

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                          | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 001. schedule            | Schedule for Hillary Rodham Clinton (partial) (1 page) | 10/16/1995 | b(6)        |

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
First Lady's Office  
Melanne Verveer  
OA/Box Number: 15616

### FOLDER TITLE:

Nicaragua and Chile Briefing Articles [binder]

2013-0534-S

ry1803

### RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**NICARAGUA AND CHILE  
BRIEFING ARTICLES**

The White House  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 7, 1995

REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL NGO COMMUNITY AT A FORUM  
OF THE U.N. WORLD SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
MARCH 7, 1995

Thank you. Good morning. Thank you Ambassador Teymour, Mr. Desai, Mr. Nielsen.

I am honored to participate in this historic gathering, where civic, religious, and social organizations as well as government leaders from around the world are uniting in the fight to eradicate absolute poverty, create jobs, and empower women and men to become full participants in their societies.

It is a special pleasure to be able to speak to a gathering that includes so many non-governmental organizations. Whether they operate in great cities or in remote villages, NGOs always have played a vital role in strengthening our global community. But particularly today, as all nations face new challenges and choices, the experience and wisdom of NGOs will be critical in guiding us toward a safer, more just, and unified world.

The end of the Cold War has created extraordinary new opportunities for growth and progress. But at the same time, ethnic strife and civil conflict have erupted across the planet, depleting our resources, draining our energies, promoting hatred and intolerance, and imperiling our ideal of a free and open global society.

Today, too many nations waste precious resources on building weapons of mass destruction, staging wars, and doing violence to basic human rights, instead of investing those resources in people. Too often, natural resources are destroyed and human ones exploited through socially irresponsible behavior. Today, too much time is spent in naked pursuit of power instead of working for peace and prosperity.

It has become fashionable in recent years to assign blame for the world's problems to one group of nations or another. I hope this Summit does not succumb to that temptation. In fact, every nation needs to rethink its approach to social development and most nations need to do more for their own people and humanity.

To meet the goals of this Summit, governments will have to go about their business in new ways. They will have to rethink how to protect their most vulnerable populations in a time of shrinking resources and accelerated global competition. They will have to respect basic human rights, and that includes the rights of women and workers to be protected from exploitation and abuse. And they will have to create conditions that encourage individual initiative and a vibrant civic life.

Finally, as my husband said in a speech last week, governments will have to choose engagement over isolationism. With our economies and our societies becoming increasingly interdependent, we must work to create a global community in which economic growth and social progress result in shared prosperity and opportunity.

On a large scale, there is no better place to start than with an indefinite and unconditional extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The threat posed by these devastating weapons endangers all the work we do to end poverty, create jobs, and empower people. Moreover, in balancing priorities and resources, all nations will have to realize that investing in people, not the acquisition of nuclear arms, is the way to make their societies stronger. Clean water, safe sanitation, basic education and health care are better investments to strengthen societies in both the short and long term than the acquisition of or increase in nuclear arms.

Two days ago marked the 25th anniversary of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, now joined by 172 nations that realize that opposing the spread of nuclear weapons is in their self-interest. And to further the goals of the Treaty, the United States and Russia have agreed -- through START I and START II -- to reduce our own nuclear arsenals. We must all continue the effort to deal responsibly with this critical issue.

In addressing the world's social problems, we cannot expect governments to act alone, particularly in an era of scattered and, some believe, scarce resources. Governments need NGOs to monitor their actions and mobilize them to find innovative solutions to problems. NGOs also can inspire us to work more effectively with each other -- within the NGO community and within the community of nations. That is why the participation of NGOs at this and other United Nations Conferences is so invaluable.

The great social movements of my own country during the 19th and 20th centuries -- the abolition of slavery, the right of women to vote, as well as the civil rights movement would not have been achieved without the leadership of civic, religious, and social organizations.

The same is true elsewhere. As Ambassador Somavia knows well, civic organizations committed to human rights and the rule of law were instrumental in assuring Chile's transition to democracy. Through the work of nuns and lay people in the Philippines, civic groups in Bulgaria, grassroots organizations working across Africa and South America, and many others, NGOs have helped improve the lives of tens of millions of men, women, children and families struggling to escape tyranny, poverty, and social dislocation.

Ultimately, this forum and the Social Summit is about supporting and building on that work, not for the sake of governments or ideologies, but for people. It is about putting people first. And putting people first requires realistic, workable solutions to complex problems.

Too often, the assumption is that any solution will inevitably be costly and complicated. In fact, we have proof to the contrary.

We see grassroots efforts around the world that are reducing poverty, improving health and education, and promoting individual freedom.

UNICEF, to take one shining example, has had a decade-long focus on child survival and has pioneered many strategies that are low-cost, including breastfeeding and oral rehydration therapy and immunizations.

Last year polio was eradicated in the Western Hemisphere by a multinational effort. And the U.S. was the lead donor for that.

And around the world, the percentage of children immunized against major preventable diseases rose from 20 percent to 80 percent between 1980 and 1990.

In the United States, I'm frank to admit, we have had to follow the lead of other countries so that finally we are attempting to increase the immunization rates of our own children, and our rates have increased but are not yet where they need to be.

In South America, the involvement of NGOs in teaching pregnant women self-diagnosis of maternal health problems has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the infant mortality rate in rural areas.

I myself saw at the Fabella Hospital in Manila, news mothers staying in the hospital long enough to learn to nurse their babies, which promoted a stronger bond between mother and child and increased the chances of family stability.

And in countries where governments and NGOs have made voluntary, safe and effective family planning available and have provided related health services, we have seen an improvement not only in the lives of individuals but in the economic well-being of their countries.

Now, no one person, as we know so well, can be freed from the bondage of poverty or fully integrated into society without the means to earn a living. And the task of nations, and NGOs, is to promote policies that lift up the poorest in society, and to insist on core labor standards that help stop the exploitation of workers, many of whom are children.

Governments must be responsible for promoting disciplined economic policies. And in the United States the President is working to renew the American economy through fiscal policies that do assist those who are poor in such ways as providing tax credits and attempting to raise the minimum wage.

Investing in education goes hand-in-hand with providing economic opportunity. As capital and technology become more mobile, differences in the quality of labor forces will become that much more apparent.

And again, we can learn from each other as to how we can reduce illiteracy and increase prospects for employment and economic security.

Opportunity should be the reward for taking responsibility in life. That philosophy is a good guide when we consider strategies -- governmental and non-governmental -- to promote greater self-reliance and economic independence among all our citizens, including especially the poor and disenfranchised.

We have an example of that which will be discussed at this summit, when we look at the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Dr. Mohammed Yunus, whom many of you in this room know, as I do, believes that if you give people access to credit -- and ask them to take responsibility in return -- they will achieve greater economic and social independence.

Through its small loans to the poorest women in rural areas of Bangladesh, the Grameen bank not only has improved the immediate circumstances of thousands of families, it has also fostered a greater sense of purpose and spirit of community among the people.

I only wish every nation shared Dr. Yunus's and the Grameen Bank's appreciation of the vital role that girls and women play in the economic, social, and political life of our societies.

Although women comprise 52 percent of the world population,

although they are the primary caretakers for children and the aged and are a significant presence in the work force, they continue to be marginalized in many countries.

Worldwide, more than two-thirds of the children who never attended school or have dropped out are girls. Of the one billion people who remain illiterate, two-thirds are women. And a disproportionate number of those we call living in absolute poverty are women.

Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to improving global prosperity, and I am glad that this Summit has endorsed the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women.

In parts of Asia and South America we have seen the education of girls help lift whole populations out of poverty. We have seen the education of women enhance their roles as mothers and increase their participation in civic life. So we must do more to ensure equal rights for women, along with equal pay and equal access to health care and education.

Tomorrow, as part of International Women's Day, it will be my pleasure to announce a major new United States commitment to expand educational opportunities for poor girls on three continents.

I'd like to end by saying that we must all take responsibility and do our part. Too often we engage in a false debate that says on the one hand, only governments, or on the other, only individuals, are responsible for solving their own problems and those of the world. In fact, we all know that we need a partnership that is going to bring us all together. Governments can either support or undermine people as they face the moral, social and economic challenges of our time. Individuals can either take initiative and responsibility or fall into hopelessness and despair. Simply put, no government, no NGO, no person can remain idle given the magnitude of the challenges we face and the uncertainties of the world in which we live.

For those who are skeptical about our capacity for progress, I suggest that we all reflect on the life of one extraordinary man, James Grant, who recently passed away. Jim may have been more responsible for saving more lives over the past 15 years than any other person in the world. Millions of children are alive today because Jim Grant challenged us, set goals for us, and devised simple, efficient, and affordable methods of intervening on behalf of children and their families.

His legacy is not only found in the wonderful work that goes on every day at UNICEF, or in the success of his infant formula

campaign, or in the packages labeled "Oral Rehydration Therapy" that he would carry around in his pocket and pull out on any occasion. His legacy is in the jobs that each of us in this room, each of the people around the world and private voluntary organizations and other NGOs and government organizations do day in and day out, throughout the world.

It is our duty to continue to live up to Jim Grant's challenge and to do our part to fulfill the goals of this Summit. In closing, I would ask that as we go about our business in the months and years ahead, whether we are in government or the private sector or just acting on our own, that we draw strength and courage from Jim Grant's example and do justice to his memory. If we do that, then this Summit and all that follows will be a success.

Thank you very much.

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## **Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker**

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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.

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**Agenda / Press Release**

Divider Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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FIRST DRAFT

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1995  
AS OF 9/26/95

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WASHINGTON, DC; MANAGUA, NICARAGUA; SANTIAGO, CHILE

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TRAVELLING STAFF: KELLY CRAIGHEAD, TRIP DIRECTOR  
MELANNE VERVEER, DEPT. CHIEF OF STAFF  
LISA CAPUTO, PRESS SECRETARY  
NEEL LATTIMORE, DEPT. PRESS SECRETARY  
CAPRICIA MARSHALL, SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
STEVEN "SCOOP" COHEN  
LISSA MUSCATINE, SPEECHWRITER

MANAGUA LEAD ADVANCE:

SCHEDULER:

---

|              |                                       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| PREVIOUS RON | Washington, DC                        |
| 8 am         | WHEELS UP from Andrews Air Force Base |

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Flight Manifest: See Trip Book  
Flight Time: 4 hours and 45 minutes (-2)

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|          |                                                        |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:45 am | WHEELS DOWN in Managua, Nicaragua                      |
| 11:00 am | DEPART Airport<br>EN ROUTE Residence                   |
| 11:30 am | FINCA MICRO-CREDIT EVENT<br>Residence<br>OPEN PRESS    |
| 12:30 pm | DEPART Residence<br>EN ROUTE Presidency                |
| 1:00 pm  | LUNCH W/PRESIDENT CHAMORRO<br>Presidency<br>POOL SPRAY |
| 1:45 pm  | PROCEED TO SPEECH                                      |

2 pm SPEECH TO WOMEN  
Auditorium  
OPEN PRESS

2:45 pm DEPART Auditorium  
EN ROUTE Market

3 pm MARKET DROP-BY

3:30 pm DEPART Market  
EN ROUTE Hospital Clinic

3:45 pm HOSPITAL CLINIC *clini / Sa*  
OPEN PRESS

4:45 pm DEPART Hospital Clinic  
EN ROUTE Airport

5 pm EMBASSY MEET AND GREET

5:30 pm WHEELS UP from Managua, Nicaragua

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Flight Manifest: See Trip Book  
Flight Time: 6 hours and 35 minutes (+2)

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2:05 am WHEELS DOWN in Santiago, Chile

2 am DEPART Airport  
EN ROUTE Hyatt Hotel

2:30 am ARRIVE HOTEL

RON Hyatt Hotel  
Santiago, Chile

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1995**  
**AS OF 9/26/95**

**PREVIOUS RON**

Hyatt Hotel

10:45 am

**DEPART Hyatt Hotel**  
**EN ROUTE PRODEMU**

11:15 am

**PRODEMU**  
**OPEN PRESS**

*promotion of women  
works w/ families -  
empowerment*

12:15 pm

**DEPART PRODEMU**  
**EN ROUTE President's Residence**

12:45 pm

**LUNCH W/MRS. FREI**  
**President's Residence**  
**POOL SPRAY**

*80 people*

*private mtg  
w/ Pres Frei*

2 pm

**DEPART President's Residence**  
**EN ROUTE University**

2:30 pm

**SPEECH**  
**University of Chile**  
**OPEN PRESS**

*FidCA  
student women*

3:15 pm

**DEPART University of Chile**  
**EN ROUTE Ambassador's Residence**

*school*

3:45 pm

**TEA W/PROMINENT WOMEN**  
**Ambassador's Residence OR Site TBD**  
**POOL SPRAY**

5:15 pm

**DEPART Ambassador's Residence**  
**EN ROUTE Hotel**

5:30 pm  
7 pm

**DOWN TIME**

7:30 pm

**AMERICAN RECEPTION**  
**Ambassador's Residence**  
**CLOSED PRESS**

**RON**

Hyatt Hotel

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1995**  
**AS OF 9/26/95**

|              |                                                                  |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PREVIOUS RON | Hyatt Hotel                                                      |
| 8:30 am      | LISTENING SESSION W/MICRO-CREDIT WOMEN<br>Site TBD<br>OPEN PRESS |
| 10 am        | DEPART Site TBD<br>EN ROUTE Embassy                              |
| 10:30 am     | EMBASSY MEET AND GREET<br>Embassy<br>CLOSED PRESS                |
| 11:00 am     | DEPART Embassy<br>EN ROUTE Airport                               |
| 11:30 am     | WHEELS UP from Santiago, Chile                                   |

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**Flight Manifest: See Trip Book**  
**Flight Time: 4 hours (+1)**

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|         |                                                   |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 4:30 pm | WHEELS DOWN in Brasilia, Brazil                   |
| 5 pm    | MEETING W/PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARDOSO <i>Small</i> |
| 5:30 pm | PRESENTATION BY MRS. CARDOSO <i>→ tea ?</i>       |
| 7 pm    | DEPART Presidency<br>EN ROUTE Airport             |
| 7:30 pm | WHEELS UP from Brasilia, Brazil                   |

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**Flight Manifest: See Trip Book**  
**Flight Time: 1 hour and 40 minuts**

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|         |                                                     |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 9:10 pm | WHEELS DOWN in Salvador da Bahia                    |
| 9:20 pm | DEPART Salvador da Bahia<br>EN ROUTE Hotel Meridien |
| RON     | Hotel Meridien                                      |

*Amado* *Come*

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1995  
AS OF 9/26/95**

*when  
hospital*

|                     |                                                        |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PREVIOUS RON</b> | <b>Hotel Meridien</b>                                  |
| <b>8:30 am</b>      | <b>BFKT W/PROMINENT WOMEN</b>                          |
| <b>10:00 am</b>     | <b>DEPART Hotel<br/>EN ROUTE Circus</b>                |
| <b>10:30 am</b>     | <b>PROJECTO AXE<br/>Circus by Beach<br/>OPEN PRESS</b> |
| <b>noon</b>         | <b>DEPART Circus<br/>EN ROUTE Cidade Mae</b>           |
| <b>12:15 pm</b>     | <b>CIDADE MAE<br/>Community Post<br/>OPEN PRESS</b>    |
| <b>1:45 pm</b>      | <b>DEPART Cidade Mae<br/>EN ROUTE Hotel</b>            |
| <b>2 - 5 pm</b>     | <b>DOWN TIME</b>                                       |
| <b>5:30 pm</b>      | <b>DEPART Hotel<br/>EN ROUTE Historical Center</b>     |
| <b>7 pm</b>         | <b>OLODOON BAND<br/>POOL PRESS</b>                     |
| <b>RON</b>          | <b>Meridien Hotel</b>                                  |

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                          | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 001. schedule            | Schedule for Hillary Rodham Clinton (partial) (1 page) | 10/16/1995 | b(6)        |

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
First Lady's Office  
Melanne Verveer  
OA/Box Number: 15616

### FOLDER TITLE:

Nicaragua and Chile Briefing Articles [binder]

2013-0534-S  
ry1803

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

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1995**  
**AS OF 9/26/95**

|                     |                                                       |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PREVIOUS RON</b> | <b>Meridien Hotel</b>                                 |
| <b>9 am</b>         | <b>SISTER DULCE HOSPITAL</b>                          |
| <b>9:45 am</b>      | <b>DEPART Sister Dulce</b><br><b>EN ROUTE Airport</b> |
| <b>10 am</b>        | <b>WHEELS UP from Salvador Da Bahia, Brazil</b>       |

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**Flight Manifest: See Trip Book**  
**Flight Time: 3 hours and 40 minutes**

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|                                  |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1:40 pm</b>                   | <b>WHEELS DOWN in Ausuncion, Paraguay</b>                         |
| <b>2:30 pm</b>                   | <b>PEACE CORP EVENT</b>                                           |
| <b>4 pm</b>                      | <b>DEPART Peace Corp Event</b><br><b>EN ROUTE Hotel</b>           |
| <b>4:30 to</b><br><b>5:30 pm</b> | <b>DOWN TIME</b>                                                  |
| <b>5:30 pm</b>                   | <div data-bbox="544 1108 868 1161">(b)(6)</div>                   |
| <b>6:15 pm</b>                   | <b>DEPART Hotel</b><br><b>EN ROUTE Central Bank</b>               |
| <b>6:30 pm</b>                   | <b>SPEECH</b><br><b>Central Bank</b><br><b>OPEN PRESS</b>         |
| <b>7:30 pm</b>                   | <b>DEPART Central Bank</b><br><b>EN ROUTE Presidential Palace</b> |
| <b>8 pm</b>                      | <b>RECEPTION</b><br><b>Presidential Palace</b><br><b>PRESS???</b> |
| <b>RON</b>                       | <b>Hotel</b>                                                      |

[001]

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1995  
AS OF 9/26/95**

**PREVIOUS RON**

**Hotel**

**9 am**

**Working Session on Health  
Hotel  
OPEN PRESS**

**noon**

**LUNCH  
President's Residence  
PRESS??**

**2:30 pm**

**WHEELS UP from Ausunsion, Paraguay**

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**Flight Manifest: See Trip Book**

**Flight Time: 6 hours and 25 minutes (-1)**

---

**7:55 pm**

**WHEELS DOWN in Puerto Rico**

**7:55 to**

**RE-FUEL STOP**

**9:10 pm**

**9:10 pm**

**WHEELS UP from Puerto Rico**

---

**Flight Manifest: See Trip Book**

**Flight Time: 3 hours and 45 minutes**

---

**12:55 am**

**WHEELS DOWN in Washington, DC**

*How Much  
Family Clinic  
20 min.  
Ausunsion*

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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.

---

**Nicaragua / Chile  
Drafts**

Divider Title: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523**



**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

**DATE:** 10/10/95

**TO:** Melanne Vermeer/Nichole Rabner - 456-6244  
Lissa Muscatine - 456-5709

**FAX:**

**SUBJECT:** Nicaragua Speech

**FROM:** Mark L. Schneider

**OFFICE:** AA/LAC

**FAX:** 202-647-9671

**PHONE:** 202-647-8246

**NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET:** 13

**MESSAGE:**

Please disregard earlier draft. Revised version follows.  
Thanks,

**cc:** NSC - Richard Feinberg - 456-9130  
ARA - Alec Watson - 647-0791

Draft 3

Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
at the Olaf Palme Auditorium  
Managua, Nicaragua  
October 11, 1995

It is a great honor for me to join you here today in Nicaragua. It is fitting that I begin my trip today on Dia de la Raza, a day of celebration, commemorating both the voyage of Columbus and the rich indigenous cultures of this hemisphere. Central America is both the bridge that unites the continent and the crossroads of ethnic histories whose strength lies in their diversity. The Spirit of the Miami Summit of the Americas captured the recognition of all cultures and the respect for the human rights of all peoples that now characterize our hemisphere of democracies.

I am particularly privileged to stand alongside your President, Dona Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. She, perhaps more than any other person, symbolizes the determination of the people of Nicaragua and of Central America to find a new future together of peace and understanding.

Over the past five years, President Chamorro has led this nation from war to peace, from national division to national reconciliation, from ideological conflict to open democratic dialogue.

That message has special meaning as we come together in this auditorium named for a Swedish leader, Olaf Palme, whose life was spent in pursuit of peace.

I also am pleased to be here because it gives me an opportunity to recognize how much Nicaraguans have contributed to my own country and all nations, particularly in the world of arts. Your writers have cast a vast and radiant light across many lands, earning a deserved reputation as the land of poets.

Ruben Dario's verses still remind us of the eternal quest for beauty and love. He wrote:

"Green palms adorn the white column;  
stars have foretold my vision of the Goddess.  
On my soul, light rests, like the bird of the moon  
resting on a tranquil lake.

"But I hold nothing but the fleeting word,  
the opening phrase that flows from a flute,  
a bark of dreams floating in space."

I am particularly pleased to stop here in Nicaragua on my way to participate in the First Ladies Meeting in Asuncion, called to follow up on the commitments that were made at the Summit of the Americas last year in Miami.

The Summit marked an enormous undertaking to improve the lives of the peoples of the Americas. The Partnership for Development and Prosperity signed there underscored the vast consensus for democracy that reaches from Alaska to Antarctica.

Every nation at the Summit conference was represented by an elected head of state. The first steps were taken there to secure the largest free trade area in history by the year 2005, to eradicate poverty and discrimination and to promote sustainable development.

It was at President Chamorro's urging that the assembled Presidents also included a specific goal to strengthen the role of women in society. That initiative underscores the direct link between woman's rights and sustainable development, between women's rights and economic growth with equity, and between women's rights and democracy. Women's rights are human rights.

I just returned from the Beijing Conference on Women last month and, despite the clamor and the obstacles, the official delegates and the NGOs came together to say loudly and clearly that women must be equal partners in the 21st century. Too many women remain barred by discrimination, by culture, by law, by inadequate education and by lack of access to basic health services from fulfilling their human potential.

Ultimately that is what we are seeking, the right to fulfill our own potential as individuals, to follow our mind's eye wherever it leads, and to contribute fully to our family, our nation and our international community.

In Beijing, the issues we discussed are those, as I said then, "that matter most in the lives of women and their families: access to education, health care, jobs and credit, the chance to enjoy basic legal rights and participate fully in the political

life of their countries. What we are learning around the world is that, if women are healthy and educated, their families will flourish. If women are free from violence, their families will flourish. If women have a chance to work and earn as full partners in societies, their families will flourish. And, when families flourish, communities and nations will flourish."

Just a few minutes ago, here in Managua I saw one of the innovative ways you are trying to give women a chance to realize those dreams. I visited a community bank "Madres Unidas" in the Acahualinca barrio of Managua. Some 30 poor women have been able to obtain small loans to invest in their businesses. They control the community bank and they make sure that everyone pays what is owed. And, they wind up paying far, far less, than the interest rates usurers charge. Microenterprise lending is a way to build national prosperity by opening the economy to women.

This poverty lending program is run by a non-governmental organization, FINCA, financed by USAID. It shows that women not only are good credit risks but that their small business ventures can grow and contribute to national economic growth. Nearly 100 community banks have been established in 18 months and some 6000 individuals, mostly women, are benefitting. Over the next three years, USAID-NGO partnerships, including one managed by Accion International, will benefit 40,000 small entrepreneurs, again mostly women.

The women's initiative at the Miami and Beijing Summits emphasized three other issues of crucial importance to women and to national development: health, education, and political participation.

First, we must end conditions where women die from preventable diseases and where the birth of a child, instead of representing hope and life, constitutes the greatest threat to the life of a young mother. The Summit of the Americas committed us all to reduce the incidence of maternal deaths by one half by the year 2000.

Here in Nicaragua, maternal mortality still is unacceptably high. At 150 deaths per 100,000 births, it is nearly 25 times the levels of industrial countries; but more disturbing, it is even several times that of other countries in Latin America. Your government rightly has made reduction of maternal mortality a national priority.

Under your leadership, USAID and European bilateral aid agencies, PAHO and UNICEF and the IDB and the World Bank are working alongside your public health ministry, your local municipalities and your non governmental organizations in a public-private partnership for health. Your innovative SILAIS (acronym for Local Integrated Health Services System, Nicaragua's decentralized health services) are reaching across Nicaragua to reduce maternal and child mortality. We know that primary health care, including timely prenatal care, safe delivery care and family planning can save lives.

Another area of women's health which is even more rarely discussed is the threat from domestic violence. Human rights includes the right to be free from the fear of becoming victims of violence in your own home. That is why I commend the Nicaraguan Ministry of Public health for establishing organizations like the Comisaria de la Mujer (Women's Commissariat) to address violence against women.

Second, I want to endorse and encourage the Government of Nicaragua for opening even wider the doors of learning to girls and women. As the Presidents agreed at the Miami Summit, "Universal literacy and access to education at all levels, without distinction by race, national origin or gender, are an indispensable basis for sustainable social and cultural development, economic growth and democratic stability."

Nicaragua leads virtually every other nation in giving equal educational opportunity to girls. Girls not only are just as likely to enroll in school as boys; but they have a higher graduation rate than boys once they get to school.

But the elementary school completion rate remains far too low. In Nicaragua, as in much of the Americas, too many children, boys and girls, drop out of school before completing even the sixth grade.

It is impossible to build a modern economy or sustain a democracy when three out of every four primary school students do not reach the sixth grade. Other levels of education are important, but the first priority must be to enable every child

to obtain a primary education. For that reason, one of USAID's largest projects here is in basic education, working with the ministry of education to improve the quality of primary education through curriculum reform, teaching master teachers who can teach other teachers and providing basic school supplies, including more than 4.5 million primary textbooks since 1990.

One of the Summit initiatives in education was to create a hemispheric Partnership for Education Reform (PERA). The US government committed itself to provide initial funding for the partnership to help design and implement education reform policies to improve basic educational opportunities for all children, including special emphasis on increased access to education for girls and women.

I intend to announce this commitment formally at the Paraguay Summit of First Ladies. PERA will be a consultative forum for governments, NGOs, donors, the business sector, and other international organizations to showcase current efforts and innovations.

We share common concerns about the quality of education afforded poor children in rural and urban areas. Under PERA, we hope that Nicaragua can take a leadership role in a working group on curriculum reform to help address the problem of primary school completion rates. Each working group will identify the most innovative examples of reform for support and dissemination around the hemisphere.

Nicaragua also is moving forward in a third important area, bringing women into the halls of government. The women of Nicaragua have the best possible role model for political participation in President Chamorro. USAID through our partnerships with groups such as the Nicaraguan Women's Institute (INIM) and the Center for Investigation and Action for Women (CIAM) is supporting civic education and leadership training for women.

For these reasons, it was natural that all other countries in the hemisphere accepted Nicaragua's offer to coordinate the monitoring of progress being made on implementing the Miami Summit's women's rights initiative.

Let me say that I also want to express my government's recognition of the determination and the dedication of the people of Nicaragua over the past five years.

You are a part of the hemispheric and global march away from authoritarian rule and toward democracy, away from closed economies toward free markets, and away from ideology toward open debate and the tolerance of differing views.

You have our commitment to continue to accompany you on the journey begun when you elected President Chamorro and when the election results were respected by all Nicaraguans. It has been a journey of reconciliation, of economic recovery with equity, and of democracy and the rule of law.

But the road is long, as an American poet, Robert Frost, once wrote, "And miles to go before I sleep." It is a road which

we travel together and we can learn from each other along the way.

We have seen landmark achievements during those years, perhaps few as significant as those during 1995: a new military code underscoring civilian preeminence; constitutional, electoral and judicial reforms; economic restructuring that has brought inflation down, exports and economic growth up; and important progress on property claim resolution.

I am here today to express clearly our commitment to work with you as partners in pursuing our common goals of improving the lives of the peoples of our two nations. For in the end, that is how we will be judged, whether our reforms and our programs ultimately bring better lives to our citizens.

Much remains to be done, despite your efforts to address the needs of the 50 percent of your people still living in poverty and to assure full response to the human rights cases identified by the Tripartite Commission and the OAS/CIIV.

Foreign aid at times conjures up ambiguous images for some people. In Nicaragua, and in every other country I have visited, USAID programs clearly represent lives saved, children given a chance to learn, peasant farmers helped to gain credit and to plant new crops, and support of basic human rights. They are built on a new partnership with your government, NGOs, the private sector and the local community.

What we have learned here in Nicaragua and around the world is that investing in people, in their health, in their education

and in their freedom, is as vital to a nation's progress, as investing in its markets. Economic development requires human capital investment as well as investment in the physical infrastructure of ports and bridges. If we can find the resources to invest in our roads, then we can find the resources to invest in our people.

My final message today is directed perhaps as much at my own country as it is to you. I believe that the role of the United States in international development through our support of USAID, the Inter-American Foundation, the IDB, the World Bank, PAHO, OAS, UNICEF and the other UN cooperation agencies is essential to support your development as well as to protect our own national interests.

If the voices urging huge budget cuts to bilateral and multilateral commitments are heeded, we not only break our promises to you but we also ignore our own interests and abandon our own values.

First, development assistance protects the quality of life and the lives of all Americans. The seas and the skies and the forests of the hemisphere eventually touch us all. An outbreak of cholera in Peru threatens Central America just as an outbreak of dengue fever in Central America can threaten the health of U.S. citizens virtually overnight.

Environmental destruction in Latin America threatens the globe's richest reservoir of biological diversity. In Central America, USAID has committed \$6.0 million this year alone to the

CONCAUSA pact signed by the region's Presidents and President Clinton last December to help protect biodiversity here and to strengthen partnerships between NGOs and national environmental protection ministries such as MARENA. That was our response to your leadership in creating the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development a year ago here in Managua, witnessed by Vice President Al Gore.

Second, development assistance not only can promote economic growth with equity in Latin America but that growth will mean more jobs for your workers as well as ours.

The importance of our relations with you and the nations of the region can be seen in two ways.

--We sell more to the seven countries of Central America (\$6.7 billion) than to the 13 countries of Eastern Europe (\$2b.) and the 16 countries of the former Soviet Union (\$3.6 b.) combined.

--You look to our products for 40 per cent of all of your imports, more than three times the percentage of any other region.

With 200 million people in the Americas still living in poverty, regional development that moves more Latin Americans out of poverty also will inevitably mean greater prosperity for all of our countries.

Third, development assistance can directly contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions.

USAID elections assistance, support for administration of justice, strengthening parliaments, and decentralization of government services is bringing government together with civil society to consolidate democracy in the hemisphere.

For a decade in the 1980s, Central America struggled to end conflict and crisis. Enormous human suffering occurred and vast sums of money were spent in those conflicts. It is in the interest of every nation of the hemisphere, including my own, to support your courageous commitment to peace, reconciliation and development within a democratic framework.

I can think of no more wise, more humanitarian nor more self interested expenditure than to invest in peaceful, stable, sustainable development in Central America and in the hemisphere as a whole.

Ruben Dario left Nicaragua to study and write in Chile. Tonight I travel to Chile as well. So let me close by quoting from the Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda, who said on accepting the Joliet Curie prize, in 1968. "I believe that friends from neighboring and distant countries have gathered here on this occasion to give testimony to their burning faith in man, in life, in truth and liberty: that is, in peace."

I too have a burning faith in humanity, in life, in truth and in liberty. I believe that together we can help to bring about greater equality, together we can advance the cause of justice and together we can bring hope to the most vulnerable among us. But we must begin today.

Ed.  
Launch - Paraguay

**DRAFT 1 Address by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
at the University of Chile**

**Santiago, Chile  
October 13, 1995**

**It is a great pleasure to be here in Chile today and to join  
with you at this great university.**

**The University of Chile is one of Latin America's premier  
institutions of higher learning, forged by Chileans in the last  
century with the participation of some of the world's leading  
scholars, like its founders, Andres Bello from Venezuela,  
educator Ignacio Domeyko from Poland, physician Laurence Sazie  
from France, naturalist Rudolph Philippi from Germany, and jurist  
Eugenio Maria de Hostos from Puerto Rico.**

**From the beginning, this university has been a center of  
international thought, bringing students and faculty into  
dialogue and debate with the world outside. This university can  
rightfully boast that all but two of this country's  
democratically elected Presidents have been graduates. You  
suffered along with others the years of intervention but you have  
recovered the right to free inquiry ~~that is the essence of~~  
education and liberty.**

**Like the great poet Ruben Dario, who came here a century ago  
from his native Chile to learn and to write, I also have come  
here today from Nicaragua. And for good reason, the people of  
Nicaragua look to Chile and the strides taken during these past  
five years of democracy.**

**Chile already has passed perhaps the most crucial hurdle in  
the restoration of democratic institutions, the transfer of the  
mantle of the presidency from one democratically elected  
President, don Patricio Aylwin, to a second, President Eduardo  
Frei. Nicaragua is poised to overcome that second hurdle next  
year with the election of a successor to President Violeta  
Barrios de Chamorro. It is a tribute to her capacity for national  
reconciliation that no one doubts that the democratic experiment  
in Nicaragua will move forward successfully.**

**During one of his long periods of exile, Pablo Neruda wrote  
a famous poem, "When":**

**"Oh, Chile, long petal  
of sea and wine and snow,  
oh when oh when and when  
will I be home again? ...**

**"Oh when, patria, at election time  
will I go from house to house**

free market  
democ. inst  
reduced poverty

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leading timid freedom by the hand  
to shout in the middle of the street?'

For Chile, the question of "when" was answered with the unceasing march of the people to restore the rule of law, to achieve respect for human rights, to guarantee open, free and fair elections. It was answered in the countless struggles for human rights over so many long years, in the triumph of the "No" campaign in the plebescite and in the victory of the Concertacion and President Aylwin.

It was answered when a little girl walked across the national stadium with the words "asi es Chile" ringing across the stadium during President Aylwin's inaugural.

And it was answered when President Frei placed the Presidential sash his father once wore over his head, so powerfully restoring the linkage to Chile's democratic heritage.

The answer was "now."

During these past five years, Chile also has done more than restore democratic institutions. It also maintained a vigorous political coalition and produced a growing national consensus that strong market-led growth without inflation can be strengthened under democratic governance.

Your economic growth was built in large part on expanding your markets abroad. Chile, like the US, continues to see its economy grow by expanding trade to the rest of the hemisphere and to the world at large. This Administration remains fully committed and, I am personally convinced, that Chile will become a partner with us in NAFTA and together we will help create the largest Free Trade Area in the history of the world by the year 2005.

Your economic statistics deserve to be cited; an average of 7.3% GDP growth since 1991, inflation declining from 26% in 1990 every single year to 11.4% last year and currently at 7.4% with unemployment at a low of 5.3%.

But most impressive is the fact that 1.3 million fewer people are living in poverty today when compared to 1990. In fact, from 1990 to 1994, there was a 30% drop in the portion of the population living in poverty (40.1 to 28.5%).

You have shown the way across the continent to those who questioned whether your democracy could maintain steady economic reform and also produce a public-private partnership that included the poor.

Poverty in Chile and in Latin America frequently tends to be seen only in statistics. But for 200 million men, women and

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children, those numbers too often means lives of quiet desperation.

The verses of Neruda from Arrabales (Sad Song) tell it all:

"The children of silence, looking  
out of black eyes saw me go by,  
as if from the depths of a well  
and the water's stagnation....

the motionless street, the eyes  
looking for me from their well,  
the house seeming to expect  
nobody at all, the doors  
still demolished and naked:  
all was dusty and obdurate,  
dead, but alive,  
all wanted to die or be born.

The wood of the poor  
was preparing itself for the fire."

Neruda's words tell far more clearly than the statistics the importance of Chile's achievement in offering a way out of poverty for so many of its people. President Frei has maintained the high priority of your democratic government on social development. That focus on human capital investment, investing in people, constitutes the full expression of the Partnership for Prosperity and Development announced at the Summit of the Americas in Miami last year.

Your democratic resurgence also has carried with it another key element of the Summit commitment. It has unleashed an explosion of civic organizations in every sphere of society. Civil society has become a vigorous partner alongside government in environment, public advocacy, health, education and legal assistance.

Groups like Participa, CDU, CIDE, Aprofa, and CEM are part of the democratic awakening and I am pleased that USAID has been able to support those groups in working for change and development.

Since the return of democracy, the US government, through USAID, has provided direct support to legislative training and modernizing the judicial system and worked closely with Chile's innovative efforts at legal aid, which have offered abused women and children legal recourse. Current programs support the decentralization effort to strengthen municipal and regional governments. We are help you pursue environmental goals through a joint US-Chile endowment for environment which will continue to support environmental NGOs well into the future.

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The development of Chile's institutions stems from the resilience, courage and special talent of the Chilean people. The history of what has been achieved today has been built over decades of struggle. US bilateral aid to Chile has been a partner in helping to lay the foundations for broad-based economic growth here.

During the first decade of the Alliance for Progress, Chile received \$565 million in development aid for agriculture, population, health and nutrition and housing. In addition, PL 480 helped to meet Chile's food import needs. Even in 1968, PL 480 Title II grants financed some 800,000 lunches for school children each day and agricultural credit and irrigation programs were financed throughout that decade.

But perhaps the most extensive USAID support came in the field of education, and at all levels. When President Frei came to office he said, "I am here to give education to all the children of Chile, and to open to them all the opportunities, without another limit than their own capacity, in the certainty that a people that overcomes ignorance inevitably defeats misery and servitude."

The campaign that President Frei launched to identify the children not in school found 186,000 out of school youngsters and buildings of all sort were pressed into service. Again I am pleased that USAID was part of the support, helping to finance teacher training, curriculum innovation and school construction.

That same commitment to education continues today and has yielded some of the highest rates of progress seen in the hemisphere. Chile has registered 95 per cent literacy, almost 100 per cent elementary school coverage, 76½ secondary school coverage and a major commitment to decentralization.

Chile is one of the leaders in the education reform revolution taking place in the hemisphere. And it is that revolution and the challenge of education that I would like to discuss with you today.

#### education talking points

--For Chile, education fulfills three objectives: as a font of democratic citizenship and civic participation, as a creator of human capital and international competitiveness, and as an equalizing mechanism of social opportunity. Chile's present educational policies address all three of these objectives.

--Chile was a pioneer in innovative systems of school administration, including private unsubsidized (about 35% of them), private subsidized and municipally run.

--Chile clearly appreciates the connection between social policy reform and the democratization of its society. Now that

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the end of the cold war has allowed us to transcend ideology, education is at the forefront of social investment in democratic progress.

--Education also is at the forefront of Chile's economic success, its educated labor force fueling the continuing expansion of its economy. Providing vocational and technical innovation is part of that process. USAID has just completed its financing of a multi-year pilot program through a Chilean NGO, CIDE, focused on young people coming from poverty backgrounds. Part of that project involved Ohio State University, Ferris State University and California State at Chico training 45 teachers selected from six high schools throughout Chile. It has helped create a vigorous public-private partnership in education.

--Despite its enviable situation in education, the picture even in Chile is clouded by deficiencies in learning achievements, especially in poverty areas. Chile's own education authorities report that even when students do complete the first years of school, many do not have the basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills essential to compete effectively in a more complex society and a more complex economy.

--Even in those situations in our hemisphere where the apparatus of education appears at first sight respectable and the indicators of its performance appear at first sight adequate, the educational product is often unimpressive. All too often the coverage and completion rates disguise serious flaws in the quality of the education received, seriously hampering the advancement of those students, the international competitiveness of their countries, and the civic values which are the roots of their democracies.

#### IV. Education reform is needed, everywhere

--Our educational institutions are all too often old-fashioned and isolated from modern technology, too often motivated by bureaucratic self-interest or hindered by overcentralized and inflexible governance that inhibits accountability to society and access to citizens, especially to the parents of children directly involved.

--But the obstacles to education reform are not really technical; we have a pretty good idea of the changes that are needed. The obstacles are political. The reforms require the political will and a political strategy for reforming social policy.

--Governments have to take bold steps, to allocate not just technical and financial resources. Governments have to put their political resources on the line.

--Governments must support educational authorities in creative experiments dealing with competition that still do not violate the principle of universal access.

--Governments must jealously guard the quality of their professional appointments for education authorities and insure, as Chile clearly has, that education sectors are led by forceful and innovative leaders.

--Governments must be willing to confront the vested interests that would oppose educational reforms, wherever they may be.

#### V. Chile is addressing these problems.

--To address these deficiencies, the government of President Aylwin launched (the day after the democratic government took power) the 900 Schools Program, targeting primary schools in poverty areas where the quality of teaching and learning was particularly low.

--A democratic perspective runs through the program, calling for all levels--students, teachers, directors, supervisors, families and the community--to change attitudes and to promote a vision that rewards personal initiative, participation and responsibility, inside and outside the classroom with the participation of young people from the community to break the vicious circle of poor achievement in school.

--For example, education continues outside the classroom with the participation of young people from the community who help children in special workshops to break the vicious circle of poor achievement in school.

--The program seeks to tackle the physical, pedagogical and psychological barriers to student achievement in the following areas:

a) Improving infrastructure. About 800 schools received new furniture, were repainted or received new sanitary facilities and the improved material conditions changed the school's study atmosphere and its relations with the community, generating feelings of pride and dignity.

b) Focus on the Child's world. Once a week at the schools, teachers' in-service training workshops were held emphasizing a more interactive and creative approach to teaching. Focusing on reading, writing and mathematics in the first four grades, the workshops awakened the teachers' sensitivity to the social and cultural background of the students and taught the teachers to share responsibility for their students' achievements.

c) Distributing textbooks and educational materials. Because of the close relationship between school performance and the availability of textbooks and other educational materials, the

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government distributed extra materials in language, math and natural and social sciences.

d) Creating a desire to read. The government ensured that the first and second grades had small libraries in each classroom and teachers were shown ways of gaining maximum advantage of the library.

e) Involving the community. In one of the most innovative aspects of the program (and one that teachers resisted most), workshops are run by community members under 30 and chosen by the school for small groups of students with learning difficulties. Activities in the workshops include raising children's self-esteem, creativity and sense of responsibility and children engage in exercises that demand their use of reading, writing, and math and comprehension skills.

--Despite initial reticence, the program is now widely praised by all and has demonstrated marked improvements in student achievement.

--Chile's law providing economic incentives for donations by private businesses to strengthen education has channelled new funds to schools and opened a whole new philanthropic area for innovation.

--The government's decision last year to increase public expenditure on education from 4.5% of GDP to 7% of GDP by 1999 sends a strong message to the entire region regarding the central role education plays in Chile's plans for economic growth and social advance.

--Chile's path-breaking efforts at educational reform deserve praise and provide useful models to other countries. Chile should make an effort to communicate its experience widely and we hope Chile will join hands with the United States in the Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas Project and in pursuit of the educational objectives of the Summit of the Americas.

The Summit recognized the central role of human resources formation in all dimensions of national development - economic, political and social. One of the initiatives resulting from the Summit was the commitment to create a hemispheric Partnership for Education Revitalization in the Americas (PERA).

The purpose of PERA is to help countries adopt and implement effective education reform policies. PERA will spread the best examples across the hemisphere in how countries are meeting the challenge of both access and quality in basic education for all children, including special emphasis on increased access to education for girls and women.

It will be a consultative forum for governments, NGOs, donors, the business sector, and other international

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organizations in the region to showcase the best programs. Once they are identified PERA will seek ways to spread their message and replicate their work around the region.

I intend to launch this initiative formally at the Paraguay Summit of First Ladies. U.S. funding, through USAID will establish a regional secretariat and permit PERA to begin working for better education for the children of the Americas.

Earlier this year your government moved to a more decentralized school management system. A number of states and school districts in the United States are also examining various models of decentralization. Perhaps, under the PERA initiative, Chile could take the lead in a working group on this issue.

On accepting the nobel prize, Pablo Neruda, said, "I come from a dark province, from a country separated from others by a severe geography. I was the most abandoned of poets, and my poetry was regional sorrowful, steeped in rain. But I always had confidence in man. I never lost hope. That may be why I am here with poetry, and with my flag.

"In conclusion, I say to all men of good will, to workers, to poets, that the future of man is expressed in Rimbaud's phrase: only with fiery patience will we conquer the splendid city that will shed light, justice and dignity on all men.

"Thus, poetry shall not have sung in vain."

Here in Chile, and at this great university, as we approach the 21st century, I believe firmly that our common future is one of light, justice and dignity."

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**Paraguayan Conference  
Background**

Divider Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

DRAFT

1

**5TH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND OF  
GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS**

**THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION  
OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

ASUNCION PARAGUAY  
OCTOBER 16-20, 1995

**PROGRAM**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**Morning and Afternoon**

**Arrival of First Ladies, Special Envoys and Delegations**

Site : ~~Sanjo Petrosol~~ International Airport  
~~Presidential~~ Pavilion

**Arrival Protocol**

Transportation to the Paraguayan Yacht and Golf Club Casino  
Hotel

Registration of Delegations and distribution of working  
documents of the 5th Conference

7:05 to  
7:20 pm

Arrival of First Ladies and Special Envoys at the Paraguayan  
Central Bank

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Paraguay  
and Mrs. Wasmosy will be greeted according to Protocol

7:30 pm

**Inaugural Session of the 5th Conference of Wives of  
Heads of State and of Government of the Americas**

Site : Paraguayan Central Bank  
Cultural Center Convention Hall

- Paraguayan National Anthem
- Remarks by the First Lady of the Republic of Paraguay, Mrs.  
María Teresa Carrasco de Wasmosy
- Remarks by the First Lady of Saint Lucia, Mrs. Janice Compton
- Remarks by the First Lady of the United States of America, Mrs.  
Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Remarks by His Excellency the President of the Republic of  
Paraguay, Mr. Juan Carlos Wasmosy

• Performance of Berta Rojas, Paraguayan Concert Guitarist

8:30 pm

**Official Reception**

Site : Palacio de López

10:00 pm

**Transportation to the Paraguayan Yacht and Golf Club Casino Hotel**

## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17**

9:00 am

**Inauguration of the Conference**

Site : Paraguayan Yacht and Golf Club Casino Hotel  
"Salón Galas"

### **FIRST WORKING SESSION**

**Topic: "CHILDREN'S HEALTH"**

1. Results from the "Children's Symposium":

• Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
First Lady of the United States of America

2. **Measles Elimination and Children's Immunizations in the Americas**

a. Introduction by Dr. Ciro de Quadros  
Director  
Special Vaccination and Immunization Program  
PAHO

b. Presentation by:

• Mrs. María Eugenia Morales de De León  
First Lady of Guatemala

• Mrs. Bessie Watson de Reina  
First Lady of Honduras

• Mrs. Dora Boyd de Pérez Balladares  
First Lady of Panama

10:00 am **Launching of the "Measles Elimination" Campaign**

10:30 am **Official Photograph**

**Visit to the Exhibition "Paraguay Cultural"**

11:00 am **Coffee break**

11:30 am 3. **Program on "Substance Abuse and Street Children of the Americas"**

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5th conference of ~~States~~ Heads of State and of Government of the Americas

. Evaluation by Dr. Marlo Argandoña  
Head of the Treatment Unit  
Program on Substance Abuse  
WHO/PSA

b. Presentation by:

. Mrs. Josefina Villalobos de Durán Ballén  
First Lady of Ecuador

. Dr. María Cristina Dussán  
Special Envoy of Colombia

12:00 pm

**4. Debate**

**SECOND WORKING SESSION**

**Topic: "CHILDREN'S EDUCATION"**

12:30 pm

1. Introduction by Mrs. Vicky Colbert  
Regional Counsellor on Education  
UNICEF

2. Presentation by:

. Mrs. Yocasta Morales de Aybar  
Special Envoy of Dominican Republic

1:30 pm

**Official luncheon**

**Site** : Presidential Residence "Mburuvicha Ranga"

4:00 pm

**Visit to the Exhibition of Franciscan Imagery from**  
**Casapá, "Beyond the Jungle"**  
**Live memories and testimony of the Franciscan Towns of**  
**Paraguay**  
**Site** : "Juan de Zalazar" Cultural Center

**Evening: open**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18**

**CONTINUATION OF THE SECOND WORKING SESSION**

**Topic: "CHILDREN'S EDUCATION"**

9:00 am

**3. "Girls' Education"**

~~5th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas~~

a. Introduction by Mr. Ernesto Schiefelbein  
Director  
Regional Office on Education  
UNESCO (OREALC)

b. Presentation by:

. Mrs. Nilda Volasco de Zedillo  
First Lady of Mexico

9:30 am

**4. Debate**

**THIRD WORKING SESSION**

**Topic: "Women's Education-Training"**

10:00 am

1. Presentation by:

. Mrs. Marta Larraechea de Frei  
First Lady of Chile

. Mrs. Vilma Espin Guillois  
Special Envoy of Cuba

**2. Programme on "Promotion of Women's  
Participation in Development"**

a. Introduction by Mrs. Marguerite Berger  
Head of the Women's Developing Division  
IDB

b. Presentation by:

. Mrs. María Teresa Carrasco de Wasmözy  
First Lady of Paraguay  
Presentation of the Video "Kufia Rape" (Women's Pathway)

10:45 am **Coffee break**

11:15 am

**3. Follow up of the IDB/IICA Project "Rural Women in  
Latin America and the Caribbean"**

a. Introduction by Brenda Kleysen  
Specialist, Women's Division  
IICA

b. Presentation by:

. Mrs. Janice Compton  
First Lady of Saint Lucia

11:30 to  
12:00 pm

**4. Debate**

12:30 pm

**Lunch: open**

**FOURTH WORKING SESSION**

**Topic: "WOMEN'S HEALTH"**

3:00 pm

**1. Plan of Action to reduce "Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in the Americas"**

a. Introduction by Dr. Joao Yunes  
Coordinator  
Family and Population Health Program  
PAHO

b. Presentation by:

. Mrs. Ximena Iturralde de Sánchez de Lozada  
First Lady of Bolivia

. Mrs. Aline Chrétien  
First Lady of Canada

. Mrs. Liesbeth Venetiaan Vanenburg  
First Lady of Suriname

3:30 pm

**2. Project on "Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy"**

a. Introduction by Mr. Pedro Pablo Villanueva  
Director to Chile, Paraguay and Peru  
UNFPA

b. Presentation by:

. Mrs. Zelayhar Hassanali  
First Lady of Trinidad and Tobago

. Dr. Laura Albertini  
Special Envoy of Uruguay \*\*\*\*

3:45 pm

**3. Program on "Latin America in the Struggle against Cancer"**

a. Evaluation of the Program by María Fernanda Méndez Núñez Gómez Acebo, Countess of Elda,  
President of the Association of Ibero-American Leagues Against Cancer (ALICC)

4:00 pm

**Debate**

4:30 pm

**Coffee break**

**FIFTH WORKING SESSION****Topic: "Violence against Women"**

5:00 pm

**1. "Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women" (Convention of Belém do Pará)**

- . Analysis by Mrs. Dilma Quezada Martínez  
President of the Inter-American Commission of Women  
CIM

6:15 pm

**2. Regional Programme on Violence against Women**

- a. Introduction by Mrs. Pamela Hartigan  
Coordinator  
Women, Health and Development Program  
PAHO

**b. Presentation by:**

- . Mrs. Josette Altmann de Figueres  
First Lady of Costa Rica
- . Lady Yvy Sylvia Lucille Cooke  
First Lady of Jamaica
- . Ambassador Mireya Regazzoli  
Special Envoy of Argentina

6:00 pm

**3. Debate****Evening: open****THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19****SIXTH WORKING SESSION****Topic: "FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN"**

9:00 am

**1. Introduction by Mrs. Gertrude Mongella  
Secretary General  
Fourth World Conference on Women****2. Presentation by:**

- . Mrs. Ruth Corrêa Leite de Cardoso  
First Lady of Brazil
- . Mrs. Elizabeth A. de Calderón Sol  
First Lady of El Salvador

9:45 am **3. Debate**

10:15 am **Coffee break**

10:45 to  
12:30 pm **PANEL OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Topic: " ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS OF  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO FAVOR  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN TOWARDS YEAR 2000"**

**UN** : Mrs. Katja Cekalovic, United Nations Representative to Paraguay

**UNFPA** : Mr. Pedro Pablo Villanueva, Director to Chile, Paraguay and Peru

**WHO/PAHO** : Dr. Irene Klinger, Head of the International Relations Office, PAHO

**UNESCO** : Dr. Ernesto Schiefelbein, Director of the Regional Office on Education (OREALC)

**UNICEF** : Mr. Juan Aguilar León, UNICEF Representative to Paraguay and Peru

**OAS** :

**IDB** : Marguerite Berger, Head of the Developing Women's Division, Department of Social Programs and Sustainable Development

**IICA** : Brenda Kleysen, Specialist, Women's Division

**ALICC** : Dr. Ricardo Alba, Director, "Latin American in the Struggle against Cancer" Program

**Debate**

**Lunch: open**

3:00 pm **Revision of the Declaration of Paraguay by  
Technical Advisers**

8:30 pm **National Gala of Music and Dance**  
**Site** : Paraguayan Central Bank  
Cultural Center - Convention Hall

**FRIDAY; OCTOBER 20**

**SEVENTH WORKING SESSION**

10:00 am **Closing remarks by the First Lady of the Republic of Bolivia, Mrs.  
Ximena Iturralde de Sánchez de Lozada**

5th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas

**Signing of the Declaration of Paraguay and Closing of the Conference**

10:45 am **Official Photograph**  
Paraguay Yacht and Golf Club Casino Hotel

11:00 am **Press Conference**  
(First Ladies)

12:00 pm **Lunch: open**

**Departure of Delegations**

**Site** : "Silvio Pettirossi" International Airport  
Presidential Pavilion

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21****Departure of Delegations**

**Site** : "Silvio Pettirossi" International Airport  
Presidential Pavilion

**PRECEDENCE OF THE 5TH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF  
HEADS OF STATE AND OF GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS**

**PRO-TEMPORE SECRETARIAT**

1. PARAGUAY
2. BOLIVIA
3. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
4. SAINT LUCIA

**FIRST LADIES**

5. BRAZIL
6. CANADA
7. COSTA RICA
8. CHILE
9. ECUADOR
10. EL SALVADOR
11. GUATEMALA
12. HONDURAS
13. JAMAICA
14. MEXICO
15. PANAMA
16. SURINAME
17. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**SPECIAL ENVOYS**

18. ARGENTINA
19. COLOMBIA
20. CUBA
21. NICARAGUA
22. PERU
23. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
24. URUGUAY
25. VENEZUELA

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**Miami Symposium  
Background**

Divider Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
REMARKS FOR THE FIRST LADIES' SYMPOSIUM ON  
CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS  
MIAMI, FLORIDA  
DECEMBER 10, 1994

Welcome to all of my colleagues and friends from across the Americas, and to all of our distinguished guests.

It is an honor and privilege for me to host this wonderful symposium here in Miami. Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to the First Ladies of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada for your help and guidance in preparing for this session. Your extraordinary efforts in previous First Ladies' meetings in Colombia, Costa Rica, and most recently in St. Lucia, have provided a foundation for all of our work -- today and into the future.

I hope that in the course of our gathering here, and in the weeks and months ahead, we will learn much from each other and find new inspiration to address the needs of children, families, and women across our hemisphere.

Today, we live in an age of great promise -- and great peril -- for the 130 million children of the Americas. Great promise because our children are our lifeline to prosperity and democracy in the decades ahead. And we all take pleasure in knowing that there are millions of happy, healthy children across the Americas whose futures are filled with hope.

But there are perils too, because from the Queen Elizabeth Islands to Tierra del Fuego, our children are shouldering burdens rarely encountered by older generations.

Children suffering from hunger, poverty, homelessness, inadequate health care, disease, illiteracy, violence, and abuse are not confined to a single nation or a single continent. The cries of desperate children are sadly heard in every nation represented here. And it is the plight of those children that brings us together today, not just as the spouses of heads of state or as representatives of our governments, but as mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, neighbors and friends who believe that every child in every country deserves a fair chance in life.

The political leaders convening at this historic summit have set forth an agenda to promote prosperity and democracy throughout the hemisphere through trade initiatives, sustainable development, and more effective government.

Today, summit leaders are outlining goals to ensure the economic, social and physical well-being of children, which Dr. Alleyne will outline later in greater detail:

The proposed Summit Plan of Action calls for universal access to education so that all children, regardless of economic or social status, racial or ethnic origin, or gender, will receive the basic tools necessary to become full members of society. The goal of requiring children to attend and complete primary school is also under discussion. If this goal is achieved, it will help eradicate child labor and give children a greater hope of acquiring the skills and knowledge needed in a modern global economy.

Beyond the important issue of school attendance, the Summit initiative on education also addresses the nutritional needs of children so they can learn more effectively.

The proposed Summit Plan of Action calls for equitable access to basic health services, which will be particularly beneficial to children, who are most vulnerable to illnesses and unhealthy living conditions.

Specific programs being recommended will address child, infant, and maternal mortality rates, as well as increasing immunization efforts to eradicate childhood diseases, such as measles, that still afflict too many children. We need only look to the disappearance of new polio cases in the Western hemisphere to know the success of these immunization programs.

We all know that the role of caregiver is crucial to the development of healthy and secure children. And we all know that the primary caregivers in society most often are women. The Summit proposal to strengthen the role of women will increase opportunities for women to participate in all spheres of life -- political, social, and economic.

Empowering women with economic self-reliance, access to quality health care and education is not only a valuable step forward in itself. It's an important step forward for children.

While we recognize that our political leaders are responsible for devising policies and programs to meet these important goals, we also know that, as First Ladies, we have a significant role to play.

Just as advocacy organizations, social institutions, and dedicated individuals are critical to progress, we, too, can help push the agenda forward in our respective countries.

When it comes to children's issues, women have a special calling. And that's why we have a duty to raise our voices for

the voiceless -- our children, the youngest and most vulnerable among us.

This week I've had particular reason to think about the difference one woman alone can make on behalf of children, even against extraordinary odds. My friend, Elizabeth Glaeser, died last weekend after losing a long battle with AIDS.

Elizabeth contracted HIV through a blood transfusion while hemorrhaging during the delivery of her first child, Ariel. Unbeknownst to her, her daughter, and then a son born later, also contracted the virus.

When Elizabeth learned that she and her children had been infected with HIV, she dedicated herself to raising awareness about AIDS. From a small office in Los Angeles, she created the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which has raised over \$30 million since its founding in 1988.

Elizabeth often said she was motivated and strengthened by the memory of her daughter, who died four years ago at the age of seven. Her son, now 10, lives with HIV every day.

If Elizabeth could continue to contribute so much on behalf of children throughout her own illness, I know we can make our own contributions too. Of course, we will not all be involved in the same ways, or even on precisely the same issues. I know, for example, that AIDS is not as prevalent in many of your countries as it is in mine. That's why each of us must find a venue appropriate to our own situation as First Lady or government representative. But whatever role we choose represents a rare opportunity to make a difference in the lives of tens of millions of children -- and in the future of all of the Americas.

There is an urgency to our mission. More than half of our population in this hemisphere is under age 23. Ushering children into the world is, of course, the province of families. But building safe and nurturing communities for them to grow up in . . . making sure they have access to schools that teach them to read and write . . . protecting them from avoidable diseases . . . training them for productive adulthoods. . . and honoring their rights in the face of violence and abuse -- these are our collective responsibilities.

This concept was eloquently expressed in a pastoral letter issued in the United States several years ago by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. In that letter, entitled *Putting Children and Families First*, the bishops said:

"No government can love a child, and no policy can substitute for a family's care. But, government can either support or undermine families. There has been an unfortunate,

unnecessary and unreal polarization in [the] discussion [of] how best to help families. The undeniable fact is that our children's future is shaped both by the values of their parents and the policies of our nation."

As adults, we must take responsibility for our children so that they can learn to take responsibility for themselves. And we must insist that society's most vital institutions -- family, school, and church -- create the conditions necessary for our children to fulfill all their God-given potential.

To be sure, our challenges differ from country to country, and our recipes for progress may require different ingredients. The purpose of this gathering is not to prescribe one solution, but to share ideas and opinions and learn from each other's experiences.

Here in the United States, for example, we are not doing enough to ensure that women receive adequate pre- and post-natal health care, particularly poor women and teenagers. In 1992, 22 percent of pregnant women in this country received no pre-natal care.

As the rest of the world knows all too well, my nation faces significant challenges in stopping an epidemic of gun violence that daily claims the lives of children in our cities and towns. Today, homicide is the leading cause of death for African American youth in the United States and violence is the second leading cause of death for youngsters between the ages of 10 and 14.

Combined with violence is an equally disturbing scourge of narcotics use among our young people. Illegal drugs are readily available in too many communities in the United States, and even in some of our schools. Studies show that as many as seven million children abuse alcohol and drugs to some extent

At the same time, we are making progress on behalf of some of our children -- progress that is visible right here in Miami. Just yesterday I had the opportunity to visit Jackson Memorial Hospital and Drew Elementary School -- two institutions that have achieved remarkable successes in disadvantaged communities.

Jackson Memorial Medical Center, which is affiliated with the University of Miami, has the difficult task of caring for some of the poorest and neediest residents of this city. The newborn intensive care unit that I visited yesterday serves the highest risk population in Dade County -- but the hospital has achieved the lowest infant mortality rates in the state.

The hospital also has devised innovative ways of serving its community. A mobile van brings doctors and nurses to those who

might otherwise go without necessary treatment and care.

Drew Elementary School is located in a predominantly African-American neighborhood. Community leaders devised a cultural exchange program in which students from Drew and a predominantly Hispanic school called Seminole Elementary come together for a variety of activities that promote tolerance and understanding. To enhance communication across cultures, students at Drew take Spanish from the second grade on.

The positive educational climate at Drew is reflected in the student attendance rate: 95 percent of the school's students come to class every day.

Drew has succeeded because parents, teachers, the school principal and community leaders have worked hard to create an environment where children feel safe, secure, and confident that they will thrive. The adults have taken responsibility; and the children are learning to take responsibility as well.

In every one of our nations, dedicated, energetic, and caring people are battling on the front lines to solve some of society's most vexing problems. The purpose of this gathering is to educate each other about our challenges and our successes -- and to make our efforts more cooperative by sharing the knowledge and experience each of us holds within us.

When we return to our capitals, I hope we will not be guided solely by documents, policy papers, and official pronouncements, but also by the desire in our hearts to see that all children have the gift of hope in their lives.

In the words of Gabriela Mistral [Mee-strall], the visionary Chilean educator, poet, and Nobel prize winner for literature: "Let me be more maternal than a mother; able to love and defend with all of a mother's fervor the child that is not flesh of my flesh."

As she once said: "Many things we need can wait. The child cannot . . . To him, we cannot say tomorrow. His name is today."

Thank you for coming to Miami, and for joining together in this important cause.

And now, let us go from words to deeds.

[Introduce UNICEF video]

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## THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHILDREN The Health and Education Dimension<sup>1</sup>

Sir George Alleyne<sup>2</sup>

Madam Chairperson, Mrs. Clinton, First Ladies of the Americas, ladies and gentlemen. First let me congratulate Mrs. Clinton, First Lady of the United States for having selected this critical issue as the topic of this special symposium and express thanks on behalf of the Pan American Health Organization for having been given the opportunity to participate in this unique event.

The expectations of this summit have been very high and the world is watching as the heads of state establish the basic principles that should forge a new future for the people of the Americas. The essence of this new future is that the social conditions should so change that our people can look forward to that security which is at the heart of human development. One of the best indicators of the brightness of that future is the well-being of our children - a well-being that allows them to exercise fully their life options. For many of our children the social conditions that surround them are issues of life or death, or even worse, they may be condemned to a something akin to a living death as they eke out an existence in circumstances that do not kill but will not support life as it should be lived.

The increasing number of high level meetings and agreements that fix the attention of our leaders on the well-being of children is a testimony to the general concern that exists. A very recent accord that invokes the name of the great Colombian patriot Antonio Nariño is a stirring call for the commitment of governments to address the health, education and civic rights of our children and provide a healthy environment - not tomorrow, but now. As a result of action on many fronts and concern by many persons, governments and agencies we have advanced, but even as we advance, the magnitude of the remaining task becomes even clearer.

I will attempt in this brief presentation to show where we are, some of the impediments to more rapid progress and what in my judgement a group like this might do to advance the cause of children.

It is one of the peculiar deficiencies of our systems that the health of our children is measured most often by the rate at which they die. In Latin America and the Caribbean 600,000 infants die each year, there are 47 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births, and for the 34 countries attending this Summit the infant-mortality rate is 33 per 1,000 live births. We often dissemble and congratulate ourselves because these rates are falling steadily - 30 years ago the rate was three times as high. But any complacency should be wiped away by the knowledge that most of these deaths are preventable. Latin American and Caribbean countries have infant death

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<sup>1</sup> Remarks to be given at the Summit of the Americas, Miami, Florida, 10 December 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Director, Director Elect of the Pan American Health Organization, Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the World Health Organization

rates that compare favorably with those of other developing countries, but perhaps this is not a good comparison. A recent publication from my Organization shows that if the current downward trends are maintained, the infant mortality rate in Latin America and the Caribbean 30 years from now will be what it was in North America in the 1950s. This is a lag time of over half a century, and the tragedy is that most of these deaths are due to lack of simple technologies that are available now but are inaccessible because of social conditions, lack of basic services and infections that can be prevented or treated.

The commonest of these infections are pneumonia and diarrhoea. In some countries as many as one quarter of the deaths of children are due to pneumonia. We estimate that last year there were some 200 million episodes of diarrhea in children and 200,000 of these children died. Acute respiratory infections and diarrhea are not peculiar to children of developing countries but they are more likely to die than their brothers and sisters in the developed world.

One of the reasons why they die is that their infections are often complicated by malnutrition. The data, imperfect as they are, show that in some countries up to one third of children below the age of 5 years are malnourished. In the majority of 14 countries surveyed recently over 20% of children were stunted and the figure was as high as 55% in one case. At least one in every five children had not reached his or her growth potential. Again we may point out improvements, and in almost every country surveyed the nutritional status of children has got better over the years. But the poorest countries have rates of childhood malnutrition that are more than ten times those for the USA and countries like Chile and Costa Rica.

Immunizations are among the most cost effective health technologies available and this hemisphere has shown some remarkable achievements in vaccinating its children. At least 80% of children are immunized against the common infections and BCG, or the vaccine against tuberculosis, is given to 93% of the children under 1 year of age. As evidence of the success of immunization, this hemisphere was the first in the world to certify that transmission of the polio virus has been interrupted, and it is a source of pride to all health workers that in the last three years no child has been afflicted with paralytic poliomyelitis. The incidence of measles is declining dramatically, and diphtheria and whooping cough are receding.

The successes against the vaccine preventable diseases lead us to ask why so many children still die. Part of the answer lies in the inadequacy of health services. A recent survey of just over 1,600 maternal and child health services in Latin America and the Caribbean showed that 80% were unsatisfactory and close to 14% were in a critically poor condition.

Inadequate services do not contribute only to the deaths of children; their mothers also die. It is nothing short of a scandal that in some of the poorest countries of our region, for every 100,000 babies born, over 300 women die of complications related to that birth. They die from the complications of abortion, from hemorrhage or from infections - all of which are eminently preventable or treatable if only the services existed. The differences between the rich and the poor are dramatized here as the maternal mortality reported for Haiti for example is some 80 times higher than that for Canada.

There has been progress in education, but many deficiencies still exist. In Latin America as a whole 86% of children age 6-11 years have access to formal education. The major problems do not lie in the access, but in the use made of the facilities, the repeat and drop out rates and the lower school attainments in rural areas. It is estimated that 20% of children enter school late, 42% repeat their first grade and there is an overall primary school repetition rate of 29%. It is estimated that over US\$4 billion is spent each year to teach these primary school repeaters. What a waste! The repetition rates are falling - albeit slowly, and the high current rates in some countries do not indicate a lack of schools but a lack of quality in the programs offered.

Some of the difficulties encountered at the primary school level are due to the culture shock experienced by children leaving home and entering an educational environment to deal with a foreign language of instruction. There is often lack of basic educational materials as well as poor preparation and remuneration of teachers.

The data I have cited for health and education are mostly given as national averages and while they show the differences among countries, they hide the real differences that exist within all countries of the Americas - differences between the sexes, between urban and rural dwellers, between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples and more starkly between the rich and the poor. These differences, translated into inequity in terms of access to and use of services, are the root causes of the health problems of our children that may impair their ability to learn even when the educational services are available.

*to include*  
This is a most propitious time to address these social inequalities that result in unnecessary deaths of our children and poor educational attainment. A decade ago when most of the countries of the Americas were in the grip of a severe economic crisis, a call for equity fell on less than sympathetic ears. But now, with the region as a whole showing signs of good financial health, it is opportune to advocate vigorously for the social equity that will result in better health for our children. As Ms. Nancy Birdsall points out, countries are more likely to achieve equity in health if they experience moderate to high economic growth rates.

But there is another reason why our voices should be louder now. During the dark economic days of the 1980s, there were large armies of health and education workers who labored to maintain the modest improvements that occurred during those times. We owe it to them to see that there is an even greater rate of change now that the situation has improved.

There is almost universal agreement on the broad measures to be taken to improve the situation, including reform of the health system to embrace the fundamental principles of primary health care. There must be universal literacy and access to education for all.

But I wish to suggest some things that the talented and motivated participants in this symposium might do to accelerate the rate of change in the status of our children.

*[Handwritten bracket]*  
The first and perhaps the most important commitment for any influential group is to be advocates for a systemic approach to tackling the social inequity that results in poor health and educational

potential. Health and education are two of the essential contributors to, and indicators of, genuine human development. We must appreciate that these interact between themselves and power economic growth which is but another component of that human development; and the three, when linked together contribute to one of the basic principles of this summit - that of preserving and strengthening the community of democracies of the Americas.

You might usefully insist that all countries dedicate more attention to monitoring the human condition. Problems not brought to light never get addressed. Unless our countries establish systems for adequate collection and analysis of some of the basic social indicators such as those relating to health and nutrition and educational attainment, we will not make the correct diagnoses or suggest the appropriate therapies. These data must be collected and analyzed with the same zeal and enthusiasm that is dedicated to measuring the status of our nations' financial health.

You might arm yourselves to make the proper arguments both in the corridors and at the tables of power. There are very strong moral and ethical reasons for investing in health and education. Healthy well educated youth have better opportunities to exercise their life options and this is the essence of human development. Health in and of itself is a resource for our living. But be not afraid to buttress your reasoning with the arguments that show how investment in health and education can spur economic growth and equally importantly, yields social benefits by contributing to the correction of the unequal distribution of wealth in a nation. Investing in education raises the productivity and enhances the flexibility of our people in the face of changing labor market conditions, and you should also note that the returns of education investment are higher for females than for males.

You might wish to make a firm commitment to mobilize actively the key social partners in your efforts to redress the situation of children. These partners include the public sector, the private sector, the nongovernmental organizations, organized labor and the media. All can be induced to see that sheer self-interest dictates that they should join in the efforts to ensure the health and education of our children.

Finally, you must keep insisting that we must not be complacent with our rate of improvement. Edward Jenner first vaccinated a little boy against small pox in 1796 and it took nearly 200 years before this Region's children were free of that scourge. Thomas Francis first undertook massive vaccination of children against poliomyelitis in this country in 1954; 40 years later this hemisphere is free of that disease. Let us continue shortening the time between the discovery and application of the simple measures that can make our children healthy, wise and wealthy in the true sense of the word. Let us for example decide that no child should be infected with measles, and undertake to make measles vaccine available in every corner of our hemisphere. This can be a concrete contribution to the goals of this summit for reducing child mortality.

I hope your discussions go well and I know that I speak for numerous agencies and organizations that are ready willing and able to help you to make a real difference to the quality of life of the children of this hemisphere and of those who bear them.

# SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

## *Symposium on Children of the Americas*

### **Introduction**

- The Hemisphere's leaders and their spouses are coming together not only as the heads of their governments and people, but also as parents and members of families who recognize that one driving force behind the Summit is to ensure children's well-being now and in the future.
- Virtually every element of the Summit Plan of Action will have a direct or indirect impact on the economic, social, or physical well-being of the children of the hemisphere.
- The implementation of the Summit Plan of Action will bring about a better standard of living for the children of the hemisphere, through increased trade and jobs, improved access to health and education, and the protection of their rights.

### **The Summit Initiatives: Impact on Children**

#### **I. Preserving and Strengthening the Community of Democracies of the Americas**

##### Strengthening Democracy

- \* Helps prevent political violence, which has a profound effect on the well-being of our children.

##### Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

- \* Includes guarantees for the rights of children and calls for ratifying the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child

##### Invigorating Society/Community Participation

- \* Encourages the growth of civic-minded non-governmental organizations, including those which support children's issues, and notes the need to improve participation of young people.
- \* Helps ensure that groups such as disabled, indigenous, and female children receive fair and equitable treatment.

### Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes

- \* In order to safeguard children's health and their futures, we must educate our children on the dangers of drug abuse and prevent them from using narcotics.
- \* We must continue our efforts to protect children from this threat and prevent them from becoming involved in drug-related criminal activities.

## II. Promoting Prosperity Through Economic Integration and Free Trade

### Free Trade in the Americas/Capital Markets Development and Liberalization

- \* Creates more jobs, allowing families to enjoy a higher standard of living.
- \* Lessens need to depend on children to help augment the family's income, thus reducing child labor.
- \* Provides more commodity variety at more competitive prices, helping to decrease malnutrition.

### Hemispheric Infrastructure

- \* Increases access of all sectors of society to better transportation, electricity, and clean water.

## III. Eradicating Poverty and Discrimination in Our Hemisphere

### Universal Access to Education

- \* All children, regardless of economic or social situation, will receive the basic tools necessary to become full, participatory members of society, especially girls, minorities, and indigenous groups.
- \* Requiring children to attend primary school will help eradicate child labor.
- \* Ensures that all children have the foundation necessary to compete in a modern economy and/or to go on to higher levels of education; secondary school will train students for more complex jobs, allowing them to be more competitive in the modern world economy.

### Equitable Access to Basic Health Services

- \* Reducing child, infant, and maternal mortality rates will clearly benefit children, who are particularly vulnerable to illness and unhealthy living conditions.
- \* The success of immunization programs in eradicating the childhood disease of polio demonstrate the importance of universal access to such prevention programs.

### Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

- \* Since many of the households in the hemisphere are headed by women, increasing their opportunities to participate in all spheres of political, social, and economic life will improve the well-being of the members of those households.

## IV. Guaranteeing Sustainable Development and Conserving Our Natural Environment for Future Generations

### Partnership for Sustainable Energy Use/Partnership for Pollution Prevention

- \* Developing cleaner sources of energy will improve the health of our children.
- \* We need to ensure that our children are left with options for renewable sources of energy.

### Partnership for Biodiversity

- \* Ensures that we do not destroy the living resources or environment of our planet, but rather preserve them for the sake of future generations.

## **Children: the Foundation for the Americas of the 21st Century**

- The broad range of Summit objectives are aimed not only at helping children now, but also at giving children the tools they need to provide for themselves and their children in the future.
- Future generations will be called upon to continue the work initiated at the Miami Summit--we must prepare today's children to be the leaders of tomorrow's integrated and democratic Western Hemisphere.

# **SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS**

## **Themes for Working Group Session On**

### ***Children's Education Issues***

Summit Goals: A primary completion rate of 100 percent and a secondary enrollment rate of at least 75 percent by the year 2010.

(See Summit Plan of Action Initiative 16, "Universal Access to Education," for the full text.)

Universal literacy and access to education at all levels, without distinction of race, national origin or gender, is an indispensable basis for sustainable social and cultural development, economic growth and democratic stability.

Although almost every country in the hemisphere has adult literacy rates of over 80 percent, there are still too many people who do not have a basic level of reading and writing skills. Eradicating illiteracy is best approached by ensuring that children are enrolled in and complete at least primary school. A number of factors impact on both enrollment and completion rates, including pre-school environment, the quality of the school's curriculum and the training received by the educators.

The nurturing and nutrition children receive early in their lives dramatically impact on their ability to thrive when they reach school age, and can improve future performance and reduce costly repetition and drop-out rates. Approximately 8.9 million children in this hemisphere participate in early childhood programs.

Primary school enrollment of children age 6-11 increased over the last 20 years in all countries in the region, especially in population centers. However, enrollment levels remain relatively low in certain regions and sub-groupings (girls, indigenous, urban minority and rural populations).

The World Bank estimates that every year \$2.5 billion are spent on grade repetition for 20 million children in Latin America. Countries are addressing drop-out and repetition rates by setting national goals in educational efficiency as well as relevance of what is taught.

The Summit initiative on education calls for governments to work with the private sector and multilateral institutions to guarantee universal access to quality primary education; support strategies to overcome nutritional deficiencies of primary school children in order to enhance their learning ability; and create a

hemispheric partnership to reform educational policies and focus resources more efficiently.

# SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS

## Themes for Working Group Session On

### *Children's Health Issues*

Summit Goals: To reduce child mortality by one-third and maternal mortality by one-half by the year 2000.

(See Summit Plan of Action Initiative 17, "Equitable Access to Basic Health Services," for the full text.)

The average infant mortality rate for the 34 countries attending the Summit is 33 deaths per 1,000 births. Major achievements in reducing that rate thus far have been in high-impact but simple technologies such as vaccinations and controlling diarrhea through oral rehydration. The challenge now is to move to more difficult and complex interventions such as managing pneumonia, improving nutritional status, and reducing neonatal mortality, while sustaining the gains already achieved. The region-wide effort to eradicate polio, which succeeded in interrupting transmission throughout the hemisphere, was a model of cooperation, partnership and participation. This model can be adapted to eliminating measles, or at least reducing incidences and deaths to the levels called for in the Narino Accord.

Maternal death rates remain a significant problem in the Americas, with national rates ranging from a low of 5 to a high of about 600 per 100,000 live births. To reduce maternal mortality, we need to improve and expand access to prenatal and postnatal care and to provide safer delivery care. Community-based approaches such as training and deployment of midwives and family planning have reduced maternal mortality in some countries.

In addition, inequities in access to health care contribute to the concentration of children's health problems in certain populations (e.g. rural areas, indigenous peoples). These inequities can be addressed through systemic reforms of health care delivery systems which can include essential community-based services for the poor, the disabled, and indigenous groups; stronger public health infrastructure; alternative means of financing, managing, and providing services; quality assurance; and greater use of non-governmental actors and organizations.

The Summit Plan of Action calls for a number of actions involving the hemispheric governments, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Pan-American Health Organization, and representatives of the private sector in focusing on and establishing a framework for health reform mechanisms. These actions include: developing or updating country action plans or programs for

reform; strengthening international fora for sharing technical expertise, information and experience on health reform efforts; and convening a special meeting of hemispheric governments with interested donors and international technical agencies to establish a framework for health reform mechanisms.

# SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS

## Themes for Working Group Session On

### *Youth Health and Education Issues*

Summit Goals: Address the needs of adolescents through prevention programs for narcotics use and abuse, the transmission of HIV/AIDS, and unintended pregnancies, and through enhanced vocational or college-preparatory programs.

(See Summit Plan of Action Initiative 6, "Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes;" Initiative 16, "Universal Access to Education;" and Initiative 17, "Equitable Access to Basic Health Services," for full texts.)

Youth in the hemisphere, who make up roughly a quarter of the population, must obtain the education and training needed to be productive adults and avoid often fatal health risks.

At current birth rates, half of the hemisphere's female population will have a child between the ages of 15 and 19. In addition to the maternal mortality issues covered under the symposium's health theme, these young women are exposed to sexually-transmitted diseases--including AIDS/HIV, and often leave school to have or raise their babies. The Summit initiative on health includes a proposal to have a basic package of health services which includes maternal and reproductive health care, planning information and services, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Both female and male adolescents leave school early, for a number of reasons, resulting in a workforce unprepared for an increasingly high-technology world market. Educational programs aimed at keeping teenagers in school and curricula designed to prepare students for adulthood are needed. The Summit education initiative calls for promoting worker professional training, increasing access to and strengthening the quality of high education, and creating a hemispheric partnership to reform educational policies.

The problem of narcotics consumption, production, and trafficking is a huge drain on our youth. In addition to the health problems and deaths caused by drug use, narcotics-related violence also affects a large number of young people. In addition, young adults without the education or training to support themselves are too often drawn to the narcotics-related crimes of selling or trafficking narcotics. The proposed initiative on narcotics includes a broad agenda to reduce both the demand and supply of narcotics throughout the hemisphere.

# SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

## *Strengthening the Role of Women in Society*

Summit Goals: Strengthen policies and programs that improve and broaden the participation of women in all spheres of political, social, and economic life and improve their access to the basic resources needed for the full exercise of their fundamental rights.

(See Summit Plan of Action Initiative 18, "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society," for the full text.)

The Fourth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Governments of the Americas issued in October 1994 the Declaration of St. Lucia, which called for supporting actions which further the full exercise of women's human rights, expressed appreciation for efforts to reduce domestic violence; encouraged steps to educate women in preparation for decision-making in all spheres; and requested that the women's issues be addressed at a wide range of fora.

The proposed Summit Plan of Action calls for the nations of the hemisphere to commit to taking many of those steps, such as recognizing and giving full respect for all rights of women, promoting the participation of women in decision-making; enhancing women's productivity and economic self-reliance through education and skill development; reducing violence against women; and encouraging regional and international financial and technical organizations to intensify their programs in favor of women.

In addition, women remain the primary care-givers for children throughout the hemisphere. Therefore, the importance of the development and strengthening of the role of women in society should be recognized also in terms of the impact of women's development on their children and its positive contribution to society.

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**HRC Letter to FLs**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 24, 1995

Mrs. Ruth Cardoso  
Brazil

Dear Mrs. Cardoso,

Mrs. Wasmosy joins me in sending this letter.

As you know, this past December many of the Wives of Heads of State and Government met during the Summit of the Americas to discuss some of the most critical challenges facing children on our Hemisphere. We were sorry you could not join us. Through the contributions of so many present, we identified three areas of critical need which are of common concern and enormous importance for the well being of our children.

The First Ladies' Symposium agreed that investment in the human capital of the Americas is vital to the broader goal of eradicating poverty and discrimination. In order to follow up on the important health and education issues that were raised, we would like to propose that we, as First Ladies of the Hemisphere, engage the citizens of our nations in an active three-point agenda to advance the goals in health and education adopted by the leaders at the Summit of the Americas.

The first initiative we propose for follow-up is the elimination of the transmission of measles in the Americas by the year 2000. To start this effort, I will participate in the launching of the Measles Elimination Campaign at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) headquarters in Washington, D.C. on April 7. Mrs. Wasmosy will lead a parallel effort in Asunción. We understand that local PAHO representatives have been in contact with you and the other First Ladies to encourage you to sponsor similar events in your countries. Our participation in this important initiative will provide the campaign with higher visibility, both at the national and the regional level. To attack this problem, PAHO has formulated a regional project for the elimination of the transmission of measles in the Americas for the years 1995-2000. Strong partnerships with all sectors of society can garner the political and financial support needed to eliminate this killer disease.

The second critical initiative is the reduction of maternal mortality in the Americas. Every year, 20,000 women die in the hemisphere and at least 3 million are hospitalized from complications relating to childbirth -- many of which are preventable. We all agree that we need to promote the implementation across the region of comprehensive health care policies focused on women and the prevention of maternal mortality and morbidity.

During the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1990, the Hemispheric Ministers of Health of the countries of the region approved a Regional Plan for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality in the Americas. Progress has been slow. Involving ourselves in this initiative can help save lives of countless women in all of our countries. We propose to include the issue of maternal mortality and morbidity as an item for discussion at the meeting of the Association of First Ladies that will be hosted by Mrs. Wasmosy in Paraguay in October 1995. We are convinced that we can generate renewed interest in an issue that concerns the health and lives of women across the Americas. The meeting in Paraguay will give us each an opportunity to review the national plans, to learn what have been the most successful strategies and projects to reduce maternal mortality and to learn from each other.

The third area of interest is girls' and women's education, which is also likely to be underscored at the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing. The rate of girls' enrollment varies from country to country. We do know, however, through extensive research in the field, that investments in the education of girls yield a higher return than any other investment in a country's development. As you know, when countries focus their resources on the education of girls, they achieve a wide range of benefits, including significant improvements in health, domestic, agricultural and industrial productivity, democratic participation and family wellbeing. We propose to seek ways as First Ladies to be engaged in this issue and increase the awareness in our nations of the importance of girls' education. I was pleased to announce earlier this month at the UN Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen that the United States has made a commitment to financially support efforts to enhance educational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of poor girls and women around the world.

We hope that the above three areas and the suggested initiatives adequately reflect the consensus reached at the Summit Symposium in Miami and reflect the issues you believe are most important for us in following up on that meeting. Mrs. Wasmosy is also preparing additional items for the agenda to reflect follow up to the First Ladies Meeting in St. Lucia.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "H".

Hillary Rodham Clinton

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**Measles Launch Remarks**

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April 7, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**World Health Day 1995  
Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton  
First Lady of the United States**

Thank you very much, Dr. Alleyne, and all of you who are gathered here today.

I know that you've already had an excellent program. I know some of the speakers who've already addressed you and the work they have done over decades on behalf of children and, in particular, on behalf of immunization.

I am pleased to be here with all of you on World Health Day. This marks a historic opportunity for all nations to come together to work to improve the health of our global family. I also want to thank all of you here at PAHO who are on the frontlines every day promoting better health throughout our hemisphere.

I agree completely with Dr. Alleyne that you are the real champions of children and it is your work every single day, your persistence in many instances— your begging, your challenging, your promoting the idea that every child, every person is entitled to health care, that really makes what we are now celebrating with the eradication of polio in this hemisphere a reality.

Nothing is more important to our shared future than the well-being of children and for that reason I am especially pleased that children are the focus of this year's World Health Day. As you may know, I just returned yesterday from a 10-day trip to South Asia, where I saw firsthand some of the world's greatest health challenges and also some of the most innovative, thoughtful methods of bringing better health care to children and women in poor and remote

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areas. For me, that trip was an inspiring reminder of how much progress can be made when the will and commitment are there to help those in need.

Today's world is one of great promise for the 130 million children of our own hemisphere. Great promise, because our children are obviously our lifeline to prosperity and progress in the exciting and unpredictable century that lies ahead.

Great promise because there are millions of healthy children across the Americas, whose future are filled with hope and great promises because of historic commitments born at the the Summit of the Americas las December, commitments that will translate into greater opportunity and justice for all children.

Among other initiatives, government leaders endorsed the goal of making basic health services available to all citizens. That will be extremely beneficial to children, who are the most vulnerable to illnesses and unhealthy living conditions. I also want to commend the first ladies who participated in this symposium on children in Miami and worked with Dr. Alleyne to clarify our common vision and goals.

Today these women across the Americas are turning rhetoric into reality by helping launch PAHO's historic campaign to eliminate measles from our hemisphere by the year 2000. Later this year many of these women will convene in Paraguay to review our efforts and share our experiences in working to meet this goal. The campaign to eliminate measles is vital to all of our futures. It will save the lives of countless children in every country and will bring primary health care to every single village in our hemisphere.

I say this with confidence because we know from past experience that it can be done. The Pan American Health Organization already has led the world in getting rid of the polio virus.

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Since the World Health Organization resolved to fight polio in 1988, the number of polio cases around the world has declined by 82%. Today, 145 countries are polio free and last year, as we already heard, the Americas became the first region in the world to be declared formally free of polio and not a single case has been detected in the region since August of 1991.

All of you here should take great pride in that achievement. You succeeded in getting many nations and private and public institutions involved and that is no small achievement.

Now the work must continue in other parts of the world and in our region we must turn our attention to another major health threat to children: measles. My husband often talks about children as the greatest resource of every nation and one of the best ways to build on that resource is to invest in children, especially their health.

And I would add and echo Dr. Alleyne's comments. When we talk about health and education for children, we're not talking about a soft issue, about a marginal issue. We are not talking about an issue that is the province of women. We are talking about a core issue that will determine the future of every one of our nations and this is an urgent mission, that we understand fully how significant the health of our children is to the future of all of us.

Because just as we live in a time of great promise for children, we also live in a time of great peril. More than 1/2 of the population in this hemisphere is under the age of 23 and too many of our young people in every one of our countries suffer from poverty, hunger, illiteracy and inadequate health care.

But the statistics need not be so grim. While ushering children into the world is the province of families, protecting them from avoidable diseases must be viewed as the shared responsibility of our larger human family. We all know that a sick child has much less chance

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of learning, growing and fulfilling his or her potential than a child who is healthy.

A sick child has much less reason to be hopeful and optimistic about the future, less likely to develop into a healthy, productive citizen. That is why it is our responsibility as a community of nations to insist that all children receive the health care they need. We have the technology. Vaccinations exist for most of the major childhood diseases and they are far cheaper than long term treatments or the disabilities that result when children become seriously ill.

All we need now is the commitment to make these immunization campaigns succeed. the United States has been a proud partner of past efforts to eliminate major childhood diseases in this hemisphere. Nearly half of all external donor funding for the polio campaign came from the United States Agency for International Development. The United States currently is providing nearly US\$7 million as part of our child survival programs in the countries of the Americas.

Today I am pleased to announce that the United States will join in partnership with PAHO in the campaign to eliminate measles across the hemisphere. PAHO has estimated that an additional US\$46 million is needed for immunization programs between now and the end of the century. Through USAID, the United States plans to extend a five-year, US\$20 million grant to PAHO to advance hemispheric health care priorities.

Although the United States, like many other nations, is operating under budget constraints, our government hopes to allocate US\$8 million directly to the Regional Expanded Program on Immunization, which includes support to the measles campaign. At the same time, we have every expectation that just as with the polio effort, USAID programs and technical support across the Americas will help boost the campaign to eliminate measles.

During the polio campaign those programs more than doubled our regional commitment. One

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of the most important aspects of PAHO's campaign to eliminate measles is that it will advance all of our immunization efforts.

Perhaps equally important, it does reflect a larger vision of health reform that extends a basic package of integrated health services throughout the region and in that way carries forward the Summit of the Americas plan of action.

It also provides us through this measles campaign continuing opportunities for surveillance throughout the region so that we do remain very much focused on how effective we are in delivering immunization services. We have succeeded with respect to polio, but we must remain vigilant as to that disease and all others. Although our specific health challenges may differ from country to country, and our recipes for progress may require different ingredients, we share a common future and a common cause: we must not work in isolation to solve our problems, whether we are health organizations, NGOs, government leaders, private citizens we must join together as partners who appreciate the value of sharing our knowledge and experience and we must remember that when it comes to helping our children words alone are not enough, policy papers are not enough, press releases are not enough, documents and studies are not enough. We have had more than our share of each.

Instead, we must translate into action what we can do and then get on with the business of doing it.

Ultimately, we must be guided by a desire in our hearts to see that all children have the gift of hope in their lives. As the wonderful Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral once wrote "Many things we need can wait, the child cannot." And so today, as we celebrate this very important effort, I hope each of us will remember that the child cannot wait and we can do something to

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ensure that the child throughout this hemisphere has the opportunity to live up to his or her God-given potential.

Thank you very much.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 6, 1995

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
REMARKS TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN  
"WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT" PANEL  
BEIJING, CHINA**

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, Noleen. Thank you very much and I want to commend all of you who are here because I think that this is one of the most important panels to hear from the three people that you will be hearing from in a few minutes, that will take place at this conference. I want to thank Noleen and also the United Nations Development Fund for Women, which we all know as UNIFEM. It is a word that in any language translates into hope for women who dream of a better life for themselves, their families, and their nations.

Around the world, UNIFEM has invested in the lives and aspirations of women and has helped to empower women in ways that have not been tried before such as what we will be discussing here this evening. I am pleased to announce that the United States is releasing its pledge of one million dollars to UNIFEM for 1995 so that it can continue this work.

We are here today to talk about micro credit, where it's needed, what it is, what it can do, how it has transformed lives. It's called micro, but its impact on people is gigantic. It takes just a few dollars, often as little as \$10, to help a woman to self-employment, lift her and her family out of poverty. It is not a handout; it's a helping hand.

From the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh or to the Self-Employed Women's Association in India, or to the work in Ghana that you will hear about, to banks and programs modeled on these from Indonesia to the Dominican Republic, to my own country, we have seen that micro-lending works. Women who have received loans from the Grameen bank, for example, have a repayment rate of 97 percent, and often within one year. And they invest their money well. Some buy milk cows to expand their family's agricultural livestock, some buy materials to make handicrafts which they then sell. Others make bricks, or repair bicycles. But the fact is: give a woman a seed, and she will plant it, she will water it, nurture it, then reap it, share its fruits, and finally, she will replant it. In this way, step by step, the world's poorest women are leading their families, their communities and their countries to a better future. When we help these women to sow,

we all reap.

I met many such woman during my visit to South Asia earlier this year. I met women in India, I met women in Bangladesh. Whether it is a milk cow in Bangladesh, or a computer in Chicago, women need help and encouragement and credit to make that first investment.

I will never forget a woman I met in my own country at a program called Mi Casa in Denver that is modeled after these programs you will hear about this evening. It is a program designed not only to provide credit, but to do something even more fundamental: to help build self-respect and self-sufficiency. The women who came to this program were on welfare, but they saw a better future for themselves and their children. And they just needed a little help -- a jump-start -- to realize their own potential. But often that jump-start is hard to come by.

As this one woman told me: "Many great ideas die in the parking lots of banks" -- because women get only so far, they don't even get in the door, in many cases, before they are turned away." That kind of discouragement has killed the dreams of millions and millions of women.

In the United States we are attempting to build up a micro-enterprise network. It is still very young. But already several hundred programs have enabled tens of thousands of Americans to seek and find economic opportunity for themselves.

This conference has identified economic opportunity as a critical area of concern, and we have to look for positive, practical ways to implement that concern. Access to credit, particularly through micro-enterprise, is a key priority. Our country has accepted the challenge of making the world conference on women a conference of commitments and I want to announce, this evening, some of the actions our government will take to further self-employment and micro enterprise development in our country.

Our Small Business Administration is already making more loans than ever to women. Through the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, we will establish a new Presidential awards program to honor outstanding microlending organizations. These awards will provide challenging benchmarks for microenterprise programs throughout the nation and acquaint the public with the prevalence of such programs within our own economy. We believe they will also highlight the important work of programs that provide microenterprises with key support structures such as access to credit, markets, technical advice, and training.

The President also is establishing a mechanism to better

coordinate microenterprise programs across a number of our federal agencies to ensure that those programs are doing the job they were set out to do. Additionally, the United States will continue to support microenterprise in developing countries through USAID.

We know that it will take a lot of education to spread the good word about micro-credit. Despite a record that is inspiring, we still meet with skepticism and outright disbelief. There are very few financial institutions anywhere in the world that can report a 97 percent lending rate that is returned within a year. And yet, time and again, at conferences where micro-enterprise is discussed, bankers and others don't understand how they could actually do it in our economies around the world. So we are going in every way possible in our country to spread the word and to provide such technical assistance as will make more micro-enterprise programs available.

We are also concerned that capital formation and growth in some economic sectors often is now accompanying higher unemployment, longer hours with less pay, and severe restrictions on access to credit. We can not allow small enterprises to be marginalized as a result of greater consolidation within the global economy.

I became a believer in microcredit years ago, when my husband was the governor of the state of Arkansas. It's a poor state, and we were looking for ways to help people who didn't have access to credit. We found our model at the Grameen bank from Bangladesh and the South Shore Bank from Chicago, Illinois. That bank helped steer private investments to neighborhoods that need them, and we worked out a partnership with both Grameen, thanks to Dr. Eunice, and the South Shore Bank, that created a development bank, that created a borrowing fund, and began to make the kinds of investments in that state that we would like to see made throughout our country.

It's been a priveledge for me to meet leaders such as those who are on this panel because they have devoted not their lives to finding ways of ending poverty, they have been successful in changing the lives of so many people. And they have particularly focused on changing the lives of women. As Dr. Yin has told me, one time when he started the Grameen Bank lending idea, he had the revolutionary concept in mind of providing loans in a fifty percent, fifty percent ratio, for men and women. He quickly found out that women were better credit risks, that women would invest the money more in the family, that women would repay the loans. And so gradually over time, more and more women became the focus of the Grameen Bank's lending. That was, ont only revolutionary, but it set a fire that has gone through the developing world as a way of telling people that women are able to become self-sufficient if they are given the tools that enable

them to do so on behalf of themselves and their families.

Because of the success of such programs, the World Bank, and USAID, along with eight other major donors, have joined together to form the consultative group to aid the poor in order to finance small loans to the world's poor, the vast majority of whom are female. This is the kind of joint effort that we need to support.

I know that when we talk about such issues such as lending money to women, whether it is in a conference such as this, or attempting to make the case to financial institutions around the world, there are often eyes that glaze over. Issues connected to women, such as poverty, education, health and children or micro-credit now, are too often called "soft" by people who have us think that these issues are unimportant. Nothing could be further from the truth.

If there is any message that this conference could bring about economic opportunity, it is that we must engage in micro-credit in order to build micro-enterprises. We must open the doors of banks and other existing financial institutions to women who can become self-sufficient and responsible borrowers and we have to do so while there are people like those on this panel who are able to demonstrate clearly that this approach works. We really don't have a lot of time. The globalization of the economy has meant that many, many people are being marginalized, are being downsized, are being deprived of economic opportunities. We have to now, more than ever, make micro-enterprise a key element of providing economic opportunity for women and men everywhere in the world.

And I'd like now to introduce you to someone who has done that, whom I have had the privilege of visiting and seeing in action through the Self-Employed Women's Association in India. And so please join me in welcoming Ela Bhatt.

WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 6, 1995

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
REMARKS TO THE NGO FORUM  
HUAIROU, CHINA**

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you so much. I feel so much at home and so much a part of this group. I only wish that in addition to the enthusiasm and interest amongst all of the NGOs who are gathered here, the weather had been more cooperative this morning and I greatly regret that we were forced to move this occasion indoors in order to avoid any of us drowning out there. But I am very sorry that not everyone who wished to be with us this morning was able to be in, and I hope all of you will convey my personal regrets to anyone who was turned away or disappointed because of the size of this auditorium.

It is a great pleasure for me to be here, and I want to start by thanking Supatra and Irene for their leadership in this extraordinary and historic enterprise. But I also want to thank all of you who are here, because I know from looking at the lists of people who have come, of knowing personally many of the Americans who have come, that in this auditorium and at this Forum, there are thousands and thousands of women and men who every day work to make lives better in their communities for all people. And that is the greatest contribution any one of us is able to make, and that is why the United States and many other countries so strongly support the efforts of NGOs and have worked very hard to ensure that NGOs could participate in this Forum. As many of you know, our government and other governments recognize the important role that NGOs play in policy and planning, in development and implementation and monitoring of programs that advance the progress of women.

I have come here, to Huairou, to salute you for your dedication to a cause greater than all of us. I know that many of you went to great efforts to be here. I know many were kept from attending this Forum. I know that for many of you who did get here, getting here was far from easy. Many of you did not even know until the last minute that you would be permitted to travel here, and others bore great personal expense in order to come. In addition to the weather, which is not

And I also want to say a special word on behalf of women with disabilities who have faced particularly challenging (inaudible)

But I mostly want to thank you for your perseverance, because you did not give up, you did not stay away, you are here, and the fact that you are, will make a difference in the days and months and years to come. Because even though you may not be physically present in Beijing at the Conference during these ten days, the wisdom that is accumulated here, the experience, the energy, the ideas are on full display. Thanks to your resourcefulness, your tenacity, your sense of purpose and your spirit, you are playing an important role in this Conference, and you will be the key players in determining whether or not this Conference goes beyond rhetoric and actually does something to improve the lives of women and children.

As I said yesterday, the faces of the women who are here mirror the faces of the millions and millions who are not. It is our responsibility, those of us who have been able to attend this Conference and this NGO Forum, to make sure that the voices that go unheard will be heard. This Conference is about making sure that women, their children, their families, have the opportunities for health care and education, for jobs and political participation, for lives free of violence, for basic legal protections, and yes, for internationally recognized human rights no matter where they are or where they live.

Time and time again we have seen that it is NGOs who are responsible for making progress in any society. Some of us never knew we were NGOs twenty and twenty-five and thirty years ago. That was not even a phrase that any of us had ever heard. We were people working together on behalf of all of those rights which we care about and hold dear. But when one looks at the progress that has been made throughout the world, it is clear that it is the NGOs who have charted real advances for women and children. It is the NGOs who have pressured governments and have led governments down the path to economic, social, and political progress, often in the face of overwhelming hostility. Again, NGOs have persevered, just as you have by coming here and staying here and participating in this Forum. What will be important as we end the Forum and the Conference at the end of this week is that it will be NGOs who will hold governments to the commitments that they make. And it is important that the final Platform for Action that is adopted be distilled down into words that every woman, no matter where she lives, or how much education she has, can understand. I think we should want every woman, no matter where she is, to believe that there are women all over the world who care about her health, who want her children to be educated, who want her to have the dignity and respect that she deserves to have.

When I think of the faces that I have seen in my own country, when I think of the women who did not have health care because they cannot afford it in the United States of America, when I think particularly of a woman I met in New Orleans, Louisiana, who told me that because she did not have enough money she was told by physicians there in our country, that they would not do anything about the lump in her breast, but would merely wait and watch, because if she had insurance she would have been sent to a surgeon. I think about the woman I met in a village outside Lahore, Pakistan, who had ten children, five boys and five girls, and was struggling as hard as she could to make sure her girls were educated and wanted help to get that job done. I think of the faces of the beautiful women I met at SEWA, the Self-Employed Women's Association in India. All of them had walked miles and miles, some of them for twelve and fifteen hours to get to our meeting together, and I listened as they stood up and told me what it had meant that for the first time in their lives, they were having a little money of their own. They could buy their own vegetable carts. They could buy their own thread and materials so that they could make income for themselves and their families.

I think of the women in the village in Bangladesh, a village of untouchables, I think of how those women who were Hindus invited to their village for my visit women from the neighboring village who were Moslems. I think of how those women sat together under a lean-to. Hindus and Moslems together in one of the poorest countries of the world, but so many of those women telling me what their lives had been changed to become because they had become borrowers that were now part of the Grameen Bank micro-enterprise effort. I think particularly of the play that their children put on for me to see, a play in which the children acted out the refusal by a family to let a girl child go to school. And then further down the road from that village, I stood and watched families coming to receive food supplements in return for keeping their girl children in school.

Those are the kinds of women and experiences that happen throughout the world, whether one talks about my country or any country. Women are looking for the support and encouragement they need to do what they can for their own lives and the lives of their children and the lives of their families. The only way this Conference will make a difference to these women is if the results of the Conference are taken and distilled down into one page perhaps, which states basic principles that you and I would perhaps debate and understand but may not be easily communicated. If that is done, then to carry that message into every corner of the world so there can be sharing of experiences. When I came home from Bangladesh, I visited in Denver, Colorado, a program that is modeled on the Grameen Bank, helping American women who are welfare recipients get the dignity and the skills that they need to take care of themselves and their children.

So despite all of the difficulties and frustrations you have faced in coming here and being here, you are here not only on behalf of yourselves, but on behalf of millions and millions of women whose lives can be changed for the better. If you resolve along with all of us, to leave this place and do what we can together to make the changes that will give respect and dignity to every woman.

I know that today at the women's conference there is a special celebration of girls. The theme is: "Investing in Today's Girls, Tomorrow's Women, and the Future." We know that much of what we do, we are doing not for ourselves, but we are doing for our daughters, our nieces, our granddaughters. We are doing it because we have the hope that the changes we work for will take root and flower in their lives. When I was privileged to be in New Delhi, India, I met a young woman who I think spoke for many, many women, and someone asked me yesterday at the Conference if I had a copy of the poem which this young woman wrote. And I said that I did and she asked if I could read it today, and I said that I would. Because this was a poem about breaking the silence, the silence that afflicts too many women's lives, the silence that keeps women from expressing themselves freely, from being full participants even in the lives of their own families. This poem written by a young woman, I think, is particularly appropriate since we are celebrating today the future of girls. Let me read it to you:

"Too many women in too many countries speak the same language of silence. My grandmother was always silent, always agreed. Only her husband had the positive right, or so it was said, to speak and to be heard. They say it is different now. After all, I am always vocal, and my grandmother thinks I talk too much. But sometimes I wonder. When a woman gives her love as must do generously, it is accepted. When a woman shares her thoughts as some women do graciously, it is allowed. When a Woman fights for power as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned. And yet, there must be freedom if we are to speak. And yes, there must be power if we are to be heard. And when we have both freedom and power, let us not be misunderstood. We seek only to give words to those who cannot speak --- too many women in too many countries. I seek only to forget my grandmother's silence."

That is the kind of feeling that literally millions and millions of women feel every day. And much of what we are doing here at this Forum and at this Conference is to give words to break the silence and then to act. When I was at Copenhagen for the Summit on Social Development, I was pleased to announce that the United States would make an effort to enhance educational opportunities for girls so that they could attend school in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Today that effort, funded with

United States' dollars, is being organized in countries throughout those continents by NGOs.

There are so many ways we can work together. There are so many things that must be done. And let me just end with a postcard that I received from a woman who, with many, many others, wrote me her feelings and thoughts about this Conference. I don't know this woman, but she wrote to tell me that she wanted me to carry this card to Beijing. And she went on to say, "Be assured of many prayers for the success of the Conference, to better conditions for women and children throughout the world."

She put on this card a prayer and the prayer was written in many languages. It's a prayer that applies and can be said by many, if not all of the world's religions. And I want to end with that because I think that in many respects what we are attempting to do requires the kind of faith and commitment that this prayer represents:

"Oh God, creator of the heavens and the earth, we pray for all who gather in Beijing [and I would add Huairou as well] bless them, help them and us to see one another through eyes enlightened by understanding and compassion. Release us from prejudice so we can receive the stories of our sisters with respect and attention. Open our ears to the cries of a suffering world and the healing melodies of peace. Empower us to be instruments in bringing about your justice and equality everywhere."

That is my prayer as well, and with my thanks to all of you I believe we can take the results of this Forum and this Conference and begin to translate them into actions that will count, in the lives of girls and women who will have never heard of what we have done here, by whose lives can be changed because of what you have done coming here.

Thank you all very much.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 5, 1995

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
REMARKS TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE  
ON WOMEN  
BEIJING, CHINA

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much Gertrude Mongella, for your dedicated work that has brought us to this point.

Distinguished delegates and guests, I would like to thank the Secretary General of the United Nations for inviting me to be part of this important United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. This is truly a celebration -- a celebration of the contributions women make in every aspect of life: in the home, on the job, in the community, as mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, learners, workers, citizens and leaders.

It is also a coming together, much the way women come together every day in every country.

We come together in fields and in factories. In village markets and supermarkets. In living rooms and board rooms.

Whether it is while playing with our children in the park, or washing clothes in a river, or taking a break at the office water cooler, we come together and talk about our aspirations and concerns. And time and again, our talk turns to our children and our families.

However different we may appear, there is far more that unites us than divides us. We share a common future. And we are here to find common ground so that we may help bring new dignity and respect to women and girls all over the world -- and in so doing, bring new strength and stability to families as well.

By gathering in Beijing, we are focusing world attention on issues that matter most in the lives of women and their families: access to education, health care, jobs, and credit, the chance to enjoy basic legal and human rights and to participate fully in the political life of their countries.

There are some who question the reason for this conference.

Let them listen to the voices of women in their homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

There are some who wonder whether the lives of women and girls matter to economic and political progress around the globe. . . . Let them look at the women gathered here and at Hairou. . . . the homemakers, nurses, teachers, lawyers, policymakers, and women who run their own businesses.

It is conferences like this that compel governments and peoples everywhere to listen, look and face the world's most pressing problems.

Wasn't it after the women's conference in Nairobi ten years ago that the world focused for the first time on the crisis of domestic violence?

Earlier today, I participated in a World Health Organization forum. In that forum we talked about ways that where government officials, NGOs, and individual citizens are working on ways to address the health problems of women and girls.

Tomorrow, I will attend a gathering of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. There, the discussion will focus on local -- and highly successful -- programs that give hard-working women access to credit so they can improve their own lives and the lives of their families.

What we are learning around the world is that, if women are healthy and educated, their families will flourish. If women are free from violence, their families will flourish. If women have a chance to work and earn as full and equal partners in society, their families will flourish.

And when families flourish, communities and nations will flourish.

That is why every woman, every man, every child, every family, and every nation on our planet does have a stake in the discussion that takes place here.

Over the past 25 years, I have worked persistently on issues relating to women, children and families. Over the past two-and-a-half years, I have had the opportunity to learn more about the challenges facing women in my own country and around the world.

I have met new mothers in Indonesia, who come together regularly in their village to discuss nutrition, family planning, and baby care.

I have met working parents in Denmark who talk about the comfort they feel in knowing that their children can be cared for

in creative, safe, and nurturing after-school centers.

I have met women in South Africa who helped lead the struggle to end apartheid and are now helping build a new democracy.

I have met with the leading women of my own hemisphere who are working every day to promote literacy and better health care for the children in their countries.

I have met women in India and Bangladesh who are taking out small loans to buy milk cows, rickshaws, thread and other materials to create a livelihood for themselves and their families.

I have met doctors and nurses in Belarus and Ukraine who are trying to keep children alive in the aftermath of Chernobyl.

The great challenge of this conference is to give voice to women everywhere whose experiences go unnoticed, whose words go unheard.

Women comprise more than half the world's population. Women are 70% percent of the world's poor, and two-thirds of those who are not taught to read and write.

Women are the primary caretakers for most of the world's children and elderly. Yet much of the work we do is not valued -- not by economists, not by historians, not by popular culture, not by government leaders.

At this very moment, as we sit here, women around the world are giving birth, raising children, cooking meals, washing clothes, cleaning houses, planting crops, working on assembly lines, running companies, and running countries.

Women also are dying from diseases that should have been prevented or treated; they are watching their children succumb to malnutrition caused by poverty and economic deprivation; they are being denied the right to go to school by their own fathers and brothers; they are being forced into prostitution, and they are being barred from the bank lending office and banned from the ballot box.

Those of us who have the opportunity to be here have the responsibility to speak for those who could not.

As an American, I want to speak up for women in my own country -- women who are raising children on the minimum wage, women who can't afford health care or child care, women whose lives are threatened by violence, including violence in their own homes.

I want to speak up for mothers who are fighting for good schools, safe neighborhoods, clean air and clean airwaves. . .

. . .for older women, some of them widows, who have raised their families and now find that their skills and life experiences are not valued in the workplace. . . for women who are working all night as nurses, hotel clerks, and fast food chefs so that they can be at home during the day with their kids. . . and for women everywhere who simply don't have time to do everything they are called upon to do each day.

Speaking to you today, I speak for them, just as each of us speaks for women around the world who are denied the chance to go to school, or see a doctor, or own property, or have a say about the direction of their lives, simply because they are women.

The truth is that most women around the world work both inside and outside the home, usually by necessity.

We need to understand that there is no one formula for how women should lead their lives.

That is why we must respect the choices that each woman makes for herself and her family. Every woman deserves the chance to realize her God-given potential.

We also must recognize that women will never gain full dignity until their human rights are respected and protected.

Our goals for this conference, to strengthen families and societies by empowering women to take greater control over their own destinies, cannot be fully achieved unless all governments -- here and around the world -- accept their responsibility to protect and promote internationally recognized human rights.

The international community has long acknowledged -- and recently affirmed at Vienna -- that both women and men are entitled to a range of protections and personal freedoms, from the right of personal security to the right to determine freely the number and spacing of the children they bear.

No one should be forced to remain silent for fear of religious or political persecution, arrest, abuse or torture.

Tragically, women are most often the ones whose human rights are violated.

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

I believe that, on the eve of a new millennium, it is time to break our silence. It is time for us to say here in Beijing, and the world to hear, that it is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights.

These abuses have continued because, for too long, the history of women has been a history of silence. Even today, there are those who are trying to silence our words.

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

It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls.

It is a violation of human rights when women and girls are sold into the slavery of prostitution.

It is a violation of human rights when women are doused with gasoline, set on fire and burned to death because their marriage dowries are deemed too small.

It is a violation of human rights when individual women are raped in their own communities and when thousands of women are subjected to rape as a tactic or prize of war.

It is a violation of human rights when a leading cause of death worldwide among women ages 14 to 44 is the violence they are subjected to in their own homes by their own relatives.

It is a violation of human rights when young girls are brutalized by the painful and degrading practice of genital mutilation.

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

If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women's rights. . . . And women's rights are human rights, once and for all.

Let us not forget that among those rights are the right to speak freely. And the right to be heard.

Women must enjoy the right to participate fully in the social and political lives of their countries if we want freedom and democracy to thrive and endure.

It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organizations who wished to participate in this conference have not been able to attend -- or have been prohibited from fully taking part.

Let me be clear. Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organize, and debate openly. It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments. It means not taking citizens away from their loved ones and jailing them, mistreating them, or denying them their freedom or dignity because of the peaceful expression of their ideas and opinions.

In my country, we recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage. It took 150 years after the signing of our Declaration of Independence for women to win the right to vote.

It took 72 years of organized struggle on the part of many courageous women and men.

It was one of America's most divisive philosophical wars. But it was also a bloodless war. Suffrage was achieved without a shot fired.

We have also been reminded, in V-J Day observances last weekend, of the good that comes when men and women join together to combat the forces of tyranny and build a better world.

We have seen peace prevail in most places for a half century. We have avoided another world war.

But we have not solved older, deeply-rooted problems that continue to diminish the potential of half the world's population.

Now it is time to act on behalf of women everywhere.

If we take bold steps to better the lives of women, we will be taking bold steps to better the lives of children and families too.

Families rely on mothers and wives for emotional support and care; families rely on women for labor in the home; and increasingly, families rely on women for income needed to raise healthy children and care for other relatives.

As long as discrimination and inequities remain so commonplace around everywhere in the world -- as long as girls and women are valued less, fed less, fed last, overworked, underpaid, not schooled and subjected to violence in and out of their homes -- the potential of the human family to create a

peaceful, prosperous world will not be realized.

Let this conference be our -- and the world's -- call to action.

Let us heed the call so that we can create a world in which every woman is treated with respect and dignity, every boy and girl is loved and cared for equally, and every family has the hope of a strong and stable future.

That is the work before you, that is the work before all of us, who have a vision of the world we want to see for our children and our grandchildren. The time is now. We must move beyond rhetoric, we must move beyond recognition of problems, to working together, to have the common efforts to build that common ground we hope to see.

God's blessings on you, your work and all who will benefit from it. Godspeed and thank you very much.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 5, 1995

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
REMARKS TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION FORUM  
ON WOMEN AND HEALTH SECURITY  
BEIJING, CHINA

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much. Thank you Dr. Nakajima, Mrs. Mongella, all of the panelists, delegates to this important conference, and guests from all over the world. I am honored to be here this morning among women and men who are committed to improving the health of women and girls everywhere in our world.

I want to start by commending the World Health Organization for making women's health a top priority and for establishing the Global Commission on Women's Health.

I am also proud that in the preparatory meetings for this Fourth World Conference on Women, the United States took the lead with other countries in highlighting the importance of a comprehensive approach to women's health. That approach builds on actions taken at previous women's conferences and the recent conferences at Cairo and Copenhagen, whose goals to promote the health and well-being of all people were endorsed by 180 nations.

Cairo was particularly significant as governmental and non-governmental participants worked together to craft a Program for Action which, among other things, calls for universal access to good quality reproductive health care services, including safe, effective, voluntary family planning; greater access to education and health care; more responsibility on the part of men in sexual and reproductive health and childbearing; and reduction of wasteful resource consumption.

Here at this conference, improving girls and women's health is a priority of the draft Platform for Action. It includes such goals as: Access to universal primary health care for all people -- a goal not yet achieved in many countries, including my own. The promotion of breast feeding. The provision of safe drinking water and sanitation. Research in and attention to women's health issues, including: environmental hazards, prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, encouragement for adolescents to postpone sexual activity and childbearing, and discouragement of cultural traditions and customs that deny food and health care to girls and women.

Goals such as these illustrate a new commitment to the well-being of girls and women and a belief in their rights to live up to their own God-given potentials.

At long last, people and governments everywhere are beginning to understand that investing in the health of women and girls is as important to the prosperity of nations as investing in the development of open markets and trade. The health of women and girls cannot and must not be divorced from progress on other economic and social issues.

Scientists, doctors, nurses, community leaders and women themselves are working to improve and safeguard the health of women and families all over the world. If we join together as a global community, we can lift up the health and dignity of all women and their families in the remaining years of the 20th century and on into the next millennium.

Yet, for all the promise the future holds, we also know that many barriers lie in our way. For too long, women have been denied access to health care, education, economic opportunities, legal protection and human rights -- all of which are used as building blocks for a healthy and productive life.

In too many places today, the health of women and families is compromised by inadequate, inaccessible and unaffordable medical care, lack of sanitation, unsafe drinking water, poor nutrition, insufficient research and education about women's health practices, and coercive and abusive sexual practices.

In too many places, the status of women's health is a picture of human suffering and pain. The faces in that picture are of girls and women who, but for the grace of God or the accident of birth, could be us or one of our sisters, mothers or daughters.

Today, at least fifteen percent of pregnant women suffer life threatening complications and more than one-half million women around the world die in childbirth. Most of those deaths could be prevented with basic primary, reproductive and emergency obstetric health care. In some places, there are 175,000 motherless children for every one million families. Many of those children don't survive. And of those who do, many are recruited into a life of exploitation on the streets of our world's cities, subjected daily to abuse, indignity, disease, and the specter of early death.

There must be a renewed commitment to improving maternal health. The World Health Organization launched in 1987 a Safe Motherhood Initiative to have maternal mortality by the year 2000. To reach that goal, more attention must be paid to emergency medical care as well as primary prenatal care.

Providing emergency obstetric care is a relatively cheap way of saving lives -- and along with family planning services is among the most cost effective interventions in even the poorest of countries.

The commitment of the World Health Organization and its Global Commission on Women's Health to make childbearing and childbirth a safe and healthy period of every woman's life deserves action on the part of every nation represented here.

In addition, one hundred million women cannot obtain or are not using family planning services because they are poor, uneducated or lack access to care. Twenty million of these women will seek unsafe abortions -- some will die, some will be disabled for life. A growing number of unwanted pregnancies are occurring among young women, barely beyond childhood themselves. As we know, when children have children, the chance of schooling, jobs, and good health is reduced for both parent and child. And our progress as a human family takes another step back.

The Cairo document recognizes "the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so." Women should have the right to health care that will enable them to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide them with the best chance of having a healthy infant.

Women and men must also have the right to make those most intimate of all decisions free of discrimination, coercion and violence, particularly any coercive practices that force women into abortions or sterilizations.

On these issues, the US supports the provisions in the Beijing Platform for Action that reaffirm consensus language that was agreed to at the Cairo Conference about a year ago. But I also want to emphasize what the Cairo document said on a particularly sensitive issue to many represented here. It declared that "in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning" -- and that too should be reaffirmed loudly and clearly. The Platform asks governments "to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family planning services."

As Mrs. Mongella reminded us, violence is also a health issue. It is about time we recognized it as such and began to move against it wherever it occurs. Violence against women remains a leading cause of death among girls and women between the ages of 14 and 44 -- violence from ethnic and religious conflicts, crime in the streets and brutality in the home. For

women who survive the violence, what often awaits them is a life of unrelenting physical and emotional pain that destroys their capacity for mothering, homemaking or working and can lead to substance abuse, and even suicide.

Violence against girls and women goes beyond the beatings, rape, killings and forced prostitution that arise from poverty, wars and domestic conflicts. Every day, more than 5,000 young girls are forced to endure the brutal practice of genital mutilation. The procedure is painful and life-threatening. It is degrading. And it is a violation of the physical integrity of a woman's body, leaving a lifetime of physical and emotional scars.

HIV, AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases threaten more and more women -- and you will hear more about that poignantly and personally later. Experts predict that by the end of this decade more than half of the people in the world with HIV will be women. AIDS, which threatens whole families and regions, demands the strongest possible response. Governments and the international community must address head-on the growing number of women who are being infected -- and that means refusing to deny the extent of the problem and beginning to deal with it in order to start solving it and preventing it wherever we can.

More than 700,000 women worldwide face breast cancer each year -- and over 300,000 die of it. It's the leading cause of death for women in their prime in the developed world. In the time I speak to you today, 25 women around the world will die of breast cancer. In my own country, it is hard to find a family, an office, or a neighborhood that has not been touched by this disease. My own mother-in-law struggled against breast cancer for four years before losing her battle. That is another disease that all of us must join forces together to combat.

Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of death. Some might think that it doesn't rank up there with the other serious problems that will be discussed, AIDS/HIV -- and of course it does not have the extraordinarily painful image and effects that other threats to health do -- but it is a killer and it causes great anguish among those who are struck down. Ninety percent of women who smoke began to smoke as adolescents -- leading to high rates of heart disease, cancer, and chronic lung disease later in life -- that are not only a burden to the individual and the family -- but to the health care system that are trying to cope with diseases such as AIDS and breast cancer.

As the World Health Organization points out, we also need to recognize and effectively address the fact that women are far more likely to be exposed to work-related and environmental health hazards. Policies to alleviate and eliminate such health hazards associated with work in the home and in the workplace also demand action.

Research indicates further that certain communicable diseases affect women in greater numbers. Tuberculosis, for example, is responsible for the deaths of one million women each year and those in their early and reproductive years are most vulnerable.

When health care systems around the world don't work for women; when our mothers, daughters, sisters, friends and co-workers are denied access to quality care because they are poor, do not have health insurance, or simply because they are women, it is not just their health that is put at risk. It is the health of their families and communities as well.

Like many nations, the United States brings to this conference a serious commitment to improving women's health. We bring with us a series of initiatives which represent the first steps to carrying out this Conference's Platform for Action.

We are continuing to work for health care reform to ensure that every citizen has access to affordable, quality care.

We are proposing a comprehensive and coordinated plan to reduce smoking by children and adolescents by 50 percent.

We are working to address the many factors that contribute to teenage pregnancy, our most serious social problem, by encouraging abstinence and personal responsibility on the part of young men and women; improving access to health care and family planning services; and supporting health education in our schools.

We are pursuing a public policy agenda on HIV/AIDS that is specific to women, adolescents, and children.

We are continuing to fund and conduct contraceptive research and development.

We are addressing the health needs of women through initiatives such as:

- \* The National Action Plan on Breast Cancer -- a public, private partnership working with all agencies of government, the media, scientific organizations, advocacy groups and industry to advance breast health and eradicate breast cancer as a threat to the lives of American women.

- \* An Expansion of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program -- we hope will ensure that women who need regular screening and detection services have access to them, and that those services meet quality standards.

- \* The inclusion of women in clinical trials for research and testing of drugs or other interventions that probe specific differences between men and women in patterns of disease and reactions to therapy.

\* The specific health needs of older women will be addressed through educational campaigns about osteoporosis, cancer and other diseases.

\* And the United States is conducting the largest clinical research study ever undertaken to examine the major causes of death, disability and frailty in post-menopausal women.

We come prepared to be partners working together on behalf of women's health security -- which must be a priority of all people and governments working together. Without good health, a woman's God-given potential can never be realized. And without healthy women, the world's potential can never be realized.

So I hope that through this conference we renew our commitment to join together to ensure that every little boy and girl that comes into our world is healthy and wanted; that every young woman has the education and economic opportunity to live a healthy life; and that every woman has access to the health care she needs throughout her life to fulfill her potential in her family, her work, and her community.

If we care about the futures of our daughters, our sons, and the generations that will follow them, we can do nothing less.

I want to thank so many of you in this room for the work you do everyday to bring better health to women, men, children, and families throughout world. Thank you for helping governments and citizens understand that we cannot talk about equality and social development without also talking about health care.

Most of all, thank you for being part of this historic and vital discussion. It holds promise for our future, if we act and continue to work together. I was pleased to find this declaration on women's health and health security and to see in it goals with measurable targets. That is what we must commit ourselves to. Rhetoric alone, recognition of the problems alone, will not save another girl child, will not prevent the disease that cuts down too many women in their prime, will not ease the passage of women in their older years who have worked so hard all their lives. It is only by combining the rhetoric and recognition with a commitment to specific actions that will bring about the changes we want to see. I commend and thank you for being part of that effort. Thank you very much.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 18, 1995

REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
TO THE WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL  
CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you Suzie for that introduction and all of your hard work as evidenced by this extraordinary conference. I'm glad to be here with Lois and Richard, and Carol, and Nettie. Your remarks were eloquent and moving. And Rabbi I have at least three thank you's for you after listening to your remarks.

The first is for imbuing my irrelevance to my daughter with spiritual meaning. I am so lucky to have a wonderful daughter but those of us in this room who either currently have or have ever had teenagers know that despite one's best efforts, you cross that line into irrelevance and you see it in their eyes and you see it in their moving back and forth or it's anything else where they're saying this is great but I've got better things to do.

Secondly, thank you for expressing, I think, for so many of us what is sometimes difficult to put into words. Talking about the spiritual dimension of one's own personal life or the need for recognizing spiritual importance in our collective lives is not easy because there are many who have attempted to force spirituality into little tiny boxes. Who have attempted to take religion and use it not as a way to welcome people into the fellowship of love, but to draw lines between us and to be able to talk about this is I think a very good way to start this conference. It's so important and especially today when we do know there is a great hunger for meaning in our lives that goes beyond the material and a great desire amongst many of us to do what we can to create a more spiritual center in the lives of our families and our communities and it's important to think of it not only in abstract theological terms but in the everyday. What is it we do everyday in the way we treat one another, in the way we respond to requests for help, in the level of patience and kindness we show in our own efforts to quell the inevitable desire to control to manipulate. Those are the kinds of daily questions that each of us should be asking and to put it into that kind of format is very helpful for me personally.

And finally, Rabbi, thank you for saying what you said about the peace process. It is never easy to do what the leadership of your country is attempting to do but as my husband has said, "One of the great challenges we face, not only in the Middle East but in many other parts of the world, is to have the courage to take risks for peace." And I join you in your words of support for what is being attempted and the importance that it holds, not only for those of us who care about and support Israel, but for the entire human family.

I think it is significant that you would start this conference with that kind of message. Because as we think about how to use the resources that we have individually and collectively, I am as I always am impressed by the level of commitment from UJA and from the Line of Judah and all of you who are a part of these on-going efforts.

We often have to stop and ask ourselves what is the real meaning of what we are attempting to do. What is my contribution to that. Each and everyone of you gathered here brings enormous contributions. You bring not only financial, mental, emotional, resources but you bring the spiritual ones as well. And too often in the world today we find ourselves being divided up as though we could be fragmented into our various roles, into our various concerns.

Much of what you are trying to do by reaching out to those who need help, by taking a stand on behalf of the greater effort that unites us, is to search for a kind of integrity in what it means to be a human being and particularly a woman in today's world. The work that you have done is an example of what happens when, as Betty said, women from all walks of life with different experiences join together to make their voices heard and particularly on behalf of those who might not be heard otherwise.

I recently saw the same kind of energy and commitment at the UN Conference in Beijing. That conference was intended to focus the world's spotlights on the concerns that confront girls and women every single day throughout the world and to bring new respect and dignity to the work and the worth of girls and women -- and by doing so, to bring new strength and stability to families, communities, countries, and our world.

What went on there, I thought, was very important because people came together from more than 180 nations, not only to draw attention to issues that matter, but also to share ideas about how we could do things better. That is the kind of work you are doing. When you bring ideas that have worked in other parts of the world back to the United States or when you take American ideas and transplant them elsewhere, you are helping to fertilize that common ground and common good that needs so much attention and care today.

Too often the issues that you work on -- the issues that I've worked on for twenty-five years, the issues that I saw being discussed and debated in Beijing -- are dismissed as "soft issues", as women's issues. Issues that don't really have much to do with the important pressing problems that face us across the globe. Issues that don't belong in the board rooms, or in the TV studios or, in the corporate offices around the world. But I think that is wrong. Because these issues, issues that could be broadly summed up as the Rabbi did how we love and allow ourselves to be loved, those issues are hard issues. They are the hardest issues we face as individuals and they are the hardest issues before us in the world today.

Every country will rise or fall in the next millennium on the basis of how they care for each other. It matters little if they open new markets or expand trade, if their GDE and GNP and all those other initials go up if the quality of life amongst the people who live in these places deteriorates. And in today's world the pressures on all of us derived from complexity and modernism, from the information age and technology, from alienation and that spirit and body-killing meaninglessness -- those are the ones we have to come to grips with.

Every person in the world, whether he or she knew it has a stake in what was discussed in Beijing. Women comprise more than half of the world's population. In some parts of the world however, they are falling rapidly, as a percentage of the population because they are killed at birth, they are aborted because they are girls, they are denied medical care, they are not fed. And so in some countries that more than half is below what is expected.

Women are 70% of the world's poor and two-thirds of those who are not taught to read and write. Women take care of most of the world's children, run the households, combine not only those responsibilities but also with contributing to the income and economic survival of their families.

If women are healthy, educated, literate, safe from violence, and able to contribute economically and politically; they will flourish and their families will flourish. And if families flourish, then communities and nations do as well. That is why investing in the lives of women and girls is one of the soundest investments any society can make.

We have seen in developing countries, and even here in disadvantaged areas of our own, what happens when women are given access to small loans, the kind of projects that are beginning to spring up around the world. They use them as seed money to create livelihoods for themselves and to improve living conditions for their families.

When my daughter and I were in Bangladesh, earlier this year we visited some projects run by the Grameen Bank under the leadership of Dr. Mohammed Janus. We went to a village of untouchables outside a city named Jessore. They were Hindus and no one ever came to their village but through these small loans over the last four years women have begun to make income that they are using to buy their children back from servitude where they had been sold so they could help support the family. They are seeking wells for better water. They are buying rickshaws for their husbands so that they can help contribute as well. They are adding milk cows and goats to the family livestock.

When it was known in the area that I would be visiting this village, a neighboring village that also was participating in the Grameen Bank efforts asked if I could come there as well and my schedule just couldn't expand to make that possible. So instead this village said could our women come and join Mrs. Clinton. That was a remarkable question because that was a Moslem village in a predominately Moslem country. So when I came to this village, there were Hindu women and Moslem women sitting together ready to tell me what had happened in their lives since someone had invested a very small amount of money but a very large amount of hope in their futures.

Those kinds of efforts are beginning to bear fruit. So what we saw in Beijing was not just another conference and not just a lot of rhetoric. If we follow-up in all of the small ways we can individually and in the larger ways that groups like this can do and through businesses and governments make a commitment to girls and women, we will see progress and that progress will make our world safer, more prosperous, and more democratic.

It begins with respecting the human rights of all people and in parts of the world where women are not considered valued. It means respecting their rights as well. It means respecting decisions women make about their own families and ensuring that those decisions are free from government coercion of any kind. It means giving women the access to health care throughout their life and the access to education.

I was very proud of the American delegation that represented our country headed by our Ambassador to the United Nations Madeline Albright. It was a distinguished group of forty-five men and women, Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, Americans of all walks of life. But to a person they were united in their commitment to making it possible for us to say and for women to believe everywhere in the world they are valued, they have rights, and they should be given the opportunities to make the most of their God-given potential.

It is no accident that this conference, happening as it did where it did caused a lot of commotion and controversy. It seems

whenever women's issues are discussed that happens automatically. But despite dire predictions the conference did lead us to an understanding of what we can do to make the future better.

And the issues are not only ones for China or India or Africa or South America. They are also issues for us here at home. I have been meeting with groups of working women who are struggling to keep body and soul together, who are worried about their children's futures, their education, crime on the street, their access to health care -- the kinds of worries that are really at the forefront of any woman or any mother or any person who cares about how she can make sure her family is going to be safe.

As we look at what we need to do in our own country, we have many blessings to be grateful for. Clearly our women and girls have more opportunities than are even dreamed of in many parts of the world and that's one of the reasons it was so important that American voices were heard. But we also have to understand what women and men in America are up against these days as well. Because, even though one has enough food on the table, one has a job, the insecurity that people live with today some of it directly related to this gnawing sense of meaninglessness in life makes people vulnerable to all kinds of pulls and pushes that appeal not to their hopes but to their fears. That's why its more important than ever that people like us speak out on behalf of a positive vision for the future, hold out the promise of hope wherever we are whatever we do, and understand that there are ways in our own lives to build those solid foundations that give people the sense of security that permit them to love and be loved.

I hope that this conference, whose itinerary looks so inviting to me that I wish I could sit in the audience to hear many of your speakers, inspires each of you to think through what you and I can do better in our own lives starting in our own homes and then branching out from there because the work ahead of us is exciting work, it truly is the work of trying to help build the future we all confront. And I am grateful that you have made a commitment, not only on behalf of Jews around the world, but on behalf of what it means to be a human being as we approach a new century. That will be the critical issue. It may not be discussed much in political campaigns. It may be considered a soft or primarily a woman's issue but we know in our hearts that the hard work of building love and hope is the work of salvation for us and our children. Thank you all very much.

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### **Atwood Remarkers**

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## Remarks of J. Brian Atwood

### INMED Sixth Millennium Conference

September 11, 1995  
Washington, D.C.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to be with you today at the Sixth Annual Millennium Conference of INMED. Your special focus this year on child-centered strategies for health is an important element in development. And you in this room were among the pioneers in moving this issue to front and center.

The Fourth World Conference on Women now taking place in Beijing, continues to produce news. We have heard a great deal of rhetoric about the importance of women, of children and of the family. I am confident that delegates in Beijing will be advancing a position on these issues that will have been informed by the pioneering work of INMED.

Before getting further into these important issues, I want to say that Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech demonstrated, as *The New York Times* put it, that "a clear and forceful statement makes a far more powerful point than staying home in sullen protest." I respect the well-meaning critics (some weren't so well-meaning) who urged the First Lady to stay home to protest the Chinese government's abhorrent human rights record. But she was correct to have gone. She did more for the cause of human rights in China and women's rights, in general, by going to Beijing than she ever could have done staying home.

Many of the critics of the Beijing conference were even more hostile to the issues being discussed at the Conference than to its venue. They asserted in the media that the conference was a nefarious attack on the foundations of family and society in the developing world; that it was an attempt to replace fathers and mothers with government programs; that the delegates were anti-male and anti-religion; and that their real goal was to undermine family values and redefine gender.

Some conservative critics even claimed that "working women deprive their children of parenting needed to establish firm social values." Well, I have news for these critics, women have been working in these societies for thousands of years -- of necessity. And, in many places families have worked together. Work and social values are not antithetical, at least they weren't where I grew up. My mother worked and, as a child of the depression, she felt pride and relief that she could. Her work made our family stronger.

The Beijing Conference is about strengthening the family through empowering women, as Hillary Rodham Clinton so eloquently put it.

For years, the international community too often ignored the vital role of people, particularly women and families, amid the noisy din of debates over structural adjustment, infrastructure needs and policy formulation. We tended to focus on macro-economic statistics without looking at the effects on people. Those of us who look at development through the eyes of real people understand that the family is the basic unit of society. It is within the family that decisions are made about whether to invest resources in housing, schooling or micro-enterprise. It is only when we focus on the family that we really begin to understand how societies work. Without that understanding, our best intentions may miss the mark.

We know that in the developing world women and children are terribly vulnerable. Seventy per cent of the poor in the world are women and inevitably those children for whom they are responsible also live in poverty. Women and children comprise 2/3 of the populations of refugee camps. Children are often forced into work when they should be in elementary school. Women's reproductive function exposes them to special health problems. Maternal mortality rises with the number of births and infant mortality rises when pregnancies are not spaced.

The exciting thing about programs like INMED's is that they focus on these problems from the perspective of real people, their families and their communities. Your special emphasis on women, children and youth as part of the solution has opened so many new possibilities for development.

Children as agents of change. A fascinating concept. The ability of children to learn at school and carry these lessons home -- whether about oral rehydration therapy, sanitation, appropriate use of medication, or identifying medical symptoms. That is a powerful tool for development.

I also believe that these people-oriented programs have an important long term impact in building civil societies. By teaching children to be advocates for themselves and for their families, you are helping train individuals who are willing to be advocates for their communities and their nations.

All over the world, we have seen fragile new democracies struggle to establish constituencies to support a lasting commitment to open government. By teaching civic education at an early age, we help plant the durable seeds that a democratic system needs to flourish. By teaching children the basic values of ethnic tolerance and respect for human rights, we can avoid future conflicts.

We have made a real effort at the new USAID to get back to these basics and to practice participatory development. We know that economic growth cannot be sustained where civil society is not strong. We understand that institutional vehicles for constructive community engagement are essential.

A few months ago, in Copenhagen, Vice President Gore announced USAID's New Partnerships Initiative. This is a program that is the antithesis of old fashioned top-down government-to-government foreign aid. "New Partnerships" helps create the vehicles for community action. It has three main objectives: strengthening the role of nongovernmental organizations in development programs; empowering small businesses and entrepreneurs to drive economic growth; and helping nations bolster democracy at the local level. The New Partnerships Initiative is driven by a single idea -- that families and individuals, when given the power and opportunity to change their lives, will do exactly that. The initiative will increase the proportion of USAID funds that flow to NGOs, and it will strengthen the rich mosaic of organizations operating in the developing world.

Another key part of our approach is a concentration on the role of women in society. It should be obvious that economic and social progress will remain beyond our reach if women are denied equal legal status and lack a clear voice in public decision making. In most countries women have the right to vote, but a web of cultural, social, legal, economic, and educational constraints often inhibit their participation in society. So long as these obstacles stand, women will have less access to education, less access to health care, less access to the economies of their countries and less ability to contribute to development. That isn't good for anyone.

Two weeks ago, in Beijing, Ambassador Madeleine Albright announced USAID's Women's Political Participation and Legal Rights Initiative. This effort will provide assistance in leadership training, political networking, civic education and technical training. It's goal is to strengthen women's participation in the political process. The Women's Legal Rights program will both develop knowledge and disseminate information regarding women's legal status; and build the capacity of organizations and institutions to bolster those legal rights.

We believe this Initiative will make an important contribution to the consensus goals world governments have embraced at U.N. conferences in Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing. More importantly, it will allow us to finally exploit the untapped potential of women in the developing world.

In designing our programs, we must not only consider the interrelationships between people and the institutions of society, but also the linkages between all aspects

of peoples lives -- between health, education, family size and economic opportunity. Look at family planning.

Despite the convenient rhetoric of critics, family planning has proved again and again to improve the welfare of families and their individual members. Children born into smaller families enjoy higher educational achievement, health and economic productivity. Family planning *saves* lives. By helping a woman bear her children at the healthiest times for both baby and mother, family planning increases child survival rates and decreases maternal deaths. A smaller family can allow a woman to be more economically and civically involved in her community. Where girls begin childbearing later, that is, after their teenage years, they are able to pursue more opportunities for education and employment. These activities in turn, encourage young women to have smaller, healthier families.

Similarly, improving access to basic education for girls can make a powerful difference. Better education often leads a woman to want a smaller family. It allows families and individuals to be more economically productive, it makes for improved public health and it is the very backbone of a healthy democratic society. One is hard pressed to imagine how anyone could object to expanding access to basic education for all members of a society, particularly for girls who had been heretofore excluded.

Education, child survival, family planning, nutrition, microenterprise, and democracy programs are all part of the collective effort we undertake with organizations such as INMED, PAHO and many others to build the institutional capacity that will enable developing countries to gain their independence from our programs. We all have the same long-term goal. All of us work to ultimately put ourselves out of business. But first we have to help build the institutions that are the prerequisites for a democratic society. The family. Small business. Grassroots democratic institutions.

But we all know that our work is being challenged as never before. The debate in Congress over the funding and existence of USAID is taking place against the backdrop of the larger battle over the federal budget. Like every government agency we have to reduce our program. But it is also clear that there are some who would use the pretext of the budget debate to disengage the United States, to end foreign aid once and for all.

There could not be a worse time to isolate America from the rest of the world. The investments we make in children today will be repaid many-fold in the future. If we ignore issues such as polio and the AIDS epidemic abroad, we will pay high costs in our own communities. If we abandon our commitments, history will prove a harsh

judge of our generation.

I recall, almost exactly a year ago, walking through the massive refugee camp at Goma during the Rwanda crisis. I still carry with me the poignant memory of the faces, particularly the eyes, of the children I saw there. Eyes that should have been filled with happiness and dreams for the future were, instead, nearly lifeless. The blank stares were haunting. A whole generation of Rwandan children had been cast into uncertainty and were living on the very brink.

Rwanda risks losing that generation of children. If that happens, conflict and misery will be perpetuated.

That is what is at stake as we consider the world's children. If we do not reach the children, there will be no chance to break the cycle of poverty and violence that has cost so many so much. But we can also create a positive self-fulfilling prophecy: If we can educate and care for the youth of the developing world, we can watch the ripples of hope and energy that will, in Robert Kennedy's words, "build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."



**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION**  
Pan American Sanitary Bureau Regional Office of the  
**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**  
525 Twenty-Third Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, USA  
FAX: (202) 861-8886



**OFFICE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

Date: 9 October 1995

Number of Pages: 8 (including this page)

From: Irene Klinger, Chief, DEC

Originator:

To: Company/Organization: First Lady's Office  
City and Country: Washington, DC  
For attention of: Mrs. Nicole Rahner

Fax Number: (202) 456-6244  
Ref. Number: DEC/51/7  
Subject: First Ladies Meeting in Paraguay

**URGENT**

Please find attached information on the above subject.

Regards.

PRESENTATION OF DR. IRENE KLINGER FROM THE PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH ORGANIZATION TO THE FOURTH SUMMIT  
IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG) MEETING.

(September 19, 1995)

Responding to a request from the Summit Coordination Office, and on behalf of the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Sir George Alleyne, I am pleased to inform the members of the SIRG about the very concrete activities that PAHO has undertaken together with the countries in follow up to the Summit of the Americas with regard to the specific mandates to PAHO in implementing Initiative 17 "Equity Access to Health Services", and Initiative 23 "Partnership for Pollution Prevention."

PAHO as the specialized intergovernmental agency for health of the Inter-American system, and as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization, has been honored to play an active role in supporting the countries in implementing the calls to action that came from the Summit of the Americas in December 1994.

Last June, during our Executive Committee Meeting, the Ministers of Health of the countries of the region engaged in a lengthy discussion of the Summit of the Americas (SOA) Declaration and Plan of Action, its implications for PAHO's programming and the role the governments, civil society and private sector should play to implement the agreements relating to health and environment that were made at the Summit. Thus signifying the important impact that the SOA has had in the region, having brought topics such as health sector reform, the partnership for pollution prevention, the control of diseases such as AIDS, and children's health to the forefront of policy-making agendas in the Western Hemisphere.

PAHO, following on the specific mandates of the 34 heads of states and governments of the Hemisphere, is hosting two Ministerial Level Conferences at the end of September and in early October. Similarly, we also will participate actively in the First Ladies Meeting to take place in Paraguay mid October of this year.

The Conference on Health Sector Reform, will be cosponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank (IBRD), ECLAC, OAS, UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, and the Canadian Government. It will be held at PAHO Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on 29 - 30 September 1995. This Conference will focus primarily on health care financing and organization of health services.

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The Conference will offer a forum to national authorities and international agencies involved in the reform processes to share their experiences. The purpose of the meeting is to establish a framework for the health sector reform processes, to define PAHO's role in monitoring them, improve interagency coordination to support these processes, and foster the strengthening of the Inter-American Health Sector Reform Network.

The Pan American Conference on Health and Environment in Sustainable Human Development cosponsored by the IDB, IBRD, OAS, UNDP, and UNEP, will take place in Washington D.C., on 1 - 3 October 1995 and constitutes another step in the continuous effort to promote the health-environment agenda in the Americas.

This Conference will be pivotal to incorporating health and environment into country development plans and policies in the hemisphere. It is expected that the Conference will result in a Pan American Charter on Health and Environment passed by consensus by all of the participating countries.

At the First Ladies Meeting next October, PAHO will introduce the health related agenda items, including measles elimination, reduction of maternal mortality and violence against women. PAHO is providing support in the process and will continue supporting the countries in the follow-up of these initiatives.

All these activities are a reflection of PAHO's leadership role in implementing the Summit accords while setting an international agenda and providing invaluable input towards the preparation for the Bolivia Summit in December, 1996.

We have made available for your information background material on the activities described above. I invite everyone to take a copy since it presents a more comprehensive review than time now permits me to take.

The following are some highlights of PAHO-sponsored activities that we are implementing at international and national level as part of our mandate which contributes to the achievement of the Summit's initiatives, in the various health areas.

### **Health Sector Reform**

PAHO responding to the mandate has cooperated with over 25 countries of the Americas in the formulation and implementation of health sector reform initiatives. Some of them are also being supported by loans from the IDB and the World Bank.

PAHO's cooperation with these efforts usually concentrates on alternative mechanisms for improving the organization and financing of the health sector, in order to make them more equitable and efficient in meeting the health needs of the populations concerned.

In addition to direct cooperation with individual countries, PAHO has also promoted and supported several inter-country seminars and workshops dealing with health sector reform in general, as well as with the most relevant topics involved in the reform process. One of these seminars was held jointly with the IDB and World Bank in Costa Rica, and counted with the participation of health authorities from all Central America. Another is being planned for next November in Antigua, with the participation of Caribbean health authorities.

Also closely related with reform is the work that PAHO has done together with the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, for the strengthening of the Inter American Network of Health Economics and Finance. This network, that involves national associations or groups of health economists from a dozen countries, is playing an important role in the dissemination of information and technical expertise in a field that is rather underdeveloped throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

The theme of the reform has also been the focus for PAHO's collaboration with national Social Security Institutions in the Region, and their sub-regional associations. Cooperation has been very active with the Central American Council of Social Security Institutions, the Andean Social Security Agreement, the Inter American Social Security Conference and the Inter American Center for Social Security Studies. Other counterparts involved in PAHO's cooperation for health sector reform are the national parliaments of 25 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as the Latin, Central American and Andean Parliaments.

### **Environment and Health**

At the Summit of the Americas, PAHO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which called for increased inter-agency cooperation and the development of joint projects. This has resulted in the collaborative efforts between PAHO and EPA to sponsor several workshops and conferences and to develop a strategy for the development and implementation of joint projects to promote environmental health in the region.

PAHO was a co-sponsor of two lead conferences this year, the International Workshop on Phasing Lead Out of Gasoline, March, 1995 and a subsequent workshop

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on the health effects of lead in Mexico. May, 1995, organized by the U.S. National Academy of Medicine. These workshops facilitated important discussion and information exchange on lead phase-out from gasoline, a necessary first step towards achieving the Partnership for Pollution Prevention goal of elimination of lead from gasoline in the Western Hemisphere.

With initial guidance and input from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and its Multi-Lateral Investment Fund (MIF), PAHO has developed two prototype funding proposals for the MIF, to be used by countries or regions of the Western Hemisphere in their formulation of project proposals. The project proposals cover the topics of pesticides and lead. We are sharing these project prototypes with representatives of countries, to provide assistance in seeking financing for implementing portions of the Pollution Prevention Partnership (PPP).

PAHO has actively participated in the International Program for Chemical Safety (IPCS) and was a key player in a decision made this year to develop regional plans for chemical safety. We have worked closely with IPCS and EPA to develop a three-day hemisphere-wide meeting on chemical safety in the Americas, to take place in November, 1995, in Puerto Rico.

PAHO will co-sponsor the first meeting of the PPP, to take place in November, 1995 and is working with countries and regions to develop project proposals for discussion at the PPP meeting.

We have coordinated four regional training courses on risk assessment and risk management for environmental decision-making. These have taken place in Central America, the Southern Cone and the Andean Region and the fourth course is scheduled for presentation in Mexico in early 1996. Follow-up activities to these courses are currently under way to ensure long-term utilization of the skill and techniques learned.

PAHO has begun developing regional action plans to organize and appropriately target work toward key environmental health issue areas in the Americas. Two regional plans, one for chemical safety and the other for hazardous waste control, are complete, while plans for worker's health, air quality and risk assessment and management are near completion. We are also developing a framework for environmental health data collection and reporting. These plans and projects are available in both English and Spanish, and are organized to facilitate inter-agency and inter-governmental collaboration.

## Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

The Pan American Health Organization, in the context of the new Joint United Nations Program on AIDS (UNAIDS), has prepared a regional plan of action for AIDS control, which has been discussed with other regional and U.N. agencies as well as with the multilateral banks and bilateral cooperation agencies. The plan and the promotional efforts that will be carried out in the next few months to support the countries in their efforts to prevent and control AIDS are being presented to PAHO's Directing Council.

The purpose of PAHO's Regional Plan of Action is to provide technical cooperation to Member Countries in all health related activities within the framework of the policies and strategies of UNAIDS in order to sustain a culturally-specific multinational and multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS/STDs in the Region of the Americas. The Regional Program on HIV/STD of the Pan American Health Organization will provide a solid structure and a comprehensive framework to the national AIDS programs in their activities to prevent and control AIDS through the objectives and strategies described in the Regional Plan of Action for the Americas.

## Follow up to the Symposium on the Children of the Americas

PAHO, together with AID and the Office of the First Lady of the United States of America and the First Ladies Offices of the hemisphere have devised an agenda of concrete activities leading up to the Paraguay Meeting of First Ladies in October 1995. PAHO is the lead agency of the health task force organized to prepare the plans for the measles elimination and the maternal mortality reduction programs. We will also introduce the agenda item, "Violence Against Women, in the October meeting.

Progress in these areas is as follows:

**Measles Elimination.** The First Lady of the United States of America declared the support of the United States to this initiative at PAHO on the occasion of World Health Day, 7 April 1995. Local activities were organized with the First Ladies of the PAHO Member States in conjunction with this. A plan of action that outlines the strategies and technical components to achieve elimination has been prepared and funding is being sought to complement U.S. support.

While countries are still awaiting international support, they have already demonstrated their commitment to this effort, this has translated in further control of the disease which achieved its lowest levels of incidence in history in 1994-95. For

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example, in the last twelve month there was not a single case of measles imported from Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States. These efforts can only be maintained if additional funds are made available.

**Reduction of Maternal Mortality.** Based on the reviews of the Regional Plan adopted by PAHO in 1990 and reviewed in 1992, a number of activities are being prepared to be evaluated at the meeting of First Ladies in Asuncion, Paraguay, in October. The scientific and technical advisory committee met in Atlanta at the end of April to review the preliminary report on the evaluation of the regional plan of action and of the progress in 22 countries of the hemisphere and made recommendations to improve and speed up the process. The report of the advisory committee will be distributed in Paraguay. Specific plans for high-risk countries are being developed. A regional project could result from this effort, funding for which might be requested from the international community.

Various guidelines were updated or developed in the areas of the epidemiological surveillance of maternal death, obstetric emergency management, and on post partum/post abortion. They are being distributed at country level.

In addition, the Ministers of Health of the hemisphere have reviewed the Regional Population and Reproductive Health Policy, which stresses the need for the provision of comprehensive reproductive health services for the population in order to decrease not only mortality but morbidity and to improve the quality of life for women.

### **Violence against Women**

Finally, in the area of Violence Against Women, PAHO has met with grassroots women's organizations in 10 countries that have spearheaded the movement against gender-based violence. The purpose of these meetings has been to exchange information on what these groups are doing, how they interact or do not with the health sector and to determine the areas where PAHO can support their efforts to draw attention to violence as a public health issue.

These activities have been undertaken as part of a large regional project to combat violence against women and girls which today encompasses 13 countries in the Central American and Andean region.

As you can perceive from the brief description presented to you, PAHO has been instrumental in supporting countries in the implementation of the health mandates of

PRESENTATION OF DR. IRENE KLINGER  
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the SOA. We have been able to incorporate these activities as part of our on-going program of technical cooperation in this region, and will continue to give this mandate the priority that it deserves as we work together with the countries in promoting the objectives of the Summit in the area of sustainable development.

We look forward to working together with the Governments of Chile and Argentina in furthering the health and environment objectives of the Summit.

Remarks of J. Brian Atwood

Women's Foreign Policy Group

Washington, D.C.

September 8, 1995

I am very honored by your invitation to speak to this group. As I reviewed your membership list, I saw many friends and colleagues, and many individuals who might have been more interesting luncheon speakers than me!

That led me to ask myself a question to which I have long struggled to find a satisfactory answer. Do women bring a different perspective to foreign policy issues?

For a long time, I have resisted that proposition. I can remember arguing the point with my friend Gerry Ferraro. She feels that women bring a very different perspective to most public policy issues and she makes a persuasive case. I can remember arguing that those women who have led governments, like men, do not fit any distinct pattern -- some were very tough indeed, others less so. I also said that I didn't feel that it served the interest of professional women or women in politics to accentuate gender differences with men. Gerry, of course, agreed that no society or no profession can realize its full potential if half the population cannot fully participate. That was sufficient common ground for me.

Now, the Beijing conference is reopening these issues as it calls attention to the status of women. We are being reminded on a daily basis that women are most often the victims of social, economic and legal discrimination **and** of foreign policy failures. Two-thirds of the refugees from civil conflict, for example, are women and their children. Yet, only six percent of the policy level positions in governments around the world are occupied by women.

Is there a connection between these two facts? Probably. If 50 percent of the population is represented in only six percent of the policy positions, then how can our decision-making be whole; how can we fully exploit the human ingenuity that will produce the creative solutions we need?

And maybe Gerry Ferraro is right. Maybe there is a gender-related perspective that is different. Goodness knows, we need a new perspective. As we struggle to find the new George Kennon -- the person or persons who will help us define Post-Cold War foreign policy -- we cannot afford to waste anyone's good mind, anyone's special perspective.

Let me offer mine. My perspective has changed over time -- to some extent because of where I sit and because of what I have done over the past decade. Most importantly, I have come to see diplomacy as only one element of foreign policy. I have come to see that it is possible to penetrate within a foreign society far beyond the governmental level to advance interests that are common to the peoples of both sides in any bilateral relationship. I have also been directly exposed to the extraordinary costs -- in human and monetary terms -- of the international community's failures. More on that later.

The first point I would make is an obvious one: that traditional power-block diplomacy is less relevant today. Now, for those disciples of Henry Kissinger, I want to emphasize: that is not the same as saying that power is irrelevant. We are the remaining superpower because we can project military might, influence foreign markets and force the world to address its inequities -- whether the world likes it or not.

Witness Hillary Clinton in China. She was one of many who were speaking truths in Beijing. She was doing it forcefully, eloquently, **and** she was also the First Lady of the United States. When she speaks, people listen.

Like many things we do today, Hillary Clinton was not practicing traditional diplomacy in Beijing. She was inspiring millions of people to contemplate their position in society and to take action to improve it. She was forging a new and stronger international consensus on the status of women. She was creating new alliances, non-governmental alliances. But she was not conducting traditional diplomacy. And perhaps because of that, her effect was all the more dramatic.

Let me make a point that is less arguable today than it might have been last week: Mrs. Clinton did more for the cause of human rights in China by going to Beijing than she would have by staying home. That is also, by the way, an argument for engagement. When in doubt, engage!

Back in the 70's, what de Tocqueville saw as our uniquely pluralistic society -- a society he said was probably incapable of conducting a viable foreign policy -- produced yet another innovative approach to international relations. Some called it a new brand of interventionism. Driven by political and moral forces, our government began to express concern about individuals who were being tortured and abused in foreign prisons. Human rights became a part of global diplomatic discourse. And we not only saved human beings, we strengthened the international legal regime and indirectly spawned a new expansion of democracy. Mrs. Clinton's public diplomacy on behalf of women has raised that particular brand of interventionism to a new art.

So it is possible to introduce new initiatives, new approaches -- and to gain public support for them. Yet we seem stuck today as we contemplate our challenges and assess our needs. We are coming to understand the threats to our interests, yet we cannot generate the political support necessary to raise the resources we need. And we seem afraid to venture too far from the comfortable mind-set and institutional structures of the Cold War. Thus, we speak of preventive diplomacy while we drown in crises.

And we are paying through the nose for these crises, yet we can't find the money to pay for prevention. We spend endless hours negotiating for peace with intractable opponents, but little time negotiating the new structures to prevent conflict.

This is where perspective comes into play. We need a new one. We need to break out of our old think; we need to broaden our definition of national security. We need to be shamelessly creative.

How should we respond? Maybe we should argue it differently. Let's talk about how much it costs to not act against threats, to fail to seize opportunities, or to act too late, after the fact. Is this cheaper?

The costs of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia are staggering. From 1991 through 1995, the total USG assistance package was nearly \$1 billion. The UN sanctions are estimated to have cost the region well over \$20 billion. The human costs are unparalleled in the past 40 years in Europe.

But the costs of failure in the developing world far exceed this.

The so-called complex crisis in Mozambique ran for more than a decade and cost \$5.9 billion in relief aid. Mozambique's own economic losses were an estimated \$15 billion.

The complex crisis in Sudan has cost half a million lives. Sudan has squandered a billion dollars on arms. Relief for a quarter of a million refugees costs the industrial states hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

In Peru, the Shining Path guerrillas inflicted \$22 billion in direct damage on the economy. In Rwanda, in the past 18 months, the world community spent nearly \$2 billion to help the refugees; the tab for the U.S. over \$500,000,000. Peacekeeping costs alone in 1994 exceeded everything that the UN had spent on peacekeeping for the preceding 35 years!

And the costs don't end when the conflict ends. Long after the refugees return to their homes, there are reconstruction costs. Mogadishu, Somalia, no longer has an electrical grid; the copper wire was stripped and sold. Resettlement costs. The cost of reintegrating combatants. In El Salvador, that will exceed \$300,000,000. The cost of removing land mines, which in a place like Cambodia, for instance, may ultimately require \$7 billion.

Now tell me that we can afford -- afford, as in pay for -- to let nations fail. Tell me that doing nothing saves money. Tell me that we cannot afford a program that provides education or health care or creates housing or turns farmers into exporters, but that we can afford to lay out billions each year to accommodate the latest wave of refugees.

Although there is no question that we must allocate resources to prevention, we cannot think of the cost only in dollar terms, nor within the old Cold War budget framework. Prevention will save us money, but we must have the political will to fund it and to spend time engaging in it even when we know that conflict garners more media attention.

For two years, I have been saying that foreign assistance is a strategic response to a strategic threat, no less relevant in its time than ICBMs or bombers. The armaments of the Cold War are useless against many of the threats we face now. Though our traditional defense remains the core of our credibility and our own national security, no military can fight poverty or hunger or environmental damage on a global scale.

We are slowly coming to realize that these conditions contribute to civil strife. You will be pleased to know that the military has become the institution most sensitive to this. They know they can contain one civil conflict, maybe two, but not dozens. And they do not want to become the President's first option.

Our national security community is fast gearing up to adjust our responses to meet the new realities. For example, a recent CIA study correlates societal stability with the extent of human development, the level and relative fragility of democratic systems and a nation's openness to trade. The CIA Task Force on Failed States has identified the very problems that foreign aid addresses as key determinants of stability.

The Defense Intelligence Agency recently identified the ecological deterioration of Lake Victoria as one of the greatest underlying non-traditional causes of instability in East Africa, a region where ethnic conflict, structural food insecurity and rapid population growth have already brought widespread chaos. Thirty million people are

at risk of having their livelihoods and their well-being compromised by a fast growing water hyacinth plant inadvertently imported from Latin America. That is of concern to the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1995, because in the next few years our military forces may be called upon to deal with the consequences.

This concern has also been manifested in strong public statements supporting foreign aid from the likes of Secretary Perry and General Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They recently wrote a USA Today article which concluded with the following line: "Foreign aid, like defense spending, helps preserve our national security."

It is somewhat ironic. Generals Shalikashvili and Scowcroft and Defense Secretary Perry are advocating foreign aid as an important part of our national security apparatus. The intelligence community is pointing to development as a key element of crisis prevention. Yet, Congress is slashing foreign aid while spending precious tax dollars on B-2 bombers and STARWARS -- programs the military hasn't asked for.

These intelligence community assessments and more like them reflect a growing understanding throughout our U.S. government that U.S. leadership in the development field is a crucial part of our arsenal in the post-Cold War world. We know that in 20 years, when there are two billion additional people, the challenges will be far less manageable. No one wants our military to be the first and only option in an endless stream of engagements. We need a preventive strategy that we can afford and one that works.

We also need new structures and mechanisms to carry out preventive diplomacy effectively. We need more effective early warning systems that incorporate an assessment of the pressures created by deteriorating conditions. We need to act in concert with the international community to mitigate those conditions. And we need to find ways to intervene more effectively to resolve internal disputes within sovereign borders.

There is a growing appreciation that foreign assistance that produces results, like the defense we maintained during the Cold War, is a strategic deterrent. Democracies reinforce each other; free markets reward each other. Just as crisis can feed upon crisis, so can success spur success. Progress discourages adventurism. Opportunity cuts the ground out from those extremists who would disrupt and create conflict.

I do not believe that humanity is doomed to self-destruct. While we cannot

prevent every Rwanda, we can work for a world in which people have a way to avoid hopelessness, a world where people do not see violence as their last resort.

Fortunately, despite the realities of today's Washington, we still have an opportunity to realize the peace dividend afforded us by the end of the Cold War. We have accumulated valuable experience and we have new tools for crisis prevention that did not exist even a decade ago. Today's opportunities, combined with all those flaws of pluralism that de Tocqueville saw, are the strengths with which we can face the challenges of the 21st century. We cannot afford to squander them.

So we need a new perspective. We need to accept the proposition that being tough-minded can also lead us to conclude that military weapons alone are not sufficient. We need to welcome newcomers into a debate that has been closed and stultified. After all, one of them may be the next George Kennon. Thank you.



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# FACT SHEET

WASHINGTON, DC 20523

THE USAID PRESS OFFICE

#95 - 96

Contact: Russell Porter or Jay Byrne

(202) 647-4274

## USAID Assistance to Chile

### Background

With more than 3,000 miles of contiguous coastline, a population of some 14 million, and an economic growth rate that has exceeded 6% with constantly declining inflation and poverty since the return of democracy in 1990, Chile is a regional leader.

In 1990, Chile inaugurated President Patricio Aylwin, a Christian-Democrat heading a moderate coalition government, ending 17 years of military dictatorship. In 1993, Eduardo Frei won the presidential election with 58% of the vote. Frei's government has maintained a stable economic policy, opened Chile to new markets, and continued social investment as a top government priority.

### USAID Assistance

Chile was a major beneficiary of U.S. support during the Alliance for Progress. Over the past 50 years, Chile has received over \$2 billion in U.S. economic assistance creating the building blocks for sustainable development. Numerous present and former ministers have studied in the U.S. through USAID scholarships. While continuing to work with the government on targeted programs, Chile will graduate from the U.S. assistance program on September 30, 1996.

USAID assistance is focused on Chile's democratic consolidation, economic maturation, and social sector reforms. The program has facilitated the transition to democracy by supporting programs for civic education and participation, legislative training, and technical support for modernization of the judicial system. USAID support for social sector reform has included a multi-year project in competency-based education in a public/private partnership to improve vocational and technical education. In health, a \$10 million project helped the government in its goal to expand access and

quality of health services to the poor through decentralized delivery systems.

In addition, as part of the modernization of public administration, support for internal revenue administration, public comptrollers and customs service administrators has been provided. New activities are strengthening decentralization efforts in local governments.

Support for the rule of law has involved assistance to improve judicial functions and increase access to justice by preparing and training judges in the effectiveness of the management of the judicial system. Direct support for NGO/government partnership in legal services also was provided over the past four years. With the support of USAID, Chilean and U.S. Universities are improving the analytic capacity of the Chilean Congress, providing representatives with analytical reports and sponsoring workshops on pending legislation, computer use, and drafting legislation.

Technical assistance was provided to Chile's National Environmental Commission to improve policy formulation, and regulatory and information management. USAID also is assisting Chile to address environmental problems through a Chile/U.S. foundation which funds NGO environmental protection activities.

### Other Donors

The Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank are the major donors in Chile.

| USAID Assistance | DA                |
|------------------|-------------------|
| FY 1994 Actual   | 2,224,000         |
| FY 1995 Est.     | 3,620,000         |
| FY 1996          | no funding in 96. |



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## FACT SHEET

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THE USAID PRESS OFFICE

#95 - 94

Contact: Russell Porter or Jay Byrne

(202) 647-4274

### USAID Assistance to BRAZIL

#### BACKGROUND

With more than 155 million people, Brazil is the largest nation in Latin America and the sixth largest in the world. Per capita income exceeds \$2,990 per year, but there are wide disparities, and there are significant areas of severe poverty. Northeast Brazil contains more than 40 million people (more than all of Central America) most are in the lowest quartile of income distribution.

Elected in 1994, President Cardoso's first priority has been economic stabilization while stressing the importance of reducing social disparities. By slowing inflation from virtually 50% a month to 2%, he has given Brazilians price stability for the first time in their memory. With the end of military rule just 10 years ago, democratic institutions continue to strengthen. Broad-based sustainable economic growth and health services are needed to improve the quality life situation for millions of poor people.

Brazil has the largest rain forest in the world and efforts are being made to conserve Brazil's natural resources which are of global significance to preserve biodiversity and prevent global warming.

#### USAID Program

USAID assistance to Brazil is carefully targeted in areas of critical need for the Brazilian development process, focusing on: environmental protection, women's health, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and AIDS prevention.

Deforestation in the Amazon and Atlantic rain forest is an ongoing problem which has elicited considerable international concern. USAID is supporting environmentally sound land use at the local, state and regional level and providing systems for sustainable management of cleared and forested areas in the Amazon. These activities contributed to an overall reduction in deforestation

for a third straight year. Part of this effort includes providing broad-based economic growth to discourage exploiting the forest and energy modernization to reduce pollutants.

Responding to Brazilian concerns with high maternal and child mortality, USAID is assisting government efforts to develop and implement public and private health service delivery systems for low-income people, emphasizing preventive services, especially in maternal and child health.

Brazil has the second highest number of reported AIDS cases in the world with 70,000 reported Brazilians infected with HIV. Working with local health facilities and NGOs, USAID provides assistance to prevent the spread HIV and other diseases. Assistance provides for educational and informational campaigns, improvement of service delivery systems and training of critical health care personnel to prevent further spread of HIV/AIDS.

USAID also funds a three-year program to support organizations assisting at-risk youth in the three largest northeast cities in Brazil - Recife, Salvador, and Fortaleza. The project targets youth between 10-18 years of age who are at risk of becoming involved in drug use, prostitution, delinquency or living on the streets.

#### OTHER DONORS

In FY 1995, the United States is the fifth largest provider of development assistance after the World Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank, the UN, Japan, and Germany. The US provides about a third of the amount provided by Germany.

| USAID Assistance | DA         |
|------------------|------------|
| FY 1994 Actual   | 10,532,000 |
| FY 1995 Est.     | 19,649,000 |
| FY 1996 Request  | 14,980,000 |



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# FACT SHEET

WASHINGTON, DC 20523

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#95 - 93

Contact: Russell Porter or Jay Byrne

(202) 647-4274

## USAID Assistance to NICARAGUA

### BACKGROUND

After ten years of civil war and socialist economic policy, Nicaragua faces a promising, but yet uncertain future. The 1990 election of President Violetta Chamorro brought to office Nicaragua's first freely elected democratic government in over a century. Under President Chamorro's leadership, real progress is being made in reconciling a polarized society and building democracy. Nicaragua faces the challenge of another politically charged national election next year.

Once one of the fastest growing economies in Central America, Nicaragua's per capita GDP dropped to US\$425 following their civil war. Nicaragua is in the midst of difficult economic reforms entailing trade and financial sector liberalization, trimming budget expenditures, and limiting state intervention in the economy.

Although access to education increased in the 1980s, crowding of classrooms and repetition rates increased making primary school efficiency quite low. Nicaragua's population growth rate of nearly 2.9% is one of the highest in the region.

### USAID STRATEGY AND ASSISTANCE

After nearly a decade, USAID/Nicaragua reopened in 1990. Early USAID programs were dominated by policy-based balance of payments support for stabilization. USAID's portfolio now consists of projects addressing longer-term development constraints. Current strategy is to help Nicaraguans consolidate the democratic and market transitions, by 1) Promoting more citizen political participation, compromise and government transparency; 2) Stimulating sustainable growth in employment and income; and 3) Fostering better educated, healthier and smaller families.

USAID continues to assist human rights

organizations improve their ability to gather information and report on violations. Support is also provided for voter education efforts and civic education efforts. USAID assists the GON in professionalizing its justice system and make it more accessible and responsive to the citizenry.

Progress is being made in creating an environment favorable to investment/job creation. USAID's program is promoting exports and increased agricultural production for farmers which is helping to create more jobs in rural areas. To address property ownership issues, USAID provides assistance to the administrative property resolution process. To help the poorest segments of society, USAID programs support temporary employment opportunities and broad-based microenterprise programs.

Support is also being provided to improve the standard of living and health by focusing on primary education, maternal and child nutrition, and preventative health care -- including child survival, reproductive health, family planning and AIDS prevention services. USAID supports the Ministry of Health's decentralization efforts by providing local training in strategic planning, financial management and administration.

### OTHER DONORS

Other major donors are: Japan, Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands. The World Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank are major multilateral lenders.

### USAID ASSISTANCE

DA/ESF/PL480

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| FY 1994 Actual:  | \$ 91.0 million |
| FY 1995 Est:     | \$ 30.7 million |
| FY 1996 Request: | \$ 37.2 million |



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#95 - 95

Contact: Russell Porter or Jay Byrne

(202) 647-4274

### USAID Assistance to PARAGUAY

#### BACKGROUND

Paraguay has a population of 4.2 million people in an area the size of California. More than 25% of the population live in the capital of Asuncion.

Following Haiti, Paraguay was the last military-run country in the hemisphere. General Alfredo Stroessner ran Paraguay from 1954 until the coup of 1989, when he was overthrown by Gen. Andres Rodriguez. Significant efforts have been made to strengthen democratic institutions, human rights and economic reforms. In 1993, for the first time in modern history, Paraguay elected a civilian president, Juan Carlos Wasmosy. Reform of Paraguay's judicial and electoral systems continues, but much improvement remains.

Paraguay is predominantly an agricultural country with few known mineral or petroleum resources. Nearly 98% of exports are agro-based, and decades of over-dependence on cotton and livestock have taken their toll on the environment. Current rates of forest and land exploitation are not sustainable.

#### USAID Program

USAID restarted a modest economic assistance program in 1988 and placed a permanent representative in Paraguay in 1991. The program focuses on three key areas: 1) re-building democratic and judicial institutions crippled during the 35 year Stroessner dictatorship, 2) building local capacity for managing natural resources, and 3) improving access to family planning and health care services.

Consolidating and solidifying the democratic transition is the cornerstone of the USAID program. Technical assistance projects fund NGO's to strengthen the legislative and the judicial systems. The focus is to promote decentralization by enhancing regional and municipal governments,

foster popular participation, and reform the electoral system. Support to the Asuncion municipality produced the first ever public hearings and helped establish a more modern system of budgeting. Plans are to sponsor a judicial training school and law library, and modernizing the judicial code and procedures.

Paraguay has lost half of its forest cover in 40 years with deforestation reaching over 1 million hectares in a single year. Local NGO's provide increased environmental awareness and community based action programs through funding from USAID. Under the successful Parks-in-Peril program, a coalition of government and private organizations promotes the preservation of tropical forest habitats.

USAID provides technical assistance in family planning services through the Ministry of Health and the International Planned Parenthood Foundation, to strengthen and expand delivery of voluntary family planning services. Building on efforts with the Ministry of Health, a new project with Florida International Univ. will design decentralized health services to improve delivery to outlying regions. USAID also intends to assist the MoH in modernizing its financial management and train health administrators.

#### OTHER DONORS

In 1992, Japan, Germany, and Spain were the largest bilateral donors followed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and United Nations Development Program.

| USAID Assistance | DA        |
|------------------|-----------|
| FY 1994 Actual   | 2,765,000 |
| FY 1995 Est.     | 3,736,000 |
| FY 1996 Request  | 9,285,000 |