

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

January 22, 1998

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR PATTI SOLIS DOYLE

FROM:

GLYN T. DAVIES *g*

SUBJECT:

Invitation for the First Lady

NSC staff received a copy of a letter from the New Zealand ambassador to Assistant Secretary Roth discussing the possibility of the First Lady attending the annual New Zealand Law Society conference as the keynote speaker. NSC believes this would be a significant opportunity for the First Lady to address a broad and sophisticated audience on the general topic of "women and the law."

Please advise me if the NSC can be of any further assistance.

Attachment

Tab A Letter from Ambassador John Wood

copy for Patti
Return to me
new Zealand
0423



NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY
37 OBSERVATORY CIRCLE NW,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

7 January 1998

Phone: (202) 328-4800
Fax: (202) 667-5227

The Honorable
Stanley Roth
Assistant Secretary of State
East Asian and Pacific Affairs
US Department of State
2201 C Street, Room 6205
WASHINGTON DC 20520

Dear Stan

I write to request your counsel and assistance in relation to the following proposal.

The President and Conference Committee of the New Zealand Law Society have written to the Prime Minister asking that she extend, on their behalf, an invitation to the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to address their 1999 annual conference scheduled to be held in Rotorua, New Zealand in April of that year. The organisers expect an attendance at the conference of approximately 2,500 people with representation from overseas including the United States. Mrs Clinton would be the keynote speaker, and the theme of the conference and suggested title for her address would be "Women and the Law".

Their request has been discussed with the New Zealand Law Society and it has been pointed out to them that it is most unlikely that Mrs Clinton would be in a position to visit New Zealand at any time solely for the purpose of addressing their conference. And that in any event 1999 is the year in which New Zealand will chair the APEC process which will involve inter alia an invitation to the President and Mrs Clinton to attend the APEC Leaders Conference in Auckland in September of that year as well as undertake a bilateral programme.

In response the New Zealand Law Society has indicated that to fit in with New Zealand's APEC commitments and in order to secure the presence of the First Lady at their conference as keynote speaker, they would be prepared to move the proposed dates for 1999 from April to the week beginning Monday, 13 September. This date, ie, Monday, 13 September, is the day proposed for the APEC Leaders meeting and the suggestion here is that Mrs Clinton might well prefer to address an important international conference on "Women and the Law" rather than attend all the events on the spouses programme for the APEC Leaders meeting on that day. Alternatively Mrs Clinton could be invited to deliver the keynote address to the conference on Tuesday, 14 September, the day after the APEC Leaders meeting. A further alternative would be to keep the date for the keynote address by

Mrs Clinton fluid, given that if the Law Society were to reschedule their conference to the September timing it would start on Monday, 13 September and finish on Friday, 17 September. With agreement in principle on Mrs Clinton's part to address the conference the precise date and time for this need not be established until nearer the occasion.

I should be grateful for your reaction to this proposal from the New Zealand Law Society. Obviously for them to reschedule their annual conference from April to September is a major decision and realistically would require some reasonable degree of assurance that this would make it possible for the First Lady to be their keynote speaker. And there would be implications for what will in any event be very heavy pressure on security and logistic services to be provided by the New Zealand authorities. On the other hand, and on the assumption that Mrs Clinton would indeed be likely to accompany the President to the 1999 APEC Leaders meeting, such a move would offer her the opportunity for a prestigious and high profile speaking engagement which would I am sure secure international attention for her in her own right, on a subject and in an environment which would be very congenial to her.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

John Wood
Ambassador

cc : Ambassador Sandra Kristoff
Special Assistant to the President
National Security Council
Old Executive Ofc. Bldg
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WASHINGTON, DC 20504