisela, do men give those courses and is there homework too? I'm going!

M: Oh, you only think about that. They also give us information to help us be more responsible. And they don't corrupt us!

L: Ok, that's enough. Tell us how it was, Alma. Maybe I'll feel like doing it too. Where did you do it?

Al: No, I'm not going to tell.

A: Tell us. Was it romantic?

Al: Well, the truth is that we were on the porch and he began to touch my hair and all of a sudden, he kissed me!

L: And then?

Al: That was it. And after he went home, I started to really worry that I had gotten pregnant.

All: That was it?

M: (to the crowd) Do you all think that you can get pregnant with a kiss?

The public responds: there are people who think so, adolescents don't have sufficient information, good thing we have skits like this to help us understand, you all are just corrupting young kids, we have the same rights as adults, etc.

M: The most important thing is that adolescents have the right to information. For anybody who has doubts, just go to the Health Centers (SSA), MEXFAM, or IMSS clinics. Each one will make their own decision, and a well-informed one at that.

Family Planning Scene Setter

Setting: The visit coincides with the halfway point of Mexico's National Population Program 1995-2000 and USAID's Population Strategy in Mexico. Government of Mexico support for population and reproductive health activities is very strong despite current economic conditions. Mexico is to be commended for being absolutely committed to the international call for "Health for All."

Article 4 of the Mexican Constitution affirms that each person has the right to decide the number and spacing of their children freely, responsibly, and in an informed manner. Mexico historically and currently puts this into action through its National Population Program. Natural population growth has declined since 1972 from 3.39 percent to 2.05 percent in 1995, and net population growth after migration is 1.8 percent. The average number of children per family has declined in this same period from 6.36 to 2.81. USAID support, currently scheduled to terminate in 1998, represents less than 5 percent of Mexico's overall annual expenditure on population programs. Mexico's financing of 95 percent of the costs of these programs is a tangible sign of their commitment and self-reliance.

The USG/Mexico partnership in the population arena is a true success story. Thanks in large part to USAID assistance, ever increasing numbers of men and women have access to safe and efficacious methods of family planning; 56 percent of married women of child bearing age now use modern contraceptives, almost double the rate since 1978. The support of USAID has been critical in increasing the quality of care, and in expanding services, especially in the economically depressed rural areas of southern Mexico and in urban-marginal neighborhoods of Mexico City, where USAID efforts have been targeted.

President Zedillo declared in his 1996 State of the Union Address that Mexico's greatest challenge is providing health care services, including reproductive health, to those who lack access to them. A visit to population programs would demonstrate similar support for reproductive health programs on behalf of the USG, and would also provide concrete evidence of the benefits of this support.

Theme: A strong message of support for health programs in Mexico, especially reproductive health. This also would be an opportunity to get an "up-close and personal" look at what the recent vote in Congress to release population funds was all about.

Supporting Events: Good examples of Mexico's efforts in providing family planning and reproductive health services for both the insured and uninsured can be seen anywhere, both in large urban areas and in the smallest rural communities. Visitors will be able to see first hand the impact which the USG, through USAID, has had in improving the lives of poor women through increasing the access to and quality of family planning and other reproductive health services.



Agency for International Development
USAID/MEXICO
American Embassy
Paseo de la Reforma 305
Col. Cuauhtémoc
06500 México, D.F.

FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: April 30, 1997
TO: Dehdan Miller
FAX NUMBER OF RECIPIENT: 281-7311

FROM: Marie McLeod
FAX #: 207-7558
INTERNET: mamcleod@usaid.gov
TELEPHONE: 211-0042 EXT. 3257
NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 3

Dehdan, please see attached bios on greeting committee members, including two additional MEXFAM people because USAID/W asked for them. The bios of the six kids are more difficult since it's a school day, but I will be seeing them tomorrow at 4p to discuss the small group discussion. Can you be there? If you can't, could you give me the green light on the questions in the latest MEXFAM briefer? If it's a red light, can you give me some guidance as to what kinds of questions they should or should not ask?

MEXFAM would like the First Ladies to sign their guest book. Is that possible?

Do we know for sure yet if Mrs. Zedillo will accompany the First Lady? We are all proceeding as if she is.

What are your plans for the weekend? Sat. and Sun. after the countdown meetings we will be heading out to the site.

Do we have a time for the final walkthrough on Monday am?

If you don't call me before we leave for the Center (at about 2:30 p), please leave a message on my office voice mail (211-0042, ext. 3257).

Thanks.

Lic. Manuel Díaz Infante began his term as the Chief Delegate of the Alvaro Obregón *Delegación*, or borough, in 1994. He is a lawyer and has worked as the director of the National Fund for Housing Credit for Workers (INFONAVIT), Attache for President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, Chief Delegate for the Miguel Hidalgo *Delegación*, Representative of the Federal District Assembly, and Federal Deputy for the Federal District.

Mrs. Ramona Pando de Cosío was born in Mexico City, Mexico. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in literature, and did postgraduate studies in theology. She was the General Director of the Camino Real Hotel's Cultural Center, and she currently holds this position with the Las Brisas Cultural Center. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Mexican Association for Achieving Human Potential, for children with developmental problems. Lastly, she is the President of the Board of Directors of MEXFAM, the Mexican Family Planning Foundation, and her English is excellent.

Lic. Alfonso López Juárez was born in Mexico City. His undergraduate degree is in sociology and he has a Masters Degree in Sociology and Political Sciences from the University of Leuven in Belgium. He has done postgraduate studies in residential program planning. He has been a university professor, and has held executive positions in the Commission of Industrial Ports, Intersectorial Housing Commission, Low Income Housing Commission, and is currently the General Director of MEXFAM, the Mexican Family Planning Foundation. His English is excellent.

Higinio Domínguez Mondragón was born in the Estado de México. He received his undergraduate degree in social work from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in 1979, at which time he began working for MEXFAM in Veracruz state. While he was there, and until 1984, he took training courses in family life, community development, human sexuality and drug addictions. In 1985, he moved to Mexico City to become MEXFAM's Metropolitan Area Program Coordinator, managing 60 Community Doctors programs and 15 Gente Joven programs. He also coordinates with public sector institutions on joint activities, organizes training and refresher training courses for MEXFAM personnel, and develops and implements new MEXFAM programs.

María del Carmen Leyte Guerrero was born in Mexico City. She received her undergraduate degree in social work from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in 1986. She started working for MEXFAM in 1985 as a Community Doctor's volunteer, at which time she received training on sexuality, family planning, and drug addictions. In 1987, she was formally hired by MEXFAM to strengthen their community programs, and developed a strategy for working with gang members. She is currently the Local Coordinator for three *delegaciones* in the western part of Mexico City. Her primary responsibility is to manage the Gente Joven and Community Doctors programs in these boroughs.

Mr. Carlos Mejía was born in the Mexican state of Tlaxcala and has a primary school education. He has worked for the Alvaro Obregón borough for 15 years, primarily as director of several sport centers. He began working at the La Conchita Center seven years ago as an administrative assistant, and is currently the Center's director.

Marie McLeod is currently the USAID/Mexico Population Officer. She is a registered nurse with six years of experience in cardiovascular nursing. She received a Masters Degree in public health with a specialty in health education from Emory University in 1990. She moved to Mexico in 1990 and worked for a USAID cooperating agency, Pathfinder International, for five years as Program Officer for USAID-funded population projects. She began working for USAID/Mexico in 1995 where her task is technical and financial management of the U.S. government's population and reproductive health support to Mexico.

Jeff Boyer is the Program Officer/Deputy Director of the USAID program in Mexico since October 1995. He is an urban/regional planner with a Masters degree in urban and regional studies from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. His primary responsibilities include the overall strategic direction of the USAID/Mexico program, technical support to the project officers implementing the country program, and programming the use of funds provided by Washington. He is an experienced Foreign Service Officer with 21 years of overseas work, including 7 years of private consultancies before joining USAID. He is a former Peace Corps Volunteer, who served in Brazil from 1965-68.

THE "MEXICO CITY" RESTRICTIONS ON FAMILY PLANNING ASSISTANCE

History:

For many years, by law, foreign assistance funds have been prohibited from being used to finance abortions or the promotion of abortion abroad. This is consistent with current Administration policy. In 1984, the Reagan Administration tightened this policy further by announcing, at the UN Conference on Population in Mexico City, that non-governmental organizations carrying out population programs abroad with foreign aid funds must also certify that they were not using private funds that they received to finance abortions or the promotion of abortion or they would lose federal funding. The Bush Administration continued the Mexico City policy, but it was overturned in the first month of the Clinton Administration.

- o The Mexico City policy resulted in the suspension of U.S. funding for the International Planned Parenthood Foundation, an organization which currently supports family planning in over 150 countries. IPPF affiliates directly serve at least 10 million couples annually in developing countries and reach hundreds of millions more through educational activities.
- o In addition to suspending such assistance, the Mexico City policy had a chilling effect even on activities permitted under the policy. For example, USAID-funded organizations did not work in the area of post-abortion care -- emergency treatment and family planning counseling for women who have had complications from unsafe abortions -- for fear of being held in violation of the policy.
- o There is no evidence that Mexico City restrictions helped to reduce the number of abortions in developing countries. Over 25 million abortions take place annually in developing countries. Most of these abortions take place under unsafe conditions, causing over 70,000 annual deaths of women.

Current Status:

Since the Republican majority was first elected to Congress in 1994, anti-abortion members, led by Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey, have attempted to legislate reimposition of the Mexico City policy, which has been met with the threat of a veto.

- o In order to avoid the Mexico City policy, the Administration has been forced to accept, in the Fiscal Year 1996 and 1997 appropriations acts, deep cuts in funding for population programs abroad and delays and monthly metering on the spending of the remaining amount. This has led to funding shortages for certain activities and considerable uncertainty regarding AID's future ability to maintain its lead role in international family planning assistance.
- o In February of this year, Congress narrowly approved the release of FY 1997 international family planning assistance funding in March, as opposed to the delay until

July that the FY 1997 Appropriations Act would otherwise have mandated. This represented a victory for the Administration and for a bi-partisan coalition of family planning supporters in Congress.

- o Representative Smith is also attempting to incorporate the "Mexico City" policy into the foreign assistance authorization bill that is being considered by the House of Representatives.

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Family Planning Request

QUESTION:

What have you requested for Title X Family Planning Program??

ANSWER:

- The FY 1998 budget requests \$203 million for Title X family planning program -- a \$5 million increase, +2.5 percent. This increase will be used to address emerging trends that impact on providing effective and efficient family planning services:
 - ▶ Provide outreach and expand education, reproductive health and family planning services to young men.
 - ▶ Update existing computer capabilities.
- For many clients, family planning clinics are the primary or sole point of contact with the health care system.
 - ▶ In FY 1998, nearly 4.4 million individuals--an increase of 40,000--primarily women, will receive services at over 4,790 clinics (+165).
 - ▶ Two-thirds of those receiving services at family planning clinics are under age 25.

KEY INFORMATION:

Family Planning					
(in millions)					
	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Title X	\$193	\$193	\$198	\$203	+\$5
NIH	170	177	180	184	+4
CDC	3	3	3	3	--
IHS	41	41	41	41	--
Medicaid (Fed. Share) ...	<u>520</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>+5</u>
Total, HHS	\$927	\$939	\$952	\$966	+\$14

- The Title X Family Planning program is currently unauthorized. The program expired in FY 1985, and has been continued each year since then through annual appropriations acts.
- The Title X program supports:
 - ▶ Increasing outreach activities;
 - ▶ Preventing teen pregnancy with a focus on postponing sexual activity;
 - ▶ Providing comprehensive reproductive health services; and
 - ▶ Training and retention of family planning nurse practitioners, particularly minority nurse practitioner.
- Estimates for FY 1998 Medicaid spending for family planning (a 90 percent Medicaid matched service) more than doubles FY 1990 spending levels.
 - ▶ In FY 1990, Medicaid spent approximately \$253 million on family planning activities compared to HCFA's estimate of \$535 million for FY 1998.
- Family planning clinics provide prevention and treatment services for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection; services for adolescent reproductive health and the prevention of adolescent pregnancy; screening for cervical cancer; services to prevent infant mortality and low birth weight, as well as other ancillary health care services.
- The high cost of medical care has increased the number of women in need of low cost or free services. In addition, the increasing needs of family planning clinic users, have expanded the role of clinics. AIDS prevention activities, screenings and referrals for breast and cervical cancer, tuberculosis and substance abuse are all relatively new services for family planning clinics.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- In FY 1997, there were 83 service grantees, of which 33 were State or territorial health departments. In an additional 11 States, the State health department was one of two or more grantees receiving funds.
- Approximately 85 percent of all family planning clinic users are unable to pay for services or are members of families with incomes at or below 150 percent of the poverty level.
- While our budget request for the Title X Family Planning Program remains in HRSA, the program will continue to be administered by the Office of Population Affairs located within the Office of Public Health and Science within the Office of the Secretary.
 - The Office of Population Affairs is statutorily based and the Deputy Assistant Secretary is the primary advisor to the Secretary on issues relating to population affairs including family planning.

Note: Previously, Senator Specter and the Appropriations Subcommittee Clerk Craig Higgins had been vocal advocates of moving the Family Planning Program to HRSA. However, the FY 1996 Appropriations Conference Report stated:

The conferees strongly believe that the family planning program should be formally administered, as well as funded, in the Health Resources and Services Administration as a separate program within the Office of the Administrator, but have chosen to leave the decision regarding administration to the secretary and have not mandated the transfer.

Family Planning Program

Authorizing Legislation--Title X, Section 1001 of the Public Health Service Act.

	<u>1996 Actual</u>	<u>1997 Appropriation</u>	<u>1998 Estimate</u>	<u>Increase or Decrease</u>
BA	\$192,592,000	\$198,452,000	\$203,452,000	+\$5,000,000
FTE	39	39	39	--

FY 1998 AuthorizationExpired

Purpose and Method of Operation

The Family Planning Program, Title X of the PHS Act, is administered and directed through the Office of Population Affairs/Office of Public Health and Science. This program provides grants to public and private non-profit agencies to provide voluntary family planning services. In FY 1996 approximately 5 million clients, primarily women received family planning services through a network of 4,800 clinics nationwide funded in part by Title X. Title X is the only Federal program focused only on family planning, decreasing unintended pregnancy and decreasing adolescent pregnancy. While other Federal programs such as Medicaid provide funding for family planning, Title X serves a population largely unserved by Medicaid which includes teens, nulliparous women, and the working poor. Approximately, two percent of the clients are males and the program is aiming to substantially increase male participation by 2000.

The population served by the program is predominately low-income, and one-third are adolescents. Title X is required to give priority to clients who are of low-income families. For many clients the family planning clinic has been the primary, or sole, point of contact with the health care system.

Family planning clinics provide contraception, basic gynecologic care, diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, breast and cervical cancer screening and education and referral information, as well as screening, for ancillary health problems such as hypertension and diabetes. In addition, Title X provides training for all levels of family planning personnel as well as nurse practitioners in clinics. Title X supports the information and education program and a research program which focuses on family planning service delivery improvements.

In FY 1996 there were 83 grantees, of which 33 were State or territorial health departments. In an additional 11 States, the State health department was one of two or more grantees receiving funds.

Funding for the Family Planning program during the last five years has been as follows:

	<u>\$</u>	<u>FTE</u>
1993	173,418,000	48
1994	180,918,000	50
1995	193,349,000	49
1996	192,592,000	39
1997	198,452,000	39

Rational for Budget Request

The FY 1998 request of \$203,452,000 is an increase of \$5,000,000 over the FY 1997 appropriation. This request will enable to program to continue its program priorities, which include:

- increasing outreach to women not likely to seek services, including homeless persons, disabled persons, substance abusers, and adolescents;
- emphasis on comprehensiveness of reproductive health services, including STD and cancer screening and prevention, increased involvement of male partners, HIV prevention education and counseling, substance abuse screening and referral;
- emphasis on services to adolescents, including more community education (providing information and educational materials) emphasis on postponement of sexual activity, and more accessible provision of contraceptive counseling and contraception,;
- elimination of disincentives to provide high cost but highly effective contraceptives to serve high risk (and high unit cost) clients, and to provide non-revenue-generating services such as community education and prevention services; and
- emphasis on training and retention of family planning nurse practitioners, particularly minority nurse practitioners and nurse practitioners serving disadvantaged and medically underserved communities.

A variety of emerging trends impact on the future ability of family planning to provide efficient and effective services to clients. This request will enable the program to address the following emerging trends in public health care delivery that impact on the program's ability to provide efficient care to clients and improve the future direction of the program:

Male Involvement: The Office of Family Planning has initiated several efforts in the area of increasing male involvement in family planning and reproductive health. This initiative is designed to provide outreach and expand education, reproductive health and family planning services to young men. Pilot projects are being established, in selected Title X family planning clinics, to employ young men from the surrounding community and also to provide them with on-the-job training..

Each project will incorporate a health education component, as well as counseling capability for project participants.

Electronic Communication: The Office of Family Planning and the OPHS Regional Offices are currently working with its grantees to update existing computer capabilities. Improving the programs use of new technological advances will facilitate efficiency within and among the projects, including enhanced communications via computer systems, accessing information on the internet, and timely dissemination of information.

Outputs:

	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
No. of Grantees	83	83	83
No. of Clinics	4,230	4,625	4,790
Clients Served	4,320,000	4,350,000	4,390,000
 General Training Program			
No. of Awards	15	15	15
No. of Trainees	22,400	22,450	22,500
 Nurse Practitioner Program			
No. of Awards	5	5	5
No. of Graduates	235	240	250



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

April 30, 1997

RU-486 Status

Summary

On September 18, 1996, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an approvable letter to the Population Council for mifepristone (commonly referred to as RU-486), when used in combination with misoprostol, for the termination of early pregnancy. As announced by the Population Council, the agency determined that the submitted clinical data demonstrate the safety and efficacy of mifepristone in combination with misoprostol when used under close medical supervision, but additional information on other issues, including manufacturing practices and labeling, must be submitted before a final approval decision can be made. The Population Council has not yet submitted the manufacturing control or chemistry information identified as required in the approvable letter. When the agency receives all the information identified in the approvable letter, it will have up to six-months to make a decision on the application.

Background

An FDA advisory committee voted 6-0 (with two abstentions) on July 19, 1996, that clinical data show that the benefits of a mifepristone and misoprostol regimen for terminating early pregnancy outweigh its risks. The studies presented to the Committee involved women treated under close medical supervision within 49 days of the beginning of their last menstrual period. The data come from two French trials, involving 2,480 women, that showed the combination of mifepristone and misoprostol, an oral prostaglandin, to be about 95 percent effective. In addition, the Population Council, a non-profit research organization, presented to the Committee preliminary safety data from U.S. trials, involving more than 2,000 women. Trials were conducted in the U.S. to complement the European data and to confirm whether the drug regimen could be safely used in the American medical system.

The regimen used in the clinical trials consisted of 3 tablets (600 milligrams) of oral mifepristone followed two days later by 2 tablets (400 micrograms) of oral misoprostol.

Adverse events seen in clinical trials (and expected in the target population) include painful contractions of the uterus, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, pelvic pain and spasm, and headache; a very small percentage of patients in the clinical trials required hospitalization, surgical treatment, and/or blood transfusions.

FAMILY PLANNING
AND THE HEALTH OF
MOTHERS AND
CHILDREN



INTRODUCTION

The birth of a new baby is one of life's most joyful events; most dream about having children one day. Too often in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, this joyous dream turns to one of grief with the death of a mother or her child. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are among the five leading causes of death for women of childbearing age in the region and rank first or second in several countries. ■ Because the average Latin American woman becomes pregnant more often than the average North American woman, her lifetime risk of dying during pregnancy or childbirth is far greater. (See Table 1.) For every mother who dies, 10 to 16 more suffer serious or long-term illness from pregnancy or childbirth.¹ ■ Death rates are also unnecessarily high for infants and young children in most of Latin America and the Caribbean. One-third of all deaths in the area occur among children under age five, though this age group accounts for only 14 per cent of the total population.² ■ Pregnancy and childbirth are not necessarily life-threatening, but under some conditions they do pose serious health risks to both mother and child. These conditions include: ● pregnancies of women under the age of 18; ● pregnancies of women with four children or more and/or who are over the age of 35; ● pregnancies spaced less than two years apart; and ● pregnancies of sick or malnourished women. ■ The risk associated with these conditions could be avoided through family planning, or reduced if adequate social support and health services were available to all the population. Unfortunately, this is not the case in most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean where there are still deficiencies in coverage and quality of care. ■ Family planning can help save lives by reducing the number of pregnancies to those at high risk. The following sections take a closer look at each category.

YOUNG AGE

Pregnancies in adolescent women (particularly those 17 and younger) can threaten their lives and health as well as the health of their children. Maternal mortality rates are substantially higher for young adolescents than for women between the ages of 20

TABLE 1
Maternal Mortality Rates in the Western Hemisphere

Country	Maternal Deaths per 100,000 Live Births
PARAGUAY (1980)	469
ECUADOR (1981)	186
GUATEMALA (1981)	106
BRAZIL (1980)	92
MEXICO (1981)	87
ARGENTINA (1981)	69
VENEZUELA (1980)	65
CHILE (1983)	40
COSTA RICA (1983)	26
BARBADOS (1980)	24
UNITED STATES (1982)	8
CANADA (1983)	5

SOURCE: Binzen, Susanna, *Saving Lives Through Family Planning: A Latin American Perspective* (New York: International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region, 1988).

and 34; this is true for countries at all levels of development. In the Caribbean, almost 60 per cent of first births are to women under the age of 19, and half of these are to women under the age of 17.³ An estimated 13 per cent of all births in Latin America are to teenagers.

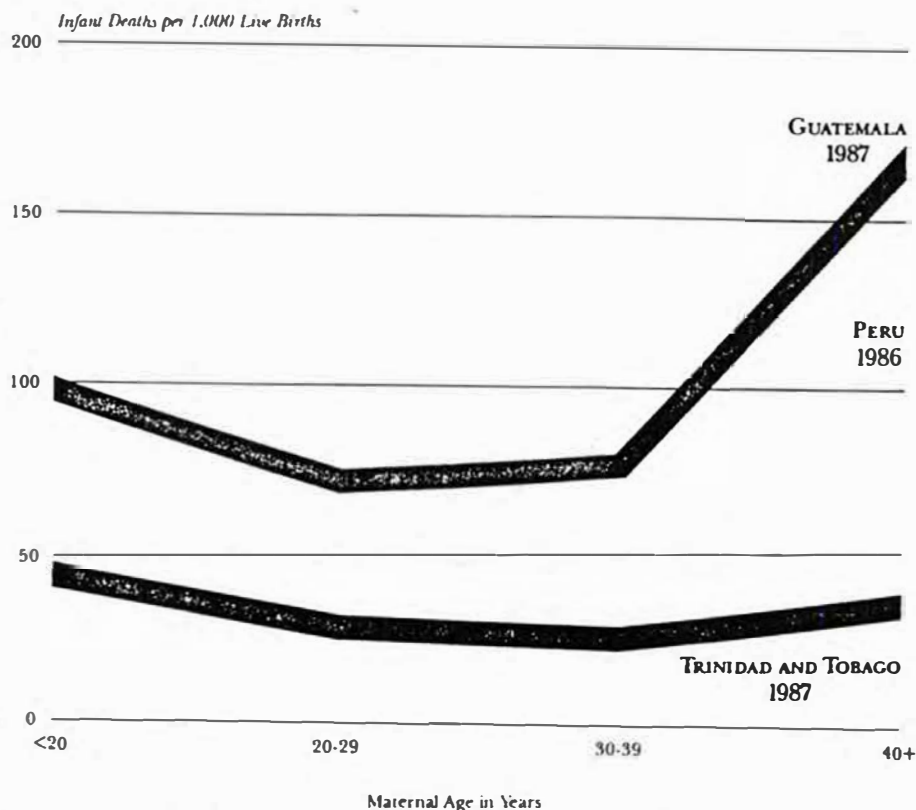
Teenagers are more likely to experience complications during pregnancy. Many young women, particularly those under the age of 15 or 16, are not yet fully developed physically. The pelvis may be too narrow, leading to obstructed labour. If hospital services are not available, this complication can result in permanent disability or death for the mother, and often for her infant.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: IDB/D. MANGURIAN

Pre-eclampsia, characterized by high blood pressure, edema (swelling) and protein in the urine, is another complication of childbearing common to young women, affecting nearly one-third during their first pregnancy.⁴ If untreated, this condition can lead to convulsions, coma and death.

FIGURE 1
Infant Death Rates by Maternal Age



SOURCE: Demographic and Health Surveys, Institute for Resource Development/Macro Systems, Columbia, Md

Infants born to very young women have higher death rates than infants of women in the ages of 20 to 29. (See Figure 1.) As a young mother's physical immaturity may prevent her from bearing a healthy infant, she is also less likely to know how to care for her infant adequately or to have the economic resources to meet the child's health and nutritional needs.

HIGH PARITY AND ADVANCED AGE

Having four or more children increases the chances of complications from pregnancy. For example, when a woman has had many births, her uterus becomes less likely to contract normally, putting her at higher risk of haemorrhage or prolonged labour which, if untreated, can cause death.

Women nearing the end of their reproductive years also face a higher risk of death from childbearing. One study found that for women over the age of 40, the risk of death during pregnancy was three to seven times higher than for the low-risk group of ages 20 to 34. (See Figure 2.) The risk is compounded in developing nations, where older women are also more likely to have had many children.

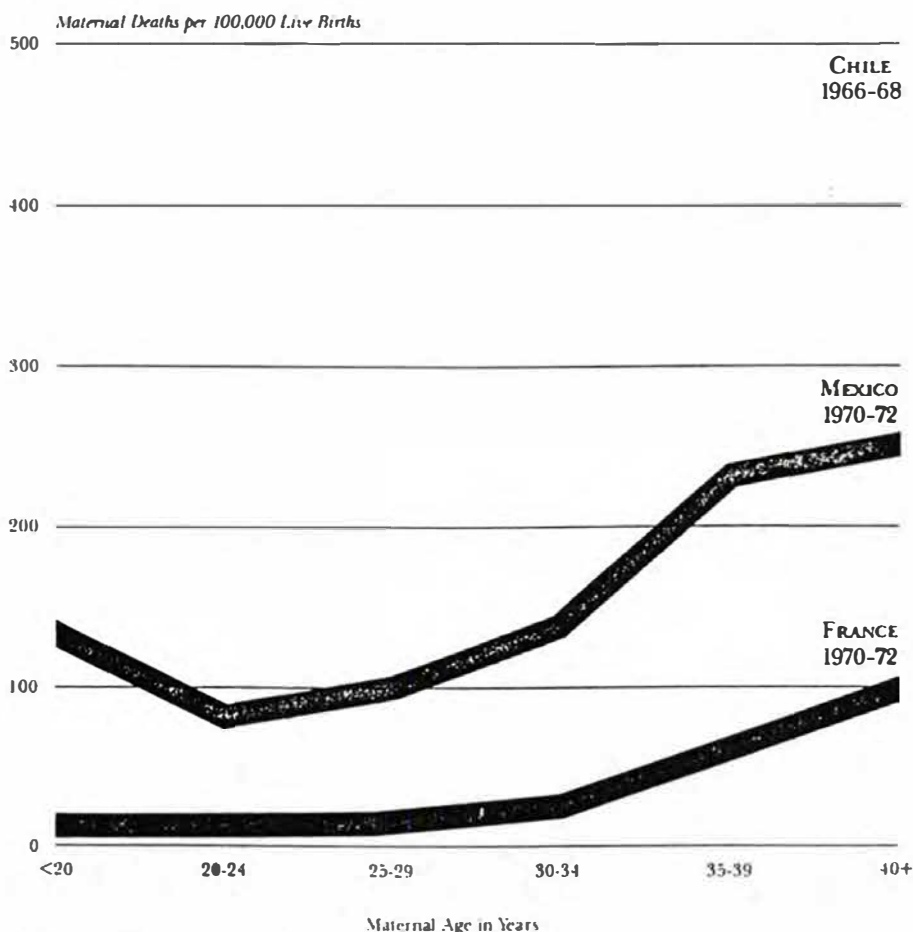
These risks apply to the children as well. Throughout the developing world, children born to mothers who have already had many children are at higher than average risk of death. Infants of mothers aged 35 or older also appear to face a higher risk. (Review Figure 1.) In fact, research has shown that if women had three or fewer births and confined their childbearing to ages 20 to 34, infant mortality in the developing world could be reduced by 12 per cent.⁵ In Latin America and the Caribbean, it has been estimated that the effective use of contraceptives by women who do not want any more children would reduce maternal deaths by one-third.⁶

POOR BIRTHSPACING

When children are born in close succession (less than two years apart), the risk of illness and death to the newborn and to the next older brother or sister increases. This happens for several reasons. First, the mother may not have had time to recover completely from the previous pregnancy. Second, she may have to stop breastfeeding the previous infant, depriving that child of a crucial source of nutrition and, for very young infants, protection against disease. Third, having several small children in her care may limit the mother's ability to provide all of them with adequate food and attention. Fourth, it may also increase the chance that they will contract an infectious disease.⁷

World-wide, an infant born less than two years after a previous birth has a greater chance of dying than one born after a longer interval. For example, in Ecuador a baby born after a short interval is 71 per cent more likely to die than one born after a two- to three-year interval. (See Figure 2.) Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, an unusually high percentage of all births occur within two years of a previous

FIGURE 2
Maternal Death Rates by Age

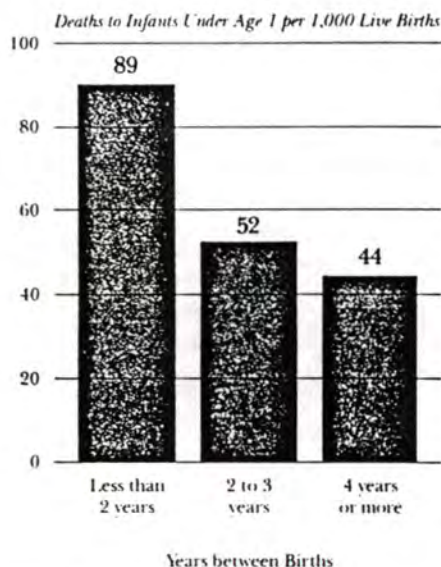


NOTE: Excludes abortion-related deaths

SOURCE: *Population Reports*, Series J, No. 27, May-June 1984

birth. In Colombia and Costa Rica, for example, over half of all children are born within this interval. If couples used family planning to lengthen the interval between each birth, more of their children would survive.

FIGURE 3
*Birth Intervals and
Infant Mortality: Ecuador, 1987*



SOURCE: Demographic and Health Surveys, Institute for Resource Development/Macro Systems, Columbia, Md.

POOR HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Even among women in the lower-risk categories — those aged 20 to 34 who have had fewer than four births — a pregnancy can be dangerous if the woman is in poor health. If she is anaemic or malnourished, has high blood pressure, episodes of haemorrhaging, or had complications in a previous pregnancy, she — and consequently her infant — face a higher risk of complications. Anaemia afflicts one-fifth to two-thirds of pregnant women in the region.⁸ This condition increases fatigue, inhibits the ability to fight disease and makes women much more vulnerable to haemorrhage.

ILLEGAL ABORTION AND UNWANTED PREGNANCIES

In Latin America and the Caribbean, nearly half of all maternal deaths may be the result of unsafe abortions, almost all of which are illegal.

Because of its clandestine nature, accurate information about abortion is hard to obtain. Experts estimate that between 5 and 25 per cent of pregnancies in the region end in abortion⁹ and that one million women are admitted to hospitals for treatment of complications from poorly performed, illegal abortions.¹⁰ Data from the 1970s show that deaths from abortion complications are

responsible for perhaps 30 to 70 per cent of all maternal mortality depending on the country.¹¹

The consequences of unhygienic abortion strain the region's health systems, placing heavy demands on bed space, blood supplies, drugs and personnel. Hospitals frequently spend up to half of their maternal-care budgets on treating complications from illegal abortions, and utilize half the beds in gynaecology wards for women with complications following a poorly performed abortion.¹²

These abortion rates are among the world's highest, an indication of high levels of unwanted pregnancy. In a survey of Colombian, Jamaican and Peruvian women of reproductive age, half reported having an unwanted pregnancy within the previous two years.¹³ In the region as a whole, from 12 to 38 per cent of women said their families were larger than they wanted.¹⁴

In these countries, as many as 40 to 50 per cent of women who want no more children are, nevertheless, not using a method of contraception. (See Figure 4.) These women may not know about contraceptive methods, may lack access to family planning services, or may fail to use these services for other reasons. A 1983-84 study in Bolivia found that almost 30 per cent of the women hospitalized for abortion complications had not been using contraception when they became pregnant because they lacked information on family planning.¹⁵ However, studies in other Latin American countries found that women who survive an illegal abortion are afterwards much more likely to practise contraception in order to prevent future unwanted pregnancies. (See Figure 5.)

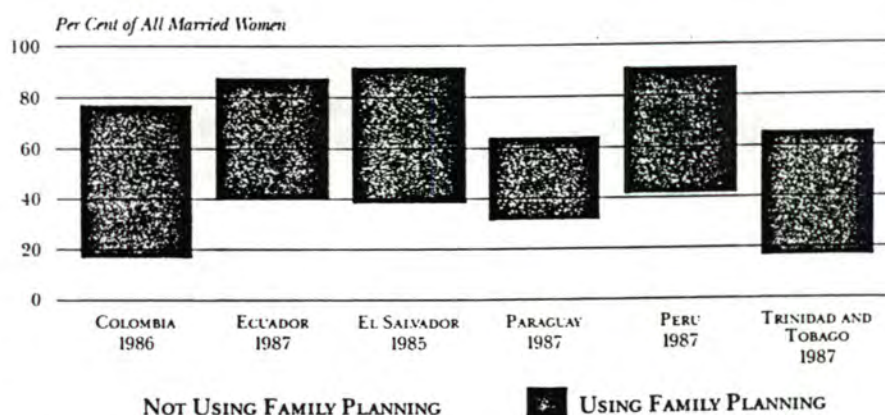
FAMILY PLANNING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TODAY

There is also a positive side to the story. Latin America has made significant progress in increasing access to family planning services. The results are reflected in the higher survival rates of women who use family planning — and their children.

Almost all governments now support family planning, openly or tacitly, including three that until recently were strongly pronatalist (Argentina, Guyana and Suriname). At least ten countries (Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) have issued national population policies that include a firm commitment to family planning.

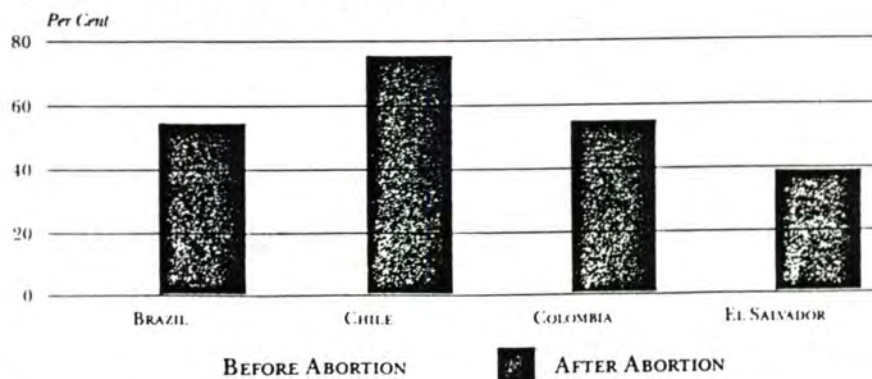
Many governments offer family planning services either directly or integrated into other maternal and child activities. In the region, the majority of family planning services are provided by public and the commercial sectors which offer contraceptives through pharmacies, clinics and other channels. Private, not-for-profit organizations provide a

FIGURE 4
Married Women who do not Want Pregnancy Now — Are They Using Family Planning?



SOURCE: *Population Reports*, Series L, No. 7, September 1988.

FIGURE 5
Contraceptive Use Before and After Hospitalization for Abortion or for Treatment of Abortion Complications



NOTE: Data is from 1972-1979.

SOURCE: *Population Reports*, Series F, No. 7, July 1980.



ECUADOR: EDUARDO QUINTANA

significant portion of family planning service delivery in Colombia, Honduras and Guatemala, among other countries.

TABLE 2
Contraceptive Use in Latin America and the Caribbean

<i>Region or Country</i>	<i>% Married Women Using Contraception (Total/Modern)</i>
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	55/46
CENTRAL AMERICA	49/42
BELIZE	37/—
COSTA RICA	70/58
EL SALVADOR	47/45
GUATEMALA	23/18
HONDURAS	35/30
MEXICO	53/45
NICARAGUA	27/23
PANAMA	58/54
SOUTH AMERICA	59/48
BOLIVIA	26/11
BRAZIL	65/56
COLOMBIA	63/51
ECUADOR	44/36
GUYANA	31/28
PARAGUAY	45/29
PERU	46/23
VENEZUELA	49/38
CARIBBEAN	—/—
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	39/37
BARBADOS	47/—
DOMINICA	49/47
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	50/47
GRENADA	31/28
GUADELOUPE	44/31
HAITI	7/4
JAMAICA	51/48
MARTINIQUE	51/37
PUERTO RICO	70/62
ST. KITTS-NEVIS	41/37
SAINT LUCIA	43/40
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	42/40
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	53/44

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau, 1989 World Population Data Sheet, April 1989.

Government health services include family planning because of its demonstrated health benefits to women and children. Some governments also offer services because they believe that family planning is a human right, because women should have the capacity to regulate their own fertility or because the poor should have the same access to family planning as the wealthy.

Contraceptive use in Latin America and the Caribbean is relatively widespread. About 45 per cent of women of reproductive age, either married or in consensual union, are using a modern method of contraception. This statistic, however, masks the wide variation among countries. (See Table 2.) For example, in five countries, 50 to 60 per cent of women in union use a modern contraceptive method, while in an equal number of countries fewer than 25 per cent do so.

OBSTACLES TO FAMILY PLANNING

Despite their progress in health and family planning, most Latin American and Caribbean countries have critical needs and seriously underserved populations. For example:

- Poor women, especially those living in rural areas and marginal urban communities, are much more likely than wealthier women to become pregnant frequently and to resort to illegal abortion in order to control their fertility.

- Many women may be inhibited from visiting a family planning clinic, particularly if they are not married, because of social and religious attitudes that condemn family planning.

- Employed women often find it difficult to take time away from their work or their families to visit a family planning clinic, particularly if the lines of people waiting for service are long.

- Adolescent pregnancy is increasing in some countries, in part because many family planning providers are reluctant to offer young people services or information, and other institutions do not provide adequate information about reproduction and sexuality.

Two other challenges confront family planning in Latin America and the Caribbean: the opposition movement and economic difficulties.

- Organized opposition to family planning often appears more widespread than it actually is. While its actions are sporadic, the movement is troublesome because of its harsh attacks. It is unlikely to succeed in eliminating family planning services in any country, but it can weaken the ability of institutions to provide services to those who need them.

- The debt crisis, high inflation and lacklustre economic growth have forced many Latin American and Caribbean countries to reduce their public services, including health and family planning. However, family planning is an investment that will bring important economic and social returns, saving public resources over the long run that would otherwise need to be spent on curative health care.



VENEZUELA: UNITED NATIONS

CONCLUSION

In various international conferences, family planning has been recognized as a human right by most countries of the world. Yet this right, widely practised by the economically advantaged, is often not available to the poor.

The correlation between income, education and contraceptive use is strong and positive. The challenge to governments who believe this vital human right will be to insure that it is as readily available to the poor as it is to the rich.

Family planning cannot replace broad development efforts aimed at improving public health,

raising living standards and stimulating economic growth. Together with these efforts, however, national family planning policies and effective programmes can help guarantee better health for women and their families and improve the living conditions of millions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Review Panel

JOSÉ BARZELATTO
Senior Programme Adviser
Urban Poverty Programme, Ford
Foundation
New York, USA

CARLYLE GUERRA DE MACEDO
Director
Pan American Health
Organization
Washington, D.C., USA

GLORIA HENRY
Member of Parliament and
Minister of Social Development
and Family Services
Port of Spain, Trinidad and
Tobago

HALFDAN MAHLER
Secretary General
International Planned
Parenthood Federation
London, United Kingdom

ANTHONY R. MEASHAM
Chief
Population, Health and Nutrition
Division, Population and
Human Resources Department
World Bank, Washington, D.C.,
USA

BILLIE MILLER
Former Member of Parliament
and former Minister of Health
and of Education
Bridgetown, Barbados

OTTO RODRIGUEZ ARMAS
Associate Professor
Universidad Central de Venezuela
Caracas, Venezuela

ALLAN ROSENFELD
Dean
School of Public Health
Columbia University, New York,
USA

ROBERTO SANTISO
Executive Director
Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la
Familia de Guatemala
(APROFAM)
Guatemala City, Guatemala

MANUEL URBINA FUENTES
Director General
Department of Family Planning,
Ministry of Health
Mexico City, Mexico

JOSEPH WRAY
Associate Professor
Columbia University, New York,
USA

The IAPG wishes to express its appreciation to Ann Starrs for her work toward preparing this document.

¹Lettenmaier, Cheryl, Liskin, Laurie, Church, Cathleen and Harris, John A., "Mothers' Lives Matter: Maternal Health in the Community," *Population Reports*, Series L, No. 7, September 1988.

²Rinehart, Ward and Kols, Adrienne, "Healthier Mothers and Children Through Family Planning," *Population Reports*, Series J, No. 27, May-June 1984.

³Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, *Women in Health and Development*, Scientific Publication No. 448 (Washington, D.C.: PAHO/WHO, 1983).

⁴Lettenmaier *et al.*, "Mothers' Lives Matter: Maternal Health in the Community."

⁵Acsadi, G.T.F. and Johnson-Acsadi, G., *Optimum Conditions for Childbearing* (London: International Planned Parenthood Federation, 1986).

⁶Maine, Deborah, Rosenfield, Allan and Wallace, M., "Prevention of Maternal Deaths in Developing Countries: How much could Family Planning Help?" Paper presented at the Population Association of America, San Francisco, CA, April, 1986.

⁷Palloni, Alberto and Millman, Sara, "Effect of Inter-birth Intervals and Breastfeeding on Infant and Early Childhood Mortality," *Population Studies*, 40(2), July, 1986.

⁸PAHO/WHO, *Women in Health and Development*.

⁹Liskin, Laurie, "Complications of Abortion in Developing Countries," *Population Reports*, Series F, No. 7, July 1980 (reprinted January 1982).

¹⁰Potts, Malcolm, "Illegal Methods that Poison, Kill and Maim," *People*, 15(4), 1988.

¹¹Liskin, Laurie, "Complications of Abortion in Developing Countries."

¹²Minikoff, Beverly, "Women's Health: An Alternative Perspective for Choosing Interventions," *Studies in Family Planning*, 19(4), July-August, 1988.

¹³Johnson-Acsadi, Gwendolyn, "The Scale of the Problem," *People*, 15(4), 1988.

¹⁴Johnson-Acsadi, Gwendolyn, "The Scale of the Problem."

¹⁵Lettenmaier *et al.*, "Mothers' Lives Matter: Maternal Health in the Community."

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**Women's Roundtable
and Luncheon**

Divider Title: _____

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY
TO
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
MAY 6, 1997

EVENT: Womens Roundtable and Luncheon

DATE: Tuesday, May 6, 1997

TIME: 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

LOCATION: Rufino Tamayo Museum

ATTENDEES: Mrs. Zedillo
Mrs. Jones
TBD-10 Prominent Mexican Women

PRESS: Pool Spray

REMARKS: Brief Remarks/Roundtable discussion

SCENARIO: Motorcade will arrive in front of museum. Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Zedillo will proceed to front entrance and be greeted by Christina Galvez, Museum Director and ?. Mrs. Clinton will have option to hold or proceed directly to Luncheon in the indoor patio. Mrs. Zedillo/Mrs. Jones opens program and introduces Mrs. Zedillo/Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Zedillo/Mrs. Jones makes brief remarks and introduces Mrs. Clinton. Mrs. Clinton makes brief remarks and guests then proceed with luncheon portion of program. Roundtable conversation will take place while luncheon is proceeding. Mrs. Zedillo will thank guests for attending and end program. Following end of program Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Zedillo will proceed to main entrance and exits to motorcade.

MEXICO: LUNCH WITH MRS. ZEDILLO

Context:

By her own choice, Mrs. Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo, First Lady of Mexico, is not a broadly known public figure. Naturally, people know who she is, but she has preferred to keep a rather low profile, not picking up many of the public charitable and social events that some of her predecessors have supported.

She will be your hostess at lunch May 6, along with a number of prominent Mexican women from various fields of endeavor, to make a total of sixteen. The venue will be the Rufino Tamayo Museum in Chapultepec Park in downtown Mexico City, a private museum created by the family of Rufino Tamayo, one of Mexico's best known abstract artists and a contemporary of Diego Rivera and Freida Kahlo. The museum features a permanent collection of works by such luminaries as Picasso, Miro, Warhol and Henry Moore, as well as by Tamayo himself. They are housed in a strikingly modern building. The museum's director is Christina Galvez.

Objectives:

- o Develop a personal rapport with Mrs. Zedillo.
- o Get the perspective of leading Mexican women on issues of significance to them.

Talking Points:

- o This is a magnificent setting for a discussion that is of great interest to me.
- o I have just come from the Yucatan where I had the opportunity to interact with Mexican women in a rural setting.
- o Mrs. Zedillo has been most gracious to offer me this fascinating opportunity to hear firsthand from Mexico City women issues which you feel are of paramount importance.

**GUEST LIST FOR LUNCHEON
WITH MRS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**

Rosalba Cruz

The Queen of recycling for Mexico City, she is the Director of Urban Development programs. She worked on the development of the entire city dump system for Mexico, a project which entailed not only figuring out what to do with the millions of tons of garbage this enormous city produces but also with the entire population of garbage pickers who lived and worked in the dumps. Coaxing those people out of the dumps and into housing, convincing them that education was not only desirable but also possible, and giving them training to be efficient recyclers was an incredibly complex project which has worked out quite well. She has a Master's Degree from the London School of Economics. We sent Rosalba to the U.S. this year on an International Visitor's Project through the United States Information Service.

Teresa Franco

Currently the Director General of the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), Tere Franco is an outstanding administrator. Because of the political sensitivity of her job which entails maintaining, protecting, and promoting the vast cultural patrimony of Mexico, Tere, an historian by training, is an expert in working with the bureaucracy in Mexico and around the world. Without her help, we would never have been able to present the stupendous exhibit Olmec Art of ancient Mexico in the National Gallery last year. And, of course, the reciprocal exhibit, Masterpieces of the National Gallery, would have been impossible.

Xóchitl Gálvez

She is an Otomí Indian who had to walk for 3 hours to go to primary school when she was a child. A computer engineer with a specialization in artificial intelligence, she teaches at the Universidad Autónoma de México and is the founder of a private consulting firm which specializes in high tech projects which benefit from computer-assisted technologies. She is also the founder of the Pro Servir Foundation (ProServe Foundation), an organization whose goal is to eradicate malnutrition among indigenous children. She has a master's degree from a U.S. university.

Olivia Barclay Jones

Wife of The Honorable James R. Jones, United States Ambassador to Mexico

Alejandra Lajous

Alejandra Lajous' most interesting past job was as official historian for the de la Madrid administration 1982-88 and the first three years of the Salinas administration. After chronicling two presidents, Lajous went to Channel 11 as Director General. Channel 11 is known for its extensive cultural programming. Lajous has been trying to improve programming, both by purchasing programs from other countries, including the U.S., and by fund-raising to locally produce shows. Lajous is from a family long involved in politics. One sister is an Ambassador; a brother is Director General of the Mexican petroleum company PEMEX; and the other sister is a Senator. Her husband, Roberto Molina Pasquel, was an Eisenhower grantee in 1989.

Claudia Madrazo

Director and founder of La Vaca Independiente (The Independent Cow), an organization which promotes art and culture through education, Claudia Madrazo studied Communications and Museum management. Her big project for last year was publishing a facsimile edition of Frida Kahlo's diaries with an introduction by Carlos Fuentes. This year, her major enterprise is DIA Desarrollo de la Inteligencia a través del Arte (Intellectual Development through Art). DIA is currently working in 20 elementary schools, both public and private.

María Elena Medina Mora

She has a Ph.D. in psychology and is one of Mexico's leading experts in the study of substance abuse, particularly among children. She has participated in many USG programs and has conducted national surveys on drug demand in Mexico under the auspices of the United States Information Service and the Narcotics Assistance Section of the Department of State. She works with the U. S. National Institute on Drug Addiction on a regular basis. She is a former Fulbrighter.

Patricia Olamendi

She is a lawyer who works with six NGO's for the protection of victims' rights. She directs the Center for Assistance to the Victims of Sexual Crimes and Missing Children. She has worked with us in a series of programs on Alternative Dispute Resolution, a concept which is just beginning to gain support here in Mexico.

Beatriz Sánchez Navarro de Pintado

Beatriz is an example of a newer, more assertive woman in Mexico. She is not afraid to ask for money and she has been very successful. As the President of *Adopt a Work of Art* she travels constantly promoting this country-wide project to encourage citizens to appreciate and support their own local cultural treasures. An interesting aspect of the program is that *Adopt a Work of Art* projects are planned to become significant to community development. They provide focal points of local pride and reinforce a positive sense of heritage. They also provide economic benefits by providing employment, as in restoration projects, and subsequent tourism.

María Luisa Barrera de Serna

A biological chemist by training, María Luisa is interested in distance learning and in encouraging volunteerism and the development of the private sector in Mexico. The distance learning projects she works on have been focused on providing current and comprehensive education to the most deprived rural areas of the country. María Luisa works with CEMEFI (Centro Mexicano para la Filantropía - Mexican Center for Philanthropy), an organization which promotes *Mira por los Demás* (Look out for Others), a campaign modeled on the Give Five program in the U.S. which encourages volunteerism. Just this year, María Luisa and her husband funded two special grants for Masters Degrees in communications studies under the Fulbright program.

Josefa Cuevas de Serrano

The President of the Sociedad Internacional de Valores de Arte Mexicano (International Society for Talent in Mexican Art), an organization which nurtures Mexican performing artists, Pepita is a dedicated and tireless organizer. As a result of her efforts promising Mexican singers receive training and promotion in Mexico and abroad. Because they can find an audience and opportunities here, these outstanding talents will stay in and enhance the cultural richness of Mexico. Her husband is a prominent businessman who is extremely interested in education. We hope to get them interested in supporting the Fulbright program.

Celia Toro

Celia is the Director of the Center for International Studies at the prestigious El Colegio de México. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Stanford University where she studied under the auspices of Fulbright and Ford Foundation scholarships. She is an outstanding scholar who has written several articles on U.S.-Mexico international relations, particularly on drug-trafficking issues. She was a visiting professor at Harvard University's new Center for Latin American Studies during academic year 1994-95. El Colegio is an extremely important institution in Mexico with which the Embassy works extensively co-sponsoring seminars on economics, politics, trade issues, and narco-trafficking topics and on student exchange programs. Because El Colegio is one of the few universities in Mexico with an active American Studies program, it was one of two institutions to receive a USIA donated complete American Studies collection for their library this year. She is married to Dr. Jorge Salmerón, an epidemiologist, and has two small children.

WOMEN'S ISSUES: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

In Latin America and the Caribbean, laws limiting or hindering women's opportunities still exist, although many countries have reformed their legal code to eliminate gender bias. Yet in most of the region, women continue to encounter barriers of widespread societal discrimination. Traditional and societal beliefs of the proper role of women tend to limit opportunities for women.

In many Latin American countries which previously lacked specific laws regarding violence against women, including domestic violence, new legislation is now being drafted -- an encouraging trend. Women's groups have begun to use the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women to press for changes in domestic legislation and practices. However, enforcement is still a challenge in many countries; in others, domestic violence is considered to be a private matter and laws and practices reflect this belief. Often the police are reluctant to intervene, reflecting general social attitudes and a lack of gender-sensitivity training for law enforcement officers throughout much of Latin America. This problem only recently has been addressed by programs such as the specialized run-by-women-for-women police stations called elegacias da Mulher in Brazil (a model being adopted in other countries) and by the incorporation of domestic violence training in the basic training of all new police officers in Costa Rica. In many countries where rape is considered a private crime, women bear the responsibility for pressing charges. The courts are often accused of being too lenient.

In the area of political participation, the situation is more hopeful. Although women are significantly under-represented in political office throughout the region, there have been 3 women presidents, 2 vice presidents, and 1 prime minister. Overall, there are no legal restrictions to women's political participation. Through networks of NGOs promoting their participation in civil society, women are overcoming the traditional and socio-economic factors which have kept them out of politics.

In the workplace, women often encounter discrimination in the types of jobs available to them, hiring practices and the wages they are offered. Women's employment is centered in low-status, low wage "traditional occupations." Overall, women earn less than 3/4 of male wages, even when their educational level is equivalent or better. Only about 20% of this difference is explained by differences in education, experience and hours worked. Professional women are pressured to interrupt their careers for child rearing and have difficulty

advancing when they return. Women are also disproportionately represented in the informal sector, earning less and foregoing many benefits found in formal sector jobs.

While educational parity for urban girls is becoming the norm, rural indigenous girls face daunting cultural and language barriers and are often kept away from school to contribute to the family's income, care for siblings, or haul water.

WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

The Invisible Half



INTRODUCTION

Development depends upon the efficient use of resources — natural, financial and human. In Latin American and Caribbean countries, scientists conduct research to find ways to make existing resources go further, and discoveries of new mineral or oil deposits make headlines. Yet there is one resource which many countries do not utilize efficiently: the capabilities, talents and potential contribution of women in Latin America and the Caribbean have been neither fully recognized nor fully developed. ■ This is clearly not a problem unique to Latin America and the Caribbean. Since the International Women's Year in 1975, governments, multilateral agencies and private organizations world-wide have begun to consider development issues related specifically to women's status and roles.¹ The 1975–85 Decade for Women helped focus attention on women, and a framework for women's participation in development was written by the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Women represent 50 per cent of the world's population; thus, they should be entitled to the same resources, opportunities and benefits available to men.

■ In Latin America and the Caribbean, a good deal of documentation and analysis of the situation of women has been carried out since the International Women's Year. For example, the 1986 UNFPA conference, "Women, Population and Development in Latin America", held in Uruguay, resulted in a declaration by representatives of 20 countries recommending a variety of measures to promote programmes and decision-making roles for women.² Yet, despite the thousands of words that have been written about the role of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, there remains one overriding

concern: women are still all but invisible in development planning. Further, while more research on women is needed, the data that do exist often are not taken into account by planners or policy-makers.

Investment in human resources depends on high-quality health services, education and employment. This booklet highlights, for those key areas, women's concerns and women's contributions which do not receive adequate attention.

WOMEN AND HEALTH

Today there is a growing consensus that "no country can claim to be advancing if its maternal death rates remain poor."³ Yet, until recently, reducing the maternal mortality rate (the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births) has not been included explicitly in the development agenda. This is particularly surprising because the disparity in maternal mortality rates between the developing and the developed regions is much greater than the differences in infant mortality. It is also surprising because many of the maternal deaths could easily be prevented. (See *"Family Planning and the Health of Mothers and Children"* in this series.)

What are the levels of maternal mortality? Difficult as it is to obtain reliable statistics, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 500,000 women per year die of pregnancy-related causes,



ECUADOR: EDUARDO QUINTANA

including abortion. There is wide variation by region. Africa is clearly the worst off: an African woman stands a 1 in 21 chance of dying from complications arising from pregnancy. It has been estimated that a South American woman has a 1 in 73 chance of dying from pregnancy-related causes and a Caribbean woman 1 in 140. However, compare this

TABLE 1
Estimates of Annual Maternal Mortality by Region (latest estimates)

Region	Number of maternal deaths (thousands)	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)
AFRICA	150	640
NORTH	24	500
WEST	54	700
EAST	46	660
CENTRAL	18	690
SOUTHERN	8	570
ASIA	308	420
WEST	14	340
SOUTH	230	650
SOUTHEAST	52	420
EAST	12	55
LATIN AMERICA	34	270
CENTRAL	9	240
CARIBBEAN	2	220
TROPICAL SOUTH	22	310
TEMPERATE SOUTH	1	110
OCEANIA	2	100
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	494	450
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	6	30
WORLD	500	390

SOURCE: STAFFS. ANN. *Preventing the Tragedy of Maternal Deaths: A Report on the International Safe Motherhood Conference* (New York: Family Care International, 1987).

with a North American woman's 1 in 6,366 chance or a European woman's 1 in 9,850 chance and the magnitude of the problem becomes clear. (See Table 1.)

Like women everywhere, those in Latin America and the Caribbean have a variety of health concerns. WHO, which has been promoting the goal of "health for all", notes that what distinguishes women's health needs from those

of men is their reproductive role. "Reproductive health" is not limited to childbearing; even women who are spacing pregnancies exactly as they wish are concerned about reproductive tract infections and about sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

Mothers are also important actors in their children's health status. For example, they are largely responsible for their children's immunizations or for carrying out the growth monitoring that is part of recent "child survival" programmes. Often mothers put their children's health and welfare before their own. Equally often, health programmes accept this priority, considering women primarily as guardians of their children; the available data suggest this order of priorities. Women are sometimes lost in these health statistics. As the Pan American Health Organization's director, Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, has observed:

In order to better understand and address women's specific needs . . . efforts should be made to undertake innovative approaches to analysis, disaggregate data by sex, develop new indicators and make greater use of statistical information in support of planning and programming. It is equally important to change the collective view of women so that they are perceived not only as mothers and health care providers to family and community, but also as human beings with specific needs and aspirations.⁴

WOMEN AND EDUCATION

Education is perhaps the single strongest influence on women's control of their own future. . . . Education has a powerful effect in its own right . . . for many girls, [it] is their foot in the door of the modern world. . . . With increased confidence and self-esteem, they can begin using the resources of the modern world to make their own choices and improve their lives.⁵

Literacy is quite high in Latin America and the Caribbean in comparison to other developing regions; yet there are marked differences between Latin America and the English-speaking Caribbean and illiteracy rates are higher for women than men in nearly every South American country.

Female illiteracy ranges from a high of 65 per cent in Haiti to a low of four per cent in Cuba. (See Table 2.) In a few countries the differences between male and female rates are large. One observer notes that despite increases in school enrolment for girls, the "belief that it is more important to educate boys than girls, whose destiny is the home and family, still prevails, especially in rural areas".⁶ In comparison, the differences between the sexes in the Caribbean are consistently smaller. In the Caribbean, for example, in Cuba 96 per cent of both males and

TABLE 2
Illiteracy Rates in Latin America and the Caribbean, by Sex (latest estimates)

Region/country	Per cent illiterate male/female
CENTRAL AMERICA	13/17
COSTA RICA	6/7
EL SALVADOR	25/31
GUATEMALA	37/53
HONDURAS	39/42
MEXICO	8/12
PANAMA	11/12
TROPICAL SOUTH AMERICA	18/22
BOLIVIA	16/35
BRAZIL	21/24
COLOMBIA	18/18
ECUADOR	15/20
GUYANA	3/5
PARAGUAY	9/15
PERU	9/22
VENEZUELA	12/15
TEMPERATE SOUTH AMERICA	4/5
ARGENTINA	4/5
CHILE	3/4
CARIBBEAN	22/23
CUBA	4/4
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	22/23
HAITI	60/65
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	3/5

NOTE: Regional figures are weighted averages only of the countries listed.

SOURCE: UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 1990* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989).

females are literate. In the English-speaking Caribbean, at least 75 per cent of women in each country are literate, and sometimes substantially more.

The relationships between female education, labour force

Having children is safe for most women, but a pregnancy may endanger a woman's health if she is:

- too young
- too old
- has four or more children
- has given birth within the past two years.

Family planning can protect women in these high-risk groups.



HAITI: FAO/E. MATTIOLI

participation and fertility are complex. However, studies do suggest that increased education leads to lower fertility and higher labour force participation. One study of four Latin American countries found that increases in education of women were responsible for 40 to 60 per cent of the decline in fertility in the last ten years.⁷ The World Bank has called female education one of the strongest factors in reducing fertility.⁸

Gradually, women have become a significant proportion of university students in Latin America and the Caribbean. This progress in higher education means that there are more women candidates for trained positions in planning and policy-making. Traditionally, lack of training and preparation was thought to preclude women's recruitment to either private or public occupations dealing with development and social change. However, the large growth in the pool of university-educated women over the past two decades leaves little reason for the exclusion of women from the highest levels of politics and government.

WOMEN AND EMPLOYMENT

Participation in either the formal or informal labour force is a reality for most women in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, women's work is still overwhelmingly concentrated in occupations traditionally filled by women (teachers, health workers, secretaries) or jobs that use skills related to women's domestic roles — maids, waitresses and textile workers. For example, women comprise 82 per cent of health workers and 74 per cent of teachers. These occupations can be secure and well-paid, but most are paid at a much lower rate than the similarly skilled "male" jobs. In Brazil in 1980, the average working woman had one-third more education than the average working man, but earned only one-third his wage. One study in Santiago, Chile, found that the higher up the occupational ladder one climbs, the greater the discrepancy by sex.⁹

Measuring women's economic activity is a difficult process, since often they contribute unpaid labour to family farms or enterprises. In Latin America, an average of only 15 to 20 per cent of women are counted as economically active, compared to about 50 per cent of men.¹⁰ World-wide, International Labour Organization (ILO) data show only 28 per cent of women as economically active — a statistic that has been called "a cruel misrepresentation of the actual amount of work that women do".¹¹ (See Table 3 for rates in Latin America and the Caribbean.)

In Latin America and the Caribbean, women's participation in the labour force is



PERU: IDB/C. CONDE

characterized by: (1) an accelerating movement of women into employment in the formal sector, and (2) continuing high rates of female participation outside formal structures, particularly in urban areas. Poor women have

always worked, and censuses from earlier times record high rates of female participation in agriculture. Now, many middle- and upper-class women are entering the labour market. Latin American and Caribbean women's

increasing labour force activity — both in quality and quantity — is visible evidence of significant societal change.

When development plans designed to expand women's earning opportunities involve extra work, they should include relief from current burdens or a compensating income. Sometimes even minor interventions can have a dramatic effect. In rural Peru, for instance, the introduction of grinding mills has helped women save enough time to significantly expand their trading activities. Providing a grinding mill *and* a standpipe might save enough hours of labour that women could undertake a second weeding of the maize or sorghum fields, which has been shown to improve yields by 20 per cent. It may even be that two such simple improvements could have as powerful an effect on agricultural productivity as a full-scale irrigation scheme.¹²

Clearly, the steps to be taken to improve employment opportunities for women depend on one's perception of reality. If one believes that fewer than one-fifth of women in Latin America and the Caribbean are economically productive, the strategies would be different than if one holds the alternative explanation — that women's genuine economic contributions are underestimated. "In a world that puts value almost exclusively on productive activities that enter the cash economy, women's low status may be partially explained by the fact that their work often defies enumeration and classification by conventional measures. . . . A growing number of experts have

TABLE 3
Population Economically Active by Sex, Latin America and the Caribbean (latest estimates)

Country	Per cent economically active	
	Men	Women
CENTRAL AMERICA		
COSTA RICA	51	15
EL SALVADOR	48	24
GUATEMALA	48	8
MEXICO	48	18
PANAMA	46	18
SOUTH AMERICA		
ARGENTINA	55	20
BOLIVIA	49	15
BRAZIL	53	20
CHILE	51	21
ECUADOR	46	12
PARAGUAY	55	14
PERU	47	16
URUGUAY	55	26
VENEZUELA	47	18
CARIBBEAN		
BAHAMAS	47	36
CUBA	49	23
HAITI	52	37
JAMAICA	50	41

SOURCE: International Labour Office, *Yearbook of Labour Statistics* (Geneva: ILO, 1987).

called for a reappraisal of the concepts, approaches and practices associated with gathering employment statistics in censuses in order to better account for women's economic activity."¹³

As the use of women's time becomes better studied, experts are recognizing that the distinction between "productive" and "reproductive" activities is less useful than before; today, the contrast can be made between "visible" and "invisible" work by women.¹⁴



ECUADOR: EDUARDO QUINTANA

BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP

In Latin America and the Caribbean, as elsewhere, the efforts to ensure the appropriate role of women in development have shifted over time. Originally, many sought to establish special programmes for women, with earmarked resources and even special staff. Next, the focus turned to "integrating women into development", a stage in

which woman-specific activities were shunned in favor of attempts to ensure that women's needs were taken into account by all departments or staff members of an organization or a government.

For the 1990s, however, a new approach has evolved. The goal now is to ensure that gender be consistently considered a central variable in the development equation. Among the strategies proposed to make women's contributions and needs more visible are: (1) obtaining and considering data disaggregated by sex in planning and evaluation; (2) creating new indicators as needed; (3) ensuring that women have a place at decision-making levels (in sufficient numbers to ensure that they can influence the agenda without needing to stand alone for the positions they take); and (4) offering recognition and encouragement to those women and men working on gender issues (rather than denigrating their concerns, as sometimes is the case).

In Latin America, the debt crisis has had an impact on all individuals, but just as it has not affected the rich and the poor in the same way, it has not had an identical impact on men and women. Women in particular have needed to devise increasingly creative "survival strategies" to feed and clothe their families. The "double day" faced by many women (responsibility both within the household and beyond) has grown more burdensome over time. In such a context, each area of an individual woman's life — health and fertility, educational attainment and employment in the formal or informal sector —

affects the quality of life of her family, and, in the aggregate, that of the population as a whole.

If the appropriate changes are to be made, women cannot be seen primarily as carrying out reproductive functions. They are not simply the dependents of

men, or the mothers of children, many programmes and analysts seem to believe. Rather, women must be seen as productive and their work of value to society—whether the official statistics show their contributions or not. They are active agents of social and economic change, not simply passive beneficiaries of special programmes targeted at them.

CONCLUSION

Women have been largely “invisible”, as both creators and beneficiaries of the policy process. The challenge for the 1990s is to discover and recognize women’s contributions, and to give them the opportunity to fulfill their potential. In this way the equality of women and the full development of their potential can become a reality.

Review Panel

SUSANNA AGNELLI
Senator and Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs for Africa and
Latin America
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rome, Italy

RUTH NITA BARROW
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Barbados to
the United Nations
New York, USA

BLANCA RUTH ESPONDA
Senator
Senate of Mexico
Mexico City, Mexico

MERCEDES PULIDO DE BRICEÑO
Senator
Senate of Venezuela
Caracas, Venezuela

LETICIA R. SHAHANI
Senator
Senate of the Philippines
Manila, Philippines

ERICA G. TERPSTRA
Member of Parliament
The Hague, Netherlands

The IAPG wishes to express its appreciation to Judith Helzner and Barbara O’Hanlon for their work toward preparing this document.

¹Fraser, Arvonne S., *The UN Decade for Women: Documents and Dialogue* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1987).

²United Nations Fund for Population Activities, *Report of the Conference on Women, Population and Development in Latin America* (Montevideo, Uruguay: UNFPA/Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay, 1986).

³Starrs, Ann, *Preventing the Tragedy of Maternal Deaths: A Report on the Safe Motherhood Conference* (New York: Family Care International, 1987).

⁴Pan American Health Organization, *Health of Women in the Americas*, Scientific Publication No. 488 (Washington, D.C.: PAHO, 1985).

⁵Sadik, Nafis, *The State of World Population 1989* (New York: UNFPA, 1989).

⁶Yudelman, Sally W., *Hopeful Openings* (Hartford, Connecticut: Kumarian Press, 1987).

⁷Sadik, Nafis, *The State of World Population 1989*.

⁸World Bank, *World Development Report, 1984* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1984).

⁹Sadik, Nafis, *The State of World Population 1989*.

¹⁰International Labour Office, *Economically active population* (Geneva: ILO, 1986).

¹¹Sadik, Nafis, *The State of World Population 1989*.

¹²Sadik, Nafis, *The State of World Population 1989*.

¹³Chaney, Elsa M., *Women of the World: Latin America and the Caribbean* (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1984).

¹⁴Sadik, Nafis, *The State of World Population 1989*.